

SOUTH MAIN
BAPTIST CHURCH
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Bible Study Teachers

Discover God's Word. Discover God's Family.

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ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

*Disciples at South Main are formed in Christ-likeness as we **discover God's Word** and **discover God's family**.*

Discover God's Word.

Cultivate Biblical literacy
Practice theological curiosity
Nurture growth in wisdom

Discover God's Family.

Build community
Embrace calling
Share gifts and resources

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY





Matt Walton

Minister for Discipleship

At South Main we believe that disciples are formed in Christ-likeness as we discover God's Word. This ongoing discovery occurs when we cultivate Biblical literacy, practice theological curiosity, and nurture growth in wisdom. Throughout life, disciples reflect upon, study, and wrestle with the content and context of Scripture. Such cultivation shapes disciples into people who understand life in light of God's story and shapes disciples into people who reflect the heart of God's story, Jesus Messiah. The South Main Teaching Ministry exists to equip South Main members to cultivate Biblical literacy through teaching and facilitating small group Bible studies. South Main teachers are vetted as faithful leaders in our congregation. Each of our teachers carries immense experience. Prior to joining our Teaching Ministry, each new South Main teacher participates in a year-long intensive training we call Teacher Development Cohorts. Each cohort includes training in group dynamics, mentoring with experienced teachers, roundtable discussion, and an additional two-year Biblical and Theological education through Truett Seminary's online Certificate Program.

I hope this booklet helps you get to know our current group of gifted, thoughtful teachers. You can use this booklet to learn more about our teachers and their backgrounds, their involvement in South Main, their teaching style, and Bible study series they currently have available to teach.



Jim Barkley

Jim grew up in Houston and has attended South Main for more than 45 years. Jim likes to say he received a “Baplic” education, attending Strake Jesuit for high school, Baylor University for undergrad, and then Georgetown University Law School (also Jesuit). He has been an attorney at Bakerbotts, LLP, for his whole career, practicing Texas energy regulatory law. Jim made his profession of faith at South Main when he was eight years old, and his faith was formed in large part by the sermons of Ken Chafin and Bill Turner as well as countless incredibly patient Sunday School teachers, many of whom are still active members. Jim has served in many areas of the life of South Main, including as Chair of the Deacons, Personnel Committee, and the Worship Task Force in the early 2000s. Jim is married to Jan, who also grew up at South Main, and they have two adult children and one grandson. Jim loves to play disc golf and most weekends can be found playing a round or two with some combination of fellow South Mainers Bill Moore, Anthony Holder, and Nathan Benesh, and anyone else who likes to walk around a park throwing dog toys into baskets.

Jim likes to make his Bible study lessons interactive and encourages questions and discussion. He typically has a PowerPoint presentation to supplement the lesson.

Prepared Series

- Hard Stories of the Bible
- Amazing Awful People in the Bible
- The Book of Revelation

Angela Bell



Angela has been at South Main for 15 years and is an active member of the Agape Community. She is a Mizzou Tiger, having received a bachelor's degree and then a master's and PhD in History all from the University of Missouri. She is a professor of history at Lone Star College in CyFair teaching American history and African American history survey courses. Angela's faith journey began in a small Southern Baptist church in rural Northeast Missouri. She made her profession of faith when she was in fifth grade during a spring revival, yet as her faith has matured she focuses more on Christ's love than following rules. At South Main, she has served on the Missions Committee, the Discipleship Committee, and been a leader for Discovery Weekend. She is also an integral part of South Main's Music Ministry, participating in Sanctuary Choir and Chamber Choir. As far as hobbies, she confesses, she "might love football way too much."

Angela's teaching style is conversational and collaborative, and she will sometimes employ small group activities. In addition to conversation and discussion, she will mix in presented material, usually in PowerPoint or other visual format.

Prepared Series

- Ezekiel: God Strengthens in the Midst, Highlights of the Book of Ezekiel
- End of the World: John's Revelation, an Overview
- Race and the Church using Tisby's ***Color of Compromise***



Hart Brupbacher

Hart has been at South Main for 19 years. He was raised in a Methodist church in Louisiana that was similar in theology to South Main, and since he has been involved in the ministries in our congregation, his faith has grown and matured significantly. In addition to teaching, he has served in the Sanctuary Choir, the Manna Ministry, the Family Ministry, and South Main at Home. Hart has a BS and MS in mechanical engineering, and he works as a mechanical engineer specializing in the design and manufacture of equipment for specialized application. Hart is married to Linda, his best friend and soulmate, and they have six grandchildren, three of whom attend South Main with them. Hart enjoys woodworking, bike riding, reading, and cooking.

Hart tries to challenge the classes he teaches with questions that relate to our lives today. He uses PowerPoint and often uses the voice translation to present Biblical dialogue. He also uses videos, when available, to present lessons.

Prepared Series

- Moses
- Abraham
- Psalms
- 1 Corinthians
- Ephesians
- The Epistles of John
- The Epistles of Peter
- *Free of Charge* by Miroslav Volf

Future Series

- Elijah and Elisha
- The Lord's Prayer

Linda Brupbacher



A retired HBU (now HCU) education professor and department chair, Linda has been teaching adult Bible studies and book studies for more than 25 years and at South Main since 2006. During her years at HCU, she won numerous teaching awards including the Opal Goolsby Teaching Excellence Award (the university's outstanding professor award that is determined by the students) and the Piper Professor (a state award for the 15 best professors in Texas). Linda is a deacon and an active member of two different South Main at Home groups (Pearland and Pasadena). She was part of the first South Main Teacher Development Cohort and successfully completed the Truett Certification program. Linda is Hart's wife, Lee and Lori's mom, and William, Nicholas, and Carl's Nana. She spends lots of time with these three boys and brings them to South Main on Sunday mornings. She loves spending time with friends and family, going to the theater, laughing, learning, teaching, listening to music and audiobooks, and exploring the outdoors—particularly the beach, forests, and the creek by her home.

Linda's teaching style is discussion-oriented with PowerPoint presentations.

Prepared Series

- Disciples: Learning from Jesus' First Followers about How to Live Our Lives
- Acts
- The Journey to Bethlehem (an Advent Study)
- Jesus' Life and Teachings
- The Last 24 Hours of Jesus' Earthly Life
- Key Old Testament People
- Esther



Tiffany Cate

Tiffany has been a member at South Main for about five years, and she has served on the Discipleship Committee, Coordinating Committee, and currently on the Outreach Committee. She has a bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University and a master's in Biblical and theological studies from Dallas Theological Seminary. Tiffany and her husband, John, have two boys, Jack (3) and Ben (1 1/2), and they have been active members of the Koinonia Community. She and John both work for Camp Ozark. Tiffany grew up in a military family and did not spend much time in church. As a middle schooler, though, she was introduced to the Lord, and eventually developed a deep faith foundation with help from a strong group of friends in college who showed her what it really looks like to walk in faith. In her free time, Tiffany enjoys singing and embroidery.

Tiffany is comfortable using a variety of teaching techniques, including lecture, conversation, and Q&A. She encourages curiosity and loves working to explain the "why" behind things.

Prepared Series

- The Story of Scripture
- Fruits of the Spirit

David Cole



Dave has been a member at South Main for 16 years. He received his bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Oklahoma and a PhD in clinical psychology from Oklahoma State University. He is a licensed psychologist in the state of Texas and specializes in chemical dependency, employee assistance, and mental health disorders. He is passionate about helping his clients. "I attempt to help my clients to overcome pain when life hurts. Life will present a number of challenges for my clients and I am there to assist them with these challenges." Dave is married to Penny; they are active members of the Power and Light Community and enjoy traveling together. Dave also participated in the Pilot Teacher Development Cohort.

Dave's teaching style is interactive and discussion-oriented.

Prepared Series

- Even Me—a review of Biblical characters and their involvement in the mission of God.



Chris Dove

Chris has been at South Main for about a dozen years. He is a deacon and has served on the Finance Committee and Personnel Committee. Chris and his wife, Shannon, are active in the FYF Community, and they have two sons, Jonah and Sam, who are both college students. Chris received degrees in and was involved in theater in his twenties, but eventually he went to law school at UT Austin to turn his theater training into a skill that he says could actually lead to a paycheck. He is now a litigator for Locke Lord, LLP, and also teaches legal education classes. Chris made a profession of faith as a child in the Southern Baptist church he attended in Florida but later rejected that church's fiercely politicized version of evangelical faith. He journeyed through Episcopal and Presbyterian churches before finding South Main. Aside from his theatrical background, Chris' primary hobby these days is running. He ran his first 5K in 2019 (as part of a midlife crisis, he says) and has worked his way up to his first 50 mile trail race in 2024.

Chris's teaching style is to go verse by verse in books or parts of books of the Bible, exploring the meaning of the text, the importance of its story, and its broader implications for our lives. He prefers not to use PowerPoint but rather give a presentation followed by a Q&A. He would also describe himself as energetic and maybe a little loud!

Prepared Series

- Jonah
- Ruth
- Judges
- Daniel
- The Joseph Story
- The Jacob Story
- The Nativity Story
- Romans
- 1 Peter
- Phillipians
- Philemon
- 1 Thessalonians
- How "The Law" Developed from Moses to Paul
- Unlikely Heroes of the Bible
- What the Bible Says about Satan

Erin DuBroc



Erin is a deacon at South Main and has been a member for 12 years. She and her husband, Matt, are active members of the Journey Community and are parents to Everett (16) and Bryce (12). Erin has a degree in nutrition from Texas A&M University and a master's in public health from UT School of Public Health, and she currently works on the administrative team at Gracewood. Erin attended a Methodist church as a child until 6th grade, when she started going to Tallowood Baptist Church with a friend. Erin has been involved in many areas at South Main, including M2M (the Mom to Mom Fellowship Group), the Discipleship Committee, the Greeter team, as a contributor to Advent and Lenten devotion books, and chair of the Outreach Committee. In 2022, she completed the Certificate of Christian Foundation from Truett Seminary. In her spare time, Erin enjoys knitting, sewing, reading, gardening, and thrifting.

Erin's teaching style is to encourage group discussion and to include creative visuals like photos, video clips, and tactile media. "I want our time together," she says, "to provide safe opportunities for asking questions, thinking anew, and ultimately serve as a launching pad for doing the dynamic work of tending our individual and evolving faith journeys between Sunday mornings."

Prepared Series

- Life in the Spirit: the Witness and Legacy of Mister Rogers (Galatians)
- Job: A Story of Unexpected Good News

Future Series

- Baptist History and Hallmarks



Greg Funderburk

Greg has been a member at South Main for more than 30 years. He was ordained as a deacon in 2001 and then as a minister in 2013. Greg did his undergraduate work at Baylor University and received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1990. Greg is a lawyer and a writer, and since 2012, he has served as South Main's Minister for Pastoral Care, walking with congregation members through particularly difficult times in their lives and speaking at and presiding over more than 100 funerals. He writes South Main's weekly devotional, "Monday Over Coffee," and is the author of several books, including a novel, ***The Mourning Wave***, about the great storm in Galveston in 1900. Greg is married to Kelly, and they have two adult sons, Hank and Charlie. He enjoys art, the theater, and traveling.

Greg's teaching style is dialogue driven, and he uses PowerPoint and videos as appropriate.

Prepared Series

- The Story of Joseph
- Beginnings and Endings: Exploring Beginning and Ending Books of the Old and New Testament
- The Book of Acts
- The Questions of Jesus
- ***UnChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity*** by David Kinnaman
- ***Pagan Christianity: Exploring the Roots of Church Practices*** by Frank Viola and George Barna
- U2 and the Theology of the Cross
- Vincent Van Gogh: Sermons in Color and Light
- Masterpiece: The Paintings of Caravaggio
- Faith and Film
- Faith and Art

Future Series

- Ecclesiastes

Ethan Gwaltney



Ethan has been at South Main for eight years, and he recently participated in the Teacher Development Cohort. He received his undergraduate degree from Baylor University in 2017 and then his PhD from Rice University in 2023. He is a lecturer in the Math Department at Rice University. He is married to Emily, and they are leaders in the Koinonia Community and welcomed their son, Arthur, last year. He has also been part of the Greeter Team, participated at Manna Chess, played basketball with the Youth, and served on the Nominating and Finance Committees. He is currently serving on the Discipleship Committee. Ethan's hobbies include reading modern literature, especially Dostoevsky.

Ethan's teaching style is adaptive to the needs of the group, and he prefers methods that permit dialogue in small groups of class members as opposed to a lecture style. A protegé of Dave Shattuck, Ethan favors acting as a "facilitator" rather than a "teacher."

Prepared Series

- Stories Unique to John's Gospel

Future Series

- A sequel to his current John series
- The Problem of Evil for Christianity



Claire Hein Blanton

Claire has been at South Main for 20 years, starting out in the College Ministry. She is a deacon and was ordained at South Main in 2016 to the teaching ministry. She has a BA in History from Rice University, an MDiv from Truett Seminary with a focus on theology, and a PhD in Systemic Theology and Ethics from the University of Aberdeen. She is currently an adjunct lecturer in theology at Truett Seminary in Houston and will be serving on the UT Health Development Board and the Board of Directors for the Institute for Spirituality and Health. She has been involved in many areas of South Main throughout her time as a member, including participating in Watershed and Book Club, being on the Usher Team, and serving on the Missions Committee, Nominating Committee, and Coordinating Committee. Claire and her husband, Jack III, have two children, Jack IV and Joy, both of whom love participating in Music Ministry and Family Ministry programming. Claire has varied interests and enjoys needlepoint, reading, drinking coffee, and texting other South Main members about unfolding plots in true crime stories.

Claire loves to teach, and her teaching style is to use PowerPoint to spur on discussion. She says that she is happiest when there is active discussion, and she likes to break the class into small groups to help the entire class feel better about sharing. She can do more or a lecture format if that is what is requested.

Prepared Series

- Judges
- Atonement Theology
- Church and State
- Christian Ethics
- Bonhoeffer Theology Studies
- *The Good and Beautiful God* by James Bryan Smith
- Reformation History and Theology
- Why Theology is Important: Engaging Scripture and the Church
- Bonhoeffer's Life and Theology

Future Series

- The Gospel According to Heretics (Christology)
- Baptist History
- The Noon Day Demon: Mental Illness and the Discipled Life
- Theology: The Last 50 Years
- Theologygrams:Theology Explained in Diagrams

J Hill



J has been a member at South Main for about 25 years. He was ordained as a minister at South Main in 2022 and serves as the church's Minister for Missions. J's parents were active Christians who raised J and his brother in the church as they traveled for work. Sometimes these were in well-established churches, including a stint at South Main when J was young, and sometimes these were churches his parents helped to establish. J is a practicing artist as well as an art professor and is married to fellow artist Hillevi. They love being outside, spending time in nature, and playing with their dogs. They have an adult daughter, Isabella, who lives in Oklahoma. J is naturally curious and when encountering something new, wants to learn or experience what he can about it.

J's teaching style is discussion-oriented. Because his vocational focus is missions and how the church engages with the world, he generally teaches from that point of view. "I like to look at the scriptural support for missions work and use that as the foundation for unpacking how that foundation supports (or doesn't) how we move through the work with our own personal calling."

Prepared Series

- The Torah and the Language of the Old Testament
- The Missional Calling of Matthew 25 and What That Looks Like in the World Today
- Migration: Biblical and Modern Examples of Welcoming the Stranger
- Art as a Starting Point for Exploring Faith



Andrea Hoxie

Andrea joined South Main on April 6, 2003. She is a senior deacon, an ordained minister, and a long-time and active member of both the Sanctuary Choir and the Pilgrimage Community. She also served on the original Worship Task Force. Andrea has a BBA from Texas Southern University, is a certified civil trial paralegal, mediator, and Registered Social Security Analyst. She has also done postgraduate studies at Trinity Theological Seminary and completed the Certificate of Christian Foundation from Truett Seminary. Andrea is the owner of Grand Pea, Inc., an independent insurance agent. She loves spending time with her family: Vanessa (daughter), Calvin (son-in-law), and granddaughter Layla (her "Grand Pea"), and in addition she writes poetry and essays and writes and arranges music. Andrea feels strongly that but for God, she would not be a functioning person. "Life is fraught with challenges. What keeps me going is knowing I'm not alone."

Prepared Series

- Encountering God
- Basic Christianity
- Theological Influences of Hymnists and Gospel Music Composers — this study includes biographies of hymn writers and overviews of related historical background and scripture references

Future Series

- Church History, Christian Experience, and the Holy Spirit

Michelle Hunt



Michelle is relatively new to South Main, having been a member for about two years. Michelle has a BA in Christian Ministry from Mary Hardin-Baylor, an MA in Biblical History and Geography from Jerusalem University College, and an MA in Theological Studies from Houston Christian University. She is currently a PhD candidate at Baylor University in Religion, specifically looking at the Old Testament and Hebrew Bible. Michelle has previously taught Bible classes and Biblical languages at a classical Christian school in Cypress.

Michelle's teaching style is a mix of lecture and discussion. She almost always employs a PowerPoint presentation.

Prepared Series

- Amos and Hosea
- Biblical Interpretation

Future Series

- Archaeology and the Old Testament
- Psalms



Todd Jurek

Todd has been a member at South Main for more than 15 years. He graduated with a degree in Finance from Illinois State University and owns a full-service commercial real estate firm here in Houston. Todd was the oldest of four children and grew up in the Catholic faith until he had a "Damascus Road" experience in 1992 where God opened his eyes, and he was called into a personal relationship with Jesus. Todd is an ordained deacon, has served on the boards of Operación San Andrés and the South Main Foundation and numerous standing committees, and was chair of the South Main Building Committee that oversaw the major renovations to the Sanctuary Building completed in 2017. Todd has three children, Ethan (24), Saige (17), and Linden (16). He loves dogs, playing the guitar, exercising, music history, and reading historical fiction novels.

Todd's teaching style is to facilitate conversations, even controversial ones, and to weave ancient things into modern reality where possible. Some of his lessons incorporate media, but he prefers to focus on texts and discussions. His goal is "not to get through a study in the allotted time but for the study to get into us! We may or may not finish the series…but that's OK."

Prepared Series

- Romans
- Ephesians
- Galatians
- 1 and 2 Timothy
- N.T. Wright Study Guides
- Strange but True Stories in the Old and New Testament
- Evidence that Demands a Verdict—A series about apologetics

Future Series

- Hebrews
- Acts

Robert Ketchand



Robert has been a member at South Main for more than 50 years. He is a deacon and has served on the Missions Committee and Education Committee. He also was part of the church's prison ministry a number of years ago and has served as the legal counsel for South Main. Robert has a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a law degree from Harvard. He was a Navy JAG trials lawyer and for many years has had a business litigation practice. Robert was baptized at age seven in Shreveport, LA, and he says that he and his wife of 56 years, Alice, both come from long generations of Baptists. Robert and Alice have two adult children, one of whom is South Mainer Margie Ehlers, and five grandchildren. In his spare time, Robert enjoys reading.

Robert's teaching style is similar to a college level course, with a mix of lecture and wide open discussion.

Prepared Series

- Genesis
- Isaiah
- The Psalms
- The Book of Acts
- The Letters of Paul
- Church History
- Baptist Theology
- The Civil Rights Movement
- Books by Alister McGrath
- Books by Francis Collis
- Christian Literature
- Reading Through the Bible in One Year

Future Series

- N.T. Wright on Ephesians



Wally Kronzer

Wally grew up in Houston and has been a member at South Main from the Cradle Roll (or since Eisenhower was president!). He has a BA from U of H, a JD from South Texas College of Law, and he is a practicing attorney who will tell you that he is still avoiding retirement. At South Main, Wally is a deacon and a long-time member of the Broadcast Ministry. Wally met his wife, Kathy Steele Kronzer, at South Main, and they have three adult sons who all live in the Houston area with families of their own. Wally and Kathy have a tight-knit group of 2 AM friends who met in the Torn Class at South Main in the 1970s and have remained close to this day. Wally enjoys being active, and his hobbies include hiking (especially the Grand Canyon), scuba diving, skiing, and traveling.

Wally says that in his faith journey he has always had a questioning attitude that stems from an innate curiosity to learn rather than from doubt, and he feels comfortable wrestling with certain ideas without fear that it will harm his faith. It is this love of curious questioning that he brings to his teaching style. He hopes to educate while inviting discussion. Wally uses PowerPoint and occasional background emails. “I assume I’m not the smartest person in the room,” he elaborates, “but I might have some information others do not have.”

Prepared Series

- Galatians
- The Ten Least Popular Books of the Bible: aka the Ten Least Studied Books of the Bible
- *The Myth of Christian America* by Mark Weldon Whitten

Trey Medley



Trey has been at South Main for four years, and he is an ordained minister. He grew up in Midland, TX, and accepted Christ at the age of seven. Trey has degrees in religion and theology, and he has served as a youth pastor, pastor, and supply preacher at numerous Baptist churches in Texas, Oklahoma, and Alabama. In 2009, Trey and his wife, Sarah, moved to London so he could complete his PhD and there became integrated into the life of the Anglican Church. Trey and Sarah have been married for 21 years and have twin 16-year-olds, Eliana and Tate. At South Main he has served on the Discipleship Committee and participated in Sanctuary Choir and the Summer Musical. He and Sarah are active members of the Journey Community. He is currently a project manager for David Weekly Homes. Trey enjoys reading, spending time with his family, and leading a group of neighborhood kids and dads in tabletop role-playing games. He says that his love language is coffee–he has no less than five ways to brew coffee at home!

Trey tends to use a combination of slideshows, whiteboards, and handouts, but can adapt if needed. His goal with teaching is not merely the impartation of knowledge—he considers a teaching session successful if participants leave excited to read the Bible again with fresh eyes and with a perspective they had not considered before.

Prepared Series

- A Survey of the Old Testament
- A Survey of the New Testament
- Hebrews
- Public Faith (based on the ideas of Miroslav Volf)

Future Series

- Baptist Faith and History in Biblical Context
- Christian Ethics or How to Think and Act in a Fallen World



George Moore

George is a deacon and has been at South Main for seven years. He is an ordained minister and served as pastor at Champion Forest Baptist Church. George accepted Christ when he was 13 and has been a Baptist all his life. George graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and St. Thomas University in Houston. He then completed his doctorate at the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies in Jacksonville, FL. Upon graduation from UT Austin, he worked for 41 years for KBR from Project Controls to Project Management. For more than 20 years, he has taught Project Management Principles and Leadership at U of H. George became a widower 13 years ago when his wife of 34 years, Lin, passed away from breast cancer. In addition to his roles as father and grandfather, George enjoys collecting art and rocks, gardening, cooking, traveling, and sharing the love of Jesus to others throughout his travels and as part of his mission work.

George says that his teaching style is organized (he types out his lessons but does not read them) with many personal stories and class participation. He makes it a habit to finish on time.

Prepared Series

- Paul's Letter to the Philippians
- The Gospel of Mark
- Old Testament Characters

Steve Rader



Steve grew up as a missionary kid in Zambia and South Africa, the middle of five brothers. He received a BS in mechanical engineering from Rice University and recently retired after working for 36 years as an engineer and manager at NASA's Johnson Space Center. Steve is married to Dolores (South Main's Minister to Families), and they have three adult daughters: Anna and her husband Aaron, Abigail, and Lauren. At South Main, Steve serves as a deacon, has been involved with several committees (Outreach, Coordinating, Discipleship) and task forces (NextWave, Strategic Planning), and currently is the chair of the Campus Master Plan Implementation Committee. For more than 25 years, he has played bass in the Space City Big Band, and he enjoys puns, pranks, and laughter in all forms (see earlier information about being the middle of five brothers.) He enjoys lively discussions with friends about interesting topics and problems. He also says he enjoys being lazy. Steve is a colon cancer survivor and has experience with mental illness in his family, giving him a certain perspective about life.

Steve's teaching style is a balance of lecture and discussion, and he includes slides with graphic elements to stimulate thought or perspectives on what he is teaching. He focuses on the application of Scripture to our lives, exploring it with the class to inspire curiosity. He also starts his lessons with a short unpacking of that morning's worship service.

Prepared Series

- The Book of Acts
- Advent
- ***Parables: Stories Jesus Still Tells*** by John Claypool
- ***Love Your Enemies*** by Arthur Brooks
- ***Crucial Conversations*** by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan, Al Switzler
- Jesus Loves Me, This I Know?
- Prayer
- Balance (transforming one's relationship with money)

Future Series

- Biblical Genre
- A study of Jesus' references to the Old Testament
- ***The Awakened Brain*** by Dr. Lisa Miller
- ***The Anxious Generation*** by Jonathan Haidt



Lauren Raimer-Goodman

Lauren has been a member of South Main for 15 years. She was an important voice in the Covid-19 Advisory Task Force and served on the Deacon Nominating Committee. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Baylor College of Medicine and is a pediatrician practicing in Friendswood. She is married to Michael, and they have two children, Lilly and Jude. Lauren and Michael are active members of the Journey Community.

Lauren's teaching style is that she prefers to lead discussions and believes that we all have something to teach each other.

Prepared Series

- Exodus
- Women of Genesis: Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Rebecca, Leah, and Rachel
- Prophets, Priests and Queens: More women of the Old Testament, including Miriam, Deborah, Abigail, the witch of Endor, Jezebel, and Vashti.

Michael Raimer-Goodman



Michael has been a member at South Main for 15 years. He is a deacon and was ordained as a minister in 2007 at Peachtree Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA. Michael has degrees in religion and philosophy and public health, and he is currently an associate professor at UTMB School of Public and Population Health, as well as the founding president and executive director of Sodzo International, South Main's mission partner in Kenya. Michael and his wife, Lauren, are active members of the Journey Community, and they have two children, Lilly (14) and Jude (12). Michael enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, writing poetry, reading, hiking, dancing, singing, delving into peer-reviewed science, and dreaming of ways to build and embody systems of compassion with the most marginalized people in the world.

When Michael is teaching, he strives to create safe spaces for people to find God and share themselves–their deepest, perhaps hidden or unexplored parts.

Prepared Series

- The Psalms
- Writings of Kierkegaard
- Mystical Writings of the Christian Tradition
- Contemplative Prayer and Practice
- Flourishing Community
- Various Book Studies

Future Series

- Spirituality and Trauma



Toni Richerson

Toni joined South Main in 1974 and recently celebrated her 50th anniversary as a member of the congregation. She is a deacon and has participated in just about every aspect of South Main including the Discipleship Committee, Stewardship Committee, Youth Ministry Building Committee, Youth Camp Sponsor, Divorce Recovery Group Leader, Discovery Day Leader, College Department teacher, the Sanctuary Choir, and many, many others. Toni is originally from Shamrock, TX, graduating from Texas Tech University and then Texas A&M with a degree in Education Psychology and Counseling. She is retired after years of important work as a teacher, coach, counselor, student services director, and higher education program manager. Toni grew up a Methodist, accepting Christ when she was 13. Dan Yeary was her college minister, and he remains the most important spiritual influence in her life. When she moved to Houston after college, Dan was the associate minister at South Main, so it was natural that she joined here. In addition to being at church, Toni enjoys photography, antiquing, and traveling.

Toni's teaching style is a combination of presentation, conversation, and discussion. "Church is home to me," she says, "and folks are family. Showing up for each other and using our gifts with and for God's plan for His church and our lives is what I hope to encourage."

Prepared Series

- The Book of Numbers
- Tabernacle and its New Testament Foundation
- Psalms of Ascent and Advent
- Hebrews
- The Beatitudes
- What Jesus Saw from the Cross
- Advent
- Stewardship
- Spiritual Gifts
- Scripture as Source: What are YOUR Resources?
- Paul and His Coworkers
- Heroes of the Old Testament

Dave Shattuck



Dave is a deacon and has been a member at South Main for 40 years. He was raised as a Roman Catholic, was a non-believer for about a decade after college, and is now a Baptist by choice, receiving baptism at South Main in 1985. He finds the principle of Priesthood of the Believer to be invigorating and terrifying at the same time. Dave and his wife, Carol, were married at South Main and raised their children, Kendra and Luke, here, and now their children are raising their children in the congregation. Dave received degrees in Engineering Sciences, including a PhD in 1982 from Duke University. He has taught electrical engineering courses at U of H for more than 40 years and also held a variety of administrative positions. He enjoys sports, especially soccer and baseball, reading, and traveling. At South Main, in addition to service on numerous committees, Dave has volunteered with the Sojourn House Apartment Ministry, the River Ministry, Food Pantry, and he is an integral part of the weekly Sunday morning Manna Ministry at the Trinity Pines Chapel.

Dave's teaching style relies heavily on discussion and setting up the material for all to be able to participate. He views himself as more of a facilitator than a teacher, and he likes to use humor. "The question of whether I am actually funny is one that I would prefer to leave to others. However, it is fair warning to note that I will try to be funny when I teach. I learn best from teachers that laugh and who try to make me laugh."

Prepared Series

- The Psalms and ***Reflection on the Psalms*** by C.S. Lewis
- The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7
- The Gospel of Luke
- Parables in the Gospel of Luke
- The Book of James
- The Book of Romans
- ***Letters to Malcolm*** by C.S. Lewis
- ***Reflection on the Psalms*** by C.S. Lewis
- ***The Screwtape Letters*** by C.S. Lewis
- ***Celebration of Discipline*** by Richard Foster
- ***Prayer*** by Richard Foster
- ***What's So Amazing About Grace*** by Phillip Yancy
- ***Divine Conspiracy*** by Dallas Willard



Michael Shirl

Michael, a member at South Main for 43 years, is a deacon and an ordained minister. Michael is the first and only person in his family to graduate from college, receiving a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University and an MDiv from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Michael has served in various ministerial roles and worked for non-profits in the Houston area throughout his career, including chaplaincy for the Memorial Healthcare System, different roles at Habitat for Humanity, and as Interim Minister to Adults at South Main. Michael is now officially retired, but for seven years and counting, he has been the primary Santa for Houston Zoo Lights. He has been married to Sharna for 50 years, they have two children and three grandchildren, and they are active members of the Compass Community. Some of Michael's areas of service at South Main include the Sanctuary Choir, the Missions Committee, the Discipleship Committee, and the Worship Task Force, just to name a few. He and Sharna love the arts, particularly movies. He is a craft beer aficionado, writes poetry primarily for himself, and enjoys a wide range of music.

Michael's lessons usually include 10 to 15 minutes of content with a goal of encouraging conversation and discussion. He typically does not use PowerPoint (although he can, if requested) and always provides a full schedule before the first Sunday that he teaches.

Prepared Series

- Series on most books in the Bible
- The Problem of Suffering
- The Christian Year: Advent to Pentecost
- The Will of God
- ***Neglected Voices*** by John Indermark
- ***Life Together*** by Dietrich Bonhoffer
- ***Psalms*** by Dietrich Bonhoffer
- ***The God Named Hallowed*** by John Killinger
- ***The Prophetic Imagination*** by Walter Brueggemann
- ***Pilgrim Letters*** by Curtis Freeman
- ***The Christian Witness*** to the State by John Yoder

Jeannene Simonton



Jeannene joined South Main this past year, bringing a wealth of teaching experience. She recently retired from teaching for 40 years, having taught Bible to seniors at a Christian high school here in Houston. She also was blessed to have taught Sunday School for 43 years at her previous church. Jeannene attended the University of Texas at Austin and is a proud Longhorn (she bleeds burnt orange!). It was at UT that she was led to faith through her big sister in her sorority and friends in the dorm, and she became a Christian her sophomore year. Her faith has grown and matured throughout her life as she has studied the Bible, nurtured spiritual disciplines, deeply explored theology, and focused on building an intimate relationship with God. Her influences include C.S. Lewis, A.W. Tozer, Dallas Willard, and N.T. Wright. She is a voracious reader, needlepointer, Mah Jongg player, and watcher of British detective series. She is also a very proud aunt and great aunt!

In a nod to her 40 years as a teacher, Jeannene teaches in a lecture-style format but loves to engage the class in discussion.

Prepared Series

- Exodus
- Joshua
- Life of David
- Isaiah
- Psalms of Ascent
- The Gospel of John
- Colossians
- First and Second Corinthians
- First and Second Peter



Angela Spoede

Angela and her family joined South Main in 2017, and she and her husband J.T. have three children: Vivian (19), Zane (14), and Phoebe (12). Angela was a history major and music minor at Louisiana State University, and then in 2007 received a law degree from the University of Houston. She is an attorney for the Lanier Law Firm in the Issues and Appeals section. Angela accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior as a college student, and she and J.T. have served in ministerial capacities over the years, from lay leadership to a pastorate and everything in between. At South Main she is a deacon and has served in the Family Ministry and as chair of the Discipleship Committee.

Angela likes to employ a conversational teaching style, sometimes using PowerPoint and/or videos, to foster connections within the group.

Prepared Series

- The Minor Prophets
- Book Ends of the Bible (Genesis 1-3 & Revelation)
- Red Letters (Jesus' Ministry through the Words He Spoke)
- The Lord's Prayer
- Leviticus

Future Series

- How to Read the Bible
- Spiritual Disciplines and the Minor Prophets
- Couples of the Old Testament
- Stories from the Genealogy of Jesus

Mike Stedham



Mike has been a member of South Main for five years and in addition has a long-time ministry of teaching, pastoring, and serving Baptist churches. He became a believer in Jesus Christ when he was 14 years old, and later in his teenage years, felt the call to the ministry. He has a BA from Hardin-Simmons University and a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. Early in his ministry, he pastored two different churches and then in 1978 was called to be the Minister of Counseling and Family Life at FBC Abilene, where he served for 24 years. There, he started a Christian counseling center and developed programs for marriage and family enrichment. He also served in a similar role at FBC Arlington, TX, until his retirement in 2016. Mike is married to Mary, and they have two adult children. They are active members of the Power and Light Community. In his free time, Mike enjoys camping, fishing, and golf.

Mike's teaching style includes interaction with the class and not just strictly lecture. He rarely uses PowerPoint or other presentation technology.

Prepared Series

- Esther
- Ruth
- Ephesians
- James
- The Stuff Talk (our relationship with material possessions)
- Mind the Gap (what do you do when life presents unexpected circumstances)



Sam Swart

Sam is a deacon at South Main and has been a member for 36 years. Sam says that he had the "typical Baptist kid faith journey," being raised in the church and making his profession of faith and being baptized at age eight. He is married to Lisa, and they have two adult children, Grace and Ned. He says, "I married a Baptist girl and have made our faith the central component of our family." Sam graduated from Texas A&M in 1986; he is an architect and has had his own practice for the past 25 years. He has given generously of his professional expertise to building and renovation projects at South Main, including the recent renovations of the Sanctuary and Music Suite. Sam is on the Usher Team and also plays trombone with the South Main Orchestra.

Sam's teaching style is "fairly old-school lecture style with discussion." He can use PowerPoint but prefers not to, finding it more of a distraction to his particular teaching style. He has two rules for teaching: 1) Don't embarrass Lisa, and 2) Don't be boring. "I have failed occasionally at both of these!"

Prepared Series

- Daniel,
- Jeremiah
- Judges
- Mark
- John
- Acts
- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- Hebrews
- Philippians
- 1 John
- Rituals of the Church
- Pharisees
- ***Death on a Friday*** by Richard John Neuhaus
- ***Surprised by Hope*** by N.T. Wright
- ***Bad Religion*** by Ross Douthat
- Overview of the Apocrypha

Kristy Wade–Carroll



Kristy has been at South Main for 16 years and in 2023, she was ordained by our congregation. She grew up in a small, rural community church and made a profession of faith when she was seven. After receiving degrees in psychology and vocal performance, she spent about 10 years living in the Middle East and Southeast Asia with her first husband, Bruce. When he became ill, they moved to Houston, and after his death, she realized a half-imagined dream of attending seminary, graduating from Truett in 2018. Her calling and passion involves working with small groups to foster discussion, connection, and healing through shared experiences of grief. At South Main, she met and married Larry Carroll, and they are raising twins, Christian and John Wade. She is active in the Sanctuary Choir, Chamber Choir, and Graceland Community, and has served on the Deacon Nominating Committee and Nominating Committee. Kristy enjoys singing, traveling, writing, reading, cooking, and baking. Her top three identified spiritual gifts are encouragement, shepherding, and creative communication.

Kristy says that she really doesn't consider herself a teacher as much as a study guide. She likes to study scripture, offer background and contextual information, and facilitate discussion.

Prepared Series

- Philippians—A Call to Koinonia
- Paul's Act 2 (second missionary journey)
- Walking Through Grief
- Close Reading Scripture

Future Series

- James and Job
- *Mudhouse Sabbath: Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline* by Lauren Winner
- *The Lost Letters of Pergamum* by Bruce Longenecker



Gena Warner

Gena is a relatively new member of South Main with a wealth of Bible teaching experience. She received a Master of Theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary in 2023 and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry from Truett Seminary. Gena grew up in a Christian home and was greatly influenced by her grandmother's faith. Her local church taught well the stories in the Bible and bred in her a love of Scripture and a heart for discipleship. Throughout her adult life, she has served in various areas of ministry. She has taught weekly adult Bible studies as well as women's and "mom's" studies both in Houston and abroad. Gena has been married to Dan for more than 40 years—they have four grown children who have enriched their lives with their amazing spouses and 11 grandchildren in total. Gena's favorite pastime is having rich conversations over great food with special friends. In addition to spending time with family, she enjoys traveling, reading, exercising, eating out, and has recently taken up gardening.

Gena's teaching style combines verse-by-verse and thematic approaches. She begins by orienting a passage within the broader context of the grand story of Scripture and then takes a deep dive into the passage to explore the details. A whiteboard is her favorite teaching tool, but she has come to appreciate the speed and efficiency of PowerPoint. She likes for her classes to have an open atmosphere, with theologically robust teaching laced with a little humor.

Prepared Series

- Up!: A Journey of Spiritual Growth and Encouragement Based on the Life of Elijah
- Priceless Pearls: Diving into the Seven Miracles of Jesus from the Book of John
- ***Soul Culture*** by Matt Snowden and Joshua Hayes about Paul's view of the church.
- Wrapped in Grace: Unwrapping the Gift of Grace Through the Letters of Paul

Future Series

- Basic Bible 101
- Heroes of the Early Church
- Spiritual Formation

4100 MAIN STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002-9693
(713) 529-4167 • SMBC.ORG
DR. STEVE WELLS, PASTOR

FEBRUARY 2026
R04182023

