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Sharon & Brook

CONNECTING THE UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY COMMUNITY

ISSUE 16 / WINTER 2024

Action Year-Round at Shalom Farms



Summer volunteers at the Westwood Tract

Walking past Shalom Farms on Union's Westwood Tract during winter months, one might be tempted to think that action only occurs there during the warmer growing season of March through November.

Shalom Farms, a nonprofit dedicated to providing equitable access to fairly priced, healthy foods, grows 25 to 30 varieties of fruits and vegetables that are distributed throughout Richmond. Work to support this effort goes on year-round.

Shalom Farms Director of Volunteer and Education Services Hannah Wittwer says cold-month activities include sowing "early" crops like onions (20,000 seeds in January), preparing the greenhouse and seven hoop houses in Richmond and Powhatan, inventorying and ordering, studying the past season's data, developing propagation plans, and selecting fertilizers for specific plants.

There is also year-round education, including healthy cooking classes and classes on encouraging healthy eating habits as a means to combat chronic diet-related disease.

Last but not least, there is the recruitment of volunteers. To learn more, please visit www.shalomfarms.org.

Read about Yaupon Place on page 3.

It's hard to imagine better examples of stewardship of the land — specifically, the Seminary's Westwood Tract — than the ongoing activities at Shalom Farms and Yaupon Place.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Jacqueline E. Lapsley

A Sense of Hopefulness and Expectation

When I think about my first few months on the campuses of Union Presbyterian Seminary and traveling to meet the broader Union community of alums and friends, the image that comes to mind is drinking from a fire hose. There's been so much to take in.

And it's been really wonderful.

It's been a joy to see how much people care about this school. There's a lot of loyalty and excitement about what Union is doing and also about what it can be.

I've heard so many ideas from folks that have been incredibly helpful and will inform our strategic planning process. These ideas are coming from all of the different constituencies of the Seminary: our students, staff, faculty, alums, board, donors, and friends.

Some are rightly concerned about the shortage of clergy to fill pulpits in the church today. They ask what the Seminary can do about that and what the role of the denomination can be. That is a concern I have, as well.

We need to be helping people of all ages—especially young people—to see the church as a place where their faith commitments and their concern for social justice can be lived out, where they can see themselves in joyful ministries that lead to new life for themselves and their communities.

I think that's a job for all of us.

Based partly on listening sessions we've been having toward development of a strategic plan, I'm hearing several important things. One of those is curricular revision, which the faculty is working on now. The needs of church and society are changing rapidly. It's important for us to look at our curriculum and ask, "Are we doing what we need to be doing to prepare people for the church and society of tomorrow?"

Another big area that I'm interested in is the development of and increase in our nondegree offerings. These can be for anyone who would like high-quality theological education. I think there are a lot of people who want

that. We are already doing quite a bit that is really excellent. The question is, how do we do that in a more coordinated fashion—in a way that's more integrated across our different Centers? How do we integrate and align the Centers and the Leadership Institute in a more efficient manner that produces even more offerings than we currently do?

Another piece of our strategic plan is around communication: How do we tell our story? My sense is that we want to connect and reconnect with our traditional audiences, which would include PCUSA congregations and our alums and so forth. But then I think we also want to connect with new audiences—folks who have strong faith commitments but haven't heard of Union Presbyterian Seminary. Our story would be one that connects with theirs, and they would see us as a resource for growing in their own faith and the way that they can have an impact on the world. That doesn't have to be just in degree programs, but also through webinars, certificate programs, workshops, and the like.

I would like for Union to be seen as a place where people can have difficult conversations. The church is in a unique place to be a sort of "third space" for this kind of dialogue. This is where we could really lean into the resources of our theological tradition that help us think about how to address conflict—and to think about how we can help people who are sitting next to each other on Sunday mornings hear one another better and redevelop levels of trust that have been frayed over the last decade.

I want people to know that there's a sense of hopefulness and expectation on our campuses—that there's a newness on the horizon, and that we can rise to these challenges and find creative ways of meeting the needs of the world.

The world is a hurting place. But the Christian theological tradition and the Reformed theological tradition, in particular, have enormous riches to meet those needs. I'm looking forward to rising to that challenge with all of you.



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION OF
JACQUELINE E. LAPSLEY, Ph.D.
Flourishing Church, Flourishing World

The theme for the inauguration of Union Presbyterian Seminary's eighth president, Dr. Jacqueline E. Lapsley, on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, promises both an inspiring vision and an opportunity to ask a practical, real-world question:

"Flourishing Church, Flourishing World: What Are Seminaries For?"

A panel of five scholars and practitioners will take up that question at 2:00 p.m. that afternoon.

The inauguration service and address by President Lapsley are scheduled for 4:30 p.m.

A reception will follow.

For more information about the inauguration and/or symposium, please visit www.upsem.edu/May8

TREE PLANTING

New Life at Yaupon Place

On a clear, sunny Saturday in December, 40 volunteers turned out at Yaupon Place, an outdoor classroom and learning lab on Union Presbyterian Seminary's Westwood Tract. They planted 44 diverse species of trees on grounds that had previously only seen aging oaks. Among those planted were elms, hollies, deodor cedars, sweetbay magnolias, black gums, dogwoods, redbuds, and yaupons. The volunteers were also a diverse group—students from Union and Virginia Commonwealth University and participants from the wider community.

The simple act of tree planting benefits not only the immediate neighborhood, but also the Chesapeake Bay, helping to reduce stormwater runoff in the city and improving the Bay's water quality.

Rev. Dr. Faith Harris, executive director of Virginia Interfaith Power & Light (VAIPL), says the effort was supported by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that was shared between VAIPL, a faith-based organization committed to environmental justice, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Volunteers planted 44 diverse species.

Among those planted were elms, hollies, deodor cedars, sweetbay magnolias, black gums, dogwoods, redbuds, and yaupons.



At left: Rev. Dr. Faith Harris of Virginia Interfaith Power & Light was on site to assist in the tree planting on December 9.

Top right: Dozens of volunteers from the community came together on a sunny Saturday morning to plant trees at Yaupon Place on Union's Westwood Tract.

Bottom right: Dr. Jacq Lapsley was assisted by Chesapeake Bay Foundation staff during December's event at Yaupon Place.



KEYNOTE LECTURE: DESIRING TRUTH

Dr. John J. Thatamanil

John Thatamanil's decades-long consideration of the world's religions not only provides the foundation for his May 2024 Sprunt Lectures—his work also makes possible an intriguing analysis of why America is suffering through a time of such deep division. The working title he has assigned to an upcoming book and to the Sprunt Lectures captures

his approach: *Desiring Truth: The Quest for Interreligious Wisdom in a Post-Truth Era*.

Dr. Thatamanil, M.Div., Ph.D., is professor of theology and world religions at Union Theological Seminary in New York. He sees a profound fallacy at the heart of popular analyses of today's intractable disregard for facts.

"It used to be that people thought, 'You can have your own opinions, but not your own facts,' but that's not the case anymore," he explains. "People today believe the most astonishing things. QAnon and conspiracy theories are just the most extreme examples.

"Most people argue that the cure goes something like this: '...We have to reteach people to sort out fact from fiction.'" But that suggests that the problem is one of information and knowing. "That's not going to work," he says.

Dr. Thatamanil argues that a false western distinction between mind and heart results in elevating the status of thinking over feeling, but, he says, "You can't know the truth if you don't want to know the truth. The problem is one of desire."

A dominant desire today, he explains, is for a sense of belonging—to be part of a group that has secret knowledge not known to outsiders. "That does more to explain conspiracies and QAnon than anything else."

Dr. Thatamanil's life's work gives him a perspective to think deeply about how we got here. He is past president of the North American Paul Tillich Society, named for a philosopher who saw how religious traditions enrich one another. In addition to writing, teaching, and preaching, he blogs for online publications and has published editorials in the *Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post*.

He is committed to a comparative theology that asks how religious diversity can be "a promise rather than a problem." He draws on concepts and language, such as the Sanskrit word "citta," which does not make a western distinction between mind and heart, between thinking and feeling.

The challenge today, Dr. Thatamanil says, is not how to give people the right information, but to figure out how a desire for truth might challenge the desire for group belonging. "Prior to modernity—and this is an argument borrowed from the French thinker Michel Foucault—most of our traditions argued that if you wanted to know the truth, the heart had to be transformed. You had to take on disciplines and practices to change who you are so that you became the person who truly is *capable* of knowing the truth."

In human history, there have been social movements that have sought not just to inform minds, but also to transform hearts, Dr. Thatamanil explains by citing the nonviolence movements of Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. "It was not an issue of providing more rational information to White people that Black and Brown people deserved humane treatment," he says. "If you tried to defeat racist arguments simply with other arguments, nothing would have been accomplished."

The only way to make radical social change, the kind needed today, Thatamanil says, "is to meet hatred with an unyielding love—to do the work of transforming hearts."

2024 Sprunt Lectures Schedule

Monday, May 6

- 4:30–5:45 pm Registration & Opening Reception (Holderness Dining Room)
- 6:00–7:00 pm Opening Lecture: Dr. John Thatamanil (Watts Chapel)
- 7:30–8:30 pm Hymn Sing (Watts Chapel)

Tuesday, May 7

- 8:00–8:45 am Continental Breakfast (Holderness Dining Room)
- 9:00–10:00 am Lecture II: Dr. John Thatamanil (Watts Chapel)
- 10:15 am Light Reception (Lawn or Watts Lobby)
- 11:00 am–12:15 pm Worship: Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes, preaching (Watts Chapel)
- 12:30–2:00 pm Alumni Luncheon: Rev. Lori Raible, speaking (Holderness Dining Room)
- 2:00 pm Class Photos (Morton Library Steps)
- 2:30 pm BAA Annual Meeting (Early Center – Rm 124)
- 2:30 pm Class Reunions (Watts – 2nd floor)
Visit to Shalom Farms & Yaupon Place
- 4:00–5:00 pm Lecture III: Dr. John Thatamanil (Watts Chapel)
- 5:30–7:00 pm Cookout/Book Signing (Seminary Quadrangle)

Wednesday, May 8

- 8:00–8:45 am Continental Breakfast (Holderness Dining Room)
- 9:00–10:00 am Lecture IV and Q&A: Dr. John Thatamanil (Watts Chapel)
- 10:00 am BAA Trailblazer/Distinguished Alum Award Reception (Holderness Dining Room)
- 11:00 am Closing Worship & Necrology: Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes, preaching (Watts Chapel)
- 12:00 pm Box Lunch (Holderness Dining Room)
- 2:00 pm Symposium (Watts Chapel)
- 4:30 pm Inauguration of Jacqueline E. Lapsley (Seminary Quadrangle)

INFORMATION

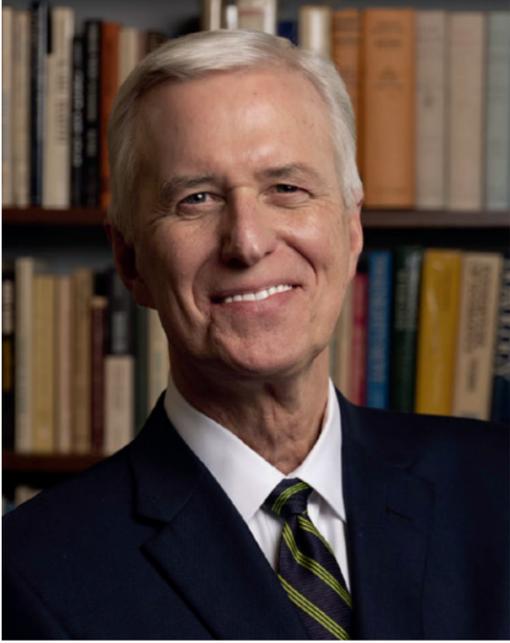
A single fee of \$100 includes **all meals** (there is no à la carte).

There is no charge for current students or faculty. Lectures, worship, and receptions are open to all at no charge.

Information about local hotels can be found on the registration site.

To register for Sprunt, visit: <https://bit.ly/Sprunt24>

(Schedule is subject to change.)



SPRUNT WORSHIP LEADER

Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes

If you ask Craig Barnes how retirement is going, he may well talk about the 100-year-old house that he and his wife, an interior designer, bought and are restoring. (“It’s a good day if nothing breaks.”) At the same time, the former president of Princeton Theological Seminary is at work responding to a lifelong calling “to help pastors be pastors.”

It is a task that is as hard as it has been at any time in the church’s history, and his thoughts about that will figure into a book he is researching and into the sermons he will deliver during the 2024 Sprunt Lectures.

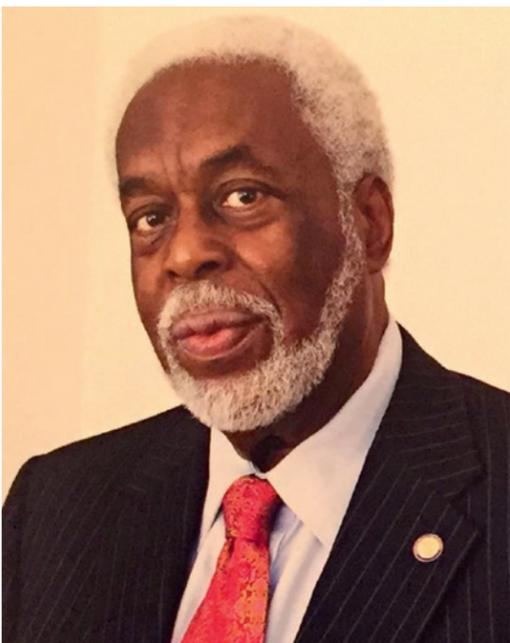
Dr. Barnes says that during his last few years as an educator, he had a hard time finding textbooks for his courses that were relevant to the

contemporary church. “There were excellent texts,” he explains, “but they were meant for the 20th century. 2016 was a major dividing year, and social polarization after that election has only gotten worse.”

There are also lingering theological effects from the pandemic that need to be addressed by the church. “We all went online in 2020, and online Communion at home was authorized,” he says. “It wasn’t wrong. We did it because we had to do it. But there was absolutely no theology for that.”

Reflecting on his time as pastor, teacher, and leader, he has felt a burden to define pastoral identity. “It used to be that everyone was really clear on who the pastor was and what the pastor’s job was,” he explains. “Today, people want an entrepreneur to turn around declining numbers, or to be a voice for social justice, or to be a pied piper and get the kids back to church, or to be a strong teacher, or to train and mobilize lay leaders. If you try to be all these things, you will internally combust.

“So that’s the question for today: Exactly who is the pastor, and what do we want the pastor to be doing?”



2024 BAA TRAILBLAZER

Rev. Dr. Leonard L. Edloe (Th.M.’18)

Leonard Edloe says being named the recipient of the 2024 Black Alumni Association Trailblazer of the Year award caught him by surprise.

It shouldn’t have. His career has been one of service to his profession, his community, and his church.

The Richmond native was awarded a Master of Theology from Union Presbyterian

Seminary in 2018. He is the founder of New Hope Fellowship in Hartfield, Virginia. He has also had a career as a pharmacist for more than 42 years, owning four pharmacies in the Richmond area. He was recognized by his

profession in 2016 by being named president of the American Pharmacists Association Foundation.

Edloe says he feels particularly honored because two previous recipients of the Trailblazer award are individuals he has long admired and knew personally: Leontine Kelly, who was the first Black female bishop in the United Methodist Church, and Dr. Allix James, former president of Virginia Union University.

When he remembers his time at Union Presbyterian Seminary, he thinks of the library and its deep resources, which he first encountered working toward his Master of Divinity. But just as quickly, he thinks of Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, professor of Christian social ethics. “Working with her was an experience,” he says. “She was a walking bibliography. I also had the opportunity of taking a course with President Blount.”

Most recently, Dr. Edloe has completed work on a book, *Restoring the Glory: Breathing New Life into the Rural Black Church*.



LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Rev. Lori Raible (M.Div.’06)

It was during Lori Raible’s time as co-chair of the selection committee that called Jacq Lapsley to the presidency of Union Presbyterian Seminary that she felt an extraordinary level of excitement about the future of theological education—and about the future of Union.

“Over 10 months, across the country and beyond, we had conversations with more

than 80 individuals,” says Raible, who will be the Alumni Luncheon speaker during Sprunt Lectures week. “I learned about the respect the church’s thought leaders have for Union and the hope they have for this school.”

Raible marries that excitement with a profound concern about how the structures of the church are organized. “It is important we express our

theology in a way that resists the temptation to make assumptions about the way we function and organize ourselves.”

She draws on a deep well of experience with issues of leadership. Raible received her M.Div. in 2006 and was part of the first graduating class on the Charlotte campus. She was named to Union’s board of trustees as a student representative and is now in her second term as a regular member. She has served on committees for academic affairs and business and finance, as well as co-chairing the presidential search committee, and is currently working on the presidential inaugural committee.

Raible maintains an abiding interest in supporting newly ordained ministers. “I think Union is the gold standard for theologically equipping pastors, and I’m shameless about this,” she says. “When folks leave Union, they are ready.”

She is continuing research in the area she defines as “gender, organizational theory, and the church,” a pursuit she plans to discuss in her Sprunt Lectures Alumni Luncheon speech. “We need to need to claim, and rearticulate, our Reformed faith in a way that moves toward innovation and growth—how we do what we say we believe.”



TRADITIONED INNOVATION AWARD WINNER

“Sanctified Art” Group Recognized

When Hannah Garrity, a candidate for the Master of Divinity/Master of Arts in Public Theology degree at Union Presbyterian Seminary, was a little girl, her mother told her she was an artist. “I believed her, and I’ve been working at it ever since.”

Today, she works with a Black Mountain, North Carolina-based nonprofit called A Sanctified Art, which was a 2023 winner of the Traditioned Innovation Award, given by Duke University Divinity School. It recognizes organizations that “...honor the work that holds together past and future... living out the convictions of an ancient faith in current challenging circumstances.”

A Sanctified Art describes itself as “a team of artists in ministry who create multimedia resources for worshiping communities of all shapes and sizes.”

Garrity also serves as director of Christian Faith, Life and Art at Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond.

“Surrogacy” by Hannah Garrity (left) and “Comfort O Comfort” by Lauren Wright Pittman (right)



MORE ONLINE To learn more about A Sanctified Art, visit them online at <https://sanctifiedart.org>

THE THREE-LEGGED APPROACH OF SCLEAP

Ministering to Law Enforcement

One Sunday in 1993, Eric Skidmore, who was a full-time associate pastor on the staff of Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, was shaking hands at the door when a visitor posed an intriguing question. He was the Chief of the State Police and was starting a volunteer chaplaincy program. Would Eric like to volunteer?

“At that point, I had an M.Div from Union and was working on a D.Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago,” recalls Skidmore. “My intention was to follow a very traditional path, a parish ministry. I went out to the headquarters, and I agreed to do it. I didn’t really know what public safety chaplaincy meant.”

He would soon find out. And he would learn about the difficult situations law enforcement officers encounter on a daily basis—and the need to help them deal with the effects of those encounters that can haunt them for days...or even years.

For 27 years, Skidmore has been program manager for the South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program (SCLEAP), a program that has become a model for several other states. “SCLEAP’s mission is to deal with the tremendous emotional impact on the officers who deal with [tragic] events,” he explains.

Skidmore describes the work of SCLEAP as a three-legged stool. “One leg is mental health professionals, one leg is chaplaincy, and one leg is peer support. We all three work in concert to provide services to an amazingly underserved population. They’ll listen to the chaplain, and they’ll listen to the mental health professional, but they will really listen to someone who has been through the same kind experience—a peer.”

Even casual readers of South Carolina—and national—headlines will have a sense of what law enforcement officers there have encountered over the years. In 1994, a Union County, South Carolina, woman named

Susan Smith strapped her two sons, ages three years and 14 months, into the family car and rolled it into John D. Long Lake, where they drowned.

“A year or two after the Susan Smith case, a family of five went to that same landing, to a memorial to those children there,” says Skidmore. “They were parked on the ramp, the brakes in their Suburban failed, and the car rolled into that lake. Mom and Dad tried to save their children. The whole family drowned. The dive team that retrieved all those bodies is the same one that found Susan Smith’s children. The same team.”

In 2015, police officers in Charleston, South Carolina, responded to the scene of a deadly shooting that took the lives of nine churchgoers at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, the oldest Black church in the southern United States. The victims were killed during a Wednesday night Bible study by a white supremacist.

Four years into his volunteer work with the state police, Skidmore and other volunteer law enforcement chaplains decided to apply to the federal government for funding to support their work. They won a \$300,000 grant. That same year, Skidmore decided to resign as associate pastor of Eastminster Presbyterian. “The presbytery designated what I was doing as a validated ministry, which allowed me to remain a member of the presbytery and become a parish associate at Forest Lake Presbyterian Church.”

Skidmore has been a trainer for 10 courses, taught by the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation, for those who provide peer support, and he has developed a deep respect for how law enforcement officers help one another. “I’ve learned a lot about the peer support world and about training people to become supporters, their own sort of helpers in this ministry,” he explains. “They are very, very effective. They’re almost like their own kind of diaconate.”



GREETINGS

W. Clay Macaulay

Blessings to you in this new year before us. And what a year it promises to be for Union Presbyterian Seminary—our community, our alumni, and our friends!

This issue of *Sharon & Brook* focuses on our upcoming Sprunt Lectures, scheduled for May 6–8, 2024, on the Richmond campus. Our Sprunt lecturer is Dr. John J. Thatamanil, professor of theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

The preacher for Sprunts is Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes, president emeritus of Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. Lori Raible (M.Div.'06), pastor and head of staff for Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte and a Seminary board member, will speak at the Alumni Luncheon on Tuesday, May 7.

On May 8, we will honor Dr. Leonard Edloe (Th.M.'18) as our 2024 Black Alumni Association Trailblazer of the Year. The 2024 Distinguished Alum will be named early in 2024 and will also be honored on May 8.

You may register now for the Sprunt Lectures at <https://bit.ly/Sprunt24>, as we anticipate another large gathering of alumni and friends. We want to have spaces and food ready and available for those planning to attend.

Since good food and fellowship are always a key part of this annual gathering, *you will note that there is a simple flat fee for attending any or all events on campus* (not including lectures, worship, or receptions, for which there is no charge, of course). Your generous understanding and support of this annual

homecoming of those like you, who love and support UPSem, is greatly appreciated.

We encourage you to send news of your life and ministry to alumni@upsem.edu or you can call me at (804) 278-4382.

We hope you will enjoy reading the alumni updates listed here and also share your news with us!

Yours faithfully,
W. Clay Macaulay (D.Min.'85)
Director of Alumni Development
cmacaulay@upsem.edu
(804) 436-7471 (mobile and text)
(804) 278-4382 (study)

Alumni Notes

TRANSITIONS

Annie Franklin Arvin (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'18) now serves as Director of Admissions for the Richmond Campus of Union Presbyterian Seminary.

Kelley M. Connelly (M.Div.'20) now serves as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Highlands, NC.

G. Howard Dudley Jr. (M.Div.'12) now serves as Pastor/Head of Staff for Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church in Cary, NC.

Margaret "Meg" Lindsay Dudley (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'12) has concluded her ministry with Bluff Presbyterian Church in Wade, NC.

Max Michaels (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'23) now serves as Pastor/Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church in Cheraw, SC.

Jennifer J. Powell (M.Div.'21) now serves as Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Mount Sterling, KY.

Lauren E. Voyles (M.Div.'17) now serves as a Chaplain for Bon Secours Mercy Health Hospice in Richmond, VA.

IN MEMORIAM

Edwin L. "Ted" Bishop (M.A.'79)
October 3, 2023

J. Theodore "Ted" Brothers (B.D.'61)
October 26, 2023

Sue Dobbs-Key (M.A.'87)
September 5, 2023

Doris Gammon Field (B.R.E.'53)
August 21, 2023

Anne Judkins Hager (M.R.E.'53)
August 23, 2023

Richard T. Harbison (B.D.'58)
December 8, 2023

Vaughn E. Hartsell (B.D.'59)
June 1, 2023

Elizabeth "Betsy" Rimmer Hilfer (M.A.'82)
August 11, 2023

Jennie Stokes Howe (P.S.C.E.'63-64)
September 1, 2023

Charles R. Huggins (D.Min.'81)
September 14, 2023

Bertha Hamilton Jones (M.R.E.'58)
July 15, 2023

Ruth L. Sample (M.A.'59)
October 23, 2023

Frank L. Seaman (B.D.'62)
September 1, 2023

Donald S. Stewart (Th.M.'70)
October 18, 2023

Lee C. Waltz (B.D.'60)
December 8, 2023

John Richard "Dick" Winter (M.Div.'49)
August 14, 2023

ON THE SHELF

Leonard L. Edloe (Th.M.'18) has authored *Restoring the Glory: Breathing New Life into the Rural Black Church*, which

explores the rich history, profound legacy, and uncertain future of this vital institution. Edloe is the recipient of the 2024 Black Alumni Association Trailblazer of the Year award, which will be presented at the 2024 Sprunt Lectures.

AWARDS

E. Bruce Harvey Jr. (M.A.'79) is a co-recipient of the 2024 Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) SUSTAIN–Life Achievement Award, to be presented at the APCE National Gathering on January 26, 2024, in St. Louis, MO.

John W. Johnson (M.A.'79) is a co-recipient of the 2024 APCE SUSTAIN–Life Achievement Award, to be presented at the APCE National Gathering on January 26, 2024, in St. Louis, MO.



MORE ONLINE For a complete and updated list of transitions, retirements, in memoriam, and publications of our UPSem alums, visit: bit.ly/UPSem-Alumni-Notes

Sharon&Brook

Sharon & Brook is published by Union Presbyterian Seminary for alumni and friends of the Seminary.

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Send us your updated information: Please send us the news of your life and ministry that we may share with others. The Seminary also welcomes updated email and mailing addresses, with current phone numbers.

The Alumni Office would love to hear from you!

Send news and contact updates to us at alumni@upsem.edu or call (804) 278-4228.

UPCOMING EVENTS



For the Church in the World

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JUST TALK/TALK JUST

Just Talk / Talk Just is a webinar series sponsored by Union Presbyterian Seminary's Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership and the Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation.

For more information and to register, please visit upsem.edu/csjr

Imagining a Just Society

Tuesday, February 27
7:00 pm–8:00 pm

Womanist Theopoetics

Tuesday, March 19
8:00 am–5:00 pm

Clean Water & Indigenous Justice Movements

Tuesday, April 16
7:00 pm–8:00

Affirmative Action

Tuesday, May 21
7:00 pm–8:00

LGBTQIA+ Justice

Tuesday, June 18
7:00 pm–8:00

The Sprunt Lectures Issue

Schedule, Speaker, and Awards PAGES 4–5



PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION OF
JACQUELINE E. LAPSLEY, Ph.D.
Flourishing Church, Flourishing World

Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Richmond Campus

Visit www.upsem.edu/May8
for more information

Friends, Alumni, Faculty, Staff, and Students are invited to join Union Presbyterian Seminary as we celebrate the inauguration of Jacqueline E. Lapsley, eighth president of UPSem.

2:00–3:15 p.m.

What Are Seminaries For?

Symposium with thought leaders and pastors including:

Eric Barreto, Princeton Theological Seminary
Kenda Dean, Princeton Theological Seminary
Gail Henderson-Belsito, Free Range Pastor
Jessica Tate, Georgetown Presbyterian Church
Rich Voelz, Union Presbyterian Seminary

4:30 p.m. Inauguration

6:15 p.m. Reception