

Ellen Jeffery Blue
curriculum vitae

Teaching Positions

July 2002 - present

Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Professor of the History of Christianity and United Methodist Studies
Phillips Theological Seminary
901 N. Mingo Road, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74116, 918.270.6443
Promoted to Professor, 1 July 2013
Chair Recipient, 7 January 2008
Tenured and Promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor, 1 July 2007

January 2004 - May 2004 (concurrently with above)

Adjunct Professor, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University,
for the Oklahoma Graduate Theological Program, Oklahoma City University

June 1999 - May 2000 **Teaching Assistant, Tulane University, New Orleans, La.**

January 1995 - May 1995 **Adjunct Professor, University of Louisiana, Monroe**

June-December 1981 **Teaching Assistant, College of Business, Univ. of Louisiana, Monroe**

Education

Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana

Ph.D., December 2002

Fields: U.S. History and Religious History; *Sub-fields:* Women and Religion in America; Religion in Latin America; 20th Century US; New South; Race Relations in Louisiana

Dissertation: "The Gospel According to St. Mark's: Methodist Women Embodying a Liberating Theology from the Social Gospel Era to the Civil Rights Era at a Deaconess-Run Settlement House in New Orleans."

Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

M.Div. magna cum laude, May 1995

University of Louisiana, Monroe

M.A. May 1989 - *Thesis:* "Congressman Otto E. Passman's Role in the 1952 Louisiana Gubernatorial Election"

B.S. magna cum laude May 1980 - geography major, business minor

Selected Awards, Honors, Fellowships

Women in United Methodist History Writing Award, 2013. Awarded by the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) for an article on the ecumenical work of the women of Hartzell UMC in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans

Selected Awards, Honors, Fellowships (cont.)

Lilly Faculty Fellowship recipient (\$30,000) for 2008-09 for sabbatical project, "In Case of Katrina: Reinventing the United Methodist Church in Post-Katrina Louisiana." Program administered by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)

Visiting Scholar Fellowship 2008-09, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, Tulane University, New Orleans

Women in United Methodist History Research Grant recipient for 2003. Awarded by the United Methodist Church's General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH)

Tulane University

Dempster Fellowship - awarded by General Board of Higher Education & Ministry of the United Methodist Church, 1999-2000

John M. Moore Fellowship - awarded by trustees affiliated with Southern Methodist University, 1999-2000

Tulane University Fellowship - awarded four-year fellowship, beginning 1997

Overdyke Award - First Prize, North Louisiana History Association, April 2000

Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

Perkins Honors Award - full tuition scholarship, 1993-94

Karis Stahl Fadely Award - \$2000 scholarship awarded by Perkins, 1994-95

Georgia Harkness Scholarship – Gen. Board of Higher Education & Ministry, UMC, 1993

University of Louisiana, Monroe

Outstanding Initiate, Phi Kappa Phi interdisciplinary honor society, 1989

Graduate Scholarship, 1988-89

Phi Alpha Theta (honorary history society)

Gamma Theta Upsilon (honorary geography society)

Courses Taught**Phillips Theological Seminary**

Masters' Level: History of Christianity I - Early and Medieval *

History of Christianity II – Reformation and Modern * United Methodist Doctrine *

Advanced Wesleyan Theology * United Methodist History * United Methodist Polity *

Issues for Women in Christian Ministry * Women and Religion in America *

The Church's Response to Katrina * Makers of Christianity – 20th Century *

Christianity in Latin America * Contemporary Christian Traditions * Context Matters

Doctoral Level: Strategies for Collaborative and Transformational Leadership in

Community * History of Women in Christianity * History of Preaching

Perkins School of Theology: United Methodist History

Tulane University: US History, 1865-present

University of Louisiana, Monroe: Religion 361/History 361, "The Christian Church – Origins and Organization" * Economics 101, "History of American Economic Development"

Publications

Books

United Methodist Women at 150 Years (working title) (New York: United Methodist Women, forthcoming in 2018).

In Case of Katrina: Reinventing the Church in Post-Katrina New Orleans. (Eugene: Cascade, 2016). <http://wipfandstock.com/in-case-of-katrina.html>

St. Mark's and the Social Gospel: Methodist Women and Civil Rights in New Orleans, 1895-1965 (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, November 2011). Reissued in paperback 2014. *Choice* Review: "Highly Recommended" rating. www.utpress.org/stmarks

Attentive to God: Thinking Theologically in Ministry. Co-authored with Charles M. Wood. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008). Korean translation published 2012.

Chapters in Books

"The Role of Faith-Based Charities in Resiliency: The United Methodist Church," with Sarah Kreuziger and Michael Zakour. Chapter in *Creating Katrina, Rebuilding Resilience: Lessons from New Orleans on Vulnerability & Resiliency*, Michael Zakour, Nancy Mock, and Paul Kadetz, eds. (Amsterdam: Elsevier Press, 2017).

"Theological Perspective." Essays for Matthew 15:29-39; for Matthew 16:1-12; and for Matthew 16:13-23. *Feasting on the Gospels, vol. II, Matthew 15-28*, Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson, eds. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2013).

"True Methodist Women: Reflections on the Community at St. Mark's, 1895-1939." Chapter in *Louisiana Women: Their Lives and Times*, Janet Allured and Judith F. Gentry, eds., (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009), 215-36.

"'Give Me Thy Hand': Practicing Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Theology at a United Methodist Campus Ministry." Chapter in *A Passion for Christian Unity*, John Imbler, ed. (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2009).

"Should Theological Education Be Different for Women?" Chapter in *Women and Ordination in the Christian Churches: International Perspectives*, Ian Jones, Janet Wootton and Kirsty Thorpe, eds. (London: Continuum, 2008), 64-75. Reissued in paperback, 2012.

"Theological Perspective." Essays for 7th Sunday after Epiphany, Psalm 119:33-40; 8th Sunday after Epiphany, Psalm 131; 9th Sunday after Epiphany, Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24. *Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, Volume 1*, David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, eds. (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2011).

Publications (cont.)Chapters in Books (cont.)

“The Citizens Forum on Integration: ‘Underground’ Methodist Response in New Orleans to the *Brown Decision*.” Chapter in *New Orleans and Urban Louisiana*, vol. C., Samuel C. Shepherd, Jr., ed. Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Series in Louisiana History, vol. 14. (Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, Univ. of Louisiana, Lafayette, 2006), 336-48.

Journals and Periodicals

“The Ruth Carter Auxiliary: Women’s Support for People’s Community Center in New Orleans.” *Methodist History*, forthcoming, July 2018.

“Parenthetically Speaking: Methodist Women (In and) Out of Their Brackets.” *Methodist History* 55, nos. 1 & 2 (October 2016/January 2017), 19-31.

“Special Program: Looking Forward to the 150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women,” *Growing in Blessedness: The Program Book for United Methodist Women, 2015-2016*, 59-65.

Book review of *Into the Pulpit: Southern Baptist Women and Power since World War II* by Elizabeth H. Flowers, *Louisiana History*, Winter 2015.

“Beans and Rice: Theological Reflection on Empowerment for All,” *Wellsprings: Journal of United Methodist Clergywomen*, 2014.

“Dress Code,” *Christian Century* 130, no. 26 (25 December 2013), 26-8.

“Toddler on the Loose,” *Christian Century* 130, no. 20 (2 October 2013), 32-3.

“Shelter in the Parsonage,” *Christian Century* 130, no. 18 (4 September 2013), 34-6.

“Pulpit Rotation,” *Christian Century* 130, no. 12 (12 June 2013), 32-3.

“‘Yes, We Are Everywhere’: Thirty Years with the Women for Progressive Action, Lower Ninth Ward,” *Methodist History* 52, no. 1 (October 2013), 4-18.

“St. Mark’s and the Social Gospel,” *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* 24, no. 1 (Spring 2013), 56-62.
Also at <http://www.nxtbook.com/leh/lcvspring2013/lcvspring2013/index.php#/58>

“Paper Chase,” *Christian Century* 130, no. 6 (20 March 2013), 32-4. Excerpt from *Attentive to God*.

“Unwanted Publicity,” *Christian Century* 130, no. 3 (6 February 2013), 24-7.

Publications (cont.)Journals and Periodicals (cont.)

“What Should We Do About Henry?” *Circuit Rider* 32, no. 3 (May-June-July 2008), 20-22.
Excerpt from *Attentive to God*.

“Working as We Wait.” *Alive Now* 36, no. 5 (September-October 2006), 48-51.

“Responding to Katrina.” *Zion’s Herald*, November-December 2005.

“The Citizens Forum on Integration: ‘Underground’ Methodist Response in New Orleans to the *Brown Decision*.” *Methodist History* 43, no. 3 (April 2005), 213-226.

“When Feminist Theology Becomes Practical Theology: Some Reflections on Its Use in the Pastorate.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 17, no. 2 (Fall 2001), 131-142.

"Ritual Talking, Ritual Laughter," *Wellsprings* 9, no. 1 (Spring 2001), 56-59.

“Multi-Hued Racehorse, Two-Headed Goose, or Just a Chameleon?: The ‘Political Animal’ Otto Passman and the 1952 Gubernatorial Race in Louisiana.” *North Louisiana History (Journal of the North Louisiana Historical Association)* 31, no. 4 (Fall 2000), 3-31.

"Prayer for Two Voices" and "The Quilt," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 13, no. 1 (Spring 1997), 145-147.

"Closet Terrorists," *Daughters of Sarah* 20, no. 3 (Summer 1994), 25.

Online Publications

“A Little Too Ironic,” 40 Days Together, Louisiana Annual Conference, UMC, Lenten blog series, 8 April 2012, http://40days2gether.blogspot.com/2012_04_01_archive.html

“Beckoning the Light,” 40 Days Together, Louisiana Annual Conference, UMC, Lenten blog series, 30 March 2012, <http://40days2gether.blogspot.com/2012/03/beckoning-light.html>

“Hospitality,” 40 Days Together, Louisiana Annual Conference, UMC, Lenten blog series, 7 March 2012, <http://40days2gether.blogspot.com/2012/03/hospitality.html>

“Letting Your Soul Settle,” 40 Days Together, Louisiana Annual Conference, UMC, Lenten blog series, 24 February 2012, http://40days2gether.blogspot.com/2012_02_01_archive.html

“Telling the Truth,” Feminism and Religion blog, 22 September 2011, responding to controversy surrounding the movie *The Help*. <http://feminismandreligion.com/2011/09/22/telling-the-truth-by-ellen-blue/>

Publications (cont.)**Online Publications (cont.)**

“Spiritual Mothers and Midwives: Reflections on Conversations with Women Rebirthing the United Methodist Church in Post-Katrina New Orleans.” Paper prepared as Visiting Scholar for 2008-09 at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, Tulane University. http://tulane.edu/nccrow/upload/NCCROW_White_Papers_Blue.pdf

“Rev. Travis Lea Joyner,” “Marie Louise Snellings,” and “St. Mark’s Community Center,” entries for “KnowLA: The Online Encyclopedia of Louisiana” developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. <http://www.knowla.org>

Scholarly Papers Presented

“The Ruth Carter Auxiliary: Women’s Support for People’s Community Center in New Orleans’ Central City.” Presented at the Southern Historical Association (SHA), 11 November 2017, Dallas, & Louisiana Historical Association (LHA), 18 March 2017, Shreveport.

“Parenthetically Speaking: United Methodist Women (In and) Out of Their Brackets.” Plenary presentation at “United Methodist Women: Voices Lost and Found” conference, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, 29 May 2015.

“Women for Progressive Action – Lower Ninth Ward.” Keynote presentation at “Gendered Perspectives: Recent Scholarship on Culture and Social Justice” conference, Xavier University, New Orleans, October 2012.

“Methodist Women in the Search for the Kingdom of God.” Presentation for “Human Rights and Religion in Historical Perspective” conference, Boston College, 9 April 2011.

“That White Methodist Preacher Who Took His Daughter to School: Andy Foreman and the New Orleans School Desegregation Crisis of 1960.” Presented to the Wesleyan Studies Group, American Academy of Religion (AAR), Atlanta, 30 October 2010.

“Just Like a Tree That’s Planted by the Water’: Culture and United Methodism in Post-Katrina New Orleans.” Presented at the Cultures of Rebuilding in Post-Katrina New Orleans conference hosted by Midlo Center for Louisiana Studies, University of New Orleans and by the Louisiana State Museum, New Orleans, 6 November 2008.

“Women of the United Methodist Church: Giving (Re)Birth to the UMC in New Orleans.” Presented at the Visiting Scholar Series, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, 30 October 2008.

“Scarritt Women at Work in New Orleans.” Presented at conference on “Struggle, Faith and Vision: Celebrating Women in the United Methodist Tradition, 1788 to Today,” Scarritt-Bennett Center, Nashville, Tennessee, 10 March 2007.

Scholarly Papers Presented (cont.)

- “Welcome the Stranger: Religious Perspective on Immigration (Protestant Viewpoint),”
Christian/Muslim/Jewish Trialogue Series, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 28 February 2007.
- “Should Theological Education be Different for Clergywomen?” Presented at the “Women and Ordination in the Christian Churches: International Perspectives” conference at the University of Manchester, England, 13 July 2006.
- “Educating Women for Ministry: A Case Study from a Mainline Protestant Seminary.”
Presented at the AAR plenary, “Reflections on the Teaching of Religion,” Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, Dallas, Texas, March 2004.
- “Living It Out: Deaconesses in the French Quarter of New Orleans.” Presented at Messiah College’s “(Re)Connecting Spirituality and Social Justice: Christian Visions, Christian Realities,” conference, Grantham, Pa., May 2002.
- “The ‘Angel of Tchoupitoulas’: Mission and Social Work in Early 20th Century New Orleans.”
Presented at the Spring 2002 meeting, Southwest Commission on Religious Studies (Southwest Regional AAR), Dallas, Texas, March 2002.
- “‘Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life’: Methodist Women Applying the Social Gospel in the French Quarter.” Presented at the Gulf States History and Humanities Conference, Pensacola Beach, Fla., 14 October 2000
- “Beth: A Case Study in Using Feminist Theology in Pastoral Counseling.” Presented at the Southeast Region of the American Academy of Religion (SECSOR), 11 March 2000.
- “Congressman Otto E. Passman's Involvement in the 1952 Louisiana Gubernatorial Election.”
Presented at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, held in conjunction with the Louisiana Historical Association, Baton Rouge, April 1989.

Selected Public Lectures and Presentations

- “Collaborative Leadership in Post-Katrina New Orleans,” Presentation at Northeast Area Oklahoma Disciples Women’s Spring General Meeting, 7 April 2018.
- “Christianity and Its Political Realities,” Opening lecture in the Interreligious Understanding Program’s course on Worshipping False Ideals: Christendom in America, Phillips Seminary, 5 April 2018.
- “UM Clergywomen’s Leadership Across the Global Connection.” Panel participant, UMC Global Clergywomen’s Gathering, Houston, Texas, 30 August 2016.
- “Should Theological Education Be Different for Women?” Workshop at “Finding Our Voices, Expressing Our Visions” conference, Phillips Theological Seminary, 13 January 2015.

Selected Public Lectures and Presentations (cont.)

- “St. Mark’s and the Social Gospel: Methodist Deaconesses at Work in New Orleans.” Keynote address for National Association for Deaconesses and Home Missioners (NADHM) Convocation, Lake Junaluska, NC, November 2012.
- “St. Mark’s and the Social Gospel: Methodist Women and Civil Rights,” Lecture/booksigning at Boston Avenue UMC, Tulsa, 11 April 2012.
- “St. Mark’s on Rampart Street.” Lecture/booksigning at the Cabildo, Louisiana State Museum, New Orleans, 15 March 2012.
- “Doing Theology at Ground Level.” Workshop at Laity Week, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, co-presented with Charles M. Wood, 3-4 March 2011.
- “True Methodist Women.” Presented at publication celebration for *Louisiana Women: Their Lives and Times*, Women’s Resources Center, Loyola University, 23 March 2010.
- “The Gospel According to St. Mark’s: The Work for Social Justice at St. Mark’s Community Center on North Rampart Street.” Presented at the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women’s (UMW) School of Mission, Woodworth, Louisiana, 23 July 2009.
- “True Methodist Women (1895-1939): Reflections on the Community at St. Mark’s.” Presented to the Women’s Studies section of the Joint Meeting of the Popular Culture and American Culture Associations, New Orleans, 8 April 2009.
- “St. Mark’s and the City.” Presented as opening lecture in the 100th Year Anniversary series of events at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, New Orleans, 18 January 2009.
- “In Case of Katrina: Reinventing the United Methodist Church in Post-Katrina Louisiana.” Presented at “United Methodism at Forty” consultation, Emory University, August 2008.
- “Women’s Voices: Lost and Found.” Workshop presented at the International UMC Clergywomen’s Consultation, Chicago, Illinois, August 2006.
- Primary Workshop and Worship Leader: Clergywomen’s Retreat for the Louisiana Annual Conference, UMC, Woodworth, Louisiana, May 2006.
- “Ministering or Meddling? The Church and Social Action in the Twentieth Century.” Forum Lecture Series, First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, Ark., September 2004.
- “Theological Education of Deaconesses.” Christian Educators Fellowship, Oklahoma Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, June 2004
- “Loving Troublemakers: Methodist Deaconesses as Agents for Social Change.” Presentation at Minister’s Week, Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Oklahoma, January 2004.

Selected Public Lectures and Presentations (cont.)

“The Gospel According to St. Mark’s.” Presentation to Disciples of Christ Regional Ministerial Association, Tulsa, Oklahoma, August 2003.

Ordination

United Methodist Church, Elder in full connection, Louisiana Conference, 1997; Deacon, 1994

Ministerial Experience

June 2000 - June 2002

Pastor, St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Harahan, La.

June 1996 - June 1999

Pastor, Metairie United Methodist Church, Metairie, La.

June 1995 - June 1996

Co-Pastor, Cornerstone UMC, New Orleans, La.

September 1994-June 1995

Pastor, St. James United Methodist Church, Monroe, La.

Served in cross-racial appointment in inner-city setting as the first white pastor appointed to all black-membership congregation (in fulfillment of Perkins internship).

Parish Worker for the Monroe District, UMC, Monroe, La. (concurrently)

Worked with three urban congregations to develop, fund and implement social action programs for at-risk youth. Developed mentoring program for first-time nonviolent offenders; implemented after-school tutoring program; wrote grants for Teen Theatre.

Other Church Leadership Activities

Served on team to re-write the Social Principles for the United Methodist Church, “Nurturing Community” section, for General Board of Church & Society (GBCS), September, 2017.

Constructed historical rationale for 2016 and 2012 General Conference legislation proposed by the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner, United Methodist Women

Served on steering committee for organization of the “United Methodist Women: Voices Lost and Found” conference in conjunction with the upcoming 150th anniversary at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, November 2009 - May 2015.

Led jurisdiction-wide Planning Team for “Wade in the Water,” quadrennial United Methodist Clergywomen’s Consultation, New Orleans, March 22-25, 2011.

The Academy for Spiritual Leadership, Louisiana Annual Conference
Completed training as facilitator for Labyrinth Walk events, August 2000.

Other Church Leadership Activities (cont.)

Order of Elders in the Louisiana Conference

Served on design team to create the new order, 1997-98. Served on four-person team to design and lead worship experiences for elders' retreat, March 1998.

Preached to Baptist congregations in Bolivia and Corojo, Cuba, as participant on trip with members of Northminster Baptist Church in November 1998. First woman to preach in one pulpit, and first US citizen and first Methodist to preach in both.

Served on Urban Ministry Board, New Orleans District of the UMC, 1995-1999.

Participated in national Urban Ministry Convocations in Birmingham, 1995 and San Francisco, 1997 and in jurisdictional Urban Ministry Convocation in San Antonio, 2000.

Center for Pastoral Effectiveness, Louisiana Annual Conference

Completed course on systems theory in congregations, fall 1995 and spring 1996.

Women's Leadership Team in the South Central Jurisdiction

Co-Convener, 1998-2001 and 2006--2007, Member, Steering Committee, 2001-06.

Louisiana Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW), Member and Liaison to New Orleans District Council on Ministries, 1995-1997.

Served on three-person design team for conference Clergywomen's Retreat, April 1997.

Audited interterm course, "Peace Studies at the United Nations," conducted by Peacemaking Program of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. and Maryville College, January 1992

Protestant Women of the Chapel, NATO Base, Keflavik, Iceland

President, 1973; Delegate to international convention in Berchtesgaden, Germany, 1973.

Other Relevant Professional Experience

October 1983 – September 1994

Owner/President, Blue Horizons, Inc., Monroe, La.

Established and ran company which did public relations consulting and political consulting, including production of print and audio/visual materials.

June 1991 - May 1992 (concurrent with work at Blue Horizons, Inc.)

Executive Director, Northeast Louisiana Inter-Faith Flood Relief, Inc., Monroe, La.

Re-instituted long-dormant corporation; hired personnel; wrote grants; solicited funds; interfaced with nine Christian denominations and Jewish synagogue; made decisions on grants to victims; served as victim advocate to government agencies; coordinated efforts of dozens of youth and adult volunteer groups from around the US.

Other Relevant Professional Experience (cont.)

September 1989 - December 1990 (concurrent with work at Blue Horizons, Inc.)

Regional Storytelling Coordinator for State of Louisiana's Office of Folklife.

Recorded oral histories with persons active in the Civil Rights movement in Northeast Louisiana. Coordinated events at fairs and festivals during year-long tourism promotion.

1977-81

Editor, Heartfield, Price and Greene, Inc., Monroe, La..

Wrote and edited archeological reports. Conducted historical and ethnographic research. Hired and managed secretarial staff.

1977-78 (concurrent work with same principal investigators as above)

The Research Institute, College of Pure & Applied Sciences, Northeast Louisiana University (now University of Louisiana, Monroe)

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion (AAR) * Southern Association of Women Historians (SAWH)
Southern Historical Association (SHA) * American Society of Church History (ASCH)
Historical Society of the United Methodist Church * Louisiana Historical Association (LHA)

Contact Information

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