



Welcome to the Frank H. Kenan Chapel in Landfall. We are glad to have you with us.

The Kenan Chapel Woods and Memorial Gardens were designed and developed under the masterful hand of Jack Leister, a noted landscape architect and avid gardener, along with a dedicated team of local horticulture volunteers from the Wilmington area.

Today, the garden provides an expansive set of naturalized wooded pathways interspersed with over twenty-seven gifted specimen plantings ranging from Japanese maple, American horn beam, pin, black and live oak, azalea, camellia, crepe myrtle, magnolia, and flowering dogwood, all abounding in the three distinct garden areas. The picturesque gardens are a favorite backdrop for visitors and weddings parties alike.

The path leading from the Leister Bridge allows visitors to enter a natural wooded area with benches for rest and reflection. This area contains the first of six (6) bronze sculptures that grace the gardens.

The sculptures were commissioned from Wilmington Artists: Ed Hearn, Jack Leister, Grace Napper, and Larry Quintman. Their works have been carefully integrated into the garden and its plantings over the last thirty years. The wooded garden flows into a tranquil labyrinth surrounded by a boxwood ring. The spiral path winds toward a magnificent great blue heron sculpture. From here, visitors follow the Al Newsom Walkway under towering long-leaf pines, under-storied by azaleas and camellias that transition to a sunny walkway with specimen plantings.

Finally, returning to the grounds of the chapel, visitors enter the Original Memorial Garden anchored by Grace Napper's – On the Wings of a Dove and Kindred Spirit – two evocative sculptures of a young girl and a boy surrounded by annual and perennial flowers and framed by a boxwood hedge and iron gate.

The landscaping near the chapel include: live oak, bald cypress, magnolia, and holly along with azaleas rimmed with walking paths that approach the front of the chapel. Most of these plantings are dedicated in memory of loved ones.

Kenan Chapel and its gardens are now in their third decade of service to the Wilmington community. Frank H. Kenan's original vision went far beyond a chapel that would be used for religious activities. Since its dedication, the Kenan Chapel has provided and nurtured an indoor space to encourage and showcase emerging artists in our community. Consecrated for all faiths, the Kenan Chapel provides an intimate setting for weddings, memorial services, baptisms, and other spiritual life events.

A Guide to the Sculptures

1. On the Wings of a Dove and Kindred Spirit, by Grace Napper. Two bronze children placed beside one another whose smiling faces convey a warm welcome to visitors throughout the decades.
2. Lift Off, by Jack Leister. A bronze duck in the process of taking flight from water with open wings. It was Jack's long-range vision to make the entire area into a smaller version of the famous Brookgreen Gardens.
3. Pelican, by Larry Quintman. A pelican standing on a free-form base. Larry was a sculptor who won first place in the bronze category at the Ward World Championship held in Ocean City, Maryland in 2012.
4. Sacred Journey, by Ed Hearn. Gifted by John and Judy Talbert. A life-size, bronze great blue heron standing on top of a boulder.
5. Silent Majesty, by Ed Hearn. Gifted by Trent Armbruster. A life-size great egret in-flight and standing nearly twelve feet tall.
6. Bluebird, by Ed Hearn. Gifted by George Wesoloski in memory of his wife, Judy Wesoloski. A life-size replica of a nesting bluebird box mounted on a post with three birds. Look for the bluebird family perched nearby on existing boulders.