



Florence Wells McGee

Church Leader. Citizen. Mother. Strategic Philanthropist. Yours is a story of a life of giving motivated by deep Christian faith.

Born and raised in Houston after graduating from Lamar High School, you earned your Bachelors degree from the University of Texas where you were Spanish major and a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

A member of St. Martin's Church since 1957, you have advised and counseled four rectors. You have served as Senior Warden and on the Senior Council. You have been a leader in every major capital campaign of the parish in its history. You served in the reVision Ministry to inner city youth of Houston, with St. Martin's efforts to fight human trafficking in Houston, and as a member of the Homeless Hygiene Preparedness Kit Committee. You value and appreciate beauty and have supported the arts as part of the life of the community. Former rector and Bishop of Texas, the Right Reverend Claude Payne names your "tremendous sense of caring" and your achievement of "excellence." Current rector Russ Levenson describes you as "an embodiment of Christian virtues."

A champion for health, both physical and mental, both individual and community, you are a Founding Board Member and past Executive Chair of Episcopal Health Charities, the predecessor of the Episcopal Health Foundation. You pioneered highly accountable models of innovative health care delivery focused on wellness. You have led and networked the non-profit community in Houston to be most effective, as Past President of the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors, Past President of the DePelchin Children's Center, and Chairman of the Tanglewood Park Restoration Campaign. A fellowship in Bioethics and Aging at the Hope and Healing Center and Institute bears your name.

Recognized throughout the city of Houston for your leadership you received the "Robin Bush Award" by Bo's Place Ministry for Grieving Families, the Adelaide Lovett Baker Award from the Junior League of Houston in 2015, and the Outstanding Volunteer Award by the National Philanthropy Day Group in 2013. The University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work named the "Flo McGee Career Development Institute" in your honor.

Your colleagues in the philanthropic community value your wisdom, your ability to get things done, your intelligence, and integrity. They describe your distinctive style of clear thinking, strong decision making, and quiet strength. In the words of the Right Reverend Dena Harrison, you are "incredibly productive, an impact player who really makes a difference and indomitable." You have been a long-standing friend of Seminary of the Southwest, dedicated to strong ministerial formation and robust education of professional counselors.

As wife and mother, you embody patient, humble, self giving love.

In recognition of your steadfast faithfulness, your life of Christlike service, and your generosity that has led to the flourishing of parish, city, and world, the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest presents to you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.