

Sharon&Brook

Union Presbyterian Seminary News
WINTER 2018 / VOL 2 • ISSUE 1



For the Church in the World

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Have News?

Please send us your news that we might share with others or updated contact information.

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Virginia Bethune offers a healing melody.

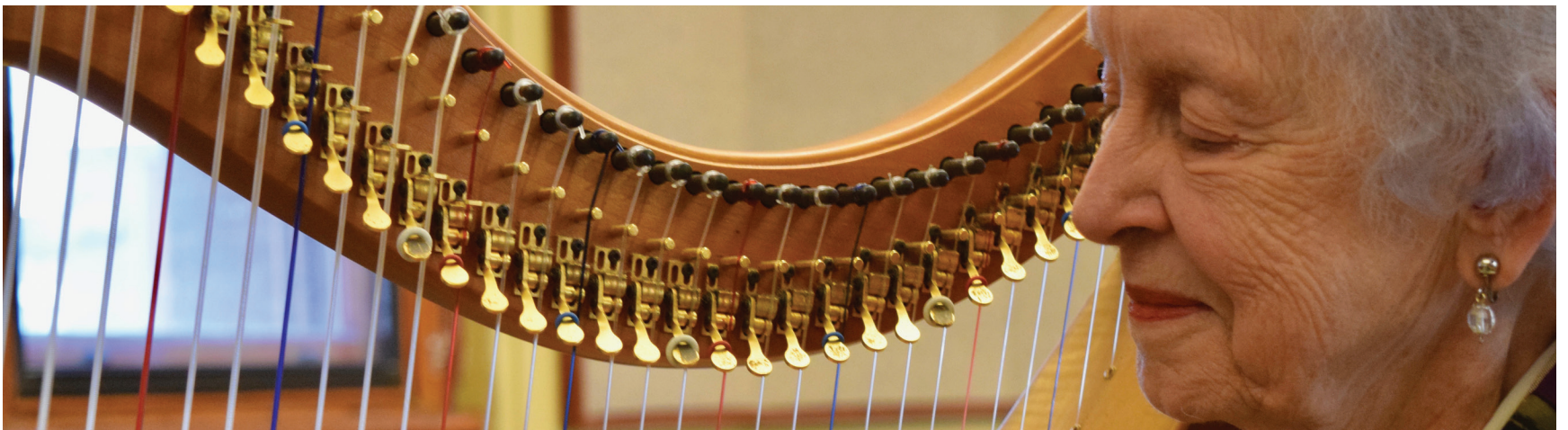


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Music for Healing: Strings Attached



by Joe Slay

In 1996, Dick Bethune (B.D.'58) and his wife Virginia were at a crafts fair in Blacksburg, Virginia, when Dick caught sight of a harp, and he said to Virginia, "I think I could build a harp."

Virginia, a classically trained pianist and organist, responded, "Well, I think I could play a harp."

Before too much time had passed, Dick had built at least eight of the instruments, and Virginia had not only become proficient, but she discovered that the harp and its particular "vibrations and resonance" had healing properties. It helped those suffering from severe medical issues and it brought peace for those facing death.

Virginia Bethune trained through a program called "Music for Healing and Transition" and qualified as a certified music practitioner. The energetic and buoyant 81-year-old emphasizes she

is not a "music therapist," with the four-year degree which that requires, and is rather "a therapeutic musician," with an extraordinary enthusiasm for the beauty and the power of the harp.

For five years, she was "musician in residence" at the University of Virginia Hospital. She has played for 10 years at Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital in her hometown of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

"I've had the opportunity to play in intensive care units, in radiation clinics, and in chemo infusion clinics, one-on-one with the patient," she said. "It is humbling to be invited to go through the door and play at bedside."

She and Dick have produced nine CDs, with proceeds from sales raising more than \$100,000 for Habitat for Humanity. Virginia

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Greetings

*Grace to you
in the name of
our Lord Jesus
Christ!*

Although in the midst of winter, our thoughts turn to the annual Sprunt Lectures, held on our Richmond campus, May 7–9. In addition to our lectures and worships, two awards will be presented to our alumni. Yet, what are the criteria for these two awards?

Since 2010, Union Presbyterian Seminary has honored at least one of our outstanding alumni annually with the **Distinguished Alum Award**. Presented during the lectures, the award includes public recognition and commendations for their service to the church. The bases for the award are “the length of service, the nature and character of service, the unique value of service, and/or the special circumstances of such service to the church.”

The purpose of the **Black Alumni Association Trailblazer Award** is to recognize exemplary accomplishments by African American alumni who have demonstrated extraordinary contribution(s) to the African American experience in the Church and to society in general. Persons selected will have: graduated from Union (or its predecessor schools); pioneered in giving exceptional service to Christ in community at the local, regional, national and/or global level; and laudable leadership in their call to ministry.

Please join us for the recognition of these two outstanding alums at a reception on Tuesday, May 8th, at 10 a.m., in the Holderness Dining Room in Richmond Hall!

W. Clay Macaulay (D.Min.'85)
Director of Alumni Development
cmacaulay@upsem.edu

Redeeming the Creature: Race, Place, and the Hope of the Church



Willie Jennings

Willie Jennings, associate professor of systematic theology and Africana Studies, Yale Divinity School, will be delivering a series of lectures on May 7-9, 2018 entitled “Redeeming the Creature: Race, Place, and the Hope of the Church.”

These lectures will be devoted to helping Christians rethink the nature of life together as creatures. Christianity in the west suffers from a defective doctrine of creation that has been plagued with both the racial condition and a horrid understanding of place. Together these problems have rendered the doctrine useless — it does no significant work in shaping the way we understand creaturely life together. In these lectures, Dr. Jennings will explore the reasons for this defect and suggest what a robust doctrine of creation should teach us.

Come join us for lectures, worship, alumni gatherings, and reunions with classmates and friends! **Registration begins January 29, 2018.**

More information at www.regonline.com/Sprunt2018

PREACHER:

Rev. **Jill Duffield** (M.Div.'96),
editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook*

2018 DISTINGUISHED ALUM:

Rev. **One Ho Park** (Ed.D.'89),
president of the Graduate School of Practical Theology,
Seoul, Korea

BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2018 TRAILBLAZER:

Rev. **Karen Brown** (M.Div.'92),
resource developer for Intersection of Change,
Baltimore, MD

Any questions? Call 804.278.4245 or email Hayley Mathews at hmathews@upsem.edu.



Jill Duffield



One Ho Park



Karen Brown

Sharon & Brook draws its name from the two roadways that border the Charlotte and Richmond campuses of Union Presbyterian Seminary. It is but one way of sharing news of the seminary with you. We hope this short newsletter — in print and online — is a means by which we can remain in touch with each other as alumni and friends of Union. Through stories, pictures, and news of those who have responded to God’s call, we hope to update and inspire you, and also to share news of your life and ministry. We invite you to read, consider, offer your support, and be in touch!

Your Hallelujah Legacy

The Legacy of the Reverend George Burgoyne Williams, Jr. ('48)



George Williams, photo taken on May 1950 while serving as pastor at the Harlandale Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, Texas.

George Williams served the church for a total of seven years after graduating from Union and died of acute leukemia in his prime, at the age of 33. He served churches in Texas and had been working to plant a new church in Havelock, North Carolina, until four months before his death.

His son contacted me a few months ago and offered to send his father's sermons and papers to me. The seminary's archive has limited space, but I was curious about George's ministry. I wanted to know more about his thoughts and his messages to the newly founded Trinity Presbyterian Church in Havelock during his last days. Soon, a 35-pound apple carton arrived in my office from Texas, containing meticulously filed sermons and term papers.

The last sermon George gave was "Why Build a Church," just before he was incapacitated by his illness. It is truly a moving testament of his faith. The scripture he selected was Mathew 16:18: "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." It was a sermon about his own witness, hope, and faith in Christ's church. It offered encouragement for his not-yet-two-years-old congregation to remain steadfast so that death would not prevail. The hymns chosen for that Sunday were "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" and "The Church's One Foundation."

Today, Trinity Presbyterian Church in the Coastal Carolina Presbytery has 43 members of all ages; a new teaching elder, Rev. Gicker-Anderson; an active Boy Scout troop; and a modern and welcoming sanctuary. In planting Trinity Presbyterian Church, George Williams laid a solid foundation on the coastal land of North Carolina, serving the town of Havelock and families from the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point.

Dr. James Appleby at Union made this announcement upon hearing of George's passing: "He was one of the finest servants of the Lord that those of us here at the Seminary have known in many years. Fortunately, life is not measured by length of days, but in quality of living and by relations. In that sense, George Williams lived completely."

What strength and witness George has left to us, even after so many years! I am grateful to know him through his sermons. To honor his commitment to and love for the church, George's family set up a scholarship at Union so that his witness would continue. Numerous seminary students have benefited from his legacy. It is indeed a joyous assembly of voices lifting praises to God. Hallelujah!

Union's Hallelujah Legacy is a planned giving program that helps our alumni and donors plant their seeds for the future. No matter how small, each gift will help continue the tradition of excellence in teaching and learning at Union — in service to God's Kingdom.

WAYS TO GIVE

You need not be wealthy to share your accumulated resources. There are a number of ways to give:

- Write a bequest to Union in your will
- Purchase a Union Charitable Gift Annuity
- Make Union a beneficiary
- Reassign gifts of life insurance
- Consider a tax-free gift from your IRA
- Give from your retirement savings
- Donate real estate

Through one or several of these actions, you can experience the joy of supporting the church in the world as an expression of your gratitude for all that you have been given in this life on earth. Embrace the privilege of creating a legacy of grace. Plan your life's gift today.

Please contact me, Richard Wong, at (804) 278-4240 or rwong@upsem.edu if you have any questions about planning a gift to Union or sharing one of your favorite sermons or a Sunday school lesson. I am looking forward to getting to know your ministry and learn from you.

Grace and Peace,

Richard Wong

Vice President, Advancement

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runs a six-hour weekend workshop, promising students that by the end of the workshop, even someone who cannot read music will be able to play “Ode to Joy” and part of Pachelbel’s familiar canon. “It’s just eight notes in the bass line,” she laughs. “And the harp is the most ‘accessible’ instrument that exists.”

She is an evangelist for the harp and its healing qualities.

“For someone with arrhythmia, an irregular heart rate, we tap into a pendulum effect where two bodies come into synchronicity, to maintain the same rhythm,” she said. “We choose the rhythm of our music to maximize the healing effect for a more healthy heart rate. You can see it on the monitor.”

The resonance and vibrations released through the playing of harp strings is akin to the effect that Native American and Asian cultures have embraced for centuries, through drumming, chanting, and toning; and using those mechanisms in healing. It’s all that a lot of cultures have ever had, she said. It stands to reason that this vibration and resonance can affect a person’s body, mind, and spirit.

“Music healing has taken root in churches...and is becoming an extension of pastoral care.

“It is,” she said, “a strong ministry.”



Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte celebrated their 75th Anniversary on October 22 and many Union alums were there for the celebration. From left to right, Frank Spencer (M.Div.'15), Board of Trustees member Lori Raible (M.Div.'06), Board of Trustees member Susan Forester DeWynngaert (D.Min.'83), Rush Otey (D.Min.'73), Associate Director of Admissions for Charlotte Lisa McLennan (M.Div.'14), and Mary Bowman (Charlotte '07-'08).

Director of Alumni Development Clay Macaulay (D.Min.'85) visited with Professor Emeritus of Biblical Interpretation W. Sibley Towner at his home in Kilmarnock, Virginia, in November 2017. A book of prayers by Towner entitled *Prayers That Sing and Stir the Heart* will be available for sale in the next few weeks. It is to be published by Amazon and will be available at the Sprunt Lectures.



On the Shelf

Robert Montgomery (UTS '61-'62) has published his book, *Following the Human One: The Way to Fulfillment and Flourishing*, Wipf & Stock. The book is available on Amazon.

Paul Lewis (Th.M.'86) has published his book *Wisdom Calls: The Moral Story of the Hebrew Bible*, Nurturing Faith Publishing. The book is available on Amazon.

James Davis (M.Div.'95) has published his fourth book, *Forbearance: A Theological Ethic for a Disagreeable Church*, Eerdmans Publishing. The book is available through Amazon.

Alumni Notes

Transitions

Robert Alwood (D.Min.'78) was honorably retired on August 31, 2016 from Tampa Bay Presbytery.

Tom Tate (D.Min.'78) married Susan Supernaw on February 26, 2017.

Greg Albert (M.Div.'90) was honorably retired from the Presbytery of New Brunswick on August 31, 2017.

John (Sung Eun) Lee (M.A.C.E.'01) has been serving as the education pastor at the Shin Kwang Church of New York in Bayside, NY, since 2016.

Gene LeCouteur (M.Div.'08) began serving as rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Middleburg, VA, starting November 1.

Andrew Taylor-Troutman (M.Div.'09) has been called as pastor to Chapel in the Pines in Chapel Hill, NC.

Jenny McDevitt (M.Div.'09) has been called to serve as pastor at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City.

Jen Mitchell (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'10) has been called to First Presbyterian Church in Karnes City, TX.

Liz Wagner (M.Div.'13) has been called to First Presbyterian Church in Logan, OH.

Kelly Sue Lindsay (M.Div.'16) has been called to a dual ministry as pastor for the Falkland (NC) Presbyterian Church, and as campus minister for UKirk campus ministry for East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, and for Pitt Community College in Winterville.

Scott Biggers (M.Div.'17) was called as the pastor of Boykins Baptist Church, Boykins, VA.



Celebrations

Andy (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'13) and Sarah (M.Div.'13) Morgan celebrate the birth of their son, Robert, on September 26, 2017.

Laura Kelly (M.Div.'16) was ordained as minister of word and sacrament by the Presbytery of the James on December 10, 2017.

Heather Jones Butler (M.Div.'17) was ordained as minister of word and sacrament by the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley on January 14, 2018.

Andrew Whitehead (M.Div.'17) was ordained as minister of word and sacrament by the Presbytery of the James on January 14, 2018.

Emily Hook (M.Div.'17) was ordained as minister of word and sacrament by the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon on December 17, 2017.

In Memoriam

Maynard Fountain (M.Div.'50) November 1, 2017.

Mable Holt (M.A.'57) September 25, 2017.

Julius Melton (B.D.'58; Th.M.'59) November 20, 2017.

Over 100 Union Seminary alumni gathered in Montreat, North Carolina for the Union Family Reunion on October 23-25. Above is the photo taken on Tuesday, October 24th.

Margaret Buford (M.C.E.'59) October 13, 2017.

D. Michael Meloy (M.Div.'73) February 26, 2017.

Michael Bush (M.Div.'90) October 23, 2017.

Julie Mader Hostetter (D.Min.'10) November 12, 2017.

Mary Elizabeth Jonas (P.S.C.E.) November 20, 2017.

David Bartlett (associate professor of preaching and worship, Union Theological Seminary '87-'89) October 12, 2017.

Jean Boggs September 12, 2017.

William A. White (life trustee of Union Presbyterian Seminary) January 11, 2018.

For a complete listing of transitions, retirements, and publications, see the News & Blog section at www.upsem.edu/about/news-blog/