

FOCUS

The magazine of Union Presbyterian Seminary

Winter 2011-12



Celebrating 200...more years

Union Sunday *presents*

Discovering FAITH

a 10-part DVD teaching series



Ten members of the Union Presbyterian Seminary faculty and staff explore faith in relation to Bible context.

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richmond, VA

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The Union Sunday teaching series is appropriate for:
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This Christmas Give the Gift of UNION



This Christmas, instead of sending a card or traditional gift, honor a loved one through a gift to Union Presbyterian Seminary. Your gift provides across-the-board support of the seminary, enabling us to continue to educate and prepare the next generation of Christian leaders to go out into the world and serve. Union will send a special Christmas card notifying your loved one(s) of the gift in their honor. Visit Union's special Christmas giving website, www.upsem.org/Christmasgiving, or call Robert Bies at 800-229-2990 x 241.

UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

Richmond, VA

Charlotte, NC

On the Cover – William Smith Morton Library from the Chamberlayne Avenue side in all the glory of autumn colors. Once the site of Schauffler Hall, built in 1922 as a Gothic-style Presbyterian church, the new library opened in 1997. Keeping the exterior walls of a gutted Schauffler, the award-winning design for the new library blends the old and the new.

PHOTO BY DAVE SWAGER

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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*Director of Communications: Andrea Wright Associate Director of Communications: Suzan White
Communications Coordinator: Crystal Sygeel*



Brian K. Blount

Dear Friends,

On September 17, 2011, following a wonderful opening convocation service at the chapel on the campus of Hampden-Sydney College, where the seminary came into being 200 years ago, a Union contingent took to the road for an 85-mile bicycle journey back home to Richmond. The ride was our way of commemorating both the birthplace of the seminary and the seminary's journey from the rural countryside to the urban ministry field in which it now sits. It was a wonderful, community building endeavor; every seminary constituency was represented. There were trustees, faculty members, staff, students, alumni/ae, and seminary friends. We rode through all manner of road and weather: sun, rain, driving rain, hail, sleet, blizzard, earthquake, flood, and uphill the entire way. Perhaps, I exaggerate just a touch. And, along the way, for the respite of a night at the midpoint of the journey, we enjoyed the tremendous hospitality of the pastor and members of Providence Presbyterian Church, Powhatan, VA.

As I traveled along the way, led by seminary folk to the front, followed by seminary riders to the rear, and supported by a host of seminary volunteers who had set up aid and rest stations along the way, I gave thanks to God for the gift that is the Union Presbyterian Seminary family. For 200 years now, we have been riding the often rough and even treacherous pathways of human history, shepherding men and women who were following calls into different forms of church leadership. On the sunny days, the dreary days, and the stormy ones, through all sorts of metaphorical "weather," the seminary has endured and indeed thrived in its work of theological education. As we continue this wonderful ride, I feel assured that we will also continue, with God's help, successfully to form the leaders who will transform the church in exciting ways.

And so, I enter this bicentennial season with great expectations. We are celebrating the past not to reify it, but to use it as motivation for our work of the future. We are not beginning a ride, but taking one up, latching onto the baton of theological education and setting out joyfully into the next two hundred years of journey for Union Presbyterian Seminary. We have plenty of room for you along this way. Come celebrate. Come bring your gifts, your time, your talents, your vision and ride.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian", written in a cursive style.

Brian K. Blount, President

ON CAMPUS

A BYTE of the Future

*How are existing and emerging technologies impacting religious faith and practices?
How can technology benefit worship and education?*

These critical questions stimulated the design of a conference on the use of technology in worship and education that attracted nearly 100 participants to the Richmond campus on October 18-20, 2011. Leaders of the opening worship service set the tone for this event through multimedia that generated a sense of the energy, awe, and wonder of creation, music that blended jazz and Taizé, and a sermon by President Brian Blount that offered a creative use of technology in worship.

The ancients used the technology of worship to bridge the communicative and existential gap that exists between us and the divine and threatens to divide us from the divine. Worship is itself a technology that we voluntarily deploy in order to bring us into a closer relationship with God. Every time we speak a liturgy, sing a hymn, share in a communal prayer, think with the preacher about a text and the sermon devised to interpret that text, we are using technology. We are using a tool, or an entire array of tools, to assist us in our effort to find and retrieve our relationship with God.

Keynote speakers offered insights into how technology is changing traditional faith practices in the United States, Brazil, and Kenya, and ways in which technology may help us explore more deeply our connection with God and each other. Workshops empowered participants by providing strategies, modeling best practices, offering tools, and pointing to access points for resources. A model teaching session led by **Von Clemans** (M.Div.'78; M.A.C.E.'80) provided a learning experience that employed technological activities to foster creativity, engagement, and collaboration in the classroom. Clemans affirms:

*When technology is spoken as the language
of this world and is used transparently,
appropriately, and to open a space
for a learning community
to practice the pursuit of truth,
teachers and learners are enriched and nurtured
and God is glorified.*



Ken McFayden, dean of the Leadership Institute and professor of ministry and leadership development, opens the technology conference which was sponsored by the Leadership Institute.

Other speakers included **Eric Elnes**, senior pastor of Countryside Community Church (UCC) in Omaha, NE; **Chuck Marohnic**, associate director of music for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community in Louisville, KY; **Adam Walker Cleaveland**, minister for youth and young adults at Asbury United Methodist Church in Livermore, CA; **Susan Wyche**, computing innovation fellow at Virginia Tech's Center for Human-Computer Interaction; and **Pamela Mitchell-Legg** (M.A.'79; Ed.D.'86), professor of Christian education at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus.

As the conference adjourned, participants departed with new insights and questions about how to use technology effectively in the life and work of the church—eager, it seems, for another Byte.

To see recorded keynote addresses from the conference, visit Union Live at www.unionlive.org. Ω

—Kenneth J. McFayden

Celebrating New Servants and Acknowledging Service

The body of Christ is made of many parts, all serving God's kingdom. Union Presbyterian Seminary is ever grateful for the services provided by all members of the board of trustees.

As the board begins a new chapter of service, we are pleased to celebrate the call of six new servants—Gary Charles, Ron James, Shannon Kershner, Steven Lilly, Ernie Thompson and Susan DeWynngaert—who will be joining the board of trustees January 2012.

Gary Wayne Charles (D.Min.'80) holds a B.A. degree in psychology from the College of William and Mary. He has held pastorates in Wilmington, NC, Newport News, VA, and at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, VA. Gary served on the presidential search committee that extended a call to Dr. Brian Blount to serve as its president beginning in August 2007. He and his wife, Jennell, have two adult children.

Ronald L. James attended the University of Missouri and received his B.A. degree in political science and M.A. in economics and political science from Southern Illinois University. He earned a J.D. degree from American University Law School. Ronald is an attorney and educator with an extensive background in regulatory, human resources, and employment matters. With a distinguished career in government, he most recently served as assistant secretary of the army through mid-2009. Prior to that, he served as chief human capital officer for the Department of Homeland Security. Ron served on active duty in the United States Army as an officer in the 101st Airborne Division Artillery.

Shannon Johnson Kershner is pastor of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church and is the daughter of a Presbyterian minister and a retired schoolteacher. She is a 1994 graduate from Trinity University and received her theological training at Columbia Theological Seminary, receiving her M.Div. degree in 1999. Her sermons and articles have been published in a number of journals including *The Journal for Preachers* and *Lectionary Homiletics*. Shannon and her husband, Greg, have two children.

Steven C. Lilly, chief financial officer, secretary, and treasurer with Triangle Capital Corporation, is a graduate of Davidson College. Prior to joining Triangle in December, 2005, he spent six and a half years with SpectraSite, Inc., which prior to its sale in August, 2005, was the third largest independent wireless tower company in the United States. Prior to that Steven was in the media & communications group with First Union Capital Markets (now Wells Fargo & Company). His civic activities have included serving on the board of directors of the Wake County Boys & Girls Club, the Methodist Home for Children, The John Rex Endowment, and the board of trustees of Peace College.

Ernest T. "Ernie" Thompson III, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC, is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary (M.Div.'88). He also attended the University of South Carolina Honors College where he received his B.S. in physics and Columbia Theological Seminary (D.Min.'95). He has served pastorates in Lancaster, SC, Charlotte, NC, and Colonial Heights, VA. His community involvement includes serving the Presbyterian Counseling Center as board president and on the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission to End Youth Violence. Ernie and his wife, Elaine, have two children.

Susan Forester DeWynngaert (D.Min.'83) is an ordained Presbyterian minister currently serving at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, MD. Prior to her current position, she also served at First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, FL, Venice Presbyterian Church in Venice, FL, and Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. She is a teacher, lecturer and has served the church and community in many ways, including as a trustee for Eckerd College and Presbyterian College. Susan and her husband, Tawes, are the parents of two grown children.

The seminary expresses sincere gratitude for the service of the board of trustee members completing their term—Steve Eason, Don Griggs, Lillian Smith, and Lamar Williamson. Ω

New Faces on Campus

Sharon Payne joined the business office as controller in November. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in accounting as well as a master's in business administration, both from Strayer University.

For over 15 years, Sharon has served in high level financial roles for a number of not-for-profit organizations in the Richmond area including serving as director of business affairs and facilities for Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

Sharon was born and raised in Henrico County, and still resides there with her military husband and three young children.

Lisa McLennan began work as admissions counselor for the Charlotte campus in August. She is a registered dietician and diabetes educator who is in her third year of study at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus. A long-time member of Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church, Lisa will work with the admissions staff to recruit new students for the Charlotte campus and to nurture and grow relationships with local churches and colleges in the Charlotte area and beyond.

Union Presbyterian Seminary welcomes **Charles Davenport** as the new associate director of supervised ministry and vocational planning for our Charlotte campus. His role at the seminary will include teaching supervised ministry courses, preparing supervisors and mentors to work with student interns, establishing partnerships with congregations in the Carolinas, and providing vocational planning for graduating students as they seek their first call.



Sharon Payne



Lisa McLennan

“Charles brings many years of parish ministry to this call, as well as experience at the presbytery level,” says Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning Director Susan Fox. *“He has served as a supervisor of ten seminary interns, so he understands the supervised ministry experience from that valuable perspective.”*

Originally from upstate South Carolina, Davenport served local congregations throughout North and South Carolina after his ordination in 1978. Most recently, Davenport served the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as presbytery associate, resourcing pastors and congregations in Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln Counties.

“It is with great humility, gratitude and excitement that I respond to the call of Union Presbyterian Seminary,” said Davenport. *“It seems that my entire career in ministry has prepared me for this position.”* Ω



Charles Davenport

Lands of Faith and History—the Journey of a Lifetime

Union Presbyterian Seminary will be conducting a travel seminar to Jordan, Israel, and Greece on May 10-29, 2012 led by Professors Andreas Schuele, Rebecca Weaver, and Rodney Sadler.

Guided by these experienced faculty, the journey will start in Jordan, known from the Bible as the land of Ammon and Moab. Participants will visit the ancient sites of Jerash, Mount Nebo, the crusaders' castle of El Kerak, and the monumental temple tombs of Petra. Around the Dead Sea into Israel, the group will experience Massada, Qumran, and Jericho as well as The Galilee and Jerusalem. They will undergo immersion into the world in which the Bible was written as well as the realities of life today among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. For the final leg, a flight across the Mediterranean Sea will take the group to Greece for a first-hand impression of ancient Greek and early Christian culture. Last but not least, Athens and its Acropolis will round out what will be nothing less than the journey of a lifetime.

Deadline for registration is January 7, 2012. For more information, visit www.upsem.edu. Ω

Former PSCE Dean Malcolm McIver Dies

Malcolm Chester McIver, Jr., who served as dean of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (PSCE) from 1959 until his retirement in 1981, has died. In addition to his service at PSCE, he served as a navy chaplain during World War II, campus minister at the University of Alabama, and director of campus life for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

In 2000 Dr. McIver was honored by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for his many years of service to higher education and for his leadership during the social changes of the Civil Rights Movement. In 2003, he and his wife, Mildred Sneed McIver, were recipients of the David and Vera Medal for Leadership in the Marriage Enrichment Movement in North America. He touched the lives of countless young persons throughout the span of his career. Notably, 24 young men decided to become minister during his campus ministry at Tuscaloosa, many of whom have kept in

touch with the McIvers over the years.

McIver earned a B.A. degree from Centre College of Kentucky in 1941 where he was a member of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. In 1944, he graduated from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary with the B.D. degree. He received an honorary D.D. degree from Centre College in 1956 and earned a Ph.D. degree from New College of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 1958. In 1968 he studied at the Ecumenical Institute in Celigny, Switzerland.

Dr. McIver is survived by his wife, a daughter, five grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Malcolm and Mildred McIver Scholarship Fund, Union Presbyterian Seminary, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227. Ω



Patrick Coats, 1967-2011

The entire Union Presbyterian Seminary community grieves the death of Controller and Housing Coordinator Patrick K. Coats. He died Sunday, October 2, 2011.

Since 1998 Patrick has been an invaluable member of the business office and a dear friend to many. A memorial service was held on the Richmond campus on November 4th followed by a gathering in Belk Center where the seminary community was able to offer expressions of appreciation and condolence to Patrick's family. Stories of Patrick's steady demeanor, sense of humor, compassion for others, and supreme accuracy in record keeping filled the room, as seminary friends and family joined in celebration of a life that touched many others.

A native of Harnett County, Patrick graduated from Cape Fear Christian Academy in 1985 and continued his studies at St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg where he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting.

He is survived by his mother, Beatrice P. Coats of Lillington, NC, sister Rebecca C. Blair and her husband, Jon, of Apex, NC, and nephews, Cameron and Kellen Blair.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Patrick Coats Memorial Fund, Union Presbyterian Seminary, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA. 23227. Ω

From the Classroom to the Mission Field

As seminarians approach graduation and the transition from the world of academia to pulpits, classrooms and other areas of ministry, they must discern how their gifts and interests align with the opportunities available to them. According to the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) data, finding that first call has proven to be challenging. For Union Presbyterian Seminary graduates, however, the story is quite different.

According to Susan Fox, professor of supervised ministry and director of supervised ministry and vocational planning (SMVPO), graduates of Union Presbyterian Seminary who seek a call, typically find one.

“While today’s first call environment is undoubtedly difficult, and the search may not unfold as neatly or quickly as it did a decade ago, Union graduates are highly respected in church circles. If a recent graduate feels called to small church ministry and is able to move where opportunities exist, then the call process may move rather swiftly. Our graduates have also been very successful in seeking calls as associate pastors, educators, and two-year pastoral residents.”

The individual circumstances of each student impact his or her vocational path directly out of seminary. Denominational requirements and family issues such as spousal employment or aging parents can result in a decision to postpone or limit geographically the search or to pursue an interim position.

At Union Presbyterian Seminary’s Charlotte campus, 86% of graduates since its founding in 2002 have been successful in receiving a call. Some have chosen to remain in the general geographic region,

while others have chosen national and international appointments. In Richmond, statistics from the last two graduating classes of M.Div. and M.A.C.E. students indicate that over 93% of these alumni have received calls.

Jenny McDevitt (M.Div.’09) says that the SMVPO played an instrumental role in helping her find her first call to the residency program at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, MI.

“I first heard about the program through a flyer SMPVO posted,” says McDevitt. *“Susan Fox took time to answer my questions and share what knowledge she had. It all sounded so promising, so I applied.”* She also credits the campus community at large in helping her get started in ministry. *“Some faculty and staff served as references for me and helped me network as I searched for a call. They made phone calls and sent emails on my behalf, helping me get a foot in the door.”*

Angela Duncan (M.Div.’93) is an example of an alum serving in an alternative context as chaplain and assistant professor in the Patient Counseling Program at Virginia Commonwealth University. In her role as chaplain for the Pauley Heart Center, Duncan teaches pastoral care with heart patients to chaplaincy interns and residents. At the same time, she also provides pastoral care to heart failure, heart transplant and artificial heart patients and families. Ω



Jenny McDevitt is currently serving as associate pastor at Bayside Presbyterian Church.



Bicentennial Gala: An Event to Remember!

Board of Trustee Member Lisa Thompson Cross chats with Bobbye Howell and Susan Hickok, associate vice-president of advancement for Charlotte campus, at the Bicentennial Dinner and Auction Fundraising Gala in November. Because of generous donations from faculty, trustees, staff, students, and friends of the seminary, the sole fundraising event of the Bicentennial year of celebration raised more than \$100,000 to support the mission of the seminary.



John T. Carroll



Paul Galbreath



Frances Taylor Gench



Stan Hargraves



Kenneth J. McFayden



Samuel K. Roberts



Stanley H. Skreslet



Carol Schweitzer

Katie Geneva Cannon, Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics, participated in the swearing in ceremony for the Rev. Dr. Suzan Johnson Cook as Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the State Department in Washington, D.C. She submitted an essay, "Merging Mission, Memory, and Ministry," celebrating her 40th anniversary as a member of the 1971 work camp team for Operation Crossroads Africa, to be published in *The Review of Faith and International Affairs* in Spring 2012. Cannon also delivered two lectures, "Restoring the Church: Leading the Church" and "Transforming the World," at the 24th annual meeting of Black Clergywomen in the United Methodist Church in Nashville, TN.

John T. Carroll, Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament, presented a paper, "The Reign of God and the Roman Empire in the Gospel of Luke," at the annual meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association at Assumption College in Worcester, MA. He was the panelist for a session at the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in San Francisco on "New Studies on the Synoptic Problem." While on sabbatical, he is completing a commentary on the Gospel of Luke for the *New Testament Library*, expected to be published in fall 2012.

Paul Galbreath, professor of preaching and worship, co-authored the preaching resource, *New Proclamation Year B 2012 Advent through Holy Week*. During his sabbatical, he preached at First Presbyterian Church in Newport, OR, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria, BC, Valley Presbyterian Community Church in Portland, OR, and Ipava Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church in Lewiston, IL. Galbreath was the convener at the Presbyterian Cooperative Committee on Examinations in Dallas in October. He keyed the New Hope Presbytery Retreat for Pastors and Educators at Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC.

Frances Taylor Gench, Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation, taught a summer term course on the book of Revelation for Cook Native American Ministries in Phoenix, AZ. With Roger Gench, she co-taught a Kaleidoscope seminar on biblical preaching, "Struggling with Scripture," at Ghost Ranch, NM for Presbyterian pastors in the Synod of the Southwest. She also led a women's retreat for New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. and completed UPSem's 85-mile bicentennial bike ride from Hampden-Sydney to Richmond, VA.

Stan Hargraves, registrar, led a workshop titled, "Above Board: Being a Credible Church," at The National Association of Church Business Administration (NACBA) Conference.

Kenneth J. McFayden, dean of the Leadership Institute and professor of ministry and leadership development, co-lead the Asia Travel Seminar in May term, with **Carol Schweitzer**, associate professor of pastoral care. They visited churches, theological schools, and historical and cultural sites in South Korea and China with nine participants from the Richmond and Charlotte campuses. McFayden preached at Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church, Weems, VA, and spoke in worship on Mission Sunday at Lord Jesus Korean Church, Richmond, VA. McFayden led two workshops on "Keeping the Change: Administrative Leadership in Times of Transition" at the Annual Conference of the National Association of Church Business Administration in National Harbor, MD. He co-lead a five-day continuing education seminar on "Shifting Styles for Shifting Sands: Leading for Adaptive Change," with Jill Hudson, at the Montreat (NC) Conference Center, and led two seminars on "Strategic Planning and Christian Perspectives and Theology of the Church" for the Church Business Administration

program on Union's campus. McFayden participated in a 3-day Annual Conference on distance teaching & learning at University of Wisconsin-Madison and a visioning retreat for the Society for the Advancement of Continuing Education for Ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary. He published a book review on "Transforming Christian Theology: For Church and Society" by Philip Clayton in *Interpretation*. He also served as an institutional representative to a gathering of select theological schools invited by the Cousins Family Foundation to explore scholarship programs, leadership development programs, and new initiatives centering on service learning, community engagement, and social justice in Atlanta, GA. McFayden participated in the Bible Exhibition of the Protestant Church in China, offered by the China Christian Council and National Three-Self Patriotic Movement at Mount Vernon UMC, Washington, DC and in the PCUSA China Network Conference at First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, NC.

Sam K. Roberts, Anne Borden and E. Hervey Evans Professor of Theology and Ethics, presented a paper before the Commission on Christian Ethics of the Baptist World Alliance entitled "Virtue Theory and the Work of the Holy Spirit in Moral Action" in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Stanley Skreslet, dean and F. S. Royster Professor of Christian Missions, preached for Mission Sunday at Concord Presbyterian Church in Rawlings, VA, and spoke on Christianity in Egypt at First Presbyterian Church, Richmond. He also served on an international committee that edited the centenary anniversary issue of the *International Review of Mission*, while also contributing an article to the effort: "Missiology and the IRM over a Century."

In May, **Carol Schnabl Schweitzer**, associate professor of pastoral care, and **Ken McFayden**, dean of the Leadership Institute and professor of ministry and leadership development, led the Asia travel seminar to South Korea and China accompanying ten students and one spouse. Carol's paper from the October 2010 conference, *New Directions in Pastoral Theology*, entitled "Text and Tune, Speaking and Listening: Musical Resources in Pastoral Care" was published in *Pastoral Psychology* in June 2011. She preached and led worship at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Petersburg in May, attended the Virginia Synod Assembly (ELCA) in June where she was recognized for completing 25 years of ordained ministry. Schweitzer preached and led worship at Messiah Lutheran Church in Mechanicsville, VA, in July, and at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Norge, VA, in July and September.

Faculty Honored in their Fields



Mark Valeri

Mark Valeri, E. T. Thompson Professor of Church History, has been named to receive the Philip Schaff Prize from the American Society of Church History for his book, *Heavenly Merchandize: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Puritan America*. The Schaff Prize is awarded biennially to a North American author whose work is deemed the best work published in the previous two years on any period in the history of Christianity. Valeri is expected to receive the award at the next annual ASCH meeting in January.

The Teaching and Learning Committee of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) announced **Katie Geneva Cannon**, Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics, as the recipient of the 2011 Excellence in Teaching award earlier this year. Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, Cannon's alma mater, hosted *A Conversation with Katie Geneva Cannon, 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award Winner* during the AAR conference in November. Cannon is also being recognized as a womanist legend by the Black Religious Scholars Group (BRSG) and will be honored in New York City, March 2-4, 2012.



Katie Cannon



John Trotti

John Trotti, Professor Emeritus of Bibliography, will receive the Excellence in Theological Education Award. Trotti was director of William Smith Morton Library from 1970-2002. This award is given by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) committee on theological education to honor persons who have made outstanding lifetime contributions to theological education in and for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Trotti will receive the award at the 2012 General Assembly. Ω



Karen-Marie Yust



Beverly Zink-Sawyer

Karen Marie Yust, associate professor of Christian education, organized and hosted the 11th International Conference on Children's Spirituality at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond campus. It was attended by representatives from 11 countries, including presenters from Malta, Belgium, Australia, Venezuela, Canada, Norway, and the United Kingdom. Yust also provided one of three keynote addresses at the conference, "Standardized Testing Epistemologies as Obstacles to Children's Spiritual Knowing." She led an intergenerational church school class on prayer using the "Grilled Cheesus" episode from Glee and led adult education series on faith and economics. She preached and led worship at Trinity

Christian Church, Mechanicsville, VA, and preached the anniversary service sermon at Asian American United Church of Christ, Chesterfield, VA, in October. Yust published "Inled mig icke i frestelse" ("Lead me not into temptation": The (Mis)Use of Power when Teaching Children") in *Och han tog dem I famnen... Texter om barn i kyrka och teologi (The Child In Focus: Articles on Children in Church and Theology)*; "Ais Christ/Christin aufwachsen': Kindertheologie im US-amerikanischen Kontext" ("To Grow Up Christian": Child Theology in the American Context") in *Jahrbuch fur Kindertheologie (Yearbook of Child Theology)*; and "How Will Our Children Know God? Resisting Cultural Epistemologies that

Hinder Spiritual Wisdom" in *Journal of Childhood and Religion*.

Beverly Zink-Sawyer, Samuel W. Newell, Jr. Professor of Preaching and Worship, taught a seminar on preaching for Commissioned Lay Pastors in the Presbytery of West Virginia. She led worship at Westminster and Ginter Park Presbyterian Churches in Richmond. Zink-Sawyer contributed several "Homiletical Perspective" essays to the online format of the *Feasting on the Word* preaching commentary. She presented a seminar and workshop on "Preaching and Worship in the Advent Season" for the Southside (VA) Presbyterians in Ministry. Ω

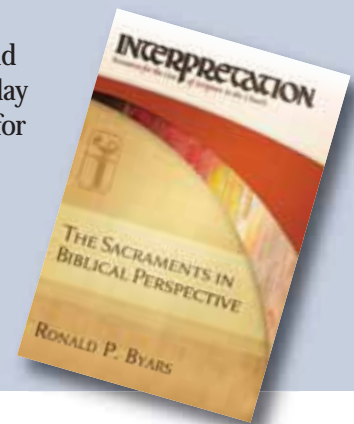


Ronald Byars

The Sacraments in Biblical Perspective

The third volume in the exciting new *Interpretation* series published by Westminster John Knox Press, *The Sacraments in Biblical Perspective* by Professor Emeritus of Preaching and Worship **Ronald Byars**, offers a comprehensive look at the theology of sacraments.

For many church people, worship is about preaching and music with baptism and the Lord's Supper as occasional additions to Sunday services. Byars recognizes that church-goers are uncertain about the need for sacraments. He describes the possibility that the very *doing* of worship—the actions observed, the postures assumed, the sound and sight of water, the smell and taste of bread and wine—will subtly alter the temper of the heart and the mind. Encountering the sacraments honestly leads us to the very heart of the gospel. Ω





In October, final year students, **Cathy Belles** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.), **Patty Rich** (M.Div.), **Sarah Craven** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.), **Christy Fisher** (M.Div.), **Darren Utley** (M.Div.), **Meg Lindsay Dudley** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.), **Howard Dudley** (M.Div.), **Jessica Paulsen** (M.Div.), **Matt Drumheller** (M.Div.), **Elizabeth Boulware Landes** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.), **Claire George** (M.Div.), and **Rachel Mastin** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.), attended the orientation for the annual Company of New Pastors in Louisville, KY, accompanied by faculty mentors, **Beverly Zink-Sawyer**, Samuel W. Newell, Jr. Professor of Preaching and Worship, and **Sam Adams**, assistant professor of Old Testament. They participated in workshops and panel discussions at the Presbyterian Center, and interacted with Presbyterian students from other seminaries around the country.



Student Shout-Outs

Abong Ngranui, a first-year M.Div. student at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus, will be the recipient in January of the 2012 Pride Global Outreach Award. This prestigious award honors an African American or African Charlotte resident who has reached beyond our borders to make the world a better place. Their accomplishments must be clearly recognized as having made a difference in the lives of others with regards to providing economic, physical or social aid, building social capital or fostering race relations from a global perspective. Abong is a member at Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference expressed thanks to Union Presbyterian Seminary students, **Jamie Thompson** (M.Div.'11; Th.M.'12) for her music leadership, **Sarah Pugh** (M.Div.'13) as the enabler coordinator, and **Todd Davidson** (M.Div.'11) for his workshop leadership last summer at the "I of the Storm" conference.

Laura Thompson (M.Div.'12) and **Jill Isola** (M.Div.'12) did a commendable job in their roles as

the Ministry Team at Montreat Conference Center last summer. They provided pastoral care and food to the students on summer staff and led worship each Sunday in Anderson Hall.

M.Div. student **Sharde Chapman** was a servant leader intern with the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School sponsored by the Memphis Urban League in Memphis, TN, last summer. She taught sixth graders in the literacy program directed toward minority students.

Sharon Blount and the Bicentennial Dinner and Auction Gala Committee would like to thank these outstanding student volunteers for their work on November 3: **Miriam Foltz** (M.Div.), **Rachel Erb** (M.Div.), **Ben Behrendt** (M.Div.), **Jessica Paulsen** (M.Div.), **Marvin Lindsay** (Ph.D.), **Dana Vaughn** (M.Div.), **Ginna Irby** (M.Div.), **DeAnna Daniels** (M.Div.), **Elizabeth Boulware Landes** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.), **Rachel Jenkins** (M.Div.), **Jessica Rathbun-Cook** (M.Div.), **Christy Fisher** (M.Div.), **Cathy Belles** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.), **Linda Jones** (M.Div.), and **Howard Dudley** (M.Div.). Ω

Ride on, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Ride On!



President Brian Blount leads the pack in a triumphant entry onto the Richmond campus quad after an 85-mile bike ride from Hampden-Sydney College. The bike ride was a symbolic reenactment of the seminary's journey in 1898 from Farmville to Richmond. President Blount was accompanied by twenty-five students, alums, faculty, and friends of the seminary. Photo above is a view of the quad in 1899.

“Ride on! Ride on!” exclaimed the students, staff, faculty, alums and friends of Union Presbyterian Seminary gathered at Hampden-Sydney College, the seminary’s place of origin in 1812, as they sent off 26 bike riders to make the 85-mile journey back to the Richmond campus.

The Bicentennial Commemorative Bike Ride can be understood as a metaphor for the seminary’s entire bicentennial year—a rider celebrates the

miles traveled, embraces the challenges of the current trail, and looks forward to the road to yet be conquered.

“As the seminary looks back, remembers, and reflects, we also prepare,” says Brian Blount, president of Union Presbyterian Seminary. “We want to use this celebration to build momentum for our future work of equipping tomorrow’s church leaders.”



Faculty procession in for the seminary's 200th convocation at College Church on the campus of Hampden-Sydney College.

These pages are filled with “riders” of all kinds at Union Presbyterian Seminary—who are proud of the seminary’s heritage, and who are even more excited about its future. Union Presbyterian Seminary’s bicentennial year is as much about celebrating its next two hundred years as it is about celebrating its last. For the students, staff and faculty, the mission to *Form Leaders for the Transformation of the Church* has never been more vital. A charge echoed in the words of the liturgy which sent the bike riders on their way from Hampden-Sydney to the Richmond campus:

*For just before us is an open road
of faith and wonder,
of determination and adventure,
of two hundred years carved and traveled,
and centuries more of trails to blaze
As our cyclists push off, so do we!
Ride on! Ride on!*

*As the cyclist leans into the curves of the road, so do we!
Ride on! Ride on!*

*See how a practicing theologian navigates
the conundrums of the road!
Ride on! Ride on!*

*Watch how a congregational leader can guide
through the bends and turns!
Ride on! Ride on!*

*Behold the community witness calls us
to pedal with mercy toward justice!
Ride on! Ride on!*

*Let all of us run, ride, fly—
the race in such a way as to win!*

*That great cloud of witnesses, and you,
Almighty God, author and perfecter of our faith, cheering us on
now and forever! Amen! Ω*



Charlotte Campus Expansion

Work is underway on the 22,000 sq. ft. building that will house Union Presbyterian Seminary’s Charlotte campus. The new building will be located on a three acre site leased for \$1.00/year from Sharon Presbyterian Church. The congregation will be able to use the classroom portion of the building on Sunday mornings for their educational program and at other times on Wednesday evenings. This collaborative arrangement between church and seminary embodies the transformative nature of the Charlotte campus in serving as a resource for the church and its mission.

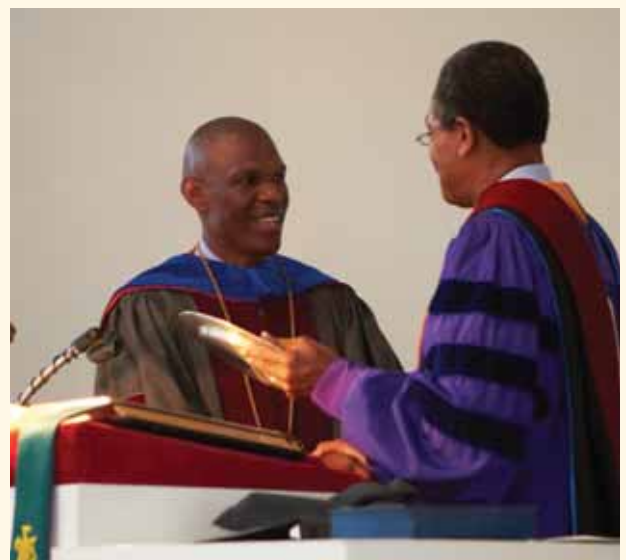
But there is much more. The new building will allow the seminary to offer classes during the week, something that has not been possible at the Queens University location. As a result, new program initiatives are underway that would provide continuing education opportunities for pastors and educators, expanded course offerings for students from other denominations and interested laypeople, and a curriculum resource center and congregational classroom supporting the work of area presbyteries and churches. In addition there will be space for a new library that can hold up to 50,000 volumes.

“In undertaking this project, the seminary is building something beautiful for God and for the flourishing of God’s children,” said Dean of the Charlotte campus Tom Currie. *“This lovely building will satisfactorily house the seminary’s program in Charlotte only to the extent that it helps us fulfill our mission of preparing men and women to become pastors and teachers for the life of the church. We think this building will do that.” Ω*

UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY—THEN AND NOW...



(Left) The 1890 graduating class of the seminary at Hampden-Sydney College; (Right) PSCE class of 1917



(Above left) William "Willie" Thompson (B.D.'61; Th.M.'62; D.Min.'92) addresses the crowd on the history of Venable Hall where the first seminary classes were held. (Right) President Blount introduces Dr. Christopher Howard, president of Hampden-Sydney College, at the 200th Convocation of the seminary. Faculty, students, staff, trustees, and friends from both the Richmond and Charlotte campuses and throughout the area gathered to mark the auspicious occasion.





Students, faculty, staff, alums, and friends of the seminary gathered on the quad for food, games, music, and an old-fashioned square dance led by Professor Emeritus of Recreation and Outdoor Education Glenn Bannerman.

Communities of Learning Program



This year, just like every year, when students arrived for classes, the campus came alive with the joyful conversation and laughter of glad reunions and renewed friendships. What made this year different, however, was that, in the midst of this almost palpable buzz, you would have been hard-pressed to pick out new students from returning ones. Thanks to their participation in the innovative new Communities of Learning (CoL) initiative funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, even first-year students felt as if they were ‘coming home’ to Union.

This past summer, new students began forming relationships with one another—and with faculty

advisors and alumni/ae mentors before they ever set foot on campus. The CoL small-group, online study program is designed to better prepare students to engage the seminary’s academic curriculum and its processes of spiritual and vocational formation. With a strong emphasis on community-building, the program also fosters in students a deeper appreciation for collaborative learning and a sense of ministry as a communal enterprise—both of which shall serve them well during their seminary years and beyond.

One of Union’s most cherished assets has always been a spirit of community that binds students, faculty, and alumni/ae together as family, nurturing and supporting them, not just in their study together, but also as they venture out into the world of ministry. The CoL program builds upon this strength by taking a good thing about our seminary and making it even better—and, in this way, plays a key role in furthering Union Presbyterian’s vision to form leaders equipped and empowered to transform the Church. Ω

—Sandy Irby

Blount Receives Accolades for Beecher Lectures

President Brian K. Blount's series for the Beecher Lectures at Yale Divinity School entitled Invasion of the Dead: Preaching Resurrection through the Lens of Apocalyptic Eschatology challenged preachers and teachers alike to proclaim the gospel with renewed conviction—and with a new vision. The Lyman Beecher Lectureship on Preaching at Yale Divinity School was established April 12, 1871.

Below, President Blount answers some questions posed by Crystal Sygeel of the communications department.

Brian, we've heard the Yale Beecher lectures were very well received by its audience. Congratulations to you on your work! What was your initial reaction when you were asked to speak at the lectures?

Initially, I was overwhelmed with a sense of deep gratitude. I was honored to follow in the footsteps of previous lecturers and to be included among their number. Then, I realized they wanted original work! I felt both grateful and somewhat daunted by the task.

You had some very catchy titles for your lectures. How did you identify your titles and topics?

My general thought was to talk about how apocalyptic literature was relevant both to the church and society. For about a year and half, I read apocalyptic biblical texts found in Mark, Revelation and in the writings of Paul, and secondary literature reflecting on those texts. I noticed that the theme of resurrection in these texts energized me the most. I also explored a wide variety of apocalyptic resources in secular culture including books, television shows and films. I found particularly fascinating popular culture references on the living dead.

It was a confluence of these themes—resurrection in our biblical texts, the living dead in popular culture, and the recognition that while the mainline church was moving as far away as it could from apocalyptic literature and sensibilities, the secular culture was embracing it—that brought me to the realization that I wanted to work in this interesting area. In the New Testament, there is a strong focus on what it means to live again and what it means to be caught in the context of apocalyptic conflict, a reality typified by its “deadness,” where the world is waiting for God to break in. The titles try to address apocalyptic from both religious and secular perspectives.

Why did you think it was relevant to speak on these topics at the lectures?

In the 1950s and 60s mainline churches began leaving the conversation about apocalyptic literature to voices outside the mainline denominations. Those voices have a tendency to interpret the material more literally and radically, focusing on counting down the days and frightening people into relationship with God.

So in both religious and secular circles there's a conversation that's not being responded to in some significant ways by the mainline traditions. Apocalyptic literature reveals something about the way we are supposed to be in relationship with God now, in the present and what we have to hope for in resurrection. I wanted to take up the challenge of the mainline churches' silence on the subject in recent decades and demonstrate how useful apocalyptic imagery, particularly as it relates to resurrection, could be meaningful to and for our contemporary world.



As evidenced by the popularity of television shows, books and films about “the living dead,” it seems we are more comfortable discussing apocalyptic themes in secular culture than we are in the Church.

Yes, and it’s unfortunate that we’re more comfortable having this conversation in our pop culture than we are in relationship to the foundational canonical materials of the church. We have demythologized them and reduced them to historical artifacts. Apocalyptic eschatology itself has become a historical artifact, as if it was only part of who we *were*, as opposed to who we *are*.

What made you gravitate towards this apocalyptic material originally?

I trace it back to working as a pastor at Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church [in Newport News, VA] in what was for me a unique environment. I grew up in the country and attended seminary in a small town. Many members of the church drove in from the suburbs, but the site itself was located in an urban setting. Seeing the struggles that people were caught up in: conflict, tension, survival, poverty—were all things I had studied in theory. But to now be on the ground in ministry caused me to reflect on the gospel of Mark in a new way. I wanted to explore what the gospel’s expectation—that God will intervene and bring about resurrection—would mean for people in their day-to-day lives. That experience drove my dissertation. It’s been the driving force since I’ve been working and writing.

What impact did preaching on apocalyptic themes have on your congregation?

I had an opportunity to tell the members of Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church recently that the thing we accomplished together that I was most proud of occurred during our capital campaign. At that time, the members had to decide if they would relocate the church or if they would re-build their church campus in the downtown area of Newport News. In the end, they decided to rebuild in the same place out of a sense of commitment to ministry and mission in the community in which they were situated. I would like to hope that preaching these apocalyptic themes, wherein we are invited to meet God in the present where we encounter and engage communal struggle and have hope for resurrection, played a role in that decision. Ω

***Invasion of the Dead: Preaching Resurrection through the lens of Apocalyptic Eschatology
by Brian K. Blount***

Lecture One: ***Dawn of the Dead: Preaching Revelation***

Lecture Two: ***Apocalyptic Vulnerability: Preaching Paul***

Lecture Three: ***Invasion of the Dead: Preaching Mark***

The lectures are available for viewing for a limited time at <http://divinity.yale.edu/videos>

New Partnership with Korean Lay Leaders



In late October, elders from the Korean church participating in a three-day lay leadership development program at Union Presbyterian Seminary posed with Syngman Rhee, President Blount, and Dean Ken McFayden (center).

Union Presbyterian Seminary has developed a new partnership with the Graduate School for Lay Leadership in Seoul, Korea, wherein we will offer a lay leadership development program for approximately 30 elders each year. The president's office, Union's Asian American Ministry Center, and the Leadership Institute have all combined their resources in the creation of this partnership.

Participating elders have committed themselves to a two-year program in which they will seek to advance their gifts for leadership in the life of the Korean church. In the first year of their program, and as a complement to their studies in Korea, they travel to the United States for a two-week experience that combines continuing education and cultural immersion. For the past 23 years, they have pursued this continuing education component with another seminary. Beginning this fall, they began to pursue it with us. In the second year of their program, participants travel to the Holy Land.

Leaders of this graduate school approached seminary administrators earlier this year out of their desire for substantive educational opportunities for elders from the Presbyterian church of Korea. Their first seminar on our campus occurred on October 25-27. Elders participated in seminars in Bible, theology and ethics, history and mission, and church leader-

ship offered by Brian Blount, Frances Taylor Gench, Katie Geneva Cannon, Joe Coalter, Stanley Skreslet, Syngman Rhee, and Ken McFayden.

This new partnership reflects our seminary's interest in broadening and deepening our relationships with Korean Presbyterians. It will have a wonderful impact upon the continuing service of our Asian American Ministry Center and open doors for further opportunities for leadership development initiatives with Koreans and other global church leaders.

"This initiative is a wonderful example of how our seminary is part of the globalization of theological education," notes Syngman Rhee, director of the Asian American Ministry Center. *"Since 1924, we have provided educational opportunities for many Korean church leaders—especially for pastors, educators, and scholars. This lay leadership training program is a new step forward."*

The 2012 seminar on our campus will celebrate the graduate school's 25th anniversary of traveling to the United States in relation to its lay leadership development program. As it celebrates this historic milestone, our seminary will celebrate this budding partnership and its mutual enrichment of both institutions. Ω

—Kenneth J. McFayden

The



GARGOYLE speaks



E. Carson Brisson

Worlds in a Soul: A Letter to *Focus* Readers in 2212

Dear 2212 *Focus* Readers:

Salutations to you upon the arrival of the quatercentenary of the life and mission of this seminary. Every prayer that your joy may be complete.

Two hundred years ago we stood during our candle of time where you now stand during yours. Does it surprise or startle you to learn that even then you were on our minds and in our hearts, that we wanted to leave a letter waiting at the corner of the centuries for you, that finding it impossible to measure adequately the meaning of this institution and its students and friends back to 1812, we leaned into the weather and into the flood and cast the tattered nets of faith forward into the uncharted waters of 2212 to wonder about and to hope for you?

We doubt it. If there be charity in time's flight, if there be any discernment across the turning of the seasons, if there be any patience with and for the cidevant verities of the past, then we were allowed, indeed almost required, to think no less of you than that a word from us on the occasion of your celebrations 20 decades hence would at least be received, and perhaps even cherished.

Know this. We believed there would be a you: students, staff, faculty, administration, graduates, trustees, and friends. We believed that what did not begin with us would surely not end with us, that what was prior to, uncaused by, and greater than us, yet had surely called out to, created, blessed, sustained, guided, challenged, and shattered and restored us in our time would not fail to do the same with and for you in yours. We believed we would end, conclude, desist, cease, finish and be finished, maybe even rest, but that the Beauty to which we had belonged, a Beauty not of this place, not born in the manger of our minds and hearts, but nevertheless a Beauty received and nurtured and respected dimly and in part in and through countless lives here, would, albeit in ten thousand forms and manifestations we could not have imagined in our deepest imaginings, not perish with our perishing and not die with our dying, but rather endure infinitely beyond our every witness to, stewardship of, and participation in it.

We further believed that our manifold imperfections, some still to be unveiled but some already clear even to the dullest and worst among us, and so then all the more obvious to you years and years on, could not quench the divine recreation and redemption of time and space, whatever those chosen twin mysteries finally turn out to be, whereby all things, including every tree in and every tree east of Eden, are being made new. We believed our limits would not have to be your limits. We believed our faults would not have to be your faults. We believed our wrongs would not have to be your wrongs. We believed, moreover, that you would find and forgive and fix much of what we failed even to notice was broken.

We believed that in and through and because of that grace nursing the arch of eternity toward unending and undivided worship, we and you are finally not, and cannot allow ourselves to be beguiled into believing, souls in a world, but rather worlds in a soul, as so many poets proclaim. Therefore, though worlds, yours and ours and others, appear to be distant and disconnected, in the end they are not and by the end they shall not be. Therefore, every shadow is also a portent of the gift of shade and every shade in turn a symptom of both the first and the final light. Therefore, while we do not and must not always call here home, home is here always calling us.

We took our turn, gentle *Focus* readers of 2212, we took ever so briefly our turn in and at and for the newer world God alone is building. As for you so for us, it entailed immeasurable loss but immeasurably more so bestowed that which is impenetrable to any loss. As for you so for us, it provoked the bitterest of tears and yet bequeathed the sweetest of songs. As for you so for us, it wrenched our very breath from us according to its inscrutable hand, and then returned that breath according to its wounded, whole, and sacred heart. As for you so for us, it was life itself, and that more abundant. Beloved, as for you so for us, it was not ours and now it is not yours, and yet we are all of us its own, forever. Ω

Celebrating 200 Years

Union Presbyterian Seminary continues the celebration...

- January 1** **Seminary Sunday, Roanoke, VA** Worship service will celebrate the diversity of liturgical and leadership styles demonstrated by the seminary and churches throughout the presbyteries of western Virginia.
- February 11-12** **Seminary Sunday, Charlotte campus** A celebration dinner on Saturday evening will mark the 10th anniversary of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus. Sunday morning, the seminary staff and students will lead worship in congregations throughout the greater Charlotte area.
- February 14-16** **The Black Alumni/ae Conference: Ministry on the Ground** Fellowship, worship and continuing education will offer practical guidance and inspiration to church leaders ministering in challenging times. All are welcome!
- March 3** **Seminary for a Day: Equipping Church Leaders for Ministry, Richmond campus** Multi-presbytery gathering with practical workshops by Union Presbyterian Seminary faculty will speak directly to the challenges facing churches in the 21st century.
- April 22** **Seminary Sunday, Richmond, VA** Worship service to celebrate the diversity of liturgical and leadership styles demonstrated by the seminary and churches throughout the presbyteries of Virginia.
- May 7-9** **Sprunt Lectures, Richmond campus** John Kuykendall, Katie Geneva Cannon, Craig Dykstra, and Mindy Douglas Adams are featured lecturers with Laura Mendenhall as preacher.
- May 30-31** **Asian Ministry and Mission Celebration, Richmond campus** Reunion event will commemorate Union Presbyterian Seminary graduates as Presbyterian missionaries to Korea as well as Korean students/pastors who have studied at the seminary since 1924.
- June 15-17** **Union Family Reunion, Montreat** Alumni/ae and their families will gather for a weekend of fellowship, worship, and fun including preaching by President Brian Blount, a concert by David LaMotte, Bible study by Pat Miller, faculty leadership by Pamela Mitchell-Legg, Paul Galbreath, Richard Boyce, and a barn dance by Glenn Bannerman.

For more information, visit our website at www.upsem.edu.

*In celebration of Union Presbyterian Seminary's Bicentennial in September 2012, we continue the second of a four-part series of articles covering various eras of our history. The following article by **Peter Hobbie** (D.Min. '84; Ph.D. '87) discusses E. T. Thompson and his time. Ernest Trice Thompson is, perhaps, the most influential figure of Union's modern history. He institutionalized the seminary's position on social issues, and how those issues would be addressed. Moreover, his heresy trial affirmed the academic freedom of the southern seminary.*

The following articles will be published in the next two issues of Focus:

William Thompson (B.D. '61; Th.M. '62; D.Min. '92) will talk about the Removal. After our founding in 1812, the move from Hampden-Sydney (in southside Virginia) to Richmond was the most important event in our history. With this transition, the entire character of the seminary changed. What was once a rural, inward-looking, stubbornly conservative seminary became an urban, socially conscious, comparatively open-minded institution.

Bill Sweetser (M.Div. '89; Th.M. '90; Ph.D. '00) will address issues related to the founding of Union Presbyterian Seminary which were not the result of a systematic, rational decision. Rather, the idea of a seminary was a slow growing process and evolved after several false starts. The curriculum of 17th century Scottish universities and the character of early 19th century America combined to set the foundations of who we are today.

A Protective Community Part II

The two-hundredth anniversary of Union Presbyterian Seminary gives its friends the chance to remember the great Southern Presbyterian leaders that this institution has produced and nurtured over the years. To remember only individuals and their accomplishments while at the seminary, however, overlooks an important part of the story. The greatest gift that Union Seminary gave Presbyterianism in the first half of the twentieth century was a safe environment where progressive leaders and new ideas of the mission of the church could flourish.

Ernest Trice Thompson, who served Union as the John Dickinson Professor of Church History for almost forty years, is the example of that leadership in the first half of the twentieth century. No other individual had greater influence in the Southern Presbyterian Church, bringing progressivism and openness to the denomination.

Thompson's chief weapon was his writing. Although he would prove his ability as a church historian over his career, his main influence lay in sixty years of producing weekly Sunday School lessons for the church press.



Thompson used this weekly platform to introduce new ways of discovering within the Bible guidance to address racial and gender discrimination, issues of war and peace, and the economic inequalities in the South and in the United States. When Thompson eventually came under attack from conservatives within the church, their ammunition was never his historical writings but nearly always his Sunday School lessons.

Thompson did more than write. He served as editor of one of the leading independent church papers of his day and then helped inaugurate the *Presbyterian Outlook*, the leading voice of progressive Southern Presbyterianism through the middle years of the twentieth century. His main activity, however, was as a churchmen, active in all levels of church governance. His greatest contribution was the establishment of moral and social welfare committees in East Hanover Presbytery, the Synod of Virginia, and finally, in 1934, at the General Assembly, to examine pressing social issues of the day. These committees spurred the church to apply scripture and doctrine to racial integration, peacekeeping, and the full inclusion of women in church leadership positions. Behind all his efforts lay Thompson's ultimate goal of a reunion of the Northern and Southern branches of American Presbyterianism, a goal which he saw accomplished in the last year of his life.

E.T. Thompson was a true prophetic voice of his age. Like all good prophets, he came under growing attack from those who opposed his unpopular views. His survival depended on Union and its safe environment.

This safe environment for progressive thought was uncertain when Thompson first arrived as a professor in the summer of 1922. Walter M. Moore as the seminary's first president, had been the progressive leader who effected the removal of the Seminary from Hampden-Sydney to Richmond in the late nineteenth century. He was responsible more than any other individual for the expansion of the seminary in the first two decades of the twentieth century. However, by the time Thompson arrived as an instructor at the seminary, Moore was in the final years of his presidency. Like many progressive leaders of an earlier generation, Moore was suspicious

of the newer progressivism that grew out of the Social Gospel and historical biblical criticism.

Benjamin Rice Lacy was not Thompson's choice to be the second president of the seminary. But Thompson would soon discover that when the attacks upon him came from conservative elements of the Southern Presbyterian Church, Lacy would defend him. Thompson came to believe that if Walter Moore had still been president of the seminary, these attacks would have cost him his job.

The attacks were not long in coming. In 1931 Thompson wrote an article in the church papers defending the orthodoxy of the Northern

The history of Union Seminary has no meaning unless it has a meaning for our own day. Ernest Trice Thompson's example of tolerance, commitment, and fearlessness are qualities that Union must still promote.

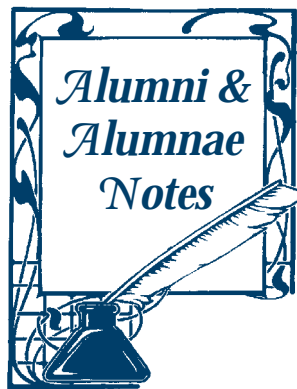


Presbyterian Church and supporting reunion with the Northern denomination. John M. Wells, a former president of Columbia Seminary, attacked Thompson and his article in the church press and wrote Lacy to express his concern that such views were coming from Union. Lacy made it clear that although it distressed him that any professor at Union would write anything that diminished the influence of the seminary, he would not impose his beliefs on his faculty. To any suggestion that the seminary should fire Thompson, Lacy responded that such action would only bring new attacks on Union.

A potentially more damaging threat to Thompson was occurred simultaneously. William M. McPheeters, a retired professor at Columbia, had begun a private correspondence with Thompson over his Sunday School lessons in 1928. Thompson tried to answer McPheeter's concern but McPheeters was unconvinced. In 1933, McPheeters circulated a memorial among Union alumni that characterized Thompson's teaching as "dishonoring Christ and suited to do irreparable harm." In response, Lacy wrote J. McDowell Richards, president of Columbia Seminary warning him that McPheeter's campaign against Thompson could harm both seminaries. By the middle of the 1930s it was clear that Lacy was willing to defend unpopular ideas of his faculty both publicly and privately.

Lacy's greatest defense of his faculty came in 1941 when charges against Thompson were brought before the General Assembly by Tom Glasgow, a nephew of McPheeters. Sensing the coming attack, Lacy agreed to meet Glasgow in Charlotte in June 1940 to discuss Glasgow's problems with Thompson's teaching. This meeting demonstrated Lacy's dedication to his faculty. With a stenographer present, Lacy refused to admit to Glasgow any fault in Thompson's teaching. When East Hanover presbytery unanimously supported Thompson, Lacy mailed out the presbytery's endorsement at his own expense. After the General Assembly refused to take action against Thompson, Lacy addressed the Assembly telling the body that he so trusted Thompson that if anything should happen to him, he would want the spiritual development of his children entrusted to Thompson.

The history of Union Presbyterian Seminary has no meaning unless it has a meaning for our own day. Ernest Trice Thompson's example of tolerance, commitment, and fearlessness are qualities that Union must still promote. This era of Union history also shows the strength of community that existed at the seminary during these years. Even when faculty members disagreed with each other, even publicly, as they would do in mid-century over the issue of marriage and divorce, there was never any question raised about the integrity of any member of the faculty. Certainly this bond was cemented by individual relationships between faculty members and with their president. The members of the faculty, living in close proximity to each other, knew each other on a personal level. The seminary survived these attacks because of these personal commitments. Such personal commitments are much more difficult in our own day, but they are not impossible. The Thompson-Lacy legacy demands that Union Presbyterian Seminary intentionally work to build these relationships in the years that lie ahead. Ω



If you have moved, changed your e-mail, or have other contact information that has recently changed, please contact Alumni/ae Development Director Lynn McClintock at lmccclintock@upsem.edu or 804.278.4382.

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

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

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

This issue of Focus includes information received through October 18, 2011.

1950s

Freda Ann Gardner (M.R.E.'57), with Katharine Doob Sakenfeld, gave the 2011-2012 Frederick Neumann Memorial Lecture at Princeton Theological Seminary on October 27, 2011. The lecture was titled "In the Beginning Male and Female: Then *She* Came to Seminary."

1960s

William K. (Bill) Thomas (B.D.'60; D.Min.'73) and his wife, Pauline, are living in the Presbyterian Summit Square retirement home in Waynesboro, VA. Bill served pastorates and as district superintendent in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church, both as an active and as a retired minister, for a total of 50 years, 1949 to 1999, and has served a few brief interim pastorates since then.

Matthew Whong (B.D.'63; D.Min.'80) and his wife, Dixie, recently visited Sao

Paolo, Brazil, where they had served as missionaries from 1967 to 1977. Dr. Whong preached fifteen times during their three-week stay, including six times on one Sunday. He also recently preached at Yanbian University of Science and Technology in Yanji, China and has been invited to preach at its sister school in South Korea.

Robert S. Burns (B.D.'66; D.Min.'85) was honorably retired from ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Mount Joy, PA, celebrating 45 years as pastor in Presbyterian churches. Recently, he offered the opening prayer for the Pennsylvania State Senate in the State Senate Chambers in Harrisburg, PA, and offered prayers at the Vietnam Veterans' Appreciation Service held in Lancaster County.

Janet Allen Chin (M.C.E.'67) retired on May 31, 2010 after thirty years of service to ProQuest and is enjoying her four children and eight grandchildren.

Jeffrey S. Kellam (M.Div.'69) who served as founding Director of the Video Education Center at PSCE, continues to work with video in retirement. He recently collaborated with the Rev. Bill Carter's Presbybop Jazz Quartet in a short film on the making of the quartet's "Interior Window" CD. Jeff also produced a promotional video for the Tioga County, NY Habitat For Humanity affli-

ate. His next project is a Presbybop video titled "Jazz Belongs in Church."

George Spransy (M.Div.'69) is serving as interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, OH.

1970s

Charles Phillip Kestner (D.Min.'75; Th.Min.'76) retired from the pastorate on June 30, 2011, after 36 years in ministry and 14 years at New Providence Presbyterian Church in Surgoinsville, TN.

Charles Patrick (Rick) MacArthur (M.Div.'77) is designated pastor at Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN. He previously served as associate pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX.

Merle Judson Whitney (D.Min.'79) retired after 45 years in ministry in the Adventist Church and now lives in Orwigsburg, PA, closer to his children and grandchildren. One highlight of his career was serving as chair of the worship materials subcommittee for the 1985 Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, a direct result of his doctoral project at Union.

1980s

Carol Carpenter Fisher (M.A.'80; M.Div.'83) is now serving as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in

1990s

Martinsville, IN. Carol previously served as pastor of Mechanicsville (VA) Presbyterian Church.

Kay Steele (M.Div.'83) is serving part-time at Rennie Memorial Presbyterian Church in Amelia, VA. She was previously pastor at Colonial Heights (VA) Presbyterian Church.

Margie Boyd (M.A.'84) is pastor of Cullowhee (NC) Presbyterian Church. She previously served as associate pastor at Guilford Park Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC.

Guy Whitlock (UTS 1985-86) is the chaplain for Motor Racing Outreach, a Christian ministry for NASCAR drivers and staff.

Deborah McEachran (M.Div.'86; M.A.'87) has taken a call as Designated Pastor at Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church, a multicultural church in Baltimore, MD.

Alex Evans (M.Div.'87) was the speaker for the Royster Lectures at First Presbyterian Church in Henderson, NC, in September 2011. The topic, "Faith Amidst Frenzy, Fear, and the Fullness of Life," drew on his work with the police and families involved in the Virginia Tech tragedy. Pastor **Keith Benze** (M.Div.'09) welcomed him to First Presbyterian.

Sandra McMillen (M.Div.'88) is serving as pastor at Fincastle (VA) United Methodist Church.

Jaehie Lee Kim (M.Div.'90) received a D.Min. from New York (NY) Theological Seminary in 2009.

Florence G. Lutz (M.A.'90) continues to teach 6th, 7th, & 8th graders with learning disabilities in Southern California. She is currently working on obtaining an Autism Certification.

William (Matt) Matthews' (M.Div.'90) first novel, *Mercy Creek*, won the South Carolina Arts Commission First Novel Prize. During sabbatical this summer, he completed a draft of a book about following his father's WWII footsteps in Europe with his three sons. His wife, **Rachel** (M.Div.'88; M.A.'89), enjoyed the trip, too. Matt is pastor at St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC. For more information about his books, mattmatthewscreative.com.

Robert Alexander (M.A.'92) is associate pastor at Davidson College Presbyterian Church in Davidson, NC. He previously served as pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Union, SC.

Donna Hurt (M.A.'95) is serving as the director of Christian education at Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, NC. She was previously director of Christian education at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington, NC.



Richard Wong, vice-president of advancement (right), **Crystal Sygeel** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'96), communications/events coordinator (far left), and **Jessi Bullard Young** (M.Div./M.S.W.'10) (second from left) pose with **Werner Ammeter** (2001-02), his wife, Isabel, and their children, Lars, Justin, Melanie and Tamara, during a surprise visit on campus. Werner and his family were visiting the States from Switzerland and connected with several alums during his trip.

Sara G. (Sally) Woodard (M.A.'95; M.Div.'97) retired on July 31, 2011, as pastor of Edgewood Presbyterian Church in Lewisburg, WV. She will remain in Lewisburg doing supply preaching and working part time as "pastor to the pastors" in Quad 3 of the Presbytery of West Virginia.

Cheryl Bourne (M.Div.'98) has received a D.Min. in Evangelism and Mission in Rural Ministry from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Cheryl is currently serving as pastor of Prineville (OR) Presbyterian Church.

Russell W. Dalton (Ed.D.'98) is currently serving as the associate professor of Christian Education at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX.

Donna DeSarro-Raynal (M.Div.'98; Ph.D.'09) is an assistant professor of religion at the University of Pikeville in Pikeville, KY. She was previously parish associate at Parish of the Valleys in Middletown, VA.

Norma Wood (M.A./M.S.W.'98) continues to mix Christian education with social work, working in Virginia's child welfare system on behalf of older youth in foster care. She is the Western Region Independent Living Consultant for United Methodist Family Services. Her husband, Greg, is pastor of Tazewell (VA) Presbyterian Church.

Kevin Andrew Brunk (M.A./M.Div.'99) was installed as pastor of Littleton (NC) Presbyterian Church and

Continued on next page



Alums gathered at a joint training event for mentors of the Communities of Learning and Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning programs hosted by **Dorothee Tripodi** (M.Div.'08; Th.M.'10), associate director of the Office of Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning, and **Sandy Irby** (M.A.T.S.'09), director of the Communities of Learning Program. Pictured are **Martha Goodman** (M.A.'98; M.Div.'01), Dorothee Tripodi, **Donna Holder** (M.Div.'01), **Ginny Taylor-Troutman** (M.Div.'08), **Denise Watkins** (M.Div.'10), **Ginger Evans** (M.A.C.E.'06), Sandy Irby, **Jessica Tate** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'07), **Elizabeth Coddington McGuire** (M.Div.'09), and **Peter Bynum** (M.Div.'09).

Stanley White Presbyterian Church in Roanoke Rapids, NC, on August 21, 2011. He is serving both churches. He previously served as pastor of Roanoke Island Presbyterian Church in Manteo, NC.



Jennifer Ayres (M.Div./M.A.'00; Th.M.'02) is assistant professor of religious education at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, GA. She was previously assistant professor of Christian ethics at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL.

Beth Ford Friend (M.Div.'00) and David Friend were delighted to welcome home Joshua Jay Friend April 5, 2011.

Jason Crawford (M.A./M.Div.'01) has successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis

in Humanities at Concordia University in Montreal. Jason's thesis looked at the San Francisco Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, an order of 21st century gay nuns. Jason has been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at Concordia to explore the geography and history of Montreal's downtown gay cultures.

J. Andrew Edwards (M.Div.'01; Th.M.'02) is now serving as the managing editor of the parish market division at Liturgical Press.

Sung Eun (John) Lee (M.A.'01) is now serving as youth pastor at Joo Hyang Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, CA. He previously served as associate pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church of New Jersey in Oakland and Palisades Park, NJ.

Scott Crane (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'02) and his

wife, Katherine, are proud new parents to their son, Timothy. Scott is currently serving as the program director of Menucha Retreat and Conference Center in Corbett, OR, and is also an Inquirer in the PC(USA) ordination process.

Melissa Litrel Harmon (M.Div.'03; M.A.C.E.'04), her husband, Thad, and big sister Maggie, welcomed home Elizabeth (Lizzy) Willis on December 30, 2010. Melissa is serving Beulah, Monterey, and Pisgah Presbyterian churches in Virginia.

Nicole Partin Abdour (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'04) married Christopher Abdour May 28, 2011. Nicole currently serves as the associate pastor at Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church in Tampa, FL.

Alison Carmack (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'04) is currently serving as director of

Christian education at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Mechanicsville, MD.

Rick Hurst (D.Min.'04) was installed as pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Emporia, VA, on June 26, 2011. He previously served as director of donor relations for the Virginia Baptist Foundation.

Nikki Perrine Passante (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'04) is associate pastor of Media (PA) Presbyterian Church. She was ordained in the Presbytery of Philadelphia on February 27, 2011, at Media Presbyterian Church.

Joyce Stella Fong Wu (M.A.C.E.'04) and her husband, Clifton, of two years, welcomed home their first child, a daughter, Georgia Madison Wu on January 11, 2011. Joyce is

A Union Legacy

No less than five Union Presbyterian Seminary students in recent years have come from Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in High Point, NC, which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in April 2011. **Ruth Lenger** (M.Div.'95) is pastor of Spencer (NC) Presbyterian Church. **John McKinnon** (M.Div.'06) is associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in New Bern, NC. **Whitney Salter Bayer** (M.Div.'06) is associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, NC. **Allysen Schaaf** is a current student at our Richmond campus, and **Beth Utley** is a student on our Charlotte campus.

We look forward to seeing who comes our way next from Forest Hills! Ω

currently a special education teacher for the New York (NY) Public Schools.

Joon-Ho "Joey" Chang (M.Div.'05) was installed as pastor of Kake (AK) Memorial Presbyterian Church on December 29, 2010. He also serves as maintenance worker for Kake High School.

Elana Roseberry (M.Div.'05) is the new college counselor at Christchurch School, an Episcopal boarding school in Saluda, VA.

Troy Braswell (M.Div.'06) has taken a new call as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Circleville, OH. He previously served at Long Creek Presbyterian Church in Kings Mountain, NC.

Veronica Cannon (M.Div.'06) was ordained at C.N. Jenkins Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC, on October 24, 2010.

Ron Gilmer (M.Div.'06) is teaching in the religious studies department at Holy Innocents Episcopal School in Atlanta, GA. He previously taught at the University of Alabama.

Jonah Bartlett (M.A.T.S.'07) and **Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett** (M.Div.'09) were married on July 16, 2011.

Esta Jarrett (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'07; Th.M.'08) was ordained at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA, on August 14, 2011. She is now serving as pastor of Canton (NC) Presbyterian Church as part of the PC(USA) program, "For Such a Time as This: A Small Church Residency—Growing Leaders, Growing Churches." The program gives new pastors in small churches two years of support through peer groups and mentors.

Ernest L. Reid, Jr. (Th.M.'07) received a Doctorate of Ministry from Virginia Union University on May 14, 2011.

Ashley Rogillio Sanders (M.Div.'07), and her husband, Ross "Don" Sanders, welcomed their first son, Ross MacDonald Sanders IV, on June 8, 2011. Ashley continues to serve as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Beaufort, SC.

Ophelia Garmon-Brown (M.Div.'08) is serving as associate minister at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, in addition to her medical practice and position at Presbyterian Hospital.

Wilberforce Oyiti (M.A.C.E.'08) works with ten congregations in Ghana. He also teaches education at the Teacher Training College and serves as the college's guidance and counseling officer.

Robbie Phillips (M.A.C.E.'08; M.Div.'10) was ordained on June 26, 2011, at Grace Presbyterian Church in Beaufort, NC, and installed as pastor of Wildwood Presbyterian Church in Newport, NC, on July 10, 2011.

Ruth Roberts (M.Div.'08) is serving as associate pastor for Christian education at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC.

Susan Balfour (M.Div.'09) was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in May, 2011. Susan is now serving as pastor of Rustburg (VA) Presbyterian Church.

Bryan Hovey (M.Div.'09) was ordained on June 19, 2011 at Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ. He is a hospice chaplain within the Presbyterian Hospital system.

Elizabeth Howell (M.Div.'09) was installed at Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, VA, as associate pastor for Christian education. She previously served as a Lake Fellow resident at Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, IN.

Jenny McDevitt (M.Div.'09) is associate pastor at Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, VA. She previously served as minister in residence at First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, MI.

Andrew S. Taylor-Troutman (M.Div.'09) received a Master of Arts from the University of Virginia in May 2011. He won the student essay contest for Christians for Biblical Equality International and presented at a conference in Seattle, WA, on July 30th, 2011. He continues to serve as pastor of New Dublin Presbyterian Church in Dublin, VA.

Lindy Smith Vogado (M.Div.'09) married Robert Elmore Williamson, Jr., at



Richard L. Morgan (M.Div.'53; Th.M.'56; Ph.D.'66), Howard C. Morgan, and John C. Morgan
Dear Brothers: Letters Facing Death (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2010).

Dr. Matthew M.K. Whong (B.D.'63; D.Min.'80), *Power of Dream, Love, Mission: My Memoir of 54 Years in the U.S.* (Xulon Press, 2009).

John Brothers (B.D.'65), *But Now I See* (iUniverse, Inc., 2008).

Marilyn Hein (M.A.'75), **Betty Berghaus** (M.A.'78), and **Debbie Kirk** (M.A.'81; D.Min.'02) are among the contributors to *Wide Open Spaces: Women Exploring Call through Stories and Reflections* (Circle Books, 2011).

David R. Bauer (Ph.D.'85) and Robert Traina, *Inductive Bible Study: A Comprehensive Guide to the Practice of Hermeneutics* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic Press, 2011).

D. Mark Davis (D.Min.'86), *Left Behind and Loving It: A Cheeky Look at the End Times* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011).

William (Matt) Matthews (M.Div.'90), *Mercy Creek* (Spartanburg, SC: Hub City Press, 2011).

Russell W. Dalton (Ed.D.'98). *Marvelous Myths: Marvel Superheroes and Everyday Faith* (Atlanta: Chalice Press, 2011).

Bethesda Presbyterian Church in York, SC, on June 25, 2011. The couple is now residing in Little Rock, AR, where Lindy is a chaplain resident at Baptist Hospital and Bobby is a professor at nearby Hendrix College.



Noe Juarez (M.Div.'10) was ordained and installed on October 9, 2011, at Sunset Presbyterian Church, a bilingual church in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. His call there is part of the PC(USA) program "For Such a Time as This: A Small

Church Residency—Growing Leaders, Growing Churches." The program gives new pastors in small churches two years of support through peer groups and mentors. He was named the fifth recipient of the William P. Wood/First Presbyterian Church Scholarship. This graduate fellowship, created in 2003 to commemorate Dr. William P. Wood's 20 years of pastoral service to the congregation, is in the amount of \$15,000.

Patrick Lanaghan (M.Div.'10) was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and installed as

pastor of Burnt Presbyterian Church in Winchester, VA.

Veronica Rogers (M.Div.'10) was ordained on November 13, 2011, and is serving as associate pastor at Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.

Jim Wright (M.A.T.S.'10) is a regular contributor to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch's* "Faith and Values" column. In recent months, he has brought a Christian perspective to topics such as the killing of Osama Bin Laden, physician-assisted suicide, and what defines life. Wright has a Ph.D. and an M.D.

from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, where he is an assistant professor in the department of internal medicine.

Joshua Andrzejewski (M.Div.'11) is chaplain at United Methodist Family Services. He completed a chaplain residency at Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems focusing on work with pediatric patients, psychiatric patients, and the families of neurologically devastated patients.

Sarah Kromer (M.Div.'11) was ordained and installed in a validated ministry on August 28, 2011, with In Christ Supporting Ministries, a non-profit organization in Charlotte, NC.

Tom LaBonte (M.Div.'11) was ordained on August 7, 2011, at his home church, Hopewell Presbyterian Church. He was installed as stated supply pastor at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.

Kelley Lane (M.Div.'11) is serving as minister of Christian education at Bon Air United Methodist Church in Richmond, VA.

Phillip Lasater (M.Div.'11) received a fellowship from University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe at the University of Zurich. Apart from his dissertation project on "The Fear of the God(s)," Lasater was also selected for his knowledge in theology and

cultural studies. The fellowship includes \$50,000 for the first year of coursework and housing and is renewable for up to two years.

Erin Mills (M.A.C.E.'11) gave birth to her second child, Jackson Christopher, on March 17, 2011. Erin is currently serving as youth director at Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.

Kristin Pike (M.Div.'11) was ordained on April 3, 2011, and called to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Boone, IA.

Joan Wilson (M.Div.'11) was ordained at Woodstock (VA) Presbyterian Church on September 18, 2011, and is now part-time supply pastor at Mount Storm (WV) Presbyterian Church. Ω

Alumni/ae Chapters Need YOU!

Union Presbyterian Seminary is supporting the development of Alumni/ae Chapters in areas across the country. These groups are primarily intended to connect alumni/ae with each other for fellowship and support. In addition, alumni/ae chapters work with the seminary to identify and recruit new students, provide a context for mentor relationships, assist with fundraising, and host continuing education opportunities. 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, at lmcclintock@upsem.edu.



Union Family Reunion, Montreat

June 15-17, 2012

The biggest reunion ever for the Union family (ATS, PSCE, Union-PSCE, and UPSem)!

Concert by David LaMotte, Bible study by Pat Miller, preaching by Brian Blount, reflections on "The Future Church" by Professors Pamela Mitchell-Legg and Paul Galbreath, and "open mike" by Professor Richard Boyce with a barn dance by Glenn Bannerman.

Mark your calendars today! Registration online at www.regonline.com/unionfamilyreunion.

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

1930 —

- Cora Ellen Pos Gebb (Certificate '31) of Asheville, NC, died October 26, 2010. †
- Betty G. Peacher (M.R.E.'34) of Springdale, AZ, died March 24, 2011. †
- Elizabeth Lee Barr Bowers (B.R.E.'38) of Black Mountain, NC, died January 9, 2011. †
- Louise Young Garret (PSCE 1938-39) of Greenville, NC, died April 5, 2009. †
- Bessie Meade Drake (M.R.E.'39) of Petersburg, VA, died January 6, 2011. †
- Manson Booth Tate (B.D.'39) of Dublin, VA, died April 22, 2011. †

1940 —

- Mary E. Jones (M.R.E.'42) of Lexington Park, MD, died May 16, 2011. †
- P. Leslie Bullock (B.D.'43; Th.M.'44; Th.D.'51) of Laurinburg, NC, died June 25, 2011. †
- Albert George Edwards (B.D.'43) of Raleigh, NC, died August 7, 2011. †
- Margaret Cook Hamlin (M.R.E.'43) of Hartsburg, MO, died September 9, 2011. †
- Judith Rigell (Judy) Gaunt (PSCE'44-45) of Tallahassee, FL, died June 7, 2008. †
- Ellen Lee Bridewell Elliott (M.R.E.'45) of Manassas, VA, died August 17, 2011. †
- Katherine M. Bassett (M.R.E.'46) of Austin, TX, died May 25, 2011. †
- Julius S. Garbett (B.D.'47) of Glen Allen, VA, died October 16, 2011. †
- James Mark McDaniel (B.D.'47) of Jonesboro, GA, died September 4, 2010. †
- Adeline Hill Ostwalt (M.R.E.'48) of Davidson, NC, died September 1, 2011. †

1950 —

- Anne MacInnes Lindsay (PSCE 1949-50) of Montreat, NC, died September 2, 2011. †
- Sarah Walker Womack (M.R.E.'50) of Conover, NC, died August 11, 2011. †
- James F. Hubbard (B.D.'51) of White Haven, FL, died June 4, 2011. †
- James D. MacKenzie (UTS 1951-52) of Asheboro, NC, died May 18, 2011. †

- Adrienne Thompson Bailey (B.R.E.'52) of Asheboro, NC, died August 6, 2011. †
- Priscilla Jean Shorey Lytch (B.R.E.'52) of Wichita Falls, TX, died May 11, 2010. †
- Jesse M. Bratton, Jr. (UTS 1950-53) of Vinton, VA, died November 6, 2009. †
- Margaret "Peg" Rigg (M.A.'55) of St. Petersburg, FL, died July 16, 2011. †
- Frank A. Elliot (M.Div.'57) of Hume, VA, died August 6, 2004. †
- Robert (Bob) Francis Davenport (UTS 1957-58; M.A.'60) of St. Petersburg, FL, died April 9, 2011. †
- Elsie Tease (B.R.E.'57) of Richmond, VA, died September 22, 2011. †
- Jane MacLeod Clenseur (M.R.E.'58) of Greensboro, NC, died August 5, 2011. †
- Clarence H. Thomas (Th.M.'58; D.Min.'75) of Fayetteville, NC, died July 23, 2010. †
- Frederick W. Widmer (Th.D.'58) of Palmetto, GA, died May 5, 2009. †
- John Wesley Inge, Jr. (M.A.'59; D.Min.'78) of Rocky Mount, VA, died September 1, 2011. †

1960 —

- Hugh Carlton Paschall (B.D.'60) of Ruther Glen, VA, died March 31, 2011. †
- Robert B. Hooper (Th.M.'61) of Dix Hills, NY, died September 19, 2010. †
- Harold Edward Hyde, Jr. (B.D.'61) of Southern Pines, NC, died May 9, 2011. †
- Martha Jean Shortridge Moore (M.C.E.'61) of Falls Church, VA, died April 21, 2011. †
- Marilyn Frances Vanderburg Ragusa (M.C.E.'62) of Baton Rouge, LA, died May 15, 2009. †
- Arthur Van Seters (Th.M.'63; Th.D.'65) of Toronto, Ontario, died May 21, 2011. †
- Truman H. Brunk (UTS 1964-65) of Harrisonburg, VA, died October 8, 2010. †
- Orion Wendell Manuel (M.Div.'65) of Starkville, MS, died September 24, 2011. †
- Robert Edwin McClure, Jr. (M.C.E.'65) of Laurinburg, NC, died July 25, 2011. †
- Janice JoAnne Brown (B.C.E.'66) of Decatur, GA, died November 26, 2010. †

Benjamin Franklin Holstein Jr. (UTS 1966-67) of Riner, VA, died May 20, 2011. †

Phillip A. Webb (M.Div.'68) of St. Petersburg, FL, died August 28, 2011. †

1970 ■

Richard L. Boland (B.D.'70; D.Min.'75) of Sunset Beach, NC, died September 20, 2011. †

Norbert E. Johnson (Th.M.'70) of Golden Valley, MN, died May 6, 2009. †

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

This issue of Focus includes information received through October 18, 2011.



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- January 5-7** **The Blaze (Montreat)**
Tony Campola leading worship,
Michelle Thomas-Bush keynoting,
various workshops
- February 20-21** **Howie Center Lectures**
Dornith Doherty, Thomas James,
Norman Wirzba, and Ted Hiebert
- March 5-7** **Collaboration and**
Communication: Web
Resources for Ministry
Ann Knox and Leland Deeds

- March 28-29** **Growing Into Tomorrow . . . Today (Board of Pensions)**
- March 30** **Render Unto Caesar (Board of Pensions)**
- April 23-25** **Pastoral Care in the Context of Wealth**
Robert Moon and Mark Cooke
- May 7-9** **Sprunt Lectures**
John Kuykendall, Katie Geneva Cannon, Craig Dykstra,
and Mindy Douglas Adams with Laura Mendenhall preaching
- July 17-26** **Church Business Administrators Training Week I**
various leaders

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The ABCs of a Good Will

Have you included
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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 Doug MacMillan, 800-229-2990, x 246 or dmacmillan@upsem.edu or Bernie Howell, 800-229-2990, x 243 or bhowell@upsem.edu. You may also find information at www.upsem.edu/giving/giving.



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE —

- *The seminary...then and now*
- *An interview with President Blount on the Beecher Lectures*
- *The second of a four-part series celebrating the Union Presbyterian Seminary Bicentennial*



Photo by Dave Swager