

# A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MONKS AND POSTULANTS

## OUR NEW MONKS

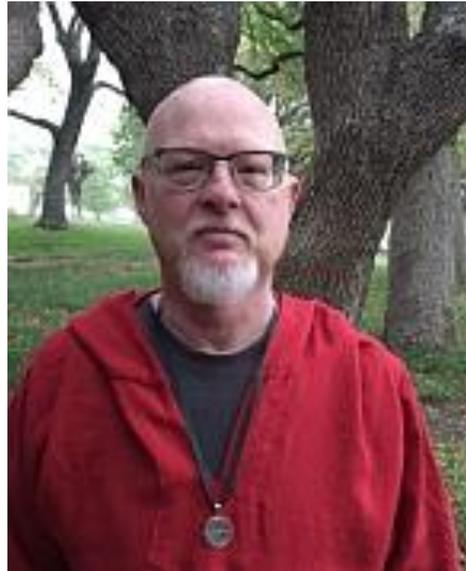
**C**atherine Crews was born in New Orleans, grew up in New Orleans and several cities in Texas. She earned her BA at Newcomb College and her MA and PhD in Psychology at the University of Kentucky. Professionally, she practiced psychology for 30 years and taught for Capella University for 10 years. She is now semi-retired but still mentors graduate students completing programs in clinical and counseling psychology.



Catherine was un-churched in childhood, but recognized her spiritual longing in high school. She came to Christianity in her 30's, having studied and practiced teachings from the esoteric wisdom of Alice Bailey as well as from Hinduism, Buddhism, and Native American spirituality along the way. She is drawn to the wisdom tradition in all the religions she has known, but the tradition as taught by Yeshua is closest to her heart. Catherine took vows as a monk in April 2015.

Catherine loves friends, gardening, poetry, and traveling, especially pilgrimages to experience the spiritual and wisdom traditions of other lands and cultures. She is an active volunteer in programs to support local, sustainable, farming and to provide healthy food to children and families in need in her community.

**J**im Kennedy was born in Jacksonville, Florida in 1952. After high school, he attended Palm Beach Atlantic College where he earned his B.A. having majored in Religion and minored in Biblical Languages. In 1973, he married Donna and in 1974 the two made their way to Louisville, Kentucky where Jim earned an M.Div. at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. While in Louisville, Jim and Donna were blessed by the birth of their daughter, Erin. In 1981, Jim, Donna, and Erin relocated to Madison, New Jersey where Jim earned his M. Phil. and Ph. D. in Biblical Studies with a major in Hebrew Bible at Drew University. In 1986, he joined the Department of Religion at Baylor University in Waco where he currently teaches. Erin grew up and married Wade. Nowadays, Jim does all he can to spoil his beautiful granddaughter, Kennedy. They love to paint together. Apart from spoiling his granddaughter, Jim's hobbies include writing poetry and nonobjective painting. Jim took vows as a monk in April 2015.



**R**ichard Mickelson was born in Rice Lake, Wisconsin into a Catholic family. At age five, his family moved to the Black Hills area of South Dakota where he was raised and attended Catholic Schools. The majority of those years were spent in the community of Rapid City. His father and mother instilled in him a love and appreciation for the outdoors and nature. These experiences formed the beginning of his contemplative spiritual life.

He received BS and MS degrees in Chemical Engineering from South Dakota Mines. He also has an MBA from Texas A&M Kingsville. He was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Army Corp of Engineers at his BS graduation and was called to active duty in 1969 after working briefly for the DuPont Company. During active duty, he served in the Viet Nam war. After returning to the US, he completed his MS and went to work for Celanese, a global chemical



company where he worked for 30 years in manufacturing positions and in Marketing/Sales/Business Direction. This time in his life provided him with opportunities to visit cultures in Western Europe and Asia. He retired to Fredericksburg with Cydney, the love of his life, in 2003 and continues his spiritual journey.

Service has always been a passion in his life. Upon retirement he became certified to teach and spent nine years teaching high school math. He has served his church and community in many capacities over the years including leading/serving on three school boards, serving and leading vestries, participating in the Community of Hope, participating in parish search committees, and teaching many semesters of Sunday school. Richard was drawn to the work of the Dr. Lynn C Bauman in 2009 and has actively sought the Wisdom path since that time. In union with two others, he began a Wisdom School at St Barnabas in 2014. He was confirmed into the Episcopal Church in 1983 and St Barnabas Fredericksburg is his current church community. He took vows as a monk in April 2015.

He is married to Cydney Mickelson and they have a blended family of four children and two grandchildren. His interests include time with the family as well as traveling, all things outdoors including enjoying wildlife and reading.

**J**uli Rosenbaum grew up on the Texas border in El Paso as a southern Baptist and was an active member of First Baptist Church. She graduated with a BA (1980) and MA (1985) in English Literature from Baylor University and taught English at Baylor for three years. She also taught evening classes at Central Texas College in Gatesville, Texas.

After moving to Pampa, Texas, she taught at Clarendon Community College and then went into oil field sales. After moving back to central Texas, she worked as a pharmaceutical representative and then as a hospital liaison in the Houston Medical Center for The Upjohn Company. When she began her family, she moved back to the Waco area, received a Montessori Early Childhood Certification and taught classes at Waco Montessori School. Juli has been teaching business writing, managerial communication, and interdisciplinary rhetoric courses at Baylor since 1998, has served as Baylor-in-



Oxford faculty, and is currently on faculty for the Baylor European Business Study Abroad Seminar each summer.

Juli has two children; her daughter is a Peace Corps volunteer (environmental sector) in Panama and her son is currently completing his junior year as an environmental science major at Baylor. Her interests include Enneagram studies, hiking, camping, gardening, reading, djembe drumming, contemplative pedagogy, scuba/snorkeling, and traveling whenever possible.

While in college, Juli developed an avid interest in world religions and spirituality. She later studied with Jerome Berryman, an Episcopal priest who created the children's Sunday School curriculum Godly Play (which is based on the use of narrative and Montessori methods), and she has been instrumental in launching Godly play classes at Seventh and James Baptist Church and St. Paul's Episcopalian Church. She leads an area book group, Black Madonnas, which has been meeting for twelve years, and is a member of Seventh and James Baptist Church. She took vows as a monk in April 2015.

**A**lice Vigil was born in Atlanta, Georgia and earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in speech-language pathology at Emory University. In 1971, she moved to Austin and worked as a speech-language pathologist in the Austin public schools before joining the University of Texas Speech and Hearing Center as a clinical supervisor. She earned a Ph.D. in Communication and was the Director of the clinical Speech and Hearing Center until she retired and joined a colleague in private practice in 2001. She has since retired from private practice.



Alice has two grown sons and two granddaughters. She is married to Hermann Vigil. Her interests include pottery, spending time with friends and family, and traveling with her husband, Hermann.

Alice was raised Methodist, but in her search to know God she converted to Catholicism as a young adult. She has studied the Gurdjieff work for many years and has been studying the Sufi path for 15 years. She took vows as a monk in 2015.

**H**ermann Vigil was born and raised in Nicaragua. He attended the Christian Brothers School for 12 years and college in California where he graduated as a civil engineer in 1963. Worked for an international engineering company for 10 years, Hermann returned to Nicaragua and practiced engineering until revolutions, wars and unrest (Sandinistas, Iran-contra) drove him back to the US in 1982.

Hermann has three grown daughters (which ensures entrance to heaven) and nine grandchildren. He is happily married to Alice since 1994, which is heaven on earth.



A born seeker, Hermann has been seeking the answer to the four questions (where do I come from, why am I here, where am I going, how can I know God) since he was six years old. He thinks he is getting closer to the answer, but then again, he could be delusional. Hermann took vows as a monk in the Order in April 2015.

## OUR NEW POSTULANTS

**A**lison Hine was raised in an intellectual, scientific, atheist family in Geneva, Switzerland. Her father was one of the founding scientists at CERN. She obtained a degree in zoology from Cambridge University (1971). After some field work in Kenya and further academic studies in Canada, she settled in Ann Arbor, Michigan where she obtained a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan. She practiced as a psychotherapist for 35 years and began offering spiritual direction in 2005.



Her spiritual search began 25 years ago with a friend's astonished question. "How have you managed to get this far without God?" From this

point her hunger for spiritual practice was unrelenting. After stops in some peculiar way stations, she became deeply immersed in Vajrayana Buddhism. Despite being drawn to this path, it did not bear fruit. In 2000 Alison discovered the Diamond Approach, a spiritual path rooted in the wisdom on Buddhism, Sufism and Depth Psychology. She continues to be a member of this mystery school. In 2009 she was drawn to a Christmas service in a small Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. To her great surprise this led to a deep study of Christian mysticism and theology. To this day the Christian path and the Diamond Approach sit synergistically alongside each other. Since then she has been teaching the practice of Presence under the auspices of her church, the fruits of a cross pollination of these threads of practice and teaching. In 2014 Alison met Lynn at a School of Wisdom. This meeting resulted in a one of a kind collaboration and with his support she created digital illuminations of the "Luminous Gospels". She became a postulant in April 2015.

She has a grown son and new Turkish daughter-in-law. She lives with her partner, Murray, of 15 years. She loves BBC TV series, classical music, all manner of art and creativity to be found on the Web and growing orchids in her living room.

**M**eg Reynard was born in 1958 in Belleville, Illinois. Her parents were from small mid-western towns and that has always felt like the core of her family identity. As a military family, they moved frequently around the US and in Germany. The family eventually settled in Missouri where Meg earned a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and French from the University of Missouri at Columbia. Following graduation, she entered the Peace Corps and spent the next two years in Nioukpourma, Togo introducing garden projects in primary schools. Upon returning to the States, she pursued a Master's Degree in Community Development (even though she never actually finished the degree) and discovered that for her certain themes play out time and again; as a La Leche League leader, a catechesis teacher, a hospice volunteer, or as an ESL teacher. Meg says, "Now, I might call it the "ministry of presence" but that wasn't the vocabulary of my mentors. We were taught to view ourselves not as "experts" going into a community with all the knowledge and all the solutions, but as "facilitators" going into a community to help them discover the solutions they knew best."



She met her husband, Andy, while traveling in her late twenties and recounts that “Even at that age, we have always felt like we have grown up together”. She has three children who have kept her supplied with unusual interests, a darling grand-dog and a lifetime supply of Korean DVDs. She currently resides in Bryan, Texas while her husband teaches history at Texas A&M.

She became familiar with the OOOW through Monk Gail Ostensen and attended teaching weekends and quiet days at the “cabin on the lake”. She became a postulant in spring 2015.

**M**ichelle Hart was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1956. She was first of three children born to a Methodist minister and grew up in the Methodist Church. After discovering the Episcopal Church in 1993, she felt as if she had been an Episcopalian her entire life but did not know it. She was confirmed in 1994. Though lapsed, she appreciates the liberal social views of the Episcopal Church and claims it as her church when asked.



Michelle and her husband, Jeff Hart, were married in 1978. She has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Southern Methodist University. She earned a Master’s degree in early childhood education and Ph.D. in school psychology from Texas A&M. Michelle has worked as a teacher of young children, of university students, and as a child psychologist. After a long wait, Jeff and Michelle were blessed with their daughter, Kayley, in 1996. Michelle retired to stay home.

Michelle became friends with Monk Gail in 1998 and started spending time learning from her. During the past 3 years, she and Gail would meet almost weekly for a day of silence. She has been attending workshops led by Abbott Lynn since 2002. It has taken a long time to take the step forward to become a postulant in the order but the time is right. She is drawn to Buddhism; she thinks that both Jesus and the Buddha are avatars of wisdom and compassion.

Michelle is a Reiki Master and believes energy therapy has a place in healing alongside Western medicine. Her interests include reading, visiting museums, essential oils, gemstones and crystals, and listening to yoga music and mantras. She lives in College Station with Jeff who is a professor at A&M, Kayley, and their dog, Tuffy.