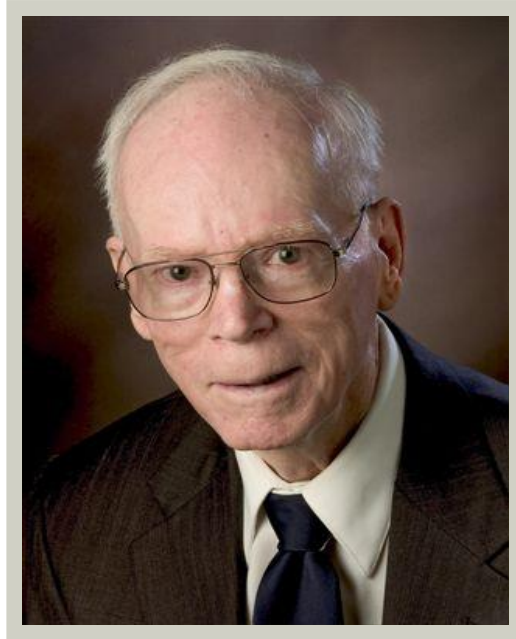




**Reverend John Koelemay**

**1919 - 2007**



Reverend John Koelemay, a humble and gentle man with a warm smile and endearing hand shake, extended in comfort, compassion and friendship to everyone he met. He was called to spend his life in the service of others and 40 of those years were spent helping to fulfill the dream of the Methodist Men's group of Gentilly's United Methodist Church, to bring quality health care to their community of eastern New Orleans.

He shared his optimistic energy and enduring faith as Promotional Director, Chaplain, and Social Services Director with patients, staff and community, at Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital, until his retirement in 1980.

Reverend Koelemay sat on the Board of Directors of Methodist Hospital since its inception and then on the MHSFI Board until his retirement in 2007, at the age of 87. In grateful recognition of his lifetime of service, the MHSFI Board awarded Rev. Koelemay the status of Director Emeritus.

#### FULL OBITUARY:

Louisiana Methodist Minister John B. Koelemay SHREVEPORT, LA- The Rev. John B. Koelemay, 88, a long-time leader in the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, died Dec. 5 of complications of heart disease and Parkinson disease at LSU Medical Center University Hospital in Shreveport. A memorial service is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 21 at the First United Methodist Church in Many, La. Ordained in 1945, Rev. Koelemay served Louisiana Methodist churches in Baton Rouge, Gilbert, Shreveport, Many, New Orleans and, most recently, Florien and Prospect. His ministerial career began in 1940 in Marble Falls, Tx. and also included University Park Methodist Church in Dallas. As Promotional Director from 1964 to 1968, he helped found Methodist Hospital in New Orleans East and later served as Chaplain and Director of Social Services from 1968 to 1980. Rev. Koelemay served as a board member of the Methodist Health System Foundation from 1983 to 2005. The Koelemay Chapel at what is now known as the Pendleton Memorial Methodist Hospital is named after him. The hospital has not reopened following Hurricane Katrina. John Bunyan Koelemay was born December 5, 1919 in Nederland, Tx., the third son of Lawrence and Myra Cooke Koelemay. Lawrence had emigrated as a young boy with his family from the Netherlands in 1898.

John was an exceptional student, who graduated in 1935 at age 16 from Nederland High School at the height of the Great Depression, then from Centenary College of Louisiana in 1940 with a B.A. in mathematics and minors in English and economics. He earned his Masters of Divinity degree at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1947. He served in the National Guard in 1939 and 1940. As a boy, he worked on the family farm and in the family Koelemay Grain Company in Nederland. John became an enthusiastic musician, playing cello as a part of a family string and piano ensemble. He invigorated musical programs in every church that he served, often singing in the tenor section and later directing the choir.- John married Helen Louise Chadock, who he met at the First Methodist Church in Shreveport in 1937, on Dec. 27, 1940 in that same sanctuary. The couple had lived together at Toledo Bend Lake for 25 years. John was a member and treasurer of the Lakeside Loop Volunteer Fire Department at Toledo Bend and a charter member of the Toledo Bend Civic Association. John Koelemay is survived by his wife of 67 years, Helen Koelemay of Many, La.; his brother, James Koelemay and wife, Martha, of Shreveport, La.; five children and their spouses - Dr. Kathryn Koelemay and Dr. Douglas Dicharry of Medina, Wa., J. Douglas Koelemay and Carol Mittelstaedt Koelemay of Springfield, Va., Maurice M. Koelemay and Fon Wilson Koelemay of Longmont, Co., Maurine Koelemay Creed and John Creed of Double Springs, Al., and Karen Koelemay Boston and John Boston of Shreveport, La. - fourteen grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Donations may be made to a scholarship fund in memory of John B. Koelemay to Centenary College of Louisiana, Office of Alumni Relations, 291 1 Centenary Blvd., Shreveport, La 71104.