
MEMORIALS

Robert Roethemeyer

John David Baker-Batsel (1933–2018)

written and read by Clay-Edward Dixon,
Graduate Theological Union

John David Baker-Batsel, the second library director of Graduate Theological Union (1977–1990) and the first in our new library facility, passed away in Longmont, Colorado, on November 28, 2018.

Before arriving at GTU, John was professor and librarian at Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois (1964–1977). He served as president of Atla from 1973 to 1974.

He is remembered foremost as a wonderful pastor and an administrator who would join in and get his hands dirty,

At the GTU, he had his hands full. He continued the integration of the libraries of the member schools into a single library (finished in 2005). Holdouts from the initial library integration—Pacific School of Religion and Starr King—were brought into the collection in the new building. Additional full-time staff was hired to meet the challenges of the new building. The library automation process improved. Collection development and other library policies and procedures were reviewed and updated to meet expanding academic and service demands. Working with Claude Welch, John established the GTU Archives and hired Lucinda Glenn as first archivist.

Born in Greenville, Kentucky, he received a BA from Lambuth College, 1955; BD, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 1959; MA, Vanderbilt University, 1962; and MLS, Peabody Library School, 1963. Ordained

to Methodist ministry in 1959, he served as a student pastor in the Memphis Annual Conference.

After retirement, he served on the General Board of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History (1997–2001) and moved to the Boulder, Colorado area. There he enjoyed nature photography and spending time in the mountains. Always a person for others, he became a spiritual mentor to many and volunteered as a hospice chaplain.

John is survived by his wife of 38 years, Patricia Ann, four children, and an extended family. A memorial service took place on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Longmont. John's final resting place is the columbarium at the foot of the mountain that he loved.

Those who knew him respected him and remember him.

Don Haymes (1940–2019)

written by Scott D. Seay, Christian
Theological Seminary; read by Robert
Roethemeyer, Concordia Theological
Seminary

Born in Chicago, Don Haymes completed his undergraduate degree at Rhodes College. He later earned a Master of Library Science degree at the University of Tennessee and a Master of Theological Studies degree at Harvard University. He was a distinguished leader in theological librarianship and publishing, pursuing his passions as Editor-in-Chief at Mercer University Press, Director of Index Programs at Atla, and archivist at Christian Theological Seminary.

Don was a lifelong leader in the Churches of Christ, serving as a pastor of congregations and in social justice ministries. He was especially passionate about racial justice and the alleviation of poverty. As a scholar, he belonged to many professional organizations and published more than a dozen articles. Many in the

Churches of Christ and related groups benefitted from his capacious wisdom and expertise. His grateful colleagues honored him with a festschrift entitled, *Restoring the First-Century Church in the Twenty-First Century* (Wipf and Stock, 2005).

Don was a lover of vintage automobiles and could “recite their details in a way that only connoisseurs and mechanics could understand.” A member of several automobile clubs, he especially enjoyed driving his own Studebaker truck.

Don is survived by his wife, Betty (Hollis) Haymes, a son, Malcolm Haymes, and loving members of his extended family.

Page Allison Thomas (1936–2019)

written by Bridwell Library Staff; read by
Jane Elder

Page Allison Thomas was born July 2, 1936 in Leslie, Arkansas, where he was raised. Page was licensed to preach in 1956 at the Leslie Methodist Church. He received a BA from Hendrix College in 1958 and moved to Dallas to attend Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University where he earned his BD in 1961. He preached at Bethel Methodist Church in Greenville, Texas from 1963 to 1965.

Page began working at Bridwell Library in September 1961, following his graduation from Perkins. His one-year contract turned into 46 years, giving him the longest single appointment in the United Methodist Church. He worked his way through every department in the library, culminating in his true research love as the director of the Center for Methodist Studies. His love of rare books led him on many adventures, including several trips to England. On one of these trips, he followed John Wesley’s ministry route. Page kept all the various evolutions of the Methodist Church structure in the United States firmly in his grasp and could aid any researcher with the ins and outs of the conferences, general conferences, and doctrines, down

to the last detail.

Page was mentored by Kate Warnick, SMU's first theological librarian, and worked for five directors: Decherd Turner, Jerry Campbell, Robert Maloy, Valerie Hotchkiss, and Roberta Schaafsma. He retired in 2007.

In his free time, Page enjoyed eating ice cream, blacksmithing, fishing, raising horses, and sharing these loves with his grandchildren. He reeled in his last fish on Shadow Lake in Arkansas in the summer of 2018 and passed away peacefully on Friday, March 8, 2019 in McKinney, Texas.