

**Former Assistant Pastors of Our Church**  
**Rev. Susan Haugh**  
**(Served 1981 to 1982, Interim)**



Rev. Susan Haugh, Master of Divinity, McCormick Seminary, has a special place in the history of our church. Susan served as the Interim Pastor from April, 1981 through August, 1982. She became our Pastor after the unexpected death of Rev. Fletcher Hutcheson and the departure of Assistant Pastor John Skelly, who accepted a call to a church in North Carolina. We were in shock. Susan was compassionate and let us grieve. Her calming presence assured us that God was still with us and that we would be okay.

Initially, there was opposition to a woman being our Pastor, but as time went on these concerns were erased by her meaningful, thought-provoking sermons, her wisdom in sensing our needs and caring for us. She gave reassurance that we could continue, that we not be afraid of failure. She was a great encourager and people responded. She was gracious and thoughtful. She kept us moving forward without being pushy. She inspired us to devise new programs and to carry them out. She helped committees (now called ministries) better define their mission and

goals. She led Session Retreats. She listened to us and helped us regain our confidence in being a viable church in a changing world.

Her family became very involved in the activities of Bayside. Her husband, Jim, later was elected an Elder. They remained a vital part of our church for many years. God did provide for us. He brought Susan to us in a time of great need, and through Susan helped us prepare for the arrival of Rev. Dick Keever, a pastorate that lasted 26 years.

After Susan left Bayside in August 1982, she served as Interim Associate Pastor at First Hampton and Interim Pastor at Royster Memorial. She completed a Masters of Social Work at Norfolk State in 1991. She worked at the Pines Residential Treatment Center and then as a Social Worker at the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughter until her retirement in 2010.

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