



FOCUS

The magazine of Union Presbyterian Seminary

Winter 2010

Shaped Through Service

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REVELATION

a 12-part DVD teaching series



UNION
PRESBYTERIAN
SEMINARY

by **Dr. Brian K. Blount**

Union Presbyterian Seminary President & Professor of New Testament

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UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

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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 a catalyst for the transformation of the church, and through the church, the world.*

C O N T E N T S



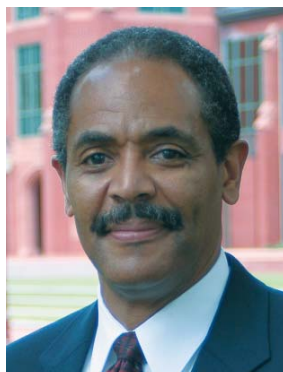
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SHAPED THROUGH SERVICE



Brian K. Blount

Dear Friends,

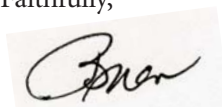
Last month, when Sharon and I were traveling in Korea, we had the privilege of visiting some of the young soldiers of the 27th infantry division who are stationed at the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. As we rode up rugged terrain to the hill top where this particular group of soldiers were positioned, one of the officers pointed to a massive, bowl shaped valley dropping off to our right. Our translator, a freshman at Yale University, who was back home to fulfill his mandatory two years of military service before returning to Yale to complete his degree, explained that the valley had been named the “punchbowl” by an American aviator during the Korean War. It was easy to see why. The scooped-out landscape looked ready to receive the full measure of some massive cocktail concoction. The soldiers went on to explain that because this ground had seen some of the most intense fighting in all of the Korean War, it had soaked in the blood of thousands instead. There was a long hush as the jeep continued its climb up the hill and the gorgeous landscape tracked our ascent. Finally, I said to our young translator, “*My uncle was here. He fought in the Korean War.*” There was a brief exchange between the two soldiers. Finally, the translator said, with a smile, “*we thank him for his service.*”

Two days later, Sharon and I were walking in a cemetery in Kwangjoo where 22 American missionaries are buried. Our host, the president of Honam University and Theological Seminary, expressed the gratitude of many in Korea for the sacrifices these men and women made. Later, as we walked through a museum, we saw a wall filled with pictures of Korean people, young and old, doing service. Captions explained that in thanksgiving for and celebration of the service of American missionaries, the Korean people were now doing mission service around the world.

Just yesterday, at a Urban Ministries forum for clergy in the city of Richmond, I heard distressing statistics about homelessness, poverty, and public schools. As one of the speakers advised, though it is still important to do mission around the world, we should not think that there aren't also wonderful mission opportunities in our own communities.

Indeed. Service opportunities exist wherever people are in need. Across the globe. In our own communal backyards. This issue celebrates the service of people in the seminary community, our students, faculty, staff, alums, and board members who give of themselves just as others have given to them. Our calling, of course, is to serve others as God has, through Christ, served us. I am always inspired by the stories of people who find ways to be of service to others. When I hear their stories, I feel compelled to do more than celebrate them. I feel compelled to emulate them. I hope that as you read these stories of persons who have served the seminary and their communities that you feel similarly compelled to find places where service is needed and then find a way to serve.

Faithfully,



Brian K. Blount
President

ON CAMPUS

Union Presbyterian Seminary Celebrates First Convocation with New Name

Union Presbyterian Seminary faculty, students, and staff gathered to mark the beginning of the 199th academic year and to celebrate the first convocation since the name change in July of this year from Union-PSCE.

Dr. Rodney Sadler, Jr., associate professor of Bible, Charlotte campus, gave the convocation address at services in Richmond and in Charlotte. His sermon rejoiced in the inclusiveness of the Lord's table recalling the words of the Negro spiritual, *"There is plenty good room at my father's table."* He reminded us there is room for all who believe, even those we might not have thought to invite.

Thirty-eight new degree-seeking students in Richmond and 14 new degree-seeking students in Charlotte joined the student body. In addition, Union welcomes eight international students enrolled from China, Ghana, Hungary, India, Korea, Malawi, and Switzerland. Ω



Photo by Dave Swager

Non-violence Born Out of Our Christian Faith, Branch Asserts

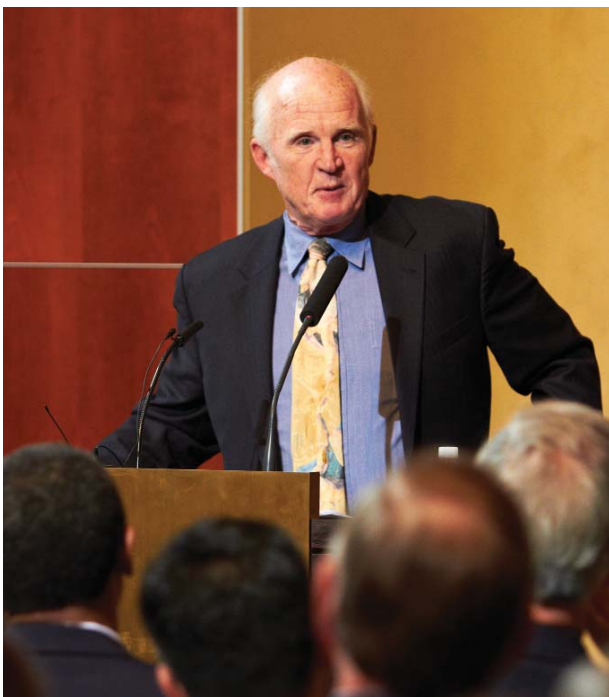


Photo by Dave Swager

Pulitzer Prize winning author and historian Taylor Branch highlighted the Great Speakers Series on the Richmond campus in October. The title of his lecture was "Faith and Freedom: The Common Root of King's Nonviolence."

Civil rights, Branch said, was not a natural subject for him, nor was he born to write about it. The powerful doctrine of non-violence, however, compelled him to conclude that we learn about our convictions *"where discomfort lies, not the grand ideas but through discovery based on human stories."* This, he asserts is the premise of the Bible.

Branch, best known for his landmark narrative history of the civil rights era, *America in the King Years*, won the Pulitzer Prize for his first book in the trilogy, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-63*.

A webcast of Branch's lecture is available at www.unionlive.org. Ω

Resources for the Church

Webcasting to Provide Interactive Learning Opportunities

Years ago, when George Jetson of the cartoon *The Jetsons* talked to his boss, Mr. Spacely, through what appeared to be a television, we thought that was futuristic nonsense. Now, we know this is not only realistic but necessary as our society has become more global.

Union Presbyterian Seminary is keeping pace with these technological advances by creating Union Live, the seminary's new communication channel which utilizes webcast technology to provide interactive learning opportunities for anyone interested in theological education. Now online audiences have the ability to participate in book lectures, guest speaker presentations, and training classes no matter where they are physically located. Most Union Live presentations are offered free of charge to the community.

The first presentation of Union Live was The Dean's Forum on Faculty Research featuring the recently published book by Professor Mark Valeri, *Heavenly Merchandize: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Puritan America*. The inaugural presentation included a select viewing audience who actively participated with an online chat and posted comments.

When Pulitzer Prize winning author Taylor Branch visited Union's Richmond campus, the lecture was also webcast live to online audiences in Charlotte.

Viewings of both of these prerecorded presentations are now available on the Union Presbyterian website at www.unionlive.org.

"The creation of Union Live is one of many ways we plan to use the technologies and tools of the 21st Century in the training of pastors, educators, and church layworkers, as we realize our vision of forming leaders and transforming the church," says President Brian K. Blount.

There are many opportunities for churches to benefit from this service. Churches can use Union Live as a resource to convene congregation members with discussions before and after presentations. *"Just register online, connect a computer to a projector, and you're ready to go!"* says Richard Wong, vice president of advancement at Union Presbyterian.

To access Union Live, visit www.unionlive.org to see a listing of upcoming events and create a login. Ω

Seminary Stronger for Methodist Endorsement

The University Senate of the United Methodist Church has approved Union Presbyterian Seminary's training of United Methodist students for the foreseeable future. Union's faculty, students, Board of Trustees, and the wider ecumenical community are strengthened by our diverse student body. Union has equipped United Methodist students for ordination and for service in the church for most of its history.

The Reverend **Al Lynch** (D.Min.'74) of St. Andrew's United Methodist Church says: *"... whether I have been involved in pastoral ministry or the practice of law or any of the other waystations of my journey, my background at Union has been the anchor for any good that I may have done. This Presbyterian seminary*

offered me, a United Methodist student, a spiritual environment in which I was encouraged to spread my academic wings with the collegial support of some of the finest scholars in the world."

Union Presbyterian Seminary is pleased to receive this affirmation of accreditation and is proud to have United Methodists as part of the student body. The presence of United Methodists at Union Presbyterian fosters the on-going dialogue on topics such as polity, theology and mission that has existed between the denominations for centuries. For more information on this program, visit our website at www.upsem.edu/who_we_are/. Ω

Eugene Peterson Exceeds Expectations

It is a rare gift for students, pastors, and lay persons to have an opportunity to share time and conversation with the writers, pastors, and theologians who have helped shape our understanding of the Reformed tradition and what it means to be part of the Church. Recently over the course of three days, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus, was the recipient of such a gift as author, pastor, and scholar Eugene Peterson headlined the Faith Seeking Understanding series.

Peterson addressed a crowd of over 400 at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The title of his lecture was “*Jesus Way: What is it and why should I care about it?*” Earlier in Dr. Richard Boyce’s Old Testament class (right), Peterson generously shared with students from a well of knowledge on how to engage both scripture and congregations as we seek to live out our covenantal relationship with God and one another. Ω



Faculty Forum Provides Opportunity to Share Research

In October Union Presbyterian Seminary kicked off the Dean’s Forum on Faculty Research, a platform for sharing faculty research with students and others interested in theological research and education. The first session was presented in partnership with the dean’s office and the history department with subsequent sessions being held approximately every six months.

For this inaugural presentation, students, alumni/ae, and faculty were invited to attend a lecture and panel discussion focusing on Professor Mark Valeri’s new book, *Heavenly Merchandize: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Puritan America*. The Valeri book has been recently featured in *The Boston Globe* and *The New York Times*.

The Dean’s Forum is the brainchild of Stanley Skreslet, academic dean at Union Presbyterian. “*The faculty at Union continues to publish important books that shape thinking in both the academy and the church. The Dean’s Forum on Faculty Research is an opportunity to learn from these colleagues and their work,*” says Skreslet.

Future plans include live webcasting with online interaction between the panelists and online audience. A webcast of this forum is available at www.unionlive.org. Ω



Mark Valeri (above, center), professor of church history, responds to comments. Joe Coalter, library director and professor of bibliography and research, and Doug Winiarski, associate professor of religion and coordinator of American studies at the University of Richmond, led the discussion. Dean Stan Skreslet is pictured on the right.

Preparing New Pastors for the Challenges of Ministry

Addressing questions about God's role in our lives requires constant work on a "deeply theological core." Seminarians in their final year of studies heard that message at a national orientation gathering for The Company of New Pastors.

"What we need in the midst of this confused and chaotic time is a center of gravity from which we can do our work," said Program Director Quinn Fox during the program held in Louisville, KY. *"The Office of Theology and Worship is absolutely convinced the pastoral vocation is about serious sustained attention to the faith. That's what congregations need most."*

Ten Union Presbyterian students were among those challenged to spend their lives working with congregations on such questions as "Who is God?" "Who are we?" and "What does the real God have to do with us?" If done "in a sustained way with integrity," the congregation would grow to love God and each other more, Quinn said. *"And the church may grow."*

Attending were ten Union Presbyterian Seminary rising seniors —Katie Cashwell, Mihye Jang, Jim Lunde, Erin McArdel, Matt Randolph, Mairi Renwick, Joshua Trautmann, Mike Watson, Jeff

Welch, and Faith Williams. They were joined by faculty mentors **Beverly Zink-Sawyer**, Samuel W. Newell, Jr. Professor of Preaching and Worship, and **Sam Adams**, assistant professor of Old Testament.

"The Company of New Pastors is one of the most innovative and important programs offered by the PCUSA. Students preparing for ministry learn the importance of colleagues in ministry and engage in spiritual practices that will shape their faith and work throughout their careers. They also have the rare opportunity of studying and discussing such documents as the ordination questions and the confessions of the church. Both the fellowship and learning experienced in the group will enhance their ministries and, we believe, contribute to healthier, more faithful pastors and congregations," Zink-Sawyer adds.

Other participating Presbyterian seminaries were Austin, Columbia, Dubuque, Pittsburgh, Princeton along with Fuller.

In its tenth year, The Company of New Pastors helps seminarians transition into their first pastoral call. After graduation, they are mentored by veteran pastors for four years in regional covenant groups. **Ω**

Trustees—Past, Present and Future—Provide Invaluable Service

With deep appreciation, Union Presbyterian Seminary recognizes all Board of Trustees members as their service and dedication is invaluable in guiding the seminary toward its future. A special welcome is extended to those members who began their service within the last year and to those who will begin their service in early 2011.

Joining the board in January 2010 were **Bruce Gottwald**, chair of the board of First National, Managing Director of Jonah, LLC, and president of the Greenwing Corporation, Richmond, VA; **Jimmie R. Hawkins**, pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC; **Anne J. Logan**, M.D., a retired family physician with 25 years of experience in all phases of primary care and emergency medicine, Charlottesville, VA; **Edward L. Roberson**, partner in Fountain, Roberson, Anderson Insurance Agency, Tarboro, NC; **Elizabeth (Lib) McGregor Simmons**, pastor of Davidson College Presbyterian Church, Davidson, NC; and as alumni/ae representative **Edward A. McLeod, Jr.** (D.Min.'85).

This coming January 2011, **Fairfax Fair** (M.A.'71) returns to the board as a member and continues to chair the Bicentennial Committee. She is a senior pastor of Highland Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY.

Edward A. McLeod, Jr. (D.Min.'85) will be assuming a role as a member of the board. **Lindy S. Vogado** (M.Div.'09) will serve the remainder of his term as alumni/ae representative. Ed is senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC. Lindy is director of campus ministry and service at Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC.

Owen B. (Bud) Melton, Jr., president of FBI Citizens' Academy, retired President & CEO of First Indiana Bank, N.A., and retired president of First Indiana Corporation, Carmel, IN; and **David Alistair Renwick**, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, SC, also join the board.

Completing service at the end of the calendar year are trustees **Louis Galloway** of Indianapolis, IN; **Claire Trexler** of Charlotte, NC; **Bobbi Vagt** of Pittsburgh, PA; and **Art Ross** of Raleigh, NC. **Ω**

New Foundations Director Joins Advancement Team



Evelyn Terry

Union Presbyterian Seminary announced the appointment of Evelyn Terry as Foundation Relations Director. *“We are extremely delighted to have another seasoned executive joining the Seminary’s Advancement team. With more than 15 years of development and foundation success track record from both academic and nonprofit arenas, Terry will help further the mission of Union Presbyterian,”* said Richard Wong, vice president of advancement.

Ms. Terry has won awards for both her fund raising and journalism work in Virginia. As a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), she received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Mass Communications from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Ms. Terry will focus on cultivating existing and new relationships with foundations. *“It is a privilege to have an opportunity to work at the Seminary, a highly respected institution for preparing leaders for ministry in the world,”* Terry says. *“I*

look forward to serving President Blount and others at the Seminary as they focus on strengthening church leadership for the 21st century.” Ω

Gerry Jones (1927-2010)

Geraldine Mary (“Gerry”) Jones (M.A.’51), who joined the faculty as associate professor of Christian education at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in 1969 and served as dean of students from 1974 to 1982, died in Savannah, GA, on November 2, 2010.

“The students who took her courses reaped the benefits because of her solid foundation of educational theory and the practical application of that theory,” Professor Emeritus Glenn Bannerman (M.R.E.’57) reflects.

A graduate of Trinity University and of the General Assembly’s Training School for Lay Workers (ATS), Jones was, for most of her forty-one year career, director of Christian education for prominent Presbyterian congregations of the PCUS and PCUSA in Natchez, Memphis, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Charlotte, and Savannah.

At PSCE, Jones focused on youth ministry and, with Glenn Bannerman, coordinated programming for “The Exit,” a Friday-Saturday coffee house in the basement of Lingle Hall. “The Exit” offered wholesome recreation and socializing to all youth of north-side Richmond with leadership by PSCE students whereby Jones taught about action-reflection education and outreach to the community.

Glenn Bannerman’s son, Craig, remembers, *“Many of us were able to find voices that we would keep with us throughout our adult lives that came from the experiences and fellowship provided by that venue. Gerry was able to make that happen in a gracious and caring way. That gentle hand of direction was a gift she possessed and many of my friends, siblings and community neighbors are grateful that it touched us in those days.”*

Jones’ students remember her as a gifted and demanding teacher who loved order and expected the same kind of diligent preparation that she brought to every task. She loved words and enjoyed conversation about good books with her colleagues and friends. Her warm hospitality reflected her sense of God’s grace to everyone in God’s world. She had an extraordinary gift for creating community and wherever she went she created a family of friends.

In 1993 she received a Life Achievement Award from the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators. At her request, memorial contributions may be made to Union Presbyterian Seminary, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227. Ω



Katie Geneva Cannon



John Carroll



Frances Taylor Gench



Kenneth J. McFayden



Sam Roberts

Katie Geneva Cannon, Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics, was the keynote presenter at *Day Apart*, which offers continuing education and support to a small peer group of diverse women clergy serving as senior and solo pastors, at Samford University in Birmingham, AL. She preached at the Church of the Master Presbyterian Church and the Easter service at St. James Presbyterian Church in New York, NY. She lectured at a conference on community organizing for social and eco-justice at Pittsburg Theological Seminary in Pittsburg, PA; served as a continuing education facilitator for “*Social Teachings in Black Sacred Rhetoric*” at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond; and was coordinator of the design team for *Calling for the Order of the Day – Sacrificial Conversations* at Northeastern Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. Cannon participated in a panel discussion about *Frontiers in Catholic Feminist Theology* at Union Theological Seminary in New York and participated in the 40th anniversary meeting of the Society for the Study of Black Religion in Atlanta, GA. She lectured during Religious Emphasis Week at Berea College in Berea, KY; participated in the (PCUSA)’s Consultation of the Mid-Atlantic Committee of Women of Color Conference in Richmond; preached at Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Richmond; and served as a workshop facilitator for the

Religion and Race Advocacy Committee of the Charleston District of the United Methodist Church. She was the speaker at the John Calvin’s Relevance for Today International Conference, celebrating the 500-year anniversary of John Calvin’s birth at Stellenbosch University in Stellenbosch, South Africa. The title of her lecture was “*Redemptive Ethics: More Than Forgiveness of Sin*.” Cannon was a panelist during the 150th anniversary celebration of the School of Theology at Stellenbosch University, which coincided with the Calvin conference. While in South Africa, Cannon presented at the Conference of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Johannesburg.

John Carroll, Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament, had his brief commentary on the Gospel of Luke included in *The New Interpreter’s Bible One-Volume Commentary*. He continues work on his major commentary on Luke for the New Testament Library. With Ph.D. candidate Amanda Miller, he taught a 10-week course on Luke for the Derbyshire Baptist Church. Carroll and his wife, Maria, welcome their son, Oscar James Carroll, who was born May 17, 2010.

Leland Deeds, librarian for academic computing support, and **Ann Knox**, director of the Instructional Resource Center, presented a session, “*Emerging Technologies and Teaching: The Library as Bridgebuilder*,” for the Virginia chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries at the annual meeting of the Virginia Library Association. They discussed the role of multimedia creation training within Morton Library to meet student, staff and faculty needs. Deeds serves as the vice-chair of the steering committee for the Public Services Interest Group of the American Theological Library Association. Knox writes the “More Ideas” section of *The Present Word* curriculum for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The resources of the William Smith Morton Library are prominently featured in this portion of the curriculum material.

Frances Taylor Gench, Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation, taught a course on the Gospel of John for Cook Native American Ministries in Scottsdale, AR. She led a presbytery retreat for National Capital Presbytery and a leadership development event for Western Reserve Presbytery. She addressed the Joint Keever and Adult Bible Study Class at University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill, N.C.; preached

at Georgetown Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C.; and led the Women's Spring Retreat for New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. She preached at the ordination of **Lindy Vogado** (M.Div.'09) at New Providence Presbyterian Church in Maryville, TN.

Stan Hargraves, registrar, led a seminar on communications and marketing for the Church Business Association at Union Presbyterian Seminary and participated in an education cohort on using technology in Christian education on the campus. He led a workshop on "Sharing the Gospel in a Technological Age" at the National Association of Church Business Administration National Conference; preached and taught Sunday School at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, VA.; and led Sunday School teacher training at Tabernacle United Methodist Church, Fredericksburg, VA.

Kenneth J. McFayden, dean and professor of ministry and leadership development, served as Union Presbyterian Seminary's representative at the inauguration of Claude Perkins as president of Virginia Union University in Richmond and participated at the annual meeting of the Academy of Religious Leadership in Chicago, IL. He led a retreat for senior staff of the Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Louisville, KY; and led a church officer retreat at

Chester Presbyterian Church in Chester, VA. McFayden was the keynote speaker at the Association of Presbyterian Interim Ministry Specialists Luncheon in Minneapolis, MN, and he led a workshop on "Leadership and the Church," for Project Burning Bush on the Union Presbyterian Seminary campus. Also on campus, he led a seminar on *Congregational Leadership* for the Church Business Administration program. He led a retreat on leadership for the strategic planning committee, officers, and pastors of First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC, and served on the leadership team for the *Executive Leadership Assessment Seminar* on campus. He was the keynote speaker and workshop leader for the 2010 Eastern Regional Benefits Consultation, Board of Pensions and Office of Vocational Leadership of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Tampa, FL, and the keynote speaker and workshop leader for the 2010 Western/Central Regional Benefits Consultation, Board of Pensions and Office of Vocational Leadership of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Los Angeles, CA. McFayden preached at Bon Air Presbyterian Church and at Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA. He was the keynote speaker and workshop leader at the 30th Annual Conference of the Interim Ministry Network in St. Louis, MO.

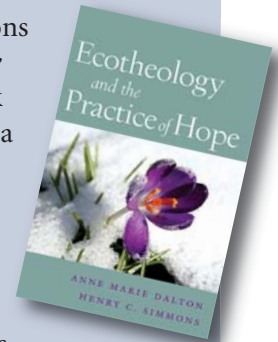
Simmons' Book Provides New Vision of the Natural World

A new book by Henry C. Simmons and Anne Marie Dalton, *Ecotheology and the Practice of Hope*, takes a look at the natural world and reimagines a way of life that allows the nonhuman world to matter.

Simmons and Dalton reimagine a new vision of the natural world and the role of humans living within it. Borrowing Charles Taylor's concept, they created a new "social imagery" to explore a more sustainable world, one embracing the well-being of nonhumans as part of the whole creation. The authors also provide an overview of key ecotheological texts and thinkers.

Henry C. Simmons is Professor Emeritus of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary. He is coauthor (with James C. Fisher) of *A Journey Called Aging: Challenges and Opportunities in Older Adulthood* and (with Jane Wilson) *Soulful Aging: Ministry through the Stages of Adulthood*.

Anne Marie Dalton is professor of religious studies at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. She is the author of *A Theology for the Earth: The Contributions of Thomas Berry and Bernard Lonergan*. Ω



Sam Roberts, Anne Borden and E. Hervey Evans Professor of Theology and Ethics, was appointed to a 5-year term on the Commission on Christian Ethics for the Baptist World Alliance. The Commission helps the World Communion of Baptists frame ethical issues for discussion and action. The commission met in Hawaii earlier this year.

Carol Schnabl Schweitzer, associate professor of pastoral care, presented "Text and Tune, Speaking and Listening: Musical Resources

in Pastoral Care" at the New Directions in Pastoral Theology Conference held at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Her latest book, *The Stranger's Voice: Julia Kristeva's Relevance for a Pastoral Theology for Women Struggling with Depression* was released this summer. She served as retreat leader for New Hope Presbytery Retreat for Pastors and Educators in Salter Path, NC. She gave the charge to the Pastor at Susan Sexton's ordination held at White Memorial Presbyterian Church and led a retreat at the Church Vocations

To Be A Presbyterian

Louis Weeks, President Emeritus and adjunct faculty, has written a new book, *To Be A Presbyterian, Revised Edition*. This new edition of his primer on the practices, history, traditions, and beliefs of Presbyterians has been thoroughly revised and updated.



Louis Weeks



Stanley Skreslet

From actual congregational experiences in Presbyterian churches, Weeks examines major themes in Reformed life. New chapters and sections address spiritual practices, “hot-button” issues among Presbyterians, changes in hymnody, and respect for God’s creation. The adoption of a Presbyterian Brief Statement of Faith, the growth of newer Reformed churches worldwide, their influence on Christian worship and work in the U.S.A., and the growing importance of other world religions also receive attention. It is published by Geneva Press. Ω



Jane Rogers Vann

Conference of the Virginia Synod, ELCA. She preached and led worship at Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Richmond and Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Petersburg.



Rebecca Weaver

Stanley Skreslet, dean and F. S. Royster Professor of Christian Missions, was appointed to the special editorial committee that will plan the centennial issue of the *International Review of Mission*. The IRM is published by the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism of the World Council of Churches.



Beverly Zink-Sawyer

Jane Rogers Vann, professor emeritus of Christian education, was appointed to the Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates. She presented the Ohmann Lectures entitled “*Patterned*

by Grace: How Worship Shapes Us” at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville, NC. She led a workshop at Presbytery Day of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and at the Montreat Christian Education Conference in Montreat, NC. Vann led the Women’s Retreat of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville, NC, on “The Spirituality of Worship” and served as a consultant for the Christian education program of the Williamsburg (VA) Presbyterian Church.

Rebecca Weaver, John Q. Dickinson Professor of Church History, and **Mary Charlotte Elia** (M.Div.’09) wrote a unit of curriculum called “Wisdom From the Early Church” for the PCUSA’s Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding Series.

Beverly Zink-Sawyer, professor of preaching and worship, preached at Bon Air Presbyterian Church and Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond and for the homecoming celebration at Maysville Presbyterian Church in Buckingham Court House, VA. She was also named to the editorial board of *Homiletic*, the journal of the Academy of Homiletics. Zink-Sawyer and **Sam Adams**, assistant professor of Old Testament, led this year’s cohort of 10 students for the Company of New Pastors, a PCUSA program for final-year students preparing for ministry. Ω



Photo by Haesun Rhee

Reconciliation as Service

by Crystal Sygeel (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'96)

“I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,” said Union Presbyterian Seminary President Brian Blount, baptizing soldiers of the 27th Division of the Korean Army at its Basic Training Center near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the dividing line between South and North Korea. President Blount, along with Director of Asian American Ministry and Mission Center Syngman Rhee and four Korean ministers baptized some 450 soldiers. As each soldier walked forward, Blount was told his name by the chaplain, Lt. Colonel Kwon Ohmin. As is customary for clergy spouses, Mrs. Blount stood next to each newly baptized member and gently wiped his face. Blount spoke in English but his words needed no translation.



(Above) Syngman Rhee and Brian Blount pose with some 450 newly baptized soldiers of the 27th Division of the Korean Army; (right) Syngman Rhee baptizes an individual soldier.



Photos by Haesun Rhee

The soldiers of the 27th division serve as peacekeepers who hope for reconciliation between South and North Korea. On that day, they shared in a sacrament that reconciles lives with God and neighbor. For the Blounts and their travel partners, reconciliation

“The Koreans have a way of expressing hospitality that is beyond words,” said Blount. “We could feel the presence of God in the way they reached out to us. It made me want to express that kind of hospitality when I returned home.”

would emerge as a constant theme during the 7-day visit to South Korea that included stops in Seoul, Kwangju, and Junju.

The Korean journey was inspired by the upcoming bicentennial event in April 2012 to celebrate the work of Union Presbyterian Seminary graduates as Presbyterian missionaries to Korea. The bicentennial celebration will also commemorate Korean students/pastors who have studied at the seminary since 1924. A book documenting the role of Union graduates in Korea as Presbyterian missionaries is being prepared by Drs. Syngman Rhee and Haesun Rhee, former director of the Carl Howie Center for Science, Art, and Theology.

The day before President Blount and his wife, Sharon, departed the seminary, students, faculty and

staff gathered beneath a sign in Korean which read “safe travels” to pray for a blessed and productive journey. One week earlier Syngman and Haesun Rhee traveled to Korea with Union Presbyterian Seminary board member Dr. Marcus Shim and his wife, Dr. Young Shim, to prepare the way for the Blounts.

Once in South Korea, Blount’s busy schedule stretched into 13-hour days that began at 6:30 a.m. He preached six sermons, delivered two lectures, and performed 75 baptisms. In addition, he met with the moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Korea, three presidents of Presbyterian seminaries, the provost of Yonsei University, and many other church leaders. Blount had the opportunity to come in contact with over 11,000 Koreans in person and thousands more through coverage of his trip by the Korean media.

The remarkable hospitality of the Korean people made a demanding schedule less taxing. “The Koreans have a way of expressing hospitality that is beyond words,” said Blount. “We could feel the presence of God in the way they reached out to us. It made me want to express that kind of hospitality when I returned home.” Haesun Rhee agreed. “This hospitality is born out of an expression of what the early missionaries did for the Korean people,” she said.

The legacy left by the pioneer missionaries was evident throughout the country. At the museum of the Kwangju Christian Hospital in Junju, the Blounts viewed numerous photographs of Presbyterian missionaries who shared the gospel with the Korean people. A plaque on one wall displayed an etching of the William Smith Morton Library with a banner that read, “Thank you, Union Presbyterian Seminary.”

“The mission influence is very strong in Korea,” said Haesun Rhee. “Korean students learn from the time they are young the importance of mission work.” While some 250 Union Presbyterian Korean graduates have served in Korea and in the U.S., many have served as missionaries around the world.

When the group visited the Demilitarized Zone, they toured a region that included the historic “punchbowl,” a circular valley where some of the most intense fighting occurred during the Korean War. At one point they traveled within 750 meters of the 38th parallel, the border created between South and North Korea. This division has resulted in the separation of families for over 60 years, including the families of Syngman and Haesun Rhee.

In a recent trip to North Korea to assist children of orphanages, schools for the deaf, and social service centers, Dr. Syngman Rhee was able to see his four younger sisters and many of his nieces and nephews. As communication between the people of North and South Korea has been blocked since the early 1950’s, Rhee delivered photos and letters, becoming the messenger between his brother (who fled with Rhee to the South in 1950 during the war) and his sisters in the North.

Dr. Haesun Rhee’s family also fled to South Korea during the war and was taken to Jeju Island. Long before it became a hot-spot for tourists, Jeju Island was home to thousands of refugees from North Korea struggling to survive. The memories of the Korean War and the realities of living separated from loved ones have compelled people like the Rhees to work for reconciliation between North and South Korea. “Because of our reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ,” Syngman Rhee said, “we are then called to reach out to our brothers and sisters in reconciliation.”

While the trip was President Blount’s first to Korea, the event was one more in a shared history between Union Presbyterian Seminary and the Presbyterian Church in Korea which took root over 100 years ago. In 1891, Union Seminary students William Davis Reynolds (UTS 1890-92) and William McCleery Junkin, Jr. (UTS 1889-92), inspired by a Presbyterian missionary to Korea, Rev. Horace G. Underwood (1885), applied to the Foreign Mission Board to become missionaries to the Korean people. Diligent in their efforts, they were appointed a year later “to a country unknown to most of the American people at that time,” said Syngman Rhee. While in Korea, the Blounts visited churches, hospitals and



Visionary Leader for Training and Education of Korean Women

Dr. **Yon Ok Lee’s** (M.A.’64) accomplishments are too numerous to name them all.

She was a tireless advocate for the ordination of women in the Presbyterian Church of Korea for over a half-century before it was approved in 1994 by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Korea.

A visionary leader for the National Organization of the Korean Presbyterian Women’s Building for the education and training of Presbyterian women, Dr. Lee was the first president of the Korean Church Women United from 1967-69. She also served twice as president of the National Organization of the Korean Presbyterian Women from 1975-78 and again in 1981-85.

Recently, President Brian (far left) and Mrs. Sharon Blount (far right) along with Drs. Syngman (top center) and Haesun Rhee (not pictured) and Drs. Marcus (top right) and Young Shim (top left) visited with her in her office in Seoul, Korea.

“Dr. Lee’s legacy will not be in buildings, but in the training and education that will take place there, as women who go to serve will be living testimonies to how Christ has worked through her,” said President Blount. **Ω**

seminaries that Reynolds, Junkin, and other pioneer missionaries helped to build more than a century ago.

The pilgrimage paid homage to historic ties and paved the way for future endeavors, Blount said. “Our

intent in traveling to Korea was to strengthen relationships we have with Korean students, clergy, educators, and missionaries who've been a part of Union Presbyterian Seminary and to build new partnerships for the future."

As part of an ongoing partnership, the Presbyterian Church in Korea has asked for Union Presbyterian's support in the efforts working toward reconciliation between North and South Korea.

While preaching at the Presbyterian Church of the Lord in Seoul, Blount delivered a sermon entitled "Remember the Future." The sermon was inspired by John of Patmos' vision of heaven in the book of Revelation. In the heavenly realm, John saw that the struggles of the world have been overcome. Blount urged church laity and leaders, seminary students and staff, to anticipate with hope the imminent breaking in of God's future of reconciliation between North and South Korea. Why? Because "a people who remember God's future are more likely to create and live God's future right here and right now." Ω



Shaped by What We Remember

"We are what we remember" is a common phrase spoken by **Robert W. Tabscott**. The recollections of his youth, time in seminary and years in ministry, tell how Tabscott's memories shaped his perspective and ultimately his drive to impart change on the social injustices of the world.

Born and raised in the coal-mining town of Mullens, WV, Tabscott received his Bachelor's of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in 1962 and his Th.M. in 1970. Tabscott names John Bright, James Mays, John Leith, James Smylie, and Sarah Little as UTS professors who prepared him for service in the church and beyond. Under their tutelage during the civil rights movement, he would emerge as a leader ready to speak out and act upon issues of social justice.

"Each of them has been immortalized in my life. I could not do the work I have done and do without them looking over my shoulder. They left their stamp on the lives of a generation of us who would be ordained Presbyterian ministers," adds Tabscott.

As the pastor of Des Peres Presbyterian Church (St. Louis, MO) from 1970-1990, Tabscott advocated for equal rights, low-income housing, abortion rights, as well as religious and political tolerance. Amidst programs offering simple solutions for life's challenges, Tabscott exhorted laity to develop a socially engaged theology.

In 1972, Tabscott became the founder and director of the Elijah P. Lovejoy Society named for the martyred white American Presbyterian minister, journalist, and newspaper editor who was murdered for his abolitionist views. The society seeks to preserve first amendment rights while sharing the multicultural history of Missouri. Despite public criticism and death threats, Tabscott has been steadfast in his commitment to educate people on the vital role race-relations has played in the region.

Tabscott currently teaches courses on Missouri black history for Webster University where he has been an adjunct faculty member for 27 years. He writes newspaper and radio columns, and gives lectures at primary and secondary schools.

Throughout his life, Robert W. Tabscott's ministry and vocation has been shaped by what he remembered—his experiences of growing up in a Southern town in the 1950's, the tutelage he received from his seminary professors in the 1960's, and the acts of a world gone awry with injustice. By remembering, Tabscott has made it his life's work to inspire the church for advocacy, educate the national community on issues of injustice, and create a better future for people everywhere. Ω

The Rhythms of Haiti: A Journey of Pastors



by Mike Watson (M.Div.'11)

Pastors explore Haiti, getting to know organizations for parish partnerships, growing in faith as a group, and learning the story of post-quake Haiti to share with communities back home.

We sat quietly as the dance unfolded before us. A young boy, missing an arm, jumped and twirled to the thumping drumbeat. Other boys danced, their bodies telling a story of hope, agony, joy, and sorrow that the people of Haiti live daily. The dancers were the boys of the Resurrection Dance Theater, a dance troupe connected to Hearts With Haiti. Within a week, they would tour throughout the United States, sharing their story and raising awareness about their troubled but resilient country. We had the unique privilege to witness these boys on their home turf in the city of Jacmel, Haiti. Our calling was to figure out how to take the experience back with us.

Clark Scalera (M.Div.'07), through the help of New Hope Presbytery and money from a Rehoboth project grant, answered a call to create a pastors' trip to Haiti. Having lived and worked there several years ago, Scalera developed a vision for how a group of pastors could experience the country in a way that enhances their spiritual development and builds ministerial relationships for future trips. The rest of the group included pastors: **Berry French** (M.Div.'08); **Dan Lewis** (M.Div.'05); **Jarrett McLaughlin** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'06); and Franklin Golden (Duke Divinity, M.Div.'07). Also joining the trip were Union Presbyterian Seminary student **Mike Watson** (M.Div.'11), and documentary filmmaking student Cole Smothers.

News was all over Port-Au-Prince following the January 12 earthquake. The population of around

one million was utterly devastated. Months later, the city is still attempting to recover. Our trip began in this city, where we would spend a few days with Haiti Outreach Ministries (HOM), a Christian mission organization serving the most impoverished communities in the city. Their comprehensive work includes building churches and houses, as well as running schools and clinics.

We gained a sense of life in the poorest areas of Port-Au-Prince, including the newly established tent cities, which line every square inch of public space. These conditions pave the way towards malnutrition and health crises. At HOM, we came to know a ministry dedicated to helping people rise out of their situation, finding authentic community, and working towards building a sustainable life for themselves and their families.

St. Joseph's Home for Boys opened in 1985 to bring boys off the streets of Port-Au-Prince. The home nurtures and educates the boys, as well as teaches the arts (drumming, dance, and visual art). Many had been orphans, while others had been forced into house servitude, a brutal form of modern day slavery to which many young Haitians are subjected. Now, many of the graduates from St. Joseph's have gone on to give back to the country.

Since the original building was destroyed in the quake, the younger boys from the home have relocated

The National Palace (above) in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti was nearly destroyed by the magnitude 7.0 earthquake of August 19, 2010.

Photo by Cole Smothers/Brooks Institute ©2010



Photo by Franklin Golden

to the agency's Jacmel location, while the older ones stay at a rented house next door to help with rebuilding. A few of these boys are at Wings of Hope, a home near Port Au Prince, connected to St. Joseph's, which cares for disabled children. While at these sites, we witnessed a ministry focused on serving a more concentrated group of Haitians. The effect was to build up a community with skills,



Photo by Cole Smothers/Brooks Institute ©2010

Overlooking Port-Au-Prince: (from left to right, above) Clark Scalera (M.Div.'07); Mike Watson (M.Div.'11); Jarrett McLaughlin (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'06); Berry French (M.Div.'08); Franklin Golden of Duke Divinity; Dan Lewis (M.Div.'05).

*The dance was a triumphant celebration
of God's grace in the midst of suffering.
Boys with bleak futures had been
given new life and a desire
to share their joy.*

education, and passion, enabling them to give back to Haiti in powerful ways.

Our drive out of the city was long and dusty, but soon enough, the view opened up to the countryside. Our next destination was in the mountains near Leogane, Haiti, where we visited the Comprehensive Development Project, (CODEP). John Winings, our host, explained that by partnering with local Haitians, they were creating sustainable methods of farming in rural areas, as well as providing schooling

and employment. One of CODEP's greatest benefits was how it kept people working in the mountains instead of moving into the poverty-stricken city. Our group had an opportunity to take a 2-day hike through the mountains to see the reforestation project. We were astounded by the vast countryside and the very obvious benefits of reforestation that have taken place. Families are now able to grow crops, cattle, and fish to make a living in the mountains. We had the opportunity to worship with a church in the area, an experience where the language of worship needed no interpreter.

As we approached, they seated us up front, a deeply humbling experience for us all. We hummed along with tunes we were familiar with and did our best to understand the pastor, taking cues from certain words and reactions from the congregation. We left the mountains with a deep experience of rural Haiti.

Deeply damaged by the quake, Jacmel's business and trade had been highly disrupted. It was a shell of



what it once was. Business was dead with tents lining the city streets. The need for rebirth was all too evident in this place. We stayed the night at Trinity House in Jacmel, the partner house of St. Joseph’s Home for Boys, where we experienced the Resurrection Dance Theater at an outdoor evening concert. The power of hope displayed in the dancing was a contrast to the despair of the city we had witnessed earlier that day. The dance was a triumphant celebration of God’s grace in the midst of suffering. Boys with bleak futures had been given new life and a desire to share their joy.

Half of our group returned to the states, while the rest of us went up to Cap Haitien for the final segment. Soon after our arrival, we encountered Meds & Food for Kids, an organization dedicated to “saving the lives of Haiti’s malnourished children and other nutritionally vulnerable people.” Through the work of volunteers and employed Haitians, they were distributing food to areas of need. Although Cap Haitien was not directly affected by the quake, we learned poverty and bleak conditions existed long before the quake arrived. We ended our time in Cap Haitien supporting the tourism economy through a trip to the famous Citadel landmark. The gorgeous views of the countryside and fresh air of the mountaintop gave us a sense of peace and hope for the country we had witnessed over the past 10 days.

While this trip was about our group, in so far as we were mostly pastors seeking authentic experiences

of missional and vocational development, we knew this trip had meaning beyond us. Our experience was an opportunity to witness the continued plight of Haiti, understand the deep issues of poverty, the disarray of the government, the continuing effects of the quake, and then to spread word about the wonderful hard-working people and organizations bringing new hope to the country. We had moments of theological reflection on each organization’s approach to mission with the understanding that each of these ministries operated out of a faithful commitment to be actively engaged in the world.

We all returned home with ideas for translating our experience. The five pastors would present to home churches with the hope to send groups in the future. I saw this trip as an opportunity for continued spiritual and missional education. Cole, our filmmaking student, used this trip as an opportunity to create a movie to showcase an experience of post-quake Haiti. We were deeply shaped by what we witnessed, the challenges facing the country of Haiti and the passion of the people seeking to make a difference. The Gospel of Christ is found in the dance between these two. Ω

(Above, left) Two children pose outside their home in the commune of Cité Soleil in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti; (Below) Drummer at St. Joseph’s Home for Boys in Port-Au-Prince.



There are many opportunities for experiencing God’s work in Haiti. We hope you will seek out relationships with these organizations:

- **Haiti Outreach Ministries:**
<http://www.haitioutreachministries.org>
- **Hearts with Haiti** (St. Joseph’s Home for Boys, Wings of Hope, Resurrection Dance Theater, Trinity House):
<http://www.heartswithhaiti.org>
- **CODEP** (Comprehensive Development Project):
<http://www.haitifundinc.org>
- **Meds & Food for Kids:** <http://mfkhaiti.org/>

M.Div. Student Megan Strollo



A Day of Service Kicks Off Term

The start of the academic year began with Service Day as students, faculty, and staff at Union Presbyterian, Richmond campus, volunteered their time with six local non-profit and church-based organizations.

Planned by the service committee, the annual event introduces students to opportunities to touch the lives of others in the community.

Volunteers helped sort non-perishable goods at FeedMore; they pitched in at CHAT (Church Hill Activities and Tutoring) working with youth; at the Fan Free Clinic, they organized medical supplies; at Boaz and Ruth where formerly incarcerated men and women receive on-the-job training, they cleared overgrown shrubs; other participants worked at St. Joseph's Villa and the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, organizations devoted to creating a safe environments for children and families to learn and grow. Photos by Dave Swager. Ω



Th.M. Student Brian Johnson

Being a part of the wider community is just as important as being part of the academic community to learn. ””

M.Div./M.A.C.E. Student Elizabeth Landes

When I lecture about justice and charity in the Bible, I think it's important we combine study and praxis. We can let faith and learning live out of the classroom. ””

*Assistant Professor of Old Testament
Sam Adams*



M.Div. Student Thomas Taylor

There is no problem worth caring about until a human face is put on it. Service Day helps puts a human face on the problems we are called to face as Christians. ””

M.Div. Student Aaron Houghton



M.Div. Student Emma Horn



M.A.C.E. Student Whitney Cascell

Through serving CHAT I have learned what it means to be in authentic community. CHAT staff not only serve the Church Hill neighborhood, but the Church Hill community also serves us. It is where we work, live, and worship. ””

Rhonda Dunbar (M.A.C.E.'10)
CHAT Learning Specialist



M.Div. Student DeAnna Daniels

At CHAT I was able to connect with a community outside of my normal context. It made me think about how I would engage a congregation in meaningful relationships with communities beyond their everyday context. ””

M.Div. Student Matthew Randolph

Service Day means “putting feet to my faith” and actively serving God in all things I do. The scriptures tell us that the poor (and hungry) will always be among us—it’s not a problem that will ever be “fixed,” but a daily need that needs to be met for the rest of our lives. ””

Janet Shook, Union Presbyterian Seminary staff



M.Div. Student Caitlyn Bailey

Service: A Gift That Keeps On Giving



Marcia Rauch shares her bibliotherapy display with Student Megan Argabrite

A thirst for knowledge and a passion to teach in engaging ways fuels **Marcia Rauch's** drive as a Christian educator. So it is befitting that a week after she graduated this spring from Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus, with a Master of Arts in Christian Education, she returned to audit a class.

"I don't think I will ever arrive at the point where I say I'm done with learning," said Rauch, a Title One math teacher for Gaston County Schools in Gastonia, NC. Learning Christian education as a student and as a volunteer strengthened her resolve to educate with passion, thoroughness and creativity.

"I am learning more about what it means to serve others as far as being an educator. The more I learn, the more passion I have to pass on what I know," said Rauch, whose teaching style was

shaped by **Pamela Mitchell-Legg**, Sarah Bell Campbell Professor of Christian Education, and **Rebecca Davis**, adjunct professor of Christian education. Rauch credited the professors for infusing their classes with wisdom, warmth and wonder.

"The way they teach is so innovative and exciting!" said Rauch, who works as a teaching assistant with Mitchell-Legg. *"It makes me want to teach people how to present lessons about the church in that way. I grew up with a lot of lectures. A lot of teachers used a Sunday School book with a script in it and they just read the information. I want to teach others how I learned to teach."*

Born and raised in Fremont, OH, Rauch moved to North Carolina in 1996, where she realized she had a calling for educational ministry while doing volunteer Christian education. Relocating to Gastonia, a 40-minute drive away from the Charlotte campus, she worked on her degree for three and a half years while juggling a full teaching load. Her dream position is to work as an educator for a presbytery or a small group of churches.

"I really want to be a resource person. I found through the classes I have taken there are so many wonderful educational resources, and many Christian education volunteers don't know they are out there," said Rauch, who wrote faith reviews and lesson plans using Dr. Seuss books to teach spiritual concepts to children. The information is on Union Presbyterian's Children Literature website at <http://storypath.wordpress.com>

Rauch currently teaches Sunday School at her church, The Presbyterian Church of Lowell, where she served as director of Vacation Bible School this summer. She also serves on the church's Christian education committee. In February, she will present a workshop on *"Children and Chronic Illness: Resources for Pastors, Educators and Parents"* at the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators conference in Albuquerque, NM. She created six pastoral packets on the topic for a directed study under the supervision of Dr. Davis. The information is needed as chronic diseases such as autism and diabetes are increasing for children, Rauch said. Her resource packets, which she hopes to have published, include scriptures and children's books.

For Rauch, her teaching ministry is a gift that keeps giving. *"As Christians . . . we are called to serve one another and one way is to promote education in the church at every age with passion so people understand we never stop learning."* Ω



E. Carson Brisson

Slow Joy

In a village lived a student who desired to learn, and a rabbi (teacher) who delighted to learn.

One spring, student came to rabbi, who was seated, and said, *“To learn is my desire.”*

“And what would you learn?” rabbi asked.

“The story by which God’s own heart, Bless’ed be the Name, is making the hungry to have bread and chains to be shattered,” student replied.

Rabbi, hearing this, wept, and said to student, *“Go away. Listen more. Then return.”*

The next spring, student came to rabbi, who was seated, and said, *“To learn is my desire.”*

“And what would you learn?” rabbi asked.

“Each word of the story by which God’s own heart, Bless’ed be the Name, is making the hungry to have bread and chains to be shattered, and the wicked to forsake evil forever,” student replied.

Rabbi, hearing this, wept, and said to student, *“Go away. Listen more. Then return.”*

The next spring, student came to rabbi, who was seated, and said, *“To learn is my desire.”*

“And what would you learn?” rabbi asked.

“Each letter of each word of the story by which God’s own heart, Bless’ed be the Name, is making the hungry to have bread and chains to be shattered, the wicked to forsake evil forever, and forgiveness to build her strong house of countless rooms,” student replied.

Rabbi, hearing this, wept, and said to student, *“Go away. Listen more. Then return.”*

The next spring, student came to rabbi, who was seated, and said, *“To learn is my desire.”*

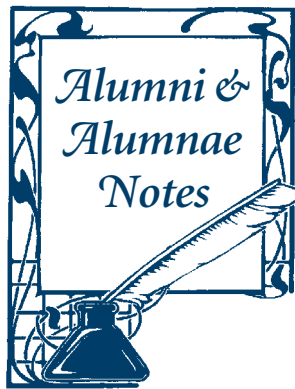
“And what would you learn?” rabbi asked.

“Each silent space between each letter of each word of the story by which God’s own heart, Bless’ed be the Name, is making the hungry to have bread and chains to be shattered, the wicked to forsake evil forever, forgiveness to build her strong house of countless rooms, and the whole world new,” student replied.

Hearing this, rabbi, who delighted to sit nearly as much as to learn, stood, with help from student, and having stood, rabbi began to sing softly and then to dance in slow joy.

“So now,” rabbi sang and danced, *“so now,”* dancing rabbi sang over and over again . . . *“so now we can begin, so now we can begin.”*

Many springs, and equally every other season, passed. A mountain awoke beneath the village of student and rabbi. In time, it grew to be great and even beautiful. To this very day, some who see this mountain say it is called *“So now we can begin,”* to which others also add *“Bless’ed be the Name.”* Ω



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

Alumni/ae Office
Union Presbyterian Seminary
3401 Brook Road
Richmond, VA 23227
FAX: 804.358.1031

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

The Alumni/ae Office maintains a database of names and addresses of alumni/ae. If you have moved, changed your e-mail, or have other contact information that has recently changed, please contact Lynn McClintock at lmcclintock@upsem.edu or 804.278.4382.

This issue of Focus includes information received through September, 2010.

1950s

Patrick D. Miller's (B.D.'59) book, *The Ten Commandments*, was named to the Academy of Parish Clergy's list of top ten books published in 2009.

1960s

Samuel Pope (M.Div.'65) accepted a call to serve as interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin, NC. Sam previously served churches in Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, and North Carolina.

A. Joseph Everson (M.Div.'66; Ph.D.'69) retired from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. His primary academic work has been in the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and, in particular, in research on the book of Isaiah.

John Helgeson (D.Min.'74) is now serving as an interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Gaylord, MI. John previously served in interim ministries in Brockway, PA, and Martin's Ferry, OH. Recently, John published his first novel, *A Matter of Abuse*. This secular story looks to religious themes as a way to answer questions of evil as a result of child abuse.

Patricia Hunt (M.Div.'76) is now enjoying the life of retirement. Pat spent the last 25 years serving as the chaplain of Mary Baldwin College in Memphis, TN. Prior to retirement, Pat was awarded the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, which recognizes excellence of character and service to humanity, by Mary Baldwin.

J. Knox Chamblin (Th.D.'77) wrote a 2 volume commentary on the Gospel of Matthew for the Mentor Commentary Series.

1980s

Bill Mims (D.Min.'83) was recently awarded the John Benjamin Bedenbaugh Award for Distinguished Pastoral Leadership from the Alumni Association of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

1930s


Joseph Morrison (B.D.'36) was selected to be on the Honor Flight Southeastern North Carolina inaugural flight this past April. Honor Flight exists to help World War II Veterans visit the World War II monument in Washington, D.C. at no cost to the veteran and one family member. Joe served as an Army chaplain in the Philippines, Hawaii, and Okinawa and currently resides in Wilmington, NC.

1940s

Ernest Lee Stoffel Jr. (B.D.'47; Th.M.'48; Th.D.'50) was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Human Letters by Queens University in Charlotte, NC. Lee previously served as associate professor of religion at Queens.

1970s

Charles D. Elliott (M.Div.'71; D.Min.'78) has been named the interim president of Thornwell Home for Children. Charles previously served as the vice president for development and church relations at Thornwell.



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Richard T. Diekmann (D.Min.'83) retired from First Congregational Church in Port St. Lucie, FL, after 22 years of ministry. Richard plans to continue to preach as a guest minister when the opportunity arises and hopes to spend his retirement reading lots of books and spending time with his wife, Vicki.

Holly Hearon (D.Min.'83) has been promoted to a full professor and serves as co-interim academic dean at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN. Holly has been teaching at CTS for eleven years.

Eileen Best (M.A.'84) is currently serving as president of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators.

Deborah Gline Allen (M.A.'84) currently serves as the national chairperson of the Association of United Church Educators of the United Church of Christ.

Christopher A. Davis (D.Min.'85; Th.M.'86; Ph.D.'92) promoted online and non-traditional Christian higher education as academic dean of Hope International University's School of Graduate and Professional Studies, served as founding academic dean of California Baptist University's new division of online and professional studies, and currently serves as founding chief academic officer of Azusa Pacific Online University, a new school within the Azusa Pacific University system.

Thomas C. Robinson (M.Div.'85) graduated in May from Columbia Theological Seminary with a D.Min. Thomas currently

serves as pastor of Farmville (VA) Presbyterian Church.

Daniel Festa (D.Min.'87) had a letter to the editor published in *Christian Century* and has been asked to write a chapter for a book on congregations and end of life care. Dan currently serves as pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Pine Bluff, AR.



Gregory Albert (M.Div.'90) serves as interim executive presbyter of Elizabeth Presbytery in NJ. Greg recently served as the associate executive presbyter of Wabash Valley and New Brunswick Presbyteries. Before serving the church at the Presbytery level, he served as a pastor in three churches.

Daniel M. Griswold (M.Div.'91) recently graduated with a Ph.D. in religious studies with a major in systematic theology from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. Daniel is currently serving as pastor of Trinity Reformed Church in Rochester, NY.

Janet Russell (M.Div.'92) serves as stated supply at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, CA. First Presbyterian is part of the Columbia historic state park dating back to 1954.

Mark Burnham (M.Div.'93) serves as senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Asheville, NC. He previously served as pastor at Presbyterian Church of Los Gatos in California.

Stephen Lindsley (M.A.'95) released his third CD of original music entitled "Feet & Hands & Stuff." For more information or to purchase, go to www.stevelindsley.com.

Steve is currently pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Mount Airy, NC.

Crystal Sygeel (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'96) recently returned from serving local churches in the Seattle, Washington area and joined the seminary staff in July '09 in the combined position of Communications and Event Coordinator.

James "Pete" Ullmann (M.Div.'96) serves as pastor of Calhoun (GA) First Presbyterian Church. Pete recently served as pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Crossville, TN.

Bradley E. Palmer (D.Min.'98) is now pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN. Bradley previously served as pastor of Epperson Presbyterian Church in Tellico Plains, TN.

David Walton (M.Div.'99) recently received a D.Min. from Lexington Theological Seminary. His final project was entitled "A Good Funeral: Facilitating the Healing Process." Currently he serves as senior minister of Parkway Christian Church and as headmaster of Parkway Christian Schools in Davie, FL.



Nancy C. Lee (Ph.D.'00) was a panelist for the inaugural Niebuhr Forum on Religion in Public Life entitled *The Persistence of Evil: Reinhold*

Niebuhr's Message for Today's World. This forum is one part of a year long conversation, "Still Speaking: Conversations on Faith." Nancy serves as Niebuhr Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at Elmhurst (IL) College.

Jane V. Mann (M.A.'00) was awarded a Doctorate of Ministry in Worship Studies degree from Eastern Carolina Christian College in Roanoke Rapids, NC. Mann serves as pastor of Immanuel "House of Prayer" in Woodbridge, NC.

Paa Owusu Afriyie Bawua Bonsafo (M.A.C.E.'01) has been elected to serve as the chairman of the Kwahu Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Ghana.

James David Ealy (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'01) has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Hawfields Presbyterian Church in Mebane, NC. David previously served as associate pastor of Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Lakeside Park, KY.

Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty (Ph.D.'02) was awarded a Fulbright Scholar Grant to teach in Hungary during the 2010 Fall term. Elizabeth's teaching focuses on "Religion in the Public Forum." Currently Elizabeth is associate professor of theology at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY.

Jim Moss (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'02) was recently called and installed as pastor of Clarksville (VA) Presbyterian Church. Jim previously served at Tirzah Presbyterian Church in York, SC.

Pattie Sewell (M.Div.'02) has retired from Green Ridge Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA. Pattie served as pastor of Green Ridge from graduation until her retirement at the end of June.

Brian E. Gawf (M.Div.'04) serves as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Asheboro, NC. Brian previously served as pastor of Waynesboro (PA) Presbyterian Church.

David Whitman (M.Div.'04) is now serving as pastor of Bethel United Methodist Church in Surrency, GA. He previously served at Sonora (KY) United Methodist Church. David's wife, Stephanie, has now completed the M.Div. at Asbury Theological Seminary and serves as youth and children's ministry director at Epworth United Methodist church in Jesup, GA.

Janet Denton Chisom (M.Div.'05) married Brian Chisom July 17, 2010. Janet serves as associate pastor at Salem (VA) Presbyterian Church.

Philip C. Scalera (M.Div.'07) is currently doing mission work in Israel and Palestine with Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel. Philip previously served as a pastoral resident at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC.

Margaret Taylor Almeida (M.Div.'08) now serves as pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, NC.

Angela D. Sims (Ph.D.'08) serves as one of two 2010-2011 Womanist Scholars for the Interdenominational Theological Center. Angela is currently the assistant professor of ethics and black church studies at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO.

Mary Charlotte Elia (M.Div.'09) and Rebecca Weaver, professor of church history, wrote the "Wisdom from the Early Church" unit of adult curriculum for the PC(USA)'s "Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding" series. This unit will be available for churches beginning Winter 2010. Charlotte is currently enrolled in the Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology Ph.D. program at Catholic University of America.

Andrew Taylor-Troutman (M.Div.'09) was ordained and installed as pastor of New Dublin Presbyterian Church in Dublin, VA, in May 2010.

2010s

Noe Juarez (M.Div.'10) has been named the fifth recipient of the William P. Wood/First Presbyterian Church Scholarship. Commemorating Dr. William P. Wood's 20 years of pastoral service to the congregation, this graduate fellowship grants a seminary graduate a fellowship. Noe currently serves at Duke University Hospital as chaplain resident and is a guest preacher and lecturer on Biblical studies. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in New Testament studies.

Loren Tate Mitchell (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'10) has been ordained and installed as pastor of Appomattox (VA) Court House Presbyterian Church. Ω

CORRECTION: *The Man Who Moved A Mountain* by Richard C. Davids was first published in 1970 and discusses the life of Robert W. Childress, Sr. ('26) not his son, Robert W. Childress, Jr. ('58), as reported in the Summer 2010 issue of *Focus*. Robert Childress, Sr. served churches in the mountains of southwestern Virginia, not West Virginia.

Theology and Economics



Kathryn Tanner
Professor of Systematic Theology
Yale University

PASTOR
Rev. Tom Are, Jr. (M.Div.'86)
Senior Pastor
Village Presbyterian Church
Prairie Village, KS

Brochure and registration information will follow.
Everyone is welcome!
Class reunions for all alumni/ae with years ending in 6 and 1.

SPRUNT LECTURES

May 4-6, 2011

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 over 14 chapters organizing in several states. But no matter where you are, we encourage you to form a new chapter in your area. All interested alumni/ae are asked to contact Lynn McClintock, director of alumni/ae development in Advancement, at lmclintock@upsem.edu.

Send Us Your News! Update Your Contact Info!

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



The Center for Ministry and Leadership Development

Calendar of Events

Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences

God Made Small Churches! Why?:

Exploring the Spiritual Nature and Potential of Small Congregations

February 21-23, 2011

Anthony G. Pappas, Executive Minister, The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts

Preaching Challenging New Testament Texts

February 28-March 2, 2011

John Carroll, Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament

Beverly Zink-Sawyer, Samuel W. Newell, Jr. Professor of Preaching and Worship

Presbyterian Board of Pensions Seminars

Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA

March 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.: Render Unto Caesar: A Clergy Tax and Terms of Call Seminar

March 24-25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.: Growing Into Tomorrow... Today

Recreology—A Three-Day Workshop on the Theology of Play!

March 7-9, 2011

Beth Gunn, A Nationally-Known Recreation Leader and the Associate for Youth for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Dawe Annual Lecture Series: Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian

March 28, 2011

Paul F. Knitter, Paul Tillich Professor of Theology, World Religions and Culture

Union Theological Seminary, New York

In Remembrance

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.”

Psalm 116:

1930s —

John Addison Ricks Jr. (B.D.'32) of Galax, VA, died August 13, 2010. †

1940 —

Louise Carter Rouse (Diploma'40) of Kannapolis, NC, died April 11, 2010. †

Irma Carpenter Jackson (PSCE'41) of Lake Ridge, VA, died September 18, 2010. †

Arthur Maxwell Field (B.D.'43; Th.M.'44) of Blacksburg, VA, died September 5, 2010. †

J. Rodman Williams (B.D.'43; Th.M.'44) of Virginia Beach, VA, died October 18, 2008. †

Denver Swanson Blevins (UTS Certificate'46) of New Bern, NC, died June 7, 2010. †

Ruth S. Shaver (B.R.E.'47) of Richmond, VA, died August 18, 2010. †

William Priestly Conyers III (M.Div.'49) of Princeton, NJ, died September 8, 2010. †

1950 —

Samuel Adamson Burgess, Jr. (M.Div.'52) of Raleigh, NC, died September 14, 2010. †

Ada Elizabeth Wardlaw Jordan (M.A.'53) of Raleigh, NC, died February 28, 2010. †

Mary Darlington Black Lawter (M.A.'54) of Clinton, SC, died March 29, 2010. †

Robert J. Boyd Jr. (B.D.'56) of Richmond died September 20, 2010. †

Mary Lou Sechrist Shields (M.R.E.'58) of Irving, TX, died August 27, 2010. †

Margaret W. Mielenz (B.C.E.'59) of Raleigh, NC, died January 13, 2010. †

1960 —

Charles L. Sapp (M.Div.'61) of Enid, OK, died March 31, 2010. †

Charles Frederick 'Rick' Due (M.C.E.'63) of Spring Creek, TX, died July 27, 2010. †

Margaret 'Peggy' Liebert Dobbins (M.C.E.'67) of Kilmarnock, VA, died March 23, 2010. †

1970 —

William (Bill) C. Rankin (M.A.'72) of Nashville, TN, died July 10, 2010. †

When you learn of the death of an alumnus or alumna of Union Presbyterian Seminary, please inform the Alumni Office. Call 1-800-229-2990 or email lmclintock@upsem.edu.

This issue of Focus includes information received through September, 2010.



Project Burning Bush Youth Lead First Worship Service as Union Presbyterian Seminary

In July, youth from Project Burning Bush led the community in the seminary's first worship service as Union Presbyterian Seminary. With the narrative of Joseph's dreams from Genesis 38:1-12 as the focal point, they used original songs, midrash, artwork, and prayer to interpret and celebrate God's movement among us.

The youth ministry initiative of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Project Burning Bush, is celebrating its tenth year of rewarding, vital work with high school students who are sensing God's call to vocations of Christian service. Along with leading worship, highlights from the summer 2010 program included classes in Reformed Theology taught by Dr. Syngman Rhee, Leadership in the Church taught by Dr. Ken McFayden, and sitting side-by-side with seminary students in Dr. Carson Brisson's summer Hebrew course.



Mark DeVries, author of *Sustainable Youth Ministry* and *Family Based Youth Ministry*, will keynote this year's upcoming **The Blaze 2011: A Gathering for Adult Youth Leaders** at Montreat Conference Center, January 5-8. To register for this event, or to catch up on all the Project Burning Bush news, please visit the website at: www.projectburningbush.org.

PHOTOS BY M.Div./M.A.C.E. STUDENT RACHEL MASTIN



The ABCs of a Good Will

Have you included
Union
Presbyterian
Seminary
in your will?

Accurate. 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.

Benevolent. 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 Presbyterian Seminary 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.

Current. 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, or Rob Brown, 800-229-2990 x 246 or rbrown@upsem.edu. You may also find information at www.upsem.edu/giving/planned.php.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE —

- *Opportunities to Give Back: “Give the Gift of Union Presbyterian”*
- *President Blount joins in baptizing 450 Korean soldiers near the Demilitarized Zone*
- *Growing in faith through travels to Haiti*

*Students, faculty and staff
enjoy a respite during
community lunch
in the Belk Center
on the Richmond campus.*

Photo by Dave Swager

