

## Faith-Based Sector

**Relia Bailey**, Canaan Community Development Corp.  
**Fr. John Burke**, Archdiocese of Louisville  
**Dr. Kevin W. Cosby**, St. Stephen Baptist Church  
**Jud Hendrix**, Covenant Community Church

## Government Sector

**Jerry Abramson**, City of Louisville  
**Cecile "Cile" Blau**, State of Indiana  
**Carol Butler**, Louisville Metro Government  
**SteVon Edwards**, Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness  
**Judith "Judy" Green**, Metro Council/L.A. Dental Center  
**Maria Hampton**, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis  
**Kirt Jacobs**, Louisville Metro Government  
**Sophie Maier**, Louisville Free Public Library  
**Bob McEwen**, City of Charlestown  
**Melissa Mershon**, Louisville Metro Government  
**Tom Owen**, University of Louisville/Metro Council  
**William Schreck**, Louisville Metro Government  
**Steven Stemler**, State of Indiana  
**William E. Summers IV**, Louisville Metro Government  
**Carolyn Tandy**, Office of U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth  
**David Tandy**, Metro Council  
**Adewale Troutman**, Department of Public Health and Wellness  
**Jim Urban**, City of Jeffersonville  
**Tina Ward-Pugh**, Metro Council

**If it were up to Betty Stokes**, Louisvillians would spend a lot more time and energy connecting their city's past to its present.

A former grade-school principal, Stokes now spends her days in a one-room office/classroom/museum at the Mellwood Arts Center called, appropriately enough, The One Room Schoolhouse. There she writes and publishes books for children, helps families with genealogical research, prepares historical presentations for the likes of the Filson Historical Society and Locust Grove and, essentially, dreams up ways to capture the past in story form so it can be handed down to, enjoyed and understood by children.

Rather than focusing on the who-begat-whom part of genealogy, her goal is to find the stories of the people who populate your family tree.

"My whole thing is helping people learn and tell their family stories and sharing them with the young people in their family," she says. "If you know a story about your grandfather or great-grandfather, put that into your genealogy."

Besides the 15 years she spent as principal of Trunnell Elementary, her educational background includes stints teaching special education, social studies and language arts, and, through Gheens

Academy, helping schools improve math and science curriculum. But the subject she's most passionate about is history.

Leading up to the 2003 bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, she implemented a three-year project at Trunnell that wove information about the expedition into just about every aspect of school life. "We purchased books for kindergarten through fifth-grade level. We had books about the dog, about William (Clark), about Sacagawea, about the whole expedition," she says. "Every teacher created a different bulletin board; we had a scavenger hunt; we raised money so every child could see the IMAX movie about the expedition — we even did a musical about Lewis and Clark. At the end of the first year of the project our reading scores jumped way up."

Stokes was barely aware of Leadership Louisville's Connectors Project and said she was quite surprised to learn that she had been identified as one of Louisville's "connectors."

"I'm just excited to see who the other connectors are and to see where this takes me," she says. "And if there is the possibility to work on something, I'm not afraid to do the work."

Betty Stokes



**Age:** 59

**Work:** Retired teacher/principal; founder/owner, The One Room Schoolhouse

**In Louisville:** Since birth

**Grew up in:** Middletown

**Now lives in:** St. Matthews

**Education:** Eastern High School; B.A. and M.A. in education, University of Kentucky; master's in administration, University of Louisville

**Affiliations:** Trunnell Elementary (former principal), Gheens Academy, Collegiate School, Portland Museum, Louisville Science Center, the Filson Historical Society, Locust Grove

**Web site:** [the-one-room-schoolhouse.blogspot.com](http://the-one-room-schoolhouse.blogspot.com)