

# BISHOP GADSDEN



## 2020 Board of Trustees Biographies

### Barbara Christie, Board Chair

#### Marketing/Sales, Retired

Barbara Christie, although born and raised in New Jersey, spent most of her adult life in the Boston area. After receiving a bachelor's degree in Government from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, Barbara began her career as a sales representative in Buffalo, NY for Ortho Pharmaceutical, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson. She then transitioned from pharmaceutical to surgical device sales. After working for Olympus Corporation for a short time, Barbara returned to another Johnson & Johnson subsidiary, Codman and Shurtleff. There she held positions in both sales and marketing, with a strong emphasis in the field of neurosurgery. A new challenge was presented to Barbara when BrainLAB, a German company, approached her to start their U.S. business. Her experience in neurosurgery was invaluable. During her seven-year tenure with BrainLAB, Barbara held several different titles.

While in Boston, Barbara served as a volunteer and a member of the Board of Directors for Dress for Success. She was an active member of Trinity Church, Copley Square. She sang in the choir and had a hand in the capital campaign to raise almost \$50 million for church restoration.

In 2006, Darkness to Light, a Charleston-based nonprofit, was looking for someone with sales and marketing experience to help sell their Stewards of Children training program. After several months of consulting, Barbara became the Director of Marketing and moved to Charleston. Since coming to Charleston, Barbara has become a member of Grace Episcopal Church, sings in their choir, and served on the Saving Grace capital campaign committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, a three-year term on the Vestry, and is involved with the Grace Church Tea Room. She currently serves on the Board of Directors at the Country Club of Charleston. Her other non-profit activities include involvement with One80 Place and serving on the Dean's advisory council for the College of Health Professions at MUSC.

### Robert Vingi, Vice-Chair

#### Investment Advisor, Wells Fargo

For over 28 years, Robert Vingi has worked with the Wells Fargo Advisors and its predecessor firms. Currently, Robert is Managing Director-Investments with Wells Fargo. In 2009, *Barron's Magazine* ranked Robert as the number one advisor in South Carolina and previously was ranked in *Barron's* top five in 2014, when he was named a Top 400 Advisor by *Financial Times*.

Robert, a 1986 graduate of Presbyterian College, is active in the community and civic affairs. He has served as a vestryman and senior warden at Grace Episcopal Church and as a former board member for Wings for Kids, an after-school mentoring program for elementary students. He currently serves on the board for SALTCO, an Alabama-based timber company.

His wife of 26 years, Elizabeth Vingi, serves on the Board of Trustees at Porter-Gaud school, where their youngest son is enrolled. His eldest son works in New York, and his middle son currently attends Wake Forest University. On weekends, Robert can be found fishing the many creeks and rivers of the Lowcountry. Robert and his family reside in Charleston.

## Brian Hussain, Board Secretary/Treasurer

### Finance, Retired

A native of Trinidad in the West Indies, Brian Hussain came to the United States as a teenager. After a four-year stint in the Navy, he took advantage of the GI Bill to attend classes at Trident Technical College, where he earned an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering, and later at the College of Charleston, where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting.

Brian practiced public accounting with several accounting firms in the Charleston area before assuming the position of Vice President of Finance for the Coastal Community Foundation. Brian served in that role for many years where he was responsible for the finances and investments of the \$280 million Foundation.

Brian is married to Edith Blakeslee from Buffalo, New York. He and his wife have two children, a son, Shaun, and a daughter, Natalie. Brian and his family reside in West Ashley and attend St. Stephens Episcopal.

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## E. Craig Asche

### Investment Advisor

Craig Asche has an extensive professional background in banking, starting his career at Bankers Trust (BT) in New York City in 1979. While with BT, he worked in the Foreign Exchange Department, advising and executing trades on behalf of corporate clients. He stayed with BT for five years, ending his time there as Assistant Vice President and was the highest producing salesperson in the department.

After working in Paris for six months with BT, Craig took a position with Salomon Brothers (SB). Craig completed the six-month training program offered, obtaining his Series 7 and 63 licenses. He then worked as the currency expert within the Corporate Coverage Unit, advising the firm's largest corporate and institutional clients, managing their foreign exchange exposures.

During his time at SB, Craig brought in the largest government bond order, developed the firm's largest account, and became the firm's largest sales producer. He also spent time living in Tokyo, and then relocated to Singapore where he managed the Asia-Pacific Foreign Exchange Department. Finally, he decided to move back to the United States so he could focus on his family; he had three young children at the time.

When Craig returned to the states, he worked in his own family's investment office, a position that he still holds today. From 2003 until 2010, he worked at Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst Association (CAIA), a not-for-profit, as the CFO and board member, where he spent approximately 40% of his time traveling to meet with financial institutions and present at industry conferences. During his time with CAIA, it grew from a fledgling association to one having over 5,000 members representing over 80 countries, and it remains a gold standard in the industry. Craig stepped down in 2010 to focus on family.

Even with all of these accomplishments, what Craig sees as his greatest pride is his family; he states that his wife and three children are why he is who he is today. His family has a strong personal connection to Bishop Gadsden. Craig's stepfather and mother were engaged members of the Bishop Gadsden Community from the beginning, and his mother remains active in the Bishop Gadsden Community.

## David Bennett

### Executive Director, Charleston County Parks and Recreation

David Bennett has devoted more than 30 years to serving his community and the parks and recreation industry in his native home of Charleston, South Carolina. His professional career started at Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission (CCPRC) as a part-time Recreation Program Specialist in 1987 and within a year and a half became the Assistant Recreation Director. In 1993, David was honored as the South Carolina Recreation Park Association (SCRPA) Young Professional of the Year. He was promoted to the Director of Recreation in 1993, where he created the Lowcountry Cajun Festival that is now celebrating its 27th anniversary. In 2004, David served as SCRPA President and was promoted to Associate Executive Director of CCPRC in 2006. He was appointed by the CCPR Commission as the Executive Director in 2016 and recently honored as the 2017 SCRPA Professional of the Year.

David is responsible for managing a \$32 million operating budget with almost 1,200 employees during high season in an approximately 12,000-acre park system spanning nearly 100 miles. The diverse park system, which serves over 2.7 million visitors annually, consists of six day parks, three beach parks, three dog parks, two landmark fishing piers, three water parks, 19 boat landings, a climbing wall, an outdoor adventure challenge course, a historical plantation site, an natural historical and cultural interpretive center, an equestrian center, cottages, a campground, a marina, as well as wedding, meeting and event facilities. The park system also offers a wide variety of recreational services – festivals, camps, classes, programs, volunteer opportunities, and more.

Despite his rigorous schedule, David has remained involved in a variety of professional and community organizations while maintaining a national accreditation as a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP). He has served on numerous non-profit boards including the National Recreation and Parks Association, South Carolina Parks and Recreation Association, James Island Charter High School, Charleston Area Children's Garden Project, Charleston Heritage Education Forum, President of the Wallingford Presbyterian Church Trustees, and the Cooper River Bridge Run.

David is a graduate of Middleton High School and holds a bachelor's degree in Park, Recreation, and Tourism Management from Mars Hill College, where he was recruited on a full athletic football scholarship. David and his wife Cheryl are the proud parents of Austin, Dale, Cydney, and two rescue dogs named Jack and Little Bear.

## Margaret Blackmer

### Community Leader/Philanthropist

Margaret Blackmer was born in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, where she spent some her youth before moving to Hilton Head Island, while it was still in the early days of its development. Margaret's family then relocated to Denver, Colorado, where she graduated high school. After graduation, Margaret attended Pacific Horse Center in Elk Grove, California and looked forward to a career in the equine profession. That experience led her to a warm-blood breeding business in Kalmar, Sweden for a year, but back troubles sidelined her riding career. Margaret moved to the Carolinas, first to Boone, North Carolina, and subsequently to Charleston where she has lived the last 27 years.

A talented photographer, Margaret worked professionally in the field and now frequently shares her skills to the benefit of friends, family, and many Lowcountry non-profit organizations. Margaret recently moved to James Island after 30 years of living in Meggett, where she had been

very involved in local politics and conservation efforts. Before starting her non-profit work in the Charleston area, she worked as a professional picture framer for Caroline Sinkler at Frametastic.

Over the last 20 years, Margaret has played instrumental roles in a number of nonprofits in the Charleston area, including Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding (CATR) and the Lowcountry Open Land Trust (LOLT). She served as a volunteer and as board president with CATR, and currently serves as the co-chair of its “Raise the Roof” million-dollar campaign. At LOLT, Margaret has served in several staff positions including volunteering and serving as board president. She was the third recipient to be awarded the Lowcountry Open Land Trust Conservation Award in February 2013.

Margaret’s parents, Boswell and Polly Blackmer reserved one of the first cottages built at Bishop Gadsden in 1998. Sadly, Boswell passed away before the cottage was completed. Polly lived there for 12 years before moving to Myers Hall, then finally to Read Cloister where she passed in October of 2015.

From its early involvement, the family has been devoted to the mission of Bishop Gadsden. Margaret has served on the Bishop Gadsden Board of Trustees since 2014.

## Barbara Edlund, PhD

### Professor, College of Nursing MUSC

Dr. Barbara Edlund is a retired, tenured professor in the College of Nursing at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) and member of the faculty of the Graduate College at MUSC. Dr. Edlund received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Maryland, a Master of Science in Medical Surgical Nursing/Oncology and a Post Masters Certificate in Adult Primary Care from the University of Rochester. She received a Ph.D. in Public Health from the University of South Carolina, as well as a Post Masters Certificate as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner from the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Edlund is a board certified Adult Nurse Practitioner and a member of several local and national nursing organizations.

As a faculty member of the Medical University of South Carolina since 1980, Dr. Edlund taught in the graduate and doctoral nursing programs. She has received national grant funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration for the education of advanced practice nurses (APNs) in Gerontology/Complementary Care and for distance continuing education of hospital nurses in rural areas of the state on the care of the hospitalized older adult.

Additionally, she received national funding from the AVD foundation for an inter-professional, educational grant to infuse compassion and caring between the University of Washington and the Medical University of South Carolina to improve clinician communication with seriously ill patients and families.

Dr. Edlund is a productive writer and has published numerous articles, book chapters, and co-authored a text on Nursing Assessment and Diagnosis. She serves on the editorial review boards of the *Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, *Advance for Nursing* and the *Journal of Gerontological Nursing* and reviews for *Geriatric Nursing*. She has been honored for excellence in practice receiving the Palmetto Gold Award and the South Carolina League for Nursing Award. She won numerous student teaching awards, and in 2009, received the MUSC Foundation Distinguished Faculty Service. Her clinical practice and research interests include primary care, with a focus on the older adult, and palliative, end-of-life care.

Dr. Edlund has been involved in the local Charleston community, having served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Bishop Gadsden, Chair of the Board of Directors of Respite Care of

Charleston, member of the board of Directors of Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy and member of St. James Vestry. Dr. Edlund's community work was recognized with a Tribute to Women and Industry (TWIN) Award, given by the Charleston YMCA.

## Charles C. Geer, MD

Physician, Roper St. Francis

Dr. Charles Geer has practiced internal medicine in Charleston, South Carolina since 1974, after graduating from the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Dr. Geer works at Roper St. Francis Physician Partners and is a member of Island Internal Medicine at 325 Folly Road, an office-based primary care.

Dr. Geer has worked for both St. Francis and Roper hospitals, where he served on various committees and held medical staff offices. Dr. Geer is the current chairman of the Utilization Management Committee. Dr. Geer has served on the vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion, where he is a member, and has served on the vestry of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, as well. He was on the Steering Committee and Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Church of South Carolina. He was appointed to the Mission Advisory Committee and currently serves on the Board of the Episcopal Forum.

Dr. Geer's wife is the former Frances Waring Voigt. They have four married children and three grandchildren.

## Nadine Lomax

Retired

Nadine and her husband reside in Summerville, SC, and stay very involved in the surrounding community. As a cradle Episcopalian, she joined St. Paul's Episcopal Church and stayed there until moving to St. George's in 2003. Nadine has always been active in the church: vestry, ECW, diocesan delegate, altar guild lay Eucharistic Minister and Lay reader. A graduate of Education for Ministry, she is currently teaching a weekly Bible study that has been ongoing for nine years.

Nadine taught school in Dade County, FL, Montgomery, MD, and at the Charleston Speech and Hearing Kindergarten for the deaf which turned into a full-time job from a Junior League placement.

Nadine owned and operated a small fabric and lace shop "Just Smocking," and a wholesale business "Just Smocking Two". She co-wrote two instructional books for smocking and French hand sewing. Nadine and her husband owned Medicine Wind Farm where she was manager and bookkeeper.

Nadine says her best job has been being grandmother to six wonderful grandchildren.

Nadine's mother was a resident at Bishop Gadsden, and Nadine previously served on the BG board for two terms.

## Melinda Lucka Kelley, Esq.

Attorney

Melinda Kelley, originally from Tampa, Florida, has lived in South Carolina since 1974. After graduation from the University of South Carolina in 1979, Melinda worked in the field of municipal and county planning, in the public and private sectors, until starting law school in 1987. While in law school, Melinda served as expert witness in planning and zoning cases in

state and federal courts, and had a judicial internship with Alabama State Supreme Court Justice Richard “Red” Jones. Upon completion of law school, she began practicing law in Charleston, primarily in the administrative and regulatory areas of land use and environmental law, real estate law, wills and estates, and probate administration. Melinda has been a member of the South Carolina Bar since 1992.

Melinda has represented business owners, residential property owners, homeowners’ associations, estates, and local government entities in administrative and regulatory cases brought before local Commissions, Boards and Councils, and the Administrative Law Courts, Circuit Courts, Probate Courts, and the Appellate Courts in South Carolina. Melinda has served as municipal attorney for the Town of Lincolnton, SC since 2003, was the past attorney for the Town of James Island from 1993 until 1996, and handled the prosecution of criminal court cases for the City of Charleston from 1997 until 2016.

Melinda has been a member of the adjunct faculty in Urban Studies at the College of Charleston since 1994, primarily teaching Land Use Law and Water Use Law. She has taught many continuing education classes for attorneys, planners, engineers, and real estate professionals. Melinda served on the South Carolina Continuing Legal Education Seminar Committee from 2012 until 2015. Additionally, Melinda has written local government zoning ordinances and has contributed to the drafting and preparation of Comprehensive Plans.

Before joining Finkel Law Firm in 2010, Melinda practiced law with C.C. “Cotton” Harness, III and Jefferson D. Griffith, and Austin & Rogers, LLC firm after being in private practice since 1992.

Melinda is a member of Grace Episcopal Church Cathedral. She has served as a vestry member at Grace, on the Board as a past president of the Episcopal Forum of South Carolina, as an advisor to the Steering Committee for the Reorganization of the Diocese, and on several Diocesan Convention Committees of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina since the reorganization.

Melinda currently serves on the Board of the Wadmalaw Island Land Planning Committee. She was past chair of the Harmony Project Board of Directors, a non-profit organization that focused on neighborhood revitalization and sustainability and served on the Boards for the Old Windermere and Creekside Neighborhood Associations.

Melinda is married to Joe Kelley. They live on Wadmalaw Island where they enjoy farming and being on the water. She has three children who live locally: a daughter, Spencer, son-in-law, Burns Wetmore, a grandbaby, Lola Kate, a son and daughter-in-law, Will and Julia Black, and a son, John Black. Joe has one son and daughter-in-law, Joby and Liz Kelley, and a granddaughter, Jessie, who live in Asheville, North Carolina.

## Kitty Robinson

### Retired

Kitty Robinson served as President and CEO of Historic Charleston for 17 years, retiring in January 2018. Since her retirement, Kitty has continued her volunteer service in the local Charleston community. Kitty’s current involvement includes being a member of the boards of the International African American Museum, the Charleston Parks Conservancy, the Charleston Leadership Foundation, as well as serving as a Trustee Emeritus of Historic Charleston Foundation. Kitty is a member of Grace Episcopal Church and volunteers as a Reading Partners tutor at Memminger School.

Kitty has previously served as the President of the Junior League of Charleston and as a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International Board. Kitty served for six years as a member of Charleston's Board of Architectural Review and chaired the committee that developed Charleston's most recent tourism plan.

Her previous volunteer service includes membership on the boards of the Citadel School of Business, The Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie Trust, The Charleston Area Visitors Bureau, and The Charleston Heritage Federation among others. Kitty and her husband, Randal, are each recipients of the State of South Carolina Order of the Palmetto.

Kitty and her husband have four daughters and seven grandchildren. Both Kitty's mother and Randal's father were each Bishop Gadsden residents.

## Greg Smith Clergy, Retired

Greg Smith was born and raised in Denver, Colorado, and left the state in 1970 upon graduating from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business. In the following 20 plus years, and before moving to Charleston in 1993, Greg called home to ten different cities throughout the United States, while working for a number of corporations. Greg began his professional career in sales assignments in Armstrong World Industries, a floor-covering manufacturer, and then spent over 25 years in senior management positions. Greg served as Southeast Regional Sales Manager, Thomasville Furniture Industries; National Sales Manager, Higdon Furniture Company; Vice President of Marketing, Homes & Land Publishing Company; Director of Marketing, William M. Bird & Company.

In 1999, after completing three years of theological study and two years of discernment, Greg was ordained a Deacon in The Episcopal Church. In the 20 years since, Episcopal Bishops have assigned him to serve as Deacon in four Charleston Episcopal Churches: Old St. Andrew's, St. Francis, St. Peter's, and St. Stephen's. In addition to his Diaconate ministry, Greg served as Executive Director of Crisis Ministries, a Charleston homeless shelter. He has also served as Hospital Chaplain at Roper St. Francis Healthcare System and retired from there as Manager of Pastoral Care in 2011. Greg's wife, Lyn Smith, also retired that year from Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), where she was a Genetic Counselor at Hollings Cancer Center.

Greg was a vestry member at St. John's Episcopal Church, Tallahassee, Florida, and served on the Habitat for Humanity board in Tallahassee, Echo Outreach Ministries board, a homeless shelter in Tallahassee, the Institutional Review Board at MUSC, and Healing Farm Ministries board, a community for people with special needs in Charleston.

Greg serves now as Deacon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, where he and his wife are members. Greg and Lyn's son, daughter-in-law, and their three children are members of Grace Episcopal Church, their daughter, son-in-law, and their young son live in Asheville, North Carolina.

Church ministry and family are Greg's focus, but he also enjoys golf, running, swimming and hiking.