

Happenings

Voices of Birmingham Boys Choir Will Delight at Fall Luncheon

by Lynn Parrish

As summer yields to the cool, colorful days of autumn, Legacy League will begin an exciting new year with members of Birmingham Boys Choir and Choirmaster Ken Berg at our Fall Luncheon. Prepare to be blessed by the beautiful voices of the vocalists as they present a musical program with accompaniment by Ken's wife, Susan, an accomplished pianist and clinician. Both Ken and Susan are Samford graduates.

Founded by the Rev. Allen Walker in the late 1960s, the group of singers became known as the Birmingham Boys Choir Foundation in 1973. The organization's website states that one of its goals is "to allow talented boys in the greater Birmingham, Alabama, area an opportunity to more fully develop their gifts in an area of concentrated study." The foundation's purpose is further reflected in its mission statement: "It's more than music; it's training for life."

The choristers perform for schools, churches and other organizations around Birmingham. Every other year the vocalists travel to other cities in the United States and around the world as ambassadors for Birmingham. They have performed throughout Europe, Japan, Canada and Costa Rica, most recently entertaining audiences in the Czech Republic in the summer of 2015.

"The beautiful part of it is that it's something they can do all their lives," says

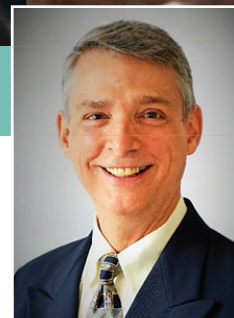
Choirmaster Ken Berg. He has personally been involved in music for many years. For 28 years Berg served as director of choirs and fine arts chairman at John Carroll Catholic High School, where his choirs received highest ratings in district, state and national festivals. He also served as music minister and composer-in-residence at Mountain Brook Baptist Church for six years after retiring from teaching.

While still teaching at John Carroll, he was hired as the director of Birmingham Boys Choir on a part-time basis. After leading the singers for 33 years, Ken became the first full-time music director and resident composer for Birmingham Boys Choir in 2011. The choir has grown from 28 to 150 members under his administration. Ken is a published composer; he currently teaches choral arranging as an adjunct professor at Samford University.

Working alongside her husband, Susan serves as the pianist for the Senior Choristers, made up of boys from 6th to 12th grade, and as the director of the Junior Choristers, an ensemble of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. She has



Members of Birmingham Boys Choir will present a musical program at the Fall Luncheon on October 6.



Ken Berg

a private piano studio and has served as church pianist and as children's choir coordinator for several area churches. They have two sons, Michael and David, both musicians and alumni of Birmingham Boys Choir.

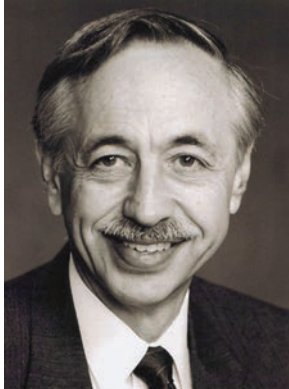
One chorister featured on the website probably summed up the feelings of most of the others: "I have been singing my whole life, and God gave me a blessing to use my voice, and I love using it here." Make your plans to attend this very special event as we gather for a delicious meal, warm fellowship and inspiring music. The Fall Luncheon will be held at Vestavia Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 6 at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are \$25 and can be made by completing the reply card in the invitation or at samford.edu/legacyleague. ❧

Program Guests to Share Style, History and Humor

by Kathryn Woodruff



Shaunna West



Wayne Flynt



Celeste King Conner

What do an HGTV-featured designer, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated historian and a humorous storyteller/author have in common? They will all speak at Legacy League meetings this year!

On Nov. 10 make plans to hear Shaunna West, author of *The \$50 Home Makeover* and creator of the lifestyle brand and blog Perfectly Imperfect, which is "... all about the home, not the house...the life behind all the stuff." Shaunna's home and blog have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Country Living Magazine*, *Cottages & Bungalows*, *Redbook*, *Romantic Homes* and *Woman's Day*. In 2015 Shaunna worked with Leftfield Pictures to create the pilot "Sweet House Alabama" for HGTV. In the last several years, she has opened two retail stores and also launched an online store. She wants us "to celebrate life's imperfections and create amidst them anyway." Shaunna currently lives in Troy, Alabama, with her two children, Grayson and Ava.

Dr. Wayne Flynt, Samford alumnus and former professor at Samford and Auburn University, will be featured on March 9. He has authored 13 books dealing with politics, evangelical religion, poverty and Alabama history. His memoir, *Keeping the Faith*, was published in 2011. His books have won numerous awards, and two have been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Flynt is a community activist, serving on the

American Cancer Society's Committee for the Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, and was a cofounder of both the Alabama Poverty Project (now called Alabama Possible) and Sowing Seeds of Hope. A personal friend of Harper Lee, author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Dr. Flynt has been invited to lecture on the novel and its author at universities and "Big Read" programs in cities across America and around the world. In Jan. 2016 he and Harper Lee were both inducted into Alabama's Black Belt Hall of Fame.

On April 13 storyteller, author and blogger Celeste King Conner will entertain with humorous and inspiring tales. After receiving yet another "talks too much" comment on yet another report card, Celeste told her mama, "I don't talk too much; I just have a lot to say." A Samford alumna, she graduated with a degree in education and quickly realized school teachers work too hard. She likes to make lists, talk to strangers and make her sisters laugh. Celeste has always loved the art of the story. When she was a little girl, her daddy's one-legged friend, George, nicknamed her "Blabbermouth." She therefore calls her stories Blabberings and her blog Blabberings by Celeste. Her tales have also been published in two books by the same names. Celeste lives in Dothan, Alabama, with her husband, Chuck, their 22-year-old twin daughters, Abby (a 2016 Samford graduate) and Emma, and their son, Phillip. 🐾



Shankle to Brighten Winter Luncheon

by Anna Kathryn Hardin

For someone known as "Big Mama," Melanie Shankle is not what you might expect. The featured guest at Legacy League's mid-winter Scholarship Luncheon is the slim mother of a teenager, not the matron of a yardful of grandkids. How her daughter came to call her "Big Mama" is a cute story that will bring back memories.

If you are curious, read the story now at thebigmamablog.com. Then go ahead and mark Feb. 23 on your calendar. Melanie will be entertaining and inspiring Legacy League members and guests that Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Vestavia Country Club.

Melanie is not just a blogger. She is also the author of three *New York Times* bestselling books with a fourth one to be released this fall. *Sparkly Green Earrings*, her first book, is a memoir about motherhood that drew praise from Beth Moore, Ann Voskamp and many others. Her second book, which takes on the topic of life as a wife, is *The Antelope in the Living Room*. Her third offering is about friendship, *Nobody's Cuter than You*.

"I feel like many years ago," writes Shankle, "women had a better grasp of real friendship than we do today. Both my grandmothers had a close circle of girl friends they called first thing every morning and played bridge with over coffee as they shared secrets and recipes and tips for getting the ring around the collar out of their husbands' dress shirts" (*Nobody's Cuter than You*). The world is different now, she admits, but true friendship is still a beautiful thing.

Between writing bestsellers, Melanie guest blogs at Ree Drummond's *The Pioneer Woman*. Among the recipes you will find her humorous opinions on television, movies, music and popular culture.

Scholarship Luncheon reservation information will be available later this fall. Find out more at samford.edu/legacyleague.

Executive Committee to Serve Under Revised Bylaws by Vickie Griffith

In January 2016 the Legacy League board of directors approved revisions to the bylaws, removing the office of vice president for fundraising and adding fundraising event committee chairs as appointed members of the Executive Committee. With this change, Legacy League now has six elected officers instead of seven. In order to continue electing three officers each in odd-numbered and even-numbered years, the office of vice president for student scholarship and support was moved from odd to even and, thus, will come up for election again in 2018.

With the revised bylaws in effect, two new officers were elected at the April meeting: Suzanne Hopkins as vice president for membership and Julie Cundiff as treasurer. These join the remaining four officers who are one year into their terms. The newly appointed members of the Executive Committee are Lisbeth Cease and Terre Currey, co-chairs of the Christmas Home Tour Committee; Kathy Clay, chair of the Scholarship Luncheon Committee; Jan Cobb and Melinda Mitchell, co-chairs of the Scholarship Celebration Committee; and Kayla Frank, chair of the Junior Board Committee.

Suzanne Hopkins, vice president for membership, has chaired the Scholarship Gala Celebration for the past two years. She is a music educator at McElwain Christian Academy. Her husband, Joe, is dean of the School of the Arts at Samford, and they have two sons, Joseph and Vance.

Julie Cundiff begins her first year as treasurer. She and her husband, Drew, are both graduates of Samford and have two children, Linden and Philip. Julie volunteers with international student welcome dinners, and she is a trained chef who worked at the *Cooking Light* test kitchen for five years.

Kathryn Woodruff, in her second year as president, graduated from Samford with a math degree. Her first involvement as a member of Legacy League was addressing invitations and writing for the newsletter. She later served on the Ways and Means Committee, as recording secretary and as vice president for communication.

Vickie (Gord) Griffith is serving her second year as vice president for communication/recording secretary. She has been active in Legacy League since retiring from Hoover City Schools and the Alabama State Dept. of Education. Vickie's daughter Allison is a Samford grad, and she hopes her grandchildren will one day become alums as well.

Harriet Williams begins her second year as vice president for programs. Retired from the Jefferson County Dept. of Health, she taught nutrition as an adjunct professor at Samford. Her husband, Jim, recently retired from Samford, and their daughter, Mary Beth, will complete the nurse anesthesia program in May.

Paula Gossett continues as vice president for student scholarship and support. Because of bylaws changes, Paula will work with our scholarship recipients for two additional years. Her husband, Kerry, is a Samford graduate. Elouise Williams encouraged Paula to become a member of Legacy League.

Lisbeth Cease was encouraged by friends in 2010 to join. A few months later, as third vice president and chair of the Ways and Means Committee and with much help, her vision for an annual Christmas Home Tour became a reality. Today this holiday event is Legacy League's highest attended fundraiser.

Terre Currey was recruited by a friend to help with the Christmas Home Tour in its first year, and she has enjoyed helping every year. She is looking forward to retiring in March and jumping into more opportunities. She and her husband, Jeff, will celebrate their 40th anniversary next year.

Kathy Clay and her entire family earned degrees at Samford: husband Michael, daughter Stephanie and son John Michael. Her son was a student athlete, and her family loves supporting the Bulldogs! Knowing the impact Samford has had on their lives, she loves helping others achieve their dream of attending.

Jan Cobb and her husband, Mike, are both Samford grads. They met and married there 46 years ago. They have three daughters, the youngest of whom is a Samford grad and a teacher. Jan co-chaired decorations for the Scholarship Gala Celebration last spring.

Two of **Melinda Mitchell's** three children are Samford graduates, as is her daughter-in-law, who will soon be mother of her FIRST grandchild! She retired from practicing law and has been blessed through volunteer work with Legacy League.

Kayla Frank received an undergraduate and graduate degree from Samford in accounting. She currently works as a tax accountant and has a pet bunny named Oliver. "Legacy League was the difference between my going to a state school or Samford, and I am thankful for it each and every day." 🐾



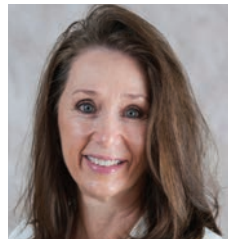
Suzanne Hopkins



Lisbeth Cease



Julie Cundiff



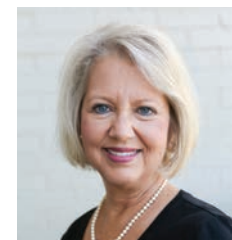
Terre Currey



Kathryn Woodruff



Kathy Clay



Vickie Griffith



Jan Cobb



Harriet Williams



Melinda Mitchell



Paula Gossett



Kayla Frank

Christmas Home Tour Keeps Getting Better

by Terri Robinette

Can we say “breathtaking”? Legacy League’s Sixth Annual Christmas Home Tour presented by ARC Realty Company features five luxurious homes and breathtaking views. Families will open their doors to allow a steady stream of guests, warmly welcoming in the Christmas season with a view of their lovely homes. The tour will be held on Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Here is a sneak peek at the five homes featured: the Alvarez home is newly built on the lush greens of Vestavia Country Club; the Kloess home offers an incredible skyline view of the city; the Morgan home features a wonderful outdoor entertainment space; the Tate home’s backyard boasts a fantastic view of the valley; and the Samford President’s Home provides an amazing view of the university from atop Shades Mountain. Each home features unique architectural design and joyous holiday decorations.

Carefully selected vendors will offer quality merchandise at the Holiday Gift Market, returning for its second year to the Samford President’s Home. There guests will also enjoy snacking on tasty holiday hors d’oeuvres.

Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Advance tickets will



The Kloess home offers incredible views of the Birmingham skyline.

be available at the November meeting or samford.edu/legacy-league through Dec. 6. Proceeds from the event will provide life-changing scholarships to deserving students with significant financial need and challenging circumstances.

Event co-chairs are Lisbeth Cease and Terre Currey. Please support them and their hard-working committee by helping with publicity, food and hosting. This event requires nearly 200 volunteers!

Special thanks to ARC Realty, our Presenting Sponsor, and our Premium Sponsors: Anchor Insurance Company, Common Bond Title, Cotton Construction and Event Rentals Unlimited. 📌

2016 Christmas Home Tour and Holiday Gift Market featuring the homes of:

- DENISE & RON ALVAREZ**
2405 Chestnut Road, Vestavia Hills
- JOY & PRICE KLOESS**
2862 Stratford Road, Birmingham
- ALLISON MORGAN**
3008 N. Woodridge Road, Mountain Brook
- CAROLYN & JOHN TATE**
3248 E. Briarcliff Circle, Mountain Brook
- JEANNA & ANDY WESTMORELAND**
1994 Shades Crest Road, Vestavia Hills



Shop for unique gifts, holiday items and more at the Holiday Gift Market.

Rejoicing at the Lord’s Work in 2015–16 – A Year Worth Celebrating

by Sharon Smith

A glance at the numbers, many of them record-breaking, makes it clear that 2015–16 was a banner year for Legacy League:

- 12 students with challenging circumstances benefitted from Legacy League scholarships
- Nearly 300 volunteers served more than 4,300 hours
- More than 300 people attended the Fall Luncheon
- Over 500 guests and 200 volunteers participated in the Christmas Home Tour
- Almost 300 women were inspired at the Scholarship Luncheon
- Nearly 250 people enjoyed the Scholarship Gala Celebration
- More than 350 individuals and businesses made contributions
- Three new scholarships were established
- **OVER \$135,000 was raised for the new Legacy League School of the Arts Centennial Scholarship!**

Behind all these numbers are people—people benefitting from our mission and people committed to putting it into action. There are students who have faced nearly insurmountable obstacles finding renewed hope at Samford. And there are individuals, Legacy League members and friends, working diligently and giving sacrificially to make Samford experiences attainable.

From move-in day when we welcomed four new freshmen through our final exam study break supper, the Lord’s hand on the year was evident. Monthly fellowship suppers, a new effort, provided food for the bodies and souls of scholarship recipients and volunteers. Legacy League members also welcomed new international students, sharing the love of Jesus with them through welcome bags and a meal.

Our Open House brought nearly 200 members and guests to the Samford President’s Home. Circling the room, attendees learned of upcoming events and opportunities to become involved. They committed to serve, signing up to volunteer in ways that fit their interests and schedules. Many new people, finding fellowship and purpose in the group, joined the organization. By year’s end, Legacy League had gained 60 new members, among them two former scholarship recipients, eager to pay forward the blessings they had received.

At the Fall Luncheon a full ballroom of guests heard Kristen Sharp share her story “From Birmingham to Broadway and Back.” Hundreds attended the Centennial Celebration Concert, the first fundraiser of the year. Legacy League’s tailgate drew the largest group since its inception. Inspiring programs attracted strong attendance at regular meetings.

The 5th Annual Christmas Home Tour, showcasing five magnificent homes, featured the inaugural Holiday Gift Market. Carefully selected vendors, offering unique items, donated a portion of their receipts to Legacy League. This new endeavor, record-breaking ticket sales and strong sponsor support yielded over \$21,000 in proceeds for the new scholarship.

Kelly Minter, featured guest at the Scholarship Luncheon, encouraged attendees through word and song, focusing on the year’s theme verse, Esther 4:14. The annual event raised over \$9,000. In April, Legacy League went “on the town” for the Scholarship Gala Celebration. With a near-capacity crowd and 34 sponsors, the culminating event of the year generated more than \$70,000 toward the \$135,000 raised for the Legacy League School of the Arts Centennial Scholarship. The Lord was clearly at work, blessing our efforts to help His children through collaboration with the School of the Arts in a significant way. 📌

New in 2015, the Holiday Gift Market will return for the 2016 Christmas Home Tour.



Nearly 250 guests gather on the Wright Center stage for the Scholarship Gala Celebration dinner.



Scholarship recipients and volunteers share a Mexican meal at one of 2015–16’s monthly fellowship suppers.

Legacy League Launches New Opportunities for Junior Members

by Allison Strickland

Be on the lookout for some fresh faces and fun in the coming months—Legacy League is announcing new, exciting opportunities for younger members! The idea stemmed from several recent Samford graduates who believe in Legacy League’s mission and who desire to have a more active role in our organization. They also want the opportunity to share Legacy League with their friends, but many are young professionals or mothers with small children, making it difficult to attend mid-morning meetings.

Beginning this fall, Legacy League members age 35 and under will receive special junior member benefits in addition to their traditional Legacy League membership. These new junior benefits are designed to encourage younger women in the Birmingham community to join our organization and actively invest in our mission in a way that suits their current phase in life. The newly established Junior Board Committee will host two evening events and two evening meetings, which will feature special programming and pricing geared toward



The Legacy League Junior Board Committee: Kayla Frank, chair, Allison (Hubbard) Strickland, Rachel Miley, Lauren Lunceford, Jenna Sims, Mandy Jayne (Stanley) Antwine, Casey Ramey, Laurie Smith, Caitlin Campbell, Christina Glenn, Hilliary Hallman, Sarah Waller, Lyndsay Cogdill, Jenée Spencer, Kasey Strickland. Not pictured: Caitlin (Miller) Hammond, Ginnie Holcomb and Merrell McQueen

this age group.

Legacy League’s Junior Board Committee consists of Legacy League members age 23–33 and is being chaired by Kayla Frank, a 2014 graduate from Brock School of Business and former Legacy League scholarship recipient. The committee is looking forward to its first event in mid-October, a hand-lettering class taught by committee member and 2013 Samford graduate Hilliary Hallman, owner of a creative freelance business. 📌



Ron and Ann Layne celebrate with Jeanna Westmoreland following the announcement of the Ann Keeney Layne Scholarship, Ron’s 60th anniversary surprise to Ann.

Anniversary Surprise Honors Ann Layne

by Carolyn Robinson

evident in her many years of service, including two years as president of Legacy League. Ann has held numerous other roles, including historian, greeter chair and publicity volunteer. She is also a challenge member of the League.

In 2013 Ann received the Lolla Wurtele Wright Award for her outstanding service. In addition to her work with the League, she is also a member of the Dean’s Executive Council of Orlean Beeson School of Education. She served as chairman of the board of the Children’s Learning Center from its inception until its closing.

Ann is a native of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and a graduate of Oak Ridge High School. She earned her B.S. in education from UAB in 1975. Ann and Ron were married on May 19, 1956. They have two children, both of whom are Samford alumni. Ron, Jr., is dean of academics at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College in North Carolina. Jordan, a Legacy League life member, teaches sixth grade at Providence Christian School in Dothan. The Laynes are longtime members of Huffman Baptist Church where Ann started a “Little Free Library” and serves as librarian.

Congratulations to Ann and Ron on their 60 years together and on their continuing support of education at Samford. 📌

A scholarship endowment is a meaningful and permanent way to honor someone, living or deceased, while helping students with significant financial need to attend Samford University. With a minimum of \$25,000, given one time or incrementally over five years, a new scholarship may be established by an individual or group.

Please contact Sharon Smith, director of development, at 205-726-2247 for more information.

Legacy League Concludes the Year with a Night “On the Town” by Lynn Parrish

A springtime thunderstorm with torrential rains and strong winds could not dampen the enthusiasm of the nearly 250 guests who gathered for Legacy League’s 8th Annual Scholarship Gala Celebration. On April 29, members and guests enjoyed a gala dinner and the Broadway musical *On the Town* at the culminating event of the year. The year’s efforts raised over \$135,000 to endow a new need-based scholarship to commemorate 100 years of Samford Arts.

Guests with deluxe reservations attended a private reception in the Art Gallery and rose garden. They enjoyed tasty hors d’oeuvres while admiring art by gifted Samford students and mingling with *On the Town* cast members. Everyone then convened on the stage of Wright Center for dinner. The stage was beautifully decorated with tables covered with black linen tablecloths and nautical-inspired lanterns glowing with white lights and mercury glass vases of silk paper whites. The luminous centerpieces proved helpful when the power went out briefly due to the storm. A panoramic scene of the New York City skyline graced the back wall of the stage.

Legacy League President Kathryn Woodruff welcomed guests and gave the invocation. After a delicious dinner, scholarship recipient Sadie Knox shared her touching story and thanked Legacy League

for helping her dream to attend Samford become a reality. School of the Arts Executive Council Chair Malcolm Miller graciously thanked the League for partnering with the School of the Arts. He expressed gratitude that the new Legacy League School of the Arts Centennial Scholarship will help more students like Sadie benefit from all that Samford has to offer. This new fund will provide assistance for students with significant financial need and challenging circumstances who are pursuing a career in the arts. Executive Director Jeanna Westmoreland concluded the program by acknowledging Legacy League sponsors, the event committee and volunteers.

Samford Ambassadors escorted guests to Harrison Theatre for the presentation of *On the Town*. Kristen Kenning, director of opera, thanked Legacy League for their support. She invited the audience to sing “The Star Spangled Banner” before the show as was customary during World War II. Throughout the performance, the talented cast of Samford students entertained with impressive choreography and the music of Leonard Bernstein.

The Scholarship Gala Celebration Committee (pictured at right) was chaired by Suzanne Hopkins. In addition nearly 30 volunteers graciously gave their time and talents to make this event a success. 📌



Volunteers prepare table decorations for the Scholarship Gala Celebration.



Scholarship Gala Committee: Allison Strickland, Jan Cobb, Kathryn Woodruff, Jeanna Westmoreland, Lynn Parrish, Karen Bergquist, Melinda Mitchell, Suzanne Hopkins (chair), Lisbeth Cease, Monique Gannon, Caitlin Hammond, Tricia Naro and Sharon Smith.



Scholarship Gala Celebration guests enjoy a fabulous double entrée dinner on the stage of Wright Center.



Vickie Griffith, Lynn Parrish and Allison Strickland assemble centerpieces for the Scholarship Gala Celebration reception.

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LOTTIE JACKS:

Always Achieving by Cynthia Walker Watts

Lottie Jacks lacked just 32 hours to complete her degree in biology. She had actually dreamed about going back to school and “wondered what it would feel like to walk across the stage in Wright Center.” On May 14, 2016, at 85 years of age, Lottie Apperson Jacks graduated from Samford University with her Bachelor of Science, becoming the oldest person to graduate from Samford with a four-year degree. She did not expect any great praise or television appearances or articles, and she definitely did not expect a standing ovation. As she reflected, Lottie expressed gratitude for all the kindnesses shown to her.

The path to graduation began at age 17 when she entered Howard College on a full scholarship. She married Russell Jacks at age 20 and became a mother to the first of four children at 21. A year later, she put college on hold and began a 35-year career in health care. After 10 years she received her credentials as a medical laboratory technician. But she did not forget her alma mater. The Samford University Legacy League elected her president when she was 71 years old, and she was later awarded the Lolla

Wurtele Wright Award for her dedicated service. Six years ago, she even published a book, *Applegreen*.

Even with all these positive events in Lottie’s life, she values another experience as most significant. Lottie led the fundraising effort, along with members of Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, to build the Center of Hope in Las Mochas, Mexico. The Center includes a pavilion, which provides a place for meetings, two bathrooms and a kitchen. When another group assisted in building Shalom Baptist Church as part of the Center, Lottie led the effort to raise money for a baptismal pool in the church. Nineteen young men were baptized during the first baptism in the pool. Prior to this time, the church members had to go 10 miles away to be baptized in the Gulf of California. She continues to communicate with the church through email and is excited about their evangelistic efforts.

From humble beginnings as the eighth of 10 children to author, Christian mother and grandmother, and now college graduate, Lottie Jacks continues to be an achiever. ❧



Lottie Jacks works in the lab during her quest to finish her biology degree.

Wright Award Honors a Special First Lady

by Carolyn Robinson

The 2016 recipient of the Lolla Wurtele Wright Award did not come to Legacy League by any usual manner. This charming lady was a wonderful bonus when her husband, the late Dr. Thomas Corts, became Samford’s president in 1983.

For 33 years Marla Corts has worked tirelessly to lead, guide and enrich the mission of the League. At the time of her coming, Legacy League (then the Samford Auxiliary) consisted of a small group of women. Dues were \$3.00 a year. Working as a liaison between the administration and the Auxiliary, she shared her vision of what the organization could become. Now with more than 700 members, the League is instrumental in providing life-changing scholarships for deserving students.

Marla grew up in Ashtabula, Ohio, near Cleveland. She met Tom in high school and became a Christian due to his witness. She graduated from Houghton College in New York with a degree in English and later earned a nursing degree. She taught high school English briefly and later worked in a hospital emergency department. She is the mother of three children, all Samford graduates, and the grandmother of eight.

It is appropriate that Samford’s former first lady be awarded this honor named in memory of another first lady, Lolla Wurtele Wright, wife of the late Dr. Leslie Wright. The award, which was established in



Several members of the Corts family celebrate with Marla, the 2016 Lolla Wright Award recipient.

2006, is presented to an outstanding Legacy League member each year. The recipient is selected from member nominations. Marla Corts’ hope for the continued growth and prosperity of Legacy League can be summed up in one of her husband’s favorite quotes from Robert Browning, “The best is yet to be.” ❧

Where Are They Now?

Following Tessa King Baker to Madagascar

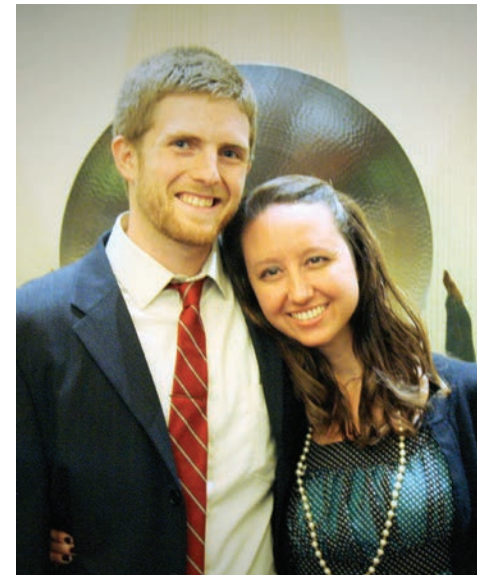
by Anne Bishop

Legacy League, seen through the eyes of faith, can be compared to a piece of a jigsaw puzzle. Tessa King Baker agrees. Just as the red puzzle piece slowly becomes a flower and the blue corner piece broadens into a blue sky, Legacy League’s investment in this lovely young woman was a part of God’s plan for her life. We are blessed to be a piece of this puzzle.

Putting together a puzzle takes time, and we don’t know the whole picture. God does. Tessa did not know what lay in store for her. As a National Merit Scholar, Tessa was exploring colleges and exploring additional financial help as she tried to plan her future. Then she was awarded a scholarship from Legacy League in 2007. “My four years at Samford were an incredible blessing for me and a time of preparation. It would not have been possible without the Legacy League scholarship.”

After graduation Tessa spent five years in Madagascar, helping believers create Bible stories in their own dialects. One of the first Bible stories she told in a village was the one of creation. What an impact it had on her when the villagers told her, “We understand this is a story from our own history.” Yes, God’s story of creation belongs to those with whom the missionary shares as well as to the missionary. For this experience and many more, she has been richly blessed to see God working among those people.

Tessa met her husband, Nathan, in Madagascar, and they have both been used by God in this work. They are expecting a baby in August, and after Nathan’s graduation from seminary, they plan to return to Madagascar. ❧



Tessa (King) Baker and her husband, Nathan.

Volunteer Spotlight: KAREN CARLISLE

by Frances King

Karen Carlisle has chaired the Scholarship Recipient Care Committee since the fall of 2013. The committee assists the membership in encouraging and supporting our wonderful scholarship recipients. “We give opportunities for members to help provide and attend fellowship dinners with the students and help in giving the students gift bags at the end of both semesters,” she explains.

Both Karen and her husband, Todd, attended Samford, graduating in 1988. She was a biology major and earned a master’s degree from UAB in physical therapy. Her parents, Clarence and Fran Duncan, are also Samford graduates. The Carlises’ daughter Mary Beth graduated last spring from Samford’s nursing program. Daughter Caroline is a math and secondary education major in her junior year at Samford. Their son, Will, is seriously considering attending Samford next year.

Q: How did you first get involved with Legacy League?

A: After receiving invitations from Legacy League members for several years, I finally

joined in 2012. At the time, I wasn’t really certain what Legacy League was, but I thought it would be a good way to get involved as an alumna. Legacy League also gave my mother and me a fun way to spend time together while we supported Samford’s mission.



Karen Carlisle

Q: In what areas have you volunteered?

A: Most of my involvement has been in the area of scholarship recipient care, but I have also served as a hostess for the Christmas Home Tour.

Q: How have you been impacted by volunteering with Legacy League?

A: I have loved meeting and serving with so many different ladies through my time in Legacy League. Our love for Samford and our desire to help provide a Samford experience to our deserving scholarship recipients is very encouraging to me. Getting to know our students has blessed me as I witness their gratefulness to be at Samford and to be cared for by such a wonderful organization. ❧

MEMBER
UPDATE

March 1, 2016 through
June 30, 2016

New Annual

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Ms. Kelsey L. Drennan
Mrs. Karen J. Freeman
Ms. Christina J. Glenn
Mrs. Susan Hutchens
Ms. Casey A. Ramey
Mrs. Melinda J. Verdesca
Ms. Sarah M. Waller

New Life

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Ms. Grace A. Cook
Ms. Florence Henderson Morris

Life upgrade

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Mrs. Jan C. Cobb
Mrs. Charlotte L. Coleman
Mrs. Vicki H. Everett
Mrs. Frances A. Moon
Ms. Barbara L. Patton
Mrs. Diane Payne
Mrs. Nancy Tribble
Hon. Virginia A. Vinson
Mrs. Kathryn M. Woodruff
Mrs. Nanette L. Yeager

Challenge upgrade

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Mrs. Bonnie Chapman
Mrs. Ann Davis
Mrs. Brenda M. Hackney
Mrs. Kay U. Harlow

Mrs. Mark Ingram
Mrs. Shirley S. Langston
Ms. Karolyn V. Lewis
Mrs. Betty H. Miller
Ms. Billie H. Pigford
Mrs. Ann S. Sanders
Rev. Glenn E. Slye
Mrs. Stanley Wade
Mrs. Jeanne M. Wear
Mrs. Harriet M. Williams

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February 1 through June 30,
2016

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Centennial Scholarship

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Ms. Summer R. Robinette

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Scholarship

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Mrs. Lottie A. Jacks

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Rev. & Mrs. Jeremy J. Griem

Glenn and Frances Slye
Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Doral G. Atkins

SAVE THE DATES

SEPT. 13

School of the Arts Faculty Gala, 7:30 p.m.

OCT. 2

Hymn Sing, 2 p.m.

OCT. 6

Fall Luncheon featuring members of
Birmingham Boys Choir, 11:30 a.m.

OCT. 21-23

Sleeping Beauty

NOV. 10

Legacy League Meeting with Shaunna West
10 a.m. Refreshments, 10:30 a.m. Program

NOV. 10-13

Homecoming Weekend and Samford’s
175th Anniversary Celebration

NOV. 12

Homecoming Tailgate on the Quad, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

DEC. 1

Hanging of the Green, 6 p.m.

DEC. 8

Christmas Home Tour and Holiday Gift Market,
10 a.m.–2 p.m. and 4–8 p.m.

FEB. 23

Scholarship Luncheon featuring Melanie Shankle, 11:30 a.m.

Legacy League events in **bold**.

Elouise Wilkins Williams
Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Doral G. Atkins
Mr. & Mrs. Paul G. Aucoin
Dr. Anne & Prof. T. Brad Bishop
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Celebrate Samford

by Jeanna Westmoreland



Banners hang from the lamp posts. The gate posts are adorned with anniversary signs. Samford University is celebrating a birthday! Founded on Dec. 29, 1841, Samford will soon be 175 years old.

How do you recognize such a momentous occasion? Samford is celebrating with a year of special activities. The anniversary year kicked off with commencement exercises in May, but the parties are yet to come. Founders Day will be celebrated at the opening convocation with a tribute to the four individuals whose vision resulted in the university we love: Gen. Edwin D. King, the Rev. James H. Devotie, Mrs. Julia Tarrant Barron and the Rev. Milo P. Jewett.

Homecoming will be Samford’s largest party ever. Alumni, students, faculty, parents and friends will come together to participate in a Thanksgiving Convocation on Nov. 11, thanking God for blessings granted and committing to a bright future under His guidance. Later the same evening, all members of the Samford community will dance the night away at the Anniversary Ball.

The year of celebration will culminate in two events near the end of the spring semester. April will bring the unveiling of a memorial to the founders in front of Reid Chapel. The monument, designed and crafted by a British sculptor, will be an armillary sphere with an astronomical clock

bearing the names of the founders. The Anniversary Festival Concert, May 4, will provide the university community one last opportunity to celebrate with a concert on the quad.

Samford’s various schools and programs will present a number of other anniversary events. A special section of the university’s website contains all anniversary event details, historical information, photographs and videos, as well as a place where you can submit your Samford story: samford.edu/175. Join the celebration!



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Samford University
800 Lakeshore Drive
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Jeanna's Back Story

by Jeanna Westmoreland

The gavel fell, and the Perry County sheriff declared the land and buildings of Howard College sold for \$1,080. It may have been the darkest day in the college's 43-year history: April 5, 1884. A legal judgment against the college (now Samford University) could not be paid, resulting in the public auction of the property. A failed scholarship program, lost endowment, two state Supreme Court cases and eight years of legal wrangling had taken their toll.

How did the institution survive? Two college trustees, J.B. Lovelace and W.W. Wilkerson, both citizens of Marion, Alabama, where the college was located, were the winning bidders in the auction of Howard's assets. They held the deed for the next two years, allowing the college to operate free from the threat of financial ruin for the first time in several years. Without these two men and their devotion to Christian education, Samford University might not exist. While their names are not a part of daily university life, the lives of tens of thousands of students have been positively impacted as a result of their commitment and sacrifice.

"This was the biggest day of my life." Major Harwell Davis' excitement was evident in this quote from an article in *The Howard College Crimson* (Nov. 21, 1952) regarding the Alabama Baptist Convention's approval of the new campus in Homewood. For years Major Davis, president of Howard College, had tenaciously pursued his vision for a new campus with plenty of land for future expansion. In the wake of the Great Depression and World War II, the financial

and building needs of the college were great while growth in enrollment was strong. The college campus in East Lake offered little opportunity for property acquisition. Repeatedly Major Davis urged the trustees to find a new location and to build a new campus. He sought every potential advocate and partner for the relocation, including Birmingham-Southern College. One idea included the relocation of Howard to a property adjacent to the Birmingham-Southern campus with the two schools sharing resources such as libraries and other facilities.

The trustees must have tired of the incessant series of ideas and the urgency with which they were presented. Tradition holds that trustee Frank Park Samford once told the board that the only way they could stop Major Davis from talking about moving the campus was to move the campus! As I look out over the sprawling campus with its beautifully constructed buildings and carefully landscaped grounds, it is hard to imagine the densely wooded hillside that existed in November 1952. Major Davis' vision was transformational, his tenacity unrelenting. His legacy is evident everywhere we look.

These are but two of the many stories of challenge, sacrifice and tenacity that fill the annals of Samford's 175-year history. These stories serve as a reminder that we share in the responsibility for shaping the Samford that future generations will enjoy. As individuals or as an organization, we will likely never buy the school or create a new campus. But our actions and decisions, large

and small, each play a part in creating a future in which others will live. As we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of Samford, and as we move into the next era of her history, the words of a song*, made popular by Steve Green, come to mind:

*May all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way
May the footprints that we leave
Lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey
Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful.* ☛

*"Find Us Faithful" by Jon Mohr, 1987

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Anna Kathryn Hardin, Editor

Contributors: Anne Bishop, Vickie (Gord) Griffith, Lori Hill, Frances King, Lynn Parrish, Terri Robinette, Carolyn Robinson, Sharon Smith, Allison Strickland, Cynthia Walker Watts, Jeanna Westmoreland and Kathryn Woodruff

Creative Services: Julie Beckwith and Laura Hannah

Photography: Kim DeVenny, Sarah Finnegan, Caroline Summers and Kathryn Woodruff

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