

Milestones

PASSINGS

Maureen Carr (SC mid 60's), Asheville, NC d. 11/2/21

Dana Tyson (SC mid 50's), Asheville, NC d. 11/13/21

James L. Moore (Ruth Poole Moore, SC '66), Peachtree City, GA d. 2/20/22

Dottie Ray Davis Clark (SC '65 Jim Davis, SC '65), Pasadena, MD d. 4/13/22

RELOCATION

Don Dicie (student organist at Scarritt '64-'65), has recently moved from Leiper's Fork to Morning Pointe in Franklin, TN.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ann-Ellen Piguet Akeley (SC '66), on the arrival of her grandson, Elisedd Marion Akeley, born to Rosalyn Chan and Jonathan Akeley on April 19, 2022, in New York City.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Barbara Campbell who continues to send alumni information for our use in Milestones.

Jim Hawk, outgoing chairperson of the Alumni Committee, for all his dedication and hard work during these challenging times.

NOTES OF INTEREST

Michael Lightweaver (formerly Andy Hewitt SC '65-'67) operates a spiritual retreat center and LGBT refuge called Mountain Light Sanctuary in the mountains just north of Asheville, NC. He is the author of three books: *A Day of Grace*, *The World According to Michael*, and *Temple of the Illuminated Mountain Conscious Creation 101* (all available on Amazon). Julia Cuervo Hewitt (SC '67), his wife of fifty-three years, recently retired from Penn State University where she was a professor of Spanish and Portuguese. She lives in State College, PA. They are blessed with four grown children and eight grandchildren.

Delia Touchton Halverson, at nearly 87 years of age, is reflecting on her remarkable life and very rewarding career.

Following Delia's graduation from Scarritt in 1957 and marriage to Sam Halverson, who was employed by the U.S. Forest Service, the couple spent many years moving about the country. During this time she served as DCE in various Methodist churches. In addition to church work she was a prolific writer, authoring twenty-five nonfiction books and numerous magazine articles as well as curriculum materials. Recently her only novel, *A Token of Love*, based on some personal experiences they had when living in South Dakota, has been published.

She also led workshops throughout the United States, Canada, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique, and has served on the Board of Directors of the Christian Educator's Fellowship, the Scarritt Alumni Board, and as alumni representative to the Scarritt-Bennett Board.

Delia's mother, Edith Webb Touchton, graduated from Scarritt thirty years ahead of her daughter. At the time she was a deaconess on staff at the Rosa Valdez Settlement House in Tampa, FL, she met her husband, Rev. Paul Touchton. When Edith died in 1970, over 40 people from all over the world were living in their home. Edith, herself, grew up in a dugout home in New Mexico. Her father, too, was a Methodist pastor.

For the past twenty years the Halversons have been living in Woodstock, GA, a suburb of Atlanta. Delia credits Scarritt and Carrie Lou Goddard for having much to do with her relationship with God and her career.

Send your MILESTONES to

Cyndy Goodrich (SC-66) at cyndygoodrich@aol.com or 202 Old 31W | Cottontown, TN 37048

Scarritt Bennett Center
1027 18th Ave. South
Nashville, TN 37212

Summer 2022
Alumni/ae Newsletter

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Scarritt at United Women in Faith Assembly 2022



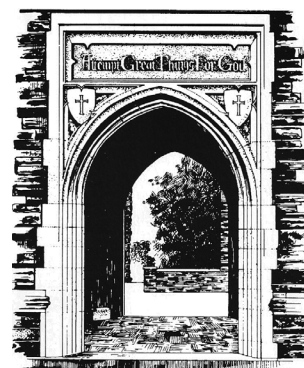
Left to Right: Rev. Sondrea Tolbert, Lois Polstra '61, Rev. Donna Patterson '88



Barbara Campbell '54



Left to Right: Debra Ketzal '78, Rev. Sondrea Tolbert, Andrea Hatcher, SBC Board Chair, Rev. Donna Patterson '88



Scarritt and National Colleges International Alumni/ae Association

NEWS

Summer 2022

From the Chair

Dear Friends,

This will be the last time I write you as the Chair of the alumni association. Over the past three years, it has been my honor to work with you in building our association. Together, we've had three huge successes:

- ALUMNI DATABASE: Thanks to the hard work of Marilyn Morton and others, we've developed a great alumni database that is helping to keep us all connected.
- NEWSLETTERS: Thanks to Janis Brown, Cyndy Goodrich, Cherie White, and Sue Thrasher we have mailed out newsletters twice a year to those on our mailing list.*
- HOMECOMING: We've had one in-person, one virtual, and one hybrid Homecoming over this period. A special word of thanks to Jim Strickland and his committee that planned three different in-person homecomings over this period.

I encourage you to register now for Homecoming on Friday, October 14 - Saturday, October 15. We continue to learn and grow, and I believe this will be the best year yet! Henrietta McCroskey and her team are doing great work. More details can be found in the newsletter.

Finally, I am very excited to announce that Donna Patterson has been named the chair-elect for the association. I believe that Donna and the executive committee will build on our past successes and take us to even better places.

Thank you all for your support, and I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming in October.



Jim Hawk ('88)
SNICIAA Chair

* Sadly, the US Postal Service has not consistently delivered them to all of those on our mailing list.

SNICIAA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Scarritt Bennett Center, which includes making this newsletter possible.

Greetings Scarritt Alums!

WOW! It has been a busy few months since taking the helm of Scarritt Bennett Center, November 1, 2021. It has certainly been a pleasure getting to know some of you in person and virtually. At United Women in Faith Assembly 2022, I had an opportunity to meet some alumnae and take a few pictures (see back page for photos) with them. One alum, Lois Polstra (1961) let me know that her family were graduates of Scarritt, her husband Charles (1969) and her brother Meryl Johnson. She is looking for Betty Diyess Youngblood if anyone has any information on her. Debra Ketzal (1978) also came up and introduced herself. Congratulations are in order to Barbara Campbell and Betty Letzig, who were presented with a Legacy Builders Award at the Assembly Legacy Dinner. Congratulations to Rev. Donna Patterson (1988), SBC's Anam Cara Chaplain, for being elected chair-elect of the SNICIAA.

Many of you know that we have reacquired the two yellow brick houses at the corner of 18th and Grand, affectionately known as 1001 Manor and 1003 The Johnson Robinson House. The latter is named after Mrs. DeLaris Johnson Risher and Mrs. Lelia Robinson Dabbs who integrated Scarritt in 1952, marking a radical change by challenging the Jim Crow law of the land. Both houses are beautiful, fully furnished, and available for rental. The ribbon cutting on The Johnson Robinson House was April 2, 2022.

I hope to see you at Homecoming October 2022! Please mark your calendar now to join us the evening of October 15 to honor the Radical Change making of Scarritt with a fundraising banquet!

I look forward to connecting with you all as we **Attempt Great Things for God and Expect Great Things from God!**



On the Bright Side,
Rev. Sondrea L. Tolbert, J.D., M.Div.
Executive Director, SBC

Executive Committee Doings

(Summary of April 22, 2022 Meeting)

by Cherie White (SC ‘68) Secretary/Treasurer

This was a successful and fruitful in-person and “zoomed” meeting thanks to the new equipment purchased with the donations in honor of Joyce Sohl upon her retirement. Nine members and three staff were able to participate, including our Chair, Jim Hawk, stuck in Ireland while on vacation.

- It was the first time Rev. Dr. Sondrea Tolbert, the new Executive Director of the Scarritt Bennett Center, who was installed on January 9, 2022, shared a report and joyfully announced that SBC was OPEN! Programs are in full swing on campus with most also available online, the gardens have been spruced up after the pandemic slump, there are new staff, and many volunteer opportunities are available. This year’s emphasis will be on Radical Change and the kick-off was the ribbon-cutting of the Johnson-Robinson House, named after the first two African American women to join the student body in 1952. There will be events throughout the year to commemorate the 70 years of campus racial integration.
- The SBC Board of Directors met at the end of March. Report from alumni attending that meeting mentioned that Harriett Olson, General Secretary/CEO of UMW/United Women in Faith emphasized the importance of the Alumni Association. Rev. Tolbert also pointed out that “the college was closed, but the work is still being done” and SBC is looking for mission-minded people to volunteer.
- Jenean Davis is the new Development and Marketing director, and the new liaison with the SNCIAA Board. She was able to participate during the afternoon session, sharing a brief report on recent happenings on the campus.
- At our last meeting we agreed to restructure, so at this meeting, including new members Donna Patterson, David Dodge and Rick Isbell (all Class of 2024), the new committees met to formulate goals and strategize.
- The Communications Committee is responsible for the Newsletter and social media pages, so the articles you see in this newsletter are the product of their work. The Engagement Committee is always looking for ways to support SBC and a variety of volunteer opportunities will be shared as we seek to be “Bearers of the Legacy.” The Homecoming Committee worked on an agenda for this year’s gathering October 14-15.
- Elections: As our Chair, Jim Hawk, will be concluding his term on Dec. 31, Donna Patterson was elected Chair-elect and will become Chair as of January 1, 2023. Cherie White will continue as Secretary/Treasurer. Henrietta McCroskey will continue as our representative (with voice and vote) on the SBC Board until the end of her term, and Jim Strickland was selected as representative-elect (and also substitute, if necessary).

Meet the New Nominees

Three Scarritt alums have generously agreed to serve on the Executive Committee of SNCIAA. They will be certified as the class of 2025 at the October 2022 meeting.



RACHEL LEVER
I attended Scarritt from the fall of 1975 to the spring of 1977, graduating with a master’s in Christian Education. I live in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, and serve as Assistant to the Minister at St. Peter’s United Methodist Church in Wellington, Florida.



RUTH WILLIAMS
I attended Scarritt from the fall of 1974 to December of 1975, graduating with a master’s in Church and Community. I have a bachelor’s in Psychology and another master’s in Social Work (June, 1979). I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, practicing part-time as a psychotherapist. I live in Old Hickory, Tennessee.



STACY DOUGLAS
I attended Scarritt from January 1984 to December 1985, graduating in May, 1986 with a master’s in Church Music. I serve as an Elder in the Mississippi Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and live in Wiggins, Mississippi.

From the Library and Archives

For many years, Scarritt’s historical record was preserved, but not organized, on the third floor of the Laskey Library. Work began in earnest to organize the collection in 2016 when Joon Powell was hired as a professional consultant. Since then, volunteer alums Ann-Ellen Akeley (‘66), Sue Thrasher (‘63), and former Church and Community faculty member Kathryn Mitchum have worked alongside Joon and librarian LaDonna Weber to organize and make available to researchers these important papers. The result is impressive; inventoried collections of Ina Corinne Brown, Alice Cobb, Barbara Campbell, Betsy Ewing, Jesse Lee Cuninggim, and the Scarritt Rural Center among others are now stored safely in archival boxes and have accompanying inventories.

The Laskey Library has also improved its research capacity through the efforts of LaDonna Weber, a professional librarian who has volunteered one day a week since 2020. She is seeking to complete the library’s collection of theses written by Scarritt graduate students. If you wrote a thesis at Scarritt College or Scarritt Graduate School, please make sure there is a copy in the Laskey Library. To find out if your thesis is already included in the collection, go to library on the SCB website and type in thesis. You can search by author or title. Contact LaDonna Weber if you need help or wish to add your thesis to the collection.

Volunteers are needed for the archival work as well as the library. You can view the completed archival inventories at: <https://collections.library.vanderbilt.edu/repositories/8/resources>.



Left to Right: Rev. Sondrea Tolbert; son and daughter-in-law of Leila Robinson Dabbs, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cox; Mrs. DeLaris Johnson Risher, her daughter, DeVonnne Smalls, her son, Modie Risher, Jr.; and SBC Board Chair, Andrea Hatcher.

Honoring Two Very Special Alums

In the fall of 1952, nearly two years prior to the landmark Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka decision of the U. S. Supreme Court, two young African American women, DeLaris Johnson from Orangeburg, SC and Leila Robinson from Austin, TX, quietly entered Scarritt College. At the time, Scarritt was admitting international students of color, but adhering to the state’s segregation law when it came to admitting African Americans. Professor Ina Corinne Brown challenged this practice in a letter to the board, stating: . . . the time has come when it is not only appropriate but obligatory that we actively seek a solution to the problem posed by State laws which now make mandatory on our campus a practice which is out of harmony with the mission entrusted to us by the church. President Hugh Stultz agreed, but determined that Scarritt would need to wait until it had two applications from African American students.

The two women graduated with master’s degrees in 1954 and went on to become deaconesses in their respective Methodist conferences. DeLaris Johnson was licensed in 1955 as the first African American deaconess of the Navajo New Mexico Conference; Leila Robinson served as President of the Central Jurisdiction Deaconess Association for 15 years.

This year, the SBC marks the boldness of these women and the college in a 70th anniversary event titled “It is Always Time for a Radical Change.” On April 2 the SBC Board and staff welcomed the Nashville community to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly christened Johnson-Robinson House. Mrs. DeLaris Johnson Risher, now a very feisty 92, attended with her family. Mrs. Leila Robinson Dabbs, who died in 2002, was represented by her son and daughter-in-law.



Leila Robinson



DeLaris Johnson

Alumni/ae “Bearers of a Legacy”

by Jim Strickland

Alumni/ae from both National and Scarritt Colleges are “bearers of a legacy” – a legacy of peace, harmony, love, commitment, dedication and mission with the fulfillment of the archway declarations “Expect great things from God” and “Attempt great things for God.” We serve in the fields of Church and Community, Christian Education, Music, Mission (both local and global) and in general “service to all humankind”! Thanks be to God!

As alumni/ae we have opportunities on the Scarritt Bennett Center campus for continuing our “gift of service” in a variety of ways: gardening/landscaping projects; library archival work projects; participating and/or leading a variety of programming options including speaking at weekly chapel services, sharing your life-long story, and poetry reading; or serving as a docent/guide to groups that come to the SBC campus.

A new program, “Voices of Scarritt” is blending together testimonies, song, scripture and prayer that defines our “legacy.” Our commitment can begin with a one-day project, a week-long project, or an even longer commitment with room and board being offered either free or at a minimal cost, if space is available on the SBC campus. The contact person for our volunteering is Jenean Davis, Director of Marketing & Development.

The dorms are once again open and available along with lunch being served in Susie Gray Dining Hall each Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (11:30am-12:30pm), at the cost of \$15.00 per person. The fourth Sunday of each month offers a “Community Dinner and Vespers” (5:00-7:30pm) for \$20.00 per person. Information concerning registration and payment are available on the SBC website.

Bricks and pavers are available for honoring, remembering, and celebrating a special person or event. These are individually engraved and added to the labyrinth in the Peace Garden on the SBC campus. The brick cost is \$125.00 and the paver cost is \$375.00. An alumni/ae financial campaign will be announced in Fall 2022 for the purchase of benches and picnic tables for the SBC campus.

All of these items come from a newly created Engagement Committee chaired by Jim Strickland with fellow members David Dodge and Rick Isbell. We look forward to sharing our “legacy heritage” with the many new ministries being offered at the Scarritt Bennett Center campus and invite our National and Scarritt College alumni/ae to join together in support of these projects.

OUR THANKS

The work of the SNCIAA and the SBC are dependent on the good work of volunteers. Several opportunities for volunteering are outlined in this newsletter. (See Jim Strickland’s article on Bearers of the Legacy and opportunities offered by the Library and Archives.) This issue of the newsletter was made possible by Janis Brown, Cyndy Goodrich, and Sue Thrasher. We also want to thank Susan Thompson for her extraordinary ability to turn various files into a professional newsletter.



Friday, October 14 – Saturday, October 15, 2022

Join us for an in-person Homecoming on Friday, October 14 and Saturday, October 15, at the Scarritt Bennett Center. Worship together in Wightman Chapel. Dine in Susie Gray Dining Hall. Most importantly, visit with old friends and meet some new ones.

Now is the time to reach out to your schoolmates to encourage them to join you. Make sure you include the Homecoming webpage at <https://scarrittbennett.org/homecoming>.

Friday, October 14, 2022

- 1:00 pm Registration Opens
- 3:30 pm Informal Social Gathering with Refreshments in Bennett Hall
- 5:30 pm Dinner in Susie Gray Dining Hall
- 6:30 pm State of the Scarritt Bennett Center with Dr. Sondrea Tolbert
- 7:30 pm Evening Vespers in Wightman Chapel

Saturday, October 15, 2022

- 7:30 am Breakfast in Susie Gray Dining Hall
- 8:45 am Worship in Wightman Chapel
- 9:30 am Our Journey Beyond Scarritt: A Time to Get to Know One Another
- 10:45 am International Meeting of the Alumni Association
 - Report from the Executive Committee
 - Looking Toward the Future
 - Group Photograph
- 11:30 am Lunch in Susie Gray Dining Hall
- 1:00 pm Optional Civil Rights Tour of North Nashville*
- 3:00 pm Adjournment

On Saturday evening, the Scarritt Bennett Center is hosting a fundraising dinner, the 70th Anniversary of Radical Change.

*Led by Jim & Karlene Polk, this two-hour tour will take participants to historic sites where Scarritt College students, faculty and staff participated in the struggle for civil rights.

Use the form at right or register online at:

[www.???????????????](#)

Homecoming Registration

Deadline to Register: Thursday, September 15, 2022

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Years Attended: _____

Homecoming Registration Fees

General Registration Fee	\$16	\$16
Friday Night Dinner	\$17	_____
Saturday Morning Breakfast	\$11	_____
Saturday Lunch	\$13	_____
Optional Saturday Civil Rights Tour	\$25	_____
TOTAL		\$_____

Make all checks payable to the Scarritt Bennett Center.

Mail your registration form and check to:

Scarritt & National Colleges International Alumni Association
Cherie White, Alumni Secretary
451 Manley Drive
Nashville, TN 37220

Pay by credit/debit card at <https://scarrittbennett.org/homecoming>.

Homecoming Room Reservations

Single Room \$65/night
Double Room \$85/night

Please do NOT include your room payment with the Homecoming registration fees. Room reservations must be paid separately.

Make your room reservations today:

Guest Services/Kenneth Voyles
Phone: 615-340-7469
(Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm Central)
Kvoyles@scarrittbennett.org