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OF THE  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Fortieth Session  
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Delmarva Peninsula

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WESLEY COLLEGE  
Dover, Delaware

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May 22-24, 1979

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under the Delaware Conference until his health failed.

He is survived by an host of nieces and nephews and an adopted son, John.

If death should beckon me with outstretched hands

And whisper softly of an unknown land,

I shall not be afraid to go

For though the path I do not know

I take death's hands without fear.

For He who brought me safely here

Will also take me safely back.

And though in many things I lack

He will not let me go alone

Into the valley that's unknown.

So I reach out and take death's hand

And journey to the promised land.

Sorrowfully,  
The Family

#### JOHN NICHOLAS LINK

John Nicholas Link was born in Baltimore, Maryland, January 28, 1893, the son of John Henry Link and Margaret Edler Link.

He received his early education in the public schools of Baltimore, and higher academic instruction at Western Maryland College, Westminster, Maryland (A. B. and M. A.). He received two other degrees at Westminster Theological Seminary (S. T. B. and S. T. D.). Other graduate studies were pursued at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, and Union Theological Seminary, New York City.

His earliest religious instruction was received in the Faith Reformed Church, Baltimore, Maryland. He received Elder's ordination in April, 1913.

Among the appointments served by Dr. Link were: Fairfax Methodist Protestant Circuit, Fairfax County, Virginia; Warwick Circuit, Warwick, Maryland; Accomac Circuit, Accomac County, Virginia; Deer Park Circuit, Smallwood, Maryland; Grace Methodist Protestant Church, Baltimore, Maryland; Starr Methodist Protestant Church, Baltimore, Maryland; First Methodist Protestant Church, Newark, New Jersey; Westminster Theological Seminary, Department of Practical Theology; Peninsula Methodist Church, Wilmington, Delaware; District Superintendent, Wilmington District, Peninsula Conference; Retired to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, May 1959.

On May 31, 1911, John Nicholas Link married Jennie Elizabeth (Britcher) Link. Mrs. Link continues to live at the Methodist Manor House where the couple enjoyed their later years together. Their son, John Howard Link, a Methodist minister, presently serves at Cumberland, Maryland.

In retirement, Dr. Link continued to pursue an active life. While residing in Rehoboth, he became active in civic and church affairs, and accepted occasional appointments. At the Methodist Manor House he was instrumental in starting the School of Continuing Education in which he served as dean and instructor. He organized a group of retired ministers into the Manor House Volunteer Pastoral Care Staff. He assumed responsibility for occasional stereo concerts, and frequently introduced chapel speakers.

Among his lifelong interests were teaching, counseling, administration, music, and literature. He was a popular speaker and was often called upon. His church career included leading interdenominational groups and holding the position of trustee with the Methodist Country House and Western Maryland College. He was a long term member of Kiwanis International, and the Masonic Order.

Following a brief illness, he died on Friday March 2 in the Nanticoke Memorial Hospital, Seaford, Delaware. Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Preston Spence and the Rev. Brooks Reynolds at the McCrery Memorial Funeral Home, Talleyville, Delaware on

Tuesday, March 6, 1979. Interment was in Gracelawn Abbey, Gracelawn Memorial Park, Wilmington, Delaware.

John Nicholas Link was a complete minister of the gospel. All of the ministerial offices found rich fulfillment in him. He had a pastor's compassion, a counselor's keen insight and understanding, a preacher's depth of conviction and gift of utterance, a teacher's analytical and presentational skills, an administrator's sound judgment, leavened with intuition. The Peninsula Conference is enriched by the years that he dwelt among us.

Milton H. Keene

#### GILBERT S. ROSS

Gilbert Sylvester Ross was born in Hallwood, Virginia on December 26, 1889. The son of David Carol Ross and Sally Anne Ross (Smith), both deceased, Gilbert was one of five children: one brother, William, deceased, and three sisters, Marie, Mimie, and Blanche, all living. He attended and graduated from grade and high school in Hallwood and from Norfolk University in Norfolk, Virginia. For some years Gilbert worked for businesses in both the Virginia and Georgia areas.

Always an active participant in church activities, Gilbert decided to dedicate his life to the ministry and entered the Westminster Theological Seminary. Upon completion of his studies, he was ordained in 1918 and for the next 38 years was pastor of various churches throughout West Virginia and the Delmarva Peninsula. He married Grace Virginia Beck of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, and the couple had one child, Gaylon. After retirement in 1956 Gilbert assisted at various churches including Wesley Methodist Chapel and Aldersgate Church. In addition, he helped out at numerous church functions throughout the area when needed and asked. After a lengthy illness Gilbert died on December 17th, 1978 in his home at 3245 Fairway Drive, Linden Green One, Wilmington, Delaware. Services and burial were at the Grace Lawn Memorial Cemetery, the Reverend W. O. Hackett delivering the eulogy.

Gilbert is survived by his wife, Grace, now at the Wilmington Delaware address, his three sisters, his son, Gaylon Sylvester of 11814 Timber Lane, Rockville, Maryland and seven grandchildren, all living in the Washington, D.C. area.

Throughout his ministry Gilbert was ably assisted by his wife "Betsy," and this kind and devoted couple formed a myriad of friendships wherever they went. It is for his deep and sincere belief in the innate goodness of people and his desire to assist them that Gilbert would most like to be remembered.

Gaylon S. Ross

#### ESSELL PARKS THOMAS, D.D.

Essell Parks Thomas was born August 23, 1890 at Landonville, Somerset County, Maryland, the son of Captain William J. Thomas and Emma Jane Parks Thomas. He attended the Wilmington Conference Academy (Wesley College) Dover, Delaware and then entered Meridian College, Meridian, Mississippi. After graduating from Meridian College, he completed his formal preparation for the ministry at Drew Seminary, Madison, New Jersey.

On June 14, 1921, he married Miss Elsie Mae Dennis of Newark, Maryland. They had two children, Mary Anne and Essell Parks, Jr.

He was ordained and became a member of the Wilmington Conference in 1914. During his 42 years in the active ministry he served as pastor of Methodist Churches at Pittsville, Maryland; Ocean City, Maryland; Epworth Church, Wilmington, Delaware; Centenary United Methodist Church, Laurel, Delaware; Asbury Church, Smyrna, Delaware; Wesley Church, Dover, Delaware; Ebenezer Church, Easton, Maryland; St. Paul's, Wilmington; and Atonement Church, Claymont, Delaware, in addition to his six year tenure as Superintendent of the Easton District. He retired from the Peninsula Annual Conference in 1956. Dr. Thomas was active in Peninsula Conference programs and was elected as a delegate to three Jurisdictional Conferences and one General Conference. In 1950, Western

Maryland College awarded him the honorary degree of doctor of divinity in recognition of his outstanding work as a minister of The Methodist Church.

Following his retirement, Mrs. Thomas and he lived in Chestertown, Maryland and later Easton, Maryland. They became residents of The Methodist Manor House, Seaford, Delaware in 1973. For many of these retirement years, he actively pursued a vocation of many years' interest, the buying, selling and appraising of rare and used books. He specialized in religious books and in books dealing with the history of Delaware and Maryland.

He died at The Methodist Manor House on Wednesday, October 25, 1978 after a lengthy illness. He is survived by his wife, Elsie Dennis Thomas of Seaford Delaware, one sister, Elizabeth T. Miles of Upper Fairmount, Maryland, two children, Mary Anne Stazesky of Wilmington, Delaware and Essell P. Thomas, Jr. of Washington, D.C. and six grandchildren.

### Spouses

#### THEODORA GRACE TUCKER HART

Theodora Grace Tucker Hart, wife of Charles Brainard Hart, was born in Middletown, Connecticut, on June 4, 1912. Her father was Robert Leonard Tucker and her mother Grace Green Tucker. At the time of her birth her father was a student at Wesleyan University, preparing to become a Methodist minister. So all of Mrs. Hart's life was lived, until retirement, in twenty-eight Methodist parsonages.

She attended Oberlin College and Ohio State University from which she received a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Right after graduation she went to New York City where she worked in the office of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Mr. and Mrs. Hart were married on September 19, 1935, just before he enrolled at Union Theological Seminary.

Mrs. Hart had four children: Charles III of Robertsville, Mo., Roberta H. Sullivan of Newark, DE, and Marian H. Dills of Trumansburg, N.Y., and Robert T. Hart, of Oxon Hill, Md. All the children and five grandchildren survived her death.

She and her husband retired from the active ministry in Newark, DE on September 1, 1976, after serving churches in New York, Connecticut, Missouri and Delaware. After retirement they lived at 2 Mill Street, Westfield, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Hart's death in the Springfield, Ma., Hospital on March 23, 1979 was caused by cancer. Two memorial services were held for her: in Westfield, Ma., on March 27 and in Newark, DE on March 31.

A memorial statement in Newark included this description of her personality and nature:

"Understanding and compassion were so much a part of Theo that we almost took these qualities for granted. As a true partner with Charlie in his ministry, she listened many times to the hurts, fears and problems of us parishioners and she always responded with loving concern, wise counsel — and absolute confidence. As a close friend she responded with these same qualities and added to them enthusiastic encouragement, total loyalty and an open sharing of herself which could only be met with love."

#### FLORENCE E. KRAMS

Florence E. Krams was born on March 14, 1914 in Wilmington, Delaware, the daughter of Harry G. Fisher and Elsie (Crouch) Fisher.

She spent her entire life in the Marshalton, Delaware area, attending Wilmington public schools and graduated from the Thompson Business School.

She joined the Marshalton United Methodist Church as a young girl and remained a

Member of that church until her death. She was the organist in the Marshalton Church for twenty-seven years.

On November 17, 1973 she married H. Kirby Krams, retired member of the Conference. In 1976 they moved to their home in Sudlersville, Maryland.

She is survived by her husband, two children by a former marriage, Mrs. Rosalie Wilkerson of Washington, D.C. and Norman E. Ford of Lancaster, PA and two children of her husband, Mrs. Penny George of Sudlersville, MD and Berkeley Krams of Wilmington, DE and ten grandchildren all of whom she dearly loved.

Florence died on February 9, 1979 at Kent-Queen Anne's Hospital in Chestertown, MD after years of struggle with a debilitating illness.

Florence loved God and saw and knew his presence everywhere, especially in the world of nature, the sky, the flowers, the wild geese, the birds, the animals and in her fellow man.

The Family

#### GUILA MARJORIE LOGUE ROBERTS

Guila Marjorie Logue Roberts, wife of The Reverend Maxwell Roberts, died at her home in Hebron, Maryland, on July 10, 1978. The daughter of Parmer and Ada Salyards Logue, Mrs. Roberts was born at Sligo, Pennsylvania on June 10, 1902. After graduating from Sligo High School she worked for a time with The Salvation Army before entering and later graduating from God's Bible School and College in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was an accomplished musician who studied at The Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore and who played the piano, organ, harp, marimba and saxophone.

Before her marriage, Mrs. Roberts worked for a number of years in The Grace and Hope Mission in Baltimore, York, Pennsylvania, and Norfolk, Virginia where she was promoted to the position of superintendent. Upon leaving the Mission she became an evangelist and served under the auspices of The Evangelical United Brethren Church until her marriage to The Reverend Maxwell J. Roberts on October 6, 1940 when another chapter in the life of this very talented and versatile lady began.

Throughout most of his ministry with The United Methodist Church, Mr. Roberts was assigned to pastorates within the Peninsula Annual Conference, and Mrs. Roberts became his faithful helpmate and companion and served with him in a very dedicated way until his retirement in 1968. Even then she was to continue her service in the Lord's work for another decade as organist at St. Paul's P.E. Church in Hebron and to share in her husband's part-time service at St. Stephen's in Delmar. Faithful and dedicated to her Calling, she was in every sense a leader until the day she died.

Funeral services were held at St. Stephen's Church, Delmar on July 12, 1978 with the pastor, The Rev. William T. Archer, Jr. and the writer of this memoir in charge. She was laid to rest in the family plot at St. Stephen's Cemetery, Delmar. Mrs. Roberts is survived by her husband; a daughter, Mrs. C. Benton (Muriel Marjorie) Reavis of Salisbury, Maryland; two grandchildren, Christopher and Heather Reavis; her mother, Mrs. Logue and three sisters, Mrs. Romaine Zuchslag of Greenville, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Winifred Sellers of Lima, Ohio and Mrs. Beth Frederick of New Castle, Pennsylvania.

John E. French

#### BLANCHE WILLIAMS CARTER WILCOX

Blanche Williams Carter Wilcox was born on March 9, 1909 in Canton, North Carolina to Robert Daniel Carter and Lillian Daisy (Purkey) Carter. They moved to Hendersonville, N.C. for the first few years of Blanche's life.

Then her father, a civil engineer, became associated with the developer of Vero Beach, Florida to make it habitable by draining it and constructing roads. They moved there and lived in pioneer conditions for awhile, until her mother homesteaded a place near Wabasso in 1912. At home in "The Old Homestead" is where she died to this world on the last day of summer 1978, after a courageous fight with cancer that lasted all their retirement, six years.

She graduated from college at Tallahassee, Florida in 1931. She was present at the