

Reflections

THE FRANK H. KENAN CHAPEL

DECEMBER 2013



FROM THE PRESIDENT



By Leon Socha

What a busy year for me in taking the reins from Taylor Johnson and trying to carry on with his good plans. In February, under Taylor's watch, the Board of Directors approved the allocation of funds for improvements and additions to the existing Memorial Garden designed by Landscape Architect Jack Leister. We are truly grateful for Jack's expertise and the many man-hours he has spent on this project.

The first phase improved drainage around the Chapel parking areas and adjacent lawns, then saw the planting of trees and shrubs and construction of the AI Newsom Walkway leading over a bridge to a classic trellis, which offers a lovely photo site for weddings. Jack and Anne Leister graciously donated a beautiful bronze sculpture of a pelican with its wings spread by artist Larry Quintman. Perched on a polished concrete base next to the trellis, it is aptly named "Ready for Flight." It complements the existing gifted bronze sculptures created by Landfall residents Grace Napper and Ed Hearn, and the Leisters hope it will encourage future gifts of fine art for placement in the natural setting of the Gardens.

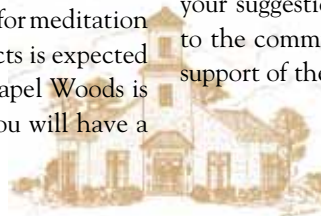
A second phase includes a new section of the Memorial Garden: Chapel Woods. This area is located between the Labyrinth and Arboretum Drive with a walkway winding under three archways through the trees. Three wooden benches are available for meditation and reflection. Completion of these projects is expected by year's end, and a dedication of the Chapel Woods is planned for January 2014. I hope all of you will have a

chance to leisurely walk through the entire Memorial Garden area before then or to attend the dedication.

Similar policies regarding markers and cremains that apply to the Labyrinth will apply to the area along the pathways in the Chapel Woods. For the availability and purchase of remembrances and memorials in the form of a classic trellis, benches, archways, trees or shrubs, please contact me at the Chapel (910-256-9578) or at my home (910-256-1120) or by email: Lsocha@ec.rr.com.

In May came the opportunity for the three past and present Chapel Board Presidents to visit with Betty Kenan, widow of Chapel founder Frank H. Kenan, and Director Emeritus Thomas S. Kenan III in Chapel Hill. The Kenans were gracious hosts, and in a relaxed atmosphere they shared fond memories of Wilmington, the building of the Chapel, and thoughts on its future. They are very much interested in the future of the Chapel, and we appreciate their continuing support.

Staying on top of happenings at the Chapel is not an easy undertaking and cannot be done by one person. I am grateful to have a fabulous Board of Directors and their committee members who share in this awesome responsibility. The operation of the Chapel is really like a small corporation where everyone has responsibilities. These are fulfilled expertly in a seemingly effortlessly manner, but in reality are only accomplished through a lot of hard work. The compliments following the musical concerts, receptions, weddings, and other arrangements are what keep us motivated. We very much appreciate your suggestions on how we can improve our offerings to the community, and we thank you for your ongoing support of the Chapel.



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ARRANGEMENTS

Arrangement by Fiore Fine Flowers

By *Kate Keenan*

Every event at the Kenan Chapel is special and usually uniquely personalized. This year 29 weddings, 1 renewal of vows, 2 baptisms, and 1 memorial service were held at the Chapel. Three of the weddings in particular stood out to the Arrangements Committee consisting of: Kay Brockdorff, Judi Cody, Suzanne Gram, Dottie Griffin, Sue Homestead, Kate Keenan, Dottie Kosicki, Chris Reid, Carla Schwerdt, and Diane Torgersen. Denis Brown and Kurt Schwerdt made sure all the guests were comfortable as our "chair men," and Leslie Silloway continued as our Scribe, documenting each event. Avery Wilmeth kept us organized with the Chapel website calendars.

One precisely timed wedding planned by the groom, a full Colonel from South Carolina, went off like clockwork. This included coordination of lots of elements: bagpipers, a traditional honor guard from SC, and veterans from the Wilmington American Legion as a very specially recognized group. It was truly a wedding steeped in military tradition right down to the arch of swords as the Bride and Groom left the Chapel.

Another wedding, planned by the groom, brought the Bride and her

family and special guests from their home country of Norway. Anne Berit and Travis met on a missions trip in Hawaii, became engaged in due time, and decided on the Kenan Chapel as the perfect location for their wedding! The Internet brings us destination couples from near and far, and our Committee welcomes them all with warmth and a helpful manner. The exquisite embroidery in the wedding party dresses and the blending of the cultures in the ceremony was a photographer's dream, and we were excited to be a part of it.

The third wedding that melted our hearts was that of a special education teacher who not only had her children design the cover of the wedding ceremony program, but also included them among her attendants. Smiles could not be measured on those children's faces. It was a thrill of a lifetime for them from a Bride and Groom who wanted something very "special" to be a huge part of their day.

Each year brings different "stories," and the Arrangements Committee plays an important part in each one. If you would like to learn more about the duties of the volunteers for Kenan Chapel, please contact Kate Keenan by phone at 910-262-8500 or email at kate.keenan@att.net.

Who are the Kenans?



By *Al Newsom*

Frank H. Kenan and the Kenan family have contributed greatly to Landfall as well as to Wilmington and the state of North Carolina. To provide some insight into their support and contributions, a library and display are now in the reception area at the COA. The Kenan family came to Wilmington in the 1730s and eventually established a presence in Duplin County, then considered part of New Hanover County. Some settled in the Grove Settlement which became Kenansville.

Frank Kenan purchased J. B. Goforth's interest in Landfall in 1989. His plan was to make Landfall the finest community on the East Coast. Landfall lost a true friend with his death on June 4, 1996. His visions included an inter-faith chapel. To honor his wishes, the

Frank H. Kenan Chapel in Landfall was built in his memory, a gift to our community from his wife, Betty P. Kenan, and family members. His visions also included the establishment of a nonprofit charity to unite Landfall residents in meeting needs of worthy causes in the greater Wilmington area.

The Landfall Foundation began with Frank Kenan's challenge gift of \$50,000, followed after his death by an additional \$50,000 contribution from the Kenan family. In 2005 Frank's son, Thomas S. Kenan III, made the donation of the Opus 43 Pipe Organ for the Kenan Chapel, and support from the Kenan family continues. To learn more about the history of the Kenan family, we hope you will visit the special library and display at the COA.

Musically Speaking

ANOTHER YEAR OF EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCES

By Reuben Allen

The Kenan Chapel Music Committee, chaired by Reuben Allen, is made up of hardworking volunteers dedicated to bringing exemplary talent and concerts to the Chapel for the greater Wilmington community. Usually the musicians perform to a full house with standing ovations following the conclusion of the concert. Not only are the concerts free, but a reception is also provided after most of them at the Country Club of Landfall.

In 2013 we were pleased to have the Tallis Chamber Orchestra return for the Mothers' Day Concert; and in June, for the fifth year in a row, the Port City Music Festival opened their annual concert series at the Chapel.

The North Carolina School of the Arts rewarded audiences with three outstanding concerts in 2013. And additional performers included Domonique Launey and Christopher Johns on the piano and cello, the Cape Fear Chamber Players, organist Julia Jewell, vocalist John Charles Clark, pianist Joseph Hughes, and vocalist Ronald Holmes.



Our annual benefit concert and dinner featured Frank Bongiorno and Friends from UNCW with a delightful jazz concert followed by a wonderful reception and dinner at the Country Club of Landfall. The year will end with a Christmas concert featuring Nancy King and some of her students from UNCW. We can promise you, too, that 2014 will be another exciting year with a variety of great musical talent.

2014 Kenan Chapel Music Concerts

Concerts are held at 5 p.m. and complimentary tickets are available two weeks prior to each concert at the NE branch of the Library.

Sunday, January 12

Domonique Launey and Molly Hines
Piano and Violin

Sunday, February 23

Tim Olsen and Judith Saxton
UNC School of the Arts - Organ and
Trumpet

Sunday March 9

Stephanie Nakasian and Hod O'Brien
Jazz Concert

Sunday, April 13

UNC School of the Arts – Sax Quartet

Sunday, May 11

Tallis Chamber Orchestra

Sunday, June 8

Port City Music Festival

Sunday, September 28

Cape Fear Chamber Players

FALL FESTIVITIES

By Pete Clow

Saturday morning October 12 brought sunshine and cool fall temperatures to greet a record-breaking crowd attending the 12th Annual Landfall Fall Festival at the COA athletic field. Families enjoyed a wide range of activities that produced substantial revenue to support the Frank H. Kenan Chapel and the Landfall Great Oaks Club.

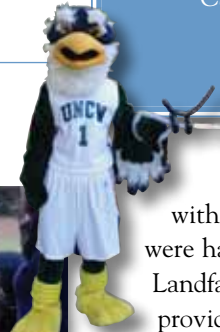
A very successful bake sale was run by Great Oaks President Clare Carr, and requests for "Spooky Meals" kept CCL Chef Aaron Bratton busy at the grill turning out hamburgers and hot dogs. Food was complimented with the ever-popular root beer float in a "boot" featuring Boombalatti's ice cream. A 50/50 raffle, run by Jim Meyers and Jack Erdody, was won by Peg Atkinson, who generously donated her winnings back to Kenan Chapel as a memorial to her late husband.



Youngsters enjoyed pony rides and the haunted hay wagon ride, along with numerous activities including face painting, sand art, pumpkin painting, and the beauty bar. A very active golf chipping clinic run by Greg Guman, CCL Director of Golf Instruction, was also a big hit. Pumpkins, handsomely painted by artist Li Nichols or plain of any size, along

with multicolored chrysanthemums were hauled off to car trunks to decorate Landfall homes. Entertainment was provided by mascots Little Caesar, the Hammerhead's Sledge, Mr. Magic the Balloon Man, and the Cape Fear Community College Cheerleaders. Landfall's resident and Hammerhead's Head Coach David Irving made a VIP appearance and passed out team pictures. All of this activity was orchestrated and emceed by the "Voice of Landfall," Monty Coughlin.

Community sponsors included the Gallery of Oriental Rugs and Craft American Hardware, as well as 27 merchants, restaurants, and companies that donated 40 items to a very successful silent auction. In addition, valuable volunteer assistance was provided by the Landfall COA, Landfall Realty, the Great Oaks Club, and Cape Fear Academy. We are very grateful for all their contributions, which helped make the event such a success.



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Photo by Billy Beach

Angie Butler and Jeff Kelly
September 28th, 2013

KENAN CHAPEL DONORS

NOVEMBER 1, 2012 TO OCTOBER 31, 2013

Our Sincerest Thanks!

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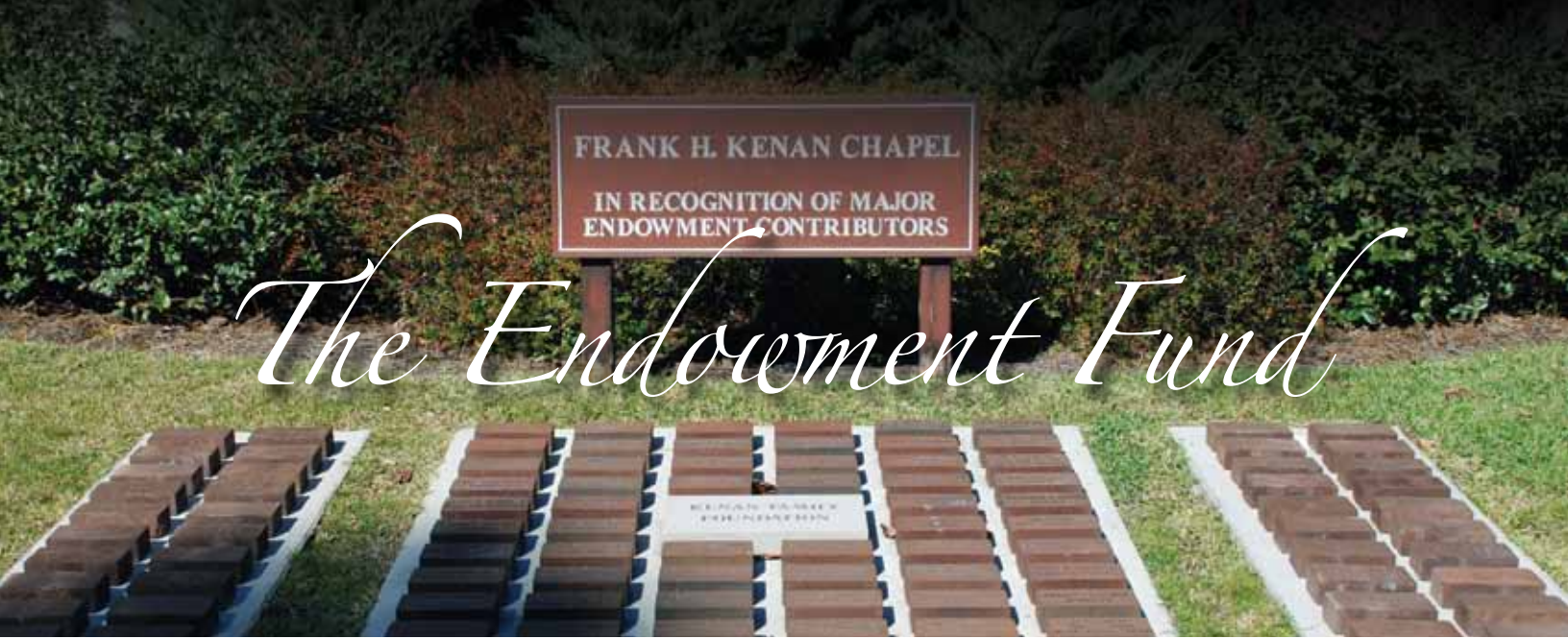
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** Donations given in memory of Wanda Guffey*



The Endowment Fund

ENDOWING THE FUTURE

By Jim Meyers

Approximately eight years ago an Endowment Fund for the Frank H. Kenan Chapel at Landfall was created with a very generous seed contribution from the Kenan Family Foundation. The Fund's goal is \$500,000 with the plan that the principal amount be invested and remain untouched to increase over time while generating a meaningful level of income to help cover Chapel expenses. The Fund will thus help ensure that the Chapel will continue to be a

strong, positive benefit for Landfall and the greater Wilmington area into the future.

For donations to the Endowment Fund of \$1000 or more, a recognition area of engraved brick markers has been established on the grounds at the rear of the Chapel underneath the stained glass window. If you pledge \$1,000 or more over four years or less, a marker will be engraved and installed upon fulfillment of the pledge. We currently have 42 bricks in our recognition area available for engraving, so we do have an adequate

supply of bricks waiting for you!

Through your generous gifts the Endowment Fund is growing, but contributions are still needed in order to reach our goal. You can use the contribution form included in this newsletter, or, if you wish to discuss a gift of stock or IRA contribution, contact Jim Meyers at 910-256-9419 or email jmeyers2@ec.rr.com. The Chapel is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We greatly appreciate your support.

FRANK H. KENAN CHAPEL CONTRIBUTION FORM

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Please mail this form to:

The Frank H. Kenan Chapel, 510 Arboretum Drive, Wilmington, North Carolina 28405

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