He was a graduate of Columbia Military Academy, Mars Hill College, A.A.; Emory University, B.A.; Duke University Divinity School, M.Div.; and received the Doctor of Divinity degree from Pfeiffer University in 1974. He also did post-graduate study at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, and Yale University Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut.

Earle was active in scouting as a boy. He received the Eagle Scout Award and was initiated into The Order of The Arrow. In high school and college, he was an outstanding student leader and athlete, winning honors in football, baseball, and swimming. He was President of Philomathean Literary Society, the "E" Club at Emory University, an officer of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, and a Dean's List student.

In 1950 he heard and heeded a call to the ministry of the church. In 1953 he was ordained Deacon and in 1955 he was ordained Elder in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. He served as Senior Minister of churches in Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Valdese, Shelby, Statesville, Lexington, and Hendersonville.

During his ministry, Earle traveled throughout the Middle East, the Holy Land, Egypt, England, and Western Europe. While in the Middle East, he had an audience with King Hussein of Jordan, thanked him for the church's presence in Jordan, and discussed their children due to their similar ages. In 1969 Earle and Pat were selected to lead a seven-week trip and a youth caravan to Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark. They also visited England and eight Western European Countries. This afforded opportunities for worship, work, and fellowship with many persons in these countries.

Earle's leadership in the church was recognized by two different Bishops when he was appointed District Superintendent: 1974 to 1980 he was Salisbury District Superintendent, and from 1990 to 1996 he was Statesville District Superintendent. He served for twelve years, under three Bishops, as a member of the Bishop's Cabinet. Across the years he was elected to numerous Boards, Agencies, Commissions, and Committees within the United Methodist Church. He served twelve years as a member of the Givens Estates Board of Directors, served for five years as a member of the Interfaith Assistance Ministry Board of Directors and twelve years as a member of the Board of the Methodist Retirement Home in Charlotte. He was elected Chairman of the Conference Committee on the Episcopacy, Vice-President of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration, and Representative to the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference for Pastors of Larger Churches. He served on the Alumni Council at Duke University as a representative of the Duke Divinity School. He was listed in "Who's Who in the United Methodist Church" and he was awarded Man of the Year in Valdese, NC.

From 1984 to 1990 Earle was Senior Minister of First United Methodist Church in Hendersonville. During these years he was very active in both church and community activities. He served two terms as President of the Henderson County Ministerial

Association and was the General Chairman of the United Way. He also held the position of Division Chairman for the YMCA Capital Funds Drive. Additionally, he played a role in organizing and launching Interfaith Assistance Ministry. Alongside his friend, The Reverend Alex Viola of St. James Episcopal Church, he contributed to the Medical Loan Closet at St James Episcopal Church. He was a member of the Hendersonville Rotary Club and Oak Hills Racquet Club where he was an avid tennis player.

In appreciation of Earle and Pat's faithful service to the United Methodist Church and the Statesville District, a festive dinner and retirement party were held in The Memorial Hall of Broad Street United Methodist Church in Statesville, NC, June 1, 1996. Over 350 former parishioners, friends, family, and fellow ministers joined them for this gala event. An engraved plaque was presented to Earle which read:

"That man is a success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much,

who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children,

who has filled his niche and accomplished his task, who leaves the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a lovely poem, or a rescued soul, who never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it, who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had. His memory is a benediction." -R.L. Stevenson

In 1996, after 43 years of ministry to the church, Pat and Earle retired to Hendersonville. During his retirement he was a member of the Hendersonville Country Club, the Pardee Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, returned to Interfaith Assistance Ministry as a member of the Board of Directors, served on The Givens Estate Board of Directors, and The Board of Pensions of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. In 2001 The Supreme Council of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity honored him with lifetime membership in the Fraternity's Gold Chapter. He also received an alumni award from Emory University.

A Celebration of Life memorial service will be conducted in the Sanctuary of First United Methodist Church Hendersonville on a later date in September. Ministers in charge of the service will be the Reverend Karen Easter-Bayne of First United Methodist Church and the Reverend Deacon E. R. Haire Jr. of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Edneyville.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST

Church of Hendersonville September 6, 2025

A Service of Death and Resurrection

Rev. Dr. Earle Ross Haire



OPENING VOLUNTARY
Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine
Spirit Song
O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Phoebe P. Knapp John Wimber Carl G. Glaser

† ENTRY OF THE FAMILY

WORDS OF GRACE AND WELCOME

+ HYMN 328, 117, 130
Surely the Presence of the Lord WOLFE
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel his mighty power and his grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face;
surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

God Will Take Care of You

MARTIN

Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you; beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you. God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way; he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31

† HYMN 140 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou has been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

PRAYER

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8:31-39

POEM How Do I Say Goodbye

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

SOLO In the Garden C. Austin Miles

GOSPEL READING from John 14

MESSAGE OF GOOD NEWS Rev. Dr. E. R. Haire, Jr.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

+ HYMN 364

Because He Lives

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
he came to love, heal, and forgive;
he lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he gives; but greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because he lives. *Refrain*

And then one day I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain; and then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns. *Refrain*

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Beethoven

VISITATION

You are invited to the Gettman Room immediately following the service for a time of visitation with the family.

LICENCES

Some music for our worship experience is offered with express permissions granted by One License A-734965.

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Karen Easter-Bayne — Lead Pastor

Rev. Deacon Dr. E. R. Haire, Jr. - St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Mr. Michael S. Brannon – Director of Music

Rev. Mike McKee — Soloist Solace Choir — Musicians

Rev. Myles McKee, Rev. Myles McKee, Jr.,

Paula Haire Lynch – *Readers*

MEMORIAL GIFTS

The family kindly suggests memorial gifts in Earle Haire's honor be given to either:

The Shepherd's Fund of First United Methodist Church 204 Sixth Avenue West Hendersonville, NC 28739

or

Four Seasons Hospice Elizabeth House 571 South Allen Road East Flat Rock, NC 28731



OBITUARY

The Reverend Dr. Earle Ross Haire, 95, of Hendersonville, NC, a retired United Methodist Minister, died on Saturday, June 28, 2025, at the Elizabeth House.

Known for his spirit, keen intellect, and unwavering sense of purpose, Reverend Dr. Haire touched countless lives throughout his over four

decades of ministry and service.

He was the son of the late Herman E. Haire and Pauline Jackson Haire of Jefferson, NC. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his brother, R. Phillip Haire and his late wife Nancy Smathers Haire.

He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Patricia Riley Haire; three daughters: Karen Haire Ward of Sumter, S.C. and her sons Stuart, Anderson, Ross, and Dayton; Paula Haire Lynch of Fort Worth, TX, her husband Frank Lynch and sons Clark and the Reverend Riley Lynch; RossAnn Haire McKee of Canton, GA and her husband the Reverend Mike McKee and sons the Reverends Michael and Myles McKee; and his son, the Reverend Deacon Earle Ross Haire Jr., PhD. of Hendersonville, N.C; along with 13 great-grandchildren, sister-in-law Connie Haire of Sylva, NC, and three nephews, Phillip, Scott, and Tate Haire.