

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# VIEW

2019 SUMMER

## Meet our *new* Director of Youth and Young Adults

*Chris Hazlaris joins SCAPC on June 2 !*

### INSIDE:

Around the World: SCAPC members participate in Global Ministries

Q&A with Interim Pastor Michael Jinkins

Graduating Seniors



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## ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Summer Sundays

One Service ..... 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary



### On the Cover:

Our new Director of Youth and Young Adults, Chris Hazlaris, will start at SCAPC on June 2. Read his Q&A with Dawn Talbot, **pages 8-9**

**Editor:**  
*Kim Thompson Bauer*

**Contributing Writers:**  
*Michael Jinkins*  
*Sarah Whicker | Kathy Randall*  
*Adelle Bergman | John Geiser*  
*Dawn Talbot | Julie Nice*  
*Martha Beveridge | Trenton Sundmaker*  
*Bria Rault*

**Contributing Photographers:**  
*Phil Luchsinger | Steven Blackmon*  
*Adelle Bergman | Martha Beveridge*  
*John Geiser | Chris Hazlaris*  
*Kathy Randall | Sarah Whicker*

### MINISTRY STAFF

Michael Jinkins  
*Interim Senior Pastor*

Sarah Chancellor-Watson  
*Associate Pastor for Mission*

Steven Blackmon  
*Director of Music*

Michele Murphy  
*Director of Christian Education*

Chris Hazlaris  
*Director of Youth and Young Adults*

Harry Brown  
*Parish Associate for Pastoral Care*

Tim Shipkin  
*RHINO Ministry Director*

Bria Rault  
*Youth and Young Adults Coordinator*

## ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

  
1545 State Street  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
[www.scapc.org](http://www.scapc.org)  
(504) 897-0101

# THE PASTOR'S DESK



*Dear friends,*

At the close of the Palm Sunday service, as the choir was disassembling and the orchestra was packing up their instruments, Beth Poe came up to me and said, "If there was any doubt left in your mind that this is the best church in the world it should be gone now."

To which I responded, "I have never doubted that this is the best church in the world."

Okay, so Beth and I both have a gift for hyperbole. But we both love this church. And I do believe this is a great church.

There are a lot of things we could point to that make it a great church, but one thing I'd like to single out is this. This is a great church because we aren't perfect people, and we know it. This is a great church because, imperfect as we are, we have found this church to be a community where there's grace enough to grow.

Perfect people have no need to grow. But people like us who long to be more mature, more loving, more gracious and more merciful ourselves, need and want a place that allows us to learn to become the people God created us to be. This great church offers us this place.

For some reason, back before Christmas (I forget why) I was puzzling over Ephesians 3: 14-21. It is a strange and delightful passage about what it means to grow in faith. Modern scholarship seems to agree that the letter was probably not written by Saint Paul. But this passage has at least one characteristic that smacks of Paul, the way his language trips all over itself trying to express the wonder of God. The writer begins by telling his readers that he prays often for them, and whenever he does he asks that they will be "strengthened in [their] inner being with power through the Spirit and that Christ will dwell in [their] hearts through faith, as [they] are being rooted and grounded in love." Then the passage takes off like a rocket, and these are the words that I'd like to leave with you today:

"I pray that you have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

MICHAEL JINKINS  
INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Read a Q&A with Michael Jinkins on page 12 and get up an update on the Pastoral search process.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## The ADEN Program Updates:

- Aging adults
- Dining together
- Engaging in activities
- Nurtured with care

Do you know that nearly 1 out of 3 older Americans now lives alone? And for those with dementia and memory loss, loneliness is a common effect? No matter what age, having a sense of belonging and acceptance lets people thrive and enjoy their lives.



And the Aden Program group knows how to make everyone feel special! Just today a participant shared “you just don’t know how important this group is to me.”

Around the table we have people in their 30s to their 100s! And we all enjoy ourselves – drinking coffee and learning new things, sitting on the front porch, eating lunch, singing along with Jenny and her ukulele, playing games, and enjoying each other’s company. We especially enjoyed watching the nursery school kids do their Easter egg hunts on the Land Building lawn this spring. Every Tuesday and Thursday our community group gathers – with seniors who are lonely, seniors with memory loss needing a loving group, and volunteers who enjoy activities and being friends to all.

We still have room around our table, so if you know an older person in your life, especially one struggling with loneliness or dementia, please reach out to us so we can tell them about the Aden Program. -Adelle Bergman, Aden Program Director, 504-962-9027, [aden@scapc.org](mailto:aden@scapc.org)

## InterFaith Earth Day Celebration

The Interfaith Earth Day celebration at First Presbyterian Church on April 23 was a well-received articulation

of SCAPC PW’s mission to inspire an inclusive culture of care –for self, one another, and the environment. Two other churches, Rayne Memorial and First Grace United Methodist Churches, and RESTORE the Mississippi River Delta Coalition were co-hosts of the free event.

Representatives of 28 local environmental and social non-profit organizations engaged guests in the Broadmoor neighborhood.

Thoughtful activities encouraged reflection and relational conversation about our common home. Snacks and beverages further invited community as did the presence of woman-owned El Paraiso food truck.



SCAPC PW, Young Adults and Families (YAF), Community Ministries, Global Missions, and Pastor Sarah collectively represented SCAPC. The PW table had a wishing station and information on Creation Care and PW Missions. YAF



led two popular PW-sponsored children’s activities: painting plant pots and crafting biodegradable bird feeders. SCAPC ministries, including RHINO and the ADEN program, tabled with Global Missions, and the following mission partners

had their own creative set-ups: Crescent City Café, Liberty’s Kitchen, YMCA YES!, Program of Hope, Okra Abbey, Eden House, and Living Waters of the World.

The SCAPC PW Creation Care grant supported the inaugural Interfaith Earth Day celebration, and will continue to support initiatives that honor diversity and highlight interconnectedness while enhancing collective impact of those promoting Creation Care in the larger community.

For more information, contact Sarah Whicker: [iam@sarahwhicker.com](mailto:iam@sarahwhicker.com).

## Kathy Randall honored by Raintree

SCAPC member Kathy Randall was honored for her long-time work on behalf of Raintree Children & Family Services. At its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Paint the Town Green Gala, Raintree presented Kathy with the inaugural volunteer service award. Many people have contributed significantly to the success of this meaningful social service agency over the years, but Kathy was the first volunteer to be saluted at its fundraising events. A beautiful, green crystal heart on an inscribed base was presented to her for more than 35 years of service.



Kathy joined the Board of Raintree Services Inc. in 1981 and served as its president in 1987-88. She was the founder of FRIENDS OF RAIN TREE in 1993, an event that took place in the Land Building of SCAPC. Raintree’s Annual Meeting is held at SCAPC each fall, and Associate Pastor Sarah Chancellor-Watson has offered the invocation on several occasions.

SCAPC was also recognized as a community partner. Members of the congregation attending were: Dr. Glenn and Karen Barnett on behalf of Community Ministry; Gwen Wertz for Presbyterian Women; Jamie DeFraithe, a member of the Session; Ann Roy and Larry Hamric—Larry is an active Board Member of Raintree, plus Kathy Randall as



honoree and her husband, Lee.

## Our Stained Glass Windows

When our new chapel, a gift to the congregation from Mary Alma Riess, was dedicated on January 20, 2013, SCAPC was continuing a long-standing tradition of stained glass windows that has enriched the spiritual and physical beauty of our buildings. The windows in the new Chapel feature the Creation stained glass, given by Dian and Tom Winingder, and the entrance windows given by Margaret Ann and Ed Lindsey.

The Creation windows were installed in the new chapel in 2012 and were inspired by Dr. Don Frampton’s chosen theme for the windows of the Creation. The windows were designed and created by Stephen Wilson and his firm Stephen Wilson Stained Glass of Baton Rouge. With magnificent colors, the chapel windows have been described as a jubilant and joyous depiction of God’s Creation featuring southern Louisiana’s distinctive flora and fauna.

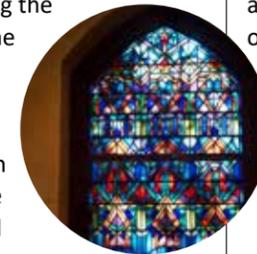
In the Phifer Library, stained glass windows designed by David Dew Bruner and executed and installed by Trudy L. Richie in 1979 are named in honor of Dr. Kenneth G. Phifer, our pastor from 1965 to 1983. These windows were given as a



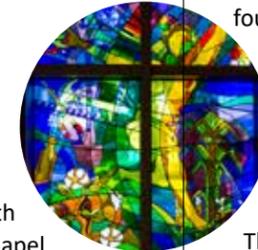
memorial to Earl L. Mathes, Sr., a long-time SCAPC member who died in 1976. David Dew Bruner is the son of SCAPC members Mary Frances and Warner Bruner.

The Phifer Library is located in what was designated the Educational Building when it was built in 1949-1950. Favrot and Read were the architects with Earl L. Mathes, Sr. as associate architect. The present library was originally designed as the chapel and served in this capacity when the stained-glass windows were installed and until the new chapel was dedicated in 2013.

The windows along the State Street wall of the library originally had panes of frosted glass. They were designed in 1949 with a cross formed by the wooden mullions and muntins of the windows.



The 1979 installation embellished the original wooden cross in each window with stained glass. The two end windows depict the Latin cross. The second window represents a Celtic cross, the third represents the communion cross and the



fourth represents the cross and crown. The windows of our sanctuary are signed by the maker, Dr. H. Oidtman Studio, Rhld. Linnich, Germany, in a corner of the window over the St. Charles Avenue entrance to the narthex.

These windows were supplied by the Emil Frei Company of St. Louis and installed by Julius Lips when the sanctuary was built in 1928-1930.

The original plans and drawings made by the sanctuary architect, W. W. Van Meter, show stained glass windows with figures of Jesus and Bible scenes. It is believed that Dr. John Samuel Land, our pastor from 1917 to 1959, felt these would not be in accord with the second Commandment and the designs were changed to the design we see today. Mr. Van Meter described this as a *grisaille* design in harmony with the overall design of the sanctuary which he said, “is after the manner of the French Gothic.”

- John Geiser

## Storms could not stop Raintree Field Day

The date was selected a year ago! Little did SCAPC know that May Showers would prevail on May 4, a scheduled outdoor field day which moved activities inside Raintree House. St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church joined forces with the Community Ministry Committee



and Presbyterian Women to stage a Day of Service at Raintree. A Creation Care grant provided the resources to play 10 games. On your behalf, Community Ministry gave a donation to cook hamburgers and hot dogs on Raintree’s campus for 35 participants in a spring service project.

Seventeen SCAPC members showed up promptly ready to play. The girls of Raintree were perfect hostesses to the volunteers and much fun was had by all. While the games had to be moved inside, ping pong balls blown with straws adapted well to an indoor activity.



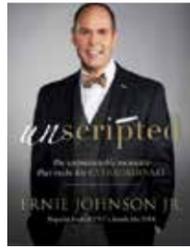
Hats and animals fashioned from skinny balloons were wonderfully formed. Balloon Darts took to a safe corner, and plastic bowling pins found a narrow hallway. Mardi Gras throws acted as prizes! The sack races had to be canceled in favor of self portraits done with Crayola crayons, and the frisbee toss will happen another day. Poke beads occurred under a stairway niche and plastic horse shoes ended up in an ideally supervised room with excited contestants. A true thriller—a cornhole game—took the attention of all in a large space. It was a great day made possible through our community partnership and God’s love.

Our sincere thanks go to SCAPC Volunteers Left to Right: 1<sup>st</sup> Row - Sheila Schwartzmann, Lee Randall, Ann Byerly, Ann Maier, Gwen Wertz. 2<sup>nd</sup> Row – Greg Beuerman, Kate Prechter, JoAnne Chancey, Harriet Riley. 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Avery Beuerman, Darlene Guillot, Ebie Strauss, Jenny Baldwin, Jane Rasi. 4<sup>th</sup> Row: Kathy Randall. Not pictured: Ann Van Horn and Elizabeth Artigues. -Kathy Randall

# BOOK REVIEWS

## From Ethan Rault

***Unscripted: The Unpredictable Moments That Make Life Extraordinary*** by Ernie Johnson Jr.



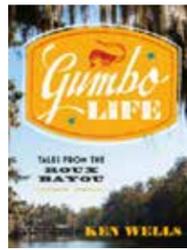
Ernie Johnson Jr., a sportscaster for TNT and the son of a former professional baseball pitcher and commentator, relates stories from his life in *Unscripted: The Unpredictable Moments That Make Life Extraordinary*. Johnson recounts the time in one of his little league baseball games when two outfielders climbed over the fence to look for a home run ball. They didn't come back and were found sitting behind the fence eating wild blackberries. *Unscripted* is full of what Johnson calls "blackberry moments," times when unexpected moments along one's journey turn out to be just as sweet as the planned destination. Another blackberry moment came when Johnson's wife, Cheryl, went to Romania with the plan of adopting a child, specifically a healthy baby girl. Instead, she called her husband after feeling called to adopt a three-year-old boy described as "no good" by an orphanage worker. That boy, Michael, would later be diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, another obviously unplanned moment, but one which led to unexpected blessings in the Johnson family's lives. Johnson describes plenty of other stories from his life, including his faith journey and fun times on his mostly unscripted NBA show on TNT.

Johnson's purpose in describing blackberry moments is to remind us to look for those easily missed moments that make our life worth living. In a world where we are constantly being pulled in a hundred different directions, we are often too rushed to have time to appreciate the unexpected things that don't fit into our preconceived plans. *Unscripted* encourages us to slow down and enjoy the scenery.

## From Skye MacPherson

***Gumbo Life – Tales from the Roux Bayou***

by Ken Wells



"Ask any self-respecting Louisianan who makes the best gumbo and the answer is universal: 'Momma.'" In this newly published culinary memoir, Houma-native Ken Wells shines the spotlight on gumbo and celebrates the spirit of Louisiana home cooking.

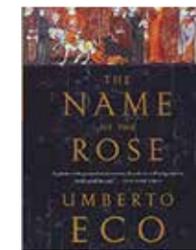
Wells starts by giving the history of gumbo, showing the interweaving of cultures that influenced the dish: Creole, Cajun, West African, Native American, even Italian and German. He recounts how gumbo became famous, extended its reach worldwide, and has met with commercialization. He explores local varieties and interviews several New Orleans restaurants: Commander's Palace, Dooky Chase's, Eddie's, and Li'l Dizzy's (with several recipes included at the end). He also details his own upbringing in a large Cajun family that lived off of the land in the late 1950s, what he calls "Gumbo's Pantry"- hunting wild game, collecting seafood, and raising vegetables on their family's plot.

Reading about his mother's cooking page after page left my mouth watering and I felt inspired to try the process myself. But I just moved here from California - did I dare to try making something as authentic as gumbo? I could put all the ingredients in a pot but surely I'd miss getting the heart and soul of it right. Still, I pulled out the flour and tried making my first roux. And ... it worked! So I tried the next step, and the next, and by dinner time I had something that looked like proper gumbo and more amazingly still, tasted like gumbo. My husband and toddler (both New Orleans natives) asked for seconds. And that's when I realized the message of 'Gumbo Life' - it's not about using a 200-year-old family recipe, a secret ingredient, or even whether you choose roux vs. roux-less, okra vs. filé, sausage vs. racoon - it's about showing you love someone by taking the time to cook something meaningful and delicious. After all, I'm somebody's "Momma" now and to him I'll always make the best gumbo in the world.

## From Hallie Boh

***The Name of the Rose***

by Umberto Eco (1932-2016)



Heralded for nearly three decades as the most intellectual of mystery novels, Umberto Eco's *Name of the Rose* is sure to linger in your memory for years to come. Combining elements of philosophical and theological discussion with many colorful characters of the 1400's, the story is, at its core, a most enthralling murder mystery.

The book opens with the murder of a monk, followed in close succession by three more deaths. Brother William of Baskerville, a sort of Sherlock Holmes of his era, is enlisted to unearth the killer. The story is narrated by William's young apprentice, Adso, who reflects over this life-altering experience many years later at the close of his own life. The backdrop of the story is the elaborate campus of a monastery containing a world-renowned library. Flanked by secret chambers, this legendary building houses a collection of inaccessible books that are guarded by a singular librarian. Of course, William and Adso eventually find a way in. The plot that unfolds is a labyrinthian journey of faith and intrigue.

Eco's exploration into historical documents of the first centuries following Christ's life have been suggested as inspiration for Dan Brown's *DaVinci Code*. Almost as intriguing as the novel itself is Eco's postscript which explains much of the symbolism in the book. The significance of the rose itself may be of particular interest to SCAPC members, as our church logo centers on just this image. In 1986, the book was adapted into a film starring Sean Connery and a young Christian Slater.

**Sundance Channel began a 9-episode TV series of the story, starring John Turturro, on May 23rd. It airs on Thursday nights at 9:00 p.m. (central)."**

## From Bill Banta

***Fatal Discord***

by Michael Massing



People initially interested in reading an 821-page book on a dispute between two European theologians in the 16th century are few. Yet the argument that pitted Martin Luther against Erasmus had profound consequences, including diluting the power of the Pope and creating the Protestant brand of Christianity in a manner more consistent with the dogmatic views of Luther than the softer and more flexible wishes of Erasmus.

Initially, the two were in accord. Luther, a priest, and Erasmus—son of an unmarried priest who first embraced and then rejected priesthood—agreed the Roman Church was corrupt and in urgent need of reform. The Pope (Leo) preferred gambling and living lavishly to promoting the Gospel. Also, several church practices were difficult to square with Jesus' teachings. Example: Priests' use of indulgences to propel a soul from purgatory to heaven. "When a coin in the copper rings, the soul from purgatory springs!"

Other factors creating this crisis included rulers resenting the power the Pope had over their constituencies, and the money their citizens sent to the Vatican.

In 1530, Charles, Holy Roman Emperor, keenly interested in avoiding a schism in the Church, personally attended the Imperial Diet at Augsburg (Germany). His aim: "One single Christian truth." In a serious war against the Turks who were threatening to impose Islam on Europe, Charles desperately needed a unified Christendom. Hundreds of Luther's and Erasmus's supporters attended. The drama was palpable.

For five months, the Reformers and Catholics debated, with Charles pressuring for total agreement. While many issues were tentatively resolved, some were not. The Reformers had difficulties as Luther, totally against compromise, opposed the concessions his supporters were making. Eventually, the large number of those who had gathered became frustrated and homesick; Charles, busy with other matters including that Turkish war, declared a Recess which marked the end of the reconciliation effort. The stage was now set for the Peasant Uprising of 1525, which reigned death and destruction and the creation of various Protestant churches.

While "Fatal Discord" is long, the momentous story is told well by Massing, a journalist by trade.



## MEET OUR NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR,

# CHRIS HAZLARIS



BY DAWN TALBOT

### Tell us a little about yourself and how you ended up deciding to come to SCAPC?

My name is Chris Hazlaris, and originally from River Ridge, I've decided to come home after seven years of higher education!

After graduating from Jesuit High School, I began my bachelor's at another Jesuit institution: Fordham University in New York City. At Fordham, my commitment to faith, my understanding of justice issues and of people from different walks of life, and my interest in academic theology, all expanded tremendously.

At Yale Divinity School, I became convinced that youth ministry was the vocation through which my experience, passion, and gifts could all best meet the needs of the world. This year I actively began searching for jobs in the field. While I honestly had no intentions of moving back to the South (I found a home and community that I love in New England!), my acceptance of the SCAPC job is a testament to just how much the Church and the position blew me away. Very rarely do I come in contact with a church body so committed to young people and with such a flourishing, well-resourced young adult population. When I saw that, and met the fantastic and warm administrative staff and youth, I knew this was an offer that I couldn't pass up. As time passed, I felt more and more that God was calling me back here!

### What are some of your interests?

I studied theology and anthropology in college, so I LOVE not only talking about God and different spiritual practices/rituals, but also different cultures and their ways of seeing the world. Outside of academics, though, I am a huge sports fan, following our Saints and Pelicans, the New York Yankees, and the English Premier League. I played soccer for Jesuit, was on Fordham's club soccer team, and am the captain and coach of Yale's Divinity School soccer team. My other main outlet is music. I love singing and playing guitar and piano, and I am known by my housemates as the "human sound cloud," because I often can't refrain from singing and playing loudly when I am home.

### What is your ideal New Orleans day?

This is such an interesting question for me, because, although New Orleans is "home," most of my high school life was spent in River Ridge. I still have much to learn about the inner workings of the vibrant city itself. This is one of the things I looking forward to most about moving back! Being near water and seeing good architecture are two of my favorite things, though, so relaxing alongside the river and walking around the French Quarter both are ideal spots for me.

### Favorite meal to eat?

I love Asian food, particularly sushi!

I am passionate about helping youth and young adults know that they are so cherished as they are, and that the Christian life is far more about being loving—to self, God, and neighbor—than about having a comfortable, neat, and isolated life.

### Last book you read?

As a naturally antsy, "go, go, go" person, sitting down and reading is not what I like to do to take a break from my already book-heavy studies. I would much prefer kicking the soccer ball outside!

### What inspired you to go to divinity school?

At Fordham, as my faith and my experience with youth work expanded tremendously, so did my interest in academic theology. I found myself more interested in the ways in which the Christian message could be communicated by God to different peoples and cultures than those I was familiar with.

In addition to wanting to receive pastoral care experience and training, I was contemplating a Ph.D. in comparative theologies. Yale offered great resources for this interest. My discernment reached a high point when I studied abroad in El Salvador in 2015 through a Jesuit, simple-living immersion program known as "Casa de la Solidaridad." Much of the program centered on making relationships with rural Salvadorans struggling in poverty and suffering from the aftermath of a recent Civil War. For the "liberation theology" communities we spent our time with, God was not a "fixer." Rather, God was best represented by standing with us in suffering and calling us not to have "perfect lives," but instead to love ourselves and others in the messiness of the world. I began to get very excited by this new way of seeing God and wanted to go to Divinity School to learn more about how I could share this view with others, especially young people.

More than anything, I am passionate about helping youth and young adults know that they are cherished as they are, and that the Christian life is far more

about being loving—to self, God, and neighbor—than about having a comfortable, neat, and isolated life. Yale Divinity was the ideal place for me to continue the ministry skills and intellectual passions bubbling up within me.

### What most excites you about SCAPC's youth and young adult programs?

I just care so deeply about teenagers and can't wait to make relationships, be goofy with our youth, and start to witness how God is working on their hearts.

### What's the craziest thing you've ever done to get teens to participate in worship or youth groups?

This past summer, while working at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, I told a very unenthusiastic young adult I would wear a bacon costume if he participated in worship. He participated—very fast—and as a result, I was somehow coerced into wearing the costume for the entire day and sleeping in it for the night. The kids referred to me all week as "Chris P. Bacon."

### Time you felt most connected to God?

The summer after my freshman year in undergrad, I worked for an organization called YouthWorks, leading weekly mission trips for high schoolers in San Francisco. That summer, I felt God's presence more than ever in my life. I read the Bible daily and never missed a moment to offer up prayers—both of thanksgiving and of sadness—to God when situations arose throughout the day. My focus was always on how I could bring that Christ-centered joy and relationship to others that may need it. I think I will always see that season of my life, in which the Holy Spirit was so real and palpable, as one of the biggest blessings I have ever received.

# Around the World

SCAPC members participate in ministries with a global focus.

## UN Commission on Women



BY JULIE NICE

*From March 8-15, 2019, Julie Nice served as a member of the Presbyterian Women delegation to the United Nations' 63rd annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. The purpose was to advocate for the women's rights agenda of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Below, she shares her thoughts.*

I really didn't know anything about the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) when I applied to join the Presbyterian Women (PW) delegation there. It seemed like a great opportunity to learn about the UN, the Presbyterian Church(USA) and its peace and justice program, and the state of equal rights for women both in the USA and abroad.

I also felt the desire to serve but wasn't sure how to do that. My plan involved sharing my knowledge about fundraising and strategic planning with other PW delegates, who, I surmised, might use this information in their community service work. But regarding the main topic—advocacy for equal rights for women—I was a novice and needed to keep an open mind to learn how to effectively advocate for the PC (USA) agenda.

After spending two and a half days in orientation, I still felt I had a lot to learn. But, in retrospect, I also realize that not having specific expectations allowed me to have a sense of adventure and keep my eyes open for opportunities to learn and to serve as an advocate.

In that seven-day adventure, a few experiences were unforgettable:

- Feeling sympathy for someone sitting behind me sniffing (crying?) when a speaker informed us that this week marked the 400th anniversary of the start of the African slave trade to North America
- Attending a lecture on the spiritual basis of equal rights for women in the Baha'i Faith, given by a woman who had been raised in the Greek Orthodox tradition but turned to Baha'i teachings as an adult
- Learning about the recent fatal crash of an Ethiopian



Decorating the altar for the daily 8 a.m. services for the Ecumenical Women, in the chapel of the Church Center at the UN, are colorful scarves and mementos signifying that we represent women from all over the world in doing our advocacy work.

airliner with over 20 UN staff members aboard, from someone who worked daily with UN staffers and felt a personal loss at that event

- Witnessing a ceremony led by four New Zealand women who were part of the Ecumenical Women group, praying for the 49 people killed in a tragic shooting the previous day in New Zealand
- Being encouraged to "seek common ground" by the Deputy Ambassador to the US Mission to the UN, a career diplomat who was clearly asking us to work with people whose agenda differs from ours in a desire to move forward towards equal rights for women

I did more than realize intellectually that we are all one people. I felt it!

Many thanks to Joy Durrant, Vice Moderator for Peace and Justice for PW, and Kristen Campbell, who were co-leaders of the PW delegation, and to Ryan Smith and his staff at the Presbyterian Ministry at the UN, who so bravely and expertly advocate for human rights, peace, and justice on a global scale. Let me add also special appreciation to the SCAPC chapter of Presbyterian Women, whose encouragement prior—and prayers during—the event fueled my sense of adventure and my heartfelt desire to learn and serve on their behalf. •

### Recommended Reading:

*The No-Nonsense Guide to the United Nations* by Maggie Black—an insider's view of the UN that made me understand how important it is for the world, despite its drawbacks and challenges.



All of our activities with the children had a Holy Week theme and were arranged by Michele Murphy. On the left, the children at Juan G. Hall in Cardenas practice for their Easter service. On right, the children make crafts for Easter activities.



## Cuba: Mantanzas, Cardenas, Cienfuegos



BY MARTHA BEVERIDGE

A team consisting of Laura St. Clair, Martha Beveridge, Michele Murphy, Gwen Wertz, and Doug Meffert recently spent a week in Cuba, with visits to Matanzas, Cardenas, and Cienfuegos.

The purpose of the trip was three-fold: to maintain our personal relationships with the congregations of several Presbyterian churches in the province of Matanzas (Matanzas Central, Dora Valentin, Juan G. Hall, and El Fuerte); to bring supplies for Living Waters systems that we had helped install; and to provide needed items that are difficult to find in Cuba.

Twice we visited Juan G. Hall Church in Cardenas – once to attend a moving, Maundy Thursday service and once to observe and help with the distribution of pure water to local residents who are benefitting immensely from the opportunity to have clean water.

El Fuerte Presbyterian Church in Cardenas has been our partner church since 1985. We attended a Bible study, and thanks to having an English translation of the passage and with the aid of a translator, we could participate in the discussion. Another day some of us helped over 30 children with activities based on a Holy Week theme, while the others, using ingredients brought from New Orleans, prepared a jambalaya meal for 90 people. On Easter Sunday we worshipped at the church in a joyful service permeated by exuberant singing.

We had the opportunity to visit church-sponsored gardens and a farm where we enjoyed a delicious meal with freshly picked produce. We learned that there are some acute shortages in Cuba, including flour, oil and chicken.

We ended the trip with a visit to Cienfuegos which was

celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This was particularly meaningful and exciting, because its founder was Don Luis DeClouet, a distant relative of Michele Murphy. Accompanying us was Joel Dopico, pastor of Dora Valentin Church in Varadero and Executive Secretary of the Cuban Council of Churches; not only was he an engaging companion and excellent guide, but a wealth of information as we peppered him with questions about conditions in Cuba.

We are grateful to individuals and groups from SCAPC who contributed items that we gave to our friends in Cuba, including bracelets made by Presbyterian women at their retreat; we will always remember the delighted faces of the children who received them.

It is difficult to sum up how meaningful this trip was. According to first-time visitor Doug Meffert, "Seeing our work in person and being a part of it allowed me to fully comprehend the lack of resources in Cuba that ensure basic human health and food security. It also created a place in my heart for the resilience of our partnering communities and the long-term beneficial impact of our shared faith and dedication." •



Sisters of the Cross bracelets that Presbyterian Women made at their retreat and brought to the women of El Fuerte Presbyterian Church in Cuba.

# Q & A

## What were you doing before coming to SCAPC?

I've spent the last 25 years in higher education, most recently as president of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary for eight years and prior to that as professor at Austin Seminary for 17 years, the last 7 of which I served as dean. I began my ministry as a pastor in Texas and in Scotland.

## When you're not living in New Orleans, where do you call home?

St. Simons Island, off the coast of Georgia. I'm originally from Texas, primarily the Austin area.

## Tell us more about your family...

My wife, Debbie, and I have been married for 44 years. She has a Ph.D. in education and was a professor at Texas A&M. She has served as an educator in public schools and was a founder of a charter school. We've written two books together on leadership.

We have two children, Jeremy and Jessica. Jeremy is married to Caroline, and they met at Princeton Seminary. Jeremy is the senior minister at Westfield Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NJ. They have two children, Clara (5) and Anderson (3).

Our daughter, Jessica, lives in Austin and has a daughter, Grace (6). She's currently a stay-at-home mom and her significant other is also named Michael.

## Do you have a favorite New Orleans restaurant yet?

Probably Commander's Palace and Brennans, though there are many neighborhood restaurants that I like.

## Why did you want to come to SCAPC? What excited you about being back in parish ministry?

I love this congregation; I've known this congregation through Don Frampton for many years. Don and Colleen are good friends. I probably will not do other interims—just this to close out my ministry of 38 years.

## WITH MICHAEL JINKINS, INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR



## We've gotten to see some of your beautiful paintings. How did you get into painting?

As a child, I used to wait at the library for my mother to get off work, and I'd browse the books on art. I fell in love with modern painting and wanted to be a painter myself. My medium is typically oil, but I've just started watercolor at the prompting of an instructor.

Debbie is truly the watercolor artist—she was president of the Kentucky Watercolor Society and is also a signature member of the Georgia Watercolor Society and the Southern Watercolor Society.

## What was the last great book you read? Or what do you read for inspiration?

Some of my favorite authors are Russian and Southern. I like Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, Flannery O'Connor, Walker Percy, Faulkner... I'm finding most interesting authors today are women writers, especially British. The last wonderful biography I read was Ron Chernow's *Grant*.

## What spiritual practice has been the most fulfilling for you?

The daily practice of meditation. Silent retreats have become a very important part of my life.

## What advice would you give the congregation as we go through this transition?

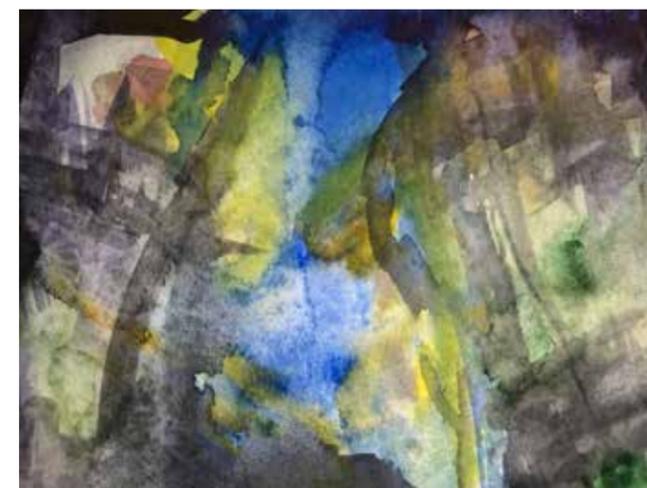
However much you loved your last pastor, you'll love the next one. Change is a natural and normal part of life, and I know that there is trepidation, but we can expect the best. This is a wonderful, vibrant church.



"Wash Day on Seil Island," oil on canvas by Michael Jinks



Untitled, oil on canvas by Michael Jinks



"Louisiana Saturday Night," watercolor by Michael Jinks

## Calling A New Pastor

On May 5, 2019, the membership of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church elected nine church members to serve on the Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC), which will guide the search for a new senior pastor.

These nine PNC members are: Wendi Adams, Christina Carlisle, John Hope IV, Ken Kneipp, Price Lanier, Stephanie November, Richard Seelman, Geoffrey Snodgrass, and Laurie Young.

The committee's work includes:

1. **Selected Stephanie November as Chairman:** In addition, the PNC has selected Geoff Snodgras as Vice-Chairman, and Ken Kneipp as Clerk.
2. **Work closely with the Presbytery of South Louisiana:** The PSL will provide guidance, resources, and other services throughout the pastoral search process.
3. **Write the SCAPC Ministry Information Form (MIF):** It will reflect our ministry context, demographics, history, theology, values, leadership needs, and expectations. Prospective pastors will use this form to help them discern whether God is calling them to serve our church.
4. **Match the MIF to the Personal Information Form (PIF) submitted by prospective pastors:** The committee may also request sermon videos, ask supplemental questions, review church newsletters, bulletins, published articles, web sites, etc.
5. **Establish an interview process.**
6. **Choose the nominee** and extend the Invitation to Call.
7. **Prepare to present the nominee to the congregation:** which will include Presbytery approval, coordination with the session, preparing the report for the Congregation, presentation of the nominee for a Congregational vote, and signing call papers. The process will conclude with the installation of the new pastor by the Presbytery.

During this process it is important to know the Responsibilities of the Congregation:

1. Continue to support the ministry of the church through prayer, participation, and financial support.
2. Pray regularly for the PNC.
3. Elect the new pastor and approve the terms of call.
4. Welcome the new pastor as the ministry begins.

This article is a summary of **On Calling a Pastor**, prepared by the Church Leadership Connection and the Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The handbook can be found at [www.pcusa.org/ocap](http://www.pcusa.org/ocap).

# GRADUATING SENIORS

**Will Alden** is graduating from Fountainebleau High School. He will be attending the University of California San Diego.

**Esmé Benjamin** is graduating from Metairie Park Country Day School. She will be attending Deerfield Academy in the fall for a post graduate year.

**Jack DeFraites** is graduating from Benjamin Franklin High School. He will be spending a gap year in Germany.

**Davis Edwards** is graduating from Jesuit High School. He will be attending Auburn University.

**Emile Evans** is graduating from New Orleans Charter Math and Science High School. He will be taking a gap year.

**Charlie Kaliszkeski** is graduating from St. Martin's Episcopal School. He will be attending the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

**Claire Morrison** is graduating from Isidore Newman School. She will be attending Texas Christian University.

**James Murphy** is graduating from Christ School in Arden, NC. He will be attending University of Mississippi.

**Sean Murphy** is graduating from Christ School in Arden, NC. He will be attending Louisiana State University.

**Benjamin Singer** is graduating from Isidore Newman

School. He will be attending the University of Virginia.

**Annie Sternbergh** is graduating from Lusher Charter School. She will be attending the University of Alabama.

**Will Sternbergh** is graduating from Lusher Charter School. He will be attending Louisiana State University.

**Trenton Sundmaker** is graduating from Benjamin Franklin High School. He will be attending the University of Florida.

**Della Tasker** is graduating from Lusher Charter School. She will be attending Elon University.

**Ivan Tasker** is graduating from Lusher Charter School. He will be attending Columbia College in Chicago.

**Jacob Tasker** is graduating from Lusher Charter School. He will be attending the Tulane School of Professional Advancement.

**Griff Thomas** is graduating from St. Martin's Episcopal School. He will be attending Louisiana State University.

**Michael Woodward** is graduating from Benjamin Franklin High School. He will be attending Rice University.

**William Young** is graduating from Isidore Newman School. He will be attending Trinity University.

## Reflections from graduating senior Trenton Sundmaker

Greetings, I am a senior at Benjamin Franklin High School, and I will attend the University of Florida in the fall of 2019. I have gone to St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church since I was born. On Sunday April 14, my friend, Griff Thomas, and I both gave a speech to our youth group on senior recognition night. I started my speech off on what youth group has meant to me the past 7 years. Ever since 6th grade, youth group has been a place where I have felt welcomed and loved. I have always looked forward to hanging out in the youth room with my friends on Sunday nights. My youth leader, Andy Fox, along with numerous adult volunteers have made my 7 years at the youth group memorable for life, and I am thankful for that. I then moved on in my speech to talk about mistakes. I looked at all of the youth in the room and told them that they will all make mistakes sometime between now and where I sit as a senior. Middle school and high school are times of uncertainty and learning and in order to mature and learn, you must in turn make mistakes, large and small.

So I encouraged them that when they do make mistakes, to make sure to learn from them and face them with their head up high never running from them. Along with mistakes, I told the youth that they will also go through tough times such as possibly losing family members or bad grades. In the face of these times, I told them to carry on because as Andy Fox always told me: Life is good, life is really good. The message that I left with the youth was the importance of family. You are randomly put into a family and you can not change that therefore you are stuck being in that family for life. You will get frustrated with your family members and your family will get frustrated at you. I told the youth that they should embrace their family and love them even when you don't want to because those relationships will carry and be with you from the beginning of life to the end. -Trenton Sundmaker



# MILESTONES

As of May 15, 2019

Send your milestones to Membership Coordinator Camille Zander: [camille@scapc.org](mailto:camille@scapc.org).

## BIRTHS

Robert Reid Wilson (02/25/2019)  
*son of Matthew & Annie Wilson*

Warner Monroe Stillwagon (02/28/2019)  
*son of Brad & Claudia Stillwagon*

Charles Rhodes Meyer (03/10/2019)  
*son of Neal & Carol Meyer*

Lillian Barrett Wheeler (03/10/2019)  
*daughter of Philip & Ann Wheeler*

Charles Warner Yoder (04/22/2019)  
*son of Carl & Simone Yoder*

Liam Harris Winston (05/14/2019)  
*son of Ed & Amanda Winston*

## DEATHS

Mary Lou "Peggy" Hardie  
Sandra Jean Hartman  
Virginia Ernst  
Melvin Mathes, Jr.  
J. Parham Werlein  
Patricia Livingston

## MARRIAGES

Kathryn Smith & William Korengold  
Kate Geer & Jeremy Miller  
Lawton Fabacher & Michael Mann

## BAPTISMS

Abigail Grace Berger  
*daughter of Ryan & Amanda Berger*  
Lilian Maia Voiles  
*daughter of Scott Voiles & Robin Maia*  
Laurel Jane McArthur  
*daughter of Drake & Katie McArthur*  
Charles Scott Voiles (*adult baptism*)

## NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Boateng  
Chuck Mutz

# YOUTH CONFIRMANDS



## New Members received by Confirmation

On March 31, 2019, St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church welcomed eight youth into membership. Left to right: Brittain Paull, Boyd Pugh, Breanna Marksbury, Molly McLanahan, Madeline Heymann, Sophie Frankowski, Jack Morton, Tucker Joseph.

**ST. CHARLES AVENUE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



**1545 STATE STREET  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118**  
WWW.SCAPC.ORG | (504) 897-0101

The background is a painting of a landscape with trees and a path, rendered in a soft, impressionistic style. The colors are muted greens, yellows, and browns. The text is overlaid on this painting.

# SUMMER SUNDAYS

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ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 AM  
JUNE 2—AUGUST 11