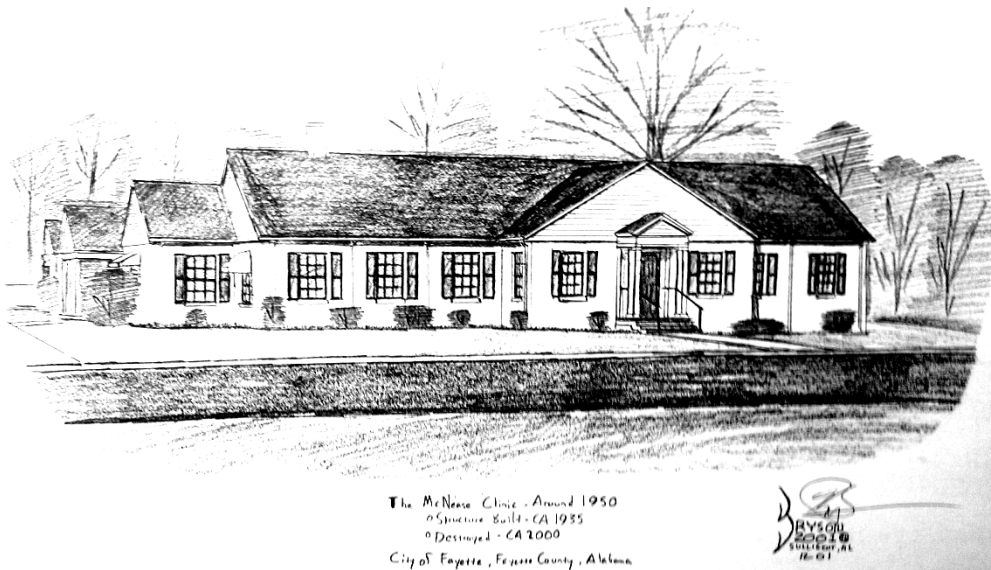


# Fayette County Medicine: A History of Quality Healthcare In Rural Alabama

*The Physicians,  
The McNease-Robertson-Hodo Clinic/Hospital,  
and their Legacy*

**By Harold Reed**



### **Contents of Part 3**

1986 - Garry W. Magouirk, MD.....

1987- John E. Morrison, MD and Janice L. Hudson, MD.....

1990 – Charles W. Nolen, MD.....

1992 - Frederick L. Yerby, MD.....

1999 - Martha Jo Christian, MD.....

2000 - Gregory P. Stidham, MD.....

2000 - Jonathan K. Smith, MD.....

2000 - Robert P. Bolling, MD.....

Medical Staff.....

## **Garry Magouirk, MD**

### *Family Practice*

Dr. Magouirk was born in Anniston, Alabama, but grew up in the small community of Ohatchee, population of 700, in Northeast Alabama. He attended Ohatchee High School where he played on the football, baseball and track teams. Dr. Magouirk attended Gadsden State Community College for 2 years.

While in community college, Dr. Magouirk decided he would pursue a career as a family doctor. He transferred to Auburn University where after 2 years he received a Bachelors of Science degree in Chemistry. He then entered the University



of Alabama School of Medicine (UASOM) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He completed the two years of pre-clinical sciences in Birmingham, and chose to complete the clinical third and fourth years on the UASOM branch campus in Tuscaloosa with its appeal to students preparing for primary care medical careers, particularly in rural Alabama. This branch campus was housed in the University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences, which Dr. Richard Rutland had been instrumental in helping to develop. Dr. Magouirk received the Doctor of Medicine degree in 1980.

He stayed in Tuscaloosa for another 3 years to complete training for family practice at the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency. Again, this residency was the program for which Dr. Rutland served as initial director, placing it on firm footing. During the first year of his residency Dr. Magouirk met and married Janice Hamlin.

While Dr. Magouirk was in residency, he was contacted by Brother Byron White, a Methodist minister, about practicing in Berry, Alabama, a small town in southeast Fayette County. Brother White has been the Minister at the First United Methodist Church back in Ohatchee and had known Garry as he was growing up. When Brother White relocated his ministry to Berry, he found that Berry was without a physician and soon became the chairman of a search committee to find the

community a doctor. He immediately thought of Dr. Magouirk, who was still in training.

To recruit Dr. Magouirk, Berry agreed to help him financially with the expense of medical education, and he agreed to practice in the town of Berry for four years. In preparation for Dr. Magouirk, Brother White worked diligently in the community and was able to have a clinic building constructed. While still in residency, Dr. Magouirk began to involve himself in the community by attending the high school football games and serving as team physician. When he completed his residency in Family Medicine in 1983, he immediately came to Berry and started practice.

Dr. Magouirk found that Berry was too small a community to support a full scale Family Medicine practice. He began to work at the Fayette County Hospital Emergency Department taking two day shifts every other weekend and one night shift each week to supplement his income. However, he and Berry came to realize that he would need to locate in nearby Fayette to sustain a practice that could still serve Berry. While continuing to live in Berry, he moved his practice to Fayette in the McNease-Hodo clinic in 1986. He stayed in that location for three years. In 1989, Dr. Magouirk purchased a clinic being vacated of Dr. Phil Smith who was moving from Fayette.

In 1986 Dr. Magouirk accepted responsibility for coordinating the staffing of the Emergency Department (ED) during nights and on weekends using 2nd and 3rd year residents in the Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Program. This was as great relief to the doctors on staff at Fayette County Hospital who were taking turns in covering the ED. However, in time, the residents began working less and less, and Dr. Magouirk was responsible in their absence, sometimes working 3 consecutive 24 hour shifts. This occurred too often, and Dr. Magouirk employed Dr. Bob Grubs to work days in the ED, making it feasible for Dr. Magouirk to service a contract covering the ED 24 hours per day and 7 days per week. This worked well for four years until Dr. Grubs moved back to Tuscaloosa. Dr. Magouirk gave up his contract at that time, and the hospital entered into a contract with an agency that provided Emergency Medicine coverage.

During Dr. Magouirk's years of practice he has served in several positions in the Fayette County Hospital Medical Staff, including Chairman of the Emergency Department Committee, member of Quality Assurance Committee, and President of Medical Staff. He held other positions outside the hospital, which included:

- Member of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians, serving as President,

1995-96.

- Alabama Delegate to the American Academy of Family Physicians.
- Member of UAB School of Medicine Admissions Committee.
- Member of the Alabama Family Practice Rural Health Board.
- Preceptor for College of Community Health Sciences, 1983 to present.
  - Rural Alabama Health Alliance, Officer.

Dr. Magouirk was an original member of the Rural Alabama Health Alliance (RAHA), which was formed in 1990 as a 501.3.c non-profit organization to bring rural community voice to the policy processes affecting medical education. RAHA was composed predominantly of members of Fayette County, Pickens County, Bibb County, and the University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences Rural Health Programs. Dr. John Wheat, a faculty member with the Rural Health Programs, served as Staff Assistant to the RAHA Board. Dr. Magouirk served at various times as Secretary, Vice-Chair, and Chairman of the RAHA Board. As an officer, he helped to formalize the development of a required rural rotation for Tuscaloosa Family Practice Residency Program residents in the RAHA counties, including Fayette. Combining his work with RAHA and the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians, he was an influential voice in guiding the University of Alabama School of Medicine to create the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) at the UA College of Community Health Sciences. This program has begun to fulfill its potential to produce needed physicians for rural Alabama. Several students from the Fayette area have participated, and neighboring Pickens County has three family physicians trained through the RMSP.

Dr. Magouirk made Berry, Alabama his home and has maintained an active presence in the community. He and his family are in regular attendance at the First United Methodist Church in Berry, where he has served as the Chairman of the Administrative Council. Janice Magouirk became a teacher in Berry, where Dr. Magouirk is the team physician. They had 2 children, a daughter and son. The daughter explored the idea of following her father's footsteps by participating in the University of Alabama Rural Health Scholars Program in the summer after her junior year of high school. She was able to consider the idea of a medical career, but found that this was not her calling.

Dr. Magouirk has built a large, busy practice, composed of patients from Berry and Fayette. He is loved and respected in the community and by his patients. In recent years, he has limited his hospital practice, but continues his clinical practice in

the same location where he has been for 34 years. Since 2000, he has been joined in practice by Dr. Gregory Stidham and Nurse Practitioner Hillary Gant.

**Janice L. Hudson, MD** *Family Practice*

and

**John E. Morrison, MD** *General Surgery*

The professional couple of Dr. Janice Hudson and Dr. John Morrison made a significant contribution to the hospital and community during their 20-year practice in Fayette. They were exceptionally well trained at Louisiana State University (LSU), and each achieved board certification, she in Family Medicine and he in Surgery. They left New Roads, Louisiana, and arrived in Fayette in 1987, practicing in Fayette until 2007. Their daughter, Sigourney ("Signey"), was only two years old when they arrived in Fayette. As a result, Dr. Hudson delayed a few months in starting her practice.



John E. Morrison, M.D.



Janice L. Hudson, M.D.

Dr. Hudson proved to be an excellent clinician and developed a large practice. She was trusted and loved by her patients. A common sentiment was "Dr. Hudson will find out what is wrong with you." Beyond clinical care, she was active in supporting the hospital. She served on the Executive Committee, was chairman of the Medical Records Committee, and was President of the Medical Staff for one term. It was a sad day for Fayette when Dr. Hudson closed her practice. She has been missed greatly.

Dr. Morrison was an exceptionally skilled surgeon, which he credited to his residency at LSU's Charity Hospital in New Orleans where he performed an extremely large number of surgery cases. He was an innovator, becoming among the first surgeons to learn and perfect the use of laparoscopic surgery. He demonstrated a scholarly approach to practicing surgery, carrying on the tradition of high quality, science-based health care established in Fayette first by Dr. B. W. McNease. He effectively adapted Fayette County Hospital to be not only a place of surgical care, but also a clinical research and teaching facility for modern surgical therapeutics. While at Fayette, he implemented and modified several laparoscopic procedures. His most noteworthy was the Classic Intrafascial Supracervical Hysterectomy ("CISH") procedure, a laparoscopy hysterectomy done as an outpatient procedure. A clinical scholar, he authored or co-authored more than 20 articles in scientific publications, as listed below, based on his work in Fayette.

#### Scientific Articles by John E. Morrison, Jr., M.D.

Jacobs VR, Morrison JE. Comparison of institutional costs for laparoscopic preperitoneal inguinal hernia versus open repair and its reimbursement in an ambulatory surgery center. *Surg Laparosc Endosc Percutan Tech.* 2008 Feb;18(1):70-4.

Morrison JE, Jacobs VR. Laparoscopic preperitoneal inguinal hernia repair using preformed polyester mesh without fixation: prospective study with 1-year follow-up results in a rural setting. *Surg Laparosc Endosc Percutan Tech.* 2008 Feb;18(1):33-9.

Morrison JE, Jacobs VR. Rupture of the spleen with the harmonic scalpel: case report of an unexplained complication. *JSLs.* 2007 Apr-Jun;11(2):268-71.

Jacobs VR, Morrison JE. Application of a locally placed anesthesia catheter for reduction of postoperative pain after mastectomy for breast cancer. *Int J Fertil Womens Med.* 2006 Sep-Oct;51(5):225-9.

Jacobs VR, Morrison JE. The real intraabdominal pressure during laparoscopy: comparison of different insufflators. *J Minim Invasive Gynecol.* 2007 Jan-Feb;14(1):103-7.

Morrison JE, Jacobs VR. Classic Intrafascial Supracervical Hysterectomy (CISH): 10-Year Experience. *Journal of the Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons* 2006 Jan-Mar; 10(1): 26–29.

Jacobs VR, Morrison JE, Paepke S, Fischer T, Kiechle M. Three-dimensional model for gas flow, resistance, and leakage-dependent nominal pressure maintenance of different laparoscopic insufflators. *J Minim Invasive Gynecol.* 2006 May-Jun;13(3):225-30.

Jacobs VR, Kiechle M, Morrison JE. Carbon dioxide gas heating inside laparoscopic insufflators has no effect. *JLS.* 2005 Apr-Jun;9(2):208-12.

Jacobs VR, Morrison JE, Paepke S, Kiechle M. Body piercing affecting laparoscopy: perioperative precautions. *J Am Assoc Gynecol Laparosc.* 2004 Nov;11(4):537-41.

Jacobs VR, Morrison JE, Kiechle M. Twenty-five simple ways to increase insufflation performance and patient safety in laparoscopy. *J Am Assoc Gynecol Laparosc.* 2004 Aug;11(3):410-23.

Morrison JE, Jacobs VR. Outpatient laparoscopic hysterectomy in a rural ambulatory surgery center. *J Am Assoc Gynecol Laparosc.* 2004 Aug;11(3):359-64.

Morrison JE, Jacobs VR. Replacement of expensive, disposable instruments with old-fashioned surgical techniques for improved cost-effectiveness in laparoscopic hysterectomy. *JLS.* 2004 Apr-Jun;8(2):201-6.

Morrison JE, Jacobs VR. Reduction or elimination of postoperative pain medication after mastectomy through use of a temporarily placed local anesthetic pump vs. control group. *Zentralbl Gynakol.* 2003 Jan;125(1):17-22.

Jacobs VR, Morrison JE. Warmed insufflation carbon dioxide gas for laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *Surg Endosc.* 2001 Oct;15(10):1244-5. No abstract available.

Morrison JE, Jacobs VR. 437 classic intrafascial supracervical hysterectomies in 8 years. *J Am Assoc Gynecol Laparosc.* 2001 Nov;8(4):558-67.



Jacobs VR, Morrison JE, Mundhenke C, Golombeck K, Jonat W. Intraoperative evaluation of laparoscopic insufflation technique for quality control in the OR. *JSLs*. 2000 Jul-Sep;4(3):189-95.

Jacobs VR, Morrison JE, Mundhenke C, Golombeck K, Jonat W, Harder D. Model to determine resistance and leakage-dependent flow on flow performance of laparoscopic insufflators to predict gas flow rate of cannulas. *J Am Assoc Gynecol Laparosc*. 2000 Aug;7(3):331-7.

Jacobs VR, Morrison JE, Mettler L, Mundhenke C, Jonat W. Measurement of CO(2) hypothermia during laparoscopy and pelviscopy: how cold it gets and how to prevent it. *J Am Assoc Gynecol Laparosc*. 1999 Aug;6(3):289-95.

Morrison JE, Jacobs VR. Re: Videothoroscopic removal of a mediastinal teratoma. *Am Surg*. 1998 Sep;64(9):912. Morrison JE, Jacobs VR. Laparoscopy-assisted endoscopic bowel anastomosis stenosis revision with stapler: report of two cases. *Surg Laparosc Endosc*. 1998 Jun;8(3):211-4.

Jacobs VR, Morrison JE. Computer in the O.R. for quality control. Intraoperative data acquisition model for laparoscopy. *Stud Health Technol Inform*. 1998;50: 359-60.

Dr. Morrison received national recognition for his scientific contributions. Over the years Dr. Morrison made numerous oral scientific presentations and displayed posters at medical meetings worldwide. He received several Awards from medical societies, among them in 1998 the prestigious Kurt-Semm Award for Excellence in Pelviscopy by the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL) at their congress in Atlanta. This award was named after the inventor and developer of operative laparoscopy, Prof. Dr. Kurt Seem from Kiel, Germany. For a time, Dr. Volker R. Jacobs from Germany stayed in Fayette to collaborate with Dr. Morrison and publish the research work on the CISH and other laparoscopic modalities. Dr. Morrison's CISH procedure attracted the attention of Ethicon, a surgical supply company, which arranged for Dr. Morrison to do a video conference from the Fayette Medical Center operating room to a general audience of national and international physicians at a convention in Los Angeles, California. It was reported that his laparoscopic hysterectomy procedure went so quickly, taking just half of the expected time, that congress attendees had to hurry back from the coffee break to not miss the finish of this highly professional procedure.

Dr. Morrison was a remarkable surgeon. His innovations reduced the invasiveness of surgery and the intensity and complications of surgical care. Hysterectomies could be done as outpatient procedures. Consequently, he was in great demand for surgical care and as a speaker at professional societies. His large general surgery practice was very supportive of the hospital. Combined with primary care provided by the stable group of family physicians in the community, all but the most severe medical conditions could be handled in Fayette. During the time he practiced in Fayette he was Chairman of the Surgery Committee. He also served on the Medical Staff Quality Assurance Committee and the Hospital Executive Committee. He was President of the Medical Staff for two terms. He served Fayette as Delegate to the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, 1991- 1998. Also, he was a reviewer for several scientific surgical journals.

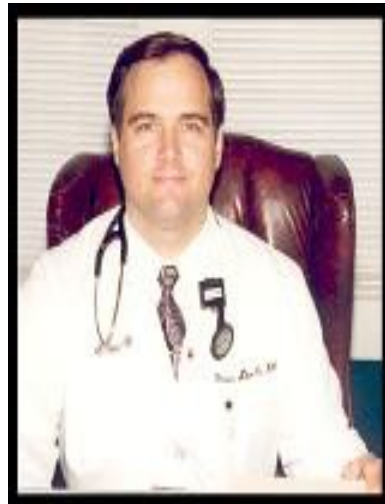
Dr. Hudson and Dr. Morrison regularly attended the First United Methodist Church and were highly regarded leaders in the community. They received the Chamber of Commerce Man and Woman of the Year Award. Drs. Hudson and Morrison enjoyed their time in Fayette. However, Dr. Morrison's scholarly work caught the attention of academic medicine and he was offered the opportunity to return to New Orleans, his hometown, and LSU his alma mater, to teach medical students and surgery residents. He became Head of the Department of Minimally Invasive Surgery and Director of the Surgery Residency. The Fayette community was very proud to have Dr. Morrison and Dr. Hudson for the twenty years they were there.

### **Charles W. Nolen, Jr., JD, MD**

#### *General Practice*

Charles W. Nolen, Jr., MD was born at Fayette County Hospital and raised in Fayette, Alabama, the son of Charles W. Nolen, Sr., Esquire, a well known and respected attorney in the community. He competed as a member of the track team and graduated from Fayette County High School in 1976 in the top 10 of his class. Dr. Nolen went to Tuscaloosa and attended The University of Alabama, where he

completed the undergraduate degree with a major in History and a minor in Biology. He desired to become a physician, motivated strongly through the influence of Dr. Breitling. But while he was completing college, Dr. Nolen's father was very sick, and he felt he should continue the family business. So he remained in Tuscaloosa and entered the University of Alabama School of Law and earned the **Juris Doctor** degree in 1983.



Charles W. Nolen, Jr., **JD**, MD

While Dr. Nolen was still in law school, his father's health improved, and Dr. Nolen decided to follow his true desire of becoming a doctor. While in law school he took Chemistry classes to prepare for medical school. One month after completing law school, Dr. Nolen started medical school. He went to the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine. In the first year of medical school Dr. Nolen married Bonita, and they later had three children. Dr. Nolen did his Family Medicine rotation with Dr. Breitling in Fayette. He received the Doctor of Medicine degree in 1987.

Dr. Nolen took an internship in Internal Medicine at the Quillen-Dishner (now James H. Quillen) College of Medicine in Johnson City, Tennessee. After internship, Dr. Nolen went to Carraway Burdick-West Memorial Hospital in Haleyville, Alabama, where he worked as the Emergency Department physician for one year. Then he came home to Fayette in 1990, where he has practiced for 23 years. Dr. Nolen maintained an active hospital practice until 2000. As to why he stopped working at the hospital, he reported that he loved his hospital practice and being

around all the nurses and hospital staff, "but the bureaucracy and red tape just became too much."

Dr. Nolen maintains an active practice and is appreciated by his patients. His professional involvement include memberships in the American Medical Association and the American College of Legal Medicine. He has membership in other organizations related to his expertise as a pilot.

Dr. Nolen is active in the community, where he is honored and respected. He is a member of the Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce and active in the Fayette First Baptist Church, where he serves as a deacon and Sunday School teacher. Also, Bonita and their son play in the church orchestra.

## **Frederick Yerby, MD**

### *Family Practice*

Frederick Yerby, MD was delivered at Fayette County Hospital in 1963 (by Dr. Rutland) and raised in Fayette, Alabama. Dr. Yerby graduated from Fayette County High School where he played in the high school band and was valedictorian of his graduating class. Dr. Yerby said Mr. Hooker, his high school Biology and Human Anatomy teacher, was very influential in his becoming a doctor. He was also influenced toward medicine by Miss Brock, a Biology teacher and sister-in-law of Dr. Hodo, and by Dr. Harold Breitling.

He attended The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and graduated with the Bachelors of Science majoring in Chemistry in December 1984. Similar to Dr. Magouirk, he benefitted from Dr. Rutland's work to help establish the branch medical education program and Family Medicine residency in Tuscaloosa; he attended the University of Alabama School of Medicine at



Birmingham (UAB) for the two pre-clinical years of medical school, but returned to the College of Community Health Sciences in Tuscaloosa for the clinical years. He was awarded the Doctor of Medicine degree in 1989. He remained in Tuscaloosa to complete the Family Medicine residency and become board certified.

In 1992, Dr. Yerby returned home to Fayette and established a Family Medicine practice where he has practiced continuously for 21 years. During this time, he has carried on the tradition of supporting Fayette Medical Center and the medical staff. He has served as president of the medical staff for three terms and on medical staff committees including the Executive Committee.

Dr. Yerby participates in professional associations and in support of medical education. These activities include:

- 1992 to present Member of the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians
- 1992 to present Member of the American Academy of Family Physicians
- 1996 Fellow in the American Academy of Family Physicians
- 2011 Member of the Board of Visitors of the College of Community Health Sciences in Tuscaloosa.

Debbie Kilgore was practicing pharmacy in Berry, Alabama at the time that Dr. Yerby entered practice in nearby Fayette. She and Dr. Yerby became acquainted as Dr. Yerby called in prescriptions for his patients who lived in the Berry area. In December 1994, they were married and have become the parents of four children. Dr. Yerby is a family man who also likes to hunt and fish. He is a faithful supporter of the community. He volunteers his time as the Fayette County High School football team doctor. He is highly involved with his children and their sports and attends their games regularly. Dr. Yerby is a faithful member of the Belk Freewill Baptist Church. He is loved and respected by his patients and the community.

## **Martha Jo Christian, M.D.**

### *Internal Medicine*

Martha Jo Christian was born in Fayette County hospital and was raised in Fayette, Alabama. Her father, Mr. Lynwood Christen, was Director of the Laboratory Department at Fayette County Hospital for 39 Years. Dr. Christian said she grew up in the halls of Fayette County Hospital and her father had a great influence on her becoming a doctor. She was often in the hospital and observed the doctors, nurses and other medical personnel going about their work, which made her want to go into medicine. One day she was riding with her father in his red pickup truck and she told him she wanted to work in the laboratory like him. He quickly corrected her and said, "You don't want a career in Lab work." She replied, "Okay, I will be a nurse." Her father said, "If you are going into a career in medicine, you can only be a doctor or a hospital administrator." Martha Jo Christian, MD



Dr. Christian chose to become a doctor.

Dr. Christian was a very bright student. She attended Fayette County High School and was Valedictorian of her class. She played in the high school band throughout her high school years. After high school, she attended Birmingham Southern University where in 1992 she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Chemistry. While at Birmingham Southern she was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, an association for professional educators "to grow and connect leaders in education." She also participated in the Student Government Association (SGA) and was Editor of the *Hilltop News*, the official student newspaper of Birmingham Southern.

She stayed in Birmingham and received her Doctor of Medicine degree in 1996 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine. She remained at UAB for three years and completed residency training in the Internal Medicine- Primary Care Track in 1999.

Dr. Christian entered solo practice in Fayette in August of 1999, which she has continued for 14 years. Dr. Christian said that she was very proud to be following great physicians like Drs. B. W. McNease, John Banks Robertson, Henry Gunter Hodo, and Richard O. Rutland and to be carrying on the tradition of quality healthcare that these doctors had established.

Dr. Christian is Board Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. She has a very active practice and is a strong supporter of the hospital and medical staff. She served two terms as President of the Medical Staff and has been chairman of the Medical Staff Quality Assurance Committee. She serves on the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, the Medical Records Committee, and Ethics Committee. Her professional interests extend to membership in medical associations. She is a member of the American College of Physicians and of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama.

In 2001, Dr. Christen married Ward Pierce and they have three children. Ward is a nurse and works for a doctor in Jasper, Alabama. Dr. Christian is very active in the community. She has been a member of Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce since 1999. She attends the First Baptist Church of Fayette where she is active with the music program. She is an accomplished pianist, routinely playing for church services. She participates in church orchestra, choir, and children's choir and has served on the Music and Community Service committees.

Dr. Martha Jo Christian is a very loving and caring person. She is devoted to the medical profession, the community, and her patients. She has a large practice and is loved and respected by her patients and the community.

### **Gregory Paul Stidham, M.D.**

#### *Family Practice*

Gregory Paul Stidham was raised in the small rural community of Hodges in Franklin County in the northwest corner of Alabama. Dr. Stidham was the second of three children. He attended Hackleburg High School in Hackleburg, Alabama, about five miles from Hodges. He graduated in 1988 and was Valedictorian of his class. He played on the high school basketball team, where Coach Ronnie Anglin was most influential in his decision to become a doctor.

After high school, Dr. Stidham attended the Northwest Alabama Community College in Phil Campbell, Alabama and in 1990 graduated with an Associate in Science degree. He then attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), graduating in 1992 with a Bachelors of Science with a major in Biology and minor in Chemistry. He next attended the University of South Alabama College of

Medicine in Mobile, Alabama, where in 1997 he received his Doctorate of Medicine degree. Dr Stidham made his final educational move to the College of Community Health Science at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where he completed three years of family practice residency in 2000.

Since 2000, Dr. Stidham has practiced in association with Dr. Garry Magouirk in Fayette, which is only about one hour south of Dr. Stidham's home town of Hodges. He is highly respected and considered an excellent physician by the community,

As well as his outpatient practice, Dr. Stidham is active on the Fayette Medical Center Medical Staff through which the hospital derives support from his very active practice. He has served on the Executive Committee and has been President of the Medical Staff for three terms. He has been chairman of the Health Information Management Committee and Chairman of the Emergency Department Committee.

Dr. Stidham maintains current in his professional associations. Since 2000, he has been a member of the Fayette County Medical Society, Medical Association of the State of Alabama, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Stidham is active in the community. He married Dana (maiden name) and they have four children, three boys and girl. Dr. Stidham and his family are in regular attendance at the First Baptist Church of Fayette. He is the team physician for the Hubbertville High School and Junior High football teams, attending all games for both teams. The boys are active in sports. Dr. Stidham is a highly respected and honored member of the Fayette community.



Dr. Greg Stidham



Gabe Stidham, Dr. Stidham's oldest child, plans at this stage in his life to follow his father's footsteps into medicine. In the summer after his eleventh grade he attended the UA College of Community Health Sciences' Rural Health Scholars Program and plans to be a UA Rural Medical Scholar to prepare for practice in rural medicine. These rural programs in the College of Community Health Sciences extend the college's mission of producing rural physicians. They resulted, in part, from the efforts of Dr. Rutland to help initiate and stabilize the College and Dr. Garry Magouirk's and Mr. Harold Reed's work through the Rural Alabama Health Alliance to guide the College's outreach programs. Thus, Fayette anticipates continued success with medical care through the sustained commitment to excellence that its health care leaders have pursued through both local and regional influence.

### **Jonathan Smith, MD**

#### *General Surgery*

Dr. Jonathan Smith was born in Haleyville, less than an hour's drive from Fayette. He grew up both in Haleyville and Huntsville. He played football and basketball in high school and ran cross-country in college.

Jonathan was greatly influenced to become a doctor by two physicians during his formative years. The first one was his grandfather who practiced surgery in Haleyville. Jonathan spent time with his grandfather and helped him with minor procedures. While in college, he was influenced by a family physician with whom he worked as they served the Boy Scouts in Huntsville.

Dr. Smith began college at Valley Forge Military College where he received the Associates in Science degree in 1991 and was Valedictorian of his class. He graduated magna cum laude in 1993 from the University of Alabama at Huntsville with a degree in Biochemistry. He received the Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of South Alabama in 1997 and



completed a transitional internship and General Surgery residency at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, Texas, finishing training in 2002. He served on active duty in the US Army for 14 years. He was chief of General Surgery prior to leaving his last duty station at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Dr. Smith is board certified in General Surgery and is a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons. He holds several awards and honors, including the Bronze Star Medal from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Meritorious Service Medal. His other awards include:

- 2002 Resident Achievement Award, Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons.
- 1997 Alpha Omega Alpha (Honor Medical Society).
- 1997 Medical Alumni Leadership Award.
- 1996-97 USA College of Medicine Student Assembly President.
- 1996-97 Donna B. Lead Memorial Scholarship.
- 1993 Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry.
- 1993 UAH Cross Country Leadership Award.
- 1993 Scholar Athlete Award.
- 1991 George C. Marshall Senior ROTC Award.
- 1990-91 Senior ROTC Cadet Battalion Commander, Valley Forge Military College.

Dr. Smith came to Fayette well experienced in surgery and developed a large surgical practice. His patients and the community admire and respect him greatly. Dr. Smith enjoys fishing and sailing in his brief free time.

### **Robert P. Bolling, MD, MPH**

*General Surgery, Plastic Surgery*

Dr. Robert Bolling is a native of Fayette, Alabama, though he was born at Druid City Hospital in Tuscaloosa. His father owned a local pharmacy in Fayette. Dr. Breitling transferred his mother to DCH for a c-section. He was raised in Fayette and attended Fayette County High School, where he graduated in 1991. He was an outstanding athlete and



played on the school's basketball team. He continued his education and played basketball at Bevill State Community College. Dr Breitling, his family doctor, greatly influenced him to attend medical school. Dr. Jon Sanford, a close personal friend of the family, was also instrumental in Dr. Bolling going to medical school.

From Bevill State, Dr. Bolling went to Auburn University and graduated Summa Cum Laud with a BS degree in Chemistry in 1995. He then attended the University of Alabama School of Medicine. While in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of medical school, Dr. Bolling did a rotation with Dr. Garry Magouirk and spend some time with Dr. John Morrison. He

Robert Bolling, MD, MPH

graduated with the Medical Doctor degree and Master's of Public Health in 2000.

After medical school, Dr. Bolling went to the University of South Alabama College of Medicine where he completed a residency in General Surgery in 2005. He then went to Tulane University School of Medicine for advanced training in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

In August of 2005, Dr. Bolling's training was interrupted due to hurricane Katrina. The hurricane greatly damaged Tulane and the medical school was closed for several months. Dr. Bolling came to Fayette and worked a few months until Tulane was back in order. He has maintained his medical privileges at Fayette Medical Center since that time. He returned to Tulane and completed the training in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in 2007. He then went to Fairhope, Alabama and opened a private practice. He then moved his practice to Fayette, where he is active in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and General Surgery.

He is board certified in Plastic Surgery and a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons.

When Dr. Bolling came to Fayette he was well received in the community and quickly developed a large practice. He is a faithful member of Crossview Community Church in Fayette. Dr. Bolling is respected by the community and loved by his patients.

## **Medical Staff**

The organizational meeting of the Fayette County Hospital Medical Staff was held on June 9, 1958, and from that time the Fayette hospital has always had an outstanding medical staff with exceptional skills and excellent credentials. Long

before this meeting, Dr. McNease, Dr. Robertson and Dr. Hodo had set a very high standard for quality of care. This commitment to high standards has been passed down and even enhanced over the generations. Pictured below is the 2006 Fayette Medical Center Medical Staff, representing only a few of the outstandingly doctors who have practiced at Fayette;



Fayette Medical Center Medical Staff

Sitting L to R: Dr. Janice Hudson and Dr. Martha Jo Christian.

Standing L to R: Dr. Richard O. Rutland, Jr., Dr. Gary W. Magouirk, Dr. Jon E.

Sanford, Dr. Fred Yerby, Dr. Russell Sholl, Dr. John E. Morrison, Dr. Charles W.

Noland, Dr. Kenan Wannamaker, and Dr. Gregory Stidham.

Fayette has always has an outstanding medical staff with exceptional leaders. Some examples follow. Dr. Benjamin McNease and Dr. Jon Sanford were presidents of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA). Dr. Banks Robertson and Dr. Henry Hodo were chief residents. Dr. Richard Rutland was *Good Housekeeping* Doctor of the Year. Dr. Garry Magouirk was President of the

Alabama Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. John E. Morrison received several awards from medical societies including in 1998 the prestigious Kurt-Semm Award for Excellence in Pelviscopy by the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL).

Radiologists have been very important to Fayette Medical Center. Without them, Fayette would have not enjoyed the benefits of the most modern imaging technology locally. Starting in December 15, 1958, Dr. W. D. Anderson, radiologist and friend of Dr. McNease, began visiting the hospital each Thursday to read x-rays. Dr. Larkin Selman, a 1977 graduate of the University of Alabama School of Medicine, was Fayette's first full-time Radiologist. He was followed by Ian Malcum and then by Dr. Neal Moss. Dr. Moss was greatly responsible for the large growth of the department from 1992 until 1999. With his expertise he made it financially feasible to purchase modern radiological equipment such as CT, MRI scanners. For a short time there was even an angiography room. Dr. Ron Phelps and Dr. John Kahler, Radiologists affiliated with the Tuscaloosa group, were a great help in reliving doctor Moss to allow him time off. When Dr. Moss left, the Tuscaloosa group started providing full time coverage. They were aided by the installation of a system of teleradiology to transmit images to Tuscaloosa, thereby making it possible to provide the opinion of a radiologist on a 24 hour basis to the small community hospital.

Dr. Jonathan Smith and Dr. Robert Bolling, both surgeons, are the most recent additions to the medical staff. The role of surgeon may be the most crucial for the survival of a small hospital. The surgeon helps the family physicians to retain medical care locally that would otherwise be referred to urban centers. Also, the surgeon's craft makes use of intensive equipment and technical personnel that garnish favorable reimbursement for the hospital, helping to assure is financial stability. Fayette has had the best of surgeons-- Dr. Banks Robertson, Dr. Henry Hodo, Dr John Morrison, and currently, Dr. Jonathan Smith and Dr. Robert Bolling.

There were other doctors who came to Fayette and stayed for only a short time, but had some impact. Some examples are Dr. Paul Ashley, Dr. Rusty Bates, Dr. John Sea, Dr. Frank Evans, Dr. Peter Peacock, Dr. Dr. Phil Smith, Dr. William Davis, Dr. Lou Bowick and Dr. Marby Garner. These do not include doctors in residency who came thorough Fayette for practical experience as part of their training or for moonlighting.