



Rev. Eston Dale Harward

July 7, 1935 - October 6, 2022

Reverend Eston Dale Harward, 87, of Pickens, South Carolina passed away on Thursday, October 6, 2022.

Dale was born in Bowling Green, Florida, a son of the late Eston Harward and the late Annie Mae Brooks Harward. Dale was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Lucy Eleanor Boozer Harward. Dale received his bachelor's degree from Asbury College (Wilmore KY), his master's degree from Emory University (Atlanta, GA) and his Ph.D. from Drew University (Madison, NJ). Inspired by learning, he also attended Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL) and the University of Florida (Gainesville, FL).

Dale served as a United Methodist minister in the Florida Conference from 1959-1999, serving Florida churches in Fort Myers, Port Charlotte, Gainesville, Tampa, Tallahassee, Clermont, and Winter Garden. He is currently a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Pickens, South Carolina.

In addition to the ministry, Dale was a devoted gardener, cook, and active volunteer; generous with sharing his time, skills, and gentle smile.

Survivors include his daughter Lucinda "Cindy" Diane Rainey and her husband Clifford Wesley Rainey, Sr. of Alpharetta, Ga., grandchildren, Clifford Wesley Rainey, Jr. and his wife Delaney Powers of Roswell, Ga., and Matthew Ethan Rainey of Alpharetta, Ga. Also surviving are great-grandchildren, Bryan Alexander Rainey, and Eston Lane Rainey.

A private family memorial will be held in the spring.

Cemetery Details

Cremation - Northside Chapel Crematory

12050 Crabapple Road
Roswell, GA

Tribute Wall

PS

“ Cindy, you knew me as Patsy Holmes at TUMC. I played organ for your wedding and remember you “when”! I was thinking of your Dad today and wondering how he would feel about the divisiveness within in the Methodist Church. (I googled his name and found his obituary) I did attend a THUMC homecoming maybe 18 years ago and was able to spend a short visit with him and some other special people from those days. I am sorry that Dale and Lucy are both gone, but I know you and your family have wonderful memories. Hoping that you receive this - Patsy (patsyschossler@gmail.com).

Patsy Schossler - September 09, 2023 at 09:15 PM

JH

“ I served as a youth director one summer in Clermont during the time Dale was pastor there and Dale was as kind and as encouraging as he could be. I know he will be missed.

janet Horman - February 27, 2023 at 12:49 PM

SF

“ Cindy sorry to hear this news. But we know he is rejoicing on the streets of gold. What a history. I think of Aunt Annie Mae each time I drive by her house each day. The wildflowers still thrive.
Sam Fits

Sam Fite - November 13, 2022 at 10:48 AM

RM

“ I was Dale's associate pastor at Clermont. Condolences and prayers to his surviving family.

Ron McCreary - October 16, 2022 at 08:42 AM

JH

I was his summer youth director in Clermont back in the early 80s

janet Horman - February 18, 2023 at 08:34 PM

JH

Such a kind man and great pastor .

janet Horman - February 18, 2023 at 08:35 PM

AR

“*I was privileged to know Dale for ten years and he was most patient man I have ever known. We shared a love of plants and landscaping. One time while we were out working he told me that he was going to enjoy working in heaven. “A lot of people think that we’re just going to be playing a harp on a cloud or something but that’s not what I read. I think we’re going to be busy.”*



Andrew Rausch - October 12, 2022 at 10:41 AM

LB

“*Dale was my first cousin. His mother and my father were sister and brother. He was about six years older than I, so he was one of my pathfinders. I especially remember when I was about six or seven visiting him at his family's home in Bowling Green FL, and he did his very best to teach me how to use a slingshot. He was better at that art than anybody I've ever known, and despite my training at the hands of the best, I never learned to be very good at using a slingshot.*

LONNIE D BROOKS - October 09, 2022 at 04:17 PM

RM

“ Cindy, I'm so sorry to hear about your father. Whenever I hear the song "Here I Am, Lord" I think of him. I remember him singing it along with the Winter Garden church and I remember thinking about how well that represented his life.

Rhonda Mobley - October 09, 2022 at 02:46 PM

RO

“ 2 files added to the album Harward album



Rob - October 09, 2022 at 07:18 AM

SH

“ Dale was a wonderful and caring person. He was a driving force at the Hagood Community Center in Pickens - from volunteering his services in the kitchen, maintaining the grounds, serving on the board of directors - he did it all. He will be missed by the many people that he interacted with.

Susan S Houston - October 09, 2022 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ Generous amazing gardener
Woody and Linda Berrong

Woody and Linda Berrong - October 08, 2022 at 07:58 PM

LR

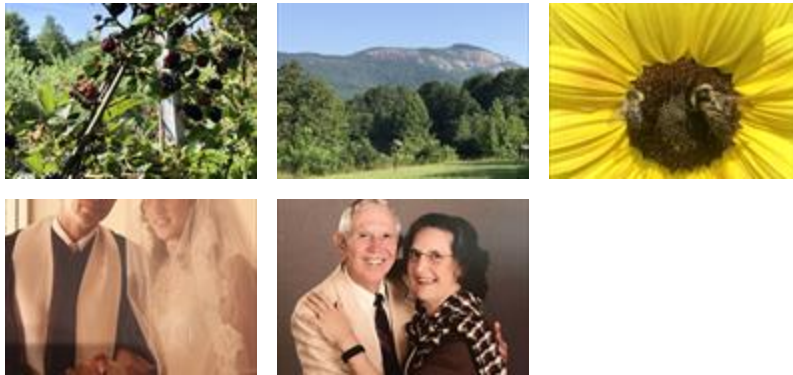
“ For those desiring to make memorials, in lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be made to one of the organizations below that have touched Dale’s heart and passions:

- *ECHO*, a global missions organization dedicated to transform the lives and addressing the hunger needs of vulnerable families worldwide through sustainable farming education and support, 17391 Durrance Road, North Fort Myers, FL 33917 (<https://echonet.org/>)
- *The Pickens Senior Center*, an all-volunteer run center providing fellowship, activities and meals for seniors, 129 Schoolhouse Street, Pickens, SC 29671. (https://www.cityofpickens.com/index.asp?SEC=FD1A0AA1-280B-4E2C-A635-26857FBA6E7C&Type=B_BASIC)

Lucinda D Rainey - October 08, 2022 at 04:08 PM

ND

“ 5 files added to the album Harward album



Northside Chapel Funeral Directors - October 08, 2022 at 01:05 PM

ND

“ The family requests that you please “Share a Memory” and contribute 1-3 words that represent or remind you of a special memory with Dale (i.e., grateful, generous, gardener, ice cream, VW beetle). You are welcome and encouraged to repeat words you see in other’s posts if they are meaningful to you. The family will use these to create a memorial word cloud as a cherished memento.

Northside Chapel Funeral Directors - October 08, 2022 at 01:04 PM

LR

Words that come to my mind - grateful, kind, Lucy, cook, gentle, peanut roll...

Lucinda D Rainey - October 08, 2022 at 04:20 PM

CR

Tractor, Stretch, Big Doc

Cliff Rainey - October 08, 2022 at 06:56 PM

ME

Welcoming, kind, twinkling

Melle - October 08, 2022 at 07:46 PM

CH

Gracious, kind, Lucy

Carole Gregory Herold - October 08, 2022 at 08:34 PM

DP

Beekeeper, generous, loving and gentle

dorothy Porter - October 08, 2022 at 09:11 PM

ER

Bike, whistle, feeding the fish

Ethan Rainey - October 09, 2022 at 02:09 AM

PC

Dale liked mayonnaise on practically everything he ate. Did he have a mayonnaise cake for his wedding? He also played an accordion, walked on long wooden stites and liked photography.

Phoebe Brooks Crofts

Phoebe Crofts - October 09, 2022 at 09:12 AM

GC

Dale, Phoebe's cousin, married Phoebe and me in 1965. He clearly said the proper words because we are still happily wed. I am most grateful.

George Crofts - October 09, 2022 at 06:35 PM