



Meet the

PHUMC Staff



Hello There

The members of the Board of Stewards were asked to write about a PHUMC staff person they interviewed. The following reflects the great diversity not only in how our BOS members wrote about their staff person, but about our wonderful and varied staff. Please enjoy reading about each person and as you see the staff person in the future, say hello by name and tell them how glad you are they are part of our staff.

-Sylvia Borchert, Chairperson, Board of Stewards



Our team

Lisa Barnes

Receptionist

Written by: Linda Powell

Lisa Barnes is one of PHUMC's newest employees. She is the first person you will see if you visit during the week. Her's is also the voice on the phone when you call the church. Lisa is a PK, a Preacher's Kid. Her father was a United Methodist Pastor serving in Wisconsin. When he retired from the ministry, the family moved to Arkansas. Lisa and her husband, Lawrence, live in Mayflower, where they were fortunate to evade damage from the tornado that passed through in 2014. Lisa and Lawrence have two grown children. Their daughter lives in LR and is a technical writer. Their son is currently living in Boston where he is working on his Masters in Violin Performance. Lisa has a beautiful smile and she is very happy working for PHUMC.



Steve Biffle

*Director of Facilities &
Maintenance*

Written by: Andrea Edwards

Steve joined the staff of PHUMC In October of 2012 as a member of the facilities and maintenance team. Prior to joining PHUMC, he had worked in apartment management and HVAC.

Born and raised in California, Steve and his wife, Emily, moved to Arkansas in 2012, with their two children, Nathan, 21, and Kaylynn, 15. Steve and Emily have been married for 24 years and they live in Cabot on two and a half acres and love all the space. In addition to their family, they also have chickens, dogs, and cats. On their property, they have an old milk barn that Steve has turned into a combination indoor basketball court and movie theater. They've got a projector and popcorn machine and love having movie nights with family and friends.

Steve loves being part of PHUMC because of the strong sense of teamwork and family. As he says, "I love it here! A lot of good people who are always willing to teach and learn from each other." He added, "Who wouldn't love getting to work in God's place?"



Our team



Rev. Katye Chambers

Associate Pastor

Written by: Anna-Lee Pittman McSpadden

Katye Dunn Chambers was born and raised in Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church and has been a lifelong member. After graduating from LR Central, she attended SMU in Dallas where she received her BFA in Dance Performance and her BA in Religious Studies. She served Pulaski Heights as associate Youth Pastor before attending Seminary at Garrett in Chicago. After Seminary, she lived for a year in Switzerland where she studied at the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey before returning to Chicago. In 2019, Katye was ordained as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church and accepted her appointment to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Chicago. While in Chicago, she met her husband, Donnie. After having their twin boys, Deacon and Raylan, Katye and her family moved home to Arkansas in 2022 after 9 years away so they could be closer to family. She accepted her secondary appointment to PHUMC.

The thing she loves most about ministry is helping people figure out what they are passionate about and how to make that happen for them. She loves when people stop by her office to talk, share about their lives and share their dreams. It's a cozy little space, so if you haven't dropped in yet, you should find the time.

Katye is an avid sports fan, loves to practice yoga and is an Enneagram 1. Her favorite color is blue and her favorite candy is Reese's. Most importantly, her favorite memory at PHUMC is Touch of Class.



Our team



Rev. Daniel Curry

*Associate Pastor -
Caring Ministries*

Written by: Karen Barnwell

Daniel's favorite:

- Color — Green
- Season — Fall
- Pet — The dog he never had! (He did have a hamster he remembers fondly!)
- Arkansas Bird — Cardinal (He has a wonderful carved wood example in his office!)
- Arkansas Woodland Creature — White-tailed Deer
- Arkansas Tree — White Oak
- State Park — Pinnacle Mountain (surprise!)
- National Park — Rocky Mountain
- Arkansas Scenic Drive — Hwy 10 West to Hwy 113
- Vacation Spot — Rockies
- Place in Little Rock — Witt Stephens, Jr. Nature Center
- Holiday — Christmas
- Entree — Beef Filet
- Vegetable — Broccoli
- Dessert — Chocolate Brownie with Vanilla Ice Cream
- Vehicle — 2004 Honda Accord (his first car)
- Sport — Baseball
- Radio Station — 103.7
- TV Show — Sports Center (West Wing when it was playing)
- Movie — O Brother, Where Art Thou?
- Song — Rocky Mountain High
- Book — Red Rising (series) by Pierce Brown
- Elementary School Subject — English
- Jr. High School Subject — Art
- Sr. High School Subject — Choir
- College Subject — Non-verbal Communication
- Seminary Subject — Pastoral Care (Health Care/Holy Care)
- Joke — (Please skip if you don't want to groan!). What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet?? SUPPLIES!!
- Hymn — How Great Thou Art
- Bible Verse(es) — Isaiah 40: 28-31
- Psalm — Psalm 63
- Bible Story — Parable of the Sower
- Gospel — Matthew
- What do you think is your best trait? My ability to connect with/relate to others.
- What is something you would like the people of PHUMC to know about you? I am so excited about PHUMC's ministerial possibilities and being able to participate in exploring them alongside the PHUMC congregation!



Our team



Kristie Finney

*Associate Director of
Ministries to Children
and Families*

Written by: Caroline Beauchamp

When you sit down for lunch, order an appetizer that has a condiment and someone asks, “What’s your favorite kind of honey mustard?,” what does that tell you about them?

It tells me that person is conversational, friendly, detail oriented, interesting and interested, open to your opinion and flexible.

That’s Kristie Finney.

Kristie is our Associate of Children’s Ministry. She has been a PHUMC asset since 2002 working with PHUMC children. Her two adult children grew up at PHUMC and her husband is very involved as well.

She is multi-talented including having been a medical lab tech and worked in an email marketing department for a large corporation. We are so glad she made a career change when she was taking classes to continue her Secondary Education and joined PHUMC.

Every day is different. Not everyone likes their job and stays around after an unwilling donkey will not leave the stage during a Christmas event, had to be “encouraged” to get off the stage while protecting the children on stage! And then there are other surprises/acts of nature when working with live animals.

Kristie encourages parents to go to Sunday school so their children will go also.

Why does she love PHUMC? “Because we really help others and accept everyone!”



Our team



Dale Garland

Maintenance Technician

Written by: Connie & Ed Staley

Dale Garland is a blessing to our church family. As a valued member of our maintenance team, Dale especially enjoys working on Sundays, assisting PHUMC members and guests. He says he has been looking for this job all his life. He and his wife, Shirley, live in Mayflower and have two grown daughters and three grandsons. One of his daughters, Jennifer, has worked for PHUMC in the same department as her dad for the past couple of years. In his spare time, he loves to repair and restore antique jukeboxes from the 1940's to the early 1960's. While he considers himself very opinionated, he has a great sense of humor and is thankful for his PHUMC family.



Jennifer Garland

Custodian

Written by: Charles Cole

Jennifer is serving on the maintenance staff at PHUMC. She grew up in Mayflower, AR and completed all her schooling there. She still lives on family property, surrounded by aunts and uncles. She has one younger sister, Heather, who is the office manager for local surgeon. She has two sons. Lewis, 17 years old, is nearing graduation from Mayflower high school. Nicholas, 21, is employed with an uncle in his backhoe and dozer service. Prior to coming to PHUMC, Jennifer was employed in the fast-food business at Russellville for seven years and then at Morrilton for another seven year in an assisted living home. Her father, Dale Garland, is employed on the PHUMC maintenance staff, and encouraged her to apply for an opening. She was immediately offered the job and will have been here two years as of July 7th. She has learned how to prepare for events, large and small. Helping to arrange for the Raney Lecture, Bishop Laura Merrill's installation and Vic Nixon's memorial service were particularly meaningful. Her boss, Steve Biffle gives her guidance and instruction where necessary. Otherwise, she is encouraged to use her own initiative in performing her duties. The favorite part of her job is working with the church members. They have made her feel most welcome.



Our team



Dr. Frode Gundersen

*Associate Pastor -
Caring Ministries*

Written by: John Englade

Please join me in Welcoming Dr. Frode Gundersen to Pulaski Heights UMC. Dr. Frode Gundersen is the Director of Music, Arts and Worship at PHUMC. Frode is well versed in piano, organ, percussion, drums and singing and is presently a practicing traveling soloist. Dr. Gundersen was born in Copenhagen, Denmark and his mother and father are from Norway. Dr. Gundersen and his family traveled to the United States from Scandinavia and became Naturalized U.S. citizens along with his 2 brothers and mother and father. Frode spent his childhood growing up in North and South Dakota and is the son of a United Methodist Pastor. He grew up perfecting his piano and organ playing for church service and school programs. Dr. Gundersen has several Degrees including, 2 Bachelors, 2 Masters, and Doctorate Degrees: North Dakota State University of Fargo, ND. - Doctor of Musical Arts Degree, Conducting in Progress Graduate Theological Foundation of Mishawaka, IN.- Doctor of Sacred Music Degree 2014 Southern Methodist University of Dallas, TX. – Master of Sacred Music Degree, 1994 Southern Methodist University of Dallas, TX. – Master of Music Degree, Choral Conducting, 1994 North Dakota State University of Fargo, ND. - Bachelor of Arts degree in Piano Performance, 1991

Frode has acquired a zest for travel after traveling with his father back to Norway and many parts of the United States. These early experiences prompted an interest in traveling with choirs and so after leading several choir trips Frode led six Choir Tours to Europe, most recently to Italy in 2012. Dr. Gundersen has held several Positions in the past including the following:

- Director of Classical Music and Worship Arts at Central United Methodist Church,
- Fayetteville, Arkansas, Chorus Master, East Texas Symphony Orchestra, Artistic
- Director, Tyler Chamber Chorale.

Dr. Gundersen’s philosophy states in his Church Music Philosophy “For the Singers and Instrumentalists themselves, creating music within a Church setting brings a special sense of joy, a unique and personal way to connect to GOD in that moment through their contribution.”



Our team



Tim Jackson

Custodian

Written by: Sylvia Borchert

Tim works with the maintenance staff at our church. His hours are mid afternoon to evening, so we may not often see his smiling face. Tim has been with PHUMC six years. As I told him, it is a shame that I had not met him before this interview. Tim has three grown children and a wife. Due to his work hours and hers, he said their time is important. He used to have fun fixing up cars, which he no longer does. Like many Arkansans, Tim follows the Dallas Cowboys. Tim grew up in Arkansas and went to Central High. I asked him what his favorite food was. Tim said he used to have lots of favorite foods, but due to some medical issues, he now has curbed his appetite for those favorites. Tim was an easy going person to get along with and enjoys his time at PHUMC. It was a pleasure to visit with Tim.



Corey Jones

Custodial Supervisor

Written by: Charles Cole

Corey grew up in Little Rock and graduated from Hall High. He has one brother and two sisters, all of whom live here. He and his wife, Latrice, have a blended family of 13 children and four grandchildren.

Before coming to PHUMC, Corey worked for the U. S. Dept. of Housing and Development as a maintenance supervisor. He was responsible for maintaining the heat, air, plumbing and remodeling at one of the low-income apartment buildings in downtown Little Rock. During that time, he went to technical school where he earned his license for heating, air conditioning and plumbing. He worked part-time at PHUMC in 2005 when Larry Sweet was the church administrator. When the full-time maintenance supervisor position came open at PHUMC in 2022, he successfully interviewed for the job with Jay Clark and Stacy Hightower. His work schedule is from 12 to 9 PM on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, except on Friday when it is from 11 AM to 8 PM. He also works a half-day on Saturday.

The most fulfilling part of his job is "---interacting with the people." He gets great support from Jay and Dr. John. His job involves preparing rooms for programs, cleaning the facilities, and placing food in the pantry. "Just whatever needs to be done". He tries to stay busy on the job. He feels that, "---If a man don't work he don't eat!"

Corey is also the pastor of an on-line ministry called the 'Believers of Life Faith Ministries'. He creates pod casts for his estimated 300-500 followers. He studies a lot on The Word and "I spend time with God." He enjoys movies, bowling, "---doing whatever the wife wants to do" and spending time with his grandchildren. His hobbies are: fixing things around the house and mowing grass!



Our team



Sungyun Kim

Organist and Associate

Music Director

Written by: Caroline Beauchamp & Rick Fleetwood

Thank you, University of Cincinnati! A full music scholarship to the University of Cincinnati College of Music is what brought Sungyun Kim to the United States from South Korea in 2016. He studied organ there until 2019 when he transferred to the University of Texas on a scholarship. Rick Fleetwood and I had the privilege of talking with Sungyun. He was delightful, giving us this opportunity to get to know him. Sungyun's parents and brother still live in South Korea. He and his wife and 13-year-old son (who plays the French horn) live in Conway. Besides cousins in Texas, New York, LA, and Cincinnati, PHUMC is not only his church family but his Arkansas family as well. His mother, who taught piano, introduced him to the piano at age 6. Lessons were short lived because he didn't love the piano. Then at age 18 he fell in love with the organ. In addition to being our organist, he teaches organ and piano three (3) days a week at PHUMC. What does Sungyun like? Even though he loves classical music, he loves The Beatles and the Carpenters. He also likes the good drinking water in Arkansas, Haagen-Dazs ice cream, steak, and meeting church members. Please make a point to introduce yourself to him – he's delightful. What's a scary thing that can happen to an organist? Having someone help you by turning the music pages and then turning two (2) pages at one time – ouch! No problem - he had memorized the music and didn't miss a note! And thank you, Frode, for bringing Sungyun to PHUMC.



Our team



Pam Lentz

*Director of Ministries to
Children and Families*

Written by: Irene Regnier

Pam Lentz is the Director of our Ministries to Children and Families at PHUMC. She comes to our church with a wealth of knowledge and experience, having served as Children's Director at First United Methodist Church in Conway for 26 years. By profession, Pam is an educator. She received her degree in Elementary Education from Hendrix College. Pam has always loved working with children. As a youth in the Presbyterian Church in Conway she led classes for children. Giving a job description for this busy lady is not easy. She is responsible for finding teachers for the Children's Division. She develops the curriculum. She works closely with the teachers, offering guidance and counsel as needed. Although she is not directly involved in the Children's Learning Center she has a liaison relationship with them. Being available to parents is also an important part of Pam's job. Should a problem arise in the after-school program or any of the children's activities, Pam is always available to listen to parents and help solve any problems. Often parents just want to talk with someone and ask for advice in raising their children. A new idea which is still in the early stages of development is finding a way to reach the children of people who live in other locations but have joined our church. Kathleen McMurry is working with Pam to find a way to live stream a form of "Sunday School" for these children. Pam has been at the job of teaching children for many years. But she is always open to new ideas and techniques. Our church is extremely fortunate to have Pam Lentz on our staff!



Virginia Lewis

Executive Assistant

Written by: Sue Gibson

She's the smiling gal behind the desk on Sunday morning. Or you may know her as the Membership Chairman of the Church as an administrative assistant to all of the preachers. She has as many jobs as Baskin Robbins has flavors. Funerals, meetings, whatever is asked of her. She does each task with expertise and a willing heart. In addition to her many duties, she volunteers in the Stephen Ministry.

Virginia grew up in Little Rock, graduated from Mount St. Mary's and attended UALR for a time. Before she knew it, life took over, she married had two children and became a single mother raising those two little ones. Joshua and Hannah, now in their twenties, have blessed their mother with three grandchildren: Abby 10, Kaiden 8 and Cash 5. What a blessing that they, as well as Virginia's mother live close by!

Not only is Virginia an excellent administrative assistant, having recently completed the *Advanced Certified Administrator of the United Methodist Connectional Structure*, she also holds licenses in real estate, property and casualty as well as life insurance and has experience in corporate management and numerous other endeavors. Virginia could easily hold a higher paying position but stated, "I love my job here at PHUMC!" Our church is very fortunate to have this personable, accomplished, capable, versatile lady on our staff.



Our team



Rev. Kathleen McMurray

*Pastor of Connecting
Ministries & Worship*

Written by: Mary Bennett

1. Her favorite food is read beans and rice.
2. Favorite book genre is romantic comedy. She reads a lot for school and church and romantic comedies are a fun read.
3. Favorite movie genre is also RomCom.
4. Dream vacation is a long Mediterranean cruise. It would include all of the Mediterranean Greece, France, Italy, Portugal, etc.
5. She has a dog named Russell. He was a rescue being fostered by some friends in Jonesboro. When she was transitioning to Little Rock she would stay with them and take him on walks. They convinced her that her new house with a fenced in backyard would be perfect for him. He is her first dog and her and her family love him.
6. She just completed the Little Rock 10k in March of 2024. She and a friend from Batesville had made a 40 under 40 list. Covid got in the way of them completing their adventures. However, last year they did the 2023 Little Rock 1/2 marathon. It proved to be quite a challenge, and not one she wanted to repeat. This year the finisher medals were dinosaurs and her friend again convinced her to participate, in the 10k this time.
7. Her favorite hymn is "This is my song". She is also very fond of one of the songs on Fox & Foul's new album. The song is "Just like Jesus."
8. Favorite scriptures are John 3, the story of the woman at the well. Also Joshua 1:9. She's been considering a tattoo in Hebrew of this scripture.
9.
 - a. Favorite thing about PHUMC is the people, Staff, clergy, and members. Everyone is so kind and hospitable. Loves the way people of PHUMC step up and help out.
 - b. Least favorite thing about PHUMC. She said this concern is not unique to PHUMC, that it unfortunately occurs in many churches. The feeling of silos. People can tend to get siloed in their service or group and not reach out to others, different opportunities, different missions.
10. In 10 years she sees herself: Having finished her doctorate, enjoying motherhood, staying in central Arkansas, being involved with small groups around the state, and helping those Methodists without a physical church home in pockets around the state form groups and have community.



Our team



Michael McMurray

*Director of
Communications*

Written by: Rick Fleetwood & Caroline Beauchamp

My thanks goes out to whoever came up with this idea in getting to know staff!!! The mission was double blessed because I got to share with Caroline Beauchamp interview with our Director of Music. I learned how blessed we are to have someone who loves what he does and who is so very, very good sharing his amazing talent with us.

However, my mission was to interview McMurray. So, it was a rough start at first. Because, I made appointment with our very own Pastor McMurray. I showed the slip to Caroline and she politely informed me I had contacted the wrong McMurray! It was Michael McMurray who I was supposed to interview. So, I called previous appointment and contacted the correct McMurray.

So, here comes the Trumpets Sounds and roll out the EXTRA Edition because we got to know Michael McMurray, the most amazing young man who loves his work and the people he works for and with!! Michael's mission is to do the best job possible in Communications and Marketing. I can truly attest that he does the best job and we are indeed blessed to have him.

Michael's goals are to meet budget (yea) and help increase and maintain membership. Michael has had over 1.2 million social media impressions. He was part of the team that helped to increase the food pantry serving 25 families to over 300 families including such services as food and baby diapers needs. Michael has many missions- he shares works on the television ministry, print media, Facebook, phone tree, Sunday school packet, texts, emails and countless other responsibilities throughout the year.

You never know what job or project Michael might be working! Onetime, he was assisting with a funeral and 10 minutes before the service was to start he had misplaced the ashes. Needless to say he found them just in time. Michael does whatever needs to be done to do a great job. Thank God the ashes had not been mixed in with the print material and were found just in time for the funeral.

I can not express the love Michael has for PHMC, the Staff, membership and for his duties and responsibilities I don't know what we are paying Michael but he bring/connects all of us closer to the church and God! What a blessing and yes this should be a EXTRA EXTRA Edition to show our gratitude for having such a caring, loving, dedicated, committed and talented young man working for Us!!!!



Our team



Jacob Nolen

Director of Technology

Written by: Josh Hallenback

Three kids ages 10, 5, 2

Wife is an attorney, a public defender. She handles capital murder cases. Jacob met his wife, purely by chance – made a comment that he liked her dress and it took off from there.

He has lived in the little rock area pretty much whole life
He attended high school at North Little Rock and ASMS in hot springs
He attended college at Philander Smith

He became involved at the church via Philander Smith and started by running sound at the church. He has worked at the church for almost 12 years.

Fun Facts:

- Won a science fair when he was in Kindergarten for his computer programming skills
- His dad loves to fish
- He lives a couple houses down from Brit Skarda
- His daughter went to princess camp
- He is a musician – plays multiple instruments – fills in for local bands

Most Recent Vacation: Florida, Beach

Favorite Musical Artist: John Coltrane



Our team



**Virginia
Porta**

*Director of PHUMC
Foundation*

Written by: Lori McPowell

Virginia Porta has deep familial ties to the Methodist church. Her parents began their Christian journey in the Methodist church attending in Jonesboro, AR. Virginia, the youngest of 3 children grew up in Tennessee. She is married to Mike Porta, and they were married and previously members of St. James United Methodist Church. Virginia later joined the United Women of Faith which led her to attending then joining Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church as an official member close to 30 years ago. Each Sunday she enjoys participating in “The Tower” Sunday School class, as well as the 9 am Traditional service.

She currently holds a position on the Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church Foundation. The Foundation holds the endowments of the church and has been in existence for about 20 years. The non-profit organization has custody of around \$12 Million dollars in both restricted and unrestricted funds. Virginia started her journey to the Foundation when she was selected to become a board member for the Foundation. She has also served as Foundation board chairman. Her hard work within the 15-member board transitioned her into the current role she works part time, for the past year. In addition to her current role, she is also a member of the Memorials Committee which does such work as purchasing hymnals and bibles for the sanctuary.

Previous to her work for the Foundation, Virginia worked as a Transportation Engineer for the Arkansas State Department of Transportation. She retired from the state 3 years ago.

Virginia and her husband Mike have 1 son who is training as an apprentice plumber. Mike and Virginia currently reside in Little Rock, AR.



**Megan
Rugg**

Chief Financial Officer

Written by: Beverly Israel

Megan Rugg is the Chief Financial Officer of PHUMC. Megan seems to have always possessed a love for numbers. She laughed saying “If “Mathletes” had been a thing growing up, I would have been one!” But it is not just the numbers themselves that Megan loves, it is the discipline of numbers. As a little girl she was in dance and took piano. She and her husband raise three boys: Benjamen (5th grade), William (3rd grade) and Alexander (1st grade). The boys attend Fulbright Elementary and keep her busy playing basketball, cup stacking and in their newest interest of golf.

Professionally, Megan is extremely qualified. She received both a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and later a Masters of Accounting from Hendrix College. She served on the finance committee before starting as chief financial officer two and half years ago. When asked what she want the church to know most about her, she responded, “I am a member of the church too!” She wants us to all understand she is invested in PHUMC on a personal level. Her kids are in the children’s and youth ministry. She and Ben enjoy their Sunday school class. The church is part of her family’s everyday life. Megan really loves her job and it is evident. She loves the flexibility her position is able to give her and the idea that she in some way gets to be a part of just about every aspect of PHUMC.



Our team



Rev. Ellen Rowland

*Minister to Youth
& Families*

Written by: Michelle Rogers

Ellen Rowland is the Minister with Youth and Their Families. Ellen has a Master of Divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Hendrix College where she was also a member of the Women's Cross Country Team. Ellen started her time at Hendrix as a vocal major, but after she took a Hebrew Bible class, she made the decision to change her major and study religion.

Ellen first felt the calling to work with youth as a teenager herself. At fifteen years old, she was on a mission trip in Cincinnati, Ohio. A seven-year-old was showing her around the church, and they came to the youth room which had been vandalized. "I can't believe that they would steal from God like that," the girl said. At that moment, Ellen realized how God could use those spaces and working with the youth to intervene in the hopelessness of this neighborhood. She said, "It was at that moment I realized for this child, this space and work was the work of God."

From that moment and in various other times in her life, Ellen has felt called to be a part of creating these spaces, specifically for teenagers who do not have that safe space elsewhere. It's quite evident after spending time working with Ellen that she is incredibly passionate about living into this calling.

Ellen is also a strong advocate for Project Transformation. She became involved with Project Transformation in Texas while she was in college, and she has worked as the Leadership in Training Experience Coordinator. Ellen believes Project Transformation is a safe place for students to learn from their mistakes, circumstances, and service—not a place where they are expected to be perfect, but to grow both spiritually and emotionally.

Ellen brings incredible passion and unique perspective as she builds the mid-youth and youth programs at Pulaski Heights UMC. She continues to challenge all the young people to grow spiritually and emotionally, creating space for them to ask the hard questions of faith while building a strong foundation of support and encouragement.

When she is not doing youth ministry, she is busy as an avid athlete, cook, reader, and lover of coffee and dinosaurs. Ellen is married to Sean Rowland, a graduate of the Bowen School of Law at UALR. They have a precocious dog named Asher whose favorite toys are sticks.



Our team



Brooke Sanchez- Hobbs

*Modern and Youth
worship Coordinator*

Written by: Ellen Hill

Brooke Sanchez-Hobbs was born in the vibrant city of Little Rock but found her true roots in the serene community of Hot Springs Village where she was raised. Growing up in this picturesque setting, Brooke developed a strong sense of community and purpose from an early age.

After completing her education at Jessierville, Brooke embarked on her academic journey at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Demonstrating her exceptional intellect and dedication, she graduated in an impressive three years, a testament to her scholarly prowess. Drawn by her passion for music and her desire to make a meaningful impact, Brooke found herself drawn to the vibrant campus community of UA Fayetteville, where she served as a worship leader at Wesley. This experience ignited her calling, leading her to Central United Methodist Church, where she dedicated five years as their Youth Worship Leader, leaving an indelible mark on the congregation.

In 2020, Brooke's journey took an exciting turn as she joined her friend and mentor, Jenny Williams, at Elm Springs United Methodist Church in Northwest Arkansas. Though her time at Elm Springs was brief, Brooke's thirst for growth and her preference for leading in a larger setting became evident.

June 2021 marked the beginning of a new chapter for Brooke as she joined the dynamic family at PHUMC as the Modern Worship and Youth Worship Coordinator. In this role, Brooke thrives on leading music during services and nurturing the talents of the youth, earning praise from both congregants and students alike for her exceptional teaching and leadership.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Brooke found love and companionship in the charming Ed Gardo, whom she met during her time at Central UMC. Together, they share a home filled with love and laughter, alongside their two beloved pit-bull mixes and the newest addition to their family, Oscar the Cat. Brooke's journey is a testament to her unwavering commitment to faith, community, and personal growth. With her boundless energy and passion for serving others, she continues to inspire those around her, leaving a lasting legacy wherever she goes.



Our team



Jennifer Shannon

Director of the Columbarium

Written by: Amanda Gibson

Jennifer Shannon is the director of the Columbarium, which was consecrated in 2005. Jennifer has been on staff at PHUMC since 2011, starting out as Rev. Lindsey's assistant for both the Foundation and the Columbarium. Jennifer says, "the Columbarium is a place of worship and celebration, a place to meditate and remember those members who have gone before us." Because Jennifer takes very seriously how invested families are in such a sacred space, she works closely with maintenance staff so that the Columbarium is preserved. Jennifer feels fortunate to be a part of PHUMC. Jennifer and her husband, Mike, have loved raising their kids in the church, where they have grown up learning about loving God and others through being a part of PHUMC.

In her spare time, Jennifer teaches three-year-olds at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School. She also loves spending time with friends and family, and Jennifer enjoys listening to books and music, and she loves her daily Bible study.

Jennifer and her husband, Mike, have lived in Little Rock for 31 years. Mike is an attorney, and they have four children, Alex, Claire, Robert and Beth. The Shannons are also parents to a dog, Scout, and three cats, Bandit, Baby Kitty and Winnie.



Patrick

Shownes

*Technology and
Systems Coordinator*

Written by: Walker Lampley

1. What part of working at Pulaski Heights do you enjoy the most? A: Seeing the positive change in the community as we strive to be a welcoming and inclusive congregation. I also value the flexibility I'm given to continue my work with higher levels of the denomination as well as production & shows.
2. How long have you been working at Pulaski Heights for? A: 3 years.
3. What made you choose to work at Pulaski Heights? A: It was a God thing. My wife and I moved from Georgia to Little Rock during the pandemic to be closer to my family as my parents age. I had a job lined up, but after about a year, that situation went south. Before I could even consider a change in jobs, I was offered the job at PHUMC. Many of the issues at the job that went south would be immediately rectified with a job at PH. Since then, it has become very evident that it was the right decision at the right time.
4. If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why? A: One super power would be to slow down time. I tend to always be on the go with a lot of "irons in the fire". If I could slow down time, I feel I could get even more done and even have some down time to recuperate and rest.



Our team



Written by: Chance Hollingsworth

Theresa has worked for PHUMC 30 years. Thirteen of those years were spent in the daycare ministry and 17 have been in the finance office. Theresa has four adult children and six grandchildren (two from her children and four from her niece). The grandkids call Theresa McMaw so she counts all of them as her grandchildren. Theresa's three oldest children all live in central Arkansas and her youngest son is the Navy. He has been stationed in Japan for the past four years. Thankfully, he will be stationed in the States later this year.

Theresa Smith

Finance Associate



Emily Stotts

*Director of Welcoming
and Hospitality*

Written by: Carter Ford

I had a wonderful visit with Emily.

Emily and I spent an hour over coffee talking about her life. We discussed her childhood, her family history, her upbringing as a Christian, and beyond. I learned about her Grandfather, who has a beautiful history at PHUMC. I learned about her time in college in Louisiana, including the story of how she met her husband Jeff. We discussed her time as the Residency Coordinator at UAMS and the transition from UAMS to her now working at PHUMC. We also discussed her current role and some opportunities that she sees for growth along with things that she's excited about that are happening around our church. Emily is such a joy to spend time with and always has an uplifting spirit and a smile on her face. She truly is an asset to our church and I couldn't have enjoyed our time together more.



Our team



Yui Teruya

PHUMC Foundation

Assistant

Written by: Lindsey Lipke

Yui Teruya works for the PHUMC foundation, assistant to Executive Director and has the following responsibilities:

- keeps records of memorial donations; and
- prepares acknowledgement letters to donors and to family members of deceased

She attends PHUMC Foundation board meeting every other month and keeps the minutes. She helps with the Caring ministry by assisting Rev. Daniel Curry and Rev Hampton. Part of her duties are to update daily hospital list, recent deaths, births, weddings, and prayer lists. She also helps with the senior ministry.

Originally from Japan, she has been in Arkansas since 2003. Yui met her husband in Japan who was from Arkansas and they lived in North Carolina for 6 -7 years. Her husband then retired and they moved here.



Our team



Trenton Teegarden

*Minister of Modern
Music*

Written by: Sarah Duke

Q: Where did you grow up? Was church/religion part of your childhood?

A: I grew up in Nashville, TN. Church was a big part of my childhood, and I was very involved in my church's music ministry, children's ministry, and youth ministry from kindergarten - high school. My mom worked in church music for over 12 years and church became a second home for me and my siblings.

Q: Family? Pets?

A: I am married to Rev. Jessie Teegarden, and we have a daughter, Georgia (4yrs) and a little boy (name TBA) on the way, due April 27th.

Q: What are your hobbies? What does a "perfect day off" look like for you?

A: Recently over the summer I joined a local pickleball league and I really enjoy playing in that league and making new friends. I also enjoy keeping up with all of the major sports leagues: EPL, NBA, NFL, MLB, PGA, ATP/WTA and more! I don't have many favorite teams, but two team that I support are Liverpool (EPL) and the Memphis Grizzlies (NBA)!

Q: What draws you to the ministry that you provide?

A: I am constantly drawn to the opportunities ministry provides to help people use their gifts (whatever they may be) to worship God and to be presented with Holy and Spiritual experiences through worship and the creative arts. I am also passionate about providing an encouraging, accepting, and enjoyable space for kids to grow in their faith through music. And that PHUMC provides a space for kids to be themselves, and that they are encouraged to use their spiritual gifts to help lead the church!

Q: Do you find that it (your ministry) has changed since you have started at this church?

A: YES. My particular role on staff has changed since I started at this church. I am now involved with modern worship and PHkids worship (music). And obviously, the Covid pandemic has changed a lot. Our Modern worship service has changed significantly and made improvements over the last 6 years that I've been on staff. For references just search our church YouTube channel. Modern worship and all worship for that matter, is constantly evolving. And while there are traditions that remain important to our faith community, I believe the ways in which we worship and live out our faith need to be able to adapt so that we stay relevant and continue to grow as a community.

Q: What is your favorite thing about PHUMC?

A: We get asked this question frequently, and my go-to-answer is always "the covered parking." It is a great perk and there are really too many other things to name just one! But in all seriousness, one of my favorite things about PHUMC is the people involved in our community and the different ways that the people at PHUMC serve. Also, near the top of my list is PHUMC's identity as a leader in the Methodist church, and the Arkansas conference.

Q: Something about yourself that others would find surprising/interesting?

A: I hold an MA in Music Ministry from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. I attended college on a music and soccer scholarship at Martin Methodist College (NAIA) which is in Pulaski, TN. I went to high school with Kesha (Rose Sebert). My Enneagram number is 5. And one of my favorite movies of all time is August Rush.



Full Staff Directory & Extensions

Clergy



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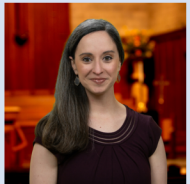
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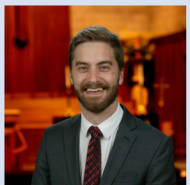
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Finance

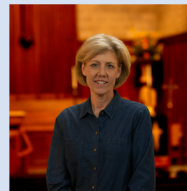


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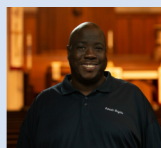
Dale Garland
Maintenance Technician



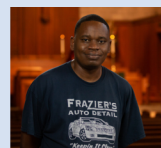
Pierre Parker
Maintenance Technician



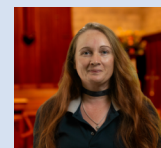
Corey Jones
Custodial Supervisor



Tim Jackson
Custodian



Mario Frazier
Custodian



Jennifer Garland
Custodian



Carl King
Custodian

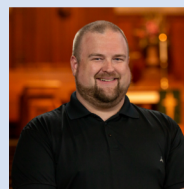
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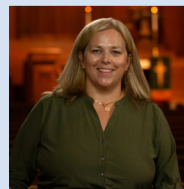


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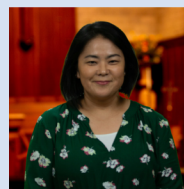
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