

Region 9 Candidacy and Leadership Manager South Carolina Synod Assembly 2021

What does a Candidacy and Leadership Manager do?

A Candidacy and Leadership Manager (CALM) accompanies people who are seeking to become rostered ministers in the ELCA, whether Word and Service (deacons) or Word and Sacrament (pastors) in their journeys toward ordination. The CALM also works with Synod Candidacy Committees as they help guide, prepare, and assess these candidates. At any given time, the six synods of Region 9 (Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Southeastern, Florida-Bahamas, and the Caribbean) have around 250+ people in candidacy.

What's new this year?

On Feb. 1, the ELCA churchwide organization implemented Future Church, a new working structure focused on motivating the entire church to actively share the way of Jesus with more people so that they might experience community, justice and love. The design emphasizes the belief that members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and its partner organizations all have important roles in the church's mission.

This new design stresses three goals:

- A welcoming church that engages new, young, and diverse people.
- A thriving church rooted in tradition but radically relevant.
- A connected, sustainable church that shares a common purpose and direction.

To implement the Future Church design, structural changes were made that resulted in a 5% reduction in staff and the creation of new departments, called home areas. Candidacy is now part of the Christian Community and Leadership home area.

Anything else happening?

The ELCA Conference of Bishops initiated a new First Call Process, a three-year experiment designed to match, in a timely way, candidates who are ready for a first call with congregations who are ready for a new deacon or pastor.

What else is going on?

The Candidacy Leadership Team organized and hosted in March 2021 a two-day virtual Candidacy Summit, with workshops on a wide variety of topics and keynote addresses by Bishop Kevin Strickland of the Southeastern Synod and Dr. Terri Martinson Elton of Luther Seminary. Participants and panelists exchanged ideas about how to be more welcoming, knowledgeable, and effective as they worked with candidates for ministry. More 400 people attended, and another summit is being planned for this fall.

How can I help?

- Support your synod's Candidacy Committee with time, talent, and treasure
- Be alert for people in your congregation who have gift for ministry and ask them, "Have you thought about being a deacon or a pastor?"
- Consider being a teaching parish or an internship site so that you can help shape a new generation of rostered leaders.

Submitted by,

Ruth Hamilton

**James R. Crumley Jr. Archives
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2021**

Administration

Personnel

Currently, the Archives employs four part-time workers: Shannon Smith, director and archivist; Trudy Bouknight, office manager; Ellen Triplett, archivist aid; and Ashley Ragland, junior archivist.

Limited Access

Our policy for patrons to access the records at the Crumley Archives conforms to LR's policy for Lineberger Library patrons.

Office Hours

Staff is available M, T, Th, from 9:00-3:00, and W, F, from 9:00-1:00.

New and Ongoing Projects

“Lutheran Church Visitor”

The “Lutheran Church Visitor” has been digitized from microfilm. We are working with USC’s “Historical Newspapers of South Carolina” project to index this material so that the newspaper can be eventually placed online.¹ Progress has been made in this area.

“Historic Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Collection”

We are in the process of sending archives in digital format to USC. Originally, this project was to take the form of an exhibit. The University informed us this spring that it will be cataloged by ContentDM (instead. Currently, we have 119 items uploaded. Our limit is 445 items ranging from recordings, documents, photographs, and manuscripts. The collection, which is still under construction, can be found at <https://digital.tcl.sc.edu/digital/collection/ltss/search>.

Oral Histories

Our team had planned to launch a new oral history project. The aim of this project would be to interview Lutherans across the South and “spotlight” the interview in the “Archival Survey”. Our first interviewee was with the Rev. David Keck of North Carolina (LTSS, class of 1964).

Rev. J.P. Margart Journals

A generous benefactor has sponsored the digitization of Rev. J.P. Margart Papers. The journal can be accessed, with other manuscripts, at <https://www.crumleyarchives.com/manuscripts>.

Development

Banquet

This year’s banquet has been rescheduled to Oct. 30, 2021. The Crumley Archives will honor and congratulate the Rev. and Mrs. Don and Brenta Poole, Lutheridge, and the N.C. Synod.

¹ <http://historicnewspapers.sc.edu/>

Networking and Outreach

Patronage

The Archives continues to receive weekly requests regarding church histories, records, genealogies, and Lutheran heritage. Most requests are made *via* our website, though phone calls are not unusual. Research fees are paid mainly through PayPal.

Memberships

The Crumley Archives belongs to two archival organizations in South Carolina: PALMCOP (Palmetto Archives, Libraries, Museums, Council on Preservation) and SCAA (South Carolina Archival Association). I presently serve on both boards. We've also maintained our membership with the Lutheran Historical Conference.

Web Presence

Our website has changed! Find us at www.crumleyarchive.com.

We have uploaded a complete inventory to our website, which documents every collection we have in the Archives. This tool allows patrons to check if we have a collection on-site. Online collections are being added continuously.

In addition to the complete inventory, we have also uploaded a catalogue of our library. All inventories and finding aids can be accessed at <https://www.crumleyarchives.com/finding-aids>.

“Archival Survey”

The “Archival Survey” continues to circulate semi-annually. If you would like to receive a printed newsletter in the mail, please submit a request with your address at <https://www.crumleyarchives.com/contact-us>. Home addresses will be kept private.

Congregational Workshops

If your congregation would like to receive consultation regarding its historic records and how to properly preserve and maintain them, please contact us via our website at <https://www.crumleyarchives.com/contact-us>.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon L. Smith

BULLETIN OF REPORTS CHAPTER EIGHT - 4
SOUTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN ACTION COUNCIL, INC.
2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Founded in 1933, the Council began its work for human justice 70 years ago in 1950. The Council is 13 Christian denominations, supporting congregations, and justice-seeking individuals living together and giving visible witness to the oneness for which our Lord Jesus Christ prayed.

Unity Actions included:

- Due to COVID-19 the Annual Meeting was postponed from May to October 15, 2020. The United Methodist Conference Center hosted the Council's officers, presenters, and staff that day. Annual Meeting Theme was *"The Inconvenient Truth: Racism and Poverty in South Carolina Law."* The sermon, "A Fair Society," was based on Jeremiah 22:13-17 was preached by Dr. Robin Dease, UMC Hartsville District Superintendent. Lynn Shuler Teague gave the McClain Lecture. Teague is Vice President of the League of Women Voters of SC and the League's volunteer lobbyist at the State House. The lecture was "Racism and Poverty in SC Law." This was the first virtual annual meeting of the Council.
- Supporting Interfaith Partners of South Carolina (IPSC).
- Supporting and promoting "Mourning Into Unity" interfaith prayer vigils in October:
- Representing SC's faith-inspired communities on the state's COVID Vaccine Advisory Committee.

Pursuing Racial Justice included:

- Participating in the MLK Day event in Manning, SC; the Prayer Service of the SC NAACP at Zion Baptist Church, Columbia, and in King Day at the Dome at the State House.
- Participation in the Black Lives Matter March on May 30, 2020, in Columbia; and promoting participation Racial Justice marches and protests throughout the year.
- SCCAC Racial Justice Sunday, June 14, 2020. With pandemic restrictions and more killings of unarmed Black people by Law Enforcement, a simple appeal for Silent Prayer for Racial Justice in virtual or in-person gatherings was encouraged. Dr. Adrian Bird's commentary on selected lectionary passages was posted on the Council's webpage. Dr. Bird was the President of Interfaith Partners of SC and is Affiliate Professor of Christian History at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte. Age-level writers were for Children, Arbra Lewis, First Calvary Baptist Church, Columbia, Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention in SC; Teens and College: Julia Sibley-Jones, 2nd Presbyterian Church, Greenville, PCUSA; and Adults: Dr. Louise Stanford, First Baptist Church Greenville, Alliance of Baptists and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. These lessons will be published for use in June of 2021.

Public Policy Advocacy included:

- Promoting and participating in the Poor Peoples Campaign March and Rally, in North Charleston, SC.
- Advocacy for Reducing Gun Violence legislation.
- Advocating for full and equitable funding of Public Education, including increasing teacher pay.
- Promoting and participating at the State House in Fair Lending Rally for stronger regulation of predatory lenders.
- Other issues: death penalty, Medicaid work requirement, raising minimum wage, and hate crimes legislation.

Member Denominations. African Methodist Episcopal, Alliance of Baptist, Baptist Educational and Missionary Baptist Convention SC, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Methodist Episcopal, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Religious Society of Friends, Roman Catholic Church, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church.

Administration. In addition to prayer support, financial support was provided by Member Bodies, Congregations, and Individuals.

Staff. The SCCAC Board of Directors elected Rev. Dr. Regina H. Moore as the new Executive Minister & CEO effective February 16, 2021. Dr. Moore has set into motion a 100-day plan for community advocacy and engagement, cultivating relationships with judicatories across the state, and programming centered on equipping youth and young adults for advocacy as Christian witness.

**Inclusiveness Network (INET)
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2021**

The mission of the Inclusiveness Network (INET) of the SC Synod is to actively invite and welcome all persons regardless of race or culture as God's children into the communion of sharing the grace and love of Jesus Christ in all congregations.

At the onset of year 2020, INET funded a grant to Ascension Lutheran Church to host its annual MLK, Jr. Community Celebration worship service, an event followed by a catered meal for up to 100 attendees. As that event was held in January 2020, unfortunately, it was the only event that was funded by INET in 2020 because of non-existing in-person scheduled events, due to the still existing COVID-19 pandemic.

Whereas in the past, INET has funded racial diversity workshops and movie showings, we had planned to host and fund a workshop, *"Talking Together: Facing Racism in a Diverse Community"* during the month of August 2020. This workshop was planned for the participation of Synod Council members and participants of racial and gender diversity from other communities. As it was not feasible for this event to occur, no other in-person events were planned. Therefore, no other use of funds was required for the remainder of 2020.

While we are currently under restrictions of hosting and attending public gatherings, INET's Race Reconciliation & Task Force has started this year off by sponsoring a successful ongoing virtual Book Study, discussing racism. In the future, our plans are to sponsor intermittent book studies of this nature, in addition to hosting other virtual events which speak to inclusiveness. We look forward to the ability for planning and funding in-person events sooner than later, in addition to the funding of various events planned by congregations within our Synod, as we work toward creating more inclusive communities.

Humbly submitted by,

Jackie Utley, Chair
Inclusiveness Network (INET)



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Greetings siblings in Christ of the South Carolina Synod,

It has been a difficult year for all of us. Despite restrictive policy changes and the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, LIRS has remained committed to our biblical mandate to welcome the stranger.

In the last year:

- 2,782 refugees were welcomed through LIRS affiliates in 23 states.
- 440 unaccompanied migrant children were served through our foster care services and placed in loving homes during and after legal proceedings.
- 9,500 asylum seekers received Safe Release and Post Release services at our Southern border.

Even in these darkest of days, thousands of people from across the country partnered with LIRS to express their support for migrants and refugees through our annual programs and advocacy efforts. The compassion of our neighbors gives us hope, and we are proud to report that in the last year:

- 16,000 holiday cards and 500 gifts were sent to migrant children and families in detention through our annual Hope for the Holidays program.
- More than 600 ELCA clergy and lay leaders signed a letter drafted by the ELCA and LIRS urging Congress to work collaboratively to advance comprehensive immigration legislation.
- LIRS' work was featured on national platforms like *NPR*, the *Washington Post*, *Center for American Progress*, *Religion News Service*, *The Christian Century*, and *Sojourners*.

We are especially grateful for the congregations and communities in the South Carolina Synod who have continued their generous and prayerful support. We could not do this work without you.

Now, that work is expanding. In the coming year, the U.S. expects to welcome 125,000 refugees to our shores. LIRS is actively looking to congregations and faith leaders to partner with us in ways big and small, including donations, volunteer work, and participation in our annual programming. **Emmaus: Congregational Discernment Network** launches this spring for congregations to discern how they can best walk alongside refugees and migrants in their community, and **Stand Up Speak Up**, coming in Pentecost, is a new interfaith prayer vigil focused on advocacy. We encourage you to stay up to date on opportunities for individual and congregational engagement at the **LIRS Action Center**, found at www.lirsconnect.org/get_involved

With your support, we will continue to live our mission: witnessing to God's love for all people, standing with and advocating for migrants and refugees, and transforming communities through ministries of service and justice. Thank you for accompanying LIRS and our migrant and refugee siblings through 2021 and beyond. God bless you.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Witte".

Dr. Kristin Witte
Director for Outreach



ELCA Fund for Leaders

South Carolina Synod Fund for Leaders

2021 Annual Report

Thank you to the people of South Carolina Synod for making an investment in the future of the church through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. We are grateful for your partnership!

In the 2020-21 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders provided scholarship assistance of more than \$2.8 million in support of 297 future pastors and deacons. Thank you for your role in ensuring that these future leaders will be freed from the burden of student debt so that they can go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

Students supported in 2020-2021

We are grateful that the South Carolina Synod Fund for Leaders has provided a total of \$35,935 in scholarship awards since its inception. During the 2020-2021 academic year, you provided a total of \$8,700 in scholarship support to:

- Christopher Girardeau \$4,350 Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
- Christopher Shealy \$4,350 Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Additional information about your fund

Market value as of 12/31/2020: **\$265,247.12**

New gifts given to your fund in 2020: **\$28,176.64**

Total Amount available for you to Award for 2021-2022: \$10,400.

This number is calculated with a 10% holdback to ensure that all promised scholarships can be paid during both semesters, even if the market fluctuates. Please issue your awards in whole dollar amounts.

Process and Timeline

1. **Please see the attached document** entitled “Guidelines for Synods – 2021” for eligibility criteria and notes on the selection process and timeline.
2. **Submit nominee information to us by May 17, 2021** using the attached Excel template.
3. **Please send to each nominee the attached instruction form** entitled “Synods- instructions for nominees.” This document will assist students in registering in our system and officially applying for this scholarship, which they must do by June 7, 2021.

For more information, please visit [ELCA.org/fundforleaders](https://www.elca.org/fundforleaders) or call our office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2936. Again, thank you to the people of South Carolina Synod for your generous support – we thank God for you!

Now More Than Ever

Portico Benefit Services is a holistic benefits ministry serving those who serve — from rostered ministers and their families to staff at social ministry organizations. We strive to help our members grow their overall well-being.

We could not have predicted this pandemic. But the virtual benefits we've introduced before and after its arrival, the benefit adjustments we've made since, our successful navigation of volatile financial markets, and the consistency of our customer service have made a powerful difference.

During this pandemic, ELCA benefits are helping to lower stress levels, create safer access to health care, and increase financial flexibility — all to strengthen the resilience of those who serve and, by extension, the resilience of this church.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Building Resilience in 2020

26%

More Calls to Our Financial Planners

During last year's market volatility and our introduction of target date funds.

559

Took a Penalty-Free Distribution

Thanks to quick modification of our retirement plan rules for 2020.

49

Sought Student Loan Help

Through no-cost counseling via our partner, LSS of Minnesota Financial Counseling.

3,230

Medical Visits Via Text

Through 98point6, our new virtual 24/7 primary health care service – with \$0 copay.

98%

Satisfaction With New Mental Health Option

Our self-directed online program, Learn to Live.

10%

Of Members Streamed a Course

On topics like resilience, mindfulness, and beating burnout via Being, our new wellness video platform.

90%

Very Satisfied

With our Customer Care service — delivered by Portico employees working remotely.

22

Target Date Funds Introduced

To help members maintain an age-appropriate asset mix over time — and better weather volatility.

3.1%

Annuity Payment Increase

Received, in these difficult times, by ELCA annuitants during 2021.

Ruth Madilyn Troutman Bockelman, 87, died September 22, 2020
Wife of Reverend Paul Louis Bockelman



Ruth was born December 30, 1932, to The Rev. George L and Vera Walters Troutman in Circleville, Ohio. Her father baptized and confirmed her in the Christian faith at Trinity Lutheran Church where she was active in choirs and youth groups. She was also very active in choruses and music ensembles at Circleville High School from which she graduated in 1950. She attended Capital University where she played in the band and sang and toured with the renowned Chapel Choir.

After receiving her degree in music education, she married the love her life, Paul Louis Bockelman, on June 27, 1954, and they celebrated sixty-six years of marriage this summer. Their life together carried them to Washington state where she taught second grade, to Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Florida and South Carolina. Ruth taught music in public schools and substitute taught in several schools. She enjoyed singing in the choirs of the churches where her husband served as pastor. In addition, she taught music in Deshler, Risingsun, and Bradner, OH, and Muskego, WI. While living in Asheville, NC she was thrilled with the experience of singing with her husband in the Asheville Choral Society. In their retirement she directed and sang in several church choirs with her husband. With her family she travelled to Europe and later with her husband travelled twice to Europe, and to Scotland, England, Canada, and throughout the United States, especially to visit children and grandchildren. On one trip she was thrilled to meet and be photographed with Maria von Trapp. Due to a fall and failing health she had been living in nursing homes the last three years.

She will be greatly missed by her husband, Paul, sister Joyce Day, Gainesville, GA, daughter Debra (Stan) Schmidt of Wauseon OH, sons Paul D. (Deborah) of Perrysburg OH, Mark (Dawne) of Kansas City MO, and Timothy (Gloria) of Beaufort SC. In addition, she has grandchildren Aaron (Marissa) Schmidt, Wauseon OH, Andrew (Rana) Schmidt, Kansas City MO, Alex (Caitlyn) Schmidt, Defiance OH, Emily (Charles) Lassetter, Carrollton GA, Brian (Jessie) Bockelman, Verona WI, Adam (Lindsey Peterson) Bockelman, Sioux Falls SD, Jason (Lisa) Bockelman, Commerce City CO, Anna (Eddie) Shei, Indianapolis IN, Kierstin Bockelman, Charleston SC, and Christopher Bockelman, Beaufort SC. Her great-grandchildren are Kellen, Jordyn and Ezekiel Schmidt, Brianna and Elise Lassetter, and Louis and Marie Bockelman.

A private memorial service was held for the immediate family on Saturday, September 26.

Faye Gable Roof, 82, died September 22, 2020
Wife of Reverend J. Hilton Roof



Mrs. Roof was born in Lexington, the daughter of the late Gladys and Tom Gable. She graduated from Lexington High School and went on to study at Newberry College. She was always actively involved in the work of the church no matter where she and her husband served. Upon her husband's retirement they returned to Lexington, but had recently relocated to Aiken. She will always be remembered as a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend to all.

Surviving include her husband of 63 years, Rev. J. Hilton Roof; daughter, Leah (Joe) Lewis of Aiken, SC; grandsons, Emory and Jason Lewis; sister, Margaret (Warren, Jr.) Christmus; nieces, Cathi and Robin

Christmus; nephew, Warren Christmus, III all of Lexington.

Graveside Service for Faye G. Roof, 82, were conducted September 25, 2020.

Gloria Cleo Hawkins Shealy, 84, died October 10, 2020
Wife of the late Reverend George Benet Shealy



A native of Newberry, SC, Mrs. Shealy was the daughter of the late Bloomer “Jack” and Eunice Harman Hawkins. She married the love of her life on August 22, 1954. She loved sending cards to everyone and especially to the sick and shut-ins. She enjoyed visiting the shut-ins and nursing facilities. She loved her family dearly, and they were the “apple of her eye.”

Mrs. Shealy is survived by a son: Frank O’Neal Shealy (Melody); daughters: Leslie Carol Shealy and Julie Shealy Gambrell (Henry); brother: Bernard Hawkins (Faye); sister: Anna H. Hope; four grandchildren: Justin Smith (April), Zachary Smith (Erica), Leslie Bellamy (Nate) and Grant Shealy; six great-grandchildren: Maribelle, MollyKate, Connor, Ashlyn,

Addison and Harper; many nieces and nephews; and a dear friend of 52 years, Bobbie Duncan.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Shealy is preceded in death by a son: George B. Shealy, Jr.; granddaughter: Meghan Rebekka; and a brother-in-law: Ernie Hope.

A graveside service was held on Friday, October 16, 2020 at St. John’s Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Augusta Ellsworth, 107, died February 10, 2021
Wife of the late Reverend Raymond R. Ellsworth



Augusta Ellsworth was born October 16, 1913 in Columbia, SC, the daughter of Samuel Victor McDonald and Margaret Mae Jones, the eldest sibling of six.

She played the banjo and accordion in the Damecocks, the only all-female orchestra in the south in the early 1930s. The depression interrupted her college education. When she returned to school after the depression, she enrolled at Columbia College because she wanted to teach, receiving her music degree in 1936. Columbia College reports that at the time of her death, she was the oldest living alumna.

Her first teaching position was in Whitmire where she met her future husband, Reverend Raymond R. Ellsworth, a Lutheran Minister. While in Whitmire she was the district music director and director of chorales and glee clubs. She was her husband's true partner in their church work, at various times directing the choirs, singing solos, playing the organ, teaching voice and piano, and bringing a high level of professionalism to the music programs of their churches in Union, Whitmire, Batesburg and Florence, SC. When her husband became chronically ill in 1953, he was forced into early retirement. Soon thereafter, Mrs. Ellsworth resumed her teaching career and brought her husband and two young sons to Columbia. She taught sixth-grade students at Crayton Elementary School for 26 years before her retirement. While at Clayton, she received numerous awards for her excellence in teaching. She had been a faithful member of Ebenezer Lutheran Church for 68 years. She sang in the choir and had been a member of the Elizabeth Circle at Ebenezer Church. In the teaching profession she was a member of Pi and Fidelis Beta Chapters of Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK). Mrs. Ellsworth was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, siblings, and daughter-in-law, Gelene Duncan Ellsworth. She is survived by her sons, Dr. John R. Ellsworth (Mary Dozier) of Lexington and Carl A. Ellsworth (Caroline) of Columbia; four grandchildren, Ryan M. Ellsworth, Lindsay Ellsworth Sadler (Jamie), Ashleigh Ellsworth-Keller (David), and CMDR Carl A. Ellsworth, Jr. (Kristen); two step-grandchildren, Huston Bokinsky and Graham Bokinsky (Ramsay); and 5 great-grandchildren and 4 step-great-grandchildren. A graveside service was held on February 25, 2021, at Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia.

Reverend Timothy D. Bryson, Sr., 77, died on April 29, 2021



Reverend Bryson was born October 18, 1943, in Columbia, SC, a son of Walter B. Bryson, Jr. and Gretchen Daniels Bryson.

He graduated from Dreher High School in Columbia. He earned both B. A. and M. A. degrees from the University of South Carolina and attended Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri for post-graduate work. He was self-employed as a rehabilitation consultant for 25 years before hearing God's call and entering the ministry. At age 56 he entered into studies at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. He graduated in 2003 and was ordained in January 2004. He served Mt. Pleasant Lutheran and Ehrhardt Memorial Lutheran Churches in Ehrhardt, SC. for ten years before retiring to Myrtle Beach, SC.

Following his retirement, he served as interim pastor of St. Phillips Lutheran Church in Myrtle Beach and as visitation pastor at Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church in Garden City.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Walter Bates Bryson III and Charles Daniels Bryson. Surviving are his wife of 36 years, Thelma Jacobs Bryson, two sons, Timothy D. Bryson, Jr. (Patty) of Surfside, SC and Stephen Todd Bryson (Alice) of Middleburg, FL, stepsons Brian Costner of Silver Spring, MD, and Robert Costner of Tyson's Corner, Virginia, two grandchildren, Sarah Bryson and Mira Costner and multiple nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A celebration of Rev. Timothy's life was held on May 15, 2021.

**Martha Barnhardt McCombs, 90, died Wednesday, April 22, 2020
wife of Rev. R. Earl McCombs, Jr.**



Born on January 29, 1930, she was a daughter of the late Floyd R. and Ruth Frieze Barnhardt of Kannapolis, NC, where she attended local schools and Lenoir Rhyne College, receiving a business degree. She retired from Greenwood Vocational Rehabilitation Center in 2001. Martha was a lifelong Lutheran and was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, where her husband, Earl, served as pastor. For many years, she was a member of church choir, was a member of Evangelical Lutheran Church Women and taught Sunday Church School.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years; her children, Katherine Ruth Lingle of Savannah, GA, Robert E. McCombs, III (Laura) of Lexington and Mary Ann Cooper (John) of Greenwood; eight grandchildren, Lee Lingle, Benjamin Lingle (Laura), Anna Lingle Sanford (Tommy), Robert McCombs, Molly McCombs, Riley Raybon, Jack Cooper and Katie Cooper; three great grandchildren, Anna Marie, Thomas and Alex; and a brother, Ray Barnhardt of Newton, NC. She was preceded in death by a sister, Norma Matheny.

Once health restrictions have been lifted, a time will be announced for a memorial service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, where her cremated remains will be entombed in the church columbarium.