

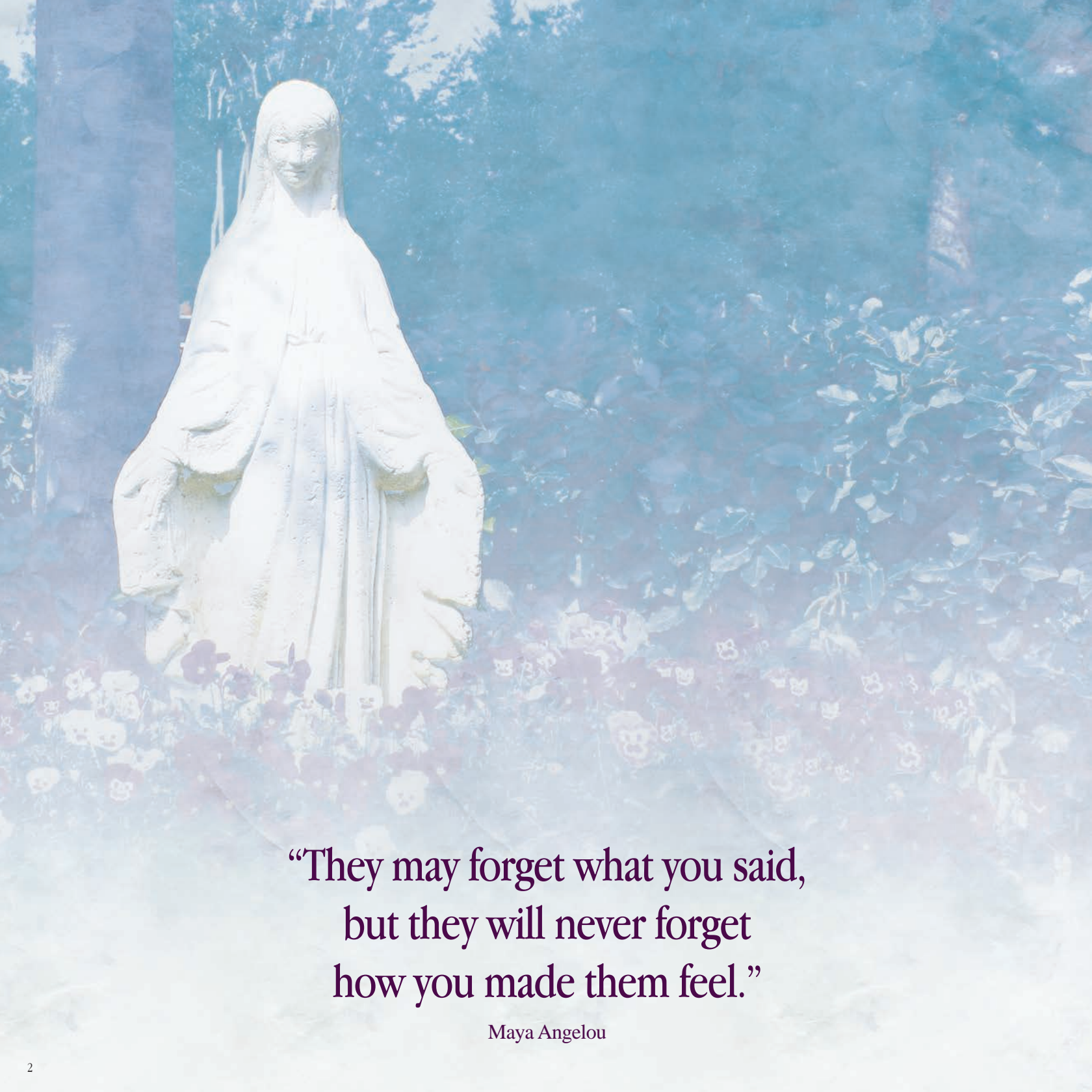


1916-
2016

100

YEARS OF HEALING





**“They may forget what you said,
but they will never forget
how you made them feel.”**

Maya Angelou

MESSAGE FROM CHRIS KARAM, FACHE PRESIDENT / CEO

September 14, 2016, marked an exciting day in the history of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and their health care ministry in the Texarkana region. It marked the 100th anniversary of the Sisters' involvement in Texarkana health care, beginning with CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System opening on Sept. 14, 1916, as Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital.

Since Sept. 14, 1916, the Sisters began fulfilling their mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ with their first patient, Phillip Brooks. A transient with neither a job nor money, Brooks was found with a temperature of 106, dying in the boiler room of the new hospital. Since that time, the Sisters, collaborating with dedicated Associates, physicians and volunteers, along with the support of our community, have served thousands of people from the four states region.

The Sisters' founding call from Bishop Claude Dubuis, "Our Lord Jesus Christ, suffering in the persons of a multitude of sick and infirm of every kind, seeks relief at your hands," still serves as the groundwork for the Sisters' commitment to our community. The current 128-acre CHRISTUS St. Michael campus stands as a testament to the Sisters' continuing investment in meeting the health care needs of the Texarkana region.

It has been my honor to serve with the Sisters for 30 years and in Texarkana, for 20 years. I am thankful for the overwhelming support our community has demonstrated time and time again to the many challenges in today's health care environment.

Thank you again for all you have done in helping us serve the community for 100 years. We continue to pray for God's blessings for our health care ministry now and into the future.

Best regards,



Chris Karam, FACHE
President/CEO





**“Our Lord Jesus Christ,
suffering in the multitude
of sick and infirm of every kind,
seeks relief at your hands.”**

Founding call from Bishop Claude Dubuis

MESSAGE FROM SISTER JEANNE CONNELL

Wow, 100 years! What an accomplishment to have provided a gift of service to this community for 100 years. Not only has our service been a gift to this community, but it has been a gift from the wonderful people of Texarkana and surrounding areas to the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word - Houston, TX.

So much has happened in 100 years. Without the kindness and generosity of Mr. Michael Meagher, who would have met the needs of the indigent in our area? Without the invitation given to the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word to begin this ministry, this celebration would not be happening today. Without the wisdom and dedication of our Medical Staff, the compassion and talent of our clinical staff, the commitment of our support staff and volunteers; without each one of you, CHRISTUS St. Michael would not be what it is today. The service each individual has provided has become a gift. This hospital is more than bricks. It is the people who make this hospital worth celebrating even after 100 years.

Each of us has the privilege of choice – that choice is described in the Book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 31:19b, 20. The scripture invites us to choose life. May we always say “yes” as we work and live in the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

Blessings of peace and love be yours,

Sister Jeanne
Sister Jeanne Connell

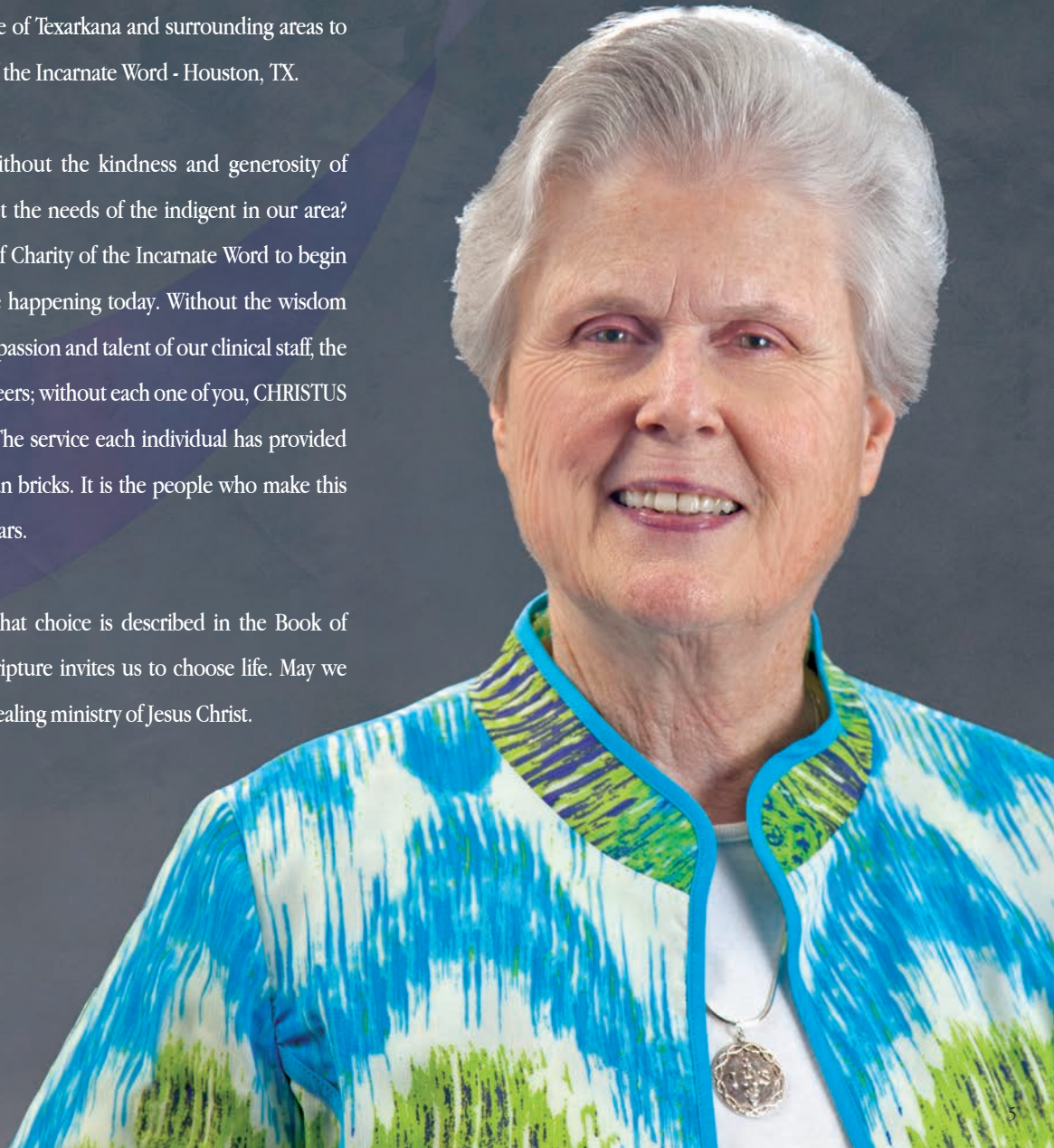


TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGES
8-33

Our HISTORY of Healing

From the arrival of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in America and the creation of the Michael Meagher Hospital in 1916 through today's CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System, experience the story of our 100 years of healing.

Pages 30-31 CHRISTUS St. Michael Timeline
Pages 32-33 100 Years Celebration of Holy Mass



PAGES
34-99

Our STORIES of Healing

In their own words, learn how everyone from national leaders to community caregivers have been affected by the healing ministry of our health care ministry. Our contributors share their experiences with stories that will both make you laugh and bring tears to your eyes.

Pages 64-70 Blessed Beginnings - Stories of St. Michael Newborns
Pages 88-95 Local Experiences of the National Polio Epidemic



PAGES
100-
119

Our MINISTRY of Healing

Honoring the Board Members, Administration, Physicians, Sisters, Associates and Volunteers who have given of themselves to further the CHRISTUS St. Michael mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

Pages 114-115 Volunteers are Our Stewards of Grace
Pages 118-119 Current Associates Celebrate Our 100 Years



MESSAGE FROM ERNIE SADAU CHRISTUS HEALTH PRESIDENT AND CEO

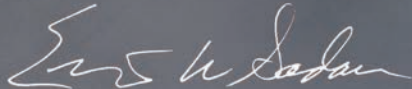
Congratulations to the Associates, leaders, board members, physicians, volunteers of CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System and the community leaders of Texarkana on reaching the system's 100th anniversary! Very few companies—and even fewer health systems—can say that they have served the needs of their communities for 100 years. This is truly a momentous achievement!

The story of CHRISTUS St. Michael is the story of CHRISTUS Health, of all of us, because it's the story of service in response to a deep need. It's the story of sacrifice, of partnership, of an enduring commitment to serve regardless of the obstacles. And it's the story of change, of transition, of growth to provide an ever-increasing level of quality and service as well as seeking out new ways to meet community needs.

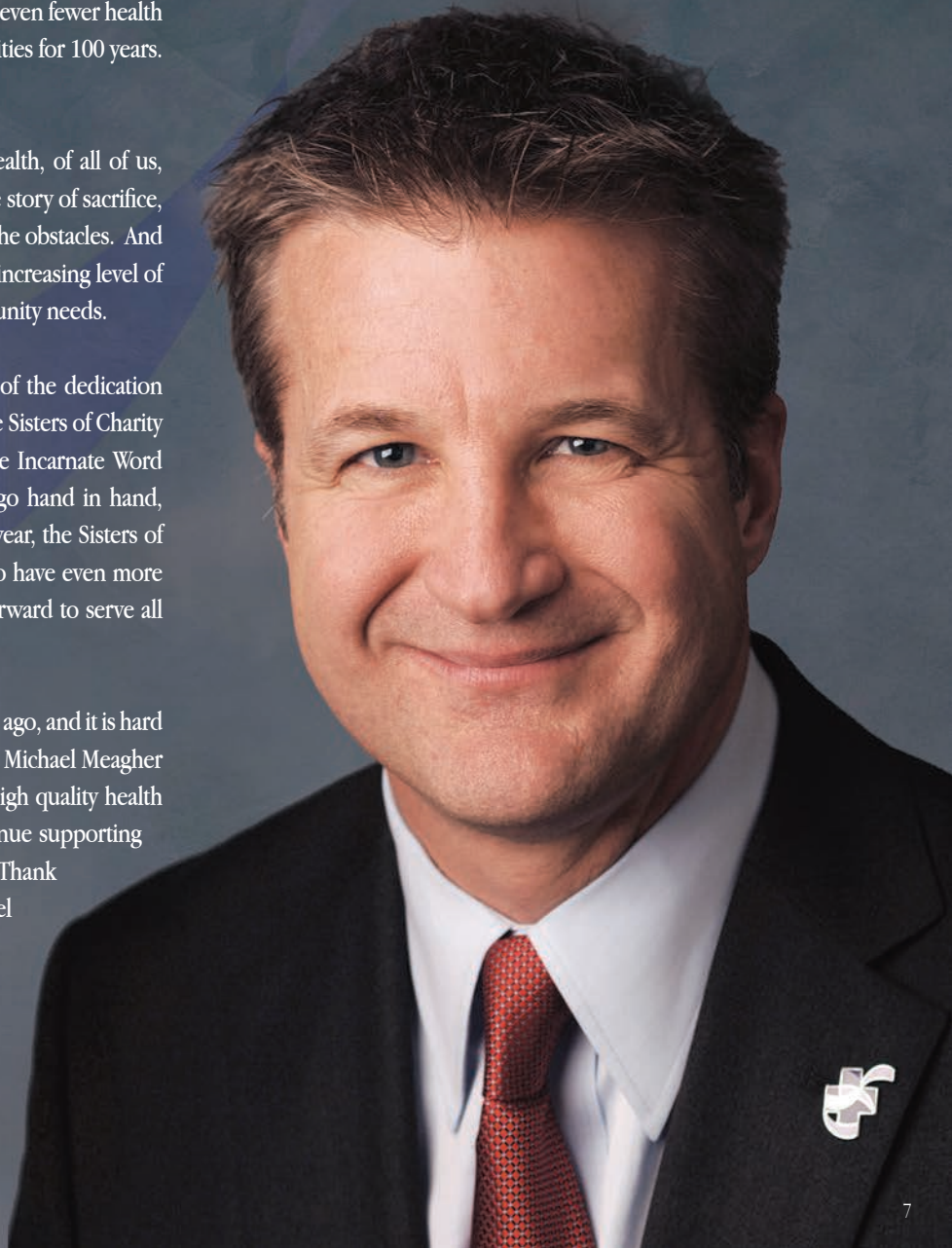
CHRISTUS' St. Michael's 100th anniversary is a perfect example of the dedication and tenacity of CHRISTUS' founding sponsoring congregations, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word - Houston and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word -San Antonio. It also illustrates that service and transformation go hand in hand, as CHRISTUS Health added a third sponsoring congregation this year, the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. We are truly honored and blessed to have even more prayerful support of our mission and our ministry as we move forward to serve all those who need us.

Our health system certainly doesn't look the same as it did 100 years ago, and it is hard to imagine what the early health care pioneers like Bishop Dubuis, Michael Meagher and the early Sisters in Texarkana faced as they worked to bring high quality health care to the city and the surrounding area. It is an honor to continue supporting the same mission and ministry as they did 100 years ago and more. Thank you for your dedication to CHRISTUS Health, CHRISTUS St. Michael and the fulfillment of Bishop Dubuis' call made so many years ago.

Sincerely,



Ernie Sadau





Our
HISTORY *of*
HEALING

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF THE INCARNATE WORD ESTABLISHED IN AMERICA

Bishop Claude Marie Dubuis, a French missionary, arrived in Galveston, Texas, two years after his ordination in 1844. By 1862, he was Bishop for the entire state of Texas.

Faced with alarming poverty throughout his diocese as well as devastating outbreaks of cholera and yellow fever, Bishop Dubuis appealed to Sister congregations in his homeland for help. In a letter to his friend, Mother Angelique, Superior of the Monastery of the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Lyons, he wrote, "Our Lord Jesus Christ, suffering in the persons of a multitude of sick and infirm of every kind, seeks relief at your hands."

Bishop Dubuis sought "hospital" Sisters from France to exercise the spiritual works of mercy in the "vast diocese of Galveston and to take charge of hospitals, refuges and asylums."

Mother Angelique found three young Sisters to answer the Bishop's call. On Sept. 23, 1866, the three nuns received the habit of the new congregation—and the names, Sister Blandine Mathelin, Sister Joseph Roussin and Sister Ange Escudé. Two days later they left for Texas.

On their voyage across the ocean, they endured weeks of 15 to 20-foot seas and a hurricane but arrived safely in Galveston on Oct. 25, 1866. The three founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. On April 1, 1867, they opened the first Catholic hospital in Texas, St. Mary's Infirmary.

Within a few months, Galveston was stricken with the worst yellow fever epidemic in the city's history. The three Sisters worked tirelessly. They cared for patients, despite their own susceptibility to the disease.

By the end of that summer, the epidemic was over, but 1,150 lives were lost, including that of Mother Blandine.

It was the first of many sacrifices the Sisters would make to fulfill their mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to every person.



Bishop Claude Marie Dubuis & St. Mary's Infirmary in Galveston.

EXCERPT FROM THE WILL OF
MICHAEL MEAGHER

(1902)

It shall be the duty of the trustees above named, after my death, to proceed as speedily as possible, to convert these presents into money, in any event, within five years, and out of same, first pay my debts, legal liabilities and funeral expenses aforementioned, and then out of the remainder first purchase a suitable lot in or near said City of Texarkana, and erect thereon, a suitable building for a Charity hospital, for the treatment of all poor and indigent persons in need of medical attention, and such other persons as the trustees above names, or their successors shall, under rules and regulations permit, and that the remainder of said fund, after erecting a suitable hospital building shall be invested by said trustees in such securities as they may deem safe and in the interest arising therefrom, shall be devoted annually to the maintenance of the hospital.

I leave it to the discretion of the said trustees of their successors in trust, as to what portion of the fund which shall be at their disposal, shall be invested for the grounds and building aforesaid and the furnishings thereof and what portion shall be used for investment for the maintenance of same.

In the name of God amen
I Michael Meagher, of Texarkana
Kansas, being of sound mind and
disposing memory, and realizing the
transiency of all things human,



MICHAEL MEAGHER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The hospital's first home was in the old Dale Sanitarium at 5th and Walnut streets on the Arkansas side of town. As the trustees worked to renovate and convert the building into the new 50-bed Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital, there was still the problem of staffing the hospital, and they were anxious to have a community of Sisters operate it. The board approached the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word to invite them to Texarkana. After a period of negotiations, the trustees appointed P. J. Ahern to go to Galveston to finalize the necessary agreements with Mother Teresa O'Gara, Superior General of the Congregation. Having secured permission from Bishop Gallagher of the Diocese of Galveston, Mother Teresa and her Council agreed to sign a lease to operate the hospital for 25 years; the lease was signed on Nov. 26, 1915. Srs. Sacred Heart Travers and M. Clare McDonnell traveled to Texarkana to supervise renovations at the hospital. While they were waiting for their new home to be ready, they were houseguests of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Ahern, whose kindness they would never forget.



Following renovations, the hospital was ready to tend to the area's medical needs. On Sept. 14, 1916, the Most Reverend John B. Morris, Bishop of Little Rock, AR, blessed the new 50-bed hospital. With Sister Raphael Seery as the first administrator, Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital opened its doors and its heart to the people of Texarkana.

A LEGACY BEGINS

Phillip Brooks, a transient with no job and no money, became the Sisters' first patient in Texarkana. He was found dying in the boiler room of the hospital on the very day of the hospital's opening. Sick, he had sought refuge for the night. Mr. Brooks personified the patients whom Michael Meagher and the Board of Trustees wanted to serve, as Mr. Brooks needed medical attention but had neither money nor social status. It was a fitting beginning that would set in motion 100 years of innovation, expansion and devotion to the goal of providing the people of this region the most advanced, affordable and accessible health care.




Hospital continues to grow with cities

Congrat
St. Mich
of your ne
have been
Hospital sin

ST. MICHAEL HOSPITAL

During the first 25 years, the hospital had a significant positive impact on the community. Originally, Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital was staffed with only 10 physicians, one dentist, six Sisters of Charity and 10 nurses to take care of the needs of the hospital and its patients.

As Texarkana grew, so did the demand for health care services. In October 1945, the Most Reverend Albert L. Fletcher, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock, blessed the site for the new St. Michael Hospital.



The School of Nursing at Michael Meagher Hospital opened shortly after the hospital began to operate. Many young women in the area received their nursing education there and stayed on to assist the Sisters in their mission. The nursing school closed in 1936.



ST. MICHAEL HOSPITAL



Excavation began in December 1945 on property located across the street from the Michael Meager Memorial Hospital.



On May 8, 1948, Fr. P. H. Boyle, who had been chaplain at Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital for 20 years, presided at the celebration Mass as Bishop Fletcher laid the cornerstone. In 1948, the new St. Michael Hospital opened in the name of service to God, providing 127 beds for medical care. With the opening of this new hospital, St. Michael took its first step on a long and necessary path of expansion to meet the ever-growing needs of Texarkana's medical community - first in 1956, again in 1975, 1978, and 1985 at its downtown location.

1945 Groundbreaking

Texarkana celebrates downtown hospital expansion during the 1970s and 1980s

EXPANDING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TEXARKANA
and the Four Square Area



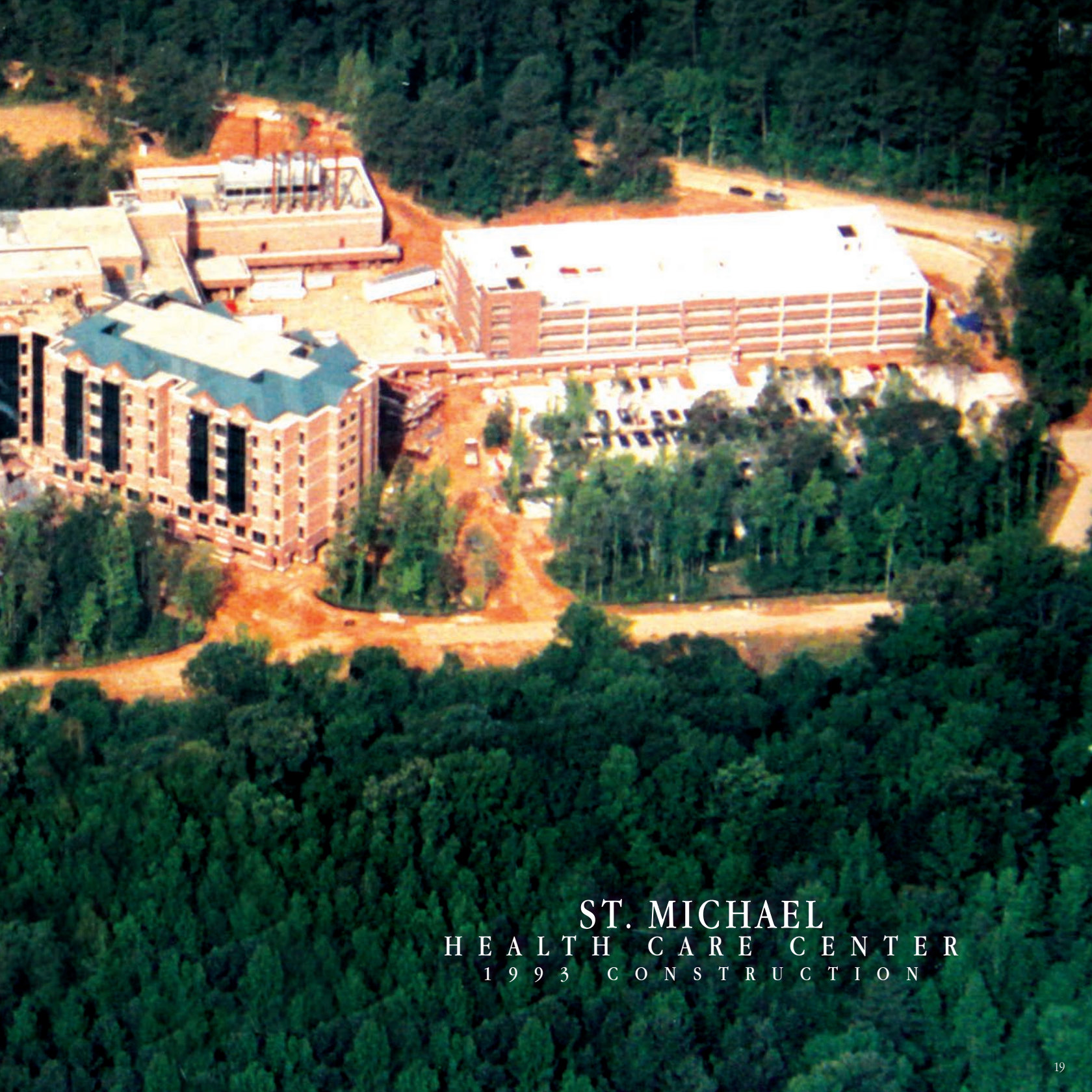
Our New Annex Includes These New Facilities

FLOOR	Facilities	PATIENT ROOMS	BASEMENT
FIRST FLOOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Department 1 Superficial Therapy Room 1 X-ray Radiography Room 1 Public and Fluoroscopic Room 1 Procedure Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st floor: 1 Semi Private, 1 Semi Private 2nd floor: 1 Semi Private, 2 Private 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Inservice Education Room (2) Cobalt Therapy Room (3) Central Supply (4) Linen Room (5) Purchasing & Receiving (6) Pharmacy (7) Vending
SECOND FLOOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surgery: 5 Operating Rooms 1 Cast Room - 1 Cystoscopy Room Recovery Room: 8 Recovery Beds 1 Isolation recovery bed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29 Private Rooms 29 Private Rooms 58 Private Rooms 	

ST. MICHAEL HOSPITAL







ST. MICHAEL
HEALTH CARE CENTER
1993 CONSTRUCTION



The artist proposal shows the new St. Michael Hospital in Texarkana with construction scheduled to start in the spring of 1992 and the occupancy scheduled for the winter of 1994. The construction costs are estimated at \$116 million not including the medical office building. The patient rooms will be larger to ac-

commodate family and healing with a bed capacity of 318. The five-floor facility will include three levels of diagnostic treatment and support facilities; one level of administrative and educational facilities, and four levels of patient beds.

St. Michael Hospital unveils plans

Project includes rehab/skilled nursing facility & medical office

St. Michael Hospital officials

needs of our people in the 90's. We'll be able to do the best possible for the community.

The medical office complex will include 150,000 square feet of space.

on how healthcare should respond to these changing needs," Byrne said.



Norman Rochelle; Truman Arnold; James Collins; Borden Bell; F.E. Joyce, M.D.; Ed Marion, and Billy Crutchfield tour the 1992 construction site of the new St. Michael Health Care Center.

Renovations and expansion at the downtown site were sufficient in their time. Yet the increasing demand for health care and limited additional space at the downtown site gave St. Michael Hospital and its Board of Directors little option but to plan a move from downtown to a larger, more accommodating location that would offer space both for current and future needs.

That space eventually became the new home of CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System, an innovative and state-of-the-art health care facility that encompasses far more than just hospital care. Over the years, St. Michael grew from a simple hospital to a multiple medical, rehabilitation and health care system designed to provide the most modern and comprehensive health care available.

The new site chosen by hospital officials was a 63-acre wooded area that was ideal not only for St. Michael's construction needs but also in addressing the spiritual needs of the hospital's patients by providing a healing environment. As part of that healing philosophy, St. Michael's new site included a 1 1/2-acre lake, three creeks and nine fountains or water features to represent the relationship between high-tech medical treatment and healing properties that the beauty of God's natural wonders offer.

First to open on the new campus were the St. Michael Health and Fitness Center and the St. Michael Outpatient Rehabilitation Center, both of which began operation in 1993. St. Michael Rehabilitation Hospital opened just east of the new hospital in February 1994.

Then, in December 1994, the new St. Michael Health Care Center opened, offering the 13-county Texarkana area a medical facility that would follow the hospital's commitment to extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. The new campus also provided a setting in which the patients' medical needs - from the onset of injury or illness to the process of treatment and healing, to rehabilitation and to wellness - could be addressed all in one technologically advanced and convenient health care environment.

With relocation to the new campus came new services including St. Michael Health Care Center getting "back in the baby business" for the first time since 1967. Just a few short days after the hospital began serving the region at its new location, the first baby was born at 5:18 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1994. Approximately 25,000 babies have been born at CHRISTUS St. Michael since 1994.

CHRISTUS Health System was formed in February 1999, when the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Houston and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio combined their health care ministries to better serve the communities where they are located. The shared legacy of the two congregations dates back to 1866 when the three original Sisters first arrived in Galveston, TX, as a single congregation. As their hospital ministry expanded from Galveston to San Antonio, transportation difficulties called for the creation of separate congregations. With the same name as their founding congregation, the two orders were differentiated by the location of their general offices, now located in Houston and San Antonio.



**June 1993 Topping Out Ceremony
for new St. Michael Health Care Center**

From left, Sister Rose Marie McDermott,
Sister Gerard Earls and Sister Marguerite Gaithe.



St. Michael became CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System, in February 1999, further cementing its dedication to Christian healing principles through a co-sponsored health care ministry.

CHRISTUS St. Michael hardly resembles the old Michael Meagher Hospital.

The 128-acre campus, made possible by additional land purchases in 2003 and 2005, offers a full range of health care services in one location.

The CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehabilitation Hospital provides rehabilitation services for patients who have suffered a stroke, brain or spinal cord injury, and those who require further treatment for orthopedic conditions. Additionally, the center offers rehabilitation for post-amputees, as well as patients with neurological, cardiac/pulmonary and reconditioning needs. Also included are the CHRISTUS St. Michael Outpatient Day Rehabilitation program, CHRISTUS St. Michael Outpatient Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center and CHRISTUS St. Michael Sleep Disorders Center.

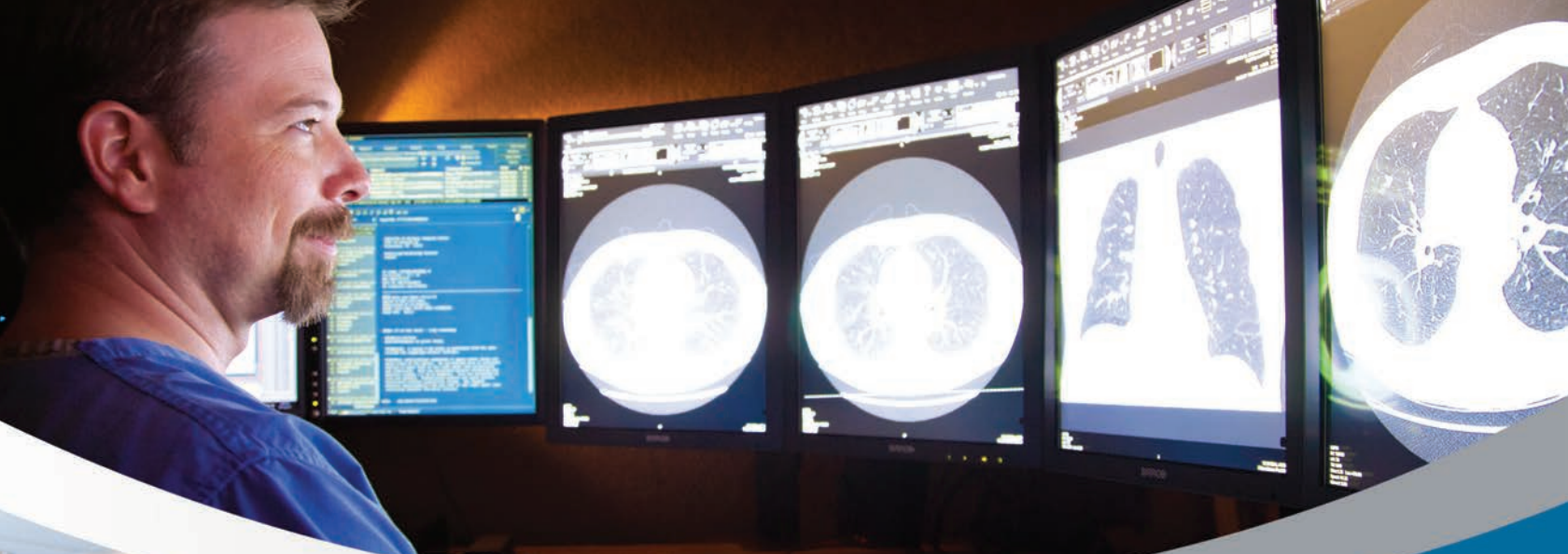


At CHRISTUS St. Michael Outpatient Rehabilitation Center, patients are afforded treatment for orthopedic, neurological and back rehabilitation. Sports/athletic medicine, hand rehabilitation, and injury prevention are available, as well as occupational therapy and medicine.

An integral part of the CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System is its Health and Fitness Center, which offers cardiovascular and circuit weight training, aerobic exercise, spinning classes, an outdoor lap pool and a computerized system to help track and evaluate each client's progress. Massage therapy, yoga, personal training and fitness evaluations are also provided.

CHRISTUS St. Michael's duo cardiac catheterization lab offers the latest technology to perform diagnostic studies and procedures for coronary artery disease, including angioplasty and coronary stents, and procedures for other cardiac illnesses.





The W. Temple Webber Cancer Center at CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System offers a comprehensive array of cancer services. Cancer screenings and diagnostic services are available for early detection of cancers highlighted by a formal breast and cervical cancer outreach program. A full range of therapeutic services are available including dedicated medical and radiation oncology clinics, chemotherapy and infusion therapy services and state-of-the-art radiation therapy, which includes IMRT, IGRT, low-dose and high-dose rate brachytherapy, and stereotactic radiosurgery/radiotherapy. Specialty staff and programs include an Oncology-Certified Social Worker, a Diagnostic Breast Cancer Patient Navigator, a Nurse Practitioner Managed Cancer Survivorship Program, a Nurse Triage/Symptom Management Call Center, and Cancer Registry Services. Patient and family support groups enhance the educational materials available in the Cancer Resource Center. The hospital is committed to the best treatment options for its cancer patients. The program has been approved by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer since 1989.

In July 2006, CHRISTUS St. Michael opened its new Imaging Center, designed to facilitate easier access, convenient parking and shorter wait times for outpatients needing X-Rays including bone density studies, MRIs, CT imaging, ultrasounds and breast imaging with mammography, ultrasound and MRI. The warm, comfortable surroundings of the Imaging Center offer a 64-slice VCT with coronary artery imaging capability and two high-field MRI Systems, one of which has a larger opening to help ease patient concerns about claustrophobia.

Cancer Survivor Shanon Hull with caregivers
at W. Temple Webber Cancer Center.



CHRISTUS St. Michael invested in bringing the first digital mammography service to this region, providing more accurate screenings for certain women, including those under age 50 and later was one of the first imaging centers in the nation to introduce 3D Tomosynthesis for even more advanced breast care diagnostics in 2014. CHRISTUS St. Michael offers the region's only ACR designated Breast Imaging Center of Excellence with the most recent achievement of receiving ACR accreditation in breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) through which both MR breast imaging and MR breast biopsies are provided.

On July 12, 2012, CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System unveiled its 5,200 square-foot Simulation Center to greatly enhance training and learning opportunities for medical professionals. Via the simulation center, physicians, nurses and other current and future health care professionals are able to hone their skills and refine advanced techniques and decision-making for patient care ranging from common procedures to mass casualty treatment.



Growth for the Sisters' ministry in the Ark-La-Tex region continued when Atlanta Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, TX, began providing health services as CHRISTUS St. Michael Hospital – Atlanta on Jan. 1, 2013. In addition to inpatient care, the hospital offers around-the-clock emergency care with radiology, laboratory and respiratory services. The facility is designated as a Support Level III Stroke Facility and Level IV Trauma Center. Also provided at the Atlanta facility are a wound care center, sleep disorders center, home health services, a full array of imaging services, an outpatient rehabilitation center, an infusion center and a health and fitness center.





CHRISTUS St. Michael's centerpiece, its 311-bed acute-care hospital, delivers the latest in medical technology and highly trained professional staff. The acute hospital offers 24-hour emergency care with board certified emergency medicine physicians and designation as a Level III Trauma Center and Primary Stroke Center of Excellence. CHRISTUS St. Michael's diagnostic and surgical services can accommodate patients from the beginning of life through the end of life.

With heart disease expected to increase by as much as 36% over the next 10 years, the addition of the **region's first Electrophysiology (EP) Lab** to complement and expand cardiovascular services at CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System was accomplished in 2015. CHRISTUS St. Michael realized the need for continuing to provide innovative heart care right here for patients with arrhythmias or irregular heartbeats.



CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System continued the quest to provide best practices and innovation in patient care with the construction of the Texarkana area's first **Hybrid Operating Suite (hybrid OR)**, completed in 2016. The gold standard of treatment capabilities, a hybrid operating suite is equipped with advanced medical devices such as fluoroscopy and CT-like imaging, which enable surgeons to perform more minimally-invasive surgery.

The most recent demonstration of CHRISTUS Health's commitment to the Ark-La-Tex region was the May 2016 announcement made jointly by CHRISTUS Health and Trinity Mother Frances Hospitals and Clinics headquartered in Tyler, TX. The two prestigious health systems announced the finalization of an agreement that brought together the two to create CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health System in May 2016. The joining of the two systems will increase the capacity and ability to meet the ever-growing health care needs of East Texans through increased resources and innovative services.

In addition, the Catholic order of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the sponsoring congregation for Trinity Mother Frances has become a third sponsoring congregation of CHRISTUS Health along with the two founding sponsoring congregations, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word - Houston and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word - San Antonio.

Expansion over the decades of CHRISTUS St. Michael's history has been necessary to meet the demands for advanced, accessible health care in the Texarkana region. Yet this expansive development has not overshadowed or diminished the Catholic mission nor the core values of dignity, integrity, excellence, compassion and stewardship. Rather, the Sisters of Charity, CHRISTUS St. Michael's visionary leaders, and health care professionals have worked tirelessly over the past 100 years to design a comprehensive health care system that perpetuates the hospital's mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to all.

It is this commitment, dedication and adherence to Michael Meagher's and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word's honorable and charitable legacies that have driven the Associates, physicians, Sisters and volunteers of CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System toward excellence and compassion for 100 years.



1916
2016

100

YEARS OF HEALING

1916-2016

1910s

Executors of the Michael Meagher Estate request the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word to operate a proposed hospital for the indigent sick – 1914

The Sisters of Charity sign a 25-year lease to operate the hospital – Nov. 26, 1915



The former Dale Sanitarium is purchased by Board of Trustees, and renovations begin – 1915

50-bed Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital opens Sept. 14, 1916

1920s

1930s

1940s

1950s

Hospital Building Fund Drive raises \$200,000 for new building.

Equivalent to \$2.7 Million in 2016.



New 127-bed facility is completed and renamed St. Michael Hospital – 1948

Completion of new convent in the renovated Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital – 1955

CHRISTUS ST. MICHAEL
TIMELINE

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

2010s

Expansions and renovations to St. Michael Hospital are made in 1975, 1978

Expansions and renovations to St. Michael Hospital are completed in 1985

Exploration of replacement medical campus begins – 1991

St. Michael Health and Fitness Center and Outpatient Rehab Center opens – 1993

St. Michael Rehabilitation Hospital opens – 1994

Additional land purchases – 2003 & 2005



CHRISTUS St. Michael Imaging Center opens – 2006

Dedication of Sisters' Park – 2006

Atlanta Memorial Hospital begins providing health services as CHRISTUS St. Michael Hospital-Atlanta – 2013

Hospital celebrates 50 years of service to Texarkana Community – 1966



St. Michael Health Care Center opens – 1994

St. Michael Cancer Center relocates from downtown – 1995

1999 – new co-sponsored health care ministry and hospital becomes



CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances announcement – 2016





**The Most Reverend Joseph Strickland,
Bishop of Tyler**



**Texarkana Mayors Bob Bruggeman, TX
and Ruth Penney Bell, AR**

CHRISTUS St. Michael welcomed a century of extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016, with a Celebration of Holy Mass with the Most Reverend Joseph Strickland, Bishop of Tyler, Texas as Celebrant.

1916
2016
100

YEARS OF HEALING



The Most Reverend Anthony B. Taylor,
Bishop of Little Rock



The Chris Karam Family



Our
STORIES *of*
HEALING



WILLIAM C. TOMPKINS, M.D. COMMANDERS IN CHIEF

On Jan. 23, 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the Paris Peace Accords had been reached to end the Vietnam War. Despite the breaking news, William C. Tompkins, M.D. fully expected to head to Vietnam in July 1974 for a tour of duty as a Naval Reservist after completing his Fellowship in vascular surgery in Los Angeles, CA.

Instead, with the U.S. finally pulling out of Vietnam, he relocated to Texarkana, joining soon-to-be colleague surgeons such as Dr. Bob Bransford and Dr. Walter Barnes in practice at Southern Clinic Association. Dr. Tompkins recalls Texarkana did not yet offer CT scans, open-heart surgery, MRIs or specialized gastrointestinal or endoscopy services in 1974 – all technology yet to come.

One of the most unusual surgical cases performed by Dr. Tompkins at St. Michael involved an escaped convict. “This guy got on the roof of the convent, where the nuns lived. In trying to flee the police, he jumped off the roof and landed on the fence, which impaled his buttocks. I had to do extensive repair work.”

Dr. Tompkins admits he was a little “surprised” that he readily passed a Secret Service background check in 1980. Following the approval, he spent most of the day on Oct. 22 in the Emergency Department of St. Michael sitting next to a red (emergency) phone. President Jimmy Carter made a campaign stop in Texarkana, and Dr. Tompkins was on call to perform surgery should anything happen. Just days later, then Presidential Candidate Ronald Reagan landed at Texarkana Airport, and the surgeon had red-phone duty again.

However, some of Dr. Tompkins’ strongest memories at the hospitals were about the Sisters, one in particular. The nuns were “certainly in charge” of the hospital when he arrived, none more than Sister Carmelita Brett, who served as Administrator from August 1973 to August 1983.

“I loved Sister Carmelita like my own mother,” Dr. Tompkins said. “She was tough, and we didn’t always agree, but we had a very special relationship.” The unique bond between administrator and physician led to many interesting scenarios and a few “battles” that remain vivid in his memory.

“Sister Carmelita called me one day to go with her to talk with an anesthesiologist who was considering retirement. She wanted me to help her convince him to practice a little longer,” he explained. “I picked her up in my El Camino. You know, she was over six feet tall and was basically folded up in my car. I was driving pretty fast on Hickory Street and hit a bump, which caused her to hit her head on the roof of the car – amazing she wasn’t knocked out.”

An ongoing point of contention between Dr. Tompkins and Sister Carmelita involved a door. This particular door was the quickest access into St. Michael Hospital from Southern Clinic for Dr. Tompkins, and he expected the door to always be unlocked for his convenience. “One early morning, I headed over from the clinic to St. Michael for a surgery,” he said. “It was snowing, and the door was locked. I had to go around to another door. I called Sister Carmelita to complain. She said the door needed to be locked most of the time because someone was entering the hospital and stealing X-rays in order to sell the silver found on them. I pitched such a fit with her. The next morning when I arrived, there was a temporary sign on the door. It read ‘The

William C. Tompkins Memorial Door must be open by 6 a.m. daily.’ The sign later became permanent, and I still have it in my belongings. It was given to me when the hospital relocated to the current campus.”

Although he no longer performs surgery, Dr. Tompkins is honored to have been among the physicians who helped develop surgical services at St. Michael for a grateful community.



Sister Carmelita Brett

PAT THOMAS AN ACCOUNT OF CARE

The first time Pat Thomas remembers being a patient at St. Michael Hospital, he was a high school student at Providence Academy (later known as St. Edward's Catholic School). A particularly robust tackle during football practice resulted in a broken arm for Pat.

Thomas's classmate and friend, Margaret Reynolds, drove him to the doctor's office and then to Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital, staying by his side for the entire encounter. His arm was casted, knocking him out of the football season for several weeks. His friend's propensity to serve others, exhibited by her assistance to Thomas, would fully evolve years later when Margaret became Sister Brigid Marie Reynolds, joining the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. Their paths crossed again many times over the years as both filled various roles at St. Michael Hospital and CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System.

As a 1947 accounting student at Texarkana College, Thomas began preparing payroll reports, and his sister, Elizabeth Wright, typed reports for the hospital. "I was paid \$10 a month to complete the monthly reports until I enrolled at Loyola University in New Orleans, LA, to complete my accounting degree," Thomas said. "I remember working with Mrs. Gertrude Whelan, who was payroll supervisor for many years."

Thomas reconnected with the Sisters of Charity and St. Michael Hospital upon his return to Texarkana after graduation. He joined a CPA firm that managed the hospital accounting process until Pat and his brother, Ed, opened their own CPA firm, Thomas and Thomas in 1953.

In the early 1950s, the accounting process for the hospital was rather simple compared to today's standard. Simple or not, accounting was challenging if one lacked the expertise or training in the field. "The Sisters have always had a vow of obedience. I can't remember her name, but one of the Sisters was assigned to fill the accounting role. She did not know much if anything about accounting and how it should work," Thomas explained.

"The Sister had to learn on the job," Thomas said. "Every month she would give me a large journal wrapped in brown paper. My job was to balance the journal and make needed corrections. That one journal was the whole bookkeeping system. Entries were made only when patients paid – no other entries were made. Eventually, the Congregation (Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word) formalized the accounting processes, and our firm was charged with modernizing their systems."

Later, Thomas supported the health care ministry as a member of the Board of Directors for St. Michael Hospital. "I served for nine years and got 'kicked off' for term limits. Thomas recalls both exciting and challenging decisions that had to be made while he was on the board. "I was serving when the hospital expanded in the 1970s and was emcee for the ceremonies to dedicate the new part of the hospital," he said. "I was also on the board when we had to decide to close the labor and delivery and nursery services and was glad to see those services added back when the hospital was relocated to the current campus."

Before him, Thomas' father, Frank, was very supportive of the hospital ministry and the nuns, who served in Texarkana. In fact, Frank took the time to pen a poem seen on the following page on the day after Christmas in 1932 to honor Sister Malachi. The legacy continued with Thomas' daughter, Mary Matthews, who like her father, served on the hospital board, both as chairpersons.

"The health care arena is so different now, and the reach of our health care ministry goes so much further," Thomas said.

"At first, it was just the nuns, and they prayed about every decision. Today, of course, there are still prayers surrounding decisions, but the ministry involves many lay people who are needed to carry on the traditions established by the Sisters."

*Effects of a visit with Sister Malachi
The day after Christmas 1932*

*In an office under ground
A beautiful lady I found
She welcomes you when you enter there
And insists that you take the easy chair
She has that innocent guile
And that lovable smile
That so often come from the Emerald Isle
She privileged me to sit at her knee
And enjoy I think twas a glass of tea
I did not have time to sip or taste
For fear I would miss or waste
A single bit of her sparkling wit
While there you sit happy moments flit
And you wonder is wit wisdom, or is wisdom wit
And then your idea takes sudden growth
It must be fun to be a nun
To have chosen the better part
Her perfect love for God above
Wells up from her kindly heart
She sees our faults with greatest clarity
But covers all with bounteous charity
Help of the weak
Comforter of the afflicted
To doing good she is addicted
But what a loss to the "Dear Old Sod"
When she came to us
Our Messenger of God.*



Pat Thomas

*To Sister Malachi,
with love and best wishes
for a Happy New Year.
Sincerely,
Frank A. Thomas*

JOYCE'S CHOICE

Dr. F.E. Joyce professes he was “raised” by the Sisters at St. Vincent’s Infirmary in Little Rock, AR, where his mother served as Surgery Supervisor when he was a boy. His mother’s demanding role often meant he spent time at the hospital under the watchful and caring eyes of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, the hospital’s founding congregation.

As a young physician exploring opportunities to establish his pathology practice, Dr. Joyce was recruited to Texarkana by Sister Carmelita Brett, Administrator of St. Michael Hospital. He concedes he just couldn’t say no to Sister Carmelita. “She told me I was coming to Texarkana,” Dr. Joyce explained. “She informed me in no uncertain terms that I was expected to relocate here.”

Admittedly, the decision was not too much of a struggle for him. “I really liked the fact St. Michael was a Catholic, faith-based ministry and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word were responsible for the hospital operations,” Dr. Joyce said. “Some of the first people I met were Dr. Mitchell Young, Dr. Herb Wren, Dr. A.E. Andrews and Dr. J.B. Rochelle. I also had the privilege of working with Dr. Walter Barnes, Dr. Bob Bransford, Dr. John Walter Jones, Dr. Henry Carney, Dr. Wren, Dr. A.D. Smith and Dr. E.T. Ellison. They were such fine doctors, who impressed me from the beginning and gave me more reason to want to establish a practice in Texarkana.”

“Sister Aloysius Mannion was the head technologist for the St. Michael Lab and provided oversight of lab services when I joined Dr. Robert Chappell’s practice and the hospital Medical Staff in January of

1976,” Dr. Joyce said. “She worked day and night to keep the lab running efficiently and would always work holidays to let married technologists and those with families off on holidays.”

Sister Carmelita fully expected her newly recruited physician to serve as a catalyst for advancing the technology and services offered through the laboratory at St. Michael, and she wasn’t disappointed. The addition of new analyzers and other equipment such as a cell counter for performing complete blood counts (CBCs) and a cryostat for studying frozen sections were achieved. Other accomplishments included the reshaping of the chemistry section, the development of chemical microbiology, the establishment of a modern blood bank and the computerization of the lab – all resulting in the delivery of state-of-the-art services in the 1970s and 80s.

“I couldn’t have worked with better people to face the challenges of the times,” Dr. Joyce said. “In addition to Sister Aloysius, there was Ova Eaton, Shirley Griffie, Marge Wilhelm, Addean Robinson, and Rogena Sheets just to name a few. There was always a sense of community among the lab staff as well as the rest of the hospital.”

Dr. Joyce found working with the nuns equally rewarding throughout his career. Memories of the “hospital Sisters” spread an expression of joy over his face as he recalls Sister Kostka Kelly, Sister Avitus Ryle, Sister Herman Joseph Carroll, Sister Marcella Maher and Sister Roberta Delougherty.

“Sister Kostka was treasurer when I first came to St. Michael,” he said. “She wrote down the finances

with a yellow pencil and then usually took the money to the bank herself for deposit. Then there was Sister Herman Joseph. She loved to fish at every opportunity, especially at Dr. Wren’s lake. She also used to provide golden-colored blankets for ‘special’ patients. I seem to remember a lot of patients with gold blankets,” he laughed.

Throughout the years, Dr. Joyce’s connection to the health care ministry at St. Michael and CHRISTUS St. Michael flourished through his contributions such as serving as Chief of Staff, as a member of the Medical Staff Executive Committee and on the hospital governing board. In addition, he helped develop the CHRISTUS St. Michael Foundation.

“There’s no doubt the determination to build the current campus was the right decision,” Dr. Joyce said. “It took people with vision to realize what needed to happen, and I was glad to be involved with them. I remember when Truman Arnold, Tom Byrne and I went to Houston, TX, to lobby to Sister Carmella O’Donoghue, then President of the Sisters of Charity Health System, for this hospital to be built. Truman was chairman of the board, and Tom was Administrator.”

“I said to Sister Carmella, ‘We have to have this hospital,’” Dr. Joyce explained. “She said ‘Dr. Joyce, one of the things we need to consider is whether our mission is complete in Texarkana.’ My heart nearly stopped, but thankfully, it was decided the mission wasn’t yet complete.”

As far as Dr. Joyce is concerned, the mission is alive and well today as it will be in the future.



“I am so proud
to have watched
St. Michael grow

and continually adapt to meet
the health care needs
of our **Community**,

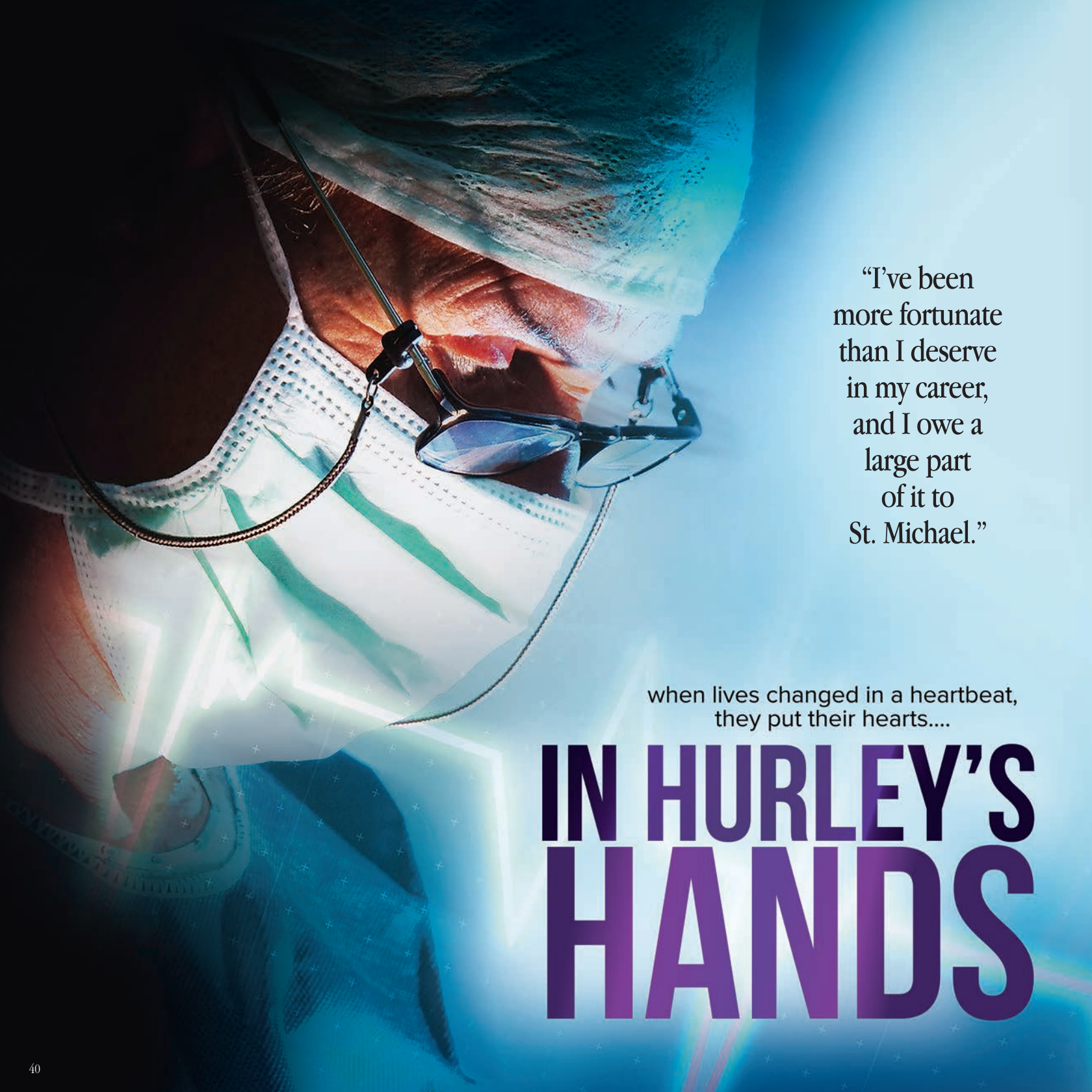
I have never had a time that I regretted
coming to Texarkana and St. Michael.”

DR. F. E. JOYCE

Chris Karam presenting a Touchstone Award to Dr. F. E. Joyce



Tom Byrne



“I’ve been more fortunate than I deserve in my career, and I owe a large part of it to St. Michael.”

when lives changed in a heartbeat,
they put their hearts....

IN HURLEY'S HANDS

A Stamps, AR, native, Dr. James Hurley began practicing internal medicine in Texarkana in 1980 in association with Southern Clinic. But he felt his calling was cardiology and pursued his cardiology fellowship from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, then returned to Texarkana and Southern Clinic in 1983.

“Initially, I thought I was the smartest guy, but in reality, I didn’t know much about taking care of truly sick patients,” Dr. Hurley said. “I learned there’s no teacher like experience.”

Dr. Hurley later launched Texarkana Cardiology Associates (TCA) in 1988 with Dr. Allen Lee. With Dr. Lee retiring due to medical reasons in the early 1990s, Dr. Hurley remained in solo practice for a few years before recruiting other cardiologists to help meet the growing heart care needs of area residents. The first cardiologist recruited to TCA was Dr. Gary Petersen followed by Dr. Minakshi Patel, Dr. Brent Robinson, Dr. Charles Melton, Dr. Joseph Saporito and Dr. Kiran Kurichety. As a group, the cardiologists recruited the region’s first electrophysiologist, Dr. Kevin Hayes.

Dr. Hurley along with his TCA partners have certainly witnessed and been a part of many milestones at St. Michael Hospital and now CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System over the years.

“I remember performing my very first heart cath (cardiac catheterization) in Texarkana

at St. Michael,” said Dr. Hurley. “At some point, we realized I had done 29,000 invasive procedures including caths, angioplasties, stents and pacemakers to name a few in Texarkana, and then everyone quit counting so I am not sure what the number is now. I’ve absorbed enough radiation to glow in the dark,” he laughed.

Another cardiac milestone at St. Michael was the placement of the first stent in the artery of a heart patient in Texarkana during a procedure called percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). The procedure to place the stent or small mesh tube used to treat narrow or weak arteries was performed by Dr. Hurley.

Beyond accomplishing many firsts in cardiac care at St. Michael, Dr. Hurley appreciated the opportunity to observe the health system’s founding congregation, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, in action. “I have just loved the Sisters,” he shared. “I loved working with them and watching how they carry out their ministry every day in the hospital environment.”

“I came to Texarkana in 1980, and though I am not Catholic, I immediately recognized the impact of the Sisters at St. Michael,” Dr. Hurley said. “I’ve watched them comfort so many patients and families over the years. It’s easy to see the aura of goodness around these people. St. Michael, the Sisters, and particularly CEO Chris Karam, have been so supportive of TCA and the heart program in

general so it’s not been hard for our group to succeed.”

Dr. Hurley has also viewed CHRISTUS St. Michael from a different perspective as a board member. “Serving on the board has shown me just how much the hospital helps the community, and in particular, the charities in which they are involved,” he explained.

“One of my fondest memories as a physician in Texarkana is when I took care of one of our anesthesiologist’s dad,” said Dr. Hurley. “He was very ill - bad COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), terrible angina - very complex. I remember I didn’t sleep the night before his heart cath was scheduled because I was worrying about how to fix his artery. I went into CCU (Critical Care Unit) the next morning to see him. He was very ill but was sitting up in a chair, waiting to go to Cath Lab. As usual, he said to me, ‘this is the greatest day of my life.’ I reminded him that he said that every day. He smiled and said, ‘Yesterday was the greatest day of my life until today.’”

Dr. Hurley admits the lesson his patient taught him many years ago remains with him to this day.

As he cuts back in his active cardiology practice, Dr. Hurley is spending more time on his tractor, working his farm with a robust “To Do” list. “I really will miss my patients,” he said. “I will not miss being on call. Thirty-five years are enough – time to turn the page.”

A CHRISTUS CHRISTMAS

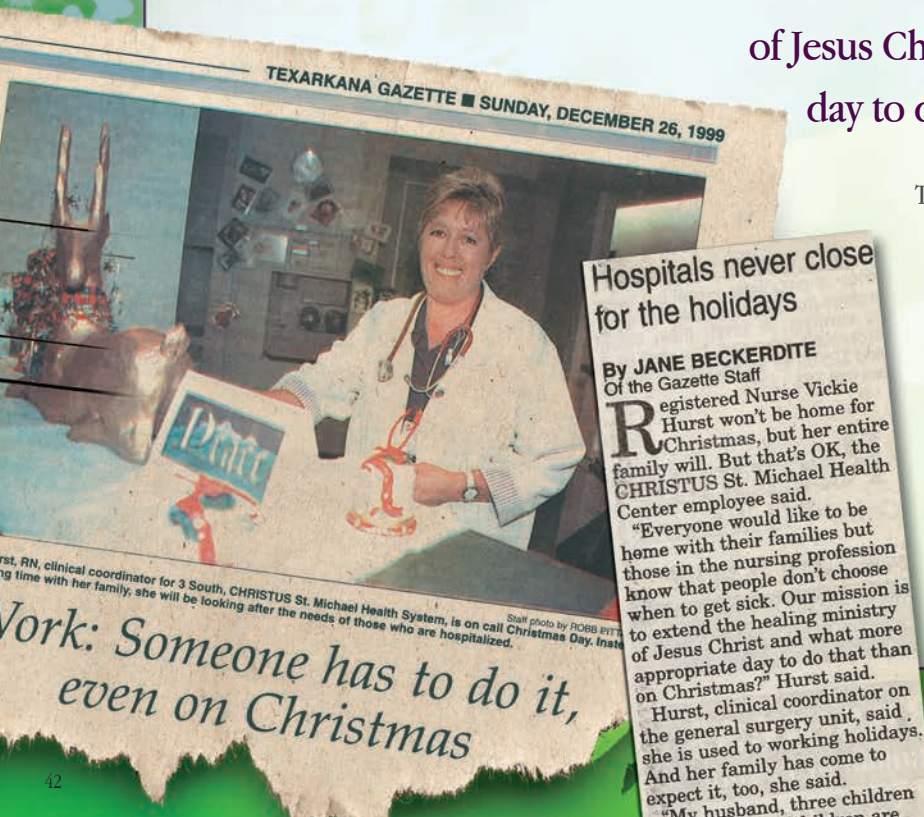
It was Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 1999, when I was interviewed by the *Texarkana Gazette*. The title of the article was “Work: Someone has to do it, even on Christmas.” I was the Clinical Coordinator on 3 South at CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System, the general surgery floor at that time. Instead of spending time with my family, I was caring for hospitalized patients. “Hospitals never close for the holidays,” the article stated.

“Registered nurse Vickie Hurst won’t be home for Christmas, but her entire family will. ‘But that’s OK,’ the CHRISTUS St. Michael Health Center employee said. ‘Everyone would like to be home with their families, but those in the nursing profession know that people don’t choose when to get sick.’”

“Our mission is to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ and what more appropriate day to do that than on Christmas Day?”

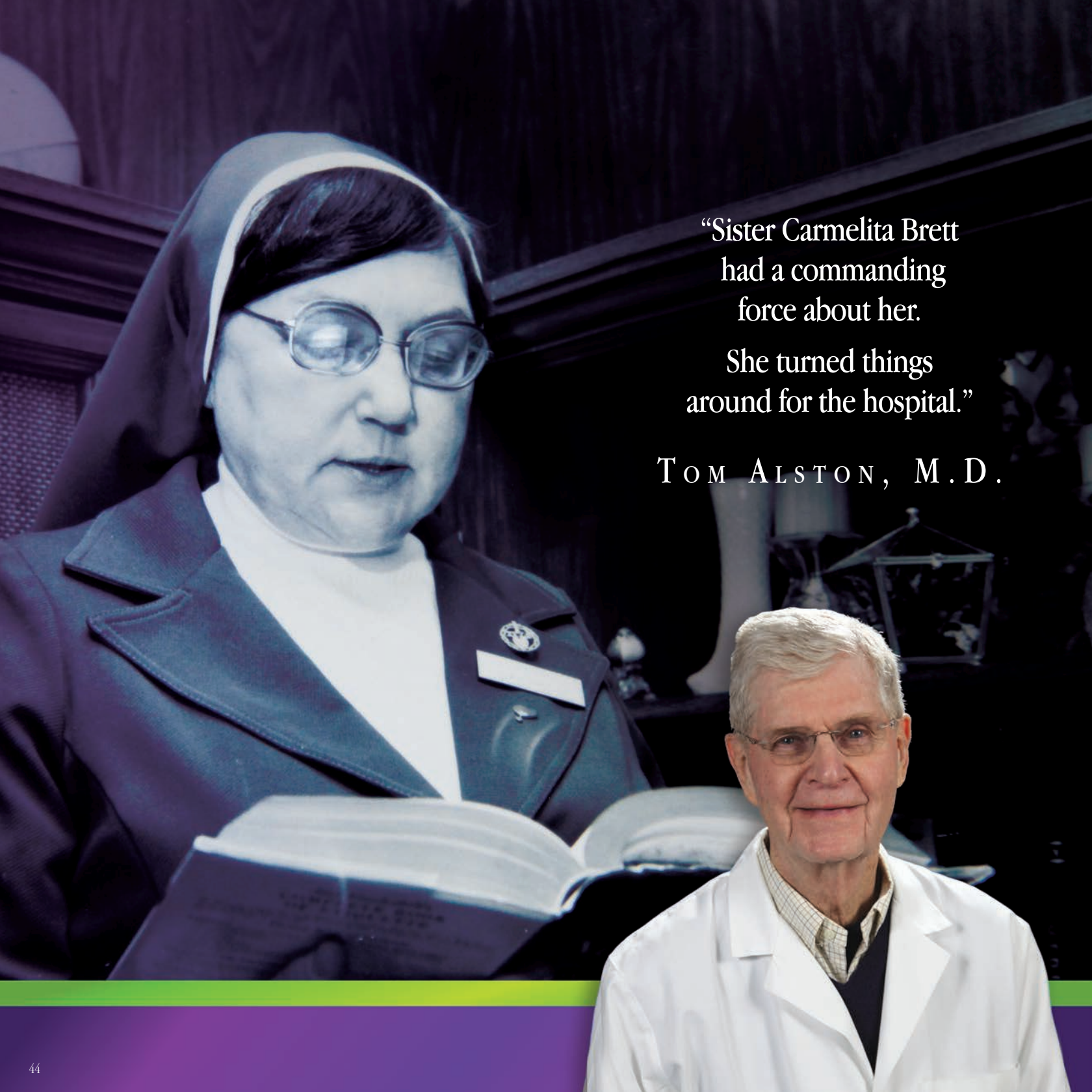
The article continued, “Hurst, clinical coordinator on the general surgery unit said she is used to working holidays. Her family has come to expect it, too. ‘My husband, three children and three grandchildren are very understanding.

My house is going to be full with all the relatives coming in, but at least one advantage to working on Christmas Day is that when I come home from work, dinner will be all ready,’ she said, laughing.”





St. Michael Hospital
Christmas 1954



“Sister Carmelita Brett
had a commanding
force about her.

She turned things
around for the hospital.”

TOM ALSTON, M.D.

A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

When Tom Alston, M.D., moved to Texarkana, the future of St. Michael Hospital had looked very grim for quite some time. Dr. Alston, like many, hated to see the end of St. Michael and its ministry in the Texarkana community.

According to Dr. Alston, St. Michael remained in financial distress throughout the 1960s. In accordance with the mission, the majority of the burden came from the hospital offering free services to the underserved, especially in obstetrics. The hospital wasn't going to turn anyone away, but without the appropriate funding, the obstetrics unit had to be closed in 1967. The following seven years would remain insecure for the hospital. It is said the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word questioned if there was still a mission in Texarkana.

Fortunately, one Sister of Charity swept in with a new mindset – it was St. Michael who needed its community as much as its community needed St. Michael.

In 1973, a force to be reckoned with arrived to the Texarkana community as the new administrator of St. Michael Hospital. “Sister Carmelita Brett had a commanding force about her,” Dr. Alston said. “She turned things around for the hospital.”

Sr. Carmelita opened the board to the public, allowing for community leaders to step in and influence the decisions of the hospital. “The decision to make the board public won over the community and medical staff,” Dr. Alston said. She engaged key players in Texarkana, who brought with them talents, skills and monetary support.” Among the first to join the board was Dr. Alston's good friend J.B. Rochelle, M.D., along with other prominent businessmen.

St. Michael transitioned from questioning its future existence to successfully completing seven expansions and renovations the following 10 years under Sr. Carmelita's reign. “She emphasized the importance of physician recruitment,” Dr. Alston said. “She helped recruit well-trained physicians including A.E. Andrews, radiologist and F.E. Joyce, pathologist. In 1979, she recruited an emergency physician. Previously, the Emergency Room was staffed by community physicians, who all took call for various specialties.”

“Sr. Carmelita would build strong relationships with everyone she met,” Dr. Alston shared. “She had a great friendship with Earl Pierce, owner of Pierce Construction Company. That friendship resulted in his commitment to all seven expansions.”

Dr. Alston joined the hospital board and remained on the board for 11 years, serving as chair for three of them. In 1993, a year before the hospital relocated to its current location, Dr. Alston was named Medical Director.

“December 4, 1994, 20 years after Sister Carmelita's arrival, we moved to the new campus,” Dr. Alston said. “That was a big day!”

In 1983, Tom Byrne, succeeded Sister Carmelita as the first layperson to be named administrator throughout the Sisters of Charity System. Mr. Byrne picked up where Sister Carmelita left off by continuing to gain support from the community throughout the 1980s. Mr. Byrne with the help of Susanne Patton, Director of Marketing at the time, helped establish the St. Michael Foundation in 1984. “The foundation even further enhanced the St. Michael presence in the community

and continues to be an important and positive influence for St. Michael and the entire Texarkana region,” said Dr. Alston. “In the late 1980s, Mr. Byrne led the creation of a Texas-side, St. Michael board which consisted of strong business leaders such as Truman Arnold. The new Texas-side Board was instrumental in acquiring the land for the new campus.”

In 1988, Stephen Wright came on board as COO and together with Mr. Byrne, provided oversight of the construction process and transition. They traveled to facilities around the country for insight and ideas. After extensive research and collaboration, the team selected an architectural firm from Houston, Texas, which specialized in hospital buildings.

“The new building was constructed on a triangular frame and designed to prevent patients from being transported in public areas,” Dr. Alston explained. “It has a beauty that is unrivaled. It was designed to be durable and classic, which is why it still looks new more than 20 years later.”


“Look back at how far we have come. We used to be a second thought in our community for health care needs, we almost closed the doors. Now, we have approximately 250 physicians on our medical staff, we hold the market share and have been #1 in the CHRISTUS System for 20 years. It is rewarding to see the great success, and I am blessed to have been a part of it.”

REFLECTIONS *of* CARE

“People often mention how beautiful our hospital is. What is beautiful is how CHRISTUS St. Michael has been and continues to be more than a hospital; it is a place of healing.”

MIKE FINLEY
CHRISTUS ST MICHAEL
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER





An Ashdown, AR, High School graduate, Mike Finley, M.D. returned to the Texarkana area following medical school to establish a Family Medicine Practice in Hope AR. In 1990, Dr. Finley joined the St. Michael Medical Staff as an Emergency Room physician, later becoming the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) for CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System in 2003. As CMO, Dr. Finley reflects on the progress St. Michael has made as well as the consistent commitment to the mission over the past 100 years.

“Even now as we approach 100 years, to still be so true to our mission is such a special thing,” Dr. Finley said. “We are here for the same purpose as when we started -- to serve the health care needs in our community, regardless their ability to pay.”

A business leader in Texarkana once shared a personal story with Dr. Finley. When he was a child, the leader’s mother developed cancer. His father worked, but the family still struggled financially. The young boy spent much of his time with his mother at the hospital. He would sit with her after school, and the Sisters would take care of him. This man later became a board chair of the hospital. “Stories like his are what make me the most proud,” Dr. Finley shared. “Our commitment to ensuring everyone in our community receives the care they need both in the hospital and at home.”

Throughout several of his years as an ER physician, Dr. Finley would still see patients in his family practice in Hope. One of his patients presented to the Labor and Delivery unit at CHRISTUS St. Michael during one of his ER shifts. Vernon Shaffer, M.D., obstetrics/gynecology, was on call and was gracious enough to ask Dr. Finley if he would and could deliver his patient’s baby. “This meant a lot to me because this would be one of the last patients I would help deliver,” Dr. Finley said. Dr. Finley has built lasting relationships with physicians such as Herbert Wren, M.D., Mitchell Young, M.D., and Lowell Vereen, M.D. among others. “So many physicians believed and still believe in the hospital and our mission because that is how they care for their patients as well,” Dr. Finley said. “The physician camaraderie and commitment to our patients has had a very positive influence on our progress throughout the years.”

The majority of Dr. Finley’s memories were with Sister Damian. “Compassion flowed from her through her smile, her touch, her presence - - in everything she did,” Dr. Finley shared. “She was so dominant in her faith and in her beliefs. We knew there would be a time where she would no longer be here physically. We miss her, but her presence is still here.”

The architectural plans were displayed in the old hospital for quite a while. “Many thought the new building was just a dream, that it never would get built,” Dr. Finley said. “Then, all of a sudden, we broke ground and a few years later it was ready to open. The campus was so beautiful; within the first week a family came in to the front desk thinking it was a hotel wanting to check-in. The campus is just as beautiful to this day. We have provided a sanctuary for healing to this community.”

DR. DENZER BURKE A SHARED MISSION

Dr. Denzer Burke, D.D.S., is currently a board member at CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehabilitation Hospital. Prior to that, he served three 3-year terms on the CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System Board. His work and interaction with others during that time has left an indelible mark on him. "In the past, I have been asked to serve on several Boards of Directors wherein one is expected to go along with certain programs without questions being raised. At CHRISTUS St. Michael, input is welcomed. The mission of CHRISTUS Health System is 'To extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.' As a Presbyterian, I feel like each individual has an obligation to live in the world as a representative of Christ - His arms, His legs, and His ears. Therefore, the mission statement was a good fit for me," he said.

Dr. Burke takes his responsibility seriously, and as he speaks about his years as a board member at CHRISTUS St. Michael, one can tell his passion for this community continues to flourish. "Texarkana has been very good to me," he explained. "I came here after my time in the United States Navy. I had no relatives here, no family or framework for support, but this community accepted me and I made a living. That being true, I felt I needed to give back to the community." When he was approached by representatives of the board (at that time Truman Arnold and Dr. Gene Joyce) to consider serving, Burke thought it was a good way to give back to the community.

Prior to his service with CHRISTUS St. Michael, Dr. Burke served on the Texarkana, Texas City Council and was also chairperson of the Texas Advisory Committee on Civil Rights.

Dr. Burke explains that diverse aspects of the community are represented on the CHRISTUS St. Michael Board. The board and administration work closely together to address the needs of the patients as well as the physicians and the Associates. "I have an interest in making sure that the poor, the underserved, or those not served have access to quality medical care, and I believe my voice is heard," he said.

A turning point or highlight of his years of service on the Board is when he was part of the first task force put together by Dr. Thomas Royer, who was serving as president and CEO of CHRISTUS Health at the time. "We were part of a team," Dr. Burke said. "We read, we were educated on various facets of society in America, we learned about economic and medical trends. We looked for answers to ethical issues. Strategic planning is one thing, but scenario planning is a whole new approach to me."

Dr. Burke believes the time he spent as a member of the task force still helps form his ideas today. "We had people from advertising, engineering, medical researchers, physicians and various hospital administrators—really, an unusual assortment of people who came together to get various ideas for what the future might hold for an organization such as ours," he said.

"We read 20 or so various books to prepare ourselves for the conferences, and we met to discuss situations and to make recommendations to the CHRISTUS Health System," Dr. Burke explained. He said many decisions were made during the group's time together and the experience definitely shaped how he still views healing.

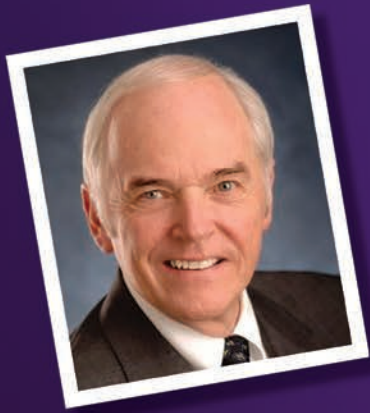
Medicine and patient care continue to evolve at CHRISTUS. "With the advent of telemedicine, here we are, looking ahead to what is still evolving, one could potentially have services from anyone in the whole world," he said. "That is eye opening. The whole approach with the task force opened my eyes to understand what it takes for individuals to be healthy as part of a healthy community. It expanded my vision."

Dr. Burke names Chris Karam as someone who is always looking ahead for the benefit of the hospital. "His door is always open, and he knows us personally," he said. "I'm amazed he is able to keep up with many, many issues that impact quality health care. He has assembled a good team and looks to the future. Chris has been a vital part of our growth and encourages participation and discussion. It is a matter of sharing to make the whole system effective."

"It makes me feel good with my religious thrust in life when I evaluate my work with CHRISTUS St. Michael," Dr. Burke said. "I think that I am making a contribution, and that is important to me. Respect for the human being is the main thing here. That really impresses me. We have a sense of family at CHRISTUS St. Michael."



Dr. Burke with wife, Ann, and daughter, Dannel.



Don
Beeler

Dr. Burke credits Don Beeler, CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System CEO from September 1995 to February 2003, for his interest and involvement with the hospital. “He gave me a background book which told the story of the early work of the Sisters of Charity in Galveston, TX, and how they took care of the sick and infirm. Despite a devastating hurricane, they were able to survive and eventually the Order was able to set up a facility here in Texarkana.”



The original three Sisters are honored at our signature Cowhorn Creek entrance highlighted with a bronze sculpture. The Sisters traveled from Lyons, France, to the yellow-fever infested town of Galveston, TX, and founded our health care ministry.



SISTER DAMIAN SAID
“WELL, LET’S ALL PRAY”

BELL SHARED THAT
IT WAS ONE OF
THE MOST DIVINE
MOMENTS OF HIS LIFE

RINGING OUR OWN BELL

“The leadership at CHRISTUS. The mission. We have a remarkable group of people here—special people,” said Borden Bell. Bell has a unique history with the system because he served two 9-year tenures on its board. His first was in the 80s, when the hospital was on the Arkansas side. When the decision was made to build a new hospital, it was also decided to relocate. It was a difficult and strenuous decision, and Bell remembers many interesting meetings but in retrospect, he says it was the right thing to do.

As he speaks about his tenure and history with the CHRISTUS system, Bell shares his pride in seeing so much good come to fruition. “To see this organization flourish with over 2,000 employees and \$100 million in payroll, to know all the lives that have been touched and will continue to be touched... is a great realization.”



Bell rotated off of the board as the move from the Arkansas side was made, but his time was extended for another 18 months because of the remaining business and transitions that were in progress. Several years passed, and he was asked to come back and serve again so he served his second 9-year tenure on the board - this time at the new facility in Texas.

“Now I am on the Committee for CHRISTUS Health Governance and Appointments,” Bell said. “It is interesting work – I have gotten more out of it than I have given. It is a special mission. We have a special group of people. We have all been blessed to be part of it.”

Bell added, “When you are chairman of the board, you meet many people and hear their stories. It is a natural process. But, sometimes someone will stop and tell you a story that will shake you to your toes.” Bell was in a grocery store several years ago, and a man stopped him and introduced himself. He told a story that unfolded at CHRISTUS St. Michael. It turns out that one of the man’s friends had a son who was in an accident. The child was in a life-threatening situation and had been taken to the ER at CHRISTUS St. Michael. As happens in emergencies, family and friends were called and started gathering at the hospital. Many of the people gathering were young children, and the man told Bell that he realized with several of his friends this was not going to be a good time for so many youngsters to be around. In realizing their mistake, they were discussing how they were going to address the situation when an elevator opened and there stood Sister Damian Murphy.

The children all ran to her immediately, pulling on her skirt and touching her, and she began

hugging them all. Sister Damian said, “Well, let’s all pray.” “He said that it was one of the most divine moments of his life,” Bell explained. “She solved the problem. I’ll never forget it as long as I live, and stories like this... I could tell you thousands,” Bell continued. He gives a lot of credit to the Sisters and indicates that their presence as well as their expertise across many areas from nursing to accounting to supervising has contributed to the overall success of CHRISTUS St. Michael. “The Sisters bring a unique perspective and we all benefit.”

A second story that Bell relates is one when Congressman Ralph Hall helped resolve a problem. A local graduate had been involved in a tragic and fatal accident, and the patient’s grandparents were here, but they had come over on a visa from Europe. The visa was going to expire while they were here, and they were at a loss as to how to proceed in a situation that they were not expecting. Bell contacted Congressman Ralph Hall and explained, “He made two calls. The Federal Immigration Visa Office in Dallas opened up on a Sunday morning, representatives met the couple on the steps and brought them inside and within two hours, the problem was resolved. Ralph Hall could move mountains,” Bell said. Although Bell never met this couple that he intervened for, he is glad that he was able to help them during that time.

The essence of the stories that Borden Bell shared is one of caring that goes beyond the physical needs of the patient. Compassion for the families and their needs is a huge part that matters as the mission of CHRISTUS St. Michael is fulfilled: “to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.”

This is what sets it apart.

FROM A MEAGHER TO A MAYOR MAKING A HOME THAT'S TWICE AS NICE

A Texarkana resident his entire life, James Bramlett was delivered on a Friday morning on the 7th of June 1957 by Dr. Eugene Ellison, Sr., at St. Michael Hospital in Texarkana, AR. Six weeks later, Bramlett returned to the hospital with a life-threatening condition. Fortunately, the Sisters of St. Michael, Surgeon Dr. Henry Carney and the nurses were able to perform life-saving surgery on the six-week-old infant. Bramlett has since had the opportunity to give back to St. Michael and Texarkana.

Bramlett became Mayor of Texarkana, TX, in May of 1998 serving 10 years until May of 2008. In January 2011, he was asked to join the CHRISTUS St. Michael Board of Directors. Bramlett said "I am very grateful to be able to serve CHRISTUS St. Michael Hospital, an institution that I have had a deep connection to my entire life." Bramlett is also a 20-year member of the CHRISTUS St. Michael Health & Fitness Center, serves on the Membership Advisory Board and works out on a daily basis at the center.

Fortunately, the former mayor has not needed hospital care for the most part. However, he came to the CHRISTUS St. Michael ER with dizzy spells in December 2014 at the urging of his wife and is grateful his diagnosis was not serious. He compliments the hospital physicians, nurses and other staff for taking great care of him. Fortunately, Bramlett checked out clear of all life-threatening conditions.

"All I could think of through the whole process was how thankful I was to have this organization available in my community to take care of me, my family and my friends," Bramlett shared. "This hospital is available to put

fears at ease with the earliest possible symptoms of something that could be very life threatening. Not all communities have that. St. Michael has provided that comfort to our community for 100 years and will hopefully continue to serve the community for 100 more."

Bramlett remembers throughout his experiences with St. Michael Hospital in its original location downtown, seeing the Sisters throughout the hospital. "They were everywhere and were the administrators," Bramlett said. "The Sisters established a firm foundation of faith within the organization. Their legacy still resides in the nurses, physicians, housekeeping, administration and every person who provides a service to patients and their families throughout the hospital."

"I don't know what this region would do if St. Michael weren't here," Bramlett said. "They have brought the spotlight on this region through its state-wide and nationally recognized achievements. They continue to bring economic development to the city through its Associates and their physician recruitment to our area. In addition, with new technologies and expanded facilities, they are allowing patients to receive care locally which allows them to spend more time with their family and also save money. All of this helps support the jobs of our friends, our neighbors and the Texarkana community."

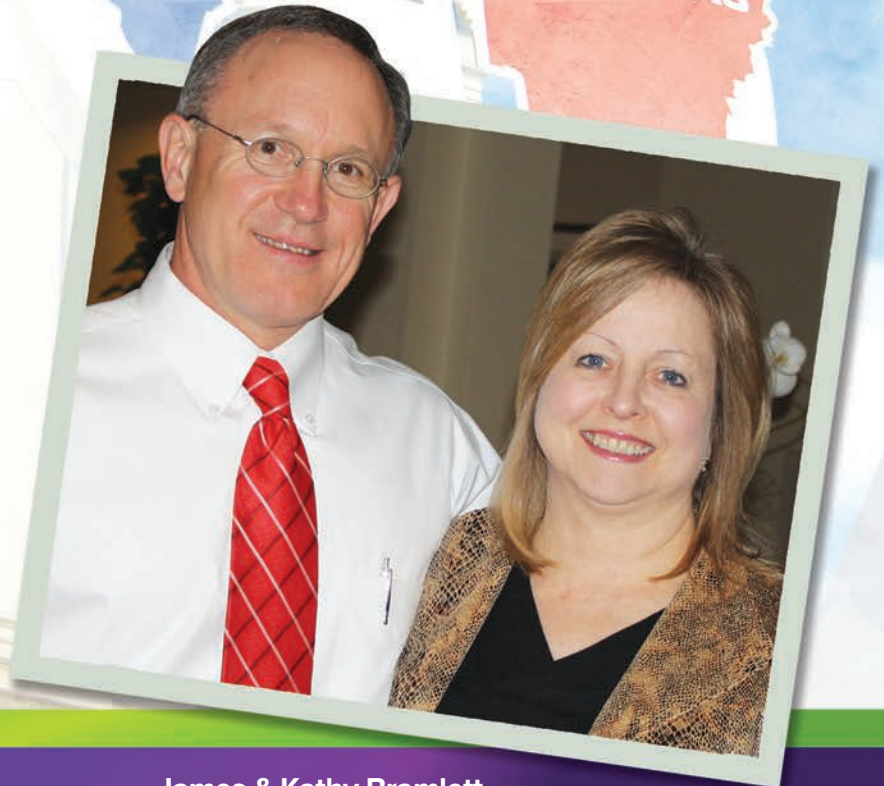
"It all started with one man's investment," James said. "If only Michael Meagher could see today what his contribution has done for Texarkana! If you think of what the actions of one man have done for this community, it is pretty motivating to see what we can all do as individuals."



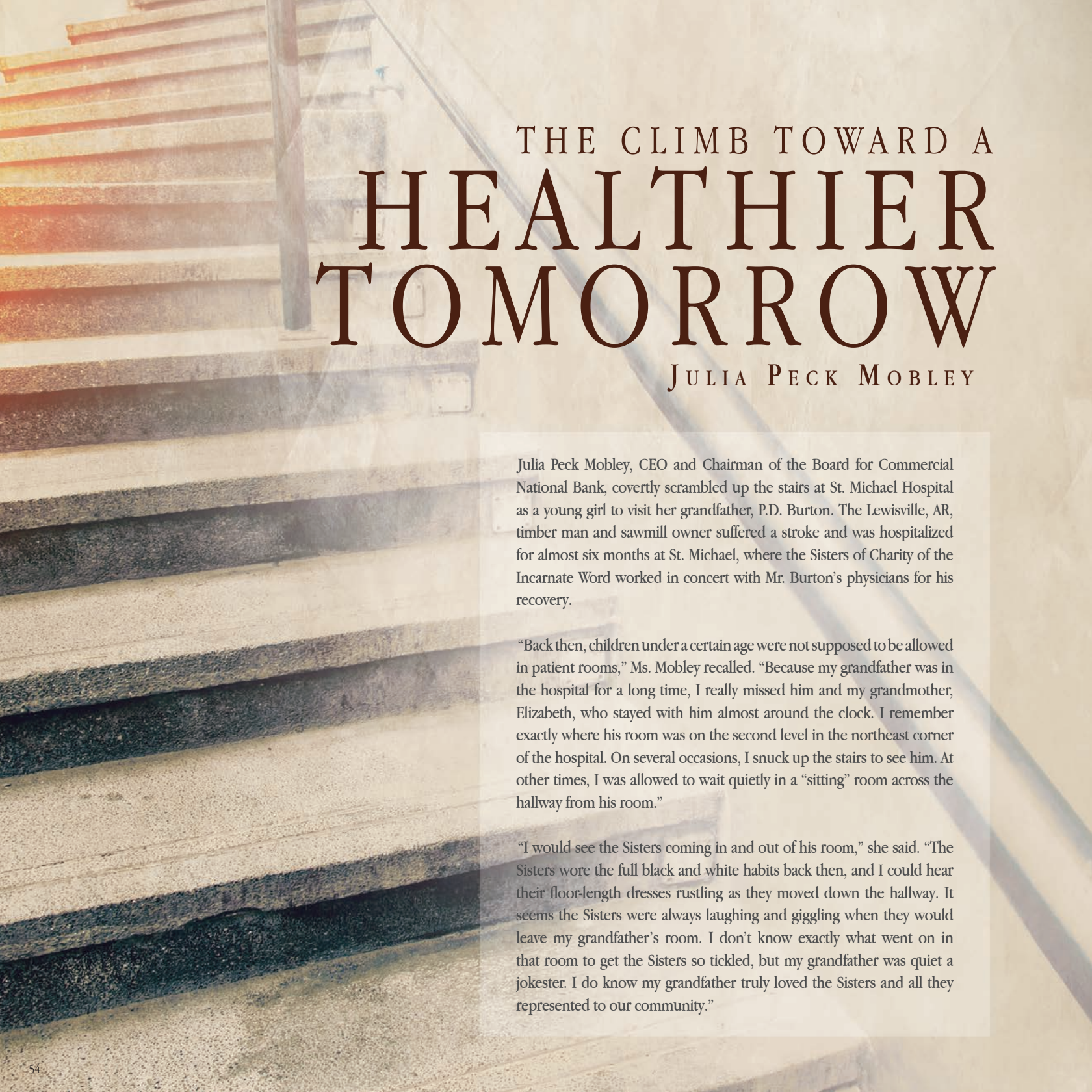
Michael Meagher

If only Michael Meagher could see today what his contribution has done for Texarkana.

- James Bramlett



James & Kathy Bramlett



THE CLIMB TOWARD A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

JULIA PECK MOBLEY

Julia Peck Mobley, CEO and Chairman of the Board for Commercial National Bank, covertly scrambled up the stairs at St. Michael Hospital as a young girl to visit her grandfather, P.D. Burton. The Lewisville, AR, timber man and sawmill owner suffered a stroke and was hospitalized for almost six months at St. Michael, where the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word worked in concert with Mr. Burton's physicians for his recovery.

"Back then, children under a certain age were not supposed to be allowed in patient rooms," Ms. Mobley recalled. "Because my grandfather was in the hospital for a long time, I really missed him and my grandmother, Elizabeth, who stayed with him almost around the clock. I remember exactly where his room was on the second level in the northeast corner of the hospital. On several occasions, I snuck up the stairs to see him. At other times, I was allowed to wait quietly in a "sitting" room across the hallway from his room."

"I would see the Sisters coming in and out of his room," she said. "The Sisters wore the full black and white habits back then, and I could hear their floor-length dresses rustling as they moved down the hallway. It seems the Sisters were always laughing and giggling when they would leave my grandfather's room. I don't know exactly what went on in that room to get the Sisters so tickled, but my grandfather was quiet a jokester. I do know my grandfather truly loved the Sisters and all they represented to our community."

“Now 100 years into this health care ministry, the legacy established by the Sisters remains a mainstay of not only the Texarkana community but the entire region,” Mobley said. “Residents from miles around Texarkana trusted their care to St. Michael then as they do today. My family has always felt this is our hospital. In addition to my grandparents, my parents, George and Betty Peck, relied on St. Michael for their health care needs and supported the work of the Sisters. I am so proud the Sisters along with other visionaries had the foresight and commitment to invest in this community by building a new hospital at the current campus along I-30.”

“Relocating the hospital was a brave move and was not without controversy,” she explained. “I must say the building of the CHRISTUS St. Michael campus has undoubtedly been an unparalleled commitment to the people of the Texarkana region. Not only does St. Michael offer quality health care, but in the process, they provide jobs and contribute to the economic well-being of this community.”

Julia’s faith in the CHRISTUS St. Michael mission was further demonstrated in 1984 when she agreed to be one of the original members of the St. Michael Foundation, serving for many years. Her daughter, Helen, has continued in Julia’s footsteps as a CHRISTUS St. Michael Partner in Philanthropy.

Even before her official capacity as a Foundation member, Julia felt closeness with the St. Michael Sisters and was grateful for the time she was able to spend with them. Sister Carmelita Brett, hospital administrator from 1973-1983, made a distinct impact on Julia. “Sister Carmelita was in charge,” she said. “She was a strong leader, a blessed woman. She let her vocation and calling show throughout her administration. I could always call her, and she would give me wise counsel.”

Over the years, Julia and her family have experienced the mission of extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ at CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System firsthand from birth to end-of-life care. One of her three children was born at St. Michael Hospital and two of her three grandchildren were born at CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System.

The newest addition to the Mobley Family arrived in September 2016. “My daughter-in-law’s families came in from Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Austin, TX, for the birth of their newest granddaughter,” Julia said. “They were so impressed with the hospital and the care provided not only to the patients but to the family members. Our family is very appreciative of what CHRISTUS St. Michael does on a daily basis and what it has meant to our community.”



P.D. Burton



Julia Mobley, centered between Margaret Dickey and Sister Aloysius, at a meeting of CHRISTUS St. Michael Foundation.

THE FLIGHT TOWARD A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

Tom Byrne and his wife, Maria, moved to Texarkana in 1974. Mr. Byrne had just finished his residency at Parkland Hospital and was called to begin his career in health care administration at St. Michael Hospital. As assistant administrator to Sister Carmelita Brett, he gained a deep respect and understanding of the mission of St. Michael and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word-Houston. Sister Carmelita saw his passion for health care, people, this community and the ministry.

After Sister Carmelita left St. Michael for a new assignment, Mr. Byrne was left with big shoes to fill as the first lay administrator of St. Michael Hospital. Mr. Byrne filled the shoes well, continuing much of what Sister Carmelita and the Sisters before her established while still incorporating new processes. He developed “talks” with his Associates to lift morale during challenging times and to keep employees informed.

“Tom was encouraging, he listened and was an exceptional mentor,” said Mrs. Byrne. “He wanted everyone to feel good about working at St. Michael.”

“My husband was very compassionate and really cared about people,” Mrs. Byrne shared. “Our family had a special recipe for fudge. At Christmastime, he and our three daughters would distribute pounds of homemade fudge to all the hospital staff.”

Mr. Byrne’s compassion and passion led to many enhancements to health care in our region, including the establishment of Air Life in

Texarkana. Encouraged by the vision of helicopter pilot, Don Ruggles, Tom sought funding to launch the proven life-saving program. Unfortunately, Don’s vision had come from the loss of his own son, Tony, in a hunting accident. “Don and Tom felt Tony would have had a greater chance of survival if he had been airlifted to the hospital,” said Mrs. Byrne. “They felt a real need for the Air Life Medical Helicopter service in our community, and they advocated getting it brought to Texarkana.”

“Mr. Byrne was most proud of the new hospital now known as CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System,” Mrs. Byrne said. “He was heavily involved in the planning, construction of and transition to the new location. Getting everyone on board with the move was a huge challenge. Tom and Stephen Wright, Chief Operating Officer, at the time, put a lot of behind-the-scenes work in recruiting support, especially from the Sisters.”

“It was also a challenge in itself moving from Arkansas to Texas,” Mrs. Byrne explained. “Tom persevered because he could see past the ‘right now’ and into the future. He knew times were changing, and we needed to adjust.”

Mr. Byrne’s vision became a reality in 1994. Without his influence, St. Michael and this community would not be the same. He so eloquently kept the culture that makes St. Michael so unique through some of its most crucial transitions.



Mr. Byrne passed away Sept. 3, 2009. His legacy lives on through the service of his wife, Maria, his three daughters, three granddaughters, with a fourth on the way, and with every Associate at the ever expanding CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System. We will be forever grateful to Mr. Byrne and his family for their dedication and service to our mission.

Shown here with Dennis Landreaux, first President of the CHRISTUS St. Michael Friends of the Foundation, is Tom Byrne, Administrator of St. Michael Hospital, at the May 1990 groundbreaking for the new St. Michael Health Care Center, which opened on the new campus along I-30 in December 1994.



Sister Stories

by Norma Hancock

The following stories were written by Norma Hancock who served with the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word at St. Michael Hospital for 31 years from early 1966 until late 1996.

Her last position was Director of Purchasing.

I am giving you “true life” experiences that I had the pleasure of sharing with the St. Michael Sisters for 31 years. I am glad God has a sense of humor, because He is in for a treat.

The Sisters are just “regular” people but as you will see, very comical.



Sister Carmelita Brett and the Highway Patrol

I will start with my favorite, Sister Mary Carmelita Brett, who served as administrator of the hospital from August 1973 until August 1983.

Sister Carmelita had become very close to then-Governor Bill Clinton as he has previously used the hospital board room for meetings when he was in town. One day, she had a very important meeting with him in Little Rock, AR. Being in a hurry to get there, she was traveling at a rather high rate of speed. An Arkansas highway patrolman pulled up beside her to warn her that she was speeding. “No officer, you are mistaken,” she said to him. “Maybe it (her speedometer) just broke.”

She convinced him to ride beside her to check it out. When they finished the test, he motioned her to the side of the road. He advised her to slow down. Unfortunately, he just forgot to close the door on his car when he got out. She said, “I have to hurry. My appointment with the governor is very soon. Your lights are making me nervous.” With that she put her foot on the accelerator as only she could do, sped off, ripping the open door off of the patrol car.

The officer hesitated to call headquarters to report that a nun had torn the door of his car from the hinges. “Send someone to get me,” he said as he called the captain. I am sure he still laughs when he thinks of this episode. By the way, he left with the door in the trunk of the car.



Sister Esther Kennedy and the Gas Station Attendant

Sister Esther Kennedy was the treasurer of St. Michael Hospital during some of the years I worked at St. Michael. She was a really good person with a good head. On numerous occasions, I had to work very closely with her and found her to be a comical person with a dry sense of humor.

Schumpert Medical Center, our Sister hospital in Shreveport, La, called to inform us “they had something to give us.” The nuns loved the word “free.” Sister Esther and I drove down to Shreveport to get the loot.

As we left Shreveport, I noticed the gas tank almost on “E.” I explained that meant “empty”-- not enough. We pulled into the station where the attendant filled the tank and began to clean the windshield. He looked into the truck and asked “what is she doing in that rigging?” referring to her habit. The expression never changed on her face. She said “we are on our way to a masquerade party, and we are late so finish our windshield.” As we drove away, he had a puzzled look on his face. Still, he smiled and waved to us.

Sister Esther and the Fuel Pump

On another occasion, we had experienced our usual shortages of teaspoons, Gideon Bibles and washcloths. I went by Sister Esther's office to tell her the fuel pump had "gone out" on the hospital truck. Very seriously she said, "the Lord save us, I wonder who took that?" I briefly explained to her that the pump no longer worked, it had to be replaced. She smiled and gave me the credit card.

Sister Esther and the Assistant Administrator

Sister Esther hired an ex insurance company assistant in the capacity of assistant administrator. He was young and excited about the prospect of working for the Sisters of Charity. However, I had an eerie feeling when he arrived in my office to introduce himself, telling me he had come to "change the image of the Sisters in Texarkana." I thought to myself 'you will be short lived'..."

Sister Esther had an appointment with then-Governor Bill Clinton so she asked me to go along with her and the assistant administrator to Little Rock. One of the other Sisters had made the comment that the young man read the dictionary every night so he could use a new word the next day at work. I really did not want to make that trip, but gritted my teeth and went.

At the first stop, Sister Esther insisted on my getting up front to talk with him so she could take a nap. I really thought that she was sound asleep, but when he said, "Ms. Norma, my lifetime ambition has been to settle down in Arkansas and raise 'hawgs.'" She arose from her nap and said, "First, you have to learn to say hogs." In less than three months, he was packing to accept another challenge.

Sister Avitus Ryle and Resusci Anne

With all "new hires," at the hospital, the Sisters conducted in-service education. Sister Avitus Ryle, smart as a whip, was conducting the CPR class using "Resusci Anne," the training mannequin. A new employee from the dietary department was frustrated because he had not achieved the results that Sister wanted. She instructed him to blow harder on the doll. Someone asked him "did you pass ok?" "Yes, I suppose so," he said. "The doll stood up on her feet and sang 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic.'" I bet he can do CPR right to this day....she got her point over.



Sister Clement Marie Sadlier and the Fish

I remember working with Sister Clement Marie Sadlier. One day, Dr. J.B. Rochelle asked Sister Clement Marie to get some insurance papers signed by one of his patients. The Sister was gone so long I was worried. When I finally saw her again, she was smiling and asked me to look at the papers. Very carefully drawn on the bottom of the signature page was perfectly formed fish, apparently sketched by the patient. "Why do you think he did that?" she asked. I said, "Maybe it is because his name is _____ Fish and he cannot read or write." I bet the insurance company never got a claim like that before. The patient knew how to draw the fish right down to the detail on the fins.

Sister Eymard O'Connor and the Mail Truck

I had the pleasure of working with Sr. Eymard O'Connor, the laundry supervisor. She insisted on going to the country to find "rich potting soil" for her plants. You cannot just pull up on someone's property and dig. The next best thing was my property in Cass County, very pretty country but rather rural.

As we started to dig, her in a snow white habit-full headdress-the works, the rural mail carrier drove by. I guess he was thinking he had died and gone to heaven seeing an angel in those woods. He drove right into the ditch. God watches out for us in mysterious ways. We had gone for the soil in the old hospital truck. We hooked our truck onto his vehicle and pulled him out. Neither rain, nor sleet/snow nor a Sister in Cass County stops the US mail.

Thanks for the Happiness

I can honestly say I never had a dull day at that job. I spent 31 years of my career with the Incarnate Word Sisters. On occasion, I still visit the Villa de Matel in Houston, the Congregation's Mother House, to visit the few who are "serving with gladness" but in a different environment. Thanks for the years of happiness you have given me.

God bless each one of you.
Norma Hancock





A LIFELONG CALLING

DR. PAT MORGAN

Dr. Pat Morgan has a rich history with CHRISTUS St. Michael and has touched the lives of over 4,000 student nurses and hundreds of practicing nurses during her career as a nurse and nurse educator. Hers is a kind of “full circle story” and shows how interconnected people are.

I remember that my sister had to have surgery,” Dr. Morgan said. “We lived in Murfreesboro, AR, at the time, so we came to Texarkana. Dr. Brunazzi did the surgery. Hospital policy at that time was children under 12 years of age could not go onto the floors, but the Sisters permitted me to visit my sister. They even found a place for my mother and me to stay so we could be close by.”

“I remember the Sisters in their stark, white habits. They were stern looking, but when they talked, they were so encouraging. I found out later on that those Sisters were nurses.” Dr. Morgan moved to Texarkana before her 18th birthday and applied for a job as a nurse’s aide. She remembers 1961 being a year when “everybody seemed like they were there to teach me.”

She recalls those were days of glass thermometers, semiprivate rooms, 4-bed wards, and a time when patients of all levels of illness were on the same floor. “We did not have ventilators then. The equipment we had was not disposable. We cleansed and autoclaved. I remember the glass IV bottles and the glass syringes with stainless steel needles. If cotton stayed on the needle, it had burrs in it, so you knew to get a new one ready. There were no guidelines about staffing during those years. The staffing at night for 36 patients was one RN, one LVN, and an aide. We did it all.”

Soon after beginning as an aide, Dr. Morgan received determined encouragement from the Sisters to enroll in nursing school. One of the Sisters who was a night supervisor frequently urged Dr. Morgan to pursue nursing education. “I have been told there are government loans,” she told Dr. Morgan. “I was 19 and did not know about all of that, but the Sister told me I had an appointment at the college the following day. I talked to the director of the nursing program and started classes in the summer of 1962.”

It was hard going to school, working and being married, but Dr. Morgan looks back at that time fondly. “It was amazing to see the knowledge the nurse aides had. I learned so much from everyone during that time,” she said.

“There were no ICUs in those days. We had people with heart attacks or who were severely injured come in, and we did the best we could. Some

Sister Herman Joseph is one of the many Sisters with whom Dr. Morgan worked and remembers vividly. “She loved to fish,” Dr. Morgan said. “She also had a little garden on one of the balcony areas and would use IV tubing to water her flowers. Oh, and Sister Avitas: my strongest support.”

So many changes have taken place throughout the years. Dr. Morgan recalls when every patient chart was written in longhand. Patients were kept longer for procedures that today are outpatient procedures. It was also common at that time to just come by the hospital for an annual physical.

In 1967, Dr. Morgan once again crossed paths with Dr. Brunazzi when they both worked at Cotton Belt Hospital. She was 24 at the time, and Dr. Brunazzi encouraged her to apply for the position of Director of Nursing at St. Michael’s. She did, was hired and became the youngest Director of Nursing in St. Michael history.

“WE DID IT ALL.”

Dr. Pat Morgan on the responsibilities of a health care team in the 1960s.

of the most challenging patients were the burn patients. One man was burned over nearly his entire body, and Dr. Mitchell Young saved him. He was fabulous with burns. He was a gentleman and a gentle man. He took care of this person and placed the man in a Hubbard tank—similar to a swimming pool that was used during the polio epidemic in the 50s. He used water and pink Drefit to treat the man, and the patient survived and became a walking legend of St. Michael. Any time he had the opportunity to talk about the doctors or the hospital, he did.”

Dr. Morgan talks about how exciting it was to get new equipment. “Oh, it was like gold!” she says. She also remembers Sister Ethereda, who was in charge of Central Supply. “You almost had to give your paycheck to get any supply,” Dr. Morgan remembered with a laugh. “You had to justify every request. If you contaminated a supply, you went back with fear and trembling to give complete details and receive your scolding. You signed for every single thing you took out. The Sisters ran a tight ship; each floor had a Sister as a supervisor. You better be careful with cost containment.”

Three years later, Dr. Morgan was working in her office when two Deans from Texarkana College came to visit her. They asked her to teach at the college, and her first day of work there was April 1, 1970. In the 1980s, St. Michael’s approached her about implementing a “nursing extern program.” She helped design and coordinate the program where nursing students could gain additional experience on the nursing units between their first and second years of nursing school. She spent 45 years teaching nursing at Texarkana College and working closely with nurses and other health care providers until her retirement in 2015.

Dr. Morgan smiles as she looks back on her time in nursing and teaching that started here at CHRISTUS St. Michael. “It has never left me, and I have never left them. This is where I got my start. I wouldn’t be a nurse if I hadn’t been encouraged,” she said.

We are certainly glad you were, Dr. Morgan.



Blessed beginnings

This following three stories were
originally submitted for
inclusion in the 1994

St. Michael Baby Book.

The special publication was
created to celebrate when
St. Michael Hospital resumed
providing Labor and Delivery
Services in December
1994 after relocating
to our current campus.

**Lula Griffith, Age one
and one-half years.
Born August 16, 1943**



LULA HAYNES

In response to your search for those born at your hospital, I was born at Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital on Aug. 16, 1943. Due to the fact that I was born premature, and medical technology was limited, it is no doubt that my survival is a miracle. Because of the dedication of the Sisters and their commitment to life, I am alive today.

My mother, who has now passed, told me that the Sisters sat by my bedside day and night, pumping my arms to force me to breathe. According to her, my fingernails and toenails had not yet developed. I have scars on each ankle where I was given blood transfusions directly from my Dad, for the doctor said his blood was needed. I was so small and lost so much weight that after I was sent home, my mother carried me around on a pillow. Mother calculated her pregnancy at 6 and one half months. "However, she took me to Dr. Kitchens, who immediately upon seeing me stated, "a six-month baby." He suggested she feed me with an eye dropper instead of a bottle.

I also have an older sister and a younger brother who were born at Michael Meagher. My brother was a seven-month baby. He too was given no hope of living. Today, he lives in Florida.

I have no doubt that three factors entered into my survival: the Lord, being born at Michael Meagher Hospital and a loving and dedicated mother, and I thank you all. What a team!

**As far as Mother and I are concerned,
you are miracle workers, and our family is living proof.**

**Lula Griffith Haynes
and her mother
Lorena Griffith
April 4, 1995**





BABY SISTER *and brother!*



Sister Katrina LeGrand

The way her mother tells it, Janice Catherine LeGrand was born with a full head of hair on an ambulance stretcher at Michael Meagher Hospital on June 30, 1945, to Nora and A.P. LeGrand, Sr. Only an eight-month baby, she must have been anxious to begin her life of service for others. Janice Catherine entered the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word order in 1963, and now Sister Katrina LeGrand serves the order at the Mother House in Houston, TX.

“I was actually delivered by Sister Gabriella Hughes just before the doctor arrived,” said Sister Katrina. “Sister Mary Ellen (formerly Oswald), took great care of me in the nursery. All of the Sisters looked out for me and early on claimed me for the Lord.”

Also an early bird, her older brother, Newman Julius LeGrand, was born on June 19, three years before his sister at Michael Meagher. He lives with his family in Wake Village, TX. His wife, Jewell Allen LeGrand, was born on Sept. 27, 1943, at Michael Meagher and their two oldest children Jim, birthday July 25, 1964, and Jennifer, birthdate, Sept. 15, 1965, were born at St. Michael Hospital.



**3 month old
Janice Catherine LeGrand**



**1 month old
Newman Julius LeGrand**



OUR FIRST BORN

When St. Michael sent out its reunion call for all of its babies, Laverne Aaron Taylor was quick to respond. And why shouldn't she when she could claim the boasting rights of being the first baby born at Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital on November 11, 1916, just a few weeks after Sister Mary Clare and Sister Sacred Heart began the Sisters of Charity Mission in Texarkana. Her parents were Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Aaron, lifelong residents of Miller County.

What Mrs. Taylor didn't know is that we would discover a letter in our archives from her sister, Mildred Aaron Merryman. The letter was penned on October 15, 1961, and began "For several years I have intended to write you concerning a bit of history and just kept neglecting to write. Maybe you have – maybe you do not have among your records about the first baby born at Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital. I am the sister of that baby."

The letter continued "That 'baby' has never lived anywhere but right here in Texarkana. Who is it? She is Laverne (Aaron) Taylor (Mrs. C.B.). Just thought this may be of interest to you and that in reporting things about the hospital history, you may want to use it."



BECAUSE WE EXPECT MIRACLES
EVERY DAY



On Feb. 14, 2013, at 11:50 p.m., my life changed forever.

Not only was I a new mother, I was a mother of a premature baby. My son, Jace, was born at 26 weeks gestation weighing 2 pounds 8 ounces. He spent 14 weeks inpatient under the care of Dr. Susan Keeney and the CHRISTUS St. Michael Neonatal Intensive Care Unit staff. During his hospitalization, he spent two weeks intubated on a mechanical ventilator, eight weeks on a CPAP and three weeks on a nasal cannula. He received multiple blood transfusions as well as countless intravenous medications including total parenteral nutrition. He struggled to breathe and keep his oxygen levels up, with levels frequently dropping below 60%. He received nutrition via nasogastric tube. He endured a number of procedures such as chest x-rays, echocardiograms, head ultrasounds and eye exams. Jace is the definition of a fighter. He suffered a lifetime of medical conditions within his first 3 1/2 months of life.

My husband and I were absolutely helpless. The only thing we could do for him was pray for healing, be by his side, talk to him and hold him. My twice-a-day trips would not have been possible without a NICU here in my home town of Texarkana, USA. The one thing we could provide our child, our presence, was possible through CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System. Our lives were a total wreck for those 3 1/2 months, and without the ability to keep Jace here locally, we would not have been able to be by his side every day. Had Jace been at a hospital out of town, we would have had the burden of travel expenses and the stress of being absent at his bedside.

The Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at CSMHS is a God-send to this community. I truly believe the best possible care was provided for my son at this establishment. Dr. Keeney, the neonatal nurse practitioners and nurses were among the kindest and most knowledgeable group of people I have ever encountered. They were extremely supportive of our needs and more than accommodating on providing us anything and everything we wanted. We were able to be hands-on caregivers for Jace during all aspects of his care from giving him his first bath to feeding him his first bottle. These nurses are true angels and definitely live up to the CHRISTUS mission of "extending the healing ministry of Jesus Christ." Thanks to Dr. Keeney and the amazing practitioners and nurses at CSMHS, Jace is now a happy and healthy three-year-old. He has no residuals or health conditions to date.

The good Lord gave Jace life. The CHRISTUS St. Michael Hospital's NICU team sustained it. For that, I will forever be indebted to them.

- Alison Crank



Patton, Jace and Alison Crank



CHRISTUS KIDS

CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System Associates (employees)
who were born at St. Michael Hospital and CHRISTUS St. Michael
Hospital – Atlanta (formerly Atlanta Memorial Hospital).

BARRY GENEROUS

“Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required.” This verse from Luke 12:48 sums up how Dean Barry feels about his relationship with CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System. He said, “Texarkana has been good to my family, and my wife, LaCrecia, and I strongly believe in that passage. I started with the CHRISTUS St. Michael Foundation way back when and kept going with it. We try to live by that verse in many ways.”

“We pick organizations we think are good where we can serve, and CHRISTUS St. Michael is always one. I want the hospital to be here and to be the best it can be. If I can help, I want to do that,” he added.

Barry works closely with Chris Karam and has this to say about him:

“Chris Karam really tries to walk the walk of what Jesus taught us,” Barry said. “He truly tries to put everyone else first. With him, it is God, family and job. My relationship with Chris has been such that I feel like I am helping the hospital and the community.”

Barry believes Chris Karam is the reason for the success of the hospital today. “People respect Chris for what he has done and his attitude,” Barry explained. “He always tries

to look at the brighter side of things. He can find something good in nearly every situation. It is amazing to me...his ability to do that.”

Even though Barry’s tenure with the Foundation is complete, he and his wife LaCrecia continue to support CHRISTUS and the community at large. “LaCrecia has a wig ministry that she has had for years,” he said. “We have a place beside our house that contains hundreds of wigs, and women who are cancer patients come in here and can get a wig at our cost. We have asked the hospital to help and assist patients in obtaining wigs as cheaply as we possibly can. That has been a semi-co-op or partnership between my wife and the hospital. It has been a successful venture.”





“I feel such a sense of pride when I hear people talk about their great experiences at CHRISTUS St. Michael.”

Truman Arnold

Pictured in this recent photo are Truman and Anita Arnold. Among other support given to St. Michael over the years, the Arnolds donated a house at 4004 Texas Boulevard, Texarkana, TX, to serve as the new convent for the Sisters of Charity in Texarkana. Prior to the Sisters moving into their new home, they had resided in the convent at 5th and Walnut Streets since 1950.

TRUMAN ARNOLD GIVING BACK

Truman Arnold served on the Board of Directors of St. Michael Hospital, St. Michael Health Care Center and then CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System as board chairman until completing several consecutive terms in 2007.

His over 30-year involvement with CHRISTUS St. Michael in the volunteer capacity as a board member began in the late 1970s. Arnold had forged a friendship with Dr. F.E. Joyce through business and banking interactions. Dr. Joyce joined the hospital Medical Staff in 1976 and soon after encouraged Arnold to contribute his business acumen to the Sisters of Charity mission in Texarkana.

However, Arnold's connection to CHRISTUS St. Michael and the Sisters started well before his tenure with the board. "My first association with the hospital was in 1943," he explained. "I was seven years old when we found out my mother had terminal cancer. She fought the cancer for six years and was in and out of St. Michael many times. It seems you were supposed to be at least 14 years old to visit patients in the hospital, but the Sisters allowed me to visit her because she was so ill."

During the workday, Arnold's father, Otis, drove an RC Cola truck, providing the family income. "Dad had to work during the day, but we visited my mother every night when she was in the hospital," Arnold said. "It was such a sad time for us, but the Sisters treated my mother so well as they did me and my dad."

About 20 years after the loss of his mother, Arnold asked his dad how he had managed to pay the hospital and doctor bills. "I knew we really didn't have much money back then," he said. "Dad replied, 'I didn't.'" The Arnolds experienced the healing ministry of the Sisters, firsthand.

Moving forward to the 1970s, no arm twisting was needed when Arnold was initially asked to join the hospital board of directors. "When someone has done so much for you and you don't have a passion to give back, there is something wrong with you," Arnold said with conviction.

"I am not Catholic, but I knew whenever I was in the presence of the Sisters, there was always a sense of equity and fairness," he added. "The patient satisfaction has always been very good because of the tone the Sisters set from the beginning. They established the bar for all who serve the community through their service at CHRISTUS St. Michael today."

Arnold recalls working with Sister Carmelita Brett, who served as hospital administrator from 1973 through 1983. He describes her leadership as being invaluable to the progress achieved by the hospital. "We called her 'The Big Nun,'" he said. "She was the type of chief executive who could have run GE, General Motors or any major Dow Jones company."

He remembers Sister Damian Murphy as well as other Sisters who served at St. Michael. "There's just something about the Sisters. They made a lifetime commitment – when you think about it, a lifetime commitment is pretty amazing."

"I don't think I have had a greater pleasure than serving on this hospital board," Arnold continued. "I feel such a sense of pride when I hear people talk about their great experiences at the hospital. In addition, the hospital remains extremely important to the Texarkana region. Advanced health care is provided, but more, CHRISTUS St. Michael has been a stimulus for growth and the economy."

Arnold's years of service were as challenging at times as they have been rewarding. "The decision to relocate the hospital to the current campus was not made lightly and faced some opposition," he said "The move required substantial commitment from the Sisters of Charity to continue to invest in our community. However, we know most agree that decision was the right decision."

A PLACE OF FAITH, HOPE & LOVE

M I K E H U C K A B E E

Mike Huckabee, 44th governor of Arkansas, shares he was at St. Michael Hospital almost every day from 1986-1991, during the time he served as pastor of Beech Street First Baptist Church in Texarkana. "It was part of my routine to visit church members and friends who were hospitalized at St. Michael, and that was often," he said.

The recollections of his interactions with the Sisters of Charity who served at the hospital remain vivid today. "The authenticity of the Sisters who helped care for patients was very obvious through my interaction with them," he explained. "Their compassion was evident in all they did. There was an equal love for any and everyone who entered their doors. They showed such a sense of mercy."

"I came to know St. Michael as a place my family could go when they needed medical care," the former pastor said. "Frequently when I was visiting patients, the Sisters would come into the room and join in praying for the parishioners. I felt we were partners in the healing process." When a patient, whether church member or friend, seemed to be struggling, I would say to the Sisters and other caregivers, "Keep a close eye on this patient for me. I think he/she is having a really difficult time. Please call me at any time if he/she needs me." The Sisters never hesitated to call the Rev. Huckabee when he was needed.

From a personal perspective, Huckabee recalls cutting his finger rather badly while slicing food in his family kitchen. "I went to the ER. Dr. Sandra Nichols, in her last year of residency, was working at St. Michael on weekends in the emergency room and took care of me," he said. "Fast forward -- while serving as governor, I appointed her as Director of the State Department of Health. I laugh about if Dr. Nichols hadn't saved my finger, would she have received the appointment?"

Before being elected lieutenant governor of Arkansas in 1993 and to the governorship in 1996, Huckabee lost his first political run to incumbent Democratic Senator Dale Bumpers in the 1992 Senate race. "In trying to get back on our feet, it was all hands on deck following the loss," he said. "My wife, Janet, went to work at St. Michael as a unit clerk in the intensive care unit (ICU) on the 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. shift. She loved working there and loved the people who were providing health care to our region through the hospital."

With Janet's job at St. Michael, Huckabee continued to interact with the Sisters and staff frequently and his high regard for the Sisters and their mission remained resolute. "Tom Byrne was administrator of the hospital at the time," he said. "I am deeply grateful to have known Tom and the Sisters and admired what they were doing and the difference they were making in the community."

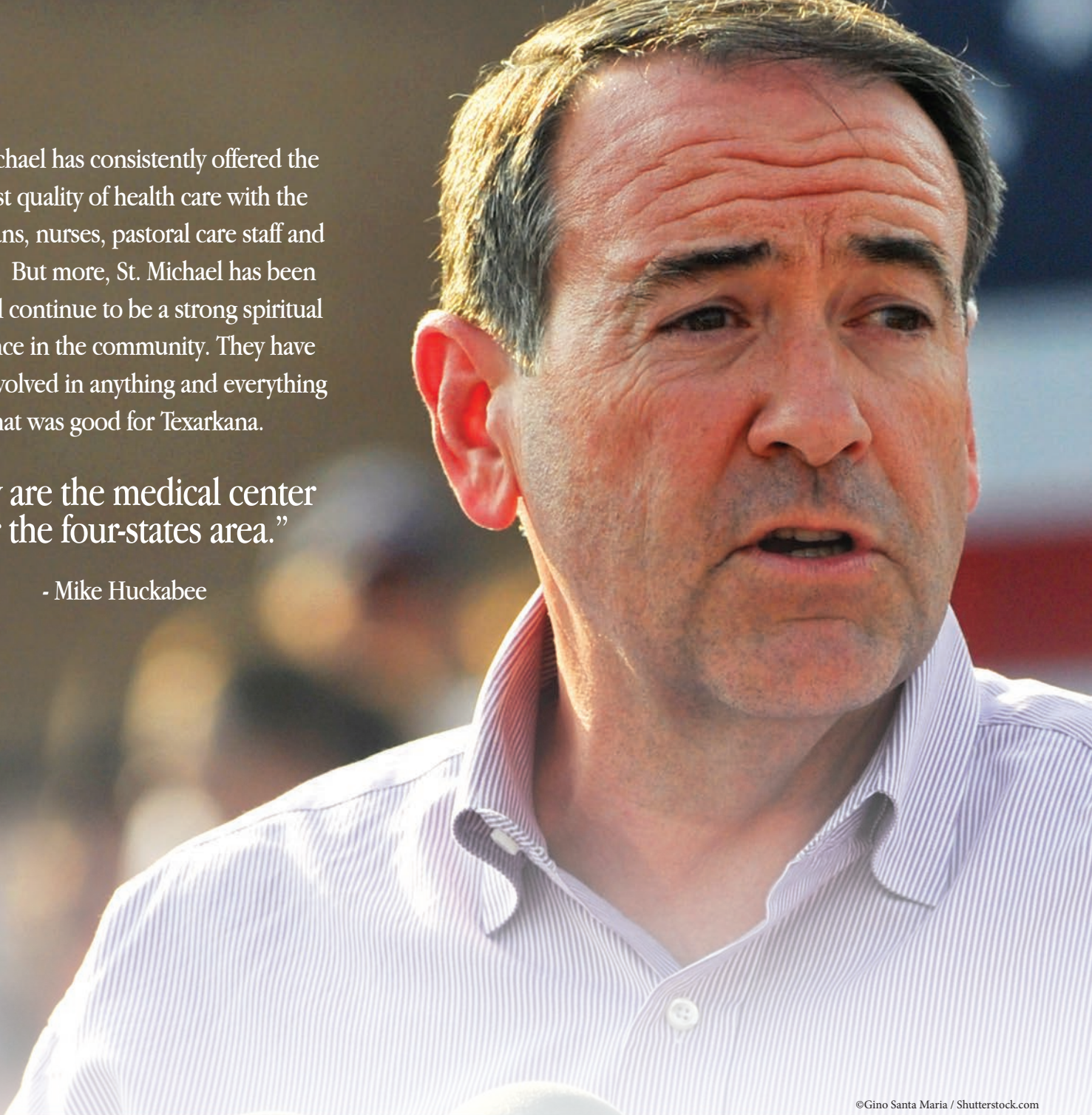


Janet & Mike Huckabee with their granddaughter, Scarlett

“St. Michael has consistently offered the highest quality of health care with the physicians, nurses, pastoral care staff and others. But more, St. Michael has been and will continue to be a strong spiritual influence in the community. They have been involved in anything and everything that was good for Texarkana.

They are the medical center for the four-states area.”

- Mike Huckabee



©Gino Santa Maria / Shutterstock.com



DON BEELEER

TERMINALLY
OPTIMISTIC

The 2006 dedication of Sisters' Park at CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System are, from left the late Tom Byrne, former St. Michael Administrator; Horace Shipp, then-mayor of Texarkana, AR; Don Beeler, previous President/CEO; Sister Damian Murphy James Bramlett, former Texarkana, TX, mayor; Chris Karam, current President/CEO; Stephen Wright, previous VP/COO; and Bishop Alvaro Carrada del Rio, then Bishop of Tyler, TX.

Twenty-one years ago I was privileged and blessed to become a member of the St. Michael team. One of the first individuals I met was Sister Damian. It didn't take me long to discover why St. Michael was such an extraordinary place with Sister Damian and the other Sisters whose presence and spirit permeated St. Michael and impacted the wonderful and dedicated Associates who were obviously dedicated to providing quality patient care.

A few weeks after arriving, I was meeting with the Sisters, something we did on a monthly basis. During the course of this meeting, one of the Sisters shared that Sister Damian was praying for the "new CEO" in her prayers on a very regular and consistent basis. In fact, she offered up these prayers so frequently that one of the other Sisters asked if "the new CEO" was terminal. Needless to say I had to laugh, yet at the same time, was most appreciative of the prayers and support as I began my years of service at St. Michael.

Sister Damian's concerns, however, went well beyond her prayers. In addition to her prayers, one of her self-appointed tasks daily was to make sure I received my vitamin C in a big cup of orange juice each and every morning, a routine only broken when she was out of town and unable to recruit another Sister for this arduous task. In fact, she went so far as to send Vitamin C tablets with me when I relocated to CHRISTUS Santa Rosa in 2003.

And, of course, who could forget Sister Damian's beautiful and meaningful prayers each day over the hospital's public address system, including those on behalf of my beloved San Antonio Spurs who went on to win the NBA championship in 1999 and four more years since.

However, my wonderful memories of St. Michael and its unparalleled beautiful facilities and campus go well beyond these early experiences and clearly include my relationship and interactions with countless individuals who served as board members, medical staff, leadership team, Associates, friends and supporters from the greater Texarkana community. For at the end of the day, it's people, their dedication, support and commitment to excellence and service that have ensured the success of CHRISTUS St. Michael's mission.

I congratulate the Sisters for their vision and long standing commitment to the Ark-La-Tex, the wonderful board members, the unparalleled leadership of Chris Karam and his team, the wonderful and dedicated medical staff, and the terrific dedicated Associates and volunteers who together should take pride in celebrating a legacy of 100 years of healing by this remarkable health care ministry in Texarkana. And while I was a member of the St. Michael family for only 7 and a half years, these were among the happiest in my life and my career, and I thank you for these memories and for your years of continued friendship.

Don Beeler and Sister Damian cheer on their beloved San Antonio Spurs at the NBA Finals 2005.



Eric Cain was working at Belk-Jones Department Store after graduating high school in 1990 when Belk-Jones agreed to be a sponsor for the CHRISTUS St. Michael inaugural Great Texarkana Duck Race. Cain volunteered to help staff the event, then at Lake Wright-Patman. Little did he know just how heavily involved he would become in CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System years later.

When interviewing for his current position, executive director of the American Red Cross serving Northeast Texas and Southwest Arkansas, Cain listed three people as his references: Jerry Sparks, Borden Bell and Bill Cork. Sparks worked for the City of Texarkana, Texas; Cork was President of the Chamber of Commerce and a CHRISTUS Akin board member and Bell was a long time CHRISTUS St. Michael board president. When the Red Cross CEO called Sparks, he gave Cain a rave review. The interviewer asked Sparks if it was worth his time to call the other two references Cain had listed. Sparks replied, “Nah, those CHRISTUS guys always stick together.”

Indeed they did stick together. Cain was already a member of the CHRISTUS St. Michael Friends of the Foundation, but he wanted to get more involved. He saw the passion in Bell and Cork, who both served on the CHRISTUS St. Michael Board of Directors – but especially Bell. Bell had served two 9-year terms and as the chairman of the board. One day, Cain received a call from the board nominating committee asking him if he would be interested in joining the board of directors. He was elated and honored to be considered for this opportunity.

Cain is still serving on the Health System Board of Directors and on the CHRISTUS St. Michael Friends of the Foundation. He notes that many members will ask to be nominated again once their nine-year tenure is up because they will always want to be involved and serve.

“Once you have CHRISTUS St. Michael in your blood, there’s no going back. This hospital may have a Catholic foundation, but Christians of all denominations are coming together to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.”

He shared an experience in November 2015 as an example of the healing ministry in action. CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System suffered a great loss when their beloved Vice President of Human Resources, Pam Kennedy, suddenly passed away. Cain recalled her funeral overflowing with CHRISTUS St. Michael Associates. Afterward, the Associates found themselves packed in a room together supporting one another. Although most were not blood related, Cain said everyone in that packed room was family. He had never been more proud to be a part of an organization. Cain told the St. Michael president and chief executive officer, Chris Karam, that he should consider this one of his greatest accomplishments: that he has fostered an environment of co-workers who love each other like family and that is because Christ is at the center.





FAMILY

ERIC CAIN

One of Cain's most memorable moments with CHRISTUS St. Michael came in 2010 at Sister Damian Murphy's retirement party. Cain and his wife were having a picture made with Sister Damian and discussing the CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System core values. Cain said Sister Damian's face became focused, and she looked at him and said, "Eric, as long as you treat everyone with whom you come in contact with dignity, you'll be fine. No matter who it is. Treat the person on the street the same as you would treat the president of the United States of America, and you'll be fine. That doesn't mean you have to give anyone special treatment, but treat them with dignity." The interaction profoundly impacted Cain. He hung the picture in his office as a lasting reminder of that advice. He says it's that advice that has made a world of difference in his career and life.

BOB HAY OUR FAMILY LEGACY

Even prior to his birth, Bob Hay's connection to CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System began with his Irish grandfather, William (Will) Edward Bann, who moved to Texarkana around 1905 with his wife, Maud. Early on in his new home, Mr. Bann became an active community member while serving as vice president for Southwestern Electric Power Company.

Hay recalls reading a "follow-up" letter penned by his civic-minded grandfather to the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. "The letter has since been lost, but I remember that it was written on behalf of the trustees for the estate of Mr. Michael Meagher,"

Hay explained. "Previously, the trustees requested the Sisters consider traveling to Texarkana for the purpose of 'leasing and operating a hospital for the indigent sick.' The letter stated the Sisters had 30 days to respond or the city fathers would have to seek other people to operate a hospital."

After a period of prayerful concernment, Mother Teresa O'Gara, CCVI, accepted the proposal on behalf of Sisters of Charity, and the congregation opened Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital with \$75,000 in funding from the Michael Meagher estate. The legacy that began in Texarkana on Sept. 14, 1916, continues 100 years later as does the Hay family connection to the health care ministry.

"My mother, Margaret, worked at St. Michael in the 1960s and 70s as an LVN," Hay said. "Also, my sister, Mary Sword, was a switchboard operator for the hospital in the downtown location, and my brother, Edward, served as an elevator operator in the downtown facility."

His dad, Haskell Hay, a former Texarkana, AR Mayor, worked at East Funeral Home in the 1950s. "At that time, East ran an ambulance service," Hay said. "Dad was on duty every other night, and I loved riding in the ambulance with him to help lift patients. I recall one particular patient who was a vagrant. We had to take him to St. Michael because no one else would accept him."



"The overriding compassionate care remains steadfast. Every employee in the hospital from admissions to lab to nursing to administration is interested in your care."

- Bob Hay

Today, Hay's family still has roots with CHRISTUS St. Michael. "My nephew, Jodie Reed, works in Plant Operations, and my niece-in-law, Alicia Reed, is an RN there," he explains. But more, the Hay's Family believes the caring tradition established by the Sisters 100 years ago is still alive and well and gives them

reason to continue to trust CHRISTUS St. Michael as their hospital.

Over the years, Hay and his family members have experienced the healing ministry at CHRISTUS St. Michael on a personal level, receiving care for heart issues, surgery, cancer care and more. While the technology has changed, the mission has not, according to Hay.

On one particular hospital visit several years ago, Hay remembers an encounter with the legendary Sister Carmelita Brett, who served as Administrator of St. Michael Hospital from August 1973 to August 1983. "Shortly after I had received care at St. Michael for my second heart attack and recovered, I went to the hospital to visit a friend, who had also suffered a heart attack," Hay said. "I ran into Sister Carmelita in the elevator. She spoke and with that Irish brogue of hers said, 'Well, good day, Mr. Hay. It's good to see you today. You know, we thought we had lost you there for a while.' If I had known I was that gravely ill, I might have died from fright," he chuckled.

HEALING AT HOME

SHELBA JEAN PURIFOY FRICKS

The summer of July 1977, we returned from our vacation to our home in Kensington Park. The news was that the land behind us was going to be where a new mall would be built. Our house backed Cowhorn Creek. Our home almost flooded several times due to the creek and poor drainage. My husband, Dr. M. Leon Purifoy, announced that we were putting our house up for sale.

I tell this because it was at this same time my health problems began. I was diagnosed with carcinoma of the rectum (the cancer no one likes to talk about).

I was 38-years-old with four children ages 6 to 18 years old. My doctors were Walter Barnes, M.D. and Donald Duncan, M.D. A.E. Andrews, M.D.,

and Larry Pebbles, M.D. were my radiologists. We decided to stay in Texarkana instead of going out of town because of our children.

I went into St. Michael Hospital on Jan. 30, 1978. My surgery was Feb. 1, 1978. I went home Feb. 18. Those were very difficult days learning about my colostomy, but I had wonderful nurses. They let me keep one special nurse named Clare to help me learn about my colostomy.

The Sisters helped make my stay as comfortable as possible. I celebrated my 39th birthday there on Feb. 14, 1978. They prepared me a wonderful meal along with a birthday cake. I shall never forget them.

I just had my 38th anniversary cancer free!

A KINDESS NEVER FORGOTTEN

C Y M O N E T O W N S E N D

In October of 2014, I was admitted into the hospital in pre-labor with my unborn baby girl. I had an emergency cerclage placed by Dr. Sudheer Jayaprabhu. I was released after two days and put on strict bed rest the next week. I came in the hospital via the emergency department in full labor with no signs of stopping. At 20 weeks and five days, I delivered a baby girl who lived for a little under three hours.

The nurses and Spiritual Care Staff were wonderful. They let me keep my baby as long as I wanted, and they treated me with the upmost care. The staff still sends me cards to this day.

THE POWER OF PERSISTENCE

VILLA DE MATEL CONVENT, HOUSTON, TEXAS

Villa de Matel
August 7, 1944

Dear Sister M. Baptista:

This note will confirm our telephone conversation. You are to close one floor of the hospital. You kept it open too long. After all, the Sisters cannot stay on their feet forever. It is marvelous that they have done as well as they have. In New Orleans and many other places the hospitals have closed floors months ago. If help keeps getting scarcer we may be forced to close Texarkana altogether. At present, we have a number of Sisters on the sick list, due no doubt to their being over-worked. Your group must have been very healthy to be able to stand it so long.

I hope you succeeded in getting the nurses from Shreveport. Get any help you can that will make matters easier for the Sisters...

To the left is part of a letter from Mother M. Damian to one of the local superiors at St. Michael Hospital during particularly trying times for health care in Texarkana as well as many other parts of the country in the year 1944.

Just four years later, the Arkansas Catholic Guardian newspaper featured this article and the Texarkana Gazette displayed this photograph of patients being transported to the larger and more modern St. Michael Hospital.

New Hospital At Texarkana Has 150 Beds

Texarkana.—The 150 beds in St. Michael's Hospital will accommodate three times as many patients as the old Meagher Hospital.

will be arranged and in wards accommodate two, three, and four patients.

Operating wards, will have ample rooms and ample rooms will have night lights, and special

wards will have common hosiery, bed-rooms in each

located in

build-rooms, two and wards which accommodate 24 patients



PATIENTS BEING SHIPPED TO NEW HOSPITAL—All Michael Hospital patients were transferred to the new hospital Monday morning. The old hospital is being dismantled.

Monday and stay in Ford Garage wearing white jacket, as usual in public. Mrs. William Kelly, of the Bonita Funeral Home, is in the foreground in the Ford Funeral Home.

FR. FELIX OKEY ALARIBE
CHAPLAIN CHRISTUS ST. MICHAEL HEALTH SYSTEM

IT TOOK EIGHT NUNS

I was in a hospital hallway recently when I saw an elderly female patient in her bed. The excitement on her face was unique as she waved at me. The smile on her face said it all. It was very inviting. I couldn't just pass by. I went into her room to see her.

One of her sons was at the bedside. Patient and son seemed delighted that I came around. The conversation quickly became about the nuns. As we continued to visit, the son said to me: "Father, do you know that I was born in this hospital on the Arkansas side 61 years ago?" He continued, "One of my earliest memories of this hospital was when I was about six years old. I was sick and was brought to the hospital and as a young boy, I dreaded the needles. One day, one of the young nuns came into my room with a needle and a syringe to stick me. I didn't want to be stuck again. I was ready with both of my fists positioned to fight off the young nun. Without a word, she left me and the room and I thought that I had won the fight. A few minutes later, she returned with seven other nuns. I felt overpowered by their presence and knew that my fists couldn't get me anywhere."

"I then had to take the shot."





the parade of nuns

by Deacon David Fowler

My fondest memory of St. Michael Hospital was as a child growing up in the downtown area of Texarkana. My father was a Texarkana, AR, city policeman. Part of his assignment was to patrol the area around St. Michael Hospital. Every evening he would sit in his patrol car and watch, as he called it, “the parade of nuns in their white outfits” go from the convent to the hospital as the shifts changed. Over the years, he became friends with many of the Sisters, who would bring him coffee and a “snack” while he watched, ensuring their safety. And in later years as his health declined, the “parade of nuns” took care of him.

My father was not a “churched” individual. In fact he usually went fishing on Sundays. But he always admired the Sisters and what they did for people, even though he wasn’t Catholic. Most especially I remember Sister Herman Joseph. Not only did she take care of my father, but she would make sure my mother had something to eat. My father always said that he wasn’t a “big shot” in this town, but it didn’t matter to the Sisters – they took care of him as if he were the only patient in the hospital.



our next
100 YEARS

A LEGACY FOR YOUR CHILDREN... AND THEIRS

Thirty energetic, farsighted people met on July 10, 1984, with a common goal in mind – to ensure that your children, their children and generations to come will always benefit from the vital health care available through St. Michael Hospital, now CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System.

Born out of a need and the desire of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word-Houston and others looking to the future, St. Michael Hospital Foundation was formed with the ultimate purpose of meeting the health care needs of the Texarkana area then, today and tomorrow.



The first officers of the St. Michael Hospital Foundation were from left, Earl Jones, Jr., chairperson; Stern Feinberg, secretary; Bill Roberts, treasurer; and Tom Byrne, president.



From left inaugural St. Michael Hospital Foundation members, Dr. J.B. Rochelle, Sister Herman Joseph, Harvey Ashford, and Zita Webber.



First St. Michael Friends of the Foundation Group in 1989

Approached with the idea of working together for the sake of long-term quality medical care, each member of the new foundation gladly accepted the challenges of guaranteeing the financial health of St. Michael Hospital as it continued to serve our region. The founding members sought to make certain St. Michael would be able to continue to expand services and offer cutting-edge technology, advanced equipment and methods while never ceasing to focus on our philosophy of compassionate, faith-based care.

Each member expressed a willingness to devote his/her time, energy and talents to providing a more systematic way to corral volunteer energy for long-term fund raising. Initial members of the foundation were Earl Jones, Jr., chairperson, Harvey Ashford, Dr. Walter Barnes, Sister Carmelita Brett, Dr. Henry Carney, Mildred Clark, Stan Cook, Charles Lee Davis, Walt (Buddy) Davis, Margaret Dickey, Stern Feinberg, Bobbie Gleboff, Sister Herman Joseph Carroll, Dr. F.E. Joyce and Sister Aloysius Mannion.

Other founding members included Julia Mobley, Henry Moore, III, William Roberts, Dr. J.B. Rochelle, Norman Russell, Sister Avitus Ryle, Ben Sandefur, Utley Smith, John Stroud, Jr., Arthur Temple, Pat Thomas and Zita Webber.

In November of 1989, the Friends of the Foundation of St. Michael Hospital was established as an extension of the foundation with Dennis Landreaux serving as the group's first president. Formed to set the path for generations of concerned, community-minded people to continue a legacy of previous generations, the Friends of the Foundation was composed of 28 young professionals. Original officers and committee chairpersons included Dr. Rowan Patterson, Andy McDonnell, Mike Cross, Sharon Crumpton, Tom Holcombe, Debra Moore and Don Capshaw. Other founding members were Johnny Ray Arnold, Tony Arnold, Mike Conway, Mike Craven, Michael Davis, Tommy Deweese, Harold Dodds, III, Judy Folsom, Dee Miller, Mike Haney, John Harrison, Mike Mayo, Selden McMillin, Jr., Paul Miller, Bobby Nichols, LaWanda Rich, Dan Sparrow, Eddie Telford, Greg Torrance and Rick Wisdom.

Thirty-two years later, CHRISTUS St. Michael Foundation remains an instrumental force in ensuring CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System continues to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. In the midst of a rapidly changing health care environment, we are challenged to deliver advanced health coupled with cutting-edge technology and services while ensuring those most vulnerable in our society have access to health care.

our next 100 YEARS



Susan Landreaux, CFRE
Executive Director



Cristy Lummus, M.S.
Development Coordinator

Inspired by the CHRISTUS St. Michael Foundation, community support has resulted in CHRISTUS St. Michael being the home to the region's only: Electrophysiology (EP) Lab, Hybrid Operating Suite, Level III NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit), Breast Imaging Center of Excellence with a Patient Navigation Program, Heart Care Program affiliated with Cleveland Clinic, the #1 Heart Program in the United States for 21 years, and accredited Comprehensive Cancer Program with Genetic Testing available.

Since 1990, the Friends have netted an estimated \$1.6 million through activities such as 27 annual Duck Races, a garage sale and other events to support the construction of the new pediatric wing at CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System, a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, CHRISTUS St. Michael Imaging Center, the EP Lab, the purchase of a patient transport van, to benefit cancer patients and more.

Friends of the Foundation

Pam Beck
Morgan Bennett
Eric Cain
Skip Colvin
DeAnna Craytor
Kelli Ashbrook - Cummings
Andi Darby
Karen Davidson
Jim Day
Jayme DeHaan
Jennifer Doan
Robyn Eaves
Betty Feir
Theresa Fontenot
Nikki Foster
Vickers Fuqua
Greg Giles
Tiffany Godwin
Tina Green
Layla Hazin
Jana Hicks
Jeremy Higginbotham
Janis Holliday
Troy Hornsby
Dennis Huffman
Mike Ingram
Mark James
Kacie Kirkland
Anitha Kurichety
Dennis Landreaux
Nikki Laing
Karen Lucas
Andy McDonnell
Charlie McMurphy
Mark Missildine
Debra Moore
Robert Moore
Bob Murray
Joe Nichols
Mary Alice O'Farrell
Thomas Orr
Diane Paolucci
Beth Pesek
Cindy Porter, M.D.
Trish Reed
Janis Robbins
Clay Roberts
Sean Rommel
Jameson Rommel
Courtney Shoalmire
Julie Sinha
Emily Tarr
John Whitson
Lillian Whitson
Stephanie Wyly
Jim Wyly
Kevin Yankowsky

CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System 2016 Foundation

Executive Committee

Chairman - Jason Sadowski
Vice Chairman - Anna Marie Hornsby
Secretary - Greg Giles
Treasurer - Glen Boles
Executive Director - Susan Landreaux

Foundation Board

Dean Barry	Gene Joyce
Sr. Jeanne Connell	Chris Karam
Caroline Curry	Steve Mayo
Jennifer Doan	David Potter, Jr.
Benjamin Dubois, M.D.	Jason Sadowski
Adam Dukelow	Megan Schroeder

Partners in Philanthropy

Renee Arnold	Dennis Landreaux
Van Alexander	Ed Miller
Bill Crutchfield	Helen Mobley
Jane Daines	Sean Rommel
Margaret Dowd	Mike Sandefur
Judy Folsom	Malcolm Smith, M.D.
Vickers Fuqua	The Hon. John F. Stroud
	Jim Wyly

Sister Brigid Marie Reynolds and Dennis Landreaux, first president of the St. Michael Friends of the Foundation, are pictured here in November 1989 at the formation meeting of the group.



THE POLIO EPIDEMIC



In the United States, the 1952 polio epidemic became the worst outbreak in the nation's history. Of nearly 58,000 cases reported that year 3,145 died and 21,269 were left with mild to disabling paralysis.

Three years later, Dr. Jonas Salk became a national hero when he developed the first safe and effective polio vaccine in 1955 with the support of the March of Dimes. In the two years before the vaccine was widely available, the average number of polio cases in the U.S. was more than 45,000. By 1962, that number had dropped to 910.

The following stories demonstrate the profound effect the epidemic had right here at St. Michael Hospital, where we opened the area's only acute isolation ward. We honor not only the lives of those who fought the disease, but also the families, nurses, doctors and volunteers who provided their care.

WANDA MITCHELL 1953 RED CROSS CLASSES

In January 1953, my sister, Norma Adams, and I began Red Cross classes at St. Michael with emphasis on helping with polio patients. We graduated and received our caps with another set of sisters. I do not remember the sisters' first names, but their last names were Huckabee and Paludan.

In 1956, we helped administer the first polio vaccine to children at Bowie County Health Clinic on Spruce Street.

A day I am not likely to forget.



J E A N H I C K E R S O N FOR THE LOVE OF A CHILD

I am Jean Huddleston Hickerson. You can see me right in the middle of the photo on the next page, sitting in the lap of a caregiver at St. Michael Hospital.

I had polio during the epidemic in the Texarkana area in 1950-1951. I was 5 years old when I was stricken with polio just overnight. I went to bed fine and woke the next morning realizing I couldn't move some of my limbs. I screamed out at my mom and dad for help. They rushed me to St. Michael Hospital in Texarkana. We were living at Hooks, TX, at the time.

I was in the hospital for several months. This was, of course, my first time away from my parents. I remember being so scared and frightened. I was first placed in quarantine. My parents parked their car outside of the hospital where my room was located.

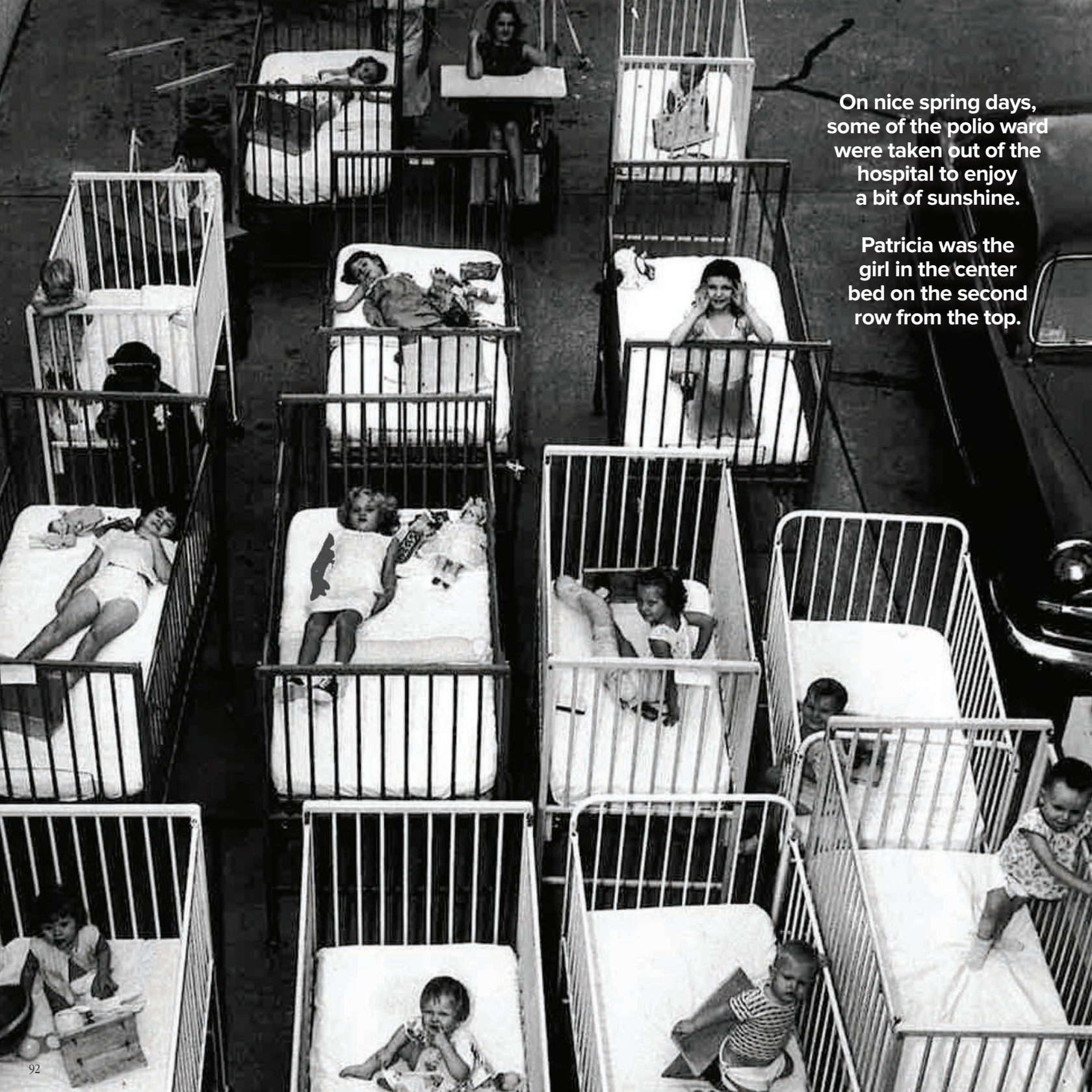
I remember my parents talking to me through the window all night long to try and ease my fears.

My father worked at Red River Army Depot during this time. He was a mechanic. His shop took up money and purchased a tricycle. He took the metal pedals off and replaced them with wood. He then screwed my shoes into the wood. He would put me on the trike and lace my feet into the shoes. He then would push me up and down the halls because I could not move my legs. This made my legs move up and down and performed some of the best rehab I could have had because my feet could not fall off the pedals. My mom would clear the table and place me on quilts on top of the table. She would then spend hours stretching and moving my legs.

After lots of therapy and much needed love and support from my parents, I was able to walk again. Years later, after I was grown, I had scoliosis surgery to correct the curve in my back. I have weakness in the legs even today. Often, you will see me with my crutch. I have what is referred to now as post-polio.

*Thank
you to
St. Michael
Hospital for
being there
for all of
us during
the polio
epidemic.*





On nice spring days, some of the polio ward were taken out of the hospital to enjoy a bit of sunshine.

Patricia was the girl in the center bed on the second row from the top.

PATRICIA ANN CONATSER JIMMERSON

A LIFE FULFILLED

In July 1952, I was 5-1/2 years old. I was playing in my sandbox at our family home in the West Texas town of Andrews. Late in the afternoon, I went inside crying because I had been stung by a “red ant” on the back of my neck. If you have ever been stung by a “red ant,” you will remember its sting. After my mother consoled me, I fell asleep. When I awoke from my nap, I had a high fever. After a call to the doctor, I was scheduled to see him the next morning. During the night, I had to go to the bathroom. Since I was not feeling well, my daddy got up to take me to the bathroom. When he stood me on the floor, I could not stand on my legs, and I fell. My parents knew that something was wrong. I was admitted to the hospital in Andrews, Texas, for several days and was put under an oxygen tent. However, the doctors were unable to make a diagnosis.

I was transferred from the hospital in Andrews and admitted to a hospital about 35 miles away in Odessa, Texas. The doctors there were also unable to make a diagnosis, so I was sent for further tests at a medical facility in Midland, TX, about 25 miles away from Odessa.

In Midland, I was given a spinal tap and was diagnosed with polio. Knowing fully the severity of my diagnosis, I was transferred from Midland via ambulance to St. Michael Hospital in Texarkana, AR, a 510 mile trip. My parents followed in their vehicle.

On Aug. 2, 1952, I was admitted to the “Polio Ward” at St. Michael Hospital in Texarkana. I was quite despondent and severely involved with polio from trace to fair in extremities: legs/feet, left arm/hand, back and stomach. Over the next few weeks, I began to improve.

I was with 15-20 kids of all ages in the large ward. We were some of the “lucky ones.” I say “lucky” because in another ward next to us, there were patients in big machines called Iron Lungs. Their whole bodies were in a tube-like machine that breathed for them. The only part sticking out of the machine were the patients’ heads.

Some of the memories I recall while being in the Polio Ward at St. Michael are:

- We were all in beds similar to baby beds and the sides were up high so we could not fall out of the bed.
- We spent most of the time flat on our backs, and our feet were placed in shoes that were bolted to a board, keeping our legs and feet straight so the muscles would not stiffen and cause our feet to draw downward.
- We were wrapped in hot woolen blankets several times a day that would help relax our paralyzed muscles. I can still smell the hot woolen blankets.
- The Sisters were dressed all in white, and they were so kind and loving.
- Our parents could not stay with us but could visit at certain hours and on certain days.

During my stay at St. Michael, my parents moved from Andrews, TX, to Wilton, AR - about 25 miles from Texarkana, where some family members were located. Being closer to Texarkana enabled them to visit me in the hospital as well as being closer for me to begin therapy after being discharged from the hospital.

After being a patient in St. Michael Hospital for nine months, I was released with several braces on parts of my body. I had two fully locked leg braces,

a body brace and a brace on my left arm and hand. In late spring 1953, I began therapy across the street from St. Michael Hospital at The Temple Home (today it is called Temple Memorial Rehabilitation Center) under the care of a therapist, Miss Beverly Schaefer. At the therapy sessions, I remember being put in a large stainless tub with warm bubbling water known as a whirlpool bath which would help to relax my muscles so it would not hurt as much when they were stretched during therapy. I recall the most painful part of the therapy would be when Miss Schaefer would take my little feet one at a time in her hands and stretch them forward to eventually allow my muscles to move. It was the most painful part of my therapy and hurt my heels more than one can imagine.

I truly believe if I had not received the wonderful immediate care at St. Michael Hospital, the therapy I received from Miss Schaefer at The Temple Home, the at-home therapy I received from my loving mother, and the miracles provided by God, I would not have been able to function as well as I have. I would not have had the normal life of finishing school, college, being a wife, mother, grandmother and working at the same job from which I retired in 2014 after 47 years. Thank you St. Michael and Happy 100!



Patricia at age six in 1953 and age 68 in 2015.

M I C H A E L W I L L I A M C O X

HER BOY NOW

It was June 1949 when soon to be parents, Ben and Marnell Cox, had selected “air conditioned” St. Michael Hospital, Texarkana, AR, for their newborn’s arrival. Dr. E.O. Ellison was to be their attending physician.

Twenty-year-old Marnell had never been a hospital patient as had none of her family. Nearing her seventh month of pregnancy, she gave birth on June 20 to a son, Michael William, who was quickly rushed to critical care. Baby Michael remained in the hospital for several weeks after Marnell was dismissed. A special nurse, Grace Stewart, was encouraging to the new parents when they could visit their tiny son. Visiting hours were very, very strict back then. Michael had been home one week when they had to rush him back to the hospital for a brief stay. From the beginning of his life, Michael was a miracle baby.



Dr. J.W. Burnett became Michael’s pediatrician, and the tiny tyke continued to thrive until December 4, 1951. Michael was sick and admitted to the Polio Ward that had just opened in August. If this hadn’t been available in Texarkana, they would have had to take him to Houston, TX. He was two and a half years old and was frightened as were his parents. It was extremely devastating to leave our sweet blonde haired, blue eyed baby in the hospital with all those other children with polio. Back then polio was as scary as cancer is today.

When Ben and Marnell had to leave, Michael would naturally cry, begging to go home with them. A special nun, Sister Conleth, spent a lot of time with him. When it was time for the parents to leave, she would leave first with Michael taking him to her kitchen for hot chocolate, ice cream or Dr. Pepper. She said the Dr. Pepper had prune juice in it and was good for him. Sister Conleth was understanding and patient with Michael and soon won him over since he was a bit afraid of her at first.

Michael got the flu while in the polio ward, and Dr. Burnett told Sister Conleth to give him a penicillin shot. She told him “he would have to do it himself that Michael was her boy now, not so in the beginning.”

She was very protective of Michael and put forth special effort to keep the two-year-old toddler occupied. She and other staff members would put him in a wheelchair; push him into the hall and into Ruth Smith’s

room to visit. Ruth was pregnant and in an iron lung. Michael loved to be out of the crib and go see Ruth. Ruth had her baby daughter while in the Iron Lung and was later flown somewhere else for treatment.

When Michael was released from the hospital, he had to learn to walk with two tiny crutches. Even throughout all of the pain and discomfort, Michael always had a big smile for everyone. He was a very happy, good natured baby. When the crutches were no longer needed, they were placed in the attic of Marnell's parents home where they remained until Michael was in his late thirties. For years Michael's physical therapy was at Temple Memorial Center and the swimming pool at Bramble Park. Marnell says the figure \$626.00 is her belief of what she and Ben had to pay and can't remember exactly for what, but Michael had to wear a brace and a built-up shoe after his ordeal with polio.

Another son, Ricky, was born Oct. 30, 1952, at St. Michael Hospital, and again Dr. Ellison was the attending physician. Sister Conleth was still there, and she visited with Marnell and her growing family the night before they were discharged for home. Neither knew at the time, but both Sister and the Cox Family had resided in Southern California. She became pretty special to Ben, Marnell and Michael.

Due to heart complications, Michael died in Sept. 2013. The Grace of God, the staff at St. Michael Hospital, Dr. Burnett and Sister Conleth are the reasons why Michael survived and thrived from the moment of his birth. He had excellent, loving care and lived to be a wonderful son, brother, college graduate, loving husband, father and grandfather.

In all truth, the staff at St. Michael Hospital was earthly angels for Michael William Cox.

Written by Wanda Adcock

COMMELLIA ANN BUMPERS ...FOR MOM

My mother, Gladys Bumpers, was diagnosed with polio in 1953 while pregnant with me. She was admitted to St. Michael Hospital where she gave birth to me, while being treated for polio.

My grandmother took me home from the hospital where she cared for me until my mother was discharged from the hospital. I was told she was in the hospital for a year. She was in a wheelchair until she died in 1969 when I was 16 years old.



St. Michael Sister welcoming Commellia to the world.



CHRISTUS
ON CAMERA





JAPANESE BROADCAST TEAM FEATURED CHRISTUS ST. MICHAEL CANCER PROGRAM

A Japanese documentary was filmed in Texarkana in January 2005 featuring the Commission on Cancer (COC) Approved Cancer Program for CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System. CHRISTUS had recently received accreditation with commendation from the CoC and was selected to participate in the documentary which aired on N.H.K., the national television station in Japan in April 2005.

The documentary team's three-week visit, led by Mr. Toshiki Ishikawa of the Japan Broadcasting Corporation, culminated Friday, Feb. 3, 2005. Interviews were filmed with the Cancer Registry staff, Cancer Center nursing, radiation oncology, medical oncology, physics staff and patients. Some of the activities the film crew asked to participate in while at CHRISTUS were a mock Cancer Committee meeting and two mock Tumor Board presentations. These meetings were planned to allow the crew to understand the functions and duties of a Cancer Committee and to document the interaction between physicians who planned the multidisciplinary care of the patients. The film crew actually filmed patients being interviewed by a medical oncologist and radiation oncologist with the recommendations from the Tumor Boards being given to them separately.

General cancer care is delivered in a much different fashion in Japan. The entire nation is served by only 12 or so medical physicians. There seems to be limited physician-to-physician communication or correspondence. Patient care is not as individualized or as well planned as in the W. Temple Webber Cancer Center at CHRISTUS St. Michael. Additionally, cancer centers are located in the major cities but not very accessible to the general public in Japan.

Areas of interest to the Japanese were Tumor Boards and follow up. The multidisciplinary approach to patient management and consultative services and the follow up correspondence with the physicians/patients throughout the patient's lifetime seemed to interest the crew immensely.

Of course on everyone's mind who met this very personable and delightful film crew was "Why did you select Texarkana, USA?"

The answer was always because they were looking for a "rural" hospital in the nation, with a caseload similar to CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System. They wanted a facility which had recently successfully passed a CoC survey and scored high (We received 7 out of 7 commendations from the CoC at our last survey). They also wanted a hospital in which the radiation therapy and the chemotherapy treatment were given in the same department. We seemed to fit the bill and were very excited to have been given this opportunity. At the end of the film crew's visit, the cancer committee and mayor of Texarkana, TX presented the film crew with a key to the city. The film crew expressed they were impressed with the hospitality of the people in Texarkana.

Toshi wrote a book on their experience in Texarkana and he created several segments for their "Good Morning Japan" program. The Cancer Registry was given the book along with DVD tapes of the interviews which aired on N.H.K., the national television station in Japan.



JUDY PRESTRIDGE SMITH
CANCER AT TWO

As a 2 ½ year old, I developed unexplained stomach pain. Dr. J.W. Burnett (Dr. Bob Burnett's father) was my physician. Dr. Burnett determined additional examination was needed and referred us to Dr. Gerald Teasley, a local urologist. Through testing ordered by Dr. Teasley, it was discovered I had a Wilms Tumor - kidney cancer. In 1958, shortly after the diagnosis, surgery was performed by Dr. Walter Barnes at St. Michael Hospital downtown. Dr. Barnes was also a member of our church, Williams Memorial United Methodist Church. Later on in life, Dr. Barnes served as our Sunday School teacher in the 80s and 90s. He was an awesome person, physician and role model.

I wish I could share more about the experience while at St. Michael, but being so young, it's somewhat of a blur. My Mom and Dad were with me at the hospital the entire time but did not talk about it much as the years flew by. They are both deceased now.

I know they chose St. Michael for a reason. Because of Dr. Burnett, Dr. Teasley, Dr. Barnes and St. Michael Hospital, I am alive and well today. Our only daughter was recently married. I have had a blessed, healthy and happy life.

Thank you CHRISTUS St. Michael.

RECOLLECTIONS BY RUTH

My career as a nurse led me to a lot of interesting people and patients. One of my favorite supervisors was Mrs. Anita Gilbert. She was always bringing watermelons, homemade soup and other special things.

Sometimes, I would pick up the Sisters who didn't drive and carry them to church, etc. The first time, all the Sisters got in the car and started praying. I told them I don't drive that badly. Their reply, "we always pray when we get in a car." To this day, I do the same.

Dan Blocker's mother, Mary, was my patient. She was a small lady about 4'8", but said she would shoot anyone breaking in her house. She would talk about Dan, 14 lbs. when he was born at home in De Kalb, TX.

When I was in nursing school in St. Michael's delivery room, a lady wanted me to name her baby. I picked Joseph Michael, both names of saints. Also, while I was in training at St. Michael Hospital, we couldn't find a patient, a red haired young boy about 12 years old. We had the police out looking for him. Finally, he came back and said he went to Guy's Orange Stand for a hamburger.

One year, one of the Sisters and I traveled to north Arkansas for a few days. It was a lot of fun, food and good friendship.

Thank you for letting me share my stories.
- Ruth Gill

OUR HEALING MISSION FOR ALL

Richard "Wayne" Snell, described as a racist white supremacist, shot William Stumpp, a pawn shop owner, on June 30, 1984. While fleeing from the first murder scene, Snell was pulled over by Arkansas State Trooper Louis P. Byrant during a routine traffic stop. Snell shot and killed Trooper Bryant as well and continued his attempted escape. After that, road blocks were set up, and a gun fight started. Snell was wounded and taken to the St. Michael Hospital.

As a nurse, I worked on the fifth floor of St. Michael, and Richard "Wayne" Snell was my patient. Arkansas State Troopers were all over the hospital, but mainly on fifth floor. Snell's room was at the end of the hall, and all the rooms around his were empty of patients because of the danger. Troopers occupied the room next to Snell with two officers at his door and in his room. The nurses were shown pictures of his wife, known associates, etc., in case they came to help him escape.

To my surprise, Snell always said "thank you" in a nice manner, and when he was to be transported by helicopter, he said "good bye". He also had a large Bible on his chest.

Snell received a life sentence for killing Louis P. Byrant and death for killing Stumpp. Snell went to the death chamber on April 19, 1995, the day Timothy McVeigh bombed the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma.



Sisters of the Incarnate Word
and Blessed Sacrament

Our MINISTRY *of* HEALING

The following stories were written from interviews conducted in 2012 with eight Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word-Houston, who served to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ at St. Michael Hospital and CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System throughout the years from the 1950s to 2010.



Sister Aloysius Mannion

"I never wanted to leave St. Michael Hospital. I loved it," remarked Sister Aloysius Mannion. She worked at the hospital for 11 of the years from 1955-1985, except for times when she was called away to work at other Sisters of Charity medical centers. "Our call today is the same as it was in 1866," she said. "Our Lord Jesus Christ seeks relief at your hand' is what Bishop Claude Dubuis wrote to our congregation urging Sisters to come to Galveston, TX, to take charge of hospitals, refuges and asylums."

"We did anything a patient needed," she explained. "We built a team and stayed on the alert and helped people. Everything was growing during this time, and we were focused on compassionate care. We took care of the whole person. Patients felt secure when they saw the Sisters." Sister Aloysius believes she and the other nuns at St. Michael were very helpful to the Medical Staff. "Since some of us were trained at clinical pathological conferences, the Sisters were sometimes able to identify illnesses from blood counts and x-rays," she said. "I saw a case of sickle cell anemia once, and I was able to tell from the use of the microscope. We knew things that helped the doctors."

"We tried to remember that people who came to the hospital were vulnerable and looking for help," Sister Aloysius said. "We always tried to help meet their needs and never said, 'That's not my area.' We always found someone who knew the answer."

Sister Damian Murphy



"The first time I came to Texarkana was to teach a class in Critical Care Nursing," Sister Damian recalled. "When I arrived, I felt at home right away." For Sister Damian, it was fulfilling to know that she was meeting a need. One of her first duties was to establish the Spiritual Care Department. "I gave orientation to new Associates, physicians, -- everybody," she said." They were taught our mission: to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, by living and practicing the core values of dignity, and living as children of God. Honesty, justice and constancy were paramount in all relationships."

During her tenure served intermittently from 1961-2010, Sister Damian worked with many people in many situations. The Ethics Committee was one of her proudest accomplishments because "...we looked at the issue. Good is the focus and good has to be the outcome."

Perhaps the most memorable moment of Sister Damian's time at St. Michael was the time a former patient recognized her voice in the hallway and stopped her. "This patient was here for 12 months, in a critical care unit for most of that time, but she remembered voices," she said. "The patient told me, 'I remember you touching my forehead and speaking to me when I felt like I was on hot stones.'" Sister Damian is visibly moved as she remembers the moment.

"I believe it is the love and care that a patient gets that makes them want to get better."



Sister Edwin Berry

She remembers going to the uppermost hill in County Mayo, Ireland, and looking far across, to where legend has it the parish of Boston could be seen. One might wonder if Sister Edwin could imagine what was ahead for her... a journey to New York, a life in Houston, the words from her superior, Mother Cecilia: "Get off your knees. Pack your bags. You're going to Texarkana."

Maybe she pictured herself walking the halls of St. Michael Hospital or living in "the shack" (as the former convent was referred to in the 1950s), but it is unlikely she could have predicted the minor injury she would sustain while helping open the new convent. Treatment for her injury would uncover the fact that she was indeed allergic to the tetanus shot as well as penicillin—ironic for someone who might administer those same drugs to cure others.

Sister Edwin recalls the polio outbreak during the years she lived in Texarkana (from 1954-56) and speaks of the patients she saw in the Iron Lung during that time. St. Michael's was the designated hospital for a 360-mile radius to treat those patients. It was the first time she had seen an Iron Lung, and says it reminded her of something like astronauts were using for their weightlessness programs. People from across the four states area were helped during the outbreak.

She speaks of her supervisors fondly, recalling that Sister Romana, one of her superiors in the lab, owned a unique pet, a parrot. "She taught that bird to say, 'Hail Mary, Holy Mary and Goodbye Mary,' and several of the doctors would have words with that parrot." Sister Edwin's eyes twinkle at the memory. "She was a tremendous lady."

"I dearly loved St. Michael's, and especially the employees and the patients we had. The people in the business office were so patient with me."

Sister Gertrude Murphy



Sister Gertrude Murphy served at St. Michael Hospital from 1959-1962 as a nurse supervisor. She greatly enjoyed the family-like atmosphere and simplicity of life at the time. "These were spiritual people, like our own families," she said. "We worked hard together, and there was a lot of night duty. The nurses were very good."

She shares several stories of delivering babies and says she probably delivered six in all without a doctor present. She remembers one baby was breech and one who she helped deliver in an elevator. "Thanks be to God the babies came without any trouble," she said.

Sister Gertrude's background as a supervisor of nurses in Ireland helped in other ways besides obstetrics. "We could start IVs. It was not done so much then, so the doctors were happy we knew how. It was cutting-edge for us to be able to do that," she said.

"There was a real family spirit and it was fulfilling to work at St. Michael."



Sister Kilian Fitzgerald

“We changed the habit from long to short during our time in Texarkana,” recalled Sister Kilian Fitzgerald with a smile. “I remember many supportive families and have the fondest memories. We walked downtown frequently. One day a lady at Belk-Jones told us what color of hose to wear with our habits,” she laughed.

Even though there were lighthearted times, the days were not challenge-free. During the time Sister Kilian served at St. Michael Hospital from 1963-1970, some patients would still occasionally come in for polio treatment. “Medicare came in the 60s, and we labored with that,” Sr. Kilian said. “Pat Thomas was our accountant at the time and worked with us. There were big changes and it was demanding.”

*Still, it was a time Sister Kilian remembers fondly.
“Oh, it was a lovely experience. We had many friends
and the doctors were wonderful.”*

Sister Margaret Collins



Sister Margaret Christina Collins remembers 10-year-old Jamie as if no time has passed since the years she spent in Texarkana from 1973-1986.

“Jamie hit his head during an icy time and was brought to the St. Michael Emergency Room,” she said. “He was taken to the ICU and placed on life support. I was on the second floor at the time, doing EKGs. I remember talking to Jamie’s mom and grandmother, who were both shook up. I assured them I was praying. Rev. Steven Byrne was the chaplain at the time. I told him I was concerned, and he stopped by and gave Jamie a blessing every day. He would stop in and pray often. After three months, Jamie started wiggling his toes. He snapped out of the coma!”

*“Jamie’s mother asked him if he remembered anything from the time he was in a coma,” she said. “Jamie answered, ‘Well, I remember looking up and seeing beings hovering over me and one said, ‘Jamie, I’m not ready for you yet.’” Sister paused and declared, **“I realize that miracles have not ceased.”***



Sister Mary McCluskey

“I came to Texarkana in late 2005 and stayed two years,” said Sister Mary McCluskey. “I loved my work as a chaplain at St. Michael. There were people from all religions, and I often sat and prayed with patients. I was there to help the doctors and nurses in any way that I could, and sometimes that was to help them understand the patients’ spiritual needs.”

Sister Mary recalls some of the patients she visited had been away from their church for years. However, she was available to sit and listen to them. If the time was appropriate, she also talked with them about their faith and God.

“Patients need the comfort of someone speaking to them, holding their hand, being at peace with the Lord when they are going home to God.”

One particular memory stands out to Sister Mary. “There was a mother who had two daughters,” she shared. “She was a young woman and close to death. I sat with her and held her hand and brought parts of her faith back to her. In the course of praying together, she calmed down. Later, one of her daughters wrote to tell me she died a peaceful death. They were able to be with her and then related that to me. That is one of my most wonderful memories; knowing I helped her at a critical time.”

Sister Miriam Miller



Sister Miriam Therese Miller lived in Texarkana from 1975-1979 and again from 2000-2010. Her work at St. Michael Hospital included admitting patients, assigning rooms, billing, and collecting payments, among other tasks. She smiled, remembering, "We offered to meet the patients where they were financially." Sometimes that meant receiving unusual payments. "A bag of eggs once. Fresh eggs."

"St. Michael was an extremely busy place," Sister Miriam said. "Southern Clinic was next door, and sometimes we were strapped to find beds. We had private and semi-private patient rooms, and wards at the time." Sister Miriam described the times as moving toward today's recognition of patient privacy. "We tried to offer privacy for patients so they did not have to tell their information in front of others."

Sister Miriam also remembers that her first years at St. Michael were at a time when integration was fairly new, and it was a challenge sometimes for patients and staff to communicate their feelings. "I think we handled it well," she said. "We did what we could to help our patients."

*St. Michael gave me an appreciation for differences,
to look at what unites us. There was camaraderie here."*



In honor and memory of the **Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word** who have extended the healing ministry of Jesus Christ at **CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System from September 1916 - November 2016.**

Sister Aquin Bane
 Sister Anna Barry
 Sister Alexis Bergen
 Sister Edwin Berry
 Sister Edmund Blackburn
 Sister Finian Bradley
 Sister Carmelita Brett
 Sister Joan Brett
 Sister Philip Brett
 Sister Claude Buckley
 Sister Hedwige Budnik
 Sister Margaret Bulmer
 Sister Camilla Cahill
 Sister Elizabeth Theresa Cahill
 Sister Malachy Cahill
 Sister Marie Celine Cahill
 Sister Maureen Therese Cahill
 Sister Theresine Cahill
 Sister Helena Canny
 Sister Herman Joseph Carroll
 Sister Norbert Clancy
 Sister Hubert Clarke
 Sister Raymond Coakley
 Sister Margaret Christina Collins
 Sister Philomene Collogne
 Sister Jeanne Connell
 Sister Angeliqe Crabbe
 Sister Casimir Crosse
 Sister Benignus Crowley
 Sister Celestine Crowley
 Sister Andre Cuccia
 Sister Athanasius Curtin
 Sister Canisius Curtin
 Sister Maurus Daigne
 Sister Eleanor Daly
 Sister Regina Daly

Sister Rose Clare Daly
 Sister Edward Darmody
 Sister Roberta Delougherty
 Sister Cornelia Dennehy
 Sister Evangeline Deshotels
 Sister Cyprian Dillon
 Sister Geraldine Doherty
 Sister Baptista Donovan
 Sister Borromeo Donovan
 Sister Lucy Downey
 Sister Jacqueline Driscoll
 Sister Mel Duffy
 Sister Theodosia Duffy
 Sister Mildred Dunne
 Sister Gerard Earls
 Sister Catherine Egan
 Sister Clement English
 Sister Anastasia Enright
 Sister Aengus Fanning
 Sister Aiden Finlay
 Sister Catherine Finlay
 Sister Reginald Finlay
 Sister Charlene Fitzgerald
 Sister Kilian Fitzgerald
 Sister Theodore Fitzgerald
 Sister Eustace Fleming
 Sister Alphonsine Flynn
 Sister Presentation Flynn
 Sister Dymna Froehlich
 Sister Brigidine Furlong
 Sister Marguerite Elaine Gaithe
 Sister Josephine Gildea
 Sister Laboure Goodwillie
 Sister Pauline Gregorio
 Sister Redempta Guider
 Sister Evelyn Guidry

Sister Cosmas Harnett
 Sister Ita Harnett
 Sister Benigna Harrington
 Sister John Berchmans Hartnett
 Sister Bernadette Heapes
 Sister Xavier Hemmert
 Sister Scholastica Hennessy
 Sister Gabriella Hughes
 Sister Paulinus Jennings
 Sister DeSales Joyce
 Sister Edith Judge
 Sister Perpetua Kavanaugh
 Sister Patricia Keely
 Sister Aniceta Kelleher
 Sister Matilda Kelleher
 Sister Bernardine Keller
 Sister Kostka Kelly
 Sister Ruth Kelly
 Sister Zita Kelly
 Sister Pachomius Kelly
 Sister Benedict Kennedy
 Sister Esther Kennedy
 Sister Coleman King
 Sister Conleth King
 Sister Helen Kipp
 Sister Judith LaBoa
 Sister Brendan Lally
 Sister Therese Martin Lally
 Sister Fintan Lambert
 Sister Barbara Lannon
 Sister Loretto Lee
 Sister Ascension Leonard
 Sister Gregory Linnane
 Sister Luke Lombard
 Sister Basil Looram
 Sister Vincentia Lynch

Sister Encradita Lyons
 Sister Marcella Maher
 Sister Albius Mahoney
 Sister Aloysius Mannion
 Sister Michael McCarthey
 Sister Dolores McCarthy
 Sister Marcellia McCarthy
 Sister Miriam McCarthy
 Sister Mary McCluskey
 Sister Miriam McCluskey
 Sister Edna Marie McDermott
 Sister Clare McDonnell
 Sister Nathy McGettrick
 Sister Incarnation McGowan
 Sister Eucharius McGrath
 Sister Petronilla McGrath
 Sister Louise Mckeon
 Sister Clare McMahan
 Sister Denis Miffleton
 Sister Miriam Therese Miller
 Sister Hugh Milligan
 Sister Marietta Mochler
 Sister DePazzi Moriarty
 Sister Michael Morley
 Sister Declan Moroney
 Sister Lucian Morrin
 Sister Daniel Moynihan
 Sister Martin Mulcahy
 Sister Clare Marie Mulholland
 Sister Emerita Mullins
 Sister Marie Joseph Murname
 Sister Damian Murphy
 Sister Gertrude Murphy
 Sister Jerome Murphy
 Sister Laura Murphy
 Sister Pius Murphy

Sister Victorine Murphy
 Sister Etheldreda Murray
 Sister Albertine Nagle
 Sister Matthias O'Brien
 Sister Ursuline O'Brien
 Sister John Vianney O'Callaghan
 Sister Cyril O'Connor
 Sister DePaul O'Connor
 Sister Eymard O'Connor
 Sister Laurence O'Connor
 Sister Rosalie O'Connor
 Sister Esther Marie O'Farrell
 Sister Dositheus O'Keeffe
 Sister Brigid Therese O'Loughlin
 Sister Elizabeth O'Neill
 Sister Anita O'Sullivan
 Sister Eugenia O'Sullivan
 Sister Margaret Angela O'Sullivan
 Sister Rita Prendergast
 Sister Justina Phelan
 Sister DeLourdes Plava
 Sister Ethel Puno
 Sister Ita Quigley
 Sister Thaddeus Quinlan
 Sister Finola Quinn
 Sister Brigid Marie Reynolds
 Sister Rosalima Rogers
 Sister Raphael Rouine
 Sister Beatrice Ryan
 Sister DeMontford Ryan
 Sister Felicitas Ryan
 Sister Hyacinth Ryan
 Sister Romana Ryan
 Sister Seraphine Ryan
 Sister Patrick Ryan
 Sister Avitus Ryle
 Sister Clement Marie Sadlier

Sister Raphael Seery
 Sister Cornelius Sexton
 Sister John Vianney Sexton
 Sister Albert Shanahan
 Sister Mary Ann Shanahan
 Sister Patrick Shanahan
 Sister Rebecca Shannon
 Sister Ignatia Sheridan
 Sister Jane Frances Shorten
 Sister Brendan Skelly
 Sister Monica Slattery
 Sister Vincent Smiddy
 Sister Aurelia Smyth
 Sister Juliana Spring
 Sister Francis Stapleton
 Sister Bertille Sullivan
 Sister Eugenia Sullivan
 Sister Joseph Sullivan
 Sister Maura Theriot
 Sister Kevin Travers
 Sister Sacred Heart Travers
 Sister Camillus Walsh
 Sister John of God Walsh
 Sister Loyola Walsh
 Sister Mary Walsh
 Sister Leonard Whelan
 Sister Peter Claver White
 Sister Leonardi Whooley
 Sister Brenda Williams
 Sister Incarnata Williamson
 Sister Matthew Wills
 Sister Mary Ellen Wrenn
 Sister Camille Wright
 Sister Ignatius Young
 Sister Pierce Young
 Sister Jane Zartman
 Sister Madeleva Manzanares



THIS BOOK HONORS THE
COMPASSION AND COMMITMENT
OF OUR BOARD, ADMINISTRATION, PHYSICIANS,
SISTERS, ASSOCIATES AND VOLUNTEERS.



your work is **OUR
LEGACY.**



Chiefs Of Staff for Michael Meagher Memorial Hospital, St. Michael Hospital and CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System since 1948

W. D. Smith, M.D.	1948	S. A. Vickers, M.D.	1971	Robert Burnett, M.D.	1994
L. P. Good, M.D.	1949	J. B. Rochelle, M.D.	1972	Stephen Parish, M.D.	1995
R.W. Pickett, M.D.	1950	Walter C. Barnes, M.D.	1973	Stanley Collins, M.D.	1996
S. A. Collom, M.D.	1951	M. M. Young, M.D.	1974	Joe Robbins, M.D.	1997
C. H. Frank, M.D.	1952	George R. Hunter, M.D.	1975	Richard L. Tyler, M.D.	1998
R. R. Brunazzi, M.D.	1953	Jack W. Harrison, M.D.	1976	Stanley C. Knowles, M.D.	1999
R. K. Harrison, M.D.	1954	A. E. Andrews, M.D.	1977	Mark Wright, M.D.	2000
W. B. Harrel, M.D.	1955	John G. Calhoun, M.D.	1978	B. Paul Quinn, M.D.	2001
Charles C. Stuart, M.D.	1956	Thomas J. Alston, M.D.	1979	Chris Alkire, M.D.	2002, 2003
G. H. Teasley, M.D.	1957	Herbert B. Wren, M.D.	1980	John Northam, M.D.	2004
Henry M. Carney, M.D.	1958	Donald L. Duncan, M.D.	1981	Dennis O'Bannion, M.D.	2005
C. P. Yarbrough, M.D.	1959	James E. Soyars, M.D.	1982	Gregory A. Richter, M.D.	2006
John Walter Jones, M.D.	1960	J. Sidney Smith, M.D.	1983	David Greathouse, M.D.	2007
E. T. Ellison, M.D.	1961	Fred A. Hutcheson, M.D.	1984	Vernon C. Shaffer, M.D.	2008
J. E. Gill, M.D.	1962	Timothy H. Trone, M.D.	1985	Richard Hilborn, M.D.	2009
C. V. Bintliff, M.D.	1963	F. E. Joyce, M.D.	1986, 1987	C. Todd Payne, M.D.	2010
C. G. Smith, M.D.	1964	Patrick J. Somerville, M.D.	1988	Bryan Griffin, M.D.	2011
William D. Dawson, M.D.	1965	Larry Peebles, M.D.	1989	Troy Potter, M.D.	2012
A. G. Goesl, M.D.	1966	John Gillean, M.D.	1990	Douglas Cogdill, M.D.	2013
Harold H. Short, M.D.	1967	David Williams, M.D.	1991	Cheryl Saul-Sehy, M.D.	2014
John S. Griffin, M.D.	1968	Mitchell Young, M.D.	1992	John J. Harris, M.D.	2015, 2016
J. B. Kittrel, M.D.	1969	Christopher Lux, M.D.	1993	Hayden Hemphill, M.D.	2017
J. W. Harrison, M.D.	1970				

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



James Bramlett



Eric Cain



William (Bill) Cork



Fred Harris, Jr.



Jason Harris, M.D.



Mary Catherine Haynes



Mary (Prissy) Hickerson



Sonja Hubbard



James (Jim) Hurley, M.D.



Viola (Jennell) Ingram



Carlton Jones



Chris Karam



Robert Martinez



Derrick McGary
(Vice Chair)



Dan Nichols, Jr., M.D.



Dennis O'Banion, M.D.



Sister Michele O'Brien



Sister Ethel Puno



Bobbie Wright



James (Jim) Wyly
(Chair)

CURRENT MEDICAL STAFF

Alkire, Carey C. M.D.
Al-Mateen, Kevin B. M.D.
Alshareef, Bashar N. M.D.
Alston, Thomas J. M.D.
Aquino, Alfonso M.D.
Averill, Francis M.D.
Bailey, Christopher A. M.D.
Balachandran, Subramaniam M.D.
Balmain, Laura G. M.D.
Baugh, John R. M.D.
Becker, Royal M. M.D.
Benbow, Bryan D. M.D.
Bingham, D'Andra D. M.D.
Black, D. Scott M.D.
Blankenship, D. Michael M.D.
Boehmke, James J. D.O.
Booker, James O. M.D.
Bowen, Bryan D. M.D.
Bowman, Vernon D. M.D.
Braza, Rudy M. M.D.
Brown, Stephen R. M.D.
Bunel, Kirby L. DDS
Byrne, Bradley H. M.D.
Calloway, Tracie S. D.O.
Campanini, D. Scott M.D.
Campbell, Jamie R. M.D.
Cannon, M. Bruce M.D.
Carmony, Brent R. DDS
Chukwu, Emmanuel E. M.D.
Clevenger, Cheryl A. M.D.
Clevenger, Michael E. M.D.
Cogdill, Douglas G. M.D.
Colley, Johnny M. M.D.
Cook, Lewis C. M.D.
Cozart, John C. M.D.
Craytor, Bret F. M.D.
DeCaprio, Jeffrey D. M.D.
DeHaan, Jeffrey T. M.D.
Denson, Alyson L. M.D.
Deskin Roy, L. M.D.
Diaz, Kyle I. M.D.
Dietze, J. Brett M.D.
Douglas, D. Stratton M.D.
Downs, Michael R. M.D.
DuBois, Benjamin C. M.D.
Duke, Jacob C. DDS
Echols, Roderick E. M.D.
Eichler, Edward A. M.D.
Ellison, Eugene T. M.D.
Emebebe-Kennedy, Obinna C. M.D.
Engstrom, Gary P. M.D.
Fortenberry, Dewitt C. M.D.
Franks, Hayden H. M.D.
Frost, A. Jeb D.O.
Frugé, Lloyd M. M.D.
Gabbie, Mark O. M.D.
Gaertner, Michael C. D.O.
Gallant, James F. M.D.
Gardial, Paul R. M.D.
Gaylor, Minh-Ly N. M.D.
Giep, Tung N. M.D.
Glass, D. Mitchell DDS
Glenn, Stephen B. M.D.
Graves, Blane A. M.D.
Graves, Nancy V. M.D.
Greathouse, David E. M.D.
Green, R. Clark M.D.
Gregory, John R. M.D.
Griffin, Nancy L. M.D.
Griffin, Bryan J. M.D.
Griffin, J. Stan M.D.
Hahn, Phillip J. DPM
Hall, Eric E. M.D.
Hall, Jon D. M.D.
Haranath, Sai P. M.D.
Harhara, Haleema F. M.D.
Harper, Don S. M.D.
Harris, J. Jason M.D.
Hayes, Kevin R. M.D.
Hazin, Hesham M.D.
Hekier, Ron J. M.D.
Hemphill, Hayden N. M.D.
Henderson, Kristi M. M.D.
Hilborn, Richard M. M.D.
Hillis, Thomas M. M.D.
Hobbs, Bobby R. M.D.
Hogan, Matthew J. M.D.
Holland, Michael N. M.D.
Hollingsworth, Charles E. M.D.
Hozdic, Richard L. M.D.
Hueter, John E. M.D.
Hurley, James M. M.D.
Hutcheson, Belinda B. M.D.
Hutcheson, James A. M.D.
Jackson, Randy A. M.D.
Jacobsen, Eric I. M.D.
Jahoor, Anil F. D.O.
James, Joseph D. DDS
Jayaprabhu, Sudheer M.D.
Jean, Alan B. M.D.
Jean, James L. M.D.
Jones, Johnny W. M.D.
Jordan, Claudia L. M.D.
Keeney, Susan E. M.D.
Keilin, Rachael A. M.D.
Khan, Mohammed I. M.D.
Kile, H. Lawson M.D.
King, Zach W. M.D.
King, Rachel C. M.D.
Klein, Cordell L. M.D.
Klein, Robert J. DPM
Kurichety, Kiran R. M.D.
Lachowsky, Francis F. M.D.
Le, Kenny S. M.D.
Lee, Jason Z. M.D.
Lower, Kristin F. M.D.
Maher, Mark T. DDS
Malik, Khalid M.D.
Martin, Kathleen R. M.D.
Martin, Joshua G. M.D.
Matwijiw, I. Evan M.D.
Mayo, Russell E. M.D.
Mbonu, Charles C. M.D.
Mbonu, Mary O. M.D.
Melton, Charles L. M.D.
Menefee, Kiplan T. M.D.
Meredith, Paul M.D.
Mitchell, Darius F. M.D.
Morris, Howard G. M.D.
Myrick, Jarrell T. M.D.
Nash, Clayton H. M.D.
Nichols, J. Daniel M.D.
Nix, John E. M.D.
Nix, Matthew W. M.D.
Northam, Jon M. M.D.
Northam, Wanda M. M.D.
O'Banion, Dennis D. M.D.
O'Donald, Jacqueline T. M.D.
O'Kelley, E. Timothy M.D.
Ojelade, Olubunmi M.D.
Olosunde, Ayotokunbo O. M.D.
Overlock, Timothy L. M.D.
Paolucci, Michael J. M.D.
Pappas, P. Lila M.D.
Pappas, Paul H. M.D.
Parish, Stephen R. M.D.
Patel, Minakshi J. M.D.
Patel, Jayendra D. M.D.
Patel, Sunil A. M.D.
Payne, C. Todd M.D.
Payne, Christina A. M.D.
Payne, Alvin D. M.D.
Payne, Richard J. M.D.
Pearson, Harold L. M.D.
Peterson, Beth M.D.
Pickelman, Jason T. M.D.
Platt, Henry J. M.D.
Porter, Cindy R. M.D.
Potter, Troy D. M.D.
Price, Irwin B. D.O.
Radomski, Meko M. M.D.
Reep, W. Lynn M.D.
Reeves, Austin S. DPM
Reynolds, Timothy L. M.D.
Richter, Gregory A. M.D.
Richter, Sharon H. M.D.
Ridout, Robert M. M.D.
Robbins, Joseph R. M.D.
Robertson, William J. M.D.
Robinson, Brent W. M.D.
Rountree, Glen A. M.D.
Rush, Ronald D. M.D.
Saldino, Michael C. DPM
Santos Day Saporito, Jacqueline A. M.D.
Saporito, J. Justin M.D.
Sarna, Paul D. M.D.
Sarrett, J. Randall M.D.
Saul-Schey, Cheryl L. M.D.
Scales, James A. M.D.
Schmidt, H. Randall M.D.
Schmidt, Aubrey N. M.D.
Sell, Christian A. M.D.
Shaffer, Vernon C. M.D.
Sharma, Roshan L. M.D.
Sharp, Richard B. M.D.
Shope, Adam M. M.D.
Shriner, Merlin L. D.O.
Sinha, Suman K. M.D.
Smith, Malcolm A. M.D.
Smith, Marcus A. M.D.
Smolarz, Gregory J. M.D.
So, Brian J. M.D.
Somerville, Patrick J. M.D.
Sooman, Sandra A. M.D.
Sorenson, Marney K. M.D.
Spence, Shanna H. M.D.
Steele, Brian M. DDS
Stevens, John O. M.D.
Strayhan, Robert C. M.D.
Strayhorn, John M. M.D.
Stringfellow, Jerry B. M.D.
Stussy, Shawn A. M.D.
Sutherland, Mark E. M.D.
Tarpley, Jon A. M.D.
Thomas, Jeffery F. M.D.
Thomas, Jonathan F. M.D.
Thompson, Douglas E. M.D.
Thompson, Jennifer M. M.D.
Thornton, Charles N. M.D.
Tobey, Edward W. M.D.
Tompkins, William C. M.D.
Toubia, E. J. M.D.
Verma, Cheryl K. M.D.
Wages, James M. M.D.
Watson, Thomas R. M.D.
Weber, David R. M.D.
Weems, Harold G. M.D.
West, Kenneth W. M.D.
White, Gregory R. M.D.
White, John M. DPM
Whitt, David L. M.D.
Whitt, Paul D. M.D.
Wiggins, Joshua T. M.D.
Williams, J. Patrick M.D.
Willis, Brian K. M.D.
Wilson, Thomas L. M.D.
Womack, J. Sean M.D.
Wong, P. Susan M.D.
Wren, Mark A. M.D.
Wright, N. Jay M.D.
Wright, Mark W. M.D.
Wycoff, Robert M. M.D.
Wyrick, Scott W. M.D.
Yost, Jason M.D.
Young, Jeffrey P. M.D.
Young, Matthew M.D.
Young, Thomas C. M.D.

our
Stewards
of grace



CHRISTUS
Volunteers

As recorded in the New Testament, St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians,

“Let all your things be done with charity.”

Volunteers recognized for 1000 hours of service in 1975



Formally organized in 1956, the CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System Auxiliary, (first established as the St. Michael Auxiliary), adopted 1 Corinthians 16:14 as their motto and guiding philosophy.

Sixty years later, today's Auxiliary members remain focused on that founding philosophy and still volunteer their services to benefit CHRISTUS St. Michael and our patients as did the original volunteers. For many years hospital volunteers were known as “Pink Ladies,” a name which reflected their identifying pink jackets, differentiating hospital staff from the volunteers.

The pink jackets have since been replaced with CHRISTUS purple jackets and vests worn by a diverse group of men and women who possess a personal desire to help others. They serve in various capacities such as staffing the Information Desk, the Hospital Gift Shop, Surgery Waiting, Intensive Care Waiting, the W. Temple Webber Cancer Center and assisting with the CHRISTUS St. Michael Joint Center of Excellence.

In addition, through the Gift Shop and other fund raising efforts since 1992, the Auxiliary members have netted \$1,938,025 to benefit CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System and the community we serve. Their efforts have supported the building of the new hospital opening in December 1994, the CHRISTUS St. Michael Imaging Center, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the heart program, a patient navigation system, the pool at the CHRISTUS St. Michael Health & Fitness Center, the Serenity Garden and advanced equipment for patient care.

“The service and compassion shared by our volunteers are vital components of our ability to extend the healing ministry of Jesus Christ, an important part of our history,” said Sister Jeanne Connell, CHRISTUS St. Michael Auxiliary coordinator. “Our volunteers are ordinary people – they do extraordinary things by giving themselves in the service of others.”

2016 Active Volunteers

Rita Adams
Wanda Adcock
Earl Anderson
Judy Baggett
Sue Barchenger
Janet Barnes
Ann Brackeen
Imogene Burns
Rowenia Cheatham
James Chiarizio
Bobby Choate
Sandra Downs
Glenda Elder
Anita Farra
Charles Firmin, Jr.
Julie Foster
John Frady
Nedra Frady

Nancy Glover
Lindola Griffin
Virginia Hamilton
Jamie Henderson
Euta Hinton
Eva Hopkins
Kathryn Hurley
Rita Kehn
Jacky Lee
Jan Lewis
Wanda Looney
Pearl Martindale
Karen Meredith
Marilou Nelson
Yasuyo Pantera
Brenda Perkins
Sherry Philyaw
Joy Raney

Erma Short
Charlotte Slater
Brenda Smith
Brenda Squillante
Karla Stoecker
Jesse Stone
Marliese Stone
Joy Terral
Donny Thomas
Bobbie Trimble
Ellen Unger
David Walls
Paula Warren
Sandy Wentz
Glenda White
Lillian Whitson
Don Williams
Pam Williamson

TEXARKANA, U.S.A.—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1966

Have Been Administrators



SR. M. BAPTISTA
1934-1940



SR. M. REGINA
1940-1943



SR. M. LOUIS BERTRAND
1961-



and
Mac
and
York
Stanf

brown
glasses
sor of
versity
wide-r
A prim
for the
move
to on
but a
wal
an

are
time
the fir
the Soc
was
hand
West Co
urges g
tions in
The
busiest
mat
Prof
At
C



“A leader is someone who demonstrates what’s possible.”

- Mark Yarnell

ST. MICHAEL ADMINISTRATOR/PRESIDENT/CEO 1916 - PRESENT

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1916 - 1922 | Sr. M. Raphael Seery |
| 1922 - 1928 | Sr. M. Monica Slattery |
| 1928 - 1934 | Sr. M. Brendan Skelly |
| 1934 - 1940 | Sr. M. Baptista Donovan |
| 1940 - 1943 | Sr. M. Regina Daly |
| 1943 - 1946 | Sr. M. Baptista Donovan |
| 1946 - 1949 | Sr. M. Victorine Murphy |
| 1949 - 1952 | Sr. M. Fintan Lambert |
| 1952 - 1955 | Sr. M. Emerita Mullins |
| 1955 - 1961 | Sr. M. Daniel Moynihan |
| 1961 - 1967 | Sr. M. Louis Bertrand Mulholland (Sr. Clare Marie) |
| 1967 - 1970 | Sr. M. Declan Moroney |
| 1970 - 1973 | Sr. M. Esther Kennedy |
| 1973 - 1983 | Sr. M. Carmelita Brett |
| 1983 - 1995 | Mr. Tom Byrne, Administrator |
| 1995 - 2003 | Mr. Don Beeler, FACHE - President/CEO |
| 2003 - Present | Mr. Chris Karam, FACHE - President/CEO |

RISEN CHRIST STATUE



Donated by Judge Ed and Dottie Miller, the Risen Christ Statue was unveiled on Sept. 14, 2007, in Sisters' Park at CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System. The statue commemorates appreciation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word-Houston, who have extended the healing ministry of Jesus Christ since 1916, and offers a lasting tribute to the Sisters.

Judge Miller describes the Sisters who have served in Texarkana as "conduits of God's love" and their lives as a reflection of the image of a God of love. The Risen Christ weighs 1,543 pounds and traveled by ocean freighter from Italy to the United States before being welcomed into the Sisters' Park.





**CHRISTUS[®]
ST. MICHAEL**
Health System

From All of Us At CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System,
Thank You For Joining Us To Celebrate





1916
2016

100

YEARS OF HEALING

christusstmichael.org/100years



CHRISTUS[®]
ST. MICHAEL
Health System