



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
*Houma,
Louisiana*



1998 Directory



Grace Lutheran Church



The Rev. Dr. William M. Childress
PASTOR

406 Valhi Boulevard, Houma, LA 70360

879-1865 or 879-1833

The history of Grace in Houma

When a small group of Lutherans looked for a church to attend 42 years ago, they found that the nearest Lutheran Church was more than 50 miles away in New Orleans. So that same group gathered on September 13, 1956 at Terrebonne Parish Library with the Rev. O.H. Reinboth, then Executive Secretary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (Southern District), and the Rev. F. Weisenborn of Lafayette, Louisiana to ask that the Southern District recognize a new church in Houma and help bring a pastor to the new congregation.

The Rev. Jules Bush of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in New Orleans came on September 17, 1956 and conducted the first official Lutheran worship service in Houma for 26 persons. At the Church's first business meeting held November 5, 1956, 17 persons signed a "Scroll" marking the event. Among those signing were Gladys and Olden Dupre, Elaine Cofield and Mike Wyatt. Also temporary officers were elected. Mike Wyatt was elected Secretary.

On March 11, 1957, a constitution was adopted and the new church became Grace Lutheran Church.

The Rev. Richard E. Kuehnert was installed as the first resident Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. The Southern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod officially received Grace into membership in October, 1957.

On November 10, 1957 the first official officers of Grace Lutheran Church were installed and various boards were created to serve the congregation. Mike Wyatt was one of the first Elders, and Olden Dupre was elected to the Church's Board of Trustees. Gladys Dupre was a member of Grace's first Board of Education.

After property was acquired for a church site on Hollywood Road, construction began with groundbreaking ceremonies on February 7, 1960. The new chapel was dedicated on August 14, 1960.

The Rev. J.C. Henning was installed as Grace's second resident Pastor on January 29, 1963. The Rev. Roger H. Grummer became Grace's third resident Pastor on December



Charter members Bertha and Mike Wyatt, Elaine Cofield and Gladys Dupre stand together.

12, 1965. The Rev. Craig W. Rinker became the fourth Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. During his tenure, Pastor Rinker earned a doctorate while serving the Church, the community and the Southern District.

After the State of Louisiana purchased a portion of the Hollywood Road property to extend Tunnel Boulevard, now Martin Luther King Boulevard, the final service at that location was held on March 20, 1983. The current property was purchased and groundbreaking services were held on October 16, 1983.

On October 21, 1984, the new Grace Lutheran Church was dedicated.

Mike Wyatt was graduated from the Lay Ministry program in May, 1984.

Additional classrooms were added behind the Church and dedicated in 1988.

By selling the remaining portions of the Hollywood Road property to Shoney's and Blockbuster Video, Grace was able to pay off the mortgage on the sanctuary and finance construction of the Fellowship Hall, which was dedicated April 12, 1992.

The Rev. Charles Minetree became Grace's fifth Pastor. He accepted a call to Pennsylvania, and the Rev. John Ellerman served as interim Pastor until the arrival and installation of the Rev. Dr. William M. Childress on February 7, 1997. Pastor Childress' wife Carol, now serves as Choir Director.

To the glory of Jesus Christ ...

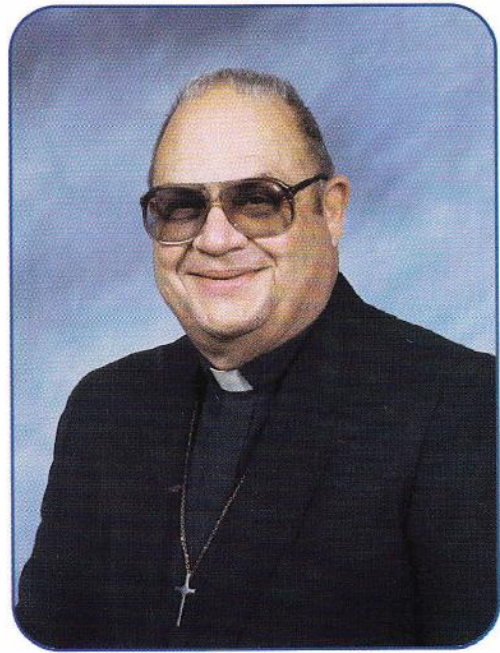
With reverent and thankful hearts we dedicate this church directory to the glory of Him who is the Lord of the Church - Jesus Christ, Who is the "same yesterday, today and forever." He has guided this congregation in the past 40 years and will continue to guide it in the years to come.

The Lord has ordained that His work should be done by men and women who have dedicated their hearts and lives to Him. Thus the pages of this directory make the point that Grace Lutheran Church is people. People "gathered to name the name, person, and presence of Jesus Christ," we might add.

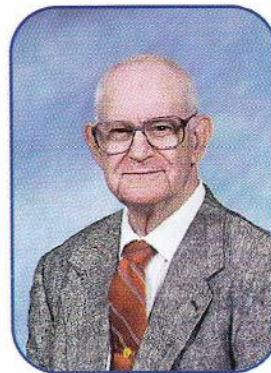
We are never too old, nor too wise to forget our continuing need for praying, planning, and working so that we might have and profitably use His strength for future growth and service. An important part of it all is simply getting to know one another. We pray this directory will serve that purpose.

We invite every one of you to join wholeheartedly with us in serving our Lord Jesus Christ and glorifying His name. Together we can do much to support, encourage, and strengthen one another in our Christian faith and life - through our worship together, our fellowship with one another, and our prayers for one another. Together we can help one another rededicate our lives to being God's witnesses at home, at work, and in our recreation.

Pastor Childress



The Rev. Dr. William M. Childress,
Pastor



Mike Wyatt,
Lay Pastor Emeritus



Debbie Breaux,
Church Secretary



Participants in the installation services for the Rev. Dr. William M. Childress as Pastor of Grace Lutheran on February 7, 1997.

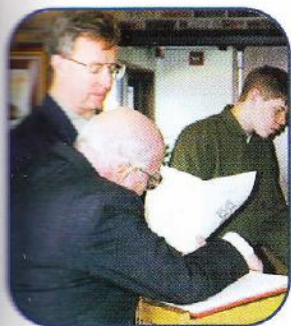


An acolyte lights the candles to open services.



The choir offers a joyful noise unto the Lord.

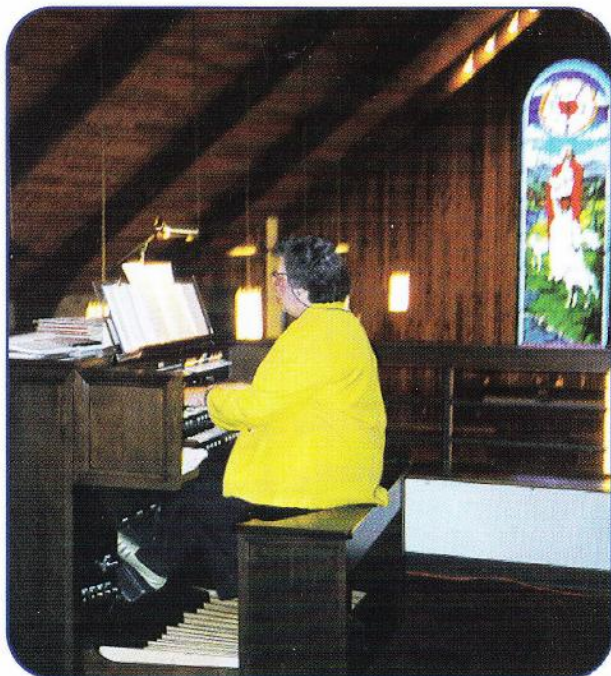
... through
Worship



Keeping records is part of the duties for ushers.



Altar Guild members set the Communion table.



Organist Jane Smith plays each Sunday.



At the end of services, Pastor Childress shakes hands and exchanges words with each member of the congregation.



Parishioners leave Church in an orderly manner.



The Board of Directors leads the Church administration in 1998.



Even churches need to be kept clean.

... through *Service*



Elders provide spiritual leadership.



Preparing for Communion means cleaning and polishing the brass.



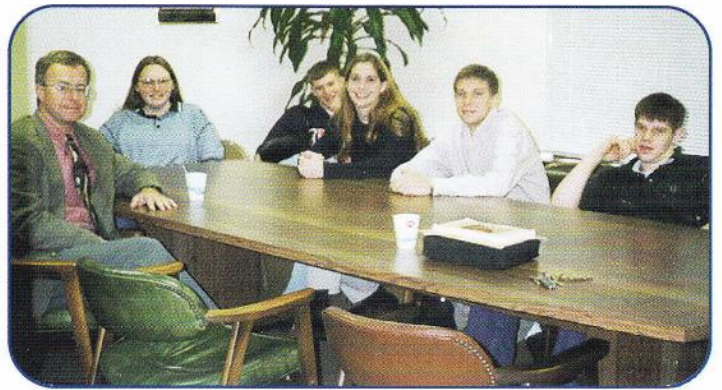
The Mission Guild gathers for a picture.



These ladies study the Bible together.



Pastor instructs Confirmation class.



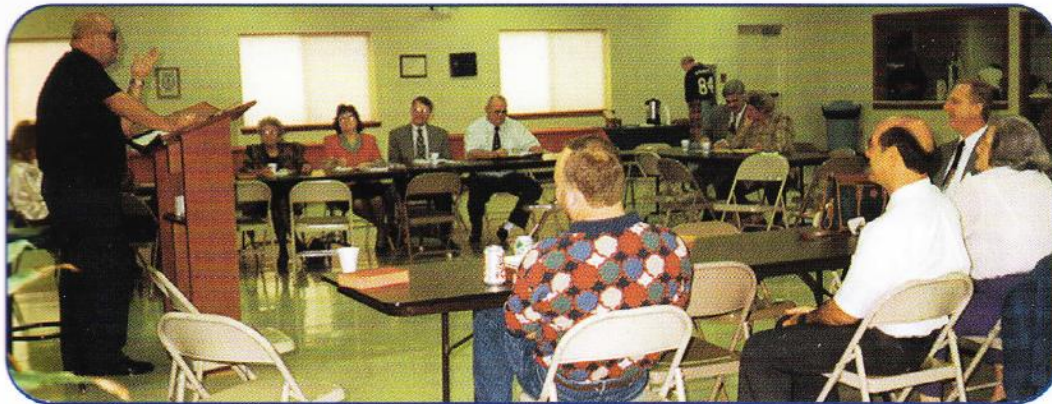
Teens have Chris Wilmoth as their teacher.

... through

Learning



Thomas Hesselgrave makes a point to his young class.



Adults pay rapt attention during Bible study led by Pastor in the Fellowship Hall.



Gina Tusson and Brigette Kinsella work with their class of youngsters.



Drawing is on tap in Hilda Crawford's class.



After the service, it's time to share ideas.



All ages enjoy fellowship.

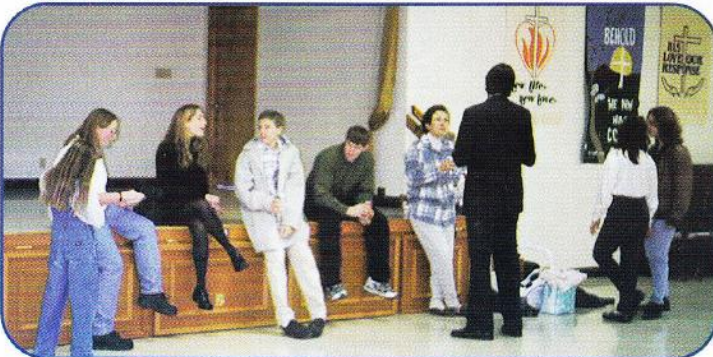
... through Fellowship



It's time to exchange gifts at the Mission Guild Christmas party.



Sunday is biscuit day in the Fellowship Hall of Grace.



The stage is a perfect setting for conversation.



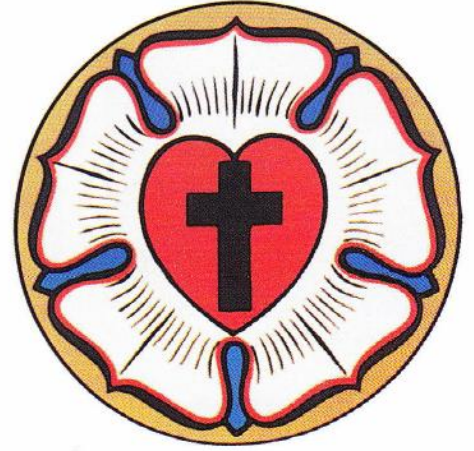
Talk and treats are the order of the day.



Holly Benton



Anne Marie Cinnater



*Those not
available
for pictures*

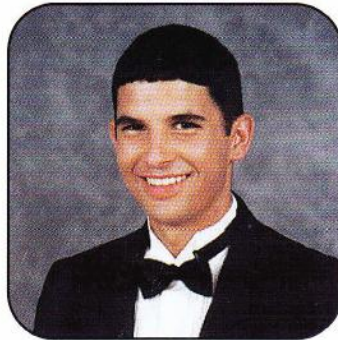


Shirley Fister

The
Families
of Grace



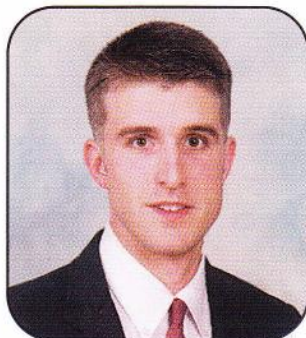
Paul Kraus, Audra Akins
& Kara Kraus



Jason Navarre



Edna Rini

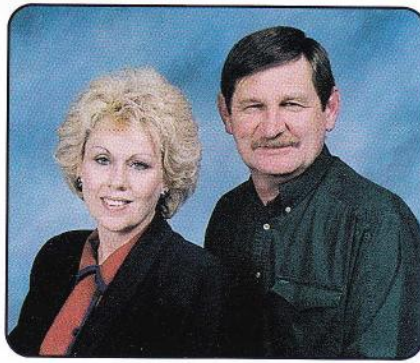


Brian Wright





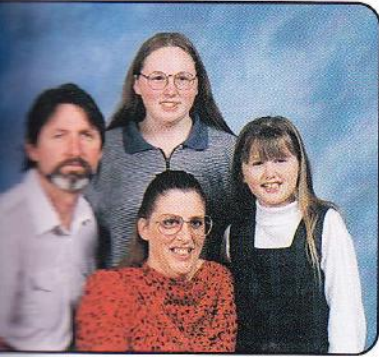
Bobeia Addy



David & Gail Akins



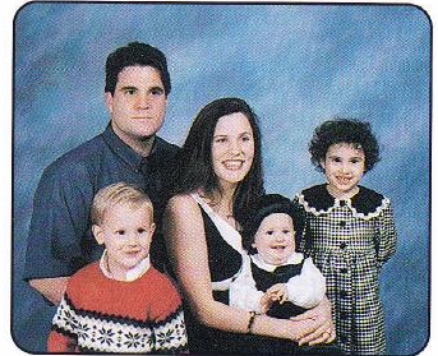
Rosalie Baber



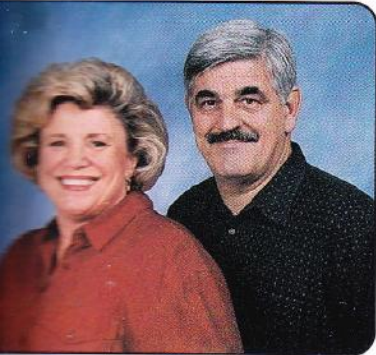
**George, Jr. & Pat Bauman,
Lisa & Brittany**



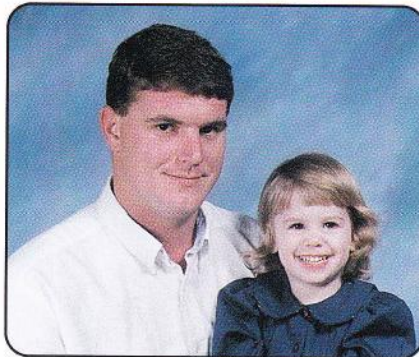
**Georgiana Bauman
& Timothy Bilello**



**Jason & Stephanie Benton,
Lakyn, Austin & Megan**



Jerry & Lillian Benton



**Seth Benton
Taylor**



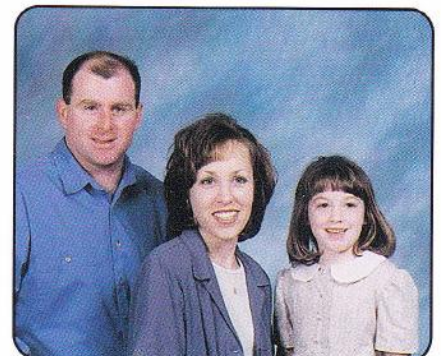
Gerald & Helen Bergeron



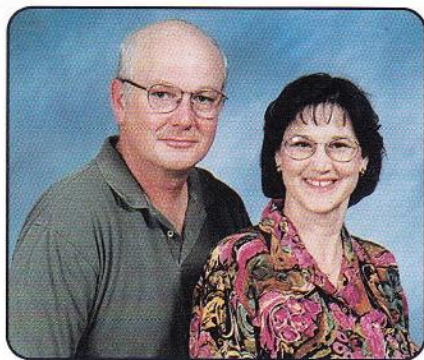
Elizabeth Bischoff



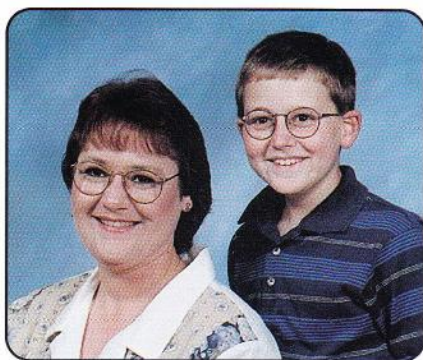
**Dale & Donna Boger,
Lori & Kyle**



**Matthew & Rebecca Boudreaux
Ashley**



William & Ruth Braden



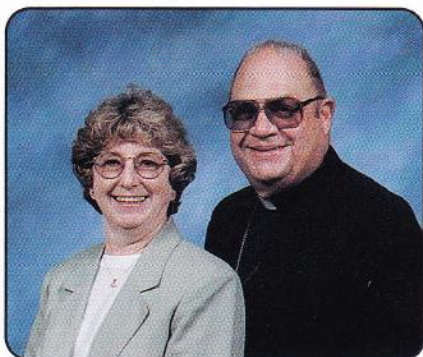
Melissa Breaux
Christopher



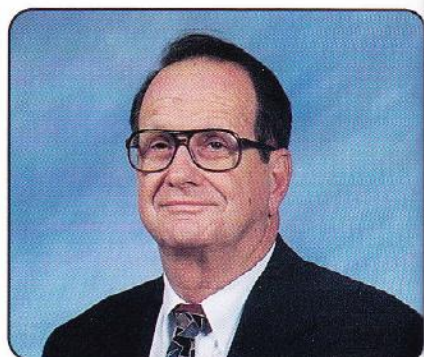
Jim & Liz Cannon
Stephanie



Betty Carpenter
Kristan



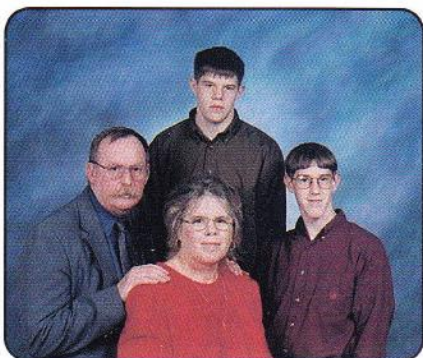
William & Carol Childress



Ray Cinnater



Elaine Cofield



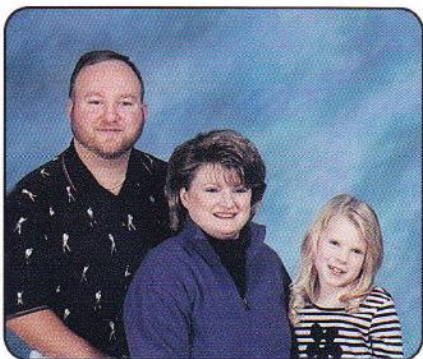
Clayton & Hilda Crawford,
Derek & Darin



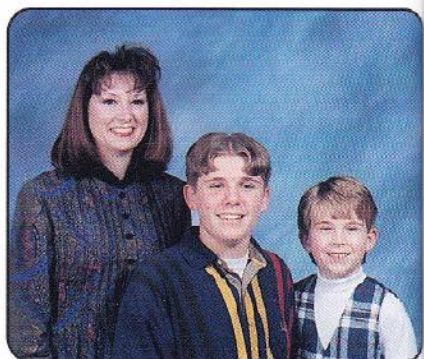
Eric & Tammy Crochet,
Ashley, Heather & Chelsey



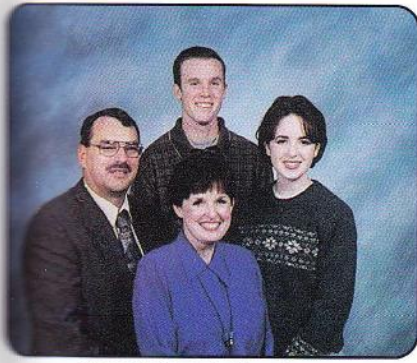
Bret & Penny Cuneo
Connor



Todd Cunningham
Carmen & Kristen Schwausch



Rana DaSilva
Bradley Matherne & Jacob Moise



Tom & Connie Deschene
Paul & Melissa Sandberg



Gladys Dupre



Keri Dupre
Devin



Jerolyn Fitzgerald



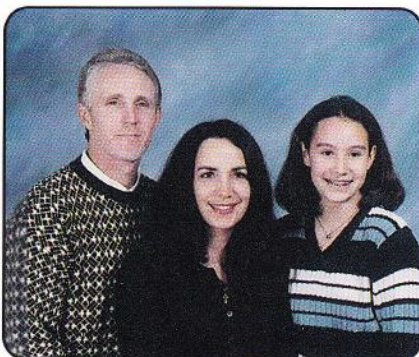
Richard & Jean Frey



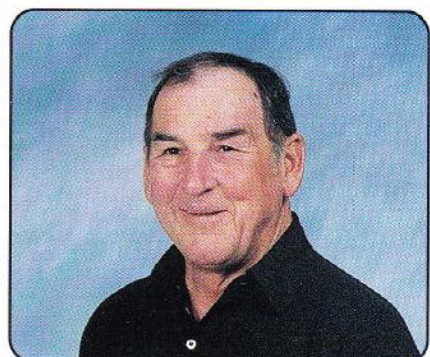
Gene & Gerri Gaddis



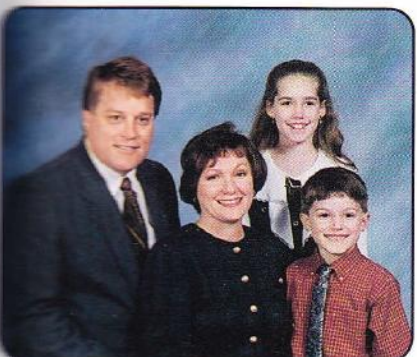
Judy Gibson



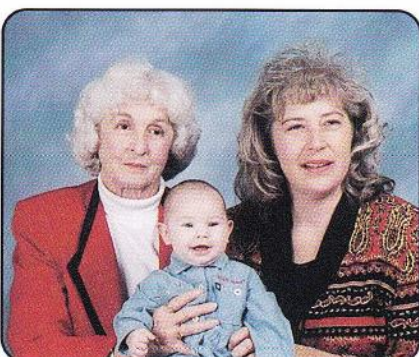
Dave & Kathy Greve
Sara



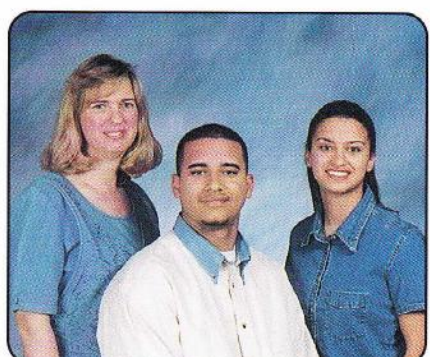
Richard Guise



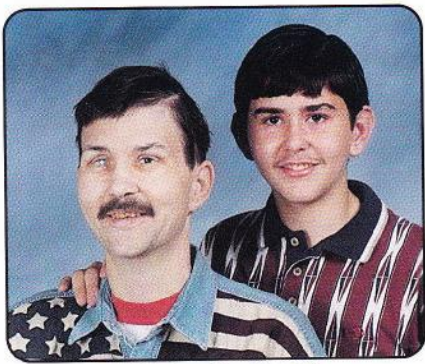
Patrick & Nancy Hage,
Jenna & Lealand



Beverly & Ann Harding
Adeline Perryman



Mary Harding,
Aaron & Alyce



McKinley Harding, Jr.
Trey



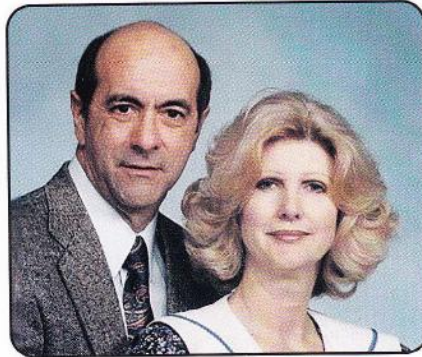
Thomas & Brenda Hesselgrave



Rita Johansen



Mary Lou Johnston



Gene & Cynthia Junker



Tom & Brigitte Kinsella,
Jennifer & Steven



James & Iva Kohls



Andrew & Joy Kraus



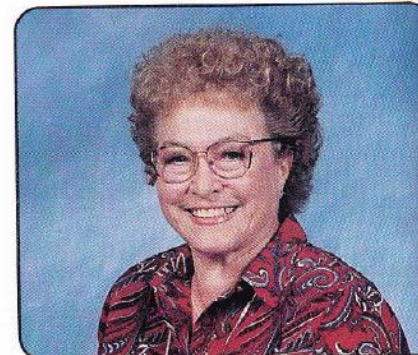
Richard & Mona LaCour



Teresa Lawyer
Alison



Lola Ledet



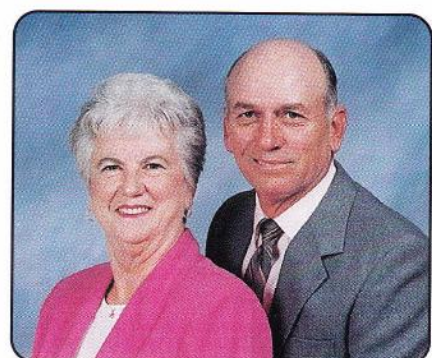
Geraldine Lewis



Erika Malbrough



Allyson Melancon
Mercedes



Oscar & Chris Mertink



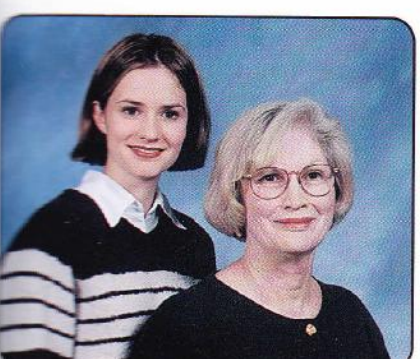
Clarence & Laura Naquin



Diana Navarre



Connie Oswalt



Carol Pellegrin
Christen



John Portier



Marilyn Prosser



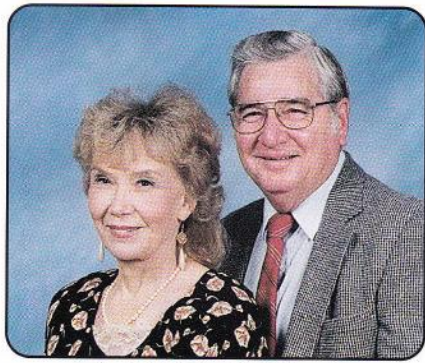
Joel & Donna Pugh,
Cody, Kristopher & Cha'e Lynn



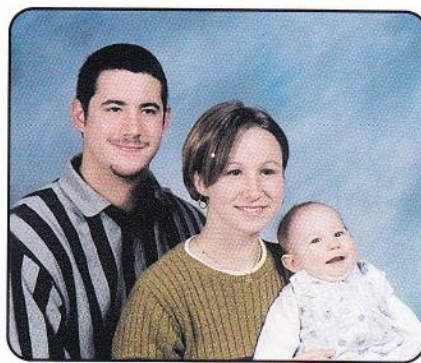
Richard & Denise Reaves,
Robin & Rebekah



Richard, Jr. & Rachel Reaves
Ross



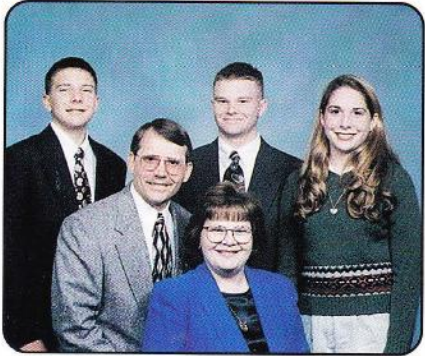
Ronald & Leah Richaud



Wade Romano & Katrina Shroyer
Gage Romano



Joyce Schlichting



Gerald & Bonnie Schulze,
Logan, Amber & Landon



Charlene Shroyer
Katrina



Bill & Brenda Smith



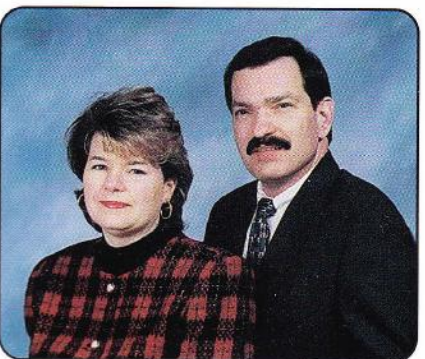
Earl & Joyce Souther
Lee



Henry & Joy Stegall



Mark & Bonnie Taylor
Matthew



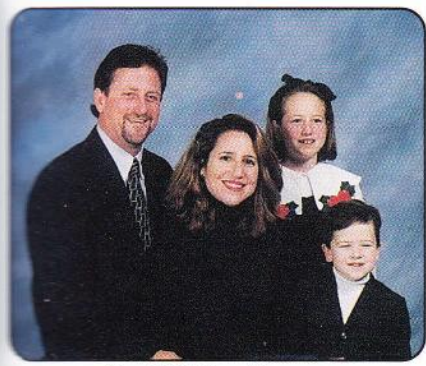
Richard & Jeannie Thalheim



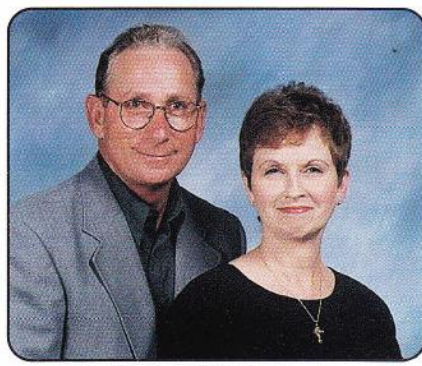
Faye Tiekens
Robin



Laura Trosclair,
Anthony & Amy



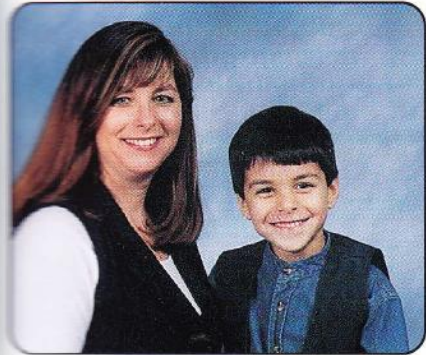
David & Gina Tusson,
Savannah & Benjamin



Ralph & Shirley Use'



Robbin & Gwendolyn Vance



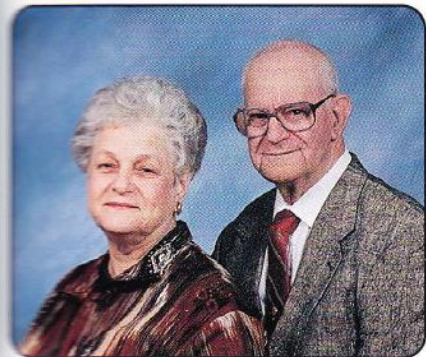
Sue Verdin
JMikel



Chris & Christina Wilmoth



Doug & Hope Wright



Mike & Bertha Wyatt