

# FOCUS

The magazine of Union Presbyterian Seminary

Winter 2016-17



we are ONE.

# we are ONE.

STRENGTH THROUGH UNION

## CAMPAIGN KICKOFF GALA

An evening of celebration and appreciation

On a warm November evening, President **Brian K. Blount** and the Union Presbyterian Seminary Board of Trustees welcomed more than 200 donors, faculty, and staff who enjoyed dinner in a big tent on the Richmond quad. The event celebrated \$47 million already raised for the **we are ONE** Campaign. **Sharon Blount** and Board Member **Cal Jennison** were co-chairs of the gala and the evening was financed through sponsorship gifts.



Above, we are ONE Campaign Co-Chair **Peter Bynum** (M.Div.'09) at left and President **Blount** hold up a cutout of Co-Chair **John Kuykendall** (B.D.'64). Unable to be there in person, Kuykendall was there in spirit. At left, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Advancement Committee **Ed Roberson** with his wife, **Susan**, and Board Member **Margaret M. Gardner**.



Gala guests were treated to the sounds of the American Youth Harp Ensemble as well as students **Alexa Allman** and **Alex Fischer**, pictured above. Other musicians were student **Heather Brannon** and her husband, **Sam Brannon**.

Students **Annie Franklin**, **Linda Kurtz**, **Rosy Robson**, and **Heather Jones Butler** joined in the festivities.



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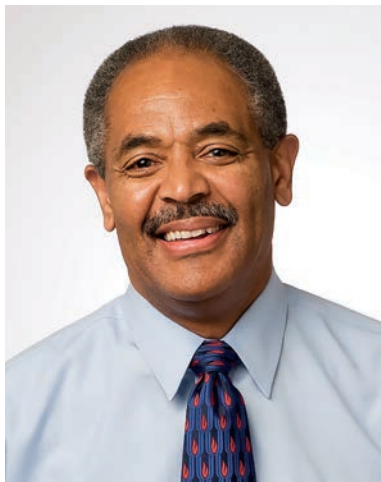
**Mission and Vision** *Union Presbyterian Seminary equips Christian leaders for ministry in the world—a sacred vocation that requires deep learning, commitment to service, and an ability to read culture and circumstance in the light of the rich resources of scripture and theological tradition.*

*The seminary's core mission is to participate in the mission of the church by forming and equipping leaders for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12).*

*We confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus is God in the flesh, the Son of that One whom he called Father. His life, ministry, death, and resurrection have transformed the world. As the risen and living Lord, Jesus has called us to bear witness to his transformative presence in the world. We serve as a theological resource for church and society. We weave together distinctive approaches to theological education for pastoral and educational ministries. We educate, inspire, and empower leaders for congregational life, theological scholarship, and bold Christian service to the world. We seek to participate faithfully in the Holy Spirit's transformation of the seminary, the church, and through the church, the world.*

**Cover:** Students, faculty and staff gathered in Lake Chapel on the Richmond campus after Convocation in September.

# we are ONE.



## Dear Friends,

We're going public! For the last several years, we have been keeping a secret at Union Presbyterian Seminary. We have been quietly raising money. In a silent capital campaign. Well, it has been a little noisy. Some of you have certainly heard about it. Some of you have actually participated in it. To the tune of \$47 million.

Wait,...what? Did you say \$47 million?!

I did. By God's grace and through the willingness of friends, trustees, and alumni to answer God's call to equip our ministry, UPSem has raised \$47 million. That is something worth celebrating! We have not celebrated noisily yet because we have been trying our best to be silent during this early part of our \$53 million campaign. But now that we are going public, well, it is time to share the good news and proclaim our gratitude.

So much has been happening with the funding you helped us raise during this "quiet" phase of the campaign. There is that beautiful new building in Charlotte. There is the ongoing and soon to be completed total renovation of Richmond Hall. We have begun raising support in a significant way for three new faculty chairs. We have launched the initial phases of the Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center for Christian Education. We have initiated new programming in evangelism, inaugurating this year the first of many east coast conferences on what evangelism means for the ministry of the 21st century church. We are redefining the work of the library through the Hal Todd Library Without Walls Program. We have laid the groundwork for a preaching and worship enterprise that has focus on both students and graduates. And we have raised the funding levels for scholarships so that we move ever closer toward the goal that no UPSem student need accumulate debt in support of her or his theological education.

Union is on the move. Quietly. So far.

That changed on November 2, on the Quad, under a big tent, with our trustees, and 200 of UPSem's friends and supporters. We gathered to kick off the noisy phase of our capital campaign. If we've not spoken with you before, I hope you will soon hear our call, even as we respond to God's call to equip this ministry for its future work. In order to reach that \$53 million goal, we will need your prayers and your support. Because there is still much left to do.

Following through on the strategic vision of the seminary, we have one final infrastructure need: the renovation of Westminster Hall that will allow the relocation of the Leadership Institute to the historic quadrangle. We need to complete the fundraising for the three faculty chairs. We need to endow our wonderful Communities of Learning program so that faculty and alum mentors can keep working faithfully with our entering students, helping them to acclimate to life as a seminary student months before they set foot on campus. We must shore up our technology for teaching and learning so that we can continue to expand offerings through blended online platforms. We must resource fully the Rhee Global Mission Center, endowing its work for future generations.

Time to get busy! Well, we have been busy. Time to get noisy, too! That started on November 2 when our WE ARE ONE capital campaign went public. I pray for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian".

Brian

## McFayden Named President-Elect of APCE

**KENNETH J. McFAYDEN** (D.Min.'86), academic dean of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, and professor of ministry and leadership development, has been chosen to serve as president-elect beginning in January 2017 for the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators, Inc (APCE). Dr. McFayden will be installed as the president-elect at the APCE Annual Event in Denver, CO, in January 2017 and as president at the annual event in Louisville, KY, in 2018. As an officer of this association, he will serve on its executive council, coordinating council, and administrative ministry team over a three-year period.

“We are excited about Ken joining our leadership team. With his commitment to ministry and expertise in leadership development he is positioned perfectly to help APCE connect, enrich, empower, and sustain God’s people who are passionate about educational ministry,” said Von Clemans, president of APCE. “Working with

our five denominational partners across North America -- the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Moravian Church in America, and the Christian Reformed Church in North America – Ken will help shape the pastors and educators, paid and volunteer, who will prepare the church for ministry in the world.”

The association’s expressed purpose is to advance educational ministries in the church and increase the ongoing witness of our faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. APCE encourages professional recognition through certification and/or designation, provides opportunities for improvement of professional skills, supports personal enrichment, actively advocates for church education, serves as a channel to and from denominational structures, and recognizes achievements and innovative contributions of church educators. [Ω](#)



## Clay Macaulay Joins Advancement staff

Since February, **CLAY MACAULAY** (D.Min.'85) has been serving as the director for alumni development for Union Presbyterian Seminary. He returned to Richmond after serving as pastor for nine years for the Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church, in Weems, VA. The son of a Presbyterian minister, Clay is one of five children in the family of the Rev. Wilkes and Helen Macaulay. A Tar Heel born and bred, Clay spent his boyhood in Mooresville, NC, and grew up in Asheboro.

Married to the former Pam Moses (M.A.'83) of Richmond, Clay and Pam met while students at Union and PSCE. They married after Pam graduated from PSCE in May, 1983. Pam and Clay have two adult children, Alec and Carolyn, who live and

work in North Carolina. With his family, Clay has served pastorates in Williamsburg, VA, Hillsboro, WV, and Peoria, IL. He is a graduate of Davidson College (AB 1981).

After serving for thirty years in parish ministry, it is Clay’s great joy to serve as alumni director. “I have loved meeting with students and faculty in Charlotte and Richmond,” Clay says, “and with alumni of Union and PSCE as I travel and host events throughout the region.” In addition to his love for preaching and visiting with alumni, he enjoys playing golf, walking each day, reading, and being with his large family. His motto and description of life is simple: “Just a small town Southern preacher... By grace, I love what I do.” [Ω](#)



“There is no way I can fill these shoes!” exclaimed Clay Macaulay holding up a shoe belonging to **Lynn McClintock** (M.Div.'87), former director of alumni development.

## UPSem Named Among Seminaries That Change The World



During Service Day, students volunteered at Shalom Farms, a regional project dedicated to working with communities to ensure access to healthy food for all area residents

Union Presbyterian Seminary has been recognized as a Seminary that Changes the World, Class of 2016-17, by The Center for Faith and Service. Each year, Seminaries that Change the World identifies a select group of seminaries and divinity schools offering innovative courses, programs, and opportunities for students seeking to engage in social justice and service work while in seminary. UPSem's recognition reflects the ongoing work the school is doing to prepare future faith leaders.

"We are pleased that the many efforts of our students, staff, and faculty, and indeed the work of the institution itself, have been recognized as we respond to God's call to engage in and participate with the transforming work of God's Reign in our world," said UPSem President Brian K. Blount.

UPSem's engagement with and for the world spans a variety of programs, partnerships, and courses. The seminary is engaged with the local community as an institutional partner with Richmonders Involved to Strengthen our Communities (RISC), an initiative that brings congregations and leaders together to address root causes of injustice in the greater Richmond area.

In the coming year, UPSem will begin a partnership with Shalom Farms which promises to create one of the largest Urban Farms in Virginia. The collaboration will help to provide food for people in food deserts in Richmond, teach basic gardening, and address theological issues around ecology and stewardship.

UPSem also has initiated a new set of course requirements designated "The Church in the World," which includes specialized topics of study on evangelism, interfaith relations and community engagement. Course offerings include Wealth and Poverty in the Bible, Intercultural Religious Education, Sex, Money; and Politics in the Ancient Church, Urban Ministry: Surviving and Thriving.

A partnership between UPSem and The Presbytery of the James has brought Visiting Assistant Professor of Evangelism John Vest to teach academic courses in evangelism, offer training to local congregations, and begin a new spiritual formation platform called The Joyful Feast which seeks to engage those on the edge of the religious community.

Katie Geneva Cannon, Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics, recently received Union Theological Seminary of New York's Union Medal at the 178th Commencement. That seminary's highest award honors persons of faith whose lives reflect the mission of the seminary in the world.

The list of Seminaries that Change the World is published by The Center for Faith and Service, an organization that works to help seminaries, service programs, denominations and local congregations connect faith with service and social justice work. [Ω](#)

## T. Hartley Hall (1929-2016)

**PRESIDENT EMERITUS T. HARTLEY HALL IV** (M.Div.'57) died Thursday, August 18 in Asheville, NC. Dr. Hall served as the fifth president of Union Presbyterian Seminary (then Union Theological Seminary) from 1981-1994.

“Hartley Hall’s contributions to church, country, and theological education are significant and enduring,” said current Union Presbyterian Seminary President Brian K. Blount. “He was a uniquely gifted leader who made a lasting impression on everyone who had the chance to know him. He will be remembered fondly and gratefully throughout the family of Union Presbyterian Seminary.”

In 1954, Hall entered Union Theological Seminary as a student. He graduated cum laude in 1957 with the Bachelor of

Divinity degree. Ordained by East Hanover Presbytery in 1957, he graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1958 with the Master of Sacred Theology degree in New Testament Studies. While at Yale he served as assistant pastor of First Congregational Church, Branford, Connecticut, and later as interim pastor.

Hall served as a campus Christian life minister in Raleigh, NC; as Presbyterian chaplain at NC State University; pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir, NC; and pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Tyler, TX. Prior to assuming the presidency at Union, he served as the pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, from 1973-1981.

He is survived by his four children and his grandchildren. [Ω](#)



## Richard Voelz joins faculty

**RICHARD W. VOELZ**, a seasoned pastor and published scholar, joined the faculty as assistant professor of preaching and worship at Union Presbyterian Seminary on July 1, 2016. He comes to the seminary from Johns Creek Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Johns Creek, GA, where he has served as senior minister since 2012.

“We are ecstatic about the arrival of Rich Voelz on our faculty this summer,” said Ken McFayden, academic dean for the Richmond campus. “He brings to a deep commitment to the church, a desire to work with colleagues across disciplines, and a passion to help our students develop their gifts in preaching and worship leadership.”

Voelz has authored several books, including *Youthful Preaching: Strengthening the Relationship Between Youth, Adults, and Preaching* and *Tending the Tree of Life: Preaching and Worship through Reproductive Loss and Adoption*. He holds

degrees from Milligan College (B.A.) and Emmanuel Christian Seminary (M.Div.). He received his Ph.D. in Homiletics and Liturgics from Vanderbilt University in 2011.

An ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Voelz brings a wealth of expertise and scholarly interest in contextual homiletics, contemporary homiletic theory, preaching and youth, pastoral identity, preaching in the Stone-Campbell Movement, and contemporary liturgical theology.

“I am honored and excited to join Union Presbyterian Seminary and the Richmond community,” said Voelz. “For over 200 years Union has built a reputation for deep scholarship in service to the church and the world. As the church faces 21st century challenges and opportunities, I am excited to add my gifts to the seminary’s ongoing commitment to preparing transformative leaders for the various ministries of the church.” [Ω](#)



# Faculty Notes



**JOHN T. CARROLL** spoke several times for an adult class at First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, titled, “Elusive Unity: The Church as Fellowship at Risk in First Corinthians and Philippians,” “Free to be Faithful: Learning to Be Church with the Galatians,” “Faith under Pressure: Being Church with

the Earliest Readers of First Peter,” and “Putting Faith to Work: Becoming a Church Inspired by the Letter of James.” He also spoke at a adult forum for St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Ivy, VA, titled, “The Birth of the King: Gospel Interpretations” and “Jesus as Son of God and Human Son: What are the Gospels Claiming?” He attended the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Theologians in Princeton, NJ, where he spoke on the “Reading the Gospels in the 21st Century.” He participated in the workshop, “Power for Living and Hope for the Future: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul,” for the Union on the Move and Coastal Carolina Presbytery educational event as well as the subject, “Parables of Jesus in Luke’s Gospel” at Graves Memorial Presbyterian Church, Clinton, NC, in connection with Union on the Move. Carroll participated with the keynote presentations on “Gospel Portraits of the Disciples and Discipleship” and “People of the Spirit, People of Hope: The Vision of the Apostle Paul” for the conference of Association of Retired Ministers, Spouses and Survivors (ARMSS) and Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network (POAMN). Musically, Carroll performed with the VCU Trombone Choir at the American Trombone Workshop, Fort Myer, Arlington, VA, and with the Richmond Philharmonic in major works concerts in Richmond, VA.



**PAUL GALBREATH**, professor of theology for the Charlotte Campus, led four workshops and preached at a festival service at the Music and Worship Conference at Virginia Wesleyan College. He was the guest speaker at the Adult Sunday School classes at First Presbyterian Church, Asheville and the worship

leaders at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church, Asheville. He was the preacher and presider at the Ordination Service for Daniel Ervin at First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor. “Linking Baptism, Eucharist and Creation Care.” Call to Worship is forthcoming.



**FRANCES TAYLOR GENCH** was the Lenten Keynote Speaker and Preacher at Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant, SC, and a Bible study leader at Masannetta’s 2016 Bible Conference. She led the Women’s Spring Retreat at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in

Washington, DC; was a co-leader (with Professors Stan Skreslet and Rodney Sadler) of UPSem’s May 2016 Middle East Travel Seminar to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel/Palestine; and preached at the September meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. She preached at the ordination of Jo Ann Staebler at Manassas Presbyterian Church, VA, and at the installation of Rev. Sarah Craven at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Cherry Hill, NJ.





**KENNETH J. McFAYDEN**

(D. Min. '86), academic dean of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, and professor of ministry and leadership development. McFayden preached at First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC, as part of their bicentennial celebration year and at First Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg, VA, for

the installation service of **Peter Thompson** (M.Div.'09). He was the keynote speaker, for the Presbytery of South Alabama, Mobile, AL, speaking at a Church Officer and Leadership Development event on "Leading Faithfully Amid Congregational and Cultural Change" and also a leader of two workshops, "Leading from the Past and Leading into the Future." He participated in the Trent Symposium for Newly Ordained Ministers at Second Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA. He was a part of the Church Leadership and Administration at the Commissioned Ruling Elder Preparation Program for the Presbytery of West Virginia. He participated with the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators as a member of the Leadership Council and a member of the Governance Ministry Team. He also participated in the annual conference in Chicago, IL, and offered a workshop on "Do a New Thing with Your Leadership Gifts!" He is a participant of the Association of Theological Schools where he participated in the School for New Deans in Pittsburgh, PA, the 2016 biennial meeting in St. Louis, MO, and the 2016 Academic Officers' Conference in St. Louis, MO, where he was also a workshop panelist for the "Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers: How are Theological Schools Responding?" He also participated in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools at the Substantive Change Workshop for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges in Norfolk, VA. McFayden participated in the Meeting of Theological Schools Receiving Grants from the Lilly Endowment to Address Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers, Pittsburgh, PA, where he also gave the presentation, "70x7: Engaging Students, Faculty, and Money." He participated in various activities of the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Portland, OR, and at the NEXT Church Conference in Atlanta, GA.



**PAULA PARKER**, adjunct assistant professor of practical theology, celebrates her new book *Roots Matter: Healing History, Honoring Heritage, Renewing Hope*.



**STANLEY H. SKRESLET**, F.S. Royster professor of Christian Missions, completed his term as immediate past president of the American Society of Missiology. He presented on "The Challenge of Islam and Christian Response" to the Ethiopian Mission Network of the PC(USA) at its annual meeting in Lincoln, NE. He

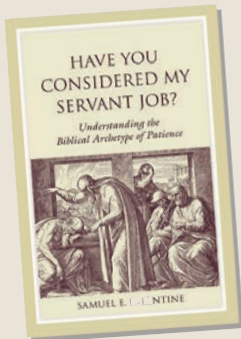
also continued to be part of the steering committee working to organize the Egypt Partnership Network of the PC(USA).



**RICHARD W. VOELZ**, assistant professor of preaching and worship, joined the faculty at Union Presbyterian Seminary on July 1, 2016. In January, he published *Youthful Preaching: Strengthening the Relationship Between Youth, Adults, and Preaching* with Cascade Books. He is on the editorial team of teachers of preaching

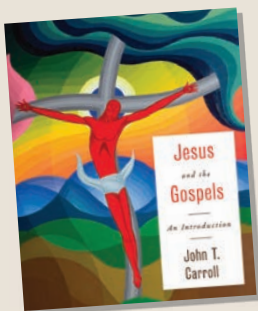
in the Stone-Campbell Movement who received a grant from the Oreon E Scott Foundation for the publication of *The Living Pulpit, a collection of sermons from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Church/Churches of Christ, and Churches of Christ, 1968-2018*. The volume will be published in 2018 with Chalice Press.

# Faculty Notes



Director of Graduate Studies and Professor of Old Testament **SAMUEL BALENTINE**'s latest book *Have You Considered My Servant Job? Understanding the Biblical Archetype of Patience* (University of South Carolina, 2015) has been selected by Choice as an "Outstanding Academic Title for 2015."

Every year, Choice subject editors single out for recognition the most significant print and electronic works reviewed in Choice during the previous calendar year. This prestigious list of publications reflects the best in scholarly titles and attracts extraordinary attention from the academic library community.



**JOHN T. CARROLL**, Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial professor of New Testament, published *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction* (Westminster John Knox) in October 2016.

In October, Professor Emeritus **HENRY C. SIMMONS** received the Legacy Award from the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network, presented by Jan McGilliard, former president. The award is given to an individual "actively leaving a living legacy for future generations through word and deed affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA)." McGilliard cited his work teaching and writing on spirituality and aging.



**KAREN-MARIE YUST**, Josiah P. and Anne Wilson Rowe Professor of Christian Education, taught an adult education series on world religions and interfaith cooperation at St. John's United Church of Christ in Richmond, VA. Yust taught a two-part adult education class titled, "Being Faithful Together: The Blessings of Intergenerational Faith Communities" and "Cultivating Christians: Families and Faith Formation" at Grace & Holy

Trinity Episcopal Church in Richmond. She also preached at First Congregational Christian Church in Chesterfield, VA, and at Olin T. Binkley Memorial Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, NC, where she led an all-day workshop on children's faith formation for parents and Christian educators. She led a parenting workshop on "Easter Eggs and the Empty Tomb" at St. Stephen' Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA. Yust presented two papers titled, "Drama, Intimacy, and Vulnerability: the Spiritual Challenges of Digital Culture" and "Moral Inclinations: Religion as Friend or Foe?" at the 15th International Conference on Children's Spirituality in Lincoln, UK. She will publish "Adolescent Spirituality and Education" in Marian de Souza et al. (eds) and *Spirituality across Disciplines: Research and Practice in the Spring of 2016*. She also led a Lilly Endowment consultation on "Christian Faith and Life" in Indianapolis, IN. She was also elected as the co-president of the International Association of Children's Spirituality.



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# For A Larger Purpose

we are ONE: The Campaign for Union Presbyterian Seminary



ONE in spirit. ONE in vision. ONE in faith and service to the church.

“We do what we do for a larger purpose than ourselves,” said Union President Brian K. Blount. “Because God loves us, God will push us to face squarely the issues that confront the seminary so that we can live into the ‘new thing’ God is raising up in our midst.”



Union has a long history of connections with the international church, and every student has an opportunity to participate in our travel seminars.



The more up-to-date our technology for teaching and learning, the more programs can be offered to UPSem’s off-campus students.

For the past several years, Union Presbyterian Seminary has been working for a larger purpose through strategic planning and fundraising. During more than 200 years of faithful service to the church, the seminary has adapted to every “new thing” that God’s plan has presented as a possibility—moving the seminary from a rural to an urban location, founding a school for Christian education, educating women for ordination, changing from only full-time residential degree programs to weekend programs and blended off-campus programs, now available through evolving technology.

With a vision to serve the church in new ways, the leadership at UPSem has moved forward boldly. In a time of economic recession, the Board of Trustees voted for the largest fundraising campaign among the Presbyterian seminaries. Since that time, volunteers and staff have raised funds during the quiet phase to support the new programs needed for a changing society and a changing church.

Gifts and pledges to date total \$47 million. “We are overwhelmed by the support of our friends, trustees, alumni, faculty, and staff,” said President Blount. “They have answered our call to support our mission to follow God’s call. In their giving, God is certainly at work and has blessed the seminary so that Union Presbyterian Seminary can be a blessing for the church in the world. Our faith, and the urge to participate in changing times, has kept us on course.”

At a donor-sponsored gathering on the Richmond campus, President Blount and the volunteer co-chairs of the *we are ONE* Campaign, **John W. Kuykendall** (B.D.’64) and **Peter A. Bynum** (M.Div.’09), launched the final phase of the campaign to meet the \$53 million goal. Several days later, faculty, staff, and students enjoyed barbecue and bluegrass music at an event acknowledging their work and involvement in the growth of our multi-platform educational model.

Starting new programs has required a leap of faith. As good and faithful stewards, the seminary’s leaders have directed their vision to seeking ways in which they can best participate in God’s work in the church and in the world. With a sense of urgency, these nine new programs have been initiated.

- On the **Charlotte campus**, a modern seminary building has been completed, serving second-career students who are answering



Professor Carson Brisson interacts with students in Charlotte.

their call to ministry. Revised and new degree programs may be offered soon to make full use of that beautiful facility. Now funds are needed to **strengthen faculty support** in Charlotte.

- On the Richmond campus, to update a community center for faculty and students, **Richmond Hall** is being renovated to provide dining and recreation facilities, and dormitory suites for single students and visiting scholars. A sense of community is rated as a top reason students choose UPSem. It is vital to offer them the physical space in which to build relationships.
- **Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center for Christian Education** will nurture Christian educators from developing countries, building the capacities of churches that are spreading the teachings of the Gospel well beyond our borders. UPSem has a long history of connection with the international church.
- At home, the seminary affirms its historical commitment to educational ministry in the preparation of educators and pastors to serve the church. The campaign will endow **two Christian education chairs**. These teachers will provide the training that is crucial to attracting young people and sustaining their faith and congregational involvement.
- The new **Leadership Institute** deepens the learning experiences available for graduates and lay leaders through Pathways Online and peer support groups. In developing transformational servant leaders, we fortify the church.

*continued on page 14*

OUR CAMPAIGN GOAL IS  
**\$53 MILLION**  
 88% COMPLETED

**OUR CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES NOW**

- Richmond Hall Renovation and Operation
- Charlotte Campus Construction and Operation
- Leadership Institute Program Expansion
- Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center for Christian Education
- Complete Endowment of the Bannerman/ Gephardt and Little/Tarry Chairs in Christian Education
- Establish the Evangelism Professorship and Program
- Strengthen Faculty Support in Charlotte
- Fund Communities of Learning for Incoming Students in the Future



Richmond Hall is undergoing renovations to provide dining and recreational facilities as well as dormitory suites for single students and visiting scholars. It will also house the Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center for Christian Education.

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## Union Presbyterian Seminary

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980-636-1660

Dear Friend:

As he prepared his disciples for his imminent departure, Jesus lifted a prayer for those who would remain in this world as the body of Christ. "Holy Father," he said, "protect them . . . so that they may be one, as we are one" (John 17:11).

Christ's hope was—and is—that the church bearing his name would be unified in faith, unified in service, and unified in love. For more than 200 years, the institution now known as Union Presbyterian Seminary has been preparing leaders to serve that lofty hope. Today, that hope is still drawing together those who love the seminary and its mission. We are one in our gratitude for what Union has done for us and our congregations. We are one in our confidence in our current administrators, faculty and students. And we are one certainly in our enthusiasm about the next chapter of our beloved seminary as we take our first steps into a third century of faithful service to God.

For the past several years, the campaign team has been cultivating donors who have the means to offer major gifts to the seminary. Thanks to the generosity of such contributors, we have reached the \$47 million mark in this quiet phase of the **we are ONE** Campaign. Now, it's time for all of us to carry the seminary the rest of the way home. While most of us are not able to offer six-figure donations, all of us are members of the one body of Christ, and all of us are called to do our part for that body. In short, we cannot be ONE without you.

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### Campaign Cabinet

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Peter A. Bynum\*

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Matthew A. Rich\*  
Peter S. Ro

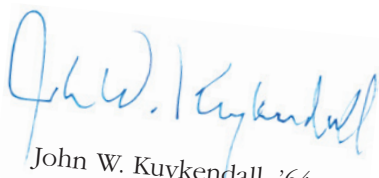
\*Alumni

Because this campaign is all about unity, we are seeking as much participation from our alumni and friends as possible. Any gift you could offer—whatever the amount may be—will push us closer to the ultimate campaign goal of \$53 million.

The fact that you are reading this letter means that you are already one of us. You have already played a significant role in the story of Union Presbyterian Seminary. Our hope in writing to you is that you will choose to remain a part of this ongoing story of faithfulness and service—that you will lend your hand to the exciting new chapter that we are writing together in the **we are ONE** campaign.

As you prayerfully consider what you can do today for the seminary we all love, we are honored to stand with you in gratitude, in faith, and in the abiding hope that we will continue to serve Christ and his church together for another 200 years. We pray that you will join us in this work—that you will recommit your time, your energy, and your treasure to Union Presbyterian Seminary as we come together in mission and ministry.

Faithfully,



John W. Kuykendall, '64  
Campaign Co-Chair



Peter A. Bynum, '09  
Campaign Co-Chair

P.S. Be ONE with us. Pledge your support today and ensure Union's capacity to equip the church and its people to care for the world in the 21st Century.

we are ONE: WE HAVE  
RAISED MORE THAN  
**\$47 MILLION**

We are ONE, and we are on our way—but we need you to help us reach our final campaign goal. Share our excitement as we break new ground for theological education and bring forth a generation of pastors and educators with deep knowledge, sharp skills, and great compassion.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP US**

These are some of the things you can do for Union Presbyterian Seminary during the *we are ONE* Campaign.

- Make your own gift of any size and pledge your support over the next five years
- Encourage others to join you through a visit, phone call, letter, or use social media to support the campaign
- Arrange for your congregation to hold a local event to hear a faculty speaker and to call attention to the campaign. Such events are being planned for Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and the Washington, DC metro area. Our staff provides organizational support.
- Pray for Union Presbyterian Seminary, faculty, students, and staff as they work towards a new day for theological education and the success of the *we are ONE* Campaign

*Continued from page 11*

- One of the most recent initiatives features **Evangelism**, a program begun jointly with Union and the Presbytery of the James to bring visiting scholars to explore the 21st century possibilities for evangelism with students. Essential to the future of the church is the ability to attract worshipers to practice and express their faith in a variety of settings.
- **Library Without Walls**, fully funded by foundations and generous donors, allows access to resources for alumni, pastors, and lay leaders in churches around the world. The system was inaugurated on November 17 and will be expanding steadily.
- The more up-to-date our **technology for teaching and learning**, the more programs will be offered to off-campus students. At present the Master of Arts in Christian Education is available and other degree programs are planned to follow as funding allows.
- An initiative developed at UPSem and now needing endowment, **Communities of Learning**, eases students into theological education and helps to foster strong relationships before they even set foot on one of our campuses. Incoming students join in small assigned groups with peers, faculty and alumni mentors, previewing topics and concepts that await them. Communities of Learning also fosters skills in community building, enabling our students to help build communities out in the church.

Starting new programs has required a leap of faith. As good and faithful stewards, the seminary's leaders have directed their vision to seeking ways in which they can best participate in God's work in the church and in the world.

Most recently, a gift will provide funding for a **Preaching and Worship Institute** in Richmond. This program will present training to strengthen preaching and worship planning for pastors serving congregations.

President Blount quotes John of Patmos, author of the Book of Revelation, who shared God's hopeful word for God's world — "See, I am making all things new.' (Rev. 21:5 NRS). As we look at all that is happening in the life of our beloved school, as we build, and introduce programs and teach for the future, we do so trusting that we are following God's lead," said Blount. "Therefore, we stride with confidence into the newness that God is even now breaking open in the life and ministry of Union Presbyterian Seminary." Ω



### It just feels right! — Jean Hess



Kurtis and Jean Hess

that reflects the seminary’s boundary-breaking cause—For the Church in the World.

“My children and I agreed that this internship best mirrors Kurtis’ passion for just causes and marginalized individuals through outreach ministry,” she said. “He dedicated his life to empowering the church and its leaders to embrace the world, and to live actively for the sake of others.”

In partnership with local nonprofits, churches, and the Presbytery of the James, this residency gives students the opportunity for training in a new asset-based style of ministry. Residents in underserved neighborhoods are empowered to bring about positive change within their own communities.

Student Essie Reinke described her 2015 summer internship with the Christian-based nonprofit Embrace

“It just feels right!” That’s what Jean Hess said when asked about her commitment to Union Presbyterian Seminary. Hess gave an endowment gift for the Kurtis C. Hess Justice and Reconciliation Residency in memory of her late husband. She and her family established the endowment for a program

Richmond as “life-changing.” She was a leader in the “Dream Catcher” program, which engaged young people from six underserved communities to interview residents, asking about their hopes and dreams and creating change in their neighborhoods. Essie organized and facilitated conversations. Community action teams were formed with residents committing to participate as neighborhood leaders. The impact of Essie’s outreach ministry in the communities was two-fold: new relationships were formed and neighborhood change was created.

“My children and I are most grateful to Union Presbyterian Seminary for the opportunity to honor Kurtis and continue his legacy of student empowerment for ministry,” said Hess. “Ministry is not just about getting people to come to church. It’s about going out into the communities, empowering and encouraging this type of dialogue and action. This is one thing we can do to continue his life-long passion and legacy.”

In a world where racial injustice, poverty, and inequality are a reality, it’s more important than ever that the church continues to be a voice of hope. The residency will impact the church and the world as recipients leave seminary having engaged in public ministries that equip them with the skills and a deeper understanding of what it means to be a public theologian working for justice and reconciliation in the changing landscape of the church.  $\Omega$

### Is theological education important? — David Forney



David Forney

The Rev. Dr. David Forney is often asked what influences theological education today, or even, “Is theological education important?”

But the harder question for him is: how do seminaries engage in conversations in our rapidly changing environment, where the vehicles for communication and connection are constantly moving us into uncharted territories?

A metaphor taken from *To Catch an Angel*, a book written by Robert Russell 54 years ago, illustrates Forney’s answer beautifully. Born blind, Russell struggled with his blindness and his desire for freedom. Even though he knew fishing was a very dangerous activity to do alone, his passion drove him to buy a cottage on the St. Lawrence River in Canada. It was there that he struck upon an ingenious idea that gave him freedom and kept him safe. He set up an electric bell on the dock, timed to ring every 30 seconds.

“If I row too far upwind to be able to hear the bell, I can still fish without anxiety because I can always drift downwind, and then I am again in touch with

my base... And a man needs a base to quest from, and he needs the sense that, however far he has strayed, return is still possible. Confidence that we have such a base is all that gives us the courage to reach past the edges of the familiar.”

Forney loves this metaphor because here enters the role of theological education, particularly Union Presbyterian Seminary. Russell’s desire and his profound need to venture out onto the river is an excellent illustration for the importance of a tether to a home base, even as the leaders of the church paddle into the unknown waters of the changing 21st century.

“Theological education is as important as ever in the world today,” says Forney. “The questions church members and society are asking are precisely the ones theological education has been pondering from the beginning. Whenever someone is engaging in dialogue of justice or mercy or identity, theological education has a particularly important voice in helping communities and individuals make sense of our current context. So questions concerning meaning, ethics, and well being are foundational ones that humanity will wrestle with, regardless of time and place, and theological education is an essential partner engaging in these vital conversations.”

“The church I serve, First Presbyterian in Charlottesville, is gratefully tethered to Union Presbyterian Seminary by board members, current students, seminary interns, and alumni. We provide financial support for Union’s mission, for ‘deep learning, commitment to service, and an ability to read culture and circumstance in the light of the rich resources of Scripture and theological tradition’. First Presbyterian has a clear bell to hear the ways God’s mission is instrumental in the world yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We give thanks to God for the seminary’s commitment and faithful witness to God’s love in Jesus Christ.” Ω

The Charlottesville church is one of more than 240 churches and women’s groups which provide financial support for the seminary. Some provide annual gifts, some scholarship support, and some added the seminary as a mission project in their congregational capital campaign. Many are supporting the *we are ONE* Campaign and moving ahead to name a dormitory room in the newly renovated Richmond Hall. Students living in those named congregational dormitory rooms will receive daily affirmation knowing the church is waiting for their service.

## Let’s finish the Work — Price H. Gwynn III



Price H. Gwynn III

of the 202nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The son and grandson of Presbyterian ministers, Price H. Gwynn III has a long history of church service. His first recollection of Union Presbyterian Seminary was as a child in 1926. His father, a World War I veteran, was a student, and the family lived on the Richmond campus. In June 1990, Price was elected as moderator

As a church member in the Presbytery of Charlotte, Price also played a significant role in the creation of UPSem’s Charlotte campus. In 2002, the seminary accepted the invitation of five North Carolina presbyteries and began offering evening and Saturday classes in Charlotte.

“Many of our brightest and best students can not accommodate the three-year residency program model,” he said. “We now have in Charlotte an alternate track, not to compete with the original but to augment and enrich our selection pool. It’s up, functioning, and exceeding expectations.”

Price has a lifelong connection to Union and is still loyal and committed. “Let’s finish the work of our *we are ONE* Campaign,” he says. He serves as honorary co-chair of the campaign in Charlotte, NC. Ω



John Vest, visiting assistant professor of evangelism, preparing barbecue for BBQ Church, one of his personal evangelical initiatives.

# What is evangelism?

Often when I give a talk or lead a workshop on evangelism I begin with an exercise I call an evangelism popquiz. I give people a minute or less to think about and/or write down a two or three sentence answer to this question: What is the gospel? This usually catches them off guard, but I don't stop there. I go on to ask them to find a partner and share their definitions with each other. After they squirm around in their seats and chat uncomfortably for a bit—and there are usually a handful of people who refuse to do this exercise altogether—I make a blunt statement: “If this is hard for you, especially if you are a church leader, we have a problem.”

Mature faith and transformative spirituality is rooted in experience. Evangelism is the art of articulating that experience in compelling ways that just might resonate with other people.

Sophisticated, well-educated mainline Protestants tend to think that the gospel is too complex to reduce to a mere two or three sentences. We'll spend 30 minutes on caveats and qualifications before we dare say something simple and straightforward about what God is doing in the world through Jesus Christ. We'll tweak our language and nitpick details. We'll offer substitute motions to substitute motions before calling the question, before answering the question: what is the good news?

And when mainline Protestants finally get around to answering this question, it often comes in the form of theological statements, sets of core beliefs, doctrines, dogmas, or confessions. This is the language we speak. But it might not be the language the world needs most right now.

Implicitly or explicitly, the faith question we most ask each other is this: What do you believe? It's the basic question behind our Sunday School learning outcomes, our lists of things we want children to know before confirmation. It's the question we ask confirmands as they present statements of faith and publicly profess that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior. It's the question in worship that prompts our recitation of the Apostles Creed or some other affirmation of faith. It's what we ask candidates for ordination. For Presbyterians, it's the reason that half of our constitution is a book of confessions.

But a better question is this: How do you know God is real?

In response, many people will say that we can't really know God is real. There's no way to prove it. We just have to believe. It's why we call it faith.

I don't think this is a satisfactory answer. Faith isn't about believing an unbelievable story. It isn't about believing something that can't be proven. If that's all it is, why choose one unbelievable story over any other unbelievable story? After all, every religion—and most non-religions—tell unbelievable stories.

Mature faith and transformative spirituality is rooted in experience. Evangelism is the art of articulating that experience in compelling ways that just might resonate with other people.

To encourage this kind of faith-talk, we need to start asking each other better questions. Instead of “What do you believe?” or even “What is the gospel?” we need questions like these:

- How have you experienced God's presence in your life?
- Where do you see God in the world?

*continued on page 19*

## A Partnership in Evangelism

Recognizing that it is now more important than ever to bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ with passion and clarity, Union Presbyterian Seminary and the Presbytery of the James are committed to a renewed focus on the practice of evangelism. Cultivating a Culture of Evangelism is a partnership forged between these two agencies to give students, laity, and church professionals opportunities to learn and explore the subject of evangelism.

Because today's seminarians will be called upon as tomorrow's church leaders, this presbytery-seminary partnership comes at a critical time in mainline Protestantism. As we respond to God's call to be the body of Christ in an ever-changing world, church leaders need to develop a vital set of pastoral skills not addressed by many M.Div. and D.Min. curricula: the ability to clearly articulate and share the gospel, church revitalization, and new church development.

An overview of current and developing initiatives includes:

- The call of John W. Vest as visiting assistant professor of evangelism at Union Presbyterian Seminary. After this initial four-year appointment, the long-term goal is for this position to be staffed by different seasoned practitioners in the field of evangelism every three or four years. The teaching load is currently half-time in order to allow for work in the presbytery.
- In collaboration with POJ and UPSem's Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning Office, Vest is developing evangelism internship opportunities for students. He has also developed and is available to offer small-group workshops on evangelism. If your congregation, group, or council is interested in working with Vest, please contact General Presbyter of the James Carson Rhyne at [carsonrhyne@presbyteryofthejames.org](mailto:carsonrhyne@presbyteryofthejames.org).
- Through UPSem's Leadership Institute, an evangelism conference was held in Richmond in September 2016.
- A blog, curated by Vest, serves as a record of this venture and a clearinghouse of evangelism resources for congregations.



Rosy Robson serves homemade ice pops during BBQ Church.

During the summer of 2016, **ROSY ROBSON** (Dual M.Div./M.A.C.E student) interned with Visiting Assistant Professor of Evangelism John Vest.

*“Prior to this summer, evangelism was something that I knew was important, but that felt loaded down with heavy baggage. This baggage echoes the voices of the people who stand on the street corner and yell, “Have you been saved?” It is filled with scare tactics, a supposed hierarchy of knowledge, and a focus on the afterlife.”*

*Because of this baggage, I admit that evangelism was not something that I looked forward to, wanted to explore, or a concept that I wanted to deconstruct and put back together again. Evangelism felt like something that could wait, something that I could delve into after seminary.*

*But then I began interning with John Vest in the summer of 2016. Throughout this internship, I visited seven different worshipping communities, met church leaders engaged in ministries with different age groups, races, denominations, and backgrounds, contributed to UPSem's blog on Evangelism, and served on the leadership team which would launch the new worshipping community, The Joyful Feast.*

*As a result, I want to explore what evangelism means and distance it from the baggage I assumed it brought with it. I wish to share the gospel in an authentic way, share the truth about my experiences trying to follow Christ, and I want to walk with others as we live lives of faith.”*

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*Continued from page 17*

- What difference does following Jesus make in your life?

In the *Unbinding the Gospel* series, Martha Grace Reece notes that people who do evangelism well—regardless of theological orientation—have more complete, integrated, and faster answers to questions like these. Yet for many of us, these are difficult questions to answer. This is probably not the way we were raised or trained to talk about faith.

Before we can ever say what evangelism is and how we ought to do it, before we develop strategic plans and programs, before we have any chance of successfully reaching out to new people, we need to learn—or relearn—how to talk about faith in meaningful ways with each other. We need to be evangelized by each other. We need to understand what’s at stake in the world and in our lives and how the gospel addresses these needs. We need to be able to articulate why Jesus matters.

Here’s another important question: Does it matter to you if other people follow Jesus?

I ask this question because I don’t think mainline Protestants always have a good sense or clear articulation of why the gospel matters. For some Christians, it is crystal clear what is at stake in sharing the gospel: if people don’t come to faith in Jesus Christ they will suffer for all eternity in the fires of hell. If you really believe that, you have a lot of motivation to share the gospel. But I suspect that many of us don’t take this approach, or at least don’t frame it so starkly. We tend to lead with grace instead of fear. But I’ll be blunt: it’s rarely clear to me what, if anything, is at stake in mainline Protestant understandings of the gospel.

The recent massacre in Orlando is why the gospel matters. It’s why evangelism—not just living the gospel but also talking about it—matters. What happened in Orlando is a stark reminder of what’s at stake in our world.

Regardless of what you think about guns; regardless of what you think about Islam; regardless of what you think about human sexuality and LGBTQ rights in church and society; regardless of your political orientation and your perspective on the polarizing rhetoric of the current presidential election—surely we can all agree that what happened on that day in June was a manifestation of evil. It was an abomination.

Jesus shows us a different way. Jesus lived and died for a different way. Jesus’ way—loving God with our entire beings and loving our neighbors as ourselves—leads to a very different world than the senseless violence we witnessed in Orlando and in countless other places around the world.

Mainline Protestants maintain a variety of theological perspectives. We may not all agree on heaven and hell. We may not all agree on whether or not Jesus is the only path to God. We may not all agree on whether or not the goal of evangelism is to convert others to Christianity.

But maybe we can agree that the hate-fueled massacre in Orlando is why evangelism matters.

Do I think that believing in or following Jesus is a magic cure for the problems of the world? No.

Do I think that only followers of Jesus can help bring about the new creation he envisioned? No.

*I follow Jesus’ way because I believe it to be true and good and just. I believe that Jesus’ way leads to a world of peace and wholeness.*

Do I wish that more people would follow the way of Jesus? Yes.

I follow Jesus’ way because I believe it to be true and good and just. I believe that Jesus’ way leads to a world of peace and wholeness. And because of this, I believe that if more people followed this way the world would be a better place, that divine light would in fact overcome the darkness of evil.

I’ll be honest with you. I don’t really care about growing churches. I don’t care about saving declining religious institutions. I don’t care about creating jobs for seminary graduates. I don’t care about keeping my denomination around long enough for me to collect a pension in 25 or 30 years.

But here’s what I do care about. Following Jesus has made a big difference in my life. I believe that following Jesus can make a difference in the lives of others. I believe that following Jesus can change the world.

I hope you do too. [Ω](#)

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*John Vest is visiting assistant professor of evangelism, Richmond campus*



# UPSem Alums Answer the Call

On June 23, 2016, West Virginia experienced one of the worst floods in its known history. Before it was over, the flood claimed 23 lives and caused damaged to over 1,200 homes, having received eight to 10 inches of water in mere hours. A federal disaster was declared in 12 of the hardest-hit counties, while a state of emergency was declared in 44 counties.

Several Union Presbyterian Seminary alumni became involved in the immediate relief effort, and many have signed on for long term recovery initiatives. Below are the experiences of just three alums who answered the call to help the people of West Virginia: **ELIZABETH "LIZ" BRANCH** (M.C.E.'63) heads up a 3-person team of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) national response team (NRT) and was on the scene immediately after the news hit about the floods; **JOAN STEWART** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'03) is the regional pastoral liaison for the West Virginia, Ministries And Workcamps (WVMAW) and has been involved in developing the long term recovery response to disaster partnering with the Presbytery of WV; **FORREST PALMER** (M.A.C.E.'75) is the regional pastoral liaison for the West Virginia Volunteers Organizations Active in Disaster and West Virginia Council of Churches and was deployed to set up a center for emotional and spiritual care and to link other agencies in the initial disaster response.



*I was at home in Dunbar, WV, following the news about the historic floods in WV and received phone calls from the West Virginia Council of Churches Executive, Jeff Allen, and from the Presbytery of West Virginia, Barbara Chalfant (M.A.C.E.'87), asking me to quickly deploy to White Sulphur Springs for a week, to represent WV VOAD and the West Virginia Council of Churches as their Regional Liaison, to set up a center for emotional and spiritual care and link with other agencies in the initial disaster response for the White Sulphur Springs area, which has the most number of deaths from the floods. First Presbyterian, White Sulphur Springs offered their facilities — with newly restored power, but no running water — for this center.*

**– Forrest Palmer**

*We met an older man whose wife had died just 6 weeks before the flood and who has now lost the house he had shared with her. Flood water had hollowed out a section beneath his house. We could not fix any of people's problems, but we could listen. People who have experienced disaster need to tell their stories many times during the healing process. When family and friends can no longer listen compassionately, outsiders like us can step into the gap. Thanks to the presbytery, including Barbara and Forrest, and the West Virginia Council of Churches, Greenbrier County had many caring listeners after the flooding.*

**– Liz Branch**

*A teenager from Asheboro, NC, helped to haul ruined possessions to the curb for family after family the week following the flood. She said she was mad at God. Where was God in all this? Then she listened to one of the homeowners tell her about being in a tree as the water rose. Some people came by to rescue her in a canoe, but the water swept the canoe downstream, leaving three of them in the tree to cling for hours and hours. They prayed and believe that it was God who protected them in the midst of the storm. She said she realized then that God was there after all—God was in the tree. It was a life changing revelation for her.*

**– Joan Stewart**



**FOR ANY PERSON, OR ANY CHURCH,  
WHO WANTS TO HELP WEST VIRGINIA  
FLOOD RELIEF EFFORT — WHERE  
SHOULD THEY START?**

**For hands-on repair work, contact:**

Joan Stewart, executive director of the West Virginia Ministries And Workcamps (WVMAW), a long term recovery response to disaster partnering with the Presbytery of West Virginia: joanandtim.stewart@gmail.com or visit [www.wvmaw.org](http://www.wvmaw.org) for ways to respond.

**For providing assistance from afar:**

Make Church World Service Gift of the Heart kits and cleanup buckets to help with future disaster relief response: <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/>

**For disaster preparedness of your own church or area, contact:**

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program (<https://pda.pcusa.org/>) offers valuable, tangible help in training churches and individuals, starting with disaster preparedness and including disaster response for a variety of disaster situations. Is your family prepared for a potential disaster? Is your church? What would you do if you were hit by a natural disaster?

**For additional needs, contact:**

Contact Barbara Chalfant (M.A.C.E.'87), associate presbyter for mission for the Presbytery of West Virginia, who remains one of the key organizers in the flood recovery effort: [barbarachalfant@yahoo.com](mailto:barbarachalfant@yahoo.com)



**How has being a part of the relief effort changed/shaped your call or your theology?**

*Micah 6:8 has long been the foundation of what we are called to be and do as a long term recovery organization. Doing justice includes bridging the gap between those who are able and those who have lost; between those who have and those who do not. Loving Mercy is walking in someone else's shoes, listening to their story, building a relationship, and reaching out in kindness. Walking humbly with our God is allowing God to surprise us by not deciding what mission looks like before we get there. It is not thinking less of ourselves, it is about not thinking of ourselves at all. Then God gets to do the work!*

– Joan Stewart

*Jesus called us all to love our neighbors. In times of disaster, denominational labels and titles disappear, as we respond together as the body of Christ to help those in need.*

– Forrest Palmer

**If there was one thing you wanted to make sure people understood about the situation in WV, what would that be...?**

*Most people are resilient. And most people need someone to walk alongside them while they figure out their recovery steps. You and I can be present with those who have experienced loss - and be conduits of grace for people in need.*

– Liz Branch

*Due to the geography of mountains and valleys and having so little flat land, WV is prone to flooding when torrential rains hit. The rains run down the mountainsides to the creeks and rivers below, swelling rapidly. This particular flooding was the result of many storms "training" — follow the same path, bringing as much as 10 inches of rain in a short amount of time.*

– Forrest Palmer







# One Table

"...for the Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians."

Genesis 43: 32b

Every August early harvest descended into our lives. Except for Sabbaths, it transformed our days, dividing them entirely into a rising and a falling. From dawn until noon, each day would rise over us. At noon, we would break for a meal, and from that time on each day would fall away from us, ending when the work assigned to it was done.

On such days the mid-day meal saved us. At its appointed hour, it rode down out of the high sun and ransomed us outright from fatigue, hunger, and the shimmering heat. It understood us. It ached our aching. It knew we yearned for the taste of water more than we trusted the promise of wine. It knew that all morning the anointing of even the thinnest breeze had elicited our deepest thanks and the intercession of even the smallest cloud had evoked our whispered praise. It understood that the salvation we sought was shaded relief, not spangled elevation. That the noon meal knew us in our needs and made us glad in our bodies. We helped each other more the closer it got.

And our mid-day meal always meant something else, something given, something understood. It meant, always, two separate tables, both sturdy, both long, both with many places set, both creaking under the weight of steaming crocks and heaping platters of seasoned food, but nevertheless separate. One of these tables would always stand on the covered, screened porch just off the kitchen of the farmhouse at which we ate. The other table stood in the kitchen itself. These two tables were separated by no more than 10 steps through the open door between the porch and the kitchen, and yet by a thousand boundaries. No one assigned to one table ever sat at the other. The youngest person at each table traditionally served as its emissary to the other table.

Odessa was nine, the youngest person at the porch table at which he sat among many other family members, including his mother and father. Martin was nine, the second-born of twins, the youngest person at the kitchen table at which he sat immediately next to his twin sister Myrtle, and among many other family members, including his mother and father. He was responsible for meeting Odessa at the doorway that separated his table from Odessa's table and for refilling any empty containers Odessa handed to him.

Odessa and Martin had navigated their responsibilities uneventfully many times. But one day, one mid-day meal like every other mid-day meal, something new happened. Odessa stepped quietly through the threshold between the porch and kitchen, empty earthenware bowl, except for a serving spoon, in hand. Martin rose, went to Odessa, and took the empty bowl from him. As he brushed by the kitchen table on his way to the stove, Martin took the serving spoon out of the bowl and rested it on a corner of the kitchen table.

This was a new thing. For the noon meal, items were assigned exclusively to one table or the other, never to both. Martin's act instantly transformed the meal at the kitchen table. His father put down his utensils loudly. So did Martin's mother. Others at the table stiffened in their seats. His twin, Myrtle, gasped. She scooped up the serving spoon and spun around in her chair, extending it toward Martin. At that same moment, Martin's mother, rising from her place at one end of the table, grabbed the spoon from Myrtle with one hand and gripped Martin by his right arm with the other. The empty bowl in Martin's hands lurched from him and upon striking the kitchen floor exploded into myriad opalescent shards and glistening splinters. Martin's mother led him quickly through the white door that swung out from the kitchen into the main hallway of the farmhouse. Odessa took one step forward as Martin and his mother disappeared, and stopped. He was told to leave the kitchen and did not. Myrtle placed both her hands over her mouth, slid out of her chair, and stood amidst the debris on the kitchen floor, staring down.

That afternoon a busy quietness replaced all banter in field and barn. With few exceptions, only the words needed for work were spoken. Everyone, including Odessa, Martin, and Myrtle, plied their assigned tasks as usual. The events of the noon meal were present but did not have names. The day fell away into its labor.

Harvest wages are paid at the end of each day. The sun does not set on wages owed. This is the law of the one who bestows all harvests, and obeying it fulfills all known righteousness. Martin's parents had a reputation for exceeding all known righteousness. If someone had to leave work early, they made sure she or he did not do so without being paid, and, moreover, they always paid "forward." If the day's work ended on the half hour, or even on the quarter hour, they included that full hour "forward" when figuring the day's earnings.

At the end of this day, Martin's mother and father walked, as always, slowly and carefully down the payment line that had assembled beneath the tin awning of the barn nearest the farmhouse. They distributed wages rounded up to the full hour, thanking all who had labored. Odessa's father and mother stood, as always, last in the line. When Martin's parents reached them, Odessa's mother said they all needed to speak together for a moment. The four adults stepped aside for less than a minute. Soon thereafter everyone, except Martin's family members, left for home and the promise of evening's rest.

After his wife and he had secured the barn and harvest equipment for the next day, with the gray gauze of twilight enthroned over the surrounding fields, Martin's father announced that Odessa's family would help them through the end of the current early harvest, but would not return to work in any harvests beyond that, a hardship for both families, much more so for Odessa's. His oldest daughter, Ruth, who sat at her father's right hand at the kitchen table, asked why. Her father replied that he could not fully say, but that Odessa's mother and father had said it was "about the serving spoon . . . about what happened to Martin . . . about a feast and a lamb." He spoke without intonation. "And something about until there's one table," Ruth's mother added with rising inflection. Martin's father took his cap in his right hand and began to raise his right arm out wide, parallel to his side, slowly, over and over again, letting it fall against him at the end of each heavy lift. He looked like a bird trying to take flight one half of itself at a time. His wife spoke tenderly to him. She said Odessa's family would be ok. She said their family would be ok. Her husband did not respond. He continued to raise his arm and let it fall. He stared down at the rented ground on which he stood. He tried to gather his thoughts, but they refused.

Sometimes from streets of immeasurable loss and suffering witness wells up to rinse the world of the blood of ten thousand Abels spilled at the hands of ten thousand Cains. Thanks be to God.

Beloved, sometimes in sanctified spaces of worship and learning witness pours forth to loosen the grip of iron furrows on ancient seed. Thanks be to God. Sometimes from streets of immeasurable loss and suffering witness wells up to rinse the world of the blood of ten thousand Abels spilled at the hands of ten thousand Cains. Thanks be to God. Sometimes out of the arc of creation's cathedral witness shines through to cast the golden light of overdue truth upon a frozen, white wilderness. Thanks be to God. And, sometimes, on a harvest day the same as yet different from every other harvest day, witness names a serving spoon as its chosen vessel, blesses the feet of nine-year-olds, prophesies against the obscene distance between a porch and a kitchen, and, at cost, insists there should be, demands there must be, and proclaims there will be, on earth as it is in heaven, one table. Thanks be to God. Ω



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Carson dedicates this Gargoyle in loving memory to T. Hartley Hall IV, fifth president of Union Presbyterian Seminary.

*E. Carson Brisson is associate professor of Bible and biblical languages on the Charlotte campus.*

# Alumni Notes

## 1960s

**ALLEN "AL" REYNOLDS** (M.C.E.'60) retired as reference librarian at Frederick Community College in Frederick, MD.

## 1970s

**RALPH REAVIS** (S.T.M.'72) retired as president of VA University of Lynchburg.

**MARTHA "PAT" SCOTT MORGAN** (M.A.'73) retired as director of Christian education at Winter Park Presbyterian Church.

**J. WILLIAM "BILL" LINDEMAN** (D.Min.'77) is the interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Elizabethton, TN.

## 1980s

**JEAN HILL COOLEY** (M.A.'81; M.Div.'90) is serving as part-time temporary stated supply pastor at Lakeview Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg, FL.

**RENE MINSHEW** (D.Min.'81) was honorably retired by the Presbytery of the Cascades.

**LESLEE KIRKCONNELL** (M.A. '87) is serving as the director of Christian education at The Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, KY.

**LYNN MCCLINTOCK** (D.Min.'87) is serving as the director of pastoral care at Westminster Canterbury in Richmond, VA.

**JAMES F. BERNHARDT** (M.Div. '88, D.Min. '07) is serving as senior pastor of Wayside Presbyterian Church in Erie, PA.

**MARGRET "MAGGI" HENDERSON** (M.Div.'88; M.C.E.'92) participated in a pulpit exchange with St. Andrews East Parish in Glasgow, Scotland, this summer.

**STEPHEN EMICK** (PSCE'89; UTS '90) celebrated his 20th anniversary of serving as one of the pastors at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown, PA.

**ROBERT "BOB" BRYANT** (M.Div.'89; Ph.D.'00) received the 2016 professor of the year award at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, and the 2016 excellence in teaching award from South Carolina's Independent Colleges and Universities.

## 1990s

**MARY ELLEN VERNON** (M.A.'95) is serving as the faith development program coordinator at Christ Church Episcopal in Greenville, SC.

**LAWRENCE "LARRY" LYON** (M.Div.'98; D.Min.'06) retired as pastor on June 28 from West End Presbyterian Church, North Carolina.

**RONALD HOPKINS** (M.Div.'99; D.Min.'09) retired from First Christian Church in Petersburg, VA.

**RAYMOND "RAY" ROBERTS** (Ph.D.'99) is serving as the pastor of River Road Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA.

## 2000s

**REBEKAH ABEL LAMAR** (M.A.C.E. '02) is associate pastor for Christian formation at Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis, TN.

**ROBERT JOHNSON** (Ph.D.'06) is the pastor at New Hanover Presbyterian Church in Mechanicsville, VA.

**CHRISTINA TUTTEROW** (M.Div.'06; M.A.C.E.'16) is serving as the interim pastor at Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charleston, WV.

**LOUISE BROWNER BLANCHARD** (M.Div.'07) is serving as associate rector at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA.

**APRIL CRANFORD** (M.Div.'07) is the pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waynesboro, VA.

**PEDEN "EMILE" HARLEY** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'07) and his wife, Amy, welcomed their son, Michael Emile in May 2015.

**ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN** (M.Div.'07) and his wife Ginny (M.Div.'08) rejoice in the birth of their second child, Asa Charles.

**MARY ANNE UNDERWOOD WELCH** (M.Div. '08) received the doctor of ministry degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

**CATHERINE HYATT GUZMAN** (M.A.C.E.'09) is serving as the minister of Christian formation at Christ Church Episcopal Church in Glen Allen, VA.

**BRYAN HOVEY** (M.Div.'09) is the transitional pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Mount Holly, NC.

**ELIZABETH LOVELL MILFORD** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'09) has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church in Acworth, GA.

## 2010s

**DAVID CSINOS** (Th.M.'10) is the assistant professor of practical theology at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**RACHEL BUTLER GREINER** (M.Div.'10) and husband, Jay, celebrate the birth of their son, Lane Adam on September 10, 2015.

**JOSHUA ANDRZEJEWSKI** (M.Div.'11) and his wife, Jillian, happily announce the birth of their daughter, Norah Elise.

**KAYE BARROW-ZIGLAR** (M.Div.'11) is pastor at Logan Presbyterian Church in Scott, NC.

**ERIN DUKE MCARDEL** (M.Div.'11) and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their son, Elliot William McArdel, in September 2015.

**SAMUEL "SAM" McFERRAN** (M.Div.'11) is minister of faith formation at First Congregational Church in Washington, DC.

**MIKE WATSON** (M.Div.'11) was married to Melody Joachin on March 5, 2016.

**HOWARD DUDLEY** (M.Div.'12) is serving as head of staff at First Presbyterian Church, Dunn, NC.

**ELIZABETH BOULWARE LANDES** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'12) and her husband rejoice in the birth of their child, Lincoln Jess.

**AMANDA DELL'UOMO NORTH** (M.A.C.E.'13) is the new pastor for faith at Manassas Church of the Brethren in Manassas, VA.

**LISA SALITA** (M.Div.'14) was ordained on March 12, 2016 at Three Chopt Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA.

**THOMAS "TOMMY" TAYLOR** (M.Div.'14) was ordained June 5, 2016 and has accepted a call as pastor to First Presbyterian Church in Seminole, TX.

**CAMERON THOMAS** (M.Div.'14) and his wife, Mary, happily announce the birth of their son, William Perry.

**CHRISTOPHER TWEEL** (M.Div.'14) is serving as the director of education and Christian formation and pastoral assistant at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA.

**CHRISTOPHER "CHRIS" BURTON** (M.Div.'15) and his wife, Brianna, rejoice in the birth of their son, Coltrane J. Burton.

**BENJAMIN "BEN" GARRIS** (M.Div.'15) is serving as the associate pastor for Patuxent Presbyterian Church in California, MD.

**SUZANNE HICKS** (M.Div.'15) is serving as the executive director of Hope for Humanity in South Sudan.

**JAMAL JONES** (M.Div.'15) is the associate student pastor at West End Assembly of God in Richmond, VA.

**MARY PARK** (M.A.C.E.'15) is the director for Christian education at First Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA.

**JOYCE PETTY** (M.Div.'15) was ordained on September 20th at Greater Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC.

**TERESA "TERRI" PRICE** (M.Div.'15) was ordained and installed as pastor at St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC. [Ω](#)

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**Update your contact information.**

Have you moved? Changed your e-mail? Send us your news! Digital photos are welcome!

**Please inform us at:**

Alumni/ae Office  
Union Presbyterian Seminary  
3401 Brook Road  
Richmond, VA 23227

**Or e-mail:**

Director of Alumni Development  
W. Clay Macaulay  
cmacaulay@upsem.edu  
Phone: 804-278-4382

This issue of *Focus* includes information received through September 15, 2016.



## On the Shelf

**JOHN HELGSON** (D.Min.'74), *Freedom and Interim Ministry: 12 Freedoms of the Interim*, Tate Publishing: Mustang, OK.

**PHILIP W. JACOBS** (M.Div.'79), *Joseph the Carpenter: His Portrayal in Literature and Art from the Second to the Ninth Centuries*, Blandford Forum, United Kingdom: DEO Publishing Co., 2016

**W. GLENN KIRKCONNELL** (M.A. '86), *Labor, Property and Profit: How Philosophy Influences American Discussion of Work*, Bowling Green, KY: W. Glenn Kirkconnell.

**WILLIAM B. SWEETSER** (M.Div.'89; Th.M.'90; Ph.D.'00), *A Copious Fountain: A History of Union Presbyterian Seminary 1812-2012*, Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2016.

**DAN GRISWOLD** (M. Div.'91), *Triune Eternality: God's Relationship to Time in the Theology of Karl Barth*, Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2015.

**RUSSELL W. DALTON** (Ed.D.'98), *Children's Bibles in America: A Reception History of the Story of Noah's Ark in US Children's Bibles*, New York, NY: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2015.

**PHILLIP CAMP** (Ph.D.'04), *Living as the Community of God: Moses Speaks to the Church in Deuteronomy*, Rapid City, SD: Crosslink Publishing, 2014.



# In Remembrance

*Well done, good and  
faithful servant.*

Matthew 25:21

## 1930s

**MARGARET TRUESDELL BRINSON** (M.R.E.'37) of Bethune, SC, died March 17, 2016. †

## 1940s

**SAMUEL MILLER HOUCK** (B.D.'40) of Ellijay, GA, died February 29, 2016. †

**BARBARA SWINK ALLEN** (B.R.E.'43) of Sun City, AZ, died April 18, 2016. †

**DAN ELLIOTT GOLDSMITH** (B.D.'44) of Fort Worth, TX, died July 1, 2016. †

**THOMAS C. CLAY** (M.Div.'45) of Roanoke, VA, died July 17, 2015. †

**RUTH HALE WALES** (B.R.E.'45) of Middletown, MD, died July 23, 2015.

**MADELINE HALL PURCELL** (B.R.E.'46) of South Chesterfield, VA, died July 4, 2016. †

**VIRGINIA SIKES HUFFINES** (B.R.E.'47) of Charlotte, NC, died March 25, 2016. †

**FRANCES GILLIS DINKINS** (M.A.'48) of Fayetteville, NC, died October 3, 2015. †

**EMMY LOU CAPPS LEGERTON** (B.R.E.'48) of Black Mountain, NC, died November 23, 2015. †

**ELIZABETH JEANNETTE CURRIE** (M.R.E.'49) of Virginia Beach, VA, died March 4, 2016. †

**ALLIX BLESDOE JAMES** (Th.M.'49; Th.D.'57) of Richmond, VA, died September 26, 2015. †

**JAMES "JIM" LUTHER MAYS** (B.D.'49) of Mechanicsville, VA, died October 29, 2015. †

**R. DAVIS THOMAS** (B.D.'49) of Tallahassee, FL, died August 15, 2016. †

**W. EMORY TRAINHAM** (B.D.'49) of Emerald Isle, NC, died July 14, 2016. †

## 1950s

**ROBERT C. BRADFORD** (B.D.'50) of Virginia Beach, VA, died January 16, 2016. †

**JOHN T. HAYTER** (B.D.'50) of Harrisonburg, VA, died March 10, 2016. †

**ISABEL HOWARD SAMPSON** (B.R.E.'51) of Seminole, FL, died March 13, 2016. †

**MARTHA FARR HAYNES** (B.R.E.'52) of Bowling Green, KY, died May, 2016. †

**COLLIER S. HARVEY** (M.Div.'53) of Harrisonburg, VA, died October 2, 2015. †

**MARGARET KNIGHT HARWELL** (M.A.'53) of Tampa, FL, died August, 2016. †

**DANIEL E. NORMAN** (B.D.'53) of Ocean Isle Beach, NC, died June 12, 2016. †

**SHIRLEY GIBSON BOYD** (B.R.E.'54) of Richmond, VA, died May 10, 2016. †

**JAMES WATT JEFFRIES** (M.Div.'54) of Olathe, KS, died September 11, 2015. †

**FRED C. HOLDER** (B.D.'54) of Montreat, NC, died May 29, 2016. †

**DANIEL "PAT" PATRICK MCGEACHY** of Brentwood, TN, died December 13, 2015. †

**JAMES FRASER MILLER** (B.D.'54) of Greensboro, NC, died May 17, 2016. †

**JUNE M. TAYLOR** (M.R.E.'54) of Myersville, MD, died May 22, 2016. †

**SUSAN YATES WORTON** (PSCE 1953-'54) of Sharon, MA, died September 15, 2015. †

**DOROTHY WILLIAMS CURTIS** (M.R.E.'55) of Saraland, AL, died July 19, 2015. †

**DORIS G. DAVIS** (M.R.E.'55) of Austin, MN, died May 27, 2016. †

**JAMES FREDERICK DICKENSON** (M.Div.'55) of Greenville, SC, died September 7, 2015. †

**EARLE D. ROBERTS** (B.D.'55) of Charlotte, NC, died July 21, 2016. †

**ESTER E. ALBERTSON** (M.R.E.'56) of St. Petersburg, FL, died August 3, 2016. †

**GRACE MAGILL BAKER** (B.R.E.'56) of Columbia, SC, died February 26, 2016. †

**JEWEL BRANDT DAVIS** (B.R.E.'56) of Virginia Beach, VA, died March 15, 2016. †

**ELOISE B. LADD** (B.R.E.'56) of Clarksville, TN, died June 18, 2016. †

**ELIZABETH L. McGEHEE** (M.R.E.'56) of Lake Charles, LA, died February 20, 2016. †

**GEORGE A. WILLIAMS** (M.R.E.'56) of Mechanicsville, VA, died June 7, 2015. †

**JOHN MARSHALL GUTHRIE** (UTS'57-'58) of Madison, IN, died July 17, 2014. †

**T. HARTLEY HALL IV** (M.Div.'57) of Asheville, NC, died August 18, 2016.

**JOHN WILLIAM JOHNSON** (B.D.'57) of Meridianville, AL, died February 15, 2016. †

**B. MADISON CURRIN** (Ph.D.'58) of Pensacola, FL, died January 5, 2016. †

**WALTER R. EARL** (M.Div.'58) of Norfolk, VA, died March 12, 2016. †

**BILLY S. HOWELL** (M.Div.'58) of Davison, NC, died September 4, 2016. †

**MARY ANN SUDDUTH MILLER** (M.A.'58) of Black Mountain, NC, died September 9, 2015. †

**OWEN LENNON NORMENT** (B.D.'58) of Greensboro, NC, died June 26, 2016. †

**WILLIAM J. WRENN** (M.Div.'58) of High Point, NC, died August 16, 2016. †

**LANDIS COTTON GUNN** (M.A.'59) of Knoxville, TN, died January 15, 2016. †

**HOWARD T. WALL** (M.Div.'59) of Rockingham, NC, died September 23, 2015. †

## 1960s

**EVERETT EARL GOURLEY** (M.A.'60) of Charlotte, NC, died July 13, 2016. †

**E. THOMAS MILLER** (B.D.'60) of Davidson, NC, died June 7, 2015. †

**KENNETH B. ORR** (B.D.'60) of Montreat, NC, died July 18, 2016. †

**SANDRA SPENCER JIVIDEN** (M.A.'61) of Black Mountain, NC, died July 4, 2015. †

**ROBERT D. MILLER** (M.Div.'61) of Lake Lure, NC, died May 3, 2016. †

**CHARLES FRED SPEIGHT** (B.D.'61) of Norfolk, VA, died November 27, 2015. †

**TOBY R. FAITH** (M.C.E.'62) of Lafayette, IN, died June 12, 2016. †

**MARY VIRGINIA HENRY** (M.C.E.'62) of Louisville, KY, died August 11, 2015. †

**G. CARSWELL HUGHS** (Th.M.'62) of Knoxville, TN, died May 17, 2016. †

**JAMES N. BIRKITT** (M.A.'63) of Glen Allen, VA, died July 3, 2016. †

**ELIZABETH DICKSON DEGGES** (M.C.E.'63) of Lewisburg, WV, died June 21, 2015. †

**RICHARD C. MASSEY** (M.Div.'64) of Columbia, SC, died May 21, 2016. †

**TED JACKSON PLOTT** (B.D.'66) of Shamokin, PA, died September 2, 2016. †

**ERIC S. RENNE** (M.Div.'66) of Surry, VA, died August 15, 2016. †

**WILLIAM LEONARD THOMAS** (B.D.'66) of Davisboro, GA, died August 21, 2015. †

**J. BRETT FENWICK** (B.D.'68) of San Carlos, CA, died May 23, 2016. †

**ROBERT WAYNE HERRON** (B.D.'68) of Greensboro, NC, died August 2, 2015. †

**JAMES NORWOOD HOLMES** (B.D.'69) of Tampa, FL, died March 3, 2016. †

**AGNES D. KUENTZEL** (M.A.'69) of Lancaster, PA, died August 13, 2016. †

## 1970s

**JAMES STIMSON HAWKINS** (M.Div.'71) of Greensboro, NC, died June 16, 2016. †

**GEORGE E. ORMSBEE** (M.A.'72) of Athens, GA, died July 23, 2016. †

**JACK RAYMORE** (M.Div.'72) of Penhook, VA, died April 4, 2015. †

**VINCENT L. ROTHWELL** (M.A.'72) of Westfield, NY, died June 1, 2016. †

**D. CLYDE BARTGES** (S.T.M.'74) of Midlothian, VA, died May 7, 2016. †

**GLENN LARUE PLOTT** (D.Min.'74) of Toano, VA, died December 12, 2015. †

**JON W. REGEN** (M.Div.'74) of Davidson, NC, died January 24, 2016. †

**ROBERT PAUL WYATT** (D.Min.'74) of Emporia, VA, died June 29, 2016. †

**WILLIAM P. PUTMAN** (M.A.'76) of Fort Benning, GA, died August 31, 2016. †

**HARRY E. JOHNS** (D.Min.'77) of Colonial Heights, VA, died March 3, 2016. †

**DOROTHY H. COWAN** (M.A.'78) of Cincinnati, OH, died February 26, 2016. †

**GENE CARY GEE** (M.Div.'78) of Ruther Glen, VA, died July 21, 2015. †

## 1980s

**CURTIS A. WRIGHT** (M.Div.'80) of Raleigh, NC, died June 19, 2015. †

**ARNOLD B. LOVELL** (D.Min.'81) of Winston-Salem, NC, former visiting professor of evangelism, died July 15, 2016. †

**EUGENIA VARKER MARTIN** (M.A.'82) of Burlington, NC, died February 11, 2016. †

**BILLIE STARR BRIGHTWELL** (M.A.'85) of Lynchburg, VA, died November 4, 2015. †

**MICHAEL R. NEVLING** (D.Min.'85) of Northbrook, IL, died December 4, 2015. †

**JONYRMA R. SINGLETON** (M.Div.'88) of Cleveland, OH, died June 10, 2016. †

## 1990s

**WILETTA B. HEISING** (Th.M.'91) of Williamsburg, VA, died January 28, 2016. †

**IRA D. CONLEY** (Th.M.'95) of Richmond, VA, died July 2016. †

**JOHN E. LEONARD** (D.Min.'99) of Richmond, VA, died July 3, 2015. †

**BRUCE L. ROBINSON** (former Assistant Professor of Church and Society, '69-'73) of Saint Johns, FL, died September 4, 2015. †

**KENNETH B. ORR** (B.D.'60; Th.M.'61) passed on July 18, 2016, after a long courageous battle with cruel Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Orr was president of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now a part of Union Presbyterian Seminary) from 1974-1979. In 1979, he accepted the call to become president of Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, where he served until 1997. Dr. Orr is survived by his wife of sixteen years, Ruth Douglas Currie of Montreat; 3 sons, Kevin, Jeffrey, and Jonathan; and 7 grandchildren from his prior marriage to Janice Jarrett Orr, now deceased.

# Leadership Institute

## Upcoming Christian Education hybrid courses:

- **Aspects of Human Growth and Faith Development** – January 16-February 13, 2017 online, and February 14-16, 2017 on campus in Charlotte
- **Reformed Theology** – April 3-May 1, 2017 online, and May 2-4, 2017 on campus in Richmond

## Upcoming Church Business Administration courses in Charlotte:

- **Managing Strategic Planning Issues** – April 6, 2017
- **Managing Human Resources (Legal)** – April 20, 2017
- **Managing Human Resources (Relational)** – May 4, 2017
- **Managing Communications Issues** – May 18, 2017
- **Stewardship Comes in All Sizes, Shapes, and Colors** – March 20-23, 2017 in Richmond

## Pathways to Learning and Leadership – online courses for CRE training and church member enrichment

- **The Christian Life** – January 10 - February 7, 2017
- **The Mission of the Church** – February 21-March 21, 2017

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**Marilyn Johns** (M.A.C.E.'94)

Director of Program Development  
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- What is evangelism?
- UPSem alums help WVA flood relief effort