

# FOCUS

The magazine of Union Presbyterian Seminary

Summer 2010



A New Vision



### Seminary Celebrates Latest Graduates

Arthur Ross III, chair of the Union Presbyterian Seminary Board of Trustees, was the commencement speaker at both the Charlotte and Richmond graduations. More than 70 degrees were conferred this year.

PHOTOS BY DAVE SWAGER



**On the Cover** – PHOTOS BY DAVE SWAGER, ERIC FUTTERMAN, AND JEREMY CANADA (M.DIV.'10)

## Volume 21      Number 1

*FOCUS is published by the Union Presbyterian Seminary Office of Advancement for alumni, alumnae, and friends of Union Presbyterian Seminary. Third-class postage paid in Richmond, Virginia.*

*Director of Communications: Andrea Wright*

*Art Director: Suzan White*

© 2010 Union Presbyterian Seminary • web site: [www.upsem.edu](http://www.upsem.edu)  
RICHMOND CAMPUS 3401 Brook Road • Richmond, VA 23227 • 800.229.2990 • 804.355.0671 • FAX 804.355.3919  
CHARLOTTE CAMPUS Queens University at Charlotte • 1900 Selwyn Avenue • Charlotte, NC 28274 • 704.337.2450 • FAX 704.337.2451

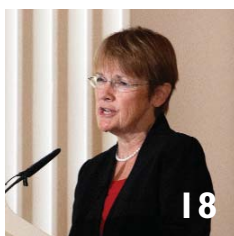
**MISSION:**

*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.*

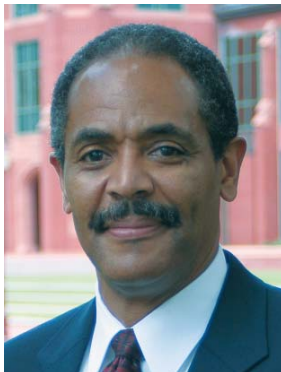
*The seminary's core mission is to participate in the mission of the church by forming and equipping leaders  
for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12).*

*As a theological institution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) standing within the Reformed tradition:  
We confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ; 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 serve as a theological resource for church and society;  
we are the catalyst for the transformation of the church, and through the church, the world.*

**C O N T E N T S**



- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>4</b> A New Vision<br/><i>A message from the president</i></p> <p><b>5</b> On Campus<br/><i>News and happenings</i></p> <p><b>10</b> Campus Notes</p> <p><b>14</b> Ministry in the City<br/><i>Seminary community organizes an urban<br/>ministry initiative to strengthen ties with<br/>local urban ministries.</i></p> | <p><b>18</b> Passing It On<br/><i>Union has a history of excellence in Christian education</i></p> <p><b>20</b> Unexpected Hope<br/><i>Charlotte student John Elam shares the ups and downs<br/>of non-parish supervised ministry</i></p> <p><b>22</b> The Gargoyle Speaks <i>Professor Carson Brisson</i></p> <p><b>24</b> Alumni &amp; Alumnae Notes</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|



**Brian K. Blount**

Dear Friends,

Yesterday morning (June 27, 2010), at Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia, I heard a sermon by our own Ken McFayden, Dean of the Center for Ministry and Leadership Development. Ken talked about vision. His sermon focused on an interrogative theme: “*Are we making a spectacle of ourselves?*” In such a question, spectacle has two very different connotations. First, we can be a spectacle by drawing attention to ourselves. The spectacle people expend great energy taking center stage. On such a grand platform, we can make a name for ourselves. We can also end up acting the fool. Sometimes we take center stage and make fools of ourselves. Sometimes we make fools of ourselves *because* we take center stage.

In his discipleship oriented focus, Ken rather quickly shifted our gaze to a more helpful approach. Instead of *being* a spectacle, we could *become* a spectacle. The spectacle in an eyeglass frame is a lens that refracts light, bending it, redirecting it, reshaping it, so that the person peering through the spectacle can see clearly. In our calling as Christ disciples, we have an opportunity, by the way we live our lives, to become an organic spectacle that allows others to see more clearly how God is operating in the world. Our lives can be living lenses that offer old, and sometimes cynical human eyes, a new and perhaps even transforming way of looking at the world.

Spectacle that we hope to be, we are working hard at Union Presbyterian Seminary to sharpen our discipleship focus so that we can see and share more clearly what we believe God is doing in the world. Indeed, in this *FOCUS* issue, you will read about one of our spectacle ministry endeavors and one of our spectacle people. “A Vision for Ministry in the City” highlights a developing focus on urban ministry. God is on the move in the city; we aim to follow. The 2010 Educator of the Year article highlights Ginny Holderness as someone who represents both the past legacy and the future hope for our work in Christian Education.

There are, of course, many other Union Presbyterian spectacles serving in the U.S. and across the world. You may be one. Our calling is a clarifying one; to do the work of theological education in such a way that our students and those whom they serve can more clearly envision God at work. In this issue, we celebrate persons who have so turned themselves into living lenses. And through telling their stories, we encourage you to follow their lead. Make a spectacle of yourself!

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Brian'.

Brian K. Blount  
President

## ON CAMPUS

**A New Name. A New Creation.**

*Union Presbyterian Seminary Unveils New Logo and Assumes New Name*

In July, Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Union-PSCE), one of the theological seminaries of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., officially changes its name to Union Presbyterian Seminary.

The name reflects a new vision for the future and signifies a new creation that God is forming out of the historic seminary. The transformation that the new name embodies has been in the works since 2007 and was officially approved by the Board of Trustees in February 2009 when they unanimously accepted a new strategic plan.

*“Our new name, Union Presbyterian Seminary, is a name that remembers the past but also foresees the future. Union reminds us of the united efforts of the Virginia and North Carolina Synods that established and nurtured the seminary. Union envisions a time when we are able to unite the work of the Charlotte campus, the Extended Campus Program, and the Richmond campus into a creative and flexible approach to theological education that will nurture future church leaders for generations to come. For nearly 200 years we have cultivated gifts of discernment, proclamation and teaching in those whom God has called to ministry. We now set our eyes on the next 200 years with a new name that reminds us of our strong heritage even as we contemplate our future work in the church and the world.”* said **President Brian Blount**.

*“It’s important to have a new name to reflect our new vision,”* said **Ginny Holderness**, member of the Union Presbyterian Board of Trustees, *“As a PSCE alumna, I am pleased that the name references the first word of the names of the former schools — Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education.”*

As part of the new identity, Union Presbyterian Seminary unveils a new logo, launches its new website (<http://www.upsem.edu>) and begins using new e-mail addresses to reflect the name change and renewed direction.

From its beginning at Hampden-Sydney College in 1812, Union Theological Seminary (UTS) sustained the intention of its founders to provide education for Christian ministry that is scholarly, pastoral, and engaged with contemporary life. In 1898 UTS moved from Hampden-Sydney to Richmond, Va, and in 1914 established the Assembly’s Training School (ATS) for Lay Workers, renamed the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in 1959. In 1997 the two institutions united, creating Union-PSCE. Now Union Presbyterian Seminary continues this mission and is dedicated to equipping Christian leaders to be catalysts for the transformation of the church, and through the church, the world.  $\Omega$

**New Director of Admissions Hired**

copy to come

## Resources for the Church

### Union Sunday Study Series Launches in the Fall



Beginning this fall, Union Presbyterian Seminary will launch Union Sunday, an innovative video curriculum created by faculty members that is available online or on DVD to engage with church study groups across the country.

**President Brian Blount** will kick off the first 12-week series with a study on Revelation beginning September 12. A renowned scholar on the book of Revelation, Dr. Blount is the author of the recent Commentary Revelation for Westminster John Knox Press's New Testament Library commentary series. His publication has been selected as the top reference book of 2009 by the Academy of Parish Clergy.

Union Sunday was created to provide spiritual nurturing to churches, especially churches without a called pastor. We are sharing our biblical and theological knowledge, grounded in the reformed tradition, with Sunday school classrooms, women's bible

study groups and youth. We recognize that forming future leaders not only means training strong pastors and Christian educators, but also training people in the pews — acknowledging the priesthood for all.

Affirming our work of Forming Leaders. Transforming the Church, the Union Sunday Study Series is appropriate for Adult Sunday School, Youth Groups, Presbyterian Women, and Personal Bible Study.

Each 12-week series will offer 30 minutes of teaching and 15 minutes of questions and answers from the previous week's lesson. Students will be able to ask questions and make comments through a blog format. Each year two different series will be offered in the fall and spring. Available to download weekly from UPSeM's website or on DVD, the cost of a subscription/contribution is \$200 per series. For churches with less than 100 members, the subscription is \$100.

Go to [www.regonline.com/unionsunday](http://www.regonline.com/unionsunday) to place an order or to find out more. Ω

### New Blog Provides Resources to Connect Theology and Film



Coming to a church fellowship hall near you. *"The Blind Side."* *"Freedom Writers."* *"The Village."* *"Under the Tuscan Sun."* These Hollywood blockbusters and many more are part of Union Presbyterian Seminary's new online resource for ministry on Theology and Film.

Theology and Film will provide a host of resources for linking stories and themes in films to the Biblical story and theological reflection. For each film, there is a faith review, questions, and theological themes to spark discussions. There is also a blog component to allow users to interact with the topics.

Resources for the website grew out of a UPSeM course, "Film and Theology," taught on the Charlotte campus by **Dr. Pamela Mitchell-Legg**, Sarah Belk Gambrell Professor of Christian Education. Students

crafted learning resources that could be used for teaching in the church. The project provides a venue to share resources for ministry created by the seminary's Christian education faculty and students with congregations.

*"Movies can become partners in theological conversation for persons of faith. Not every movie is intentionally and explicitly communicating something about the Christian gospel, but many of the questions with which movies wrestle are questions with which persons of faith wrestle, and thus movies can become partners in conversation around these questions,"* explains Mitchell-Legg.

Continuing support and assistance for this blog comes from staff at the William Smith Morton Library on the Richmond campus.

Church groups are invited to pop some popcorn, enjoy a DVD, and let the discussions begin. You will find it at <http://thefilm.wordpress.com/> Ω

## New Online Resource for Educational Ministry

In October, Union-PSCE launched a new website that offers a host of online resources for using children's and adolescent literature in educational ministry.

What do a book about sharks, a children's biography of John Calvin, and a story of a dump truck have in common? A new website, **Children's Literature: A Resource for Ministry** (<http://story-path.wordpress.com/>), says all three provide a way to link to the Biblical story and our ongoing theological reflection. The idea for the online resource grew out of a course on *Using Children's and Adolescent Literature in the Church* offered at the seminary in Charlotte. Pamela Mitchell-Legg, Sarah Belk Gambrell Professor of Christian Education, and Rebecca Davis, adjunct professor of Christian education, who taught this course hope that sharing their students' work, will start a conversation about

the use of children's books with all ages in the church. This new online resource shares book reviews, lesson plans, and ideas for ministry related to children's and adolescent literature and connects the work done by students in the course with the larger church.

With support from the William Smith Morton Library and the Center for Ministry and Leadership Development at Union Presbyterian Seminary, this website is a cooperative effort. Please visit the blog and join in what we hope will be a lively conversation among students, faculty, clergy and laypeople about the rich resource for ministry that children's literature provides. Ω



## Exploring Intersection of Worship Practices in Daily Lives



**Paul Galbreath**, professor of worship and preaching at Union Presbyterian Seminary, received a grant from the Louisville Institute to develop liturgical resources and worship materials on Ecology and Liturgy with congregations in the Pacific Northwest. His work will explore how worship practices shape and intersect with our daily

lives. To be published for use throughout the church, the resources will focus on the ways that the liturgy can support practices of green living and of caring for the earth as acts of faith.

*"This topic is of utmost importance as North American culture wrestles with identifying ways to respond to issues of global warming and sustainability. In conversation and partnership with the broader culture on this critical issue, congregations have an opportunity to provide leadership rooted in their own biblical and theological convictions,"* said Galbreath.

Galbreath's research and teaching focuses on the role of Word and Sacrament in shaping and forming the character and ethical choices of Christian communities.

The mission of The Louisville Institute is to enrich the religious life of American Christians and to encourage the revitalization of their institutions, by bringing together those who lead religious institutions with those who study them, so that the work of each might inform and strengthen the other. Ω

---

## Revisoning Historical Theology



Sprunt Lecturer Margaret Miles, emerita professor of historical theology at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, presented four lectures at the May event. An author and scholar, Dr. Miles has lectured widely in the United States and Europe on patristic theology, asceticism, religion and art, gender theory, and film and literary criticism. Among her awards are a Guggenheim Fellowship, a fellowship at the Rockefeller Study and Conference Center, Bellagio, Italy, and a Henry Luce III Fellow in Theology grant.

Ed McLeod, Jr. (D.Min.'85) was the preacher. A time for alumni/ae to gather for educational and spiritual renewal and fellowship, the Sprunt Lectures included an alumni/ae picnic on the quad and time for class reunions.

---


## Charlotte Faculty Named Greninger Scholar

Affiliate Professor of Supervised Ministry at Union-PSCE at Charlotte, Sue Setzer, has been named the 2010-2011 Greninger Scholar by the Board of Trustees of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC.

The Greninger Scholars program was established by Dr. Edwin T. and Mrs. Joan Greninger to provide a pastor or associate in ministry a period of time for individual study and renewal and to provide an opportunity for the Scholar to interact with the seminary community.

Nominations are submitted by the bishops in the ELCA to recognize outstanding people doing min-

istry. Candidates have to demonstrate excellence in ministry, the ability to relate well with seminarians and faculty, and profess a desire for further study and publication. As a Greninger Scholar, Ms. Setzer will be invited to the campus of LTSS for a week of study and research. She will be invited to lead worship there and be available for conversation with faculty and students.


*"We take enormous pride in Sue's accomplishments here and are so grateful for her many contributions to our seminary's work. We are also delighted that others have now recognized her excellence in ministry,"* says Tom Currie, Dean of Union-PSCE at Charlotte. 

## Student Awarded Prestigious National Fellowship

Erica E. Kierulf, a doctoral student at Union-PSCE, has been selected to receive a 2010 Fund for Theological Education (FTE) North American Doctoral Fellowship, a competitive national award.

FTE is an ecumenical nonprofit organization that advocates for excellence and diversity in pastoral ministry and theological scholarship. It supports rising scholars from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups who plan to teach religion, theology and biblical studies in theological schools and universities. FTE North American Doctoral Fellowships foster excellence by accelerating the successful completion of

Ph.D. degrees among African-American, Asian-American, American Indian and Hispanic students and by providing them with professional development opportunities.

FTE supports the next generation of leaders among pastors and scholars, annually awarding \$1.5 million in fellowships and offering a network of support to gifted young people from all denominations and racial/ethnic backgrounds. Since 1954, FTE has awarded more than 6,000 fellowships; its alumni serve congregations, schools and communities around the world. 



## Estelle Rountree McCarthy (1930-2010)

Estelle Rountree McCarthy, who devoted much of her life to educational ministries in the church, died Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010 at the age of 79. Professor Emerita of Christian Education at Union-PSCE, Mrs. McCarthy is remembered by her colleagues and former students as a teacher, writer, mentor, and friend.

She began her career as a public school teacher of music and English in Bay Minette, AL, after earning her B.A. at Judson College in Marion, AL. In 1956, she earned a masters degree in Christian education from the Assembly's Training School (ATS) for Lay Workers, later renamed the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. In subsequent years, she served as a church educator in many capacities, including on Presbytery staff, in campus ministry and in theological education.

Mrs. McCarthy served from 1985-1996 as associate professor of Christian education at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. Throughout her career, Mrs. McCarthy was in demand as a speaker and teacher on Christian education across the nation at every level of the church's life.

A Certified Church Educator in the PCUSA, Mrs. McCarthy received The Margaret Walker Bowen Award for Distinguished Service in Christian Education granted by St. Andrews Presbyterian College in 1979 and Educator of the Year by the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators in 1980.

Recently she was honored by The Resource Center of metro Richmond for distinguished leadership in the ministry of Christian education.

The ministry of education in churches across this country and beyond is stronger because of the hundreds of students taught through the years by Estelle Rountree McCarthy. She was a strong supporter of Union-PSCE and her frequent presence on campus will be sorely missed.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Estelle Rountree McCarthy Scholarship at Union Presbyterian Seminary, 3401 Brook Rd., Richmond, VA 23227.  $\Omega$



## Pete Prosser Remembered



William "Pete" Prosser, who served as Union-PSCE's Vice President of Administration and Treasurer from 1995-2004, died on May 19, 2010. His eight-year tenure at the seminary capped a 40-year career in accounting and financial management.

During his time at Union-PSCE, the \$13 million construction project for a new library was completed. And Union-PSCE successfully launched an extension campus in Charlotte, NC, with Pete to help the seminary manage associated financial challenges.

At his retirement in 2004, then Chair of the Board of Trustees Jane Rourk said, "*Pete has used financial management skills to support the caring ministry of the PC(USA) and the mission of Union-PSCE. His work has been a form of ministry, which is consistent with our church's Reformed understanding of vocation as a calling by God.*"

Pete was predeceased by his wife, Sue, in January 2009. He is survived by two daughters and their families.  $\Omega$



*E. Carson Brisson*



*Katie Geneva Cannon*



*John Carroll*



*Dawn DeVries*



*Frances Taylor Gench*



*S. Dean McBride*



*Kenneth J. McFayden*

**Katie Geneva Cannon**, Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics, is one of twelve theologians chosen to participate in a summer workshop, Writing Theology, at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, NJ. The intense three-week seminar will be led by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Marilynne Robinson. The Center of Theological Inquiry is an independent, ecumenical institution, fostering fresh thinking on the truth of God's love and concern for the world. It welcomes outstanding scholars from around the world.

**E. Carson Brisson**, associate professor of biblical languages and associate dean for academic programs, led the annual church-wide spiritual enrichment retreat at First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC, and preached in the Sunday morning worship services. He presented three lectures at Westminster Canterbury in Richmond on how selected narratives in the Torah are employed in New Testament writings and presented a series of studies, "Biblical Landscapes" at First Presbyterian Church in Richmond. Brisson also led a weekend Bible study retreat

for White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC.

**John Carroll** completes ten and a half years of service as academic dean for the Richmond campus at the end of the current school year.

He will return to full-time teaching as Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament. Carroll taught a class on "Luke's Gospel as Challenge and Resource for Faithful Christian Living Today" at First Presbyterian Church in Richmond; spoke on "Soup with Samaritans?" at the Lenten series at Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond; and with Ph.D. student Amanda Miller team-taught two courses at Derbyshire Baptist Church in Richmond. He also concludes this spring a term as secretary of the Board of Directors for the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra, for which he has been principal trombonist for the last six years.

**Leland Deeds**, librarian for academic computing support, was selected to participate in a colloquy on the role of Theological School

Librarians organized by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning. The Wabash Center is funded by the Lilly Endowment to encourage better teaching and learning throughout theological education.

**Dawn DeVries**, John Newton Thomas Professor of Systematic Theology, was invited to participate in a Vatican symposium in Rome to discuss achievements made in ecumenical dialogue and to discuss possibilities for the future of work for Christian unity. She was also appointed to serve on The General Assembly Special Committee on Correcting Translation Problems of the Heidelberg Catechism.

**Paul Galbreath** spoke at the Kittye Susan Trent Symposium at Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA. He wrote, "Between Form and Freedom: The History of the Collect in the Reformed Tradition" published in *The Collect in the Churches of the Reformation* by SCM Press.

**Frances Taylor Gench** was the keynote speaker and preacher for the Annual Meeting of the Association of

### Skreslet Named Academic Dean in Richmond



*Stan Skreslet*

**Stanley Skreslet**, F. S. Royster Professor of Christian Mission, will serve as dean of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond beginning July 1, 2010.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, Skreslet formerly served on the faculty of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt for ten years. His interests include the history and theology of Christian mission, Islam, and Orthodox Christianity, especially in the Middle East.

Skreslet was the inaugural lecturer in the Thomas White Currie, Jr., Mission Lectureship Series at Union Presbyterian at Charlotte in February. He preached, taught classes and addressed a group of pastors on "What's New in World Mission? Implications for Congregations." Ω

Executive Presbyters (PCUSA) in Minneapolis, MN. She preached at the ordinations of **Keith Benze** (M.Div.'09) at First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC, and of **Jenny McDevitt** (M.Div.'09) at First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, MI. She made a presentation on "Arguing about Scripture" for Tropical Florida Presbytery and led a Christian Education Day Retreat for Western Carolina Presbytery. She was the preacher and keynote speaker for the Mullin Forum at First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, NC. Gench serves as Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation

**S. Dean McBride**, professor emeritus of Hebrew and Old Testament interpretation, taught a course for Rappahannock Community College on "The Archaeology of Early Jewish and Christian Worship." He delivered the keynote address, "Theocracy and Its Discontents: Biblical Perspectives on the Mediated Rule of God," for a symposium in honor of retiring Professor Paul D. Hanson, at Harvard Divinity School. He co-authored, with fellow emeritus professor **James L. Mays**, an introductory tribute essay for a volume honoring a former student, Professor David L. Petersen of Emory University and wrote, "Jeremiah and the Levitical Priests of Anathoth," published in *Thus Says the LORD: Essays on the Former and Latter Prophets in Honor of Robert R. Wilson* by T&T Clark.

**Kenneth J. McFayden**, dean and professor of ministry and leadership development, led a retreat on leadership for pastors and educators from the Presbytery of New Hope and offered an on-line continuing education event on Strategic Leadership for a Change. He co-directed the Trent Symposium for Newly Ordained Ministers at Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA, and participated in the Hope in the Cities' Metropolitan Richmond Day 2009 in Richmond, VA. McFayden served as the seminary's institutional representative at the meeting of the Committee on Theological Education of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in San Anselmo, CA, and participated in faculty online teaching workshops at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. His article, "The Art of Harmonizing a Staff: Moving from Notes of Dissonance to Notes of Consonance," was published in the *NACBA Ledger*, a journal of the National Association of Church Business Administration. While attending the meeting of the Interim Ministry Consortium of the PC(USA), he was elected to a three-year term on the coordinating team of the consortium.

**Andreas Schuele**, Aubrey Lee Brooks Professor of Biblical Theology, has been named to the Hermeneia editorial board. One of the premier resources for biblical interpretation, the Hermeneia series is designed for the serious student of the Bible. The commentary series is based upon the interpretation of the original texts of the biblical books and other literature closely related to the Bible.

## Blount's Book Receives Distinction



Brian Blount

The Commentary *Revelation* written by Union Presbyterian Seminary President **Brian Blount** has been selected as the top reference book of the year by the Academy of Parish Clergy (APC) for their annual awards program. *Revelation* is part of Westminster John Knox Press's New Testament Library commentary series.

Blount's book was one of the Top Ten Books for Parish Ministry published in 2009 named by the APC for their excellence and newness of subject, and their appropriateness for the spiritual growth, academic excellence, and development of the art, practice, and skills of congregational leadership.

"Blount's commentary provides a sure and confident guide through the difficult and sometimes troubling passages, seeing Revelation as a prophetic intervention and at the same time an awe-inspiring swirl of frightening violence and breathtaking hope," wrote the editors of Westminster John Knox Press.

*The Ten Commandments* by **Patrick D. Miller** (B.D.'59) also made the Top Ten List. A former professor and alumnus of Union Theological Seminary (now Union Presbyterian Seminary), Dr. Miller is Professor of Old Testament Theology Emeritus at Princeton Theological Seminary. He is the author of numerous books, an editor of the Westminster Bible Companion series, and served as editor of WJK's Theology Today for 20 years.

The awards were presented at the Annual Conference of the Academy in April 2010. Ω

**Carol Schnabl Schweitzer** preached and led worship at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Richmond, VA. She led a retreat at Laurel Ridge, NC, for a Rehoboth group of Christian educators on changing family dynamics and the implications for educational ministry. She preached and led worship at Messiah Lutheran Church in Mechanicsville, VA.

Schweitzer is associate professor of pastoral care.

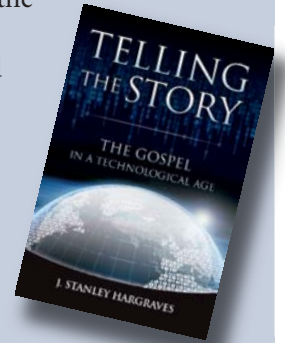
**Richard Wong** joined the staff as the new Vice-President of Advancement in January 2010. He previously served as a nonprofit consultant and was Chief Executive Officer for Gifts In Kind International in Alexandria, VA. Richard is also an ordained elder of the PCUSA.

## Valeri's Book Addresses Morality and the Marketplace



Mark Valeri

In the current economy still reeling from one of the worst meltdowns in U.S. history, Professor of Church History **Mark Valeri's** latest book to be published in June sheds new light on the history behind the continuing American dilemma over morality and the marketplace.



Valeri's book, *Heavenly Merchandize: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Puritan America* published by Princeton University Press, provides a fascinating glimpse into the commercial culture in Puritan America through the eyes of four generations of Boston merchants. Valeri reveals how the Puritan understanding of moral conviction, discipline and providence influenced their business practices.

*"Heavenly Merchandize is a compelling original exploration of moral conviction and commercial culture in early New England. Boldly challenging the view that the demise of piety was a condition for the rise of opportunistic market behavior, ... Valeri discloses a commercial community that was intent upon righteous trading and pious living,"* wrote Cathy Matson of the University of Delaware.

Mark Valeri is the E.T. Thompson Professor of Church History at Union Presbyterian Seminary. His books include *Law and Providence in Joseph Bellamy's New England: The Origins of the New Divinity in Revolutionary America* and *The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Volume 17: Sermons and Discourses, 1730-1733.* Ω



Carol Schnabl Schweitzer



Karen-Marie Yust



Beverly Zink-Sawyer

**Karen-Marie Yust**, associate professor of Christian education transported five students to the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators conference in Nashville, TN, and met with alumni/ae, prospective students, and candidates for the Christian education/Asian American Ministries Center faculty position. She led a leadership retreat on "Celebrating and Affirming Diversity in God's Realm,"

and preached at St. John's United Church of Christ (Richmond). She also wrote curriculum for and led children's and youth/adult education series on diversity and faith at St. John's. She led an adult education forum on spirituality at Ashland Presbyterian Church in Ashland, VA, and participated in The Association of Theological Schools "Mid-Career Faculty" conference in Pittsburgh. Yust consulted with Faith Alive curriculum editors on new resources in development and taught "Faith Formation &

Christian Living" for the United Methodist Church's certification program in Outdoor Ministries.

**Beverly Zink-Sawyer**, Samuel W. Newell, Jr., Professor of Preaching and Worship, preached at Westminster Presbyterian Church (Charlottesville, VA); Salisbury Presbyterian Church (Salisbury, VA); Ginter Park Presbyterian Church (Richmond, VA); and South Hill (VA) Presbyterian Church for the installation of **Sandra Libhart** (M.Div.'06) as pastor. Zink-Sawyer con-

tributed entries on ten American women to *The Westminster Handbook to Women in American Religious History* published by Westminster John Knox Press and wrote the essay on "Women's Preaching" for *The New Interpreter's Handbook of Preaching* (Abingdon Press). She was the preacher and worship leader for the annual gathering of the Presbyterian College Chaplains' Association and lectured for the Peace Forum of Ginter Park Presbyterian Church on "Presbyterian Women and Social Reform." Ω

## Telling the Story in a Technological World



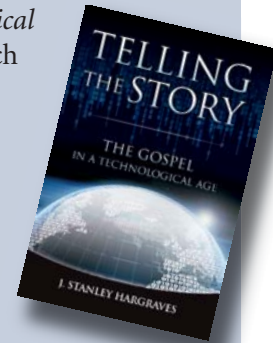
Stan Hargrave

At the Center for Ministry and Leadership Development (CMLD) at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Director of Program Development **Stan Hargraves** is merging the worlds of technology and ministry to help leaders in the church make sense of how to effectively employ the latest tools in technology for communicating the gospel.

In his new book, *Telling the Story: The Gospel in a Technological Age*, published by Smyth & Helwys, Hargraves explores ways in which the story has been told over the ages and suggests biblical and theological themes related to the use of technology for communicating the gospel today. He addresses important questions: What challenges does this technological age bring to the proclamation of the gospel? What can the traditions of the church teach us about effectively using new communication tools? How can the gospel be communicated most effectively in this technological age?

*“Story is the way the human brain is wired to remember. From the Gutenberg Bible to Kindle, the story has found a way to be stored, but it always has required someone to tell it. Stan Hargraves reminds us that our task as Christians in this age is still to tell the story and that it can be told with relevance and power,”* adds David McAllister-Wilson, president of Wesley Theological Seminary.

Hargraves led a seminar to examine these questions in April at The Center for Ministry and Leadership Development on Sharing the Gospel in a Technological Age. Ω



## Professor's New Book Provides Insight Into Psychoanalytical Texts

**Carol Schweitzer's** new book, *The Stranger's Voice*, takes a close look at some of Julia Kristeva's psychoanalytic texts that examine the themes of women, religion, and their struggles with depression and other issues.

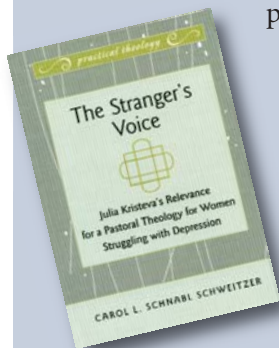
In a time when every segment of society is faced with concerns and constraints that have never before been present, women are particularly taxed. During her decade in parish ministry and dealing with women in emotional peril, Schweitzer saw the true relevance of Julia Kristeva's thoughts for pastoral theology. Through her book, Schweitzer hopes to provide a better understanding of why many women struggle with depression, describe the situation of Christian women, suggest possible solutions, and help those who provide counseling to these women.

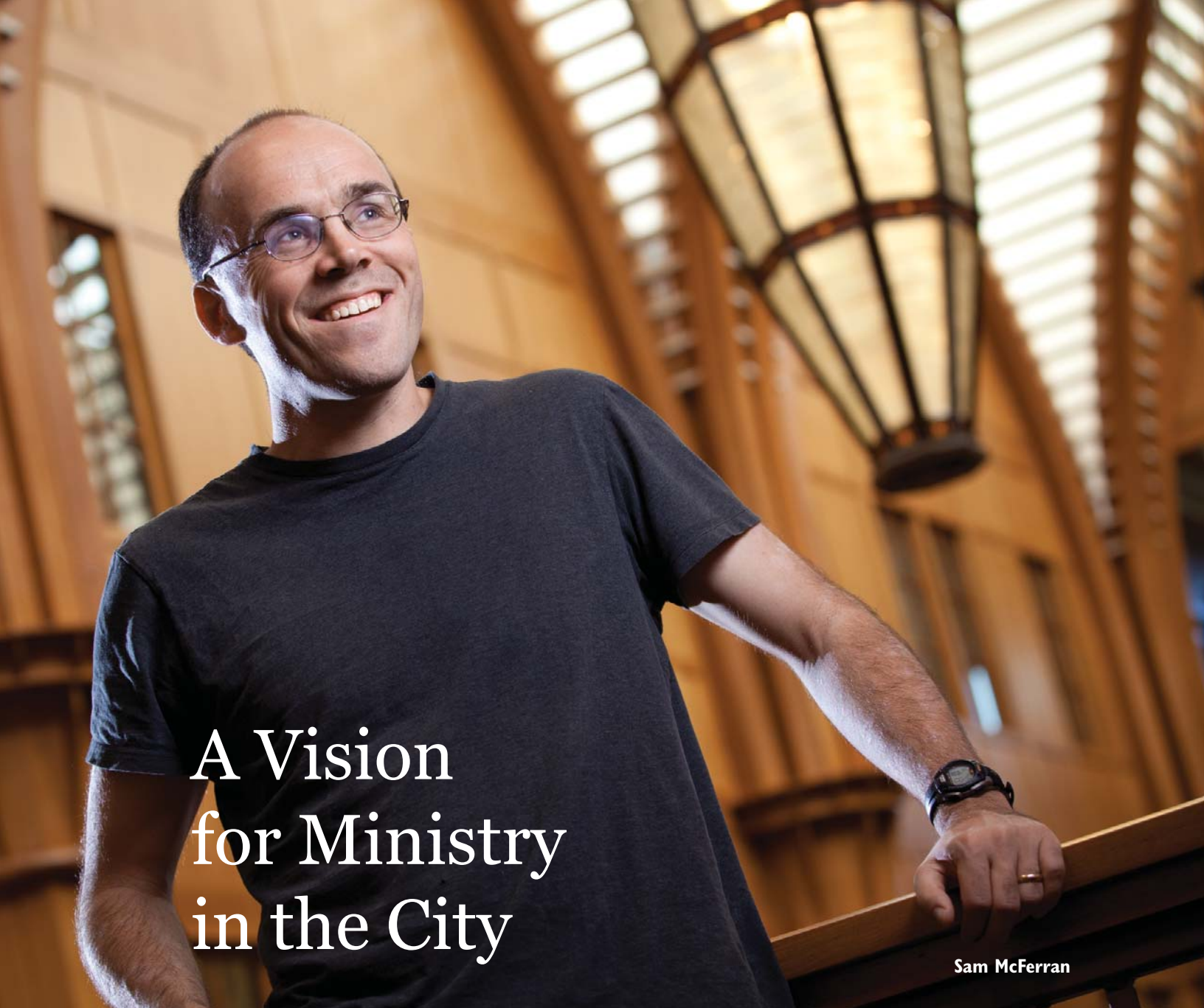
Schweitzer describes a pastoral counseling relationship as one in which “[w]e represent our suffering in words to one who listens in suffering and are assured in faith that there is above all a God who listens and speaks to us because our suffering has already been shared by Christ. This is what makes suffering sovereign as well as sacred according to Kristeva. It is also what makes the search for self in the context of pastoral counseling a sacramental endeavor.”

Carol L. Schnabl Schweitzer is associate professor of pastoral care at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. Schweitzer's main interests include pastoral theology and the psychology of religion. She has experience as a pastoral counselor and family therapist and an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Ω



Carol Schnabl  
Schweitzer





# A Vision for Ministry in the City

Sam McFerran

PHOTOS BY ELAINE ODELL

## *An Urban Ministry Initiative Takes Root in Richmond*

by Claire Mills

14

An advocate for homeless children, M.Div. student **Katherine Peiper**, recognizes the faces of children who have been traumatized by the crushing cycle of homelessness. In her work as services coordinator for these children in a transitional program for single mothers, she helps care for them by referring them to services for special needs. She also teaches parenting classes and fosters positive parent/ peer programming for all children living in the shelter.

*"I feel called to a ministry that calls me into the world to love and serve my neighbors, perhaps in a non-traditional setting,"* says Peiper.

Peiper is one of a group of students, professors, and staff on campus who organized an urban ministry initiative this spring to strengthen ties between students and urban ministries in the community.



*“Many people feel that the future of the mainline church must become much more adept in engaging our neighbor in this growingly pluralistic world, not only because it's theologically right, but because it's how the church will maintain its relevance to society.”*

Sam McFerran, M.Div. student

*“We live in Ginter Park, a diverse neighborhood in Richmond that provides us with opportunities for hospitality. We also have many Union seminarians who do internships in urban ministry or diverse settings, but we would like to do a better job of bringing their experiences into the life of the community”,* says **Sam McFerran**, M.Div. student who is helping to coordinate the events.

*“Many people feel that the future of the mainline church must become much more adept in engaging our neighbor in this growingly pluralistic world, not only because it's theologically right, but because it's how the church will maintain its relevance to society,”* explains McFerran.

The series of events for the new initiative kicked off in March to discuss what it means to be a member of a community, how to demonstrate radical hospitality and to explore whether we have an obligation as a seminary to try to resemble the “Beloved Community.” Representatives from faith based non-profits in Richmond were invited to share information about their work at a lunch on April 8— to connect students with opportunities for ministry in the city.

The events included:

- A forum on April 7, “Theology On The Ground: Three Ministers Share Their Stories And Insight On How The Church Can Be A Catalyst of Hope, Transformation and Community Building in Our Cities,”
- A film series on March 18, April 5, and April 12 to address issues central to urban ministry and engage in a dialogue about how we can be better neighbors to one another and to our communities.
- A chapel service on April 8 to affirm God's love and care for all who live in the city.
- A luncheon on April 8 where leaders from urban ministries in Richmond met with students, faculty, staff, and neighbors to discuss the different ways God is working through ministry to serve the people of Richmond.

Momentum from the discussions this spring led to the creation of an Urban Ministry Course to be taught in Fall 2010 by Professor **Sam Roberts**, Anne Borden and E. Hervey Evans Professor of Theology and Ethics.

(Above) Participating in the forum was The Rev. Dr. Roger Gench, senior pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC., and The Rev. Dr. Anthony Hunt, superintendent in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church, and leader of Hope for the City, the conference's strategic plan for ministry in Baltimore, and The Rev. Ben Campbell, executive director of Richmond Hill in Richmond, VA.



Jason Callahan



Erin McArdel

*Focus editors asked some of the students on the urban ministry team about this new initiative. Katherine Peiper, Jason Callahan, Erin McArdel and Sam McFerran are all M.Div. students. Here's what they are saying.*

**Why are you interested in participating in this urban ministry initiative?**

**Katherine:** I am extremely interested in experiencing the link between the ministry I am studying to partake in and the community at large. Beyond my job in homeless service prevention, I'm extremely interested in having the conversation begin and sustain regarding what hospitality toward the greater community really entails.

*"I hope that this forum will shed light on the truth of what it means to be urban and what urban ministry is, because all of these issues are close to our hearts and essential parts of being a Christian. "*

Jason Callahan, M.Div. student

**Jason:** It is important for me to be a part of urban ministry because I am a product of an urban environment. So often we say the word "urban" and subconsciously think it equals "black." Being a black man, I see the negative responses from so many around that automatically think urban ministry doesn't apply to them because they aren't in the

minority. I hope that this forum will shed light on the truth of what it means to be urban and what urban ministry is, because all of these issues are close to our hearts and essential parts of being a Christian.

**Why do you think engaging our neighbor in this growingly pluralistic world is an important experience for seminary students?**

**Erin:** Experiences of diversity in community ministry are emblems of the Kingdom. I remember one time while worshiping in an urban church, I looked around to see people of varying ethnicities and social class around me, including a few homeless people. Everyone, in that moment was completely united in singing the words, "Jesus Christ, yesterday, today and forever," and it was beautifully touching. I realized that in that moment, I was experiencing true Kingdom living.

**Could you explain the focus of the urban ministry initiatives?**

**Sam:** In our conversations, we want to begin with broad arching narratives where we can tackle the theological and ethical imperatives that underlie urban ministry. Because this is the beginning, we decided on the broader narratives and will find opportunities to address specific issues later.





Katherine Peiper



Questions were open to the audience

*“My hope is that we—the Union Presbyterian community, will learn how to be more present, how to better respond to the need, how to be a witness for the Church in the community, and how to transform and be transformed as we reach out in love. ”*

Erin McArdel, M.Div. student

**What do you hope will come out of the urban ministry conversations?**

**Erin:** I hope that the initiatives will begin the conversation on our campus about how and why we should live out our faith authentically in the urban environment in which we are situated. It is so easy to get caught up in the academics of seminary and ignore the ample opportunities to do ministry in our own backyard. My hope is that we—the Union Presbyterian community, will learn how to be more present, how to better respond to the need, how to be a witness for the Church in the community, and how to transform and be transformed as we reach out in love.

**How do you think experience in bridge building to ministries in the community enhances the preparation for ministry in seminary?**

**Jason:** Having a direct connection to ministries in the community will serve seminarians greatly and is essential in preparing to serve any congregation. Local ministries in the community are experts in specific areas, have an ongoing and ever-evolving connection to these areas of ministry, and can offer alter-

native perspectives needed in the learning process.

**Sam:** We believe that it is better to engage in these issues now while we are in seminary so that when we go out into the world we're prepared, equipped, and empowered to minister to communities in need, and to engage our neighbor. What we have planned this spring is an opening act to more conversations. Hopefully, it will help build the community, the seminary, the city, and the church. Ω

# Passing It On

## *Generations of Teaching Disciples*



*The latest in a long line of Christian educators from Union Presbyterian Seminary recognized by APCE for outstanding leadership, Ginny Ward Holderness is named 2011 Educator of the Year*

When **Ginny Holderness** earned a degree in Christian education from PSCE in 1971, she embarked on a journey in teaching ministry—a natural next step for a young woman who loved the Presbyterian Church and had just earned an undergraduate degree in Christian education from Westminster College.

Her path led many places in educational ministries from director of Christian education for Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, AR, to her current position as consultant in Christian education at First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC.

Most recently, Holderness, a Presbyterian Church educator for nearly 40 years, was named by the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) as the 2011 Educator of the Year.

An author, certified Christian educator, consultant, and member of Union Presbyterian Seminary's Board of Trustees, Holderness has been recognized for her many contributions and leadership in Christian education. In addition to her service on the Union Board of Trustees,

Holderness has been a visiting faculty member for the Extended Campus Program, taught continuing education courses, was a member of the Presidential Search Committee, and moderated the seminary's Christian Education Task Force.

*"Knowing that God called me to educational ministries is confirmed by the fact that 2011 will be my 40th year. Unbelievable. I still love it. I still have passion for ministry with youth and young adults,"* remarked Holderness.

*"Ginny has a wealth of wisdom to share about educational ministries with youth and young adults and the need for effective leadership in a changing church,"* said Union President Brian Blount. *"She has been a trusted guide to me and to the Christian Education Task Force as we honor our Christian education tradition at Union and shape a course for the future."*

As the recipient of this award, Holderness is following in the footsteps of teaching disciples from Union Presbyterian Seminary (formerly Union-PSCE) who have gone before.

Ginny Ward Holderness (above) gave the 2009 commencement address on the Richmond campus

In the past 33 years, 14 alumni/ae or professors from Union have been named APCE Educators of the Year! The number chosen is a testament to our strong tradition of forming and equipping educators for the church and an affirmation of their call to teaching ministries.

Holderness is joined on the board of trustees by two former Educators of the Year. "A strong advocate for educators and for educational ministry," **Joyce MacKichan Walker** (M.A.'79) was named in 2008. The Rev. **Don Griggs**, a retired PSCE professor and his wife, Pat, were together selected in 1993. The Griggs dynamic duo is known for more than 30 years of educational leadership in the church and many publications published by Abingdon Press.

*"It is humbling and such an honor to be named Educator of the Year by a group that I hold in such high esteem, the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators,"* said Holderness. *"It's even more humbling when I look at the names of former Educators of the Year: mentors who've shaped me, like Sara Little, David Ng, Glenn Bannerman, and Don and Pat Griggs."*

*We celebrate the APCE Educators of the Year from Union Presbyterian Seminary (formerly Union-PSCE):*

- 2011 **Ginny Ward Holderness** (M.A.'71):  
*Current Member Board of Trustees*
- 2008 **Joyce MacKichan Walker** (M.A.'79):  
*Current Member Board of Trustees*
- 2004 **Lib Caldwell**: attended PSCE 1970-1971
- 2002 **Marion Barclay** (M.C.E. '63)
- 2000 **Gay Mothershed** (M.C.E.'63):  
*Former Member Board of Trustees*
- 1998 **Marvin Simmers** (B.D.'61)
- 1996 **Jean Floyd Love** (M.C.E.'63)
- 1994 **Mary V. Atkinson** (M.R.E.'52)
- 1993 **Don Griggs**: Former Professor,  
*Current Member Board of Trustees*
- 1989 **Glenn Bannerman** (M.R.E.'58):  
*Professor Emeritus, Adjunct Professor*
- 1988 **Mary Jean McFayden** (M.R.E.'46)
- 1981 **Freda Gardner** (M.R.E.'57)
- 1980 **Estelle McCarthy** (M.A.'56):  
*Past Professor Emerita*
- 1979 **Sara Little** (M.R.E.'44):  
*Past Professor Emerita*

These mentors, faithful to the call to nurture the roots of faith through teaching, they also help to equip leaders for the next generation of educational ministries.

*"Each of these past Educators of the Year is a tribute to the vital role of educators in the church and to Union's strong commitment to preparing leaders for educational ministries,"* said President Blount.

In the fullness of time since the beginning of The Assembly's Training School (ATS) for Lay Workers in 1914 when a young Annie Wilson requested to attend lectures at the male-only seminary in preparation for her appointment as a foreign missions worker, ATS then PSCE and Union-PSCE, and now Union Presbyterian Seminary have been raising up leaders in teaching ministry who bring passion and devotion to their vocation.

During APCE's annual event in January 2012 to be held in Albuquerque, NM, Holderness will receive the Educator of the Year Award surrounded by a host of colleagues in educational ministries. Ω



Ginny Ward Holderness (center) poses with Don Griggs and Joyce MacKichan Walker, both former APCE Educators of the Year. All three serve on the Union Presbyterian Seminary Board of Trustees.

For the latest update on the Christian Education Task Force Report and President Blount's response visit the Union Presbyterian Seminary website at [www.upsem.edu/news/Christian-Education-Task-Force-Summary.html](http://www.upsem.edu/news/Christian-Education-Task-Force-Summary.html)

# Thursdays at Greensboro Urban Ministry

by John Elam



It is a cold Thursday, this mid-February day, and I burst through the doors to the lunchroom, announcing the beginning of midday worship. Slowly, deliberately, my friends make their way into the worship room. After warm greetings, all 16 of us join in the singing of “Amazing Grace”.

My heart drops. Carter’s seat is empty. Last week, I had worshipped with Carter and something had changed. We shook hands, but he would get no closer than arms’ length. His skin, normally the color of fine walnut, had lost its hopeful glow...giving way to an ashen-like quality that hinted at dwindling days. His smile was hidden behind two tightly closed lips. And the eyes...the laughing, glowing, heart revealing onyx gems of eyes, they were covered with a tell-tale gauze. Their gaze was fixed on me, but their stare was straight through me, into another world of drug induced delirium.

Now, he is gone. He is somewhere on the street, a lost man of thirty. Money is being paid and drugs are being bought. The presence of Christ in Carter’s heart, a presence that renders Carter, at once, alive, engaging, thrilled with joy and full of love, is now but one more thing covered by layers and layers of “feel-good-right-now.”

But others are here, and we worship as community. “Big Man” roars in laughter as he hits a bad note. He shouts “Amen!” at the end of every line of the sermon. Latecia asks when we can talk about Babylon instead of Jesus. Grady reads a poem about grace...then leaves. Marion tells about her new apartment and God’s grace and we clap. Then there is proclamation. Today’s sermon: *The Lost Sheep*.

At sermon’s end, we talk, we gather, we hold hands and we pray. We pray in thanks that God woke us up. We pray for food and shelter for the poor. We pray for the lost rich, that they will see through the idols of money, power, “success,” and the attendant bangles, and come to worship the true Lord, Jesus Christ. There is no guile, no arrogance, no hidden agenda; just a circle of people from all walks of life, praying for the world to become the community of Christ.

It is that first perfect day in Spring; that day when the air was warm and the sky was Carolina blue and the dogwoods blossomed and, were you still in high school, you would be absolutely certain you would fall in love by the end of the day.

Here, though, it is Thursday, which means midday worship service. Greetings are shared, and all take their seats. “Amazing Grace” gives way to “A Mighty Fortress,” and on this perfect day given by God, not even the Morman Tabernacle Choir sounds better. We pray. We read Bible verses. There is proclamation. Today’s sermon: *The Kingdom of God*.

We speak of time. No, the Kingdom of God is not something far down the road! God is not subject to our timeline...Not hardly! The Kingdom, the Kingdom: maybe we get glimpses and slivers even today, even now! Maybe the joy we feel, in this room, is a glimpse of the Kingdom! Maybe the creation; the limbs which, three weeks back, were skinny skeletal finger, seemingly dead against a cold gray sky and now bursting with flowers and shoots and buds in a glorious celebration of life...maybe that is a taste of the Kingdom.

And, so, full of joy, we end with our prayer of thanks. I turn, and in walks Carter. He smiles. His eyes glow. He laughs and says, “Thank Jesus.” He is back, for now. There is hope.

We hug, and never has the odor of street stench smelled more wonderful. Ω

*John C. Elam is an M.Div. student at Union Presbyterian Seminary at Charlotte and a practicing attorney. He completed his non-parish supervised ministry at Greensboro Urban Ministry, Greensboro, NC.*

Did you know that at Union Presbyterian Seminary  
over 85% of our incoming classes receive tuition plus grant aid?

Help us preserve this tradition

of equipping Christian leaders to be a catalyst  
for the transformation of the church,

and through the church...

the world.



For more information, contact Lynn McClintock  
at [lmclintock@upsem.edu](mailto:lmclintock@upsem.edu) or visit our website,  
[www.upsem.edu/giving](http://www.upsem.edu/giving)

## A Surprising Message from the Past

by Donna Hurt

When I was a student at PSCE about 15 years ago, I was fortunate to find a seat in Dr. Isabel Rogers' classroom for both 'History of Christian Thought' and 'Reformed Theology.' Of course I learned a great deal *from* her that has remained with me as I serve the church in the role of Christian Educator, but I also learned much *about* this devoted teacher. One of those tidbits was that this special lady liked to read and underline, underline, underline what really spoke to her as she covered the pages.

During the days of the Sprunt Lectures in May, 2008, I discovered many of Dr. Izzie's personal books stacked on tables in Dubose Hall, with signs saying 'Help Yourself.' Since her death, apparently much of the reading material she had owned was being offered to anyone who might be interested, and the occasion of Sprunts was an opportunity for former students to take advantage of that gift. So, I looked through the piles and made several selections, one of them being Leslie Weatherhead's short but well-known book published in 1944, "The Will of God."

Nearly a year later, I decided to offer that same book in one of my adult Sunday School classes, and even teach it myself. I had finished preparing the lessons, choosing specific parts of each chapter to read and creating follow-up discussion questions. Then, however, I remembered that I had a very old copy of the book that had been Dr. Izzie's. So I found it and began to thumb through the pages, paying attention to what had been underlined. "*These must be the really important parts,*" I figured, quickly comparing what she had chosen to what I had chosen. It was mostly the same. But whenever I did see an underlined sentence that I had not included in my lesson, I added it immediately. To me it felt amazingly like Dr. Izzie was still teaching me, pointing out the main thoughts through her pencil lines from who knows how many years ago . . . and there was no way I could possibly ignore that wisdom!! Ω

*Donna Hurt (PSCE'95) is director of Christian education at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington, NC.*



E. Carson Brisson

## Hour of Need

I heard her voice call out a welcome from just inside the house. Pushing the screen door open with my left hand, balancing a pyramid of take-out containers in my right, I stepped from the porch into the small, bright, kempt, living area of Ms. Johnson's home. She was sitting at her kitchen table a few steps beyond an archway immediately to my left. Her dog, Zeke, petite, short-haired, one-eyed, and pinch-faced, was stationed at his customary sentry post nearby. And on this visit, just as during so many visits in the past, an elderly gentleman, to whom I had never been introduced, sat upright and very still on the far side of the living area in an armless, wooden, side chair with Zeke between him and Ms. Johnson. As usual, he smiled, transferred his beige beret from his right hand to his left, slowly lifted his free hand from his lap in a gesture of greeting, and said nothing. I knew from experience that he would continue wordless the entire time I remained at Ms. Johnson's, and that he would, when I signaled my intent to leave, stand, smile, and again lift his hand, this time in a gesture of farewell, perhaps even blessing. His standing goodbyes always struck me as warmer than his seated greetings, and I had read somewhere that body language is as prone to truth-telling as language ever gets.

"*You trouble yourself for me I know,*" or something very similar to that, was always the first thing Ms. Johnson said when I, and I assumed when anyone else delivering hot lunches from the nearby senior center, entered her kitchen. The appropriate response was well known. It came, like instructions in the box of a take-home, assembly-required project, in a specific sequence. That sequence had to be followed in correct order. It brought into existence that which could be caused to exist by no other means.

The response began with a clarification lodged in personal reference: "*Ms. Johnson, I do not trouble myself at all,*" or something very close to that, one was supposed to say, and mean. This was to be followed without delay by an assurance that underscored the clarification: "*You are no trouble, and you are, to be sure, no bother,*" was the arrangement I almost always favored. I realized the parallel structure was a bit over done, and so did Ms. Johnson, but it reinforced the point in any case. Finally and importantly, the response sequence had to end with the acknowledgment that the order in which the world currently appeared, specifically who currently seemed to need whom more, was not necessarily the order in which the world would continue to appear: "*Someday, Ms. Johnson, you will do as much, and even more, for me, I expect,*" was how I preferred to put it. Without this tripartite declaration involving clarification, assurance, and acknowledgment, the meals being delivered remained meals, to be sure, but they became, at least as far as Ms. Johnson figured things, meals only.

Ms. Johnson didn't believe in meals only. She believed food without dignity had more to do with the end of the world than with its beginning. The legend at the center was that a new volunteer had once skipped entirely the required response when Ms. Johnson had referred to herself as trouble, at which point, the story went, Ms. Johnson had politely lost her appetite, and had asked that the meal, without delay, be taken "*to someone who really needs it...before it turns too cold, which would be a shame.*"

After this required and important initial exchange, however, I had found that little else during my brief visits with Ms. Johnson over lunch, and perhaps during anyone else's meals with her, ever went by formula. She kept herself informed, and was quick of mind. She usually seized the conversational initiative. This lunch turned out to be no different. "*Saw your name in the paper,*" she said, as soon as I had taken my seat at her table. "*Small piece under the fold but front page. Says you're leaving your job at the preacher school.*" I felt that a clarifying circumlocution was needed, but instead I offered only a slightly irritated, "*Yes ma'am.*"

"*Lots of others are leaving, too,*" Ms. Johnson continued, opening her main-dish container, smiling at its contents, and closing it, "*including the tall one who brings my lunches the week after you do every time, the one with white hair always combed, and pictures of his grandchildren. He's handsome. He's my favorite one.*"

"*He's my boss,*" I replied.

*“Then you were fortunate,”* Ms. Johnson said matter of factly, now looking straight at me. *“But now you’re not. I was unfortunate when my knees quit, but then I was fortunate when my son found me this chair and fixed my house so I can still go into every room I want whenever I want.”* I could not argue with that. “Yes,” I mumbled, noticing for the first time the crystal vase of yellow, cut flowers floating on a blade of sunlight on the counter near the sink. *“Lucky is right,”* I added.

“No,” Ms. Johnson quickly replied, *“not lucky, fortunate.”* I opened my dessert container, still warm to the touch, and closed it.

*“Come with me,”* Ms. Johnson said. I went with her.

Ms. Johnson led me out of the kitchen, across the living area in which her gentleman friend and Zeke sat in three-eyed silence, and down a short, wide hall until we came to French doors veiled by panels of sheer linen drapes finished with tasseled bottom hems. She turned a translucent, blue-tinted, cut-glass knob assigned to the right-side door, and, without much effort, pushed both doors open, in-swinging, to reveal a dazzling, sunlit parlor with windows on three sides. Nearly everything in it was don’t-use white: the carpet, two wing chairs, a spinet in the far corner, a couch, and a two-foot tall, sequined, pink-faced angel keeping vigil on a Portuguese lace runner stretched across a low coffee table with a frosted glass top.

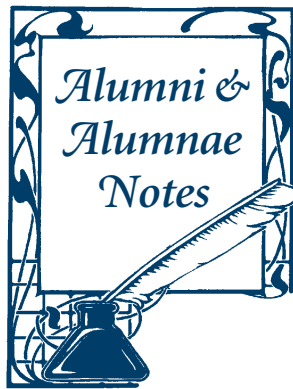
*“You only know how to read and write. That’s true?”* Ms. Johnson asked. Her question startled me. *“True enough,”* was all I could manage in its wake.

*“Then without your job, you and your wife and babies will leave this town,”* she said. I hadn’t thought that far ahead. Ms. Johnson had. She made a point, but I wanted to say that my wife was a more qualified breadwinner than I’d ever be, and that we hadn’t yet made any definite plans. Ms. Johnson, however, did not wait for me to reply before adding, *“And your babies will need new schools when you leave, and new friends.”*

*“This room,”* she continued, still without pausing, *“this room I never did show you before. But now, you can see it. I picked out everything in it, everything except the angel. She’s a gift from my lady friend over in Chapel Hill where I used to work. Her husband was a nice man, but he could only read and write, too. You look at this room now. This room is where I come in my hour of need. It is a comfort. It will be a comfort to you. When you’re done, we’ll eat. You won’t be back.”* Ms. Johnson wheeled herself around and headed toward the kitchen, leaving me alone.

Ms. Johnson’s world and my world did not connect anywhere else except over lunches delivered and shared now and then. All I knew about the future was uncertain, except that I had big plans to care much less than I previously had. So, it had occurred to me that I might never return to Ms. Johnson’s home. But, I was surprised, no credit to me, that it had been on Ms. Johnson’s mind. I found that and her gesture now deeply thoughtful, not to mention quite perceptive. I knew she was sincere, and I understood immediately what a privilege it was to be included, after three years of occasional lunches and conversations with her at her kitchen table, in the company of those to whom she chose to unveil her amazing room, her sanctuary, though for some reason I strongly suspected she would never have allowed me or anyone else to call it that. Yet, as I stood there alone, for more than a few minutes that first and only time so very long ago, I confess I found in the glittering lightfall of that perfect parlor absolutely no comfort, and, moreover, in Ms. Johnson’s kind and discerning efforts on my behalf absolutely no consolation, no relief, no rest. Not any. Not a breath. None. But I will tell you this, gentle reader. I will tell you this if you care to read it. I have since. I have since, many times. Ω

**“No,” Ms. Johnson quickly replied, “not lucky, fortunate.” I opened my dessert container, still warm to the touch, and closed it.**



If you have news to share,  
please send it to:

**Alumnae Office**  
Union Presbyterian Seminary  
3401 Brook Road  
Richmond, VA 23227  
FAX: 804.358.1031

Or e-mail:  
**Lynn McClintock**  
lmcclintock@upsem.edu

The Alumnae Office  
maintains a list  
of names and addresses  
of former students.  
If you would like to get  
in touch with a classmate,  
please write or call,  
804.278.4285.

This issue of Focus includes  
information received through  
June, 2009.

## 1940s

**Florence Moore Sthresley** (M.R.E.'46) published two books in 2009: *Tshiluba Lessons and See What God Can Do: Memoir of a Missionary in Congo*. She lives at Westminster Canterbury, Richmond, VA.

## 1950s

**John Herbert 'Bert' Johnston** (B.D.'53) has recently published a novel depicting the life of a Presbyterian Church in rural Virginia during the 1950s. Bert's novel *Parson Campbell's Breakthrough* is available through Amazon.com. Bert is currently working on a second novel, *Sunrise in the Cloud Forest*.

**Richard L. Morgan** (M.Div.'53; ThM.'57; PhD.'66) and Jane Marie Thibault published *No Act of Love is Ever Wasted: The Spirituality of Caring for*

*Persons with Dementia*. The book is available from *Upper Room Books*.

**Eleanor W. Moylan** (B.R.E.'54) has written an autobiography, *With A Song In My Heart*. It may be purchased on Amazon.com., Accent On Books in Asheville, NC, Borders Book Store and Barnes & Noble in Athens, GA. Eleanor recently lost her husband, Thomas C. Lott. She currently lives in Bogart, GA.

**Richard C. Davids** has published *The Man Who Moved a Mountain* in which he discusses the life of **Robert W. Childress Jr.** (B.D.'58). Bob's service to the Presbyterian Church was among various churches in the mountains of West Virginia.

**William 'Boney' R. Jones, Jr.** (M.Div.'59) was recently called as interim pastor at Sardis Presbyterian Church in Linden, NC. Boney previously served as interim pastor at Bluff Church in Wade, NC.

## 1960s

**Gay Mothershed** (M.C.E.'63) has retired from serving as the executive presbyter of the Presbytery of West Virginia.

**John W. Kuykendall** (B.D.'64) gave the inaugural lecture, "A New Church in a New World," in the Homer C. and Martha N. Phifer Endowed Lecture Series at Community Presbyterian Church in November 2009.

Religious dramas by **V. Neil Wyrick** (B.D.'64) are available online at <http://religiousone-mandramas.com>.

**William F. Wasilewski** (M.A.'66) has recently retired from the Army as a combat chaplain. He now resides in Richmond, VA.

**L. Shannon Jung** (B.D.'68) has published a new book *Hunger & Happiness: Feeding the Hungry, Nourishing Our Souls* (Augsburg Press). In it Shannon argues that concentrating on the well-being of others will relieve our complicity and strengthen our spiritual well-being. Shannon currently serves as professor of ministry leadership at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO.

**William C. Hedrick** (B.D.'68) is now retired. Bill was recognized for his service to the church at the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia's January 2010 meeting. Bill and his wife, Linda, currently live in Virginia Beach.

**Katherine Paterson** (M.A.'57) was named the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Katherine will serve in this position through 2011 on the platform "Read for your Life". The National Ambassador position was created to increase national awareness of the lifelong effects young people's literature has on a person.



## Peter Hobbie Named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year



Recognized for inspiring countless students to pursue the call to ministry, Peter Hobbie enjoys a special reception in his honor at Sprunts.

One of Union Presbyterian Seminary's most loyal graduates has been chosen as the first Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. **Peter Hobbie** (D.Min.'84; Ph.D.'87) who inspired scores of students to pursue the call to ministry received this award in May at a special reception in his honor at Sprunts.

"Peter Hobbie was a very important role model for me while I was a student at Presbyterian College," explained **Lindy Vogado** (M.Div.'09), who has returned to the South Carolina campus to serve as Director of Church Relations. "Not only has he served the church faithfully, he has inspired countless students to do the same. I have had dozens of classmates from PC who have gone into ministry, and nearly all cite Peter Hobbie as one of their most significant influences. Dr. Hobbie is a wonderful testimony to Union."

**Kathy Erhardt**, director of development,

who served on the selection committee talked about how many students report that Peter's teaching and encouragement was "a turning point" in their lives.

"Peter Hobbie is a fabulous supporter of Union Presbyterian Seminary in so many ways. We celebrate the way he mentors students, the way he identifies students with gifts for ministry and often refers them here. He's a great mentor and continues to keep in touch with the students as they continue on their paths," said Erhardt.

The award that celebrates outstanding accomplishments of our graduates was presented to Peter Hobbie during a reception at the Sprunt Lectures. Visibly moved by the presentation, Hobbie shared that "he learned about the love of the Christian community while at Union-PSCE, and it has been a guiding force in his life."  $\Omega$

**A. Joseph Everson** (M.A.'66; Ph.D.'69) served as editor with Hyun Chul Paul Kim of *The Desert Will Bloom: Poetic Visions in Isaiah*.

**Dean Thompson** (B.D.'69; Th.M.'70; Ph.D.'74) will retire on August 31, 2010. Dean has served as the President of Louisville (KY) Presbyterian Theological Seminary since 2004. After retirement, Dean and his wife, Rebecca will make their home in Black Mountain, NC.



**William dePrater** (UTS 1969-'70) is currently serving as the interim senior pastor at Beckley (WV) Presbyterian Church.

**Arthur F. Jensen** (M.Div.'71; Th.M.'72) retired U.S. Army Chaplain and Honorably Retired from the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia will move to Clayton, NC, after living in Hampton, VA, for nearly 20 years. Art and Marg worship at Wythe Presbyterian Church in Hampton where Marg is an active elder serving on session. Art stays

busy with teaching and occasional supply preaching.

**Robert Tuttle** (M.A.'75) serves as part of the senior leadership team at Montreat (NC) Conference Center. Bob is the vice president for the Center for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, with the responsibility of overseeing the development and implementation of all conferences for youth and young adults. Bob is also currently a part-time student at Union Presbyterian Seminary at Charlotte. Serving along side Bob is current part-time Union at Charlotte student Merriam Bass who is serving in the position of vice president for the Center for Faith and Life.

**Edward J. Conner**

(D.Min.'77) was selected as the recipient of the 2010 distinguished citizen award, in appreciation for his contributions to the community of Tarboro NC, by the Tarboro Edgecombe Chamber of Commerce. Edward currently serves as the pastor of Johnson Memorial Presbyterian Church.



**Daud Soesilo** (M.Div.'80) recently published *Walking Through Bible Places* (Indonesian Bible Society and Bible Society of Singapore, 2009). Daud

*Continued on next page*

taught a course on translation theory at Handong Global University, South Korea this past summer. He serves as an Asia Pacific Translations Coordinator with the United Bible Societies based in Brisbane, Australia. He recently published "Version, Modern (Non-English)" in *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* ed. by Katherine D. Sakenfeld and "Asian Diaspora" in the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* ed. by Hans-Josef Klauck.

**Vivian A. Soesilo** (M.Div.'80) serves as pastor of the Indonesian & Multicultural Church in Brisbane, Australia. She taught courses at South East Asia Bible Seminary in Malang, Indonesia and in China.

**Thomas Robinson** (M.Div.'85) delivered the 2010 Leila A. Roberston Lecture on "Discerning the Times: Being kingdom People in a Less Than Majestic Time." Thomas was recently installed as the pastor of Farmville (VA) Presbyterian Church.

**William Stacy Johnson** (M.Div.'88) was one of five panel members at the April 2008 event, "Gay marriage in Theology, Law, and Politics," hosted by The Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life at Boston College.

Stacy currently serves as the Arthur M. Adams Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, at Princeton (NJ) Theological Seminary.

**Kevin Murphy** (M.Div.'89) serves as pastor of Northwest Community Church in Cincinnati, OH.

**Michael Sweeney** (Ph.D.'89) serves as president of the Emmanuel School of Religion in Johnson City, TN. Michael previously served as the president elect and on the faculty at Emmanuel.



**Philip Oehler** (M.Div.'94) has been called and installed as the senior pastor at The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury (NJ). Phil previously served as pastor at Third Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, VA.

**Martha Moore-Keish** (M.Div.'94) was invited to preach and join in a discussion about her new book, *Christian Prayer for Today*, at First Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC, during their Lenten study of prayer.

**Scott Adams** (M.Div.'96) provides leadership for a bimonthly young adult small group. Theology on Tap is

offered by Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church and strives to allow young adults to talk about what matters in a casual setting. Scott serves as the director of Institutional Technology at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

**Patricia Slomanski** (M.A.'95; M.Div.'98) has been called and installed as pastor at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. Pat previously served as associate pastor at Eastminister Presbyterian Church in Marietta, GA.

**Danette Forbes Colclasure** (M.A.C.E.'98) was married to E. Edward Colclasure on October 11, 2009. Danette currently serves as a preschool teacher at Step-by-Step Childcare Center in Morris IL.

**Maggie Lauterer** (M.Div.'99) was the third candidate to stand for moderator of the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She was endorsed by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.



**Stephen Cobb** (M.Div.'00) has been called and installed as pastor of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA. Steve previously served as associate pastor of Carmel Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.

**Darla J. Blatnik** (M.Div.'02) has been called and installed as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Corsicana, TX. Darla previously served as pastor at Second Presbyterian Church of Lexington, KY.

**Thomas Bower** (Ed.D.'03) has published his first book, *Critical Pedagogy in Christian Education*. Thom currently serves as a pastor for Leslie (MI) Congregational United Church of Christ.

**Jeffery Ellis** (M.Div.'04) served as an Army chaplain in the 1st Calvary Division Jan.'09- Dec.'09. Jeff said this has been a very rewarding experience.

**Delano Douglas** (M.Div.'04) was invited to share folktales of African and African-American heritage at the historic Blandford Church in Petersburg, VA. Delano currently serves as the director for United Campus Ministries at Virginia State University.

**Faye Copper-Baldwin** (M.A.C.E.'05) led worship at Zion Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA, to help celebrate Woman's Day. Faye serves as associate minister at Qulocassin Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.

**Louis Florio** (M.Div./M.S.C.J.'05) has begun service as a chaplain with the Hanover County (VA) Sheriff's Office. Lou also serves as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church

**Sara Wenger Shenk** (Ed.D.'99) has been named president of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN. Sara previously served as associate dean at Eastern Mennonite Seminary in Harrisonburg, VA.

and school in Mechanicsville, VA.

**Deborah Johnson**

(M.Div.'05) was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on August 8, 2009 at her home church, Harbor View Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC, where she was serving as the interim youth director. Debbie is now serving as chaplain of the Presbyterian Home in Clinton, SC.

**Nathan Lamb**

(M.Div./M.A.C.E.'05) married Jennifer Miller September 5, 2009. The couple is making a home in Hartford, IA. Nathan currently serves as the pastor of Community United Presbyterian Church in Hartford.

**Elizabeth Phillips**

(M.A.C.E.'05) and husband, Sloan, are pleased to announce the adoption of their daughter, Emma Sloan Denise Phillips, born on October 21, 2009. She joins her big brother, Henry.

**George Chapman**

(M.Div.'06) was ordained this past November at Sharon Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. George is serving as pastor at Buena Vista (VA) Presbyterian Church.

**Ashley Scruggs** (M.A.T.S.'06)

was called to serve as the Youth Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia.

**Gregory Bolt** (M.Div.'07)

was ordained and currently serves as the associate pastor of youth and family ministry at First Presbyterian church in Bend, OR.

**Heidi Grube Bolt** (M.Div.'07)

and **Greg Bolt** (M.Div.'07) celebrated the birth of their daughter, Sophia Ann Bolt, on December 16. The family currently resides in Redmond, OR, where Heidi serves as the associate pastor for adult ministries at Community Presbyterian church.

**Charlene Jin Lee** (Ph.D.'07)

served as lecturer for the Seminary for a Day event on the campus of San Anselmo of San Francisco (CA) Theological Seminary on "Living Texts in Dialogue: Toward an Authentic Christian Religious Education." Currently Charlene serves on the faculty of San Francisco Theological Seminary.

**Angela Sims** (Ph.D.'08)

has been selected as an award recipient in the Ford Foundation Fellowship 2010. She is an assistant professor of ethics and Black Church studies at Saint Paul School of Theology.

**Aaron J. White**

(M.Div./M.A.C.E.'08) was called and installed to serve as pastor of Bowling Green Presbyterian Church in Clover, SC.

**Anthony Larson** (M.Div.'09)

has been called to serve Spring Community Church in East Hampton, NY. Tony previously served as the

youth minister at Williamsburg (VA) Presbyterian.

**M. Charlotte Elia**

(M.Div.'09) spoke at Groves Memorial Presbyterian Church. She currently works with the Hymn Society in Richmond.

**Jennifer Evans**

(M.A.C.E.'09), and her husband, Richard, welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Richard Wallace Evans III ("Trey") on September 22, 2009. Jen serves as the director of middle school ministries at First Presbyterian church, Charlotte, NC.

**Noé Juárez-Loayza**

(M.Div.'10) was awarded the 2010 William P. Wood Scholarship given by First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. This \$15,000 scholarship is given each year to a graduating senior to pursue graduate studies in preparation for service to the church. Ω

**Alumni/ae Chapters Need YOU!**

Union Presbyterian Seminary is in the process of launching Alumni/ae Chapters in areas across the country. These groups are primarily intended to connect alumni/ae with fellow alumni/ae members for fellowship and support. In addition, alumni/ae chapters are envisioned as working with the seminary to identify and recruit new students, provide a context for mentor relationships, assist with fundraising, and host continuing education opportunities.

Currently, there are chapters organizing in Arkansas, Raleigh/Durham, Western North Carolina, Charlotte, and Richmond. But no matter where you are, you can assist the development of a new chapter. All interested alumni/ae are asked to contact Lynn McClintock, director of alumni/ae development in Advancement, at [lmclintock@upsem.edu](mailto:lmclintock@upsem.edu).

**Send Us Your News!**

Please send to: Alumni/ae Office, Union Presbyterian Seminary, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227  
 FAX: 804.358.1031 • Lynn McClintock • [lmclintock@upsem.edu](mailto:lmclintock@upsem.edu)

## 1920s ■

**Anna M. Pritchett** (Dipolma'28) of Bend, OR, died January 16, 2010. †

## 1930s ■

**Mary Gordon McKnight** (PSCE '30) of Jacksonville, FL, died October 11, 2002. †

**Adrain C. Healy** (PSCE 1934-'35) of Roanoke, VA died April 26, 2010. †

**Emma Simpson Stephens Wilson** (B.R.E.'37) of Washington, GA, died December 3, 2008. †

**Virginia Griffith Souder** (B.R.E.'39) of Toledo, OH, died March 4, 2006. †

## 1940s ■

**Day Carper** (M.Div.'40) of Asheville, NC, died October 7, 2009. †

**Morris DeSaussure Warren** (B.D.'41) of Black Mountain, NC, died February 22, 2009. †

**Norman J. Flythe** (UTS 1943-45) of Springfield, VA, died February 4, 2010. †

**Nancy Boyd Garrison** (M.R.E.'44) of Black Mountain, NC, died January 22, 2010. †

**Robert 'Murphy' Williams** (M.Div.'44) of Farmers Branch, TX, died January 30, 2010. †

**George Thurston Matheny** (M.Div.'45) of Albuquerque, NM, died August 11, 2009. †

**Samuel D. McCammon** (M.Div.'46) of St. Petersburg, FL, died August 19, 2009. †

**Margaret R. Montgomery** (M.R.E.'46) of Decatur, GA, died January 11, 2010. †

**Jack C. Ramsay** (B.D.'46) of Corinth, TX, died August 31, 2009. †

**Hugh Thomas Busey** (UTS '46-47) of Richmond, VA, died February 8, 2010. †

**Jamie D. Stimson** (M.Div.'47) of Statesville, NC, died May 4, 2010. †

**Charles E. Canady** (Th.M.'47) of Jacksonville, FL, died November 30, 2006. †

**George Marshall Apperson** (B.D.'49) of Atlanta, GA, died December 10, 2009. †

## 1950s ■

**Ruth Anne Peoples Maloney** (P.S.C.E. 1949-'50) of Davidson, NC, died May 27, 2010. †

**Ward B. Breidenthal** (UTS 1950) of Burlington, NC, died March 23, 2010. †

**Joy Withrow Cornell Stockbridge** (M.R.E.'50) of Stuart, FL, died February 14, 2010. †

**Dailey DeLacy Young** (M.Div.'50) of Churchville, VA, died September 29, 2009. †

**Lee Anna Scott Fisler** (M.R.E.'51) of Raleigh, NC, died September 20, 2009. †

**Ruth Poe Bridges** (M.A.'52) of Gloucester, VA, died September 3, 2009. †

**R. Eugene Hager** (M.Div.'52) of Jacksonville, FL, died September 30, 2009. †

**Georgia P. Lemmon** (M.R.E.'52) of Davidson, NC, died June 14, 2010. †

**Carter Patterson Lyles** (B.R.E.'52) of Davidson, NC, died December 31, 2009. †

**William E. Phipps** (M.Div.'52) of Richmond, VA, died March 2, 2010. †

**David W. A. Taylor** (B.D.'52) of Cary, NC, died May 23, 2010. †

**Virginia Smith Henderlite** (B.R.E.'53) of Richmond, VA, died December 4, 2009. †

**June Anderson Woodall** (M.R.E.'53) of Anderson, SC, died March 11, 2010. †

**Basil V. Hicks** (Th.M.'54) of Little Rock, AR, died November 24, 2009. †

**Blake Mack Jeffries** (M.A.'54) of Olathe, KS, died December 9, 2009. †

**William R. Long, Sr.** (M.Div.'54) of Richmond, VA died April 28, 2010. †

**Edwin F. Montgomery Jr.** (B.D.'54) of Lake City, FL, died September 7, 2009. †

**Bonyton 'Blake' Breitenhirt, Jr.** (B.D.'55) of St. Simmons Island, GA, died January 20, 2010. †

**Alvis M. Daniel** (B.D.'55) of Rock Hill, SC, died April 22, 2010. †

**Charles Roland "Buddy" Hughes Jr.** (B.D.'55) of Decatur, GA, died April 20, 2010. †

**Kenneth R. King** (B.R.E.'55) of South Charleston, WV, died November 20, 2009. †

**John C. Livingston** (M.Div.'56) of St. Paul, NC, died September 13, 2009. †

**Estelle Rountree McCarthy** (M.A.'56) of Richmond, VA, died April 4, 2010. †

**David McNab Morrison** (Th.D.'56) of Mayesville, SC, died March 6, 2010. †

**Charles Williams** (B.D.'57, Th.M.'59). of Burlington, NC, died May 24, 2010. †

**Sally Ann Bullock** (M.R.E.'58) of Salisbury, NC, died December 13, 2009. †

**Mary-Ruth Marshall** (M.R.E.'58; Ed.D.'93) of Due West, SC, died January 12, 2010. †

**1960s ■**

**Marshall Neil Pugsley** (B.C.E.'60) of Fort Worth, TX, died January 22, 2010. †

**James Daniel Singletary Jr.** (B.D.'60) of North, VA, died October 27, 2006. †

**Horace Eugene Clay** (PSCE '66-'67) of Charlottesville, VA, died October 8, 2009. †

**Betty Jean "B.J." Seymour** (UTS 1966-'67) of Richmond, VA, died June 6, 2010. †

**Albert Spencer Hoyer** (M.Div.'67) of Dayton, OH, died November 13, 2009. †

**Charles Spencer Moore** (B.D.'68) of Asheville, NC, died May 17, 2009. †

**1970s ■**

**Bennett Alston Macon Jr.** (M.Div.'70) of Wake Forest, NC, died April 22, 2010. †

**Thomas Hinton Crumpler** (M.A.'72) of Black Mountain, NC, died December 8, 2009. †

**Dawes B. Thomson** (M.Div.'72) of Valdosta, GA, died September 18, 2009. †

**John Franklin Byerly Jr.** (D.Min.'73) of Richmond, VA, died April 27, 2010. †

**Cecil E. Marsh** (M.A.'75; D.Min.'82) of Richmond, died January 18, 2010. †

**Raby Elkanah Moore** (M.Div.'76) of Wake Forest, NC, died March 18, 2010. †

**1980s ■**

**Robert Harold Thompson II** (D.Min.'80) of Columbia, SC, died October 6, 2009. †

**Christine Preuhs Waters** (M.A.'80) of Neenah, WI, died November 20, 2009. †

**F. Charles Ekpenyong** (M.A.'87) of Prince Georges, MD, died April 4, 2009. †

**Karen Halls Parsons** (M.Div.'88) of Berwyn, PA, dies January 30, 2009. †

Union Sunday *presents*

# REVELATION

*a 12-part DVD teaching series*



**UNION  
PRESBYTERIAN  
SEMINARY**

by **Dr. Brian K. Blount**

*Union Presbyterian Seminary President & Professor of New Testament*

If strengthening Bible study skills and expanding knowledge of scripture is one of your church's educational ministry goals, then Union Sunday will be a key resource for your congregation. To sign up and to see the full list of the first 12-part series (available for download after September 1) led by renowned Revelation scholar, Brian Blount, go to [www.upsem.edu/unionsunday](http://www.upsem.edu/unionsunday).

**Forming Leaders. Transforming the Church.**

richmond, va

charlotte, nc

*The Union Sunday teaching series is appropriate for:*  
Adult Sunday School • Youth • Presbyterian Women • Personal Bible Study

# The Center for Ministry and Leadership Development

## Calendar of Events

### *Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences*

#### *What Are We to Make of the Gospel of Matthew?*

October 4 - 5, 2010

Paul Achtemeier, Professor Emeritus of Biblical Interpretation,  
Union Presbyterian Seminary

#### *Faith Seeking Understanding – Union Presbyterian Seminary at Charlotte*

October 8-11, 2010

Eugene Peterson, pastor, writer, scholar

#### *Beyond Games and Soup Kitchens: Nurturing a Passionate Spirituality in Youth Ministry*

October 11-12, 2010

Rodger Nishioka, Benton Family chair in Christian Education, Columbia  
Theological Seminary

#### *The Business of the Church*

October 18 - 20, 2010

John Wimberly, Pastor, Western Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

#### *Great Speakers Series*

October 26, 2010

Taylor Branch, author

#### *Pastoral Care in Times of Crisis*

November 8 - 10, 2010

Charlie Brown, William B. Oglesby Professor of Pastoral Theology,  
Union Presbyterian Seminary

#### *Interim Ministry*

November 15 - 19, 2010

CALL THE CENTER FOR MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT  
804-278-4301, OR 800-229-2990 EXT. 301 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND OTHER  
PROGRAMS, OR VISIT LEADERSHIP CENTER AT [WWW.UPSEM.EDU](http://WWW.UPSEM.EDU)



# The ABCs of a Good Will

Have you included  
Union  
Presbyterian  
Seminary  
in your will?

**A**ccurate. When your will is completed and tucked away for safekeeping, you want to have the confidence that it was done accurately. A good will conforms to the legal requirements of the state in which you reside. It is prepared and signed correctly, and it fully expresses your desires regarding the disposition of your estate. It also adequately cares for such things as guardianships, trusts and trustees, business succession, final declarations, and other important matters your situation may require.

**B**enevolent. A good will does good. It addresses the needs of your spouse, dependents, and others who are within the circle of your responsibility. Further, it does good by providing support for those organizations that reflect your most important values and concerns. You can even endow your current gifts to Union-PSCE through your will. A bequest of \$20,000 generates a perpetual annual gift of \$1,000 for the school; a bequest of \$40,000 brings an annual gift of \$2,000, and so forth.

**C**urrent. A good will is up-to-date. It incorporates the most recent changes in tax law and reflects changes in your own life. For example, you may no longer have minor children at home, or perhaps someone close to you has died or become dependent. You may have new grandchildren or changes may have occurred financially that have changed your estate tax status.



#### Find out more.

For information about wording a bequest to Union Presbyterian Seminary or about other ways to make gifts through your estate, contact Bill Staples, 800-229-2990 x 377, or [bstaples@upsem.edu](mailto:bstaples@upsem.edu). or Kathy Erhardt, 800-229-2990, x 285 or [kerhardt@upsem.edu](mailto:kerhardt@upsem.edu). You may also find information at [www.upsem.edu/giving/planned.php](http://www.upsem.edu/giving/planned.php).

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE —

- *A New Name. A New Creation.*
- *An Urban Ministry Initiative Takes Root in Richmond*
- *Ginny Ward Holderness is the latest in a long line of UPSem Christian educators recognized by APCE*



*Ten students participated in the travel seminar to Ghana in January, led by Professor Frances Taylor Gench and Dr. Roger Gench, pastor of New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. M.Div. students Adam Williams (left) and Mairi Renwick (right) meet new friends during their travels.*



**UNION** PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY  
3401 Brook Road • Richmond, VA 23227

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Richmond, Virginia  
Permit No 1027

---