

# FOCUS

The magazine of Union Presbyterian Seminary

Winter 2015



## The Church in the World





Associate Professor of Old Testament **Sam Adams** (top, left) leads a class discussion during Fall term on the Richmond campus. Adams recently published a book on wealth and poverty in the Bible. See page 12.

Also pictured, M.Div. students Kelly-Ann Rayle (top, right), Chad Beck (right), and Ashley Harper Boschen (above).

# Mozart and Theology

THE CARL HOWIE CENTER FOR SCIENCE, ART, AND THEOLOGY

March 2, 2015

[www.upsem.edu/howie\\_lecture](http://www.upsem.edu/howie_lecture)

A riveting, enlightening, and thoughtful afternoon and evening with **Dr. Steffen Lösel**, associate professor in the practice of systematic theology at the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta and an ordained pastor in the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Bavaria.



Richmond Campus

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**Volume 26    Number 11**

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

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Associate Vice-President for Alumni/ae Development: Lynn McClintock*



Union Presbyterian Seminary's print vendor uses recycled papers, eco-friendly web non-heatset inks, low and no-emission chemicals, and has a waste reduction, reuse, and recycling policy.

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RICHMOND CAMPUS 3401 Brook Road • Richmond, VA 23227 • 800.229.2990 • 804.355.0671  
CHARLOTTE CAMPUS 5141 Sharon Road • Charlotte, NC 28210 • 980.636.1700

**MISSION AND VISION**

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

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

*We confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus is God in the flesh, the Son of that One whom  
he called Father. His life, ministry, death, and resurrection have transformed the world.*

*As the risen and living Lord, Jesus has called us to bear witness to his transformative presence in the world.*

*We serve as a theological resource for church and society. We weave together distinctive approaches  
to theological education for pastoral and educational ministries. We educate, inspire, and empower leaders  
for congregational life, theological scholarship, and bold Christian service to the world. We seek to participate faithfully  
in the Holy Spirit's transformation of the seminary, the church, and through the church, the world.*

# THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

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**Brian K. Blount**

*As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.* John 17:18

Dear Friends,

I suppose one could say that the mandate for an important component of Union Presbyterian Seminary's curricular innovation begins with Jesus' conversation with God at John 17:18. Jesus is perhaps reflecting prayerfully on the comment he made to Nicodemus at John 3:16. God so loved the world that God sent God's only son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life. Now, in chapter 17, Jesus connects the mission of his followers to his own mission. As Jesus was sent, so Jesus now sends us. Into the world.

Union alumni/ae serve leadership roles in churches, ministries, mission endeavors, and schools across the United States and around the globe. Our graduates faithfully follow their call and Christ's leadership. Into the world.

Realizing that a prepared response to Christ's "sending" begins well before a graduate ventures into the world, our faculty revised the seminary's curriculum. We added a Church in the World component. Requirements in evangelism/church revitalization, interfaith engagement, and community service are now a regular part of every student's course load. At Union, students engage the world even as they prepare for service to the church and world. The classroom and supervised ministry sites provide intentional opportunities for students to anticipate in their studies what they will surely encounter in their ministry endeavors: a world still searching for the prophetic, healing, saving presence of God. The seminary's mission is to equip servant leaders who can, with God's help, provide guidance and nurture for this crucial quest. This is why, even as we nurture them in a time and place of study, we prepare them to go where Christ leads. Into the world.

Faithfully,

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

Brian K. Blount, President

## o n c a m p u s

## Celebrating 100 Years of Excellence in Christian Education



One of the highlights of the ATS/PSCE Centennial celebration was the dedication of the historical marker (right) in front of Lingle Hall on the former PSCE campus. The marker commemorates the founding of the Assembly's Training School in 1914 and its pioneering impact on the greater community. More than 300 alumni/ae, Union and former PSCE faculty and staff, and friends of the seminary attended, as did city and state officials. More photos of this historic occasion are available on the Centennial Celebration website, [www.atspscecentennial.org](http://www.atspscecentennial.org).



Alumni/ae from around the globe gathered at Union Presbyterian Seminary's Richmond campus in November to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the founding of the General Assembly's Training School for Lay Workers (ATS), later known as the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (PSCE). For four days, the Richmond campus welcomed over 300 alumni/ae from as far away as Myanmar, South Africa, Korea, Egypt, and Kenya for a joyous time of celebrating the unique heritage they share. Joining the alums were faculty and staff from both Union campuses, former PSCE faculty and staff, several members of the board of trustees, and dignitaries from the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Historical Resources. In the words of one alum, *"This event made me even more aware of how special ATS and PSCE were, and how fortunate we are to now be part of the UPSem family."*

*"The impact of ATS/PSCE on Christian education was felt around the world,"* said Union Presbyterian Seminary President **Brian K. Blount**. *"It was a joy to welcome alumni/ae and friends back to campus to honor the ATS/PSCE legacy."*

In true Presbyterian spirit, the Centennial Celebration was crafted by a committee. Twenty-seven creative and dedicated alumni/ae from around the region led by co-chairs **Gay Mothershed** (M.C.E.'63), **Bruce Harvey** (M.A.'79), and **Mike Williams** (M.A.'90) worked with seminary staff to create an event that was fun, instructive, and meaningful. With ample opportunities for fellowship, worship, learning, remembering, and of course, dancing, alums reaffirmed the uniqueness of ATS/PSCE, and celebrated its legacy.

Highlights of the celebration included:

- **Worship** – A powerful dialogue sermon between former PSCE president and current moderator of the PC(USA) **Heath K. Rada** and the late Professor of Applied Christianity at PSCE **Isabel Wood Rogers** — with "Dr. Izzie" speaking to those present via sections of a videotape filmed in Watts Chapel in 2001. Listening to the sermon, alums were inspired to affirm their calling as Christians "Appointed to Serve," remembering how they were formed for leadership while at ATS/PSCE.



The **Glenn Bannerman Barn Dance and Dinner** was a great favorite at the ATS/PSCE Centennial. The comradery, fun, and laughter were infectious. Professor Emeritus of Recreation and Outdoor Education **Glenn Bannerman** (right) calls out the dances. A great time was had by all!



**“It’s not as complicated as it looks!”** Alums, faculty, staff, and students found it easy to get into the spirit of the day.



- **Workshops and Conversation Groups** by current UPSem faculty, staff, and other alum leaders.

- **Class Reunions** – Approximately 170 alumni/ae convened from the classes of 1949 to 2010 (2010 alums graduated from Union-PSCE) to re-connect, share stories, and enjoy fellowship.

- **Barn Dance** – Glenn Bannerman, Professor Emeritus of Recreation and Outdoor Education, and his daughter, Beth Gunn, brought the crowd to their feet with dancing. Glenn gave each person a special gift of a wooden cross necklace that was cut from the former parquet flooring of Lingle Hall.

- **Story-telling** – At a family-style indoor picnic in Lingle Hall, many took the microphone to tell stories of their own transformation and memories at ATS or PSCE. The evening was filled with laughter and tears, as the PSCE family was brought together through the power of stories.

- **Conversations with the President and Board of Trustees** – Alums heard an update from President Brian Blount on how the various buildings on the Union Presbyterian Seminary and former PSCE campuses are being utilized as well as plans for the future. Several trustees joined with alums who filled Lake Chapel to converse with one another concerning

*continued on pg. 20*

Another high point was the **Centennial Banquet** on Tuesday night held at the Downtown Marriott. At left, former admissions director at PSCE **Penny Tully** (M.A.'71), **Sally Hinchman** (M.A.'71), and **Ginny Ward Holderness** (M.A.'71); Right, **Becky Davis**, visiting professor of Christian education, and **Jean Love** (M.C.E.'63) greet **Katherine Paterson** (M.A.'57); Bottom right, Professor of Christian Education **Karen-Marie Yust**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Christian Education **Cindy Kissel-Ito**, and **H. Carson Rhyne, Jr.**, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of the James.



Union Presbyterian Seminary received a certificate of recognition and a personal letter from Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, recognizing and congratulating ATS/PSCE for 100 years of excellence in Christian education. He recognized that the seminary has served as a preeminent training ground for church leaders from around the world.

*"Your campus has been honored on the National Historic Registry and is an asset to the Richmond community. I commend the leaders of your institution for the outstanding work that has been accomplished through the education of many exceptional religious leaders,"* McAuliffe wrote. *"Dorothy and I wish you our best as you celebrate the bright future of your school."*

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## Vision for New Global Mission Center

*Legacy of Christian Education to Endure in UPSem's Proposed New Global Mission Center*

The focus of theological education at Union Presbyterian Seminary is the same as the focus of the church: Jesus Christ and Christ's mission in the world. After more than two centuries of service to the church, Union Presbyterian Seminary is more committed than ever to global missions and Christian education. This is most evident in one of the seminary's top initiatives — a Global Mission Center for Christian Education.

Imagine a center where mission workers and scholars gather to equip Christian educators from the United States and other countries — a center that partners with churches in places where the rapid spread of the gospel has created a tremendous need for trained leadership.

This is the vision behind the seminary's proposed new Global Mission Center. It will be a place where students can experience firsthand the vitality of the church's global community and mission. International educators will live in the Global Mission Center among students, thus creating a unique community of learning and fellowship. After completing their studies, the international educators will return to their countries of origin, newly equipped to provide Christian education leadership where they live. Union students, when they graduate, will have had exposure and will have built relationships with international church leaders as well.

The world has changed, and the majority of the world's Christians are now in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Youth, lay people, and church leaders living in other countries are hungry to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ for both personal enrichment and in the building up of the local church body. Many pastors and church leaders in other countries are in need of Christian education training, and they lack church education curriculum, teaching aids, and educational resources for young people.

The Global Mission Center will provide the means for intellectually focused and intense graduate-level work, affirming an emphasis on international education as was begun by the General Assembly's



Proposed architectural design of remodeled space

Training School in 1914 and continued by the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in 1959.

The Global Mission Center is a \$13.35 million initiative, of which \$8.4 million is needed to renovate Richmond Hall where offices for the center will be located. In addition, food service, dining, and community space will be created. Securing funds to renovate Richmond Hall is currently President Blount's top fundraising priority. We urge you to support Union Seminary in creating a center where international and U.S. students will live in community and where their education will be enriched by an exciting international learning environment. For more information, please contact Richard Wong, Vice President for Advancement at [rwong@upsem.edu](mailto:rwong@upsem.edu).

— EVELYN TERRY, DIRECTOR OF FOUNDATION RELATIONS 



## Union On the Move!

*Brings academic workshops and preaching to Tidewater — for starters*

“Instead of the church coming to us, we’re going to the church,” said Union Presbyterian Seminary Dean **Stan Skreslet**, Richmond campus. “We’re excited about *Union on the Move* because it’s a way to engage personally and to equip many local congregations at the same time.”

On Saturday, October 18, President **Blount** along with seven faculty members—**Ken McFayden**, dean of the Leadership Institute and professor of ministry and leadership development; **Karen-Marie Yust**, professor of Christian education; **Frances Taylor Gench**, Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation; **Stan Hargraves**, registrar and United Methodist advisor; Stanley Skreslet, academic dean, Richmond campus and professor of Christian missions; and **Joshua Ralston**, instructor of theology—traveled to First Presbyterian Church, Norfolk to present a series of workshops to Tidewater area laity. Then, on Sunday, October 19, the same professors along with a group of ten UPSEM students went into



Some of the Union On the Move participants pose between workshops.

the surrounding communities to lead worship and offer Sunday morning seminars.

Union on the Move in the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia is planned as the first in a series that will provide church members with the opportunity to engage with and learn from seminary faculty locally in North Carolina, Virginia, and Washington, DC. **Ω**

## A Reflection on American Presbyterianism

*In honor of the Bicentennial of Union Presbyterian Seminary in 2012, Rob Collins Productions was commissioned to create a film where leading Presbyterian scholars discuss the history of both dissension and reconciliation within the Presbyterian church. Dr. Condoleezza Rice, a lifelong Presbyterian, is the narrator.*



It’s been a great honor to participate in the creation of *Division and Reunion: A Reflection on American Presbyterianism*, and it has been a rewarding experience in a number of ways. I enjoyed seeing the connections between the church past and present — how theological and logistical dilemmas on the frontier resonate with our hesitance about evangelism today, and how echoes of the debate over slavery can be heard in our discord over homosexuality.

I’m so grateful to Union Presbyterian Seminary for this opportunity. President Blount and the faculty and staff have been incredibly supportive and encouraging. I hope and pray that God might use *Division and Reunion* to speak to our church at this critical time. Please spread the word!

— ROB COLLINS **Ω**

You may order *Division and Reunion: A Reflection on American Presbyterianism* at <https://www.createspace.com/405224>. The free study guide is available at [www.upsem.edu/dr](http://www.upsem.edu/dr).



## Evoking God's Constant Presence

Residents of Richmond's Northside and the UPSem community gathered at the corner of Westwood Avenue and Brook Road in September to dedicate the Union Presbyterian Seminary Prayer Garden.

"Remembering John Patmos's wonderful imagery in his Book of Revelation which symbolizes Christ's presence with lamp-stands, I am thankful for the flame that operates as the centerpiece of the new Union Presbyterian Seminary sculpture," offered President Blount. "Sitting inside the 'U,' as John's flames sit atop the lamp stands, our flame proclaims a clear contemporary message to me: God's Holy Spirit is present in this place. No matter what happens, the Spirit of God is always nearby."

Pictured at left, Architect Ron White, City Councilman Christ Hilbert (3rd District), President Blount, and Engineer Richard Hays of Dunbar, Milby, Williams, Pittman & Vaughan. A photo of the Prayer Garden is pictured on the back cover of this edition of *Focus* magazine.

## Balentine Appointed Editor of *Interpretation* Series



Balentine



Mays

Professor of Old Testament **Samuel E. Balentine** has been appointed as the new editor of the book series *Interpretation: Resources for the Use of Scripture in the Church*.

Launched with publication of its first volume in 2009, the Resources series builds on the

foundation laid nearly seven decades ago by the founding of *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*. The quarterly journal has been published by Union Theological Seminary since 1947. Resources also continues the vision of the widely used *Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching*, published between 1982 and 2003.

The three *Interpretation* enterprises have transformed biblical studies by bringing the resources of the best biblical and theological scholarship into the pulpits and pews of congregations around the world.

Balentine regards his appointment as a way of continuing the distinguished legacy of longtime *Interpretation* editors James Luther Mays and Patrick Miller. "They are the creators of the vision and I am the steward," he says. "I'm deeply honored and grateful for their trust in me to sustain their vision and build on it."

Mays, who is now 93, taught Old Testament and Hebrew at Union for 34 years and served as editor of

the *Interpretation* journal from 1963 to 1983. It was Mays whose vision led to the launch of the *Interpretation* commentary series in the late 1970s.

Miller was a student of Mays' at Union and describes him as a mentor: "He's why I'm in biblical studies." In 1966, Miller joined Mays on the faculty at Union. He says the vision for *Interpretation* "grew out of our experiences as pastors needing regularly to have the text interpreted for a community of faith in a way that spoke to the life of that community and made the text accessible."

Balentine is the author of eight books, including a commentary on Leviticus in the *Interpretation* series. He also served as editor of the *Interpretation* journal for 10 years. Prior to coming to UPSem, he served on the faculty of Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond.

Today the journal is reaching more readers than ever in its digital format, cultivating a worldwide audience. Partnership agreements are enabling libraries in developing countries that might not otherwise be able to afford subscriptions to access *Interpretation*, increasing circulation by more than 7,000 institutions in these countries since 2012. This affirms UPSem's vision to expand its global mission by equipping scholars, pastors, and Christian educators from developing countries.

For more information on plans to create a \$1 million endowment for *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* in honor of James Luther Mays, visit the website at [www.upsem.edu/mays](http://www.upsem.edu/mays). Ω

## Congregational Award Applications Being Accepted Now

Is your congregation or a congregation in your presbytery doing innovative ministry?

Union Presbyterian Seminary offers eight Congregational Leadership Awards annually. Since 1991, 110 churches in 29 states have received these awards. Each of the eight awards carries a \$1,000 prize to support the congregation in its ministry.

For more information and to apply for one of the UPsem Congregational Leadership Awards, you may download the brochure and application at [http://www.upsem.edu/congregational\\_leadership\\_awards/](http://www.upsem.edu/congregational_leadership_awards/) or request an application by sending an e-mail to April Swofford at [aswofford@upsem.edu](mailto:aswofford@upsem.edu) or calling 1-800-229-2990, ext 231. The application and instructions are only available electronically. The deadline for the 2015 Awards is February 15, 2015. Ω



**HOT OFF THE PRESS!** *Bringing Good News: 40 Stories of Congregations and the Ministries that Transformed Them*, compiled by Professor Emeritus of Christian Education **Henry Simmons** and **Rita Boyer** (M.A.C.E.'10), celebrates innovative ministry programs around the country. This book is a testament to every level of leadership in congregations small and large and affirms that the passion for Christian ministry among congregations is alive and well. It is a celebration of trust in God and a resolve to follow God's lead into new, often imaginative, always responsive kinds of ministry.

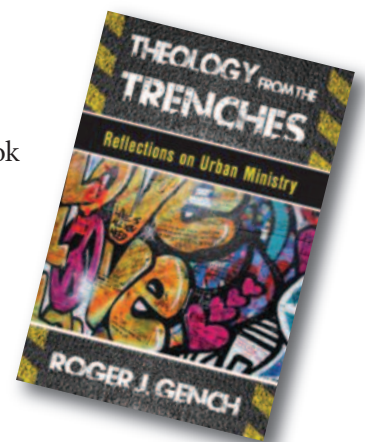
Available at the first of the year on Amazon.com. All proceeds will benefit the Sara P. Little Chair of Christian Education. Order your copy today!

## Reflections on Urban Ministry

While urban pastors devote time and energy to typical demands of ministry, they also grapple with challenges endemic to city life. **Roger Gench** (Th.M.'81; Ph.D.'88) discussed his book *Theology From the Trenches: Reflections on Urban Ministry* at the Richmond campus Book Talk in November. Using his experiences as a pastor in urban settings for nearly three decades, Gench offered an honest look at the challenges for both clergy and parishioners that arise for those involved in urban ministry.

Gench, currently the pastor at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, is an elected member of the General Assembly Council of the PC(USA) and serves as clergy leadership of the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN).

*"With a good dose of wisdom, experience, and humility, Roger Gench writes with refreshing honesty about 'doing theology from the trenches of urban ministry,'"* says **Jessica Tate** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'07), director of NEXT Church. *"Tackling topics such as race, poverty, food deserts, and living wages alongside the Apostles' Creed and the Great Commandment, this book is a must-read for leaders who desire to deepen a congregation's theological self-understanding and transform the congregation's service and witness in the community."* Ω



# FACULTY NOTES



John Carroll



Frances Taylor Gench



Stan Hargraves



Ken McFayden

**John T. Carroll**, Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament, published an article entitled “The Gospel of Luke: A Contemporary Cartography,” in the October 2014 issue of *Interpretation*. With Associate Professor of Old Testament **Sam Adams**, Carroll continues to serve as co-editor of the journal. In June, he was the keynote speaker for Union Presbyterian Seminary’s alumni/ae lunch at the United Methodist annual conference in Hampton, VA. His presentation, “The Holy Spirit and the New Testament: Dynamic Resource for Faith and Ministry Today,” draws from research for his upcoming book. Carroll led a workshop on “Christian Marriage and Biblical Interpretation” for the session and pastoral staff of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church in October. He was the keynote

presenter at the annual retreat for Presbytery of New Hope pastors and educators on “Religion, Power, Money, and Other Hot Topics: What Can Luke’s Gospel Teach Us?” in October. In mid-November on UPSem’s Richmond campus, he joined **Beverly Zink-Sawyer**, Samuel W. Newell, Jr. Professor of Preaching and Worship, in leading a continuing education workshop “Proclaiming the Lord’s Favor: Preaching the Gospel of Luke Today.” Collaborating with colleague **Joshua Ralston**, instructor of theology, and in keeping with the new Union Presbyterian Seminary curriculum’s emphasis on Church in the World, Carroll has organized a current events lunch discussion group on campus that began this fall.

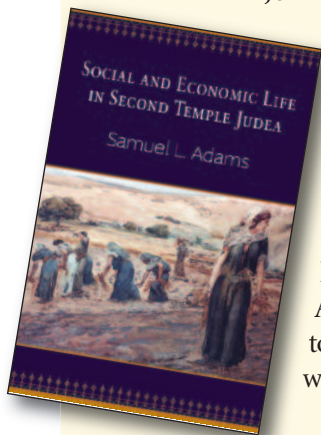
**Frances Taylor Gench**, Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation, led a week-long seminar, “Desperate Housewives? Engaging Tyrannical Texts,” at Ring Lake Ranch, Dubois, WY,

and delivered a keynote address on the same topic at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary’s 2014 Spring Academy. She led a workshop on “Faithful Disagreement” for Central Presbyterian Church in Bristol, VA, and Abingdon and Holston Presbyteries. She also led a women’s retreat, “Women Behaving Badly,” for New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, preached at First United Presbyterian Church in Norfolk, VA, and preached at the ordination of **Ginna Bairby** (M.Div.’13) at First Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA.

**Stan Hargraves**, registrar, United Methodist advisor, and adjunct assistant professor of evangelism, led a United Methodist Theology Tradition group for the Virginia Conference Licensing School. He preached at Warwick Memorial United Methodist Church in Newport News, VA.

## Adams’ Book Brings to Life Era in which Jesus Lived

Associate Professor of Old Testament **Sam Adams** has a new book just published, *Social and Economic Life in Second Temple Judea* (Westminster John Knox Press).



This study brings to life the socioeconomic context of the period from the end of the Babylonian exile to the destruction of the temple by the Romans (532 BCE to 70 CE), the era in which Jesus lived and had his ministry. Adams addresses a variety of topics, including the status of women and children, taxation,

and the question of acceptable financial holdings. He engages in a close examination of biblical texts and extracanonical sources.

“Adams’s groundbreaking work provides a long overdue survey of the realities of economic life in Second Temple Judaism,” John J. Collins, Holmes Professor of Old Testament Criticism and Interpretation at Yale Divinity School, said. “Grounded in detailed knowledge of the literature, this book provides a solid and realistic basis for future work on social justice in early Judaism and the nascent Christian movement.”

Adams’s book was the highlight of the Dean’s Forum in October on the Richmond campus. Ω



Sam Adams

**Kenneth J. McFayden**, dean of the Leadership Institute and professor of ministry and leadership development, preached at Old First Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, CA, and Mission Bay Community Church, San Francisco, CA. He led a webinar on “Unsettling Leaders: Why Would We Follow Them?” for *The Presbyterian Outlook*. McFayden offered a workshop on “Restructuring Relevance, Remaining Resilient: Leading and Leaders in a Changing Church and Culture,” at the annual consultation for inquirers and candidates in the Presbytery of New Hope. He offered a seminar on “Theology and Ethics of Church Administration” at the annual meeting of the National Association of Church Business Administration in Orlando, FL. He led a seminar on strategic planning for the Church Business Administration program at Union Presbyterian Seminary. McFayden offered a seminar for pastors and

elders in the Presbytery of San Francisco on “Stewardship: Investing in the Kingdom of God.” He led an adult education forum on “Finding Our Future: Can the Church See Anew?” at Old First Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, CA. McFayden planned and launched a “70x7 Series on The Emotional Currency of Money,” featuring members of the seminary faculty, on seven Monday evenings in the Fall. He was appointed to a three-year term as a member of the Governance Ministry Team for the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE). McFayden participated in Southern Cluster Faculty Meeting, Pastoral Excellence Network in Durham, NC, and in the PC(USA) China Network Conference, First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC. He consulted with Presbytery executive and staff, Presbytery of San Francisco, and with the director of field education and contextual learning, Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA.

**Joshua Ralston**, instructor of theology, participated in an international conference on comparative theology at the University of Paderborn in Germany and participated in Christian-Muslim dialogue with faculty and students from Qom, Iran in August. He co-wrote an op-ed on ISIS and Christian-Muslim relations for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* that led to the “Wars and Rumors of War” roundtable discussion at Union Presbyterian Seminary with Imad Damaj, founder of Virginia Muslim Coalition for Public Affairs, and William L. Sachs, director of the Interfaith Reconciliation and priest associate at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA. Ralston wrote two essays on public theology of Islam, Christianity and political theology for the ABC Religion and Ethics Portal, “Islam and the Comeback of Christendom” and “How Christian Political Theologians Should (Not) Engage Islam.” He spoke at adult education forums



Joshua Ralston



Samuel K. Roberts

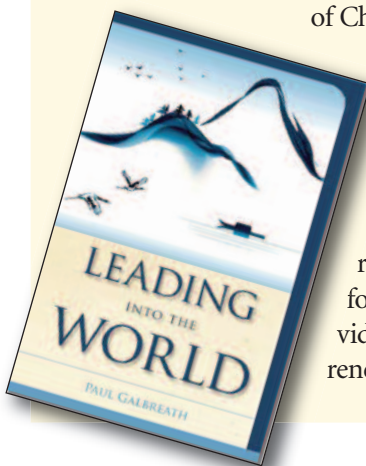


Stanley H. Skreslet

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## Reconnecting Our Commitment to Care for Creation

*Leading Into the World* by Professor of Worship and Preaching **Paul Galbreath** explores ways to connect worship practices with the call of Christian disciples to care



for the earth. Discussion of earth stewardship is largely absent from modern Sunday services, and this re-examination and re-reading of scripture for earth imagery provides a foundation for a renewal of worship.

“Once again,” says Martha Moore-Keish, associate professor of theology at Columbia Theological Seminary, “*Paul Galbreath proves himself a clear, practical guide to the way that liturgical practice can shape more faithful living in the world. This time, his focus is care for the earth; how might Christian worship, historically rooted in the cycle of the seasons, in growth, death, and rebirth, cultivate in us greater care for God’s wondrous vulnerable creation?*”



Paul Galbreath

*Leading Into the World* is published by Rowman and Littlefield. The book is the highlight of the January Dean’s Forum on the Richmond campus. Ω



Karen-Marie Yust



Beverly Zink-Sawyer

about divestment and Israel-Palestine at the following churches: First Presbyterian, Charlottesville, VA; Second Presbyterian, Richmond, VA; Three Chopt Presbyterian, Richmond VA; Westminster Presbyterian, Richmond, VA; and St. Mary's White Chapel Episcopal, Lancaster, VA.

Ralston preached at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA. He gave a seminar for "Union on the Move" in the Tidewater, VA area on "Humble Particularity: Christian Faith in a Pluralist World" and then preached at Grace Covenant, Princess Anne, VA.

**Samuel K. Roberts**, professor of theology and ethics, retired, published an essay, "Redeeming Democracy: The Continuing Paradox of African American Faith-Based Politics" in *Applied Christian Ethics: Foundations, Economic Justice, and Politics*, ed. Matthew Lon Weaver, (New York: Lexington Books). The anthology is a *Festschrift* in honor of Ronald H. Stone, Professor Emeritus, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

**Stanley H. Skreslet**, academic dean, Richmond campus, and F. S. Royster Professor of Christian Missions, was elected president of the American Society of Missiology and will serve in that capacity through the 2014-2015 academic year.

**Karen-Marie Yust**, professor of Christian education, published "Digital Power: Exploring the Effects of Social Media on Children's Spirituality" in the *International Journal of Children's Spirituality* 19:2. She presented three papers – "Digital Culture and Its Effects on Children's Spirituality," "Digital Play as a Spiritually Formative Activity," and "Cultivating Christians: Family Cultures and the Formation of Religious Identity" — and co-officiated a Catholic-Protestant evening prayer service (in Spanish) at the 14th International Conference on Children's Spirituality in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela, in July. Yust preached twice at First Congregational Christian Church, Chesterfield, VA, in

July and August. She co-officiated the Launch Sunday service of worship at St. John's United Church of Christ, Richmond, VA, in September. She preached at St. John's UCC, Richmond, VA, in September. Yust led an adult forum on "Real Kids, Real Faith" at First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, VA, in September.

**Beverly A. Zink-Sawyer**, Samuel W. Newell, Jr. Professor of Preaching and Worship, was the preacher for the Baccalaureate service during Commencement 2014 weekend at Union's Richmond campus. She preached at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Chesterfield, VA, and at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA. Zink-Sawyer was the keynote speaker for the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Lunch at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA. She presented with colleagues **Paul Galbreath**, professor of worship and preaching, and **Doug Brown**, director of music and adjunct instructor in church music, on the harmonization of music, word, and sacrament for the Faith in Our Music conference at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Her "Pastoral Perspective" essays on Luke 17 were published in *Feasting on the Gospels: Luke* (WKJ Press). Ω

## Chang to Serve Charlotte Campus

In 2012, **Sung Hee Chang** joined the faculty of Union Presbyterian Seminary on the Richmond campus as director of the Asian American Ministry Center (AAMC) and assistant professor of Christian education. She served the Richmond campus for two and a half years before transitioning to the Charlotte campus. In Fall 2014, Chang began serving in Charlotte as the director of supervised ministry, as well as continuing her role as assistant professor of Christian education.

Previously Chang had served as an educator in several churches in Virginia and North Carolina. Her areas of special interest include curriculum theory with a particular attention to gender, race, identity, and postcolonial studies, intercultural theological education, ecumenical formation, interreligious education, and Asian theological education. She currently serves on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Educator Certification Committee. Ω




Sung Hee Chang

# The Church in the World and Christian Mission

When the Union Presbyterian Seminary faculty recently revised the school's Master of Divinity curriculum, they created a new set of course requirements designated "the Church in the World." Within this sector of the curriculum are three specialized topics of study that pertain to evangelism, interfaith relations, and community engagement. M.Div. students matriculating in 2013 or later fulfill these requirements through qualifying elective courses or in supervised ministry placements that focus on one or another of these new curricular emphases.

What may not be so obvious is that the three areas comprising the Church in the World sector of the curriculum together constitute a rather well-rounded theology of mission. Community engagement implies Christian service in the world, a willingness to respond to human need in our day as Jesus did in his time. In a world of many religions and not a little inter-religious conflict, faithful ministry now necessarily includes the establishment and strengthening of positive interfaith relations. Evangelism, as in generations

past, represents an intention to witness to the gospel and to invite others to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Church in the World courses are not only opportunities for personal growth, as students test and develop their own theologies of mission, but are also meant to equip students to help congregants and others to do likewise.

In many different ways, Union students over the generations have engaged in mission activities even while in seminary. At the recent centennial celebration of ATS/PSCE, for example, attention was drawn to the participation of many students and faculty in the 17th Street Mission in downtown Richmond. The roll call of graduates entering full-time foreign mission service is similarly long, with many having labored in Brazil, Congo, China, and Korea. A new chapter in this legacy is about to be written with the establishment of the Global Mission Center for Christian Education. In the various articles included in this issue of *Focus*, readers will find a taste of the past, present and future of Union and mission. 

*Stanley H. Skreslet is the academic dean of the Richmond campus and the F. S. Royster Professor of Mission at Union Presbyterian Seminary.*



*Union Presbyterian Seminary offers travel seminars as part of its elective curriculum. For decades the locations for the seminars have included the Middle East, Korea/China, Central America, and Ghana. In January 2015, a new travel seminar to India was conducted by Old Testament Professor **Sam Adams** and Assistant Professor of Church History **Christine Luckritz Marquis**. A Spring break Cultural Immersion Trip to Haiti, led by Associate Vice President for Alumni/ae Development **Lynn McClintock**, is an opportunity to live for a week with Haitians involved in important outreach ministry.*

*In January 2014 the most recent travel seminar to Ghana was led by President **Brian K. Blount** and **Lynn McClintock**. This edition of Focus highlights the ways Union Presbyterian Seminary is engaged in—and shaped by—being a part of the Church in the World. Following are excerpts from this report from President **Blount** demonstrating the role travel seminars play in shaping students for ministry.*

## A Report on the Ghana Travel Seminar

Like many of the students, I traveled to Ghana for the first time on this seminar. Though one of the leaders of the seminar, and the professor of record, I learned as much as the students and was equally inspired and enriched by the interactions with church leaders, seminary staff, and Ghanaian citizens.

With the support from the Missionary Emergency Fund, UPSem has sent a travel seminar to Ghana every two years since 1980, affording students and faculty the opportunity to learn from the people, churches, and culture of Ghana. The seminar is part of a reciprocal exchange program that also regularly brings to Union Presbyterian Seminary students and visiting scholars from Ghana. Indeed, this exchange has developed a strong alumni/ae pool of ministers and church leaders in Ghana. Our seminar was able to meet with a substantial number of these alums during our journey. Renewing connections with our alums is,

and will continue to be, a valuable component of the travel seminar.

During our time there, students had the opportunity to see Christianity as a vital, thriving force within the unique, wonderful culture of a developing nation. Among the most meaningful and memorable aspects of the seminar were experiences of the vitality of worship and prayer life in the Presbyterian churches of Ghana. In addition to Sunday morning worship experiences in a number of host churches, these included out of the ordinary worship experiences at mid-week healing/deliverance services at Grace Deliverance Ministry in Akropong and at the Akoefe Spiritual Resource Center in Ho.

Photo above left, Pastor **Richard Nimo** (M.A.C.E.'12) introduces the group to a tropical fruit. Above right, intricately-woven Kente cloth is native to Ghana.





Photo above left, the Ghana Travel Seminar group with host Rev. Seth Kissi, professor of New Testament at Trinity Seminary in Accra, pause for a photo atop the Volta River's Akosombo Dam, one of the biggest dams in the world. Above right, "The Door of No Return" at the Elmina Castle, one of the most powerful images of the trip.

*My experiences in Ghana prompt me to deeper questions and a thirst to know the neighbors I have all over the world. My hope is that ... these experiences will never stop their work in me, and that I will be continually shaped by what I have seen and learned. As I witnessed in Ghana, the light of Christ is seen on earth and my aim is to show that light to the people I encounter. The trip to Ghana allowed me to see that the world is not as big as I thought it was. The task of spreading the Gospel is not as daunting as I once believed. Nothing separates us from the love of God, and that includes a history of slave trading, struggles with gender issues, having money or not having it, and certainly not mountains or oceans.*

**Mandy Newman** (M.Div.'14)

*In Ghana, everyone from small kids to adults welcomed me and asked my name because they wanted me to be a friend. Knowing one's name and birthday means much more than knowing basic information about the person. As members of community, they were concerned about each other and cared to be one family in God.*

**Gloria Jeong**, Exchange Student from Korea



Photo above left, One of the most meaningful experiences of the trip was worshipping with the congregation at Agbogbloshie, one of the largest dumpsites in the world where 40,000 people live. Above right, The Elmina Castle operated by the Portuguese in 1482 served as a prison for enslaved people before they were put on ships to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Uniformly, participants highlighted that the travel seminar experience was an extraordinary and enriching experience—one that broadened their understanding of the global church, deepened their passion for effective ministry in the church and world, and shaped them profoundly as future church leaders.

As the observations offered here, and observations from past Ghana Travel Seminars attest, this experience is a powerful and formative one. We had many more students apply this year than we were able to offer opportunity for travel. The seminar continues to be one of the most desired and most cherished of the curricular experiences at the seminary.  $\Omega$

“During our visits with the cured lepers or the community self-advocacy group for the aging, I felt a sense of injustice but admired the strength and courage they seemed to bring with them to our meetings. They did not seem to feel sorry for themselves but determined to move forward. When I played soccer with the “street kids” I saw and felt kids that had unbroken spirit and still experienced the joy that kids should get from play even if only for a while. I mention all these experiences because they are all now part of me.”

Rick Carlson (M.Div.'15)



## STUDENT PROFILE: Samuel Sarpong

Union Presbyterian Seminary offers one of the finest theological education programs in the world. For decades, international students have come to Union to study. The alumni/ae office reports that there are 235 living alumni/ae from 47 countries who have studied at Union or PSCE. The largest number of international students come from Korea and Ghana, two countries with which the seminary has had special relationships. Upon receiving their degrees, many students return to their country of origin to apply their knowledge to a variety of fields, and some remain here for ministry in the United States. Having international students engaged in UPSem's various degree programs heightens the level of discourse about what it means to be the Church in the World.

This past fall **Laura Kelly** (M.Div.'16) interviewed **Samuel Sarpong**, who is on track to graduate in May 2015, to learn about his journey from Ghana to the U.S. and to Union Presbyterian Seminary, and his plans for ministry after graduation.

### **Tell me a little bit about yourself.**

My name is Samuel Sarpong. I'm originally from Ghana. I came here when I was 34 years old, and I have been here for six years, living in Woodbridge, VA. I am there with my family, my wife, and one child. Before I came, I earned two masters-level degrees in Ghana and was a college instructor.

### **What did you teach?**

A Ghanaian language called *Twi*, one of the most common languages in Ghana.

### **What influenced your decision to come to seminary?**

I have been involved in church activities throughout my schooling and teaching days, and I've been a youth leader throughout. Interesting to say this, but my first preaching assignment was when I was twelve years old.

Eventually, I rose up to be the national secretary of a young adult movement. So yes, I've been a local preacher all my adult life. And even when I was teaching, I was the preacher of the Presbyterian Church student body. When I came to America, I eventually came to be in leadership at Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Woodbridge as a preacher and teacher. One day my pastor called me to his office. "Samuel," he said as he pointed to the pastors' (robe). "You have to wear one of these." So finally, with the encouragement of my church and my senior pastor, the Reverend **Yaw Nkansah** (M.Div.'00), I came to Union.

### **Now that you're here in your final year, looking forward, what do you feel you are being called to do?**

I am always there for my people, and even though I don't serve as the pastor of the church per se, the pastor gives me responsibility to handle the church. Though I have a sense of calling, I get confirmation from the church that indeed this is the job for me. I've come to realize my calling is as a shepherd of a church one day.

### **How would you define Christian mission? What is your vision for what the Christian mission is?**

For me, Christian mission is a charge that Christians have to go into the world and let the people know the goodness of God through the son Jesus Christ, who is our savior. Our mission is to be the light in the darkness. Our mission is that we have to go out there, knowing that it's dark, but that our light will be shining and will provide light in the darkness. Ω



Samuel Sarpong

continued from pg. 6

the current strategic plan as it relates to Christian education.

- **Bus Tours** – Two full-sized tour buses took alums on a ride through time, as they visited various early dorms, classrooms, and campus locations of the Assembly’s Training School. With an elaborate, humorous, and historically precise tour script developed by **April Swofford** (M.A.’97), alums learned about ATS’s commitment to urban and social justice ministries in downtown Richmond.

- **Recording Our Story** – Many alumni/ae recorded their stories of their time at ATS/PSCE and how it impacted their lives. These stories will be placed on the ATS/PSCE Centennial website and archived. ([www.atpscecentennial.org](http://www.atpscecentennial.org))

- **Historical Marker** – An historical marker commemorating the founding of ATS and the history of service of the Christian education schools was unveiled on Brook Road, near Lingle Hall on the former PSCE campus (see pg. 5). Many of the buildings are now owned by Veritas School. Head of School Keith Nix joined President Blount, Mayor of Richmond Dwight Jones, Robert Johnson of the Virginia Board of Historical Resources, and many alums for the ceremony. Former PSCE President Wayne Boulton led the dedication of the marker. A liturgy created by **Debbie Hough** (M.A. ’79) led the group “across the Brook” in a symbolic remembrance of the two schools becoming one.

- **‘Centennial Day’ Banquet** – On the actual 100th anniversary of the first class of ATS, November 4, 1914, a banquet was held at the Marriot Hotel in downtown Richmond. Along with the 300 alumni/ae attending were former presidents Wayne Boulton (PSCE), Heath Rada (PSCE), and Louis Weeks (UTS and Union-PSCE). President Blount preached a deeply moving sermon, “You Can’t Change This World,” and the audience viewed a specially commissioned documentary on ATS and PSCE, “*Bridging the Brook: 100 Years of Excellence in Christian Education*.” Award-winning author and alumna **Katherine Paterson** (M.A.’57) challenged the gathering to support generously the Sara Little Chair of Christian Education fundraising efforts. Also in attendance were trustees, former and current faculty and staff, current students and friends, including **Freda Gardner** (M.R.E.’57), former moderator of the PC(USA) General Assembly and retired

professor of Christian education from Princeton Theological Seminary; Rev. Lee-Hinson-Hasty, coordinator for theological education and seminary relations of the PC(USA); and Josiah P. Rowe, former chairperson of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education board of trustees at the time of federation.

Union Presbyterian Seminary thanks the hard-working Centennial planning team for their unwavering commitment to providing an opportunity for ATS and PSCE alums to celebrate the past, and in a context of community and affirmation, their hope and confidence that Christian education ministry will continue to be a priority at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Ω

### *And it’s not over!*

A special website containing photographs, videos, and other documents telling the story of ATS/PSCE was created and will be maintained as an archive: [www.astpscecentennial.org](http://www.astpscecentennial.org).

Endowment of the Sara Little Chair of Christian Education will honor Sara Little and continue to serve the church in the tradition of ATS/PSCE for decades to come. Please consider a gift today! [www.upsem.edu/sara\\_little\\_fund](http://www.upsem.edu/sara_little_fund)

Available for purchase with all proceeds going to the Sara Little Chair of Christian Education:

- *Appointed to Serve: 100 Years of Memories* tells the amazing story of ATS and PSCE. Edited by **Bill Caruso** (M.A.’79), it is available from Amazon for \$18 (hard copy) or \$15 (e-book). [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

- *Bridging the Brook: A Journey of Excellence in Christian Education* is a full-length (38-minute) documentary on the history of ATS and PSCE, produced by Emmy Award winning producer Eric Futterman of EAF Communication. It is available from Union Store for \$15. [unionstore.org/category/atpsce-centennial-celebration/](http://unionstore.org/category/atpsce-centennial-celebration/)

- *Bringing Good News: 40 Stories of Congregations and the Ministries that Transformed Them*, compiled by Professor Emeritus of Christian Education **Henry Simmons** and **Rita Boyer** (M.A.C.E.’10). More info on pg. 11. Ω

# Finding the Church Again



The idea of serving as the resident minister for an ecumenical English-speaking church in Mexico sounded like a good idea in theory. But as the departure date approached, I started to have misgivings. Packing to live in a foreign country for three months, not speaking Spanish, writing sermons without the safety net of commentaries, and officiating at a “sort-of-Episcopal-style” Eucharist without rubrics — all turned out to be legitimate challenges that were eclipsed by the experience of finding the Church again, and knowing it for the first time.

The Community Church of San Miguel de Allende (CCSMA) was started by a group of English-speaking expats who made a commitment to give at least 50% of their annual budget to Outreach Programs — a commitment they have kept by choosing to rent space rather than own a building, and by having a resident minister program that provides housing and transportation for invited clergy who preach for two or three months at a time in lieu of a full-time minister.

Now that I am back home, I am struck by the wisdom CCSMA stumbled onto in the commitment and choices they made — and continue to make — in their particular expression of the Body of Christ. They, of course, are as human and flawed as the next group of God-seekers. But being with them felt more-often-than-not like experiencing church the way it should be.

As in most mainline denominations, this congregation has experienced differences in theology and preferred worship experiences, but they managed to divide without splitting by creating two services. At 9 a.m., lay members lead worship that serves the needs of those who self-identify as more progressive, while at 11 a.m. the resident minister provides a traditional worship that blends liturgy and music from Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Methodist sources. The division was painful — with wounds still raw when I arrived nearly one year later. It was my privilege to watch as they found ways to be together in their differences. Looking back, I believe the CCSMA experience has important lessons for all of us who serve the Church.

First, what binds them together is their deep commitment — personally and communally — to outreach projects that include: weekly feeding programs at schools in rural areas, and for the elderly in the heart of San Miguel; water collection and filtration systems that support garden projects helping families feed themselves; after school programs in literacy, art, and music; a learning center with computer equipment, internet access, and training for students and their parents; a sewing cooperative that is changing the lives of women and their children.

Second, although many members of CCSMA are in their 70s or older, their commitment to outreach is not just financial. They teach, support, and serve on

The Church I found in San Miguel de Allende does not have a building, a youth group, a full-time pastor, or perfect harmony—not by a long shot. But it is the church that can stay together because they have made a commitment to continue the work Jesus started.

boards. They provide marketing support for the sewing cooperative. They travel deep into rural areas each week to take fresh food and other provisions to schools. They design and build the water collection systems. Each winter, they travel on animal paths and ford streams to take 500 blankets (made by the sewing cooperative) to remote villages, where forgotten people receive the gifts as if they were gold.

Third, the congregation understands they are a small expat community that cannot provide the leadership the church needs, or the outreach the community cries out for, if they split every time they disagree.

Even so, as my time there drew to a close, the CCSMA still had some work to do. Although they had managed to overcome significant differences in political persuasion, spiritual beliefs, even sexual orientation, the two groups had avoided working together to plan the one worship service they shared — Christmas Eve.

Feeling they needed a nudge to move beyond the past, I suggested that the two worship committees come together during Advent to plan a new Christmas Eve service. They could meet at the minister's residence and I would make coffee. They had to do the rest. Nobody wanted to be there, but before the coffee had finished brewing they were sharing ideas and shaping a new worship experience.

Advent provided other opportunities for healing. Since Christmas fell on Wednesday, the feeding program for the elderly would not take place. Someone suggested preparing bags of food to give

out the Wednesday before Christmas so the “old ones” could share a meal with their families. Through a flurry of emails, some folks agreed. Others thought the project was too big, too costly, and the bags would weigh too much for the wizened recipients to carry. And yet, nearly all members (including one who recently celebrated his 100th birthday) showed up in good humor to fill 400 bags of food and then distribute them to ageless women and men who hoisted the heavy bags onto their shoulders with grit and gratitude.

On Christmas Eve, the worship space was packed with faces old and new.

Because the congregation chose to stay together instead of splitting, they have found ways to work together — and be together — even when their ragged edges sometimes rubbed against each other. They also discovered something that took them by surprise. In time the conjoined congregation started growing in numbers as more people from different backgrounds and ecclesiastical experiences found a place within one — or both — of the worship services, and in the outreach that is nourished and energized by worship.

The church I found in San Miguel de Allende does not have a building, a youth group, a full-time pastor, or perfect harmony — not by a long shot. But it is the church that can stay together because they have made a commitment to continue the work Jesus started. And, it is a church that can grow because it has discovered God's love and grace are bigger and wider than they ever imagined. Ω



**Nancy Crow Summerlin** (M.Div.'08) received the E.T. George Award for Excellence in Homiletics, Worship and Public Speaking while at seminary. She was the pastor at Brett-Reed Memorial Presbyterian Church outside West Point, VA, during four years of growth and renewal and has been nominated to serve as Moderator of the Presbytery of the James in 2015. She was married to the late P. Raymond Summerlin, Jr., a Presbyterian minister and graduate of Union. Nancy lives in Chesterfield County and has a son, Michael S. Crow, who lives with his wife and three children in Herndon, VA.



# Finding God in Guatemala

Last year, I helped lead Union Presbyterian Seminary's travel seminar to Guatemala. The purpose of our trip was to spend time with Christian communities in this diverse country in order to listen and explore ways that Christians in Guatemala: 1) embody the Gospel in their contexts (inculturation); and 2) work for social justice in the midst of daily struggles with poverty and oppression. Our group of nine students from the Richmond and Charlotte campuses along with **Richard Boyce**, dean of the Charlotte campus, and myself were guided by the incredible staff of the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA), an educational non-profit that works to transform lives by offering education, accompaniment, and safe reflection spaces to women and men of diverse Christian traditions and communities (for more on this great organization go to [www.cedepca.us](http://www.cedepca.us)).

I want to share an experience from our time in Guatemala that inspired and challenged us to explore ways that our worship can be enriched. On a Sunday afternoon, we met with Daniel Caño in a small Episcopal Church in Quetzaltenango. Daniel is an active member of the congregation who studied theology at CEDEPCA in Guatemala City. As a person of Mayan ancestry, Daniel also draws on his indigenous heritage to sustain his spirituality. He spoke to our group about how many Mayan Christians see connections between Christian faith and the ways of their ancestors. He explained that like many other indigenous traditions, Mayan spirituality draws on the earth as a primary source for its rituals. He then described to us the ancient Mayan fire ceremony, which recognizes the basic elements of earth, air, water, and fire. In the prayer, these elements are associated with the four directions: (1) The east, the direction of the rising sun, is symbolized by fire and the color red; (2) The west, the direction of the setting sun and darkness, is symbolized by earth and the color black; (3) The south as

the source of water, which brings seeds to life, is symbolized by the color yellow; (4) The north is symbolized by air and the color white. The colors of green and blue at the center of the Mayan cross represent natural and spiritual energy. This ceremony helps participants by guiding them to reflect on sources and elements that support life on earth.

Spending time in prayer and study  
with Christians in other parts of the world  
provides rich insights into new ways  
to embody Christian faith and to work  
for justice in the world.

Some Christian communities in Guatemala welcome Mayan ceremonies, viewing them as complementary to Christian faith. Our group met in Antigua with Father Atilio Prandina, who incorporated aspects of the ceremony as part of the Roman Catholic services that he led during his ministry in Mayan communities in the mountains of Guatemala. In adapting rituals from other cultures, participants should show respect for other traditions, as well as discern how these traditions can support Christian practices that draw from the earth and encourage creation care.

When we returned to the United States, our group led a chapel service on the Richmond campus that adapted parts of the Mayan ceremony for the prayers of the people:

Participants face east, where a red candle is lit:  
*We pray for the presence of God at the time of  
beginnings.*

*Lord, hear our prayers.*

Participants face west, where a black candle is lit:  
*We pray for the presence of God at the time of  
endings.*

*Lord, hear our prayers.*

Participants face north, where a white candle is lit:  
*We pray for the presence of God as felt through the life-giving wind.*

*Lord, hear our prayers.*

Participants face south, where a yellow candle is lit:  
*We pray for the presence of God in the seeds that will one day grow into the plants, animals, and people of this world.*

*Lord, hear our prayers.*

Participants turn toward the center of the room, where green and blue candles are lit:

*We pray for the presence of God in the struggle to see the unity of the spiritual and physical world in which we live.*

*Lord, hear our prayers.*

A primary goal of this prayer was to incorporate aspects of Mayan spirituality that we learned about during our visit to Guatemala in a way that broadens our practices and orients our faith to the natural elements of the earth that are shared by all cultures and traditions.

Spending time in prayer and study with Christians in other parts of the world provides rich

insights into new ways to embody Christian faith and to work for justice in the world. We were challenged to look more closely at the cultural assumptions and biases that we bring in order that we may hear the Gospel's call to discipleship more fully. We were confronted by the need for Christians to work together in local and global communities to confront issues of prejudice, poverty, and injustice. We were inspired by the hospitality and love that we received from the people of Guatemala whose faith in God serves as a model for our own ministries.

As we prepare for UPSem's next travel seminar to Guatemala in May 2015, we welcome your prayers that our journey may again help us encounter new ways to follow Jesus' call to love God with all our heart, mind, and soul and to love our neighbor as ourselves. In Guatemala, we shared rich experiences of ways that Christians in other parts of the world live out the Great Commission. We returned with a renewed and deeper commitment to care for one another and for God's creation.  $\Omega$

**Paul Galbreath** is professor of preaching and worship at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond campus.



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## The Global Family

There's a small village outside of Chichicastenango, Guatemala that is impossible to find on Google Maps. Zoom in as far as you can, and even the minor details forget the 20-minute drive around the mountains onto dirt roads, past a few tiendas, to the corner between Angelica and Hugo's house and the iglesia. As small and hidden as this village is, over the past few years it has certainly filled a large part of my heart.

This past May, I returned with friends from college to the village that I love to spend a few weeks with people who have become my family. Though I cannot understand or speak a word of their Mayan dialect, K'iche, I have found a way to embody the love and respect we have for one another in moments of laughter, hugs, soccer games on the field, and the stillness between delightful encounters. Upon my arrival to the village, all of the faces I love so much had aged two years since my first visit, and the children were all a few inches taller. They laughed with us, taught us how to build a fire in the wood-burning stove, and urged us to visit their homes as the kids ran around and played tag. They showed us the ins-and-outs of the market, beat us at every card game, and invited us to family day at the school. They asked us to sit by the fire, shared pictures and stories, and let us watch as they sewed fabric and items to sell. It was this way—a blended family of sorts, Mayan and American—that we spent our days in the village for two-and-a-half weeks, and every minute of it was special to me.

I'll never forget leaving the village this time around. Though we left early in the morning, members of the village, my sisters and brothers, father and mother figures, gathered around the bus. Miguela, whose family has become my own, didn't say a word. She climbed on the bus as we were about to leave, as if she wasn't quite ready for the time together to end just yet. She sat next to me, and she held my hand. Both of our tears fell upon one another's shoulder. As she exited from the bus, I mustered up my best Spanish to say I'd be back. She smiled, stood on the corner of the market streets, and waved.

In a way, I didn't leave that day, and probably never will, as a small village that one cannot find on a map has permanently located itself within my heart. Ω

**Laura Kelly** is a second-year M.Div. student from Tampa, FL. She is the chair of the service committee for the Richmond Student Government Association (RSGA) of Union Presbyterian Seminary.



# Opening Doors to the World

We have an amazing and life-giving opportunity to make the Global Mission Center for Christian Education a reality—a reality that will help open the door for more people around the world to experience the mystery, love, and adventure of living with Christ.

Before there was *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, there was Grandpa and Grandpa's cabinet. Behind those cabinet doors in my grandparents' home in Richmond, VA, were adventures to be discovered and stories to be told.

Readers of C. S. Lewis had their wardrobe adventures. The sixteen grandchildren of Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Thompson had their cabinet of many lands. Opening the doors of the cabinet transformed the living room into an exciting world of faraway people and cultures. A double-reed shepherd's pipe from the Holy Land evoked the wonder of the Christmas story for us. We held the vial of water from the Red Sea with awe, because we knew the story of God parting the waters so the Hebrews could escape.

Other items in the cabinet were from countries completely new to us. We loved the flat paper ball with the dime-sized hole in it that inflated when one of us blew into it. "*How did the air stay inside a paper ball with a hole in it?*" we wondered. We knew the ball came from Korea, and we wanted to know more about its ingenious creators. We would pull out a scrapbook filled with photos of people and countries very different from our own. Who were they? How were they different? How were they like us?

Because Grandpa, known as Dr. Tolly to his Union Theological Seminary and Assembly Training School students, was a professor of religious education, he knew a "teaching opportunity" when he saw one! Quoting Jesus' Great Commission to "*make disciples of all nations, baptizing them . . . and teaching them*" (Matthew 28:18–20), he would tell us about the missionaries who—like Paul in the New Testament—were telling the Good News in Korea and other places throughout the world. We learned about the Koreans, how they lived and how they worshiped.

Grandpa acquired the cabinet treasures—and his knowledge about Korea—on a visit to Asia in 1923–24. He spent six months in Korea at the invitation of the World's Sunday School Association, teaching Korean Christians about methods of Christian education. Afterward he spent three months visiting and encouraging missionaries in places like Saigon, Ceylon, and China. Because the seminary recognized the necessity of Christian education in spreading the Good News, it gave Grandpa (Dr. Tolly) a nine-month leave of absence to train those in other countries how to teach the Bible and the faith.

Today, nearly 100 years later, Union Presbyterian Seminary continues to value the importance of Christian education in global and local missions. On the drawing board is a new Global Mission Center for Christian Education where educators, pastors, and mission workers from the global church can gather with the UPSem community to share best practices in Christian education. The Center will nurture partnerships with churches in countries where the rapid spread of the gospel has created a tremendous unmet need for trained leadership. It will be a place where UPSem students, alums, and friends can experience firsthand the vitality of the church's global community and mission. Educators will be able to collaborate on the development of culturally specific curricula and teaching materials.

Is Christian education really important enough that we should put in the time, money, and people necessary to develop a 21st-century Global Mission Center? Absolutely!

This past December, I received a Christmas letter from Hajnalka Fazekas Domokosné, assistant to the Bishop of Miskolc of the Reformed Church of Hungary. I met Hajnalka in the early 1980s when she

was studying at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (PSCE) in Richmond. In her letter, Hajnalka wrote that the Hungarian government has turned to the church to provide teachers for the ethics and religious education classes required for students in the fifth and ninth grades.

*“We had to mobilize all of our pastors and Christian educators to meet this unbelievable requirement,”* Hajnalka wrote. Providing teachers and curriculum for the new classes offers the Hungarian church an opportunity to build relationships with students and their parents and to renew relationships with the schools, most of which were church-founded and belonged to the churches until World War II.

This call offers the Reformed Church of Hungary *“a big possibility, but also a big responsibility,”* Hajnalka said. *“Before World War II, 94 percent of all our schools belonged to the churches. Now we have got another chance from God; we shall have to use it well.”*

Hajnalka is not alone in her critical need for qualified Christian educators. The explosive growth of Christianity in Africa, Asia, and other places has multiplied the needs in the area of Christian education. Opportunities abound. Jesus says to us, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest”* (Luke 10:2).

With your prayers and support, the Global Mission Center for Christian Education will prepare workers from many nations for gathering in the

Lord’s 21st-century harvest field. The center will help address the needs of churches around the world by recruiting professors with experience in Christian education and mission, by offering new and relevant curricula and resources, and by strengthening partnerships with other seminaries. By providing the keys to open doors throughout the world, the Global Mission Center will be a gateway to experiences even more profound than those accessed through C. S. Lewis’ wardrobe or my Grandpa’s cabinet.

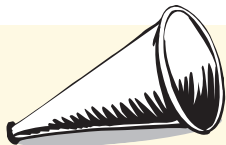
In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says, *“Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.”*

Union Presbyterian Seminary is poised to take a leading role in helping open that door. By giving to this vision, we have an amazing and life-giving opportunity to make the Global Mission Center for Christian Education a reality—a reality that will help open the door for more people around the world to experience the mystery, love, and adventure of living with Christ. We will nurture a cadre of well-trained leaders and educators who will strengthen the global church for years to come.

With your help and prayers, the commitment to Christian education as integral to global mission—a commitment that began so many years ago—will continue to be a viable and important part of our legacy to the church universal. Ω



**Lisa Thompson Cross** is a member of the board of trustees and is a Ruling Elder commissioned as the pastor of older adult ministry at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Suffolk, VA, and chairman of the Suffolk Literacy Council whose focus is helping adults with their reading skills. She studied Christian education at PSCE and is the daughter, granddaughter, and niece of professors at Union Theological Seminary, and a wife, mother, and grandmother.



## Student Shout-Outs

**Kelly Rex, Leah Epps, Chris Burton, Owen Gray, Linda Jones, Laura Kelly, Joshua Lewis, Beth Olker, and Samuel Sarpong** preached in various churches in Norfolk for Union on the Move.

**Carol Ferguson** and **Meagen Norman** served as theological student advisory delegates at the General Assembly of the PC(USA).

**Chris Burton** served as a listener in Embrace Richmond’s “Rover’s Listening Project” (<http://embracerichmond.org/2014/06/25/introducing-the-roving-listeners-project/>). Ω

The



GARGOYLE speaks

## “Every Wall Turned to Bread”



E. Carson Brisson

He never missed class and never arrived late. He tended not to leave his desk even during breaks. He sat on the front row, the seat nearest in and out the door.

He always wore a tie and a pressed, long-sleeve shirt. He never once wore a coat of any kind, not even when the gray inclemency of midwinter had locked its quarried eyes upon the city and the seminary and refused to blink.

He had not applied to a degree program, but rather had asked for and received permission to enroll in two courses only — Hebrew I and Hebrew II. He never told me why he privileged these two courses in our curriculum, and I never asked.

He grasped most elementary features of grammar and syntax with no difficulty. Vocabulary was where he struggled, but even in that area he managed well enough.

He made no comments during class sessions. He asked no questions. The one thing he seemed to have given himself permission to do that departed in any way from vigilant listening and the taking of copious notes was to lean slightly forward, whisper “*Oh, Oh,*” straighten back up, smile big, and shake his head whenever, as far as I could tell, any of his classmates made a remark or an observation that he considered important or moving.

I was surprised when, early on an April afternoon, deep into Hebrew II, he appeared at my open office door and asked if we might schedule a conference. He said his ride to work was delayed but not long. I noted my next appointment was running late but not very.

He sat down opposite me at my desk. We quickly exchanged views on the importance of vocabulary acquisition when learning languages. Our tone was light, but not frivolous.

“Well,” he said, when our vocabulary discussion ended. “*You remember the passage we read in class last week, the one where Pharaoh brings Joseph out of prison to interpret his dreams?*”

“Yes,” I replied. “*Do you remember the verb roots of the ‘royal summons formula’ in that text?*”

“No,” he responded. “*I truly wish I did and I know you do, professor, but I don’t. I will study more. But I wanted to tell you I was thinking since last week about Joseph down in Pharaoh’s cold, cold prison. There is so much noise in prison. Guys will be screaming, screaming crazy all the time. It can break your mind. I know Joseph was dealing with that before he got called out. Both times just before I got released, I would sit on my bunk. I would sit on my bunk all the time I could and read my Bible and pray for my mind not to break inside those walls.*”

“Oh,” I am pretty sure I said.

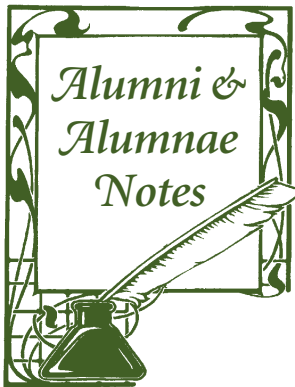
“Yes,” he continued. “*And I read that some day there will be just one city, and its gates will always be open because nobody steals anymore. And I read that God will turn every wall of that city, the bricks and the razor wire on top of the bricks, to bread, and then say to everybody, ‘Now you can surely taste and eat the walls, my people.’ Then, it came to me, there won’t really be any inside to walls anymore or any outside to walls anymore, and nobody will be screaming for any reason anymore... just every wall turned to bread, for everybody, I mean for everybody, to eat. I would read that. I would read that. And my mind did not break. It did not break.*”

When he had said this, he leaned slightly forward, whispered “*Oh, oh,*” straightened back up, smiled big, and shook his head — in behalf and in hope, as far as I could tell, of no reasons remaining ever again to close the gates, the conciliation of cries once judged and pronounced not worth hearing, minds passing unabridged through valleys of fire unquenchable, and every wall being turned into bread.

I heard him exchange in the hallway warm greetings with another student as he left. Ω

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*E. Carson Brisson is associate professor of biblical languages.*



1950s

**James Atwood** (M.Div.'59) was awarded the 2014 Peaceseeker Award by the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship at the 2014 PC(USA) General Assembly in Detroit, on June 18. Jim was also the forum leader at the 2014 Massanetta Springs Conference Center's Bible Conference, where he spoke on "America and Its Guns."

**James Wilson, Jr.** (M.Div.'59; M.C.E.'60; D.Min.'81) preached at the worship service celebrating the 125th anniversary of Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church in Weems, VA.

1960s

**William Blake** (Th.M.'62; Th.D.'68) continues to teach and preach throughout the Richmond, VA, area. He recently completed an eight-week lecture series about Western civilization for senior citizens through the Shepherd's Center of Richmond.

**A. Joseph Everson** (Th.M.'66; Ph.D.'69) was one of eight scholars honored by the Formation of Isaiah Group of the Society of Biblical Literature for their contributions. He served as a co-chair of that group for a

number of years. A new volume of essays entitled *Formation and Intertextuality in Isaiah 24-27* (Atlanta: SBL, 2013) has been published in their honor. Everson retired from California Lutheran University in 2011 after 21 years as a member of the department of religion. From 2004-2006, he served as interim provost and dean of the faculty.

**Phillip Lockard** (M.C.E.'66) and his wife, Emily, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip through seven different states from Colorado to Nevada.

1970s

**Heath Rada** (M.A.'70) was elected moderator of the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

**Ted David** (M.A.'72; M.Div.'73) preached his final sermon as pastor of Virginia Beach United Methodist Church, Virginia Beach, VA, and is retiring from ministry.

1980s

**John Burger** (D.Min.'74) is a math teacher at Bethesda Academy, Savannah, GA, the nation's oldest child caring institute. In this capacity, he will teach various math topics for multiple grade levels including 6th grade math, 7th grade introductory algebra, and 9th and 10th grade geometry.

**Harry Schill** (D.Min.'80) retired on August 31, 2014, after 26 years as pastor of Havenwood Presbyterian Church in Timonium, MD.

**Robert Milton Winter** (M.Div.'80; Ph.D.'88) published a book entitled, *Outposts of Zion: A History of Mississippi Presbyterians in the Nineteenth Century*. It marks the 200th anniversary of the organization of

Recently President Blount preached and led a study on the gospel of Mark at Derry Presbyterian Church in Hershey, PA. Pictured below from left to right: **Eli Cappel** (M.A.C.E.'12), **Debbie Hough** (M.A.'79), President **Blount**, and **Marie Buffaloe** (D.Min.'82). All serve as staff at Derry Presbyterian Church. Eli will soon be joining the staff of Christ Presbyterian Church, Camp Hill, PA.



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Please inform us at:

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

Or e-mail:  
**Associate Vice President for Alumni/ae Development Lynn McClintock**  
lmcclintock@upsem.edu

Phone: 804-278-4382

This issue of Focus includes information received through October 20, 2014.

the first presbytery in Mississippi and is dedicated to UPSem Professor Emeritus **James H. Smylie**, whose ancestor was among the first Presbyterian ministers to settle in Mississippi.

**Richard Boyce** (D.Min.'82; Ph.D.'85) is the dean of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, NC.

**Willie Woodson** (M.A.'84; D.Min.'08) preached his final sermon as pastor of First United Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, on June 29, 2014, after 29 years of pastoral leadership.

**Michael Brooks** (M.Div.'89; Th.M.'91) is celebrating 20 years of repairing and building computers in the Culpeper, VA, area.



**Leigh Beasley Gillis** (M.Div.'92) is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro, NC.

**W. Jack Cabaness** (M.Div.'99; M.A.'99) is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Katonah in Katonah, NY.

**Bennett Sandford** (Th.M.'99) wed Susan Lindsey Matthews on November 8, 2014, in Yorktown, VA. Ben is a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps.



**Steven Blunt** (Th.M.'02) is the youngest person elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia.

**Gregory Bolt** (M.Div.'07) received the "Outstanding Religious Leader" award from the Nebraska City (NE) Jaycees.

**Esta Jarrett** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'07; Th.M.'08) was the guest speaker at the Canton Community Lenten Service on April 3, 2014. She has been pastor of Canton Presbyterian Church, Canton, NC, for two and a half years.

**Keith Benze** (M.Div.'09) serves on the Vance County, NC, Department of Social Services Board of Directors.

**Elizabeth Lovell Milford** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'09) and Matt Milford celebrated the birth of their son, Nathan Thomas Milford, on June 9, 2014. Proud grandparents are **Tom Lovell** (D.Min.'83) and **Krista Barger Lovell** (M.A.'83).

**Andrew Taylor-Troutman** (M.Div.'09) addressed the graduates of New River Community College, Dublin, VA, at their 45th annual commencement. He is an adjunct instructor at New River Community College and serves as the pastor of New Dublin Presbyterian Church.



**Noe Juarez** (M.Div.'10) is associate pastor for Missions and Family Ministries at Highland Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA.

**Marcia Rauch** (M.A.C.E.'10) recently authored curriculum for the national publisher, Spark House, entitled *Jesus, Tell Us a Story*. Spark House has asked her to continue as a curriculum writer for them as well.

**Jamie Thompson** (M.Div.'10; Th.M.'12) is co-associate pastor at the Centenary United Methodist Church in New Bern, NC. Her sister, **Laura** (M.Div.'12) is her co-associate colleague.

**S. Kaye Barrow-Ziglar** (M.Div.'11) was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) on May 18, 2014.

**Did you know that at Union Presbyterian Seminary over 85% of our incoming classes receive tuition plus grant aid? Help us preserve this tradition of equipping Christian leaders to be a catalyst for the transformation of the church and through the church...the world.**

**Please consider a gift to the Alumni/ae Giving Back Scholarship.**

**Go to: [www.upsem.edu/giving](http://www.upsem.edu/giving)**

**Katherine Cashwell**

(M.Div.'11) is the associate director for conferencing at the Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC.

**Kathleen Sheets Henrion**

(M.Div.'11) married David Henrion on August 2, 2014. Kathleen is the associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Holt, MI.

**Brian Johnson** (Th.M.'11) is the pastor at Salem United Methodist Church, Diggs, VA.

**Lyndsey McCall** (M.Div.'11) was ordained on April 5 by Coastal Carolina Presbytery to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. She is the director of Christian education at Laurinburg Presbyterian, Laurinburg, NC, and executive director of Monroe Camp and Retreat Center, Laurel Hill, NC.

**Sam McFerran** (M.Div.'11) was approved by the National Capital Presbytery to be a teaching elder at Christ House in Washington, DC.

**Catherine Belles**

(M.Div./M.A.C.E.'12) is temporary supply pastor for two partnered churches, First Presbyterian Church of Greene, IA, and Eden Presbyterian Church of Rudd, IA.

**P. Martin Garner**

(M.A.C.E.'12) is a teaching artist for "Live Art: Soul" at the School of the Performing Arts in the Richmond Community (SPARC) and a special education teacher at The Faison School for Autism in Richmond, VA.

**Laura Thompson**

(M.Div.'12) is co-associate pastor at the Centenary United Methodist Church in New Bern, NC. Her sister, **Jamie** (M.Div.'10; Th.M.'12) is her co-associate colleague.

**Darren Utley** (M.Div.'12)

was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on March 1, 2014. He is associate pastor of Fairfield Presbyterian Church in Mechanicsville, VA.

**Jonathan Davis** (M.Div.'14) was ordained at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC, in May.

**Jordan Buck Davis**

(M.Div.'14) married Marc Davis on June 14, 2014. She is a church relations officer at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA.

**Sandra McDuffie**

(M.Div.'14) was ordained at St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC, on May 18, 2014.

**UPCOMING ALUMNI/AE EVENTS****February 17, 2015****2015 Trailblazer's Banquet & Awards Ceremony****Save the Date!****Registration at [www.regonline.com/Trailblazers2015](http://www.regonline.com/Trailblazers2015).****May 4-6, 2015 Sprunt Lectures***"Liberating Scripture: Reading Against the Grain"***Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza**, Krister Stendahl Professor of Divinity, Harvard Divinity School

Preacher: **Theodore J. Wardlaw** (D.Min.'78), president of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Distinguished Alumnus of the Year: **Glenn Q. Bannerman** (M.R.E.'57), Professor Emeritus of Recreation and Outdoor Education

**Registration is now open!****[www.regonline.com/spruntlectures2015](http://www.regonline.com/spruntlectures2015)!****TJ Remaley**

(M.Div./M.A.C.E.'14) was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on September 28, 2014 at Gettysburg Presbyterian Church in Gettysburg, PA. On October 5, 2014, he was installed as associate pastor for family ministry and discipleship at St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC.

**Rachel Jenkins Shepherd**

(M.Div.'14) is interim associate pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock, AR.

**Cameron Thomas**

(M.Div.'14) was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on August 3, 2014 at Barbecue Presbyterian Church in Sanford, NC. He is associate minister at First Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Beach, SC. Ω



## On The Shelf

Recent books by Union Presbyterian Seminary alumni/ae

**John G. Cook** (M.Div.'79), *Crucifixion in the Mediterranean World*, Mohr Siebeck, 2014.

**Robert Milton Winter** (M.Div.'80; Ph.D.'88), *Outposts of Zion: A History of Mississippi Presbyterians in the Nineteenth Century*, Holly Springs, Mississippi: Robert M. Winter, 2014.

**Roger Gench** (Th.M.'81; Ph.D.'88), *Theology from the Trenches: Reflections on Urban Ministry*, Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014.

**William Stacy Johnson** (M.Div.'88), *A Time to Embrace: Same-Sex Relationships in Religion, Law, and Politics*, 2nd edition, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2012.

**Eric Douglass** (M.Div.'03; Th.M.'05), *Reading the Bible Ethically: Recovering the Voice in the Text*, Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 2015.

**Hyoung Seop Shin** (M.A.C.E.'05; Th.M.'06; Ph.D.'11), *Building a Eucharistic Pedagogy for the Presbyterian Church of Korea*, Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013.

**Carl Parsons** (M.Div.'09), *The Counterintuitive Gospel: How the Good News Turns Our Worldview Inside-Out and Upside-Down*, Rapid City, South Dakota: Crosslink Publishing, 2014.

## SPRUNT LECTURES

May 4-6, 2015

# Liberating Scripture: Reading Against the Grain

**Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza**

Krister Stendahl Professor of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School

PREACHER **Theodore J. Wardlaw** (D.Min.'78), president, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS **Glenn Q. Bannerman** (M.R.E.'57), Professor Emeritus of Recreation  
and Outdoor Education, Union Presbyterian Seminary



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[www.upsem.edu/2015\\_sprunt\\_lectures](http://www.upsem.edu/2015_sprunt_lectures)



## In Remembrance

*Well done, good and faithful servant.**Matthew 25:21***1930 —**

**Sarah Dudley Whitmore Ricks** (M.R.E.'38) of Spartanburg, SC, died April 16, 2014. †

**Margaret Willard Higgins** (PSCE 1939) of Wilmington, NC, died August 31, 2013. †

**1940 —**

**Walter P. Baldwin, Jr.** (B.D.'44) of Atlanta, GA, died September 25, 2013. †

**Donald Neel** (M.Div.'44) of Lynchburg, VA, died June 25, 2014. †

**Jack Walker Ewart** (Certificate '46) of Pawleys Island, SC, died May 17, 2014. †

**Marie Faith Swanstrom Turnipseed** (M.R.E.'47) of Warner Robins, GA, died March 2, 2014. †

**Wynelle Wilson Beecher** (B.R.E.'49) of Katy, TX, died March 24, 2014. †

**Marion Fisler Hartmann** (PSCE 1948-'49) of Ivanhoe, NC, died November 26, 2013. †

**Walter Hartmann** (UTS 1948-'49) of Ivanhoe, NC, died July 17, 2014. †

**Lura Nelle Wirthlin** (M.R.E.'49) of Milford, OH, died December 16, 2013. †

**1950 —**

**Anita Spain Elcan** (B.R.E.'50) of Lynchburg, VA, died July 13, 2014. †

**Howard Carr Leming** (B.D.'52) of Fredericksburg, VA, died July 31, 2014. †

**George W. Bowman, III** (B.D.'53) of Winston-Salem, NC, died August 5, 2014. †

**Carolyn M. Clark** (B.R.E.'53) of New Smyrna Beach, FL, died March 30, 2014. †

**Harriet Blaney McMurray** (M.A.'53) of Lewisburg, WV, died August 22, 2014. †

**Irving G. Rudolph** (B.D.'53) of Florence, AL, died December 28, 2013. †

**Patsy McDaniel McLeod** (M.R.E.'54) of Black Mountain, NC, died July 15, 2014. †

**John H. Butterworth, III** (M.Div.'57) of Ripley, TN, died January 10, 2014. †

**Russell Reid Davis** (M.Div.'57) of Richmond, VA, died December 11, 2013. †

**Florence Read Winkelman** (M.R.E.'57) of Alexandria, VA, died March 22, 2013. †

**Clyde D. Nuckols, Sr.** (M. Div.'58) of Louisa, VA, died June 23, 2014. †

**Elise G. Miller Sprunt** (UTS 1958-'59) of Lexington, VA, died July 7, 2014. †

**1960 —**

**Roy Franklin Gose** (UTS 1961-'63) of Bristol, VA, died June 29, 2014. †

**Helen Joan Ellis Hornbuckle** (M.C.E.'64; UTS 1970-73) of Melbourne, FL, died April 9, 2014. †

**Paul Beazley** (B.D.'65) of Columbia, SC, died May 27, 2014. †

**James Herbert Hankins** (Th.M.'65) of Lakeland, FL, died December 10, 2013. †

**Charles Lee Hargis** (B.D.'66; Ph.D.'74) of Fincastle, VA, died July 6, 2014. †

**Samuel George Smith** (M.Div.'66) of High Point, NC, died August 23, 2014. †

**Constance Beagle Fulton** (M.C.E.'67) of Mt. Pleasant, SC, died October 22, 2013. †

**1970 —**

**Donald Bowdle** (Th.D.'70) of Cleveland, TN, died December 30, 2013. †

**Larry Hastings** (M. Div.'79) of Charlottesville, VA, died April 5, 2014. †

**C. Patrick Shaffer** (D. Min.'77) of Tequesta, F, died May 30, 2014. †

**1980 —**

**Robert Burrell Ranck, Sr.** (M.A.'80) of Tampa, FL, died March 30, 2013. †

**Lillie Ann Osteen Lindsey** (M.A.'83) of Greenwood, SC, died February 26, 2014. †

**Robert Nelson Roane** (M.A.'87) of Gloucester, VA, died July 23, 2014. †

**1990 —**

**David Traynam Anderson** (Ph.D.'91) of Richmond, VA, died May 27, 2014. †

**Shirley Hutchins** (M.Div.'92) of Cincinnati, OH, died June 19, 2014. †

**James Patrick McCracken** (M.Div.'92) of Park Ridge, IL, died May 1, 2014. †

**Thomas M. Waltz** (M.Div.'97) of Mechanicsville, VA, died June 11, 2014. †

*When you learn of the death of an alumnus or alumna of Union Presbyterian Seminary, please inform the Alumni/ae Office. Call 1-804-278-4382 or email [lmcclintock@upsem.edu](mailto:lmcclintock@upsem.edu). This issue of Focus includes information received through September 19, 2014.*

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# Leadership Institute

*Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences*



**March 9-11, 2015 — Richmond campus**

## **Vision and Practice of 21st Century Faith Formation**

Guiding learners in developing a connected, networked model of faith formation that is lifelong (all ages) and lifewide (whole life), and provides a wide diversity of engaging and interactive faith formation content and experiences in online and physical settings. Led by **John Roberto** of Lifelong Faith Associates, editor of the journal *Lifelong Faith*, and author of *Faith Formation 2010: Designing the Future of Faith*.

**March 18, 2015 — Richmond campus**

## **Post-Retirement Workshop**

An informative update on the state of the Pension Plan and other resources. Led by PC(USA) Board of Pensions.

**March 19-20, 2015 — Richmond campus**

## **Growing Into Tomorrow...Today**

Holistic retirement planning seminar helps mid- to late-career plan members explore steps for their best retirement tomorrow. Led by PC(USA) Board of Pensions.

**March 24-26, 2015 — Richmond campus**

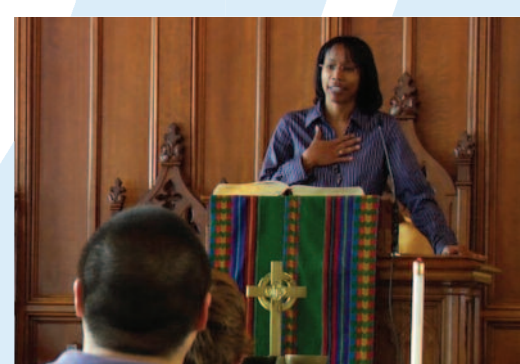
## **Staying Fresh in a Long Small Church Pastorate**

The importance of continuing education and understanding healthy boundaries in a long pastorate. Led by **Chris Stewart**, pastor of the Hopewell and Shreve Presbyterian churches in Ohio since 1978.

**April 13-16, 2015 — Richmond campus**

## **Called to be Stewards: Embracing Our Leadership Roles**

Led by **Diana Barber**, PC(USA) ruling elder and associate synod executive for leadership development, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and **David Crittenden**, PC(USA) teaching elder and director of stewardship for the Presbyterian Mission Program.



# Plan for the Future Church.



Be a part of the future of the church by supporting our mission. A thoughtful planned gift to Union Presbyterian Seminary will ensure the future of theological education. Union Presbyterian Seminary can and will help form that future through our nurturing of candidates for ministry.

Whether you want to support the seminary today or design a plan that benefits us after you're gone, we will help you find a method that is right for you. Discover the many ways to make a gift at [www.upsem.edu/giving/](http://www.upsem.edu/giving/).

For additional information regarding opportunities to support Union Presbyterian Seminary, please contact **Bernie Howell**, [legacy@upsem.edu](mailto:legacy@upsem.edu), (804)278-4243 or (800)229-2990 x243.

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE —

- *Highlights of the ATSI/PSCE Centennial*
- *Envisioning a new Global Mission Center*
- *The Church in the World — past and present*

*The newly dedicated Union Presbyterian  
Seminary Prayer Garden*