

ST. LUKE'S 2023 DISTINGUISHED LIFE AWARD



Jan Agee and Debbie Agee

Jan and Debbie Agee, daughters of Louis and Lois Agee, have been a part of St. Luke's for 72 years. Jan was baptized by Dr. Fleming at Lamar High School, St. Luke's first home, and Debbie in the Fellowship Hall, which was the first sanctuary. Jan's first memories are of Mrs. Fleming teaching Sunday School. Later Debbie was taught by Barbara Eason and Joanne Mueller. They were confirmed here and were a part of MYF. As adults, friends invited them to the Randy Smith class, and when they witnessed what love the class members had for one another, Jan and Debbie knew they wanted to join.

They recall their parents teaching them how to live. Their father would say, "We're not billionaires but we give how we can with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness." And these ladies have done just that. From teaching at VBS to singing in the choir, and faithfully participating in Sunday School, Jan and Debbie have always been eager to say "yes" to whatever need there was. "When we serve, we know God is well pleased with us and so are our parents. St. Luke's is our family!"

Their main ministry came into being after their mother died. Rev. Peter Miller invited them to chair the Friends at Home ministry. They started with letters, then visits, and flowers at holiday times. Rev. Bill Denham was like a brother to Jan and Debbie and encouraged them all the way. "We have been enormously blessed to have known and loved all the ministers at St. Luke's."



Rob Landes

Rob Landes' St. Luke's story begins in 1957 when he was 13 years old and taking organ lessons with Bob Bennett. He came on staff at 18 as an associate organist for 2 years and then left the church, and for a season turned away from God. But God was merciful, and in the middle of Paris, Rob saw a notice for an organ concert at Notre Dame. He attended and when he heard "The Song of Peace" he immediately felt the Spirit move

in his heart. He came back to faith via the music he loved. He believes that "Music creeps into spaces within you like nothing else can." In 1997 Rob became St. Luke's Organist and Artist in Residence at the invitation of Director of Music and Fine Arts, Sid Davis. He states, "I get more than I give in worship. It feeds my soul like nothing else." He has a wide following in retirement homes where he enjoys seeing music touch the residents who sometimes cannot remember their own names yet can sing along. Rob served the Lord through the church for 25 1/2 years. Upon retirement as organist, Rob comments with a twinkle that the biggest and loudest horn on the organ was dedicated and renamed the "Landes Herald Trumpet". He is so grateful for the generous gift that God gave him, and good health to continue sharing it.



Luther Todd

Luther Todd and his wife, Beverly came to Houston in 1965 and joined their neighborhood church, Gethsemane. Although Luther was a self-professed workaholic as a CPA, he still made time to serve. Beverly and Luther led MYF on Sunday nights, or as Luther would put it, "Beverly led it and I did what was needed." Luther served as an usher, and for a while sang in the choir. He and Beverly loved the choir retreats. When Beverly

died in 2006, Luther had not only his family and children around him, he also had his Gethsemane community. In his words, "They are family." In 2008, Luther joined the staff of St. Luke's Gethsemane in the Finance Office and continues to work there today as Administrative Assistant. He loves the mission focus of the campus and feels especially blessed by the people. His two children, three grandchildren and a great granddaughter all have been baptized at Gethsemane.