

Seeds of Hope

Annual Report Summer 2012

A Letter from the President

Dear Friends of Seeds,
I bring you the first ever Annual Report for Seeds of Hope Publishers. On behalf of the entire Council of Stewards, I want to thank each and every one of you for your many years of continued support, both financial and spiritual.

You are receiving this report because you have contributed in one way or another to the ministry of Seeds in the past three years, either with financial contributions or with your time. With this report, I would like to introduce you to the council members, introduce you to Seeds publications and to share with you news about the ministry.

Seeds of Hope produces two periodical publications each year. *Sacred Seasons*, our series of worship resources includes litanies, sermons, poems, prayers, dramas, art, youth and children's activities—all for use by church leaders in raising awareness of hunger issues. There are separate worship packets each year for Advent, Lent and Hunger Emphasis, each comprising 24-32 pages of material and art.

Hunger News & Hope, our other publication, appears quarterly and contains articles and news relating to hunger and related issues. *Hunger News & Hope* is sponsored by eight Christian denominations and is available online for no charge.

I am proud to say that Seeds now has a list of 30 subscribing churches and denominations. Each subscriber receives the three editions of *Sacred Seasons*, as well as a hard copy of each issue of *Hunger News & Hope*. Back issues of all of these publications, as well as many other resources and materials, are available through the Seeds website at www.seedspublishers.org.

A number of individuals, both local and far afield, write and sketch and create for the worship packets—including council members, pastors, youth and children's ministers, lay people, children, editors, college interns and many others who feel drawn to the ministry of Seeds.

The past year has been one of the more memorable in Seeds history. Kathy Gardner began as the new business manager in June 2011. As a volunteer, Kathy applies her talent for tracking detail, bookkeeping skills, and a great sense of humor in the running of daily operations.

Kathy monitors the financial health of Seeds, and most importantly, prepares and files the necessary IRS documents and pays the bills. The council is tremendously grateful to Kathy for her time and talents, without which we could not exist.

(please turn to page 3)

What you'll find inside:

Page 2—Bios and photos of the Seeds staff and Council of Stewards

Page 3—A word about *Sacred Seasons*

Page 4—The 2012 Seeds budget

Page 4—A form that will help you sign up as a sustaining Seeds partner



Angel art (above)
by Sally Lynn Askins; Seeds logo (above left) by Erin Kennedy Mayer

Meet the Seeds Council and Staff

Sally Lynn Askins is vice president of the Seeds Council of Stewards. Our readers have been inspired by her illustrations for years [see the art on page 1]. Sally has been the senior faculty costume designer in the Baylor University Department of Theatre Arts for 19 years. Before that, she was on the faculties at Texas Tech University, Northern Arizona University and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing Arts in Dallas. Additionally, as a member of the resident professional company at the Dallas Theatre Center, she also served on the graduate theatre faculty for Trinity University. Sally is internationally acclaimed for her designs for theatre and ballet, including her costumes for *The Nutcracker*, performed by the St. Petersburg Ballet. She is a deacon at Seventh & James Baptist Church in Waco. She likes to play folk music on her guitar and has an unfulfilled desire to see all of the prehistoric sites in Great Britain.



Katie Cook has been the editor for Seeds of Hope since 1991. She also edits *Baptist Peacemaker* and *PeacePoint*, publications of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America, and is in her 26th year as editor of the Caritas of Waco newsletter. In an earlier life, she served on several church staffs, worked as a deejay at Radio Station KBYP (1680 on your AM dial) in Shamrock, TX, and was the Religion Editor for the Institute for Oral History at Baylor University. She is a deacon and youth leader at Seventh & James Baptist Church in Waco. Katie is a professed member of the Order of Ecumenical Franciscans and is rumored to be the vice president for FFDPPFA (Franciscans For the Death Penalty For Fire Ants).



Meg Cullar is the news editor of the *Baylor Line*, the magazine of the Baylor University Alumni Association, and teaches journalism as an adjunct in Baylor's Department of Journalism, Public Relations & New Media. Meg was both a journalism and art major at Baylor and continues an interest



in art. She enjoys painting in acrylics and oils. Meg has been active in numerous nonprofit groups in Waco, including the Junior League of Waco, Waco Habitat for Humanity, the Waco Symphony Council, and the PTA. She was president of the Waco High School PTA for two years. Meg is married to John Cullar, a Waco attorney. They have two grown sons and are members of Seventh & James Baptist Church.

Kathy Gardner came to Seeds as the business manager in June 2011, and has already made a tremendous impact on daily operations. Kathy is a member of Lake Shore Baptist Church in Waco, TX, and is married to her high school sweetheart, Stephen Gardner. Kathy and Steve, longtime residents of Waco, have also lived and worked in Berkeley, CA; Austin, TX; Moscow in the former USSR; and Grinnell, IA (which she says was colder than Moscow). For a time, Kathy worked as a counselor for Consumer Credit Counseling. She and Steve have two grown children and one grandson, Lucas, who lives with his parents in Minnesota. Kathy is the number-one groupie for the rock band After Midnight.



Deborah E. Harris is a freelance writer and lyricist living in Waco. She is a member of Lake Shore Baptist Church and has served as secretary on the Seeds Council of Stewards for the last three years. Her creative touch can be detected in all of the Seeds publications. She proofreads all of the publications and often contributes writing and art. Known to the council as the Slogan Queen, she comes up with memorable and appropriate titles for worship packets and fundraising efforts. She named *Sacred Seasons*, the Seeds worship resource series, and the *Art of Compassion*, an art show involving images of hunger and hope. Deborah is a rabid fan of major league baseball and "her" World Champion St. Louis Cardinals.



Michael Long has been Professor of Russian at Baylor University in Waco, for 24 years and has worked as director of the Slavic Studies Program there. He has directed study-abroad groups in Germany, Czech Republic, the USSR, Russia and in the Netherlands. He has served in various positions at Seventh & James Baptist Church in Waco, including church clerk, church moderator, deacon and preschool music

teacher. In his spare time, Michael enjoys international travel, cooking, playing ukulele and singing Gospel music with Shirley, Guinness & Marcie [see Michael's letter, beginning on page 1]. He also takes pleasure in spending time with his daughter, Catriona, a senior Music and Film & Digital Media major at Baylor. Michael is the president of the Seeds Council of Stewards.



Letter from the President

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In November 2011, a local Gospel music group helped Seeds with a fundraiser—*The Shirley, Guinness & Marcie Extravaganza*. The comical trio, or “three-o” as one member of the group calls them, performs Gospel music standards in addition to lesser-known songs and hymns in a parody of big-haired, over-made-up performers sometimes seen on broadcasts by leading televangelists.

The music program followed a spaghetti dinner, and also featured both silent and live auctions of goods and services. The fundraiser netted more than \$3,000 in contributions from the audience.

Once more, I want to thank all of those who contributed to the success of the fundraiser, including Seventh & James Baptist Church, which donated the use of its fellowship hall for the event. Seeds is also indebted to Seventh & James for donating office space and sharing its Christmas and Easter missions offerings.

Seeds currently operates with only one paid employee, the editor and layout designer, Katie Cook. In spite of a successful year in fundraising, Seeds—as happens with many nonprofit organizations—flourishes or withers on the strength of donations and subscriber fees. The Seeds budget is included for your perusal on page 4 of this publication.

Seeds often struggles to reach its income goals. Sometimes, more often than we would like, we fall short of our budget. When this happens, bills are paid, but our employee goes without a salary or retirement contributions. Although we haven't always “made payroll,” the staff and volunteers consistently meet deadlines for all of the publications.

Let me remind you that Seeds has three categories of sustaining contributors:

- **Mustard Seed Partners**
Monthly pledge: \$10
- **Sprouts Partners**
Monthly pledge: \$25
- **Harvest Partners**
Monthly pledge: \$50

This year, to enhance the ministry's cash flow, the council has set a goal for contributions: we are seeking 50 persons who can commit a minimum of \$10 per month for a year, which would add a total of \$6,000 to the annual income. Of course, one-time donations in any amount are welcomed and received with gratitude.

On the back page, you will find a mail-in donation form. We ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a sustaining contributor to the Seeds ministry. With careful planning and your support, together we can engage churches and individuals in the healing of hunger and poverty in our world.

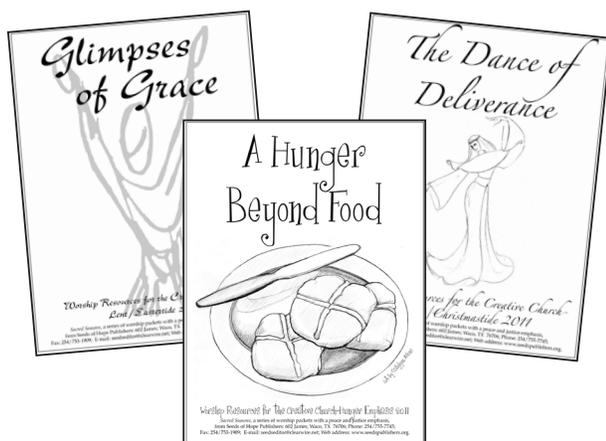
Respectfully yours,
Michael Long, President
Seeds Council of Stewards

Jo Pendleton has worked as a librarian in various places over the last 40 years, including Waco, Georgetown, TX; Bloomington, IN; and Managua, Nicaragua, but her favorite work of all was with Waco Habitat for Humanity,



where she was the executive director for seven years. She retired in mid-May 2012, and is delighted to have more time for her “totally terrific” 12-year old, Jonathan. In addition to her work with Seeds, Jo's favorite local ministries include her church (Lake Shore Baptist), Talitha Koum Nurture Center, the Gospel Cafe and Mission Waco.

Change your world for less than \$2 a week.



Subscribe to *Sacred Seasons* or give a gift subscription. This unique resource offers creative tools to help church leaders raise awareness of hunger issues. For \$100 a year, you get new packets for Lent, Advent and Hunger Emphasis. For more information, email seedseditor@clearwire.net or call 254-755-7745.

Seeds of Hope Publishers

Staff

Editor: L. Katherine Cook
Business Manager: Kathy Gardner

Council of Stewards

Sally Lynn Askins
Meg Cullar
Deborah E. Harris
B. Michael Long, President
Jo Pendleton

Board of Advisors

Dale A. Barron
H. Joseph Haag
Daniel B. McGee
Kathryn Mueller
Jacqueline L. Saxon
Jon Singletary

Statement of Purpose

Seeds of Hope is a private, independent group of believers responding to a common burden for the poor and hungry of God's world, and acting on the strong belief that biblical mandates to feed the poor were not intended to be optional. The group intends to seek out people of faith who feel called to care for the poor; and to affirm, enable and empower a variety of responses to the problems of poverty.

Editorial Address

Seeds of Hope is housed by the community of faith at Seventh & James Baptist Church. The mailing address is 602 James Avenue, Waco, TX 76706; Phone: 254/755-7745; Fax: 254/753-1909; Email: seedseditor@clearwire.net. Web: www.seedspublishers.org. Seeds of Hope, Inc., holds the 501(c)3 nonprofit tax status.



art by Peter Yuichi Clark

Seeds of Hope Budget 2012

	Budget Jan-Dec 2011	Actual Jan-Dec 2011	Budget Jan-Dec 2012
Income			
Hunger News and Hope Invoices	12,000.00	10,500.00	12,000.00
Sacred Seasons Invoices	3,200.00	2,400.00	3,000.00
Monthly Partners	3,000.00	2,400.00	2,600.00
Donations	9,000.00	8,446.27	11,000.00
	<u>27,200.00</u>	<u>23,746.27</u>	<u>28,600.00</u>
Expenses			
Local Phone Service	1,000.00	1,044.00	1,740.00
Long Distance Service	225.00	184.64	225.00
IRS Payroll Taxes	5,726.16	5,726.16	6,480.00
Office Supplies	750.00	800.00	1,200.00
Internet	430.00	429.36	430.00
Web Host	34.99	34.99	34.99
Life Insurance	300.00	300.00	300.00
Retirement Account	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Health Insurance	8,820.00	10,356.00	10,356.00
Seeds Editor Salary	8,400.00	7,200.00	8,400.00
Business Manager Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00
Travel Expenses	1,000.00	464.00	1,000.00
Hunger News and Hope Production & Mailing	100.00	200.00	300.00
Sacred Seasons Printing & Postage	1,200.00	1,228.83	1,400.00
	<u>29,186.15</u>	<u>27,967.98</u>	<u>33,065.99</u>

Please return this portion with a check made out to Seeds of Hope, Inc., and send it to 602 James Ave., Waco, TX 76706.

Yes, I want to support the Seeds of Hope ministry!

Mustard Seed Partner
\$10 monthly

Sprouts Partner
\$25 monthly

Harvest Partner
\$50 monthly

Other

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____