James Wallace Hall was born May 3, 1918, in Weatherford, Texas the first of three children to Ralph J. and Lilly Bess Hall. His brother Ralph was born three years later and sister Betty was born in 1923. His father was a Presbyterian Cowboy Missionary bringing God’s word to outlying ranches and communities in the Southwest. Jim spent his childhood in Colorado, Texas and New Mexico.

Following his graduation from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1936, he attended McCormick Seminary in Chicago. Two years later he accepted a pastorate in Ketchikan, Alaska. He had met Ruth Clark of Fort Davis, Texas at Bloys Camp Meeting in 1940 and married her on August 9, 1941. They moved to Alaska shortly afterward and served that church for three years. Their first son, James William, was born there in 1943.

In 1944 they returned to San Francisco to complete Jim’s seminary training at San Anselmo. Jim attended classes during the day and worked in the shipyards at night. After finishing seminary in 1945, he accepted a pastorate in the small copper mining town of Morenci, Arizona. While there, a second son, Timothy Clark, was born.

Three years later they moved to the oil boom town of Hobbs, New Mexico where Jim served as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church until 1958. Many dear and long lasting friendships were formed during those years. Their youngest son, Jon Forrest, was born in 1951.

Jim Hall’s first association with Ghost Ranch occurred in 1955 when he was called upon to evaluate the possibilities of the ranch as a conference center for the church. During the following years he organized and led many volunteer groups to come to the ranch. After three years in Arlington, Texas, he became the director of Ghost Ranch in 1961. Under his leadership it became a highly regarded center for wide-ranging study seminars. He forged close ties with the local communities. He involved Ghost Ranch in extensive land and experimental energy projects. Jim also served as a member of the Board of Directors, Presbyterian Hospital Center (Southwest Community Health Services) for 38 years and was Chairman of the Board from 1971 to 1983.

One of the sorrows of his later years was that his beloved Ruth contracted Alzheimer’s disease in 1975. Ruth has been a resident patient at the Pickard Convalescent center in Albuquerque for several years. Jim’s life has since been enriched by the support and companionship of Jane Hanna, a longtime friend.

Jim Hall is survived by his three sons, their wives, seven grandchildren and his wife Ruth.