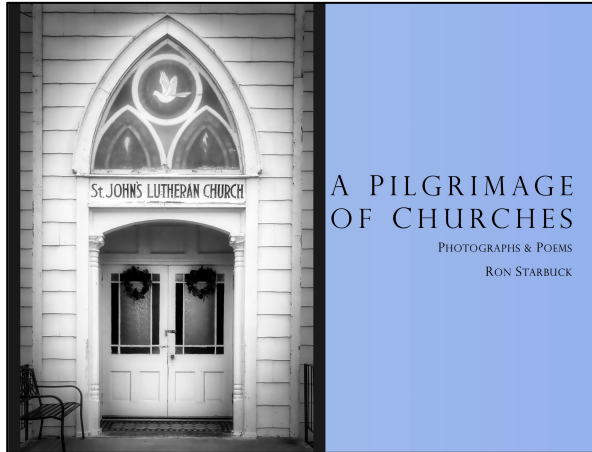


Houston, Texas – September 1, 2021 – Press Release: Saint Julian Press is proud to announce a new book of fine art photography and poems. *A PILGRIMAGE OF CHURCHES*, by author Ron Starbuck, which was released on October 15, 2021.



A PILGRIMAGE OF CHURCHES is one person's answer to the landscape of the Great Plains, flowing from Canada to the Coastal Plains of Texas, and the people who live there, who work the land, and who worship together in community on the Sabbath. These communities hold a rich heritage of faith and devotion that is an American story. The author's desire is to tell it with a Quaker simplicity and prayerful sincerity that honors his own family's legacy. The poetry draws from a rich literary, artistic, and liturgical language, which reveals people of faith, and an intimate connection with the land that flourishes still, caring for and cultivating the American plains and prairies to help feed a 21st century world.

A PILGRIMAGE OF CHURCHES will take the Reader on a powerful and transformative journey far into the heart of old and devotional America: to where the inspired and believing once established their vision of a true Jerusalem and of their Christ upon the coastal plains of Texas and up northward onto the plains of Kansas. This book is a gentle masterpiece of perception and human record, bringing back to life a world that has vanished from our Twenty-First Century culture. Like an ancient, illuminated manuscript this book will deliver lightness and conviction into your hands and eyes. Starbuck is a master of poetic tradition and diction, and his delivery of these prophetic songs – which vividly and precisely depict a forsaken time – returns us to those sacred grounds. About the author himself we can most certainly say that, 'his aim is true'.

—Kevin McGrath, Harvard University

We all know the people of the Midwest have raised corn and crops forever, but they also raised churches, churches of many denominations, Methodist, Catholic, AME, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist. On his midwestern and western pilgrimage, Ron Starbuck found both images and words that capture the holiness in both sacred and secular places in the middle of America.

In this collection, it almost feels as if Ron Starbuck has caught time sleeping as he delivers up images that seem pulled not just from the center of the country, but from the middle of the last century.

Time is stopped here and frozen, in the silvery light of these photographs, which alongside Ron Starbuck's poems that read like Biblical passages “pour out a radiance, A great reverence” for these far-flung and spiritual places.

Whether he is photographing tiny chapels and small-town clapboard churches or parking lots of John Deere tractors or plowed fields and pastures, these black and white images and liturgical-sounding poems evoke the same stark America as the WPA teams. Ron Starbuck is Walker Evans and James Agee rolled into one here, a new documentarian for a forgotten era of divine places.

—Elizabeth Cohen

The Family on Beartown Road: A Memoir of Love and Courage

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

RON STARBUCK is the Publisher/CEO/Executive Editor of Saint Julian Press, Inc., in Houston, Texas; a poet and writer, an Episcopalian, and author of *There Is Something About Being An Episcopalian*, *When Angels Are Born*, and *Wheels Turning Inward*, three rich collections of poetry, following a poet's mythic and spiritual journey that crosses easily onto the paths of many contemplative traditions.

He has been deeply engaged in an Interfaith-Buddhist-Christian dialogue for many years, and holds a lifelong interest in literature, poetry, Christian mysticism, comparative literature and religion, theology, and various forms of contemplative practice.

He has been a contributing writer for *Parabola Magazine*. And has had poems, translations, and essays published in *Tiferet: A Journal of Spiritual Literature*, an interview and poem in *The Criterion: An Online International Journal in English*, *The Enchanting Verses Literary Review*, ONE from MillerWords (Feb. 2016), and *Pirene's Fountain, Volume 7 Issue 15*, from Glass Lyre Press (Oct. 2014), *Levure Littéraire* (France – 2017 & 2018), *La Piccioletta Barca* (Nov. 2019), and *The Tulane Review* (Fall 2019).

Forming an independent literary press to work with emerging and established writers and poets, and tendering new introductions to the world at large in the framework of an interfaith and cross-cultural literary dialogue has been a long-time dream. Ron is a former Vice President with JP Morgan Chase, and a public sector Information Technology — Executive Program Manager.

Publication Date: October 15, 2021

Paperback: 140 Pages with 62 High Resolution Glossy Black & White photographs and 38 poems, 12" x 9" Inches landscape. The **Fine Art Photography & Poetry** edition is printed on high quality premium 80# gloss EuroArt Plus, 556 PPI paper, and 12-point C1S white stock with gloss lay flat lamination and color end leaf paper. The October 15, 2021, book release is a limited first run, first edition – first printing of the book. Suggested Retail Price: \$60.00. ISBN-13: 978-1733023399, Library of Congress Control Number: 22021940319

Print-On-Demand & Distribution edition (November 5, 2021)

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