

Evergreen
Percilla

Grapeland Messenger - November 26, 1998

Services Held Here Friday For Rev. Charles Thomas Morris, Jr.

The Reverend Charles Thomas Morris, Jr. died Tuesday, November 17, 1998, at East Medical Center in Tyler. He was pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Grapeland.

Morris was born May 1, 1939, in Vernon, Texas. He grew up in Houston and graduated from Aldine High School. He attended Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, where he sang tenor in the Men's Quartet and in the Los Banditos trio. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Houston in 1965. While still in college, Morris enlisted in the Officer Candidate School of the United States Marine Corps and later served in the reserves. He also was a Houston police officer.

From 1976 until 1988, Morris lived in Kilgore where he was an independent insurance agent and an active member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church. He served as president of the Kilgore Rotary Club and was named a Paul Harris Fellow. In 1983 he responded to a call into the United Methodist ministry, following in the footsteps of his father and great grandfathers.

Morris was ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church in 1991 and Elder in 1995. He also graduated from Perkins School of Theology Advanced Course of Study School at SMU in 1995. He was chosen to deliver the commencement sermon to his graduating class.

Before coming to Grapeland in 1995, Rev. Morris served churches at Hopewell, McCary's Chapel, Blossom Hill, Pine Hill, Laird Hill, Bay Vue, and Port Bolivar. While at Bay Vue and Port Bolivar, he received the Small Membership Church "Pastor of the Year" award in 1995, and was chosen as Bolivar Peninsula's "Citizen of the Year" in 1993. He was named an Exemplary Small Membership Church Pastor earlier this year. In 1990, he realized a life-long dream of traveling to Israel to visit the Holy Land.

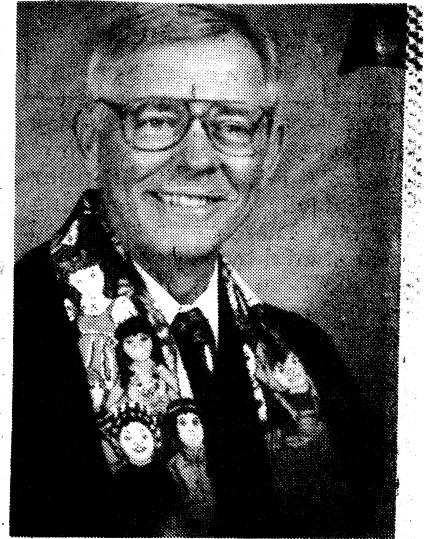
Bolivar Peninsula Christmas Choir for six years. In Grapeland he enjoyed the fellowship of the Noon Lions Club.

He believed that youth ministry is vital to the life of a church, and he served as Confirmation Class teacher, Sunday School teacher, Lakeview camp counselor, and MYF sponsor. Rev. Morris was instrumental in helping many students attend Lon Morris College.

Morris was a weekly columnist for the Grapeland Messenger, and his "Reflections" column was enjoyed by many readers. A published collection of his columns is currently in production.

Morris was the family historian, and often included stories about his family in his column. In August of 1998, Morris hosted a weekend family reunion at Salmon lake. His family surprised him by appearing at church wearing their reunion tee shirts and filling five pews.

Rev. Morris was preceded in death by his mother, Viola Faye Blaylock Morris; his stepmother, Sydney Louise Heath Morris; and his father, Charles Thomas Morris, Sr. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Marie Jones Morris of Grapeland; his daughter Meredith Lee Morris Tally and his son-in-law, Gregory Shofner Tally, of Denver, Colorado. He is also survived by his brothers, Clyde Raymon Morris of Conroe and George Wesley Morris of peculiar, Missouri; his sisters, Donna Binion of Houston, Carol Saile of Englewood, Colorado, and Melinda Brents of Houston; and many other loving relatives,



Rev. Tom Morris

church families, and friends.

Services were directed by Bailey and Foster Funeral Home at 3:00 p.m. Friday, November 20, at First United Methodist Church in Grapeland. Dr. Jack Shoultz, Reverend Jim Ross, Dr. Jim Bankston, Dr. Bob Waters and Reverend Bob White conducted the service. Pallbearers were James Morris, Joel Morris, Jay Block, Dan Block, Ted Parr, Brad Stevenson, Michael Cutshaw, and Chase Warner. United Methodist clergy and spouses were honorary pallbearers. Burial was Evergreen Cemetery near Percilla.

Memorials can be donated to the First United Methodist Church of Grapeland Building Fund, P.O. Box 457, Grapeland, TX 75844 or to the Charles Thomas and Joyce Jones Morris Grounds Maintenance Fund at Lon Morris College, Jacksonville, TX 75766.