

CHIMES

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Breaking Ground

*From the campus grounds
to the classroom,
SFTS is transforming
the Seminary experience*



San Francisco
Theological Seminary

Moved by God's love in Jesus Christ, San Francisco Theological Seminary prepares women and men for transformational ministries of justice, peace, and healing, which advance the Church's hopeful, loving engagement with the world.





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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I am now midway through my fourth year as president of San Francisco Theological Seminary. I have learned a lot during my tenure. And I have come to appreciate deeply the educational experience that SFTS offers. We are truly creating a new kind of seminary for the 21st century. You'll see why as you read this issue of *Chimes*.

As I travel around the country, the first question people often ask about the Seminary is: "How's your enrollment?" People want to know about the students - how many, who they are, where they came from, what brought them to SFTS. "Tell me about the students"—almost every conversation gets around to that.

So, let's start with those who recently left us – our Class of 2014 graduates. Last May we awarded degrees and certificates to 48 people. Seventeen of them received their D.Min.; 15 received their M.Div; eight, an MA; and eight, a Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction (DASD).

Let me tell you about the M.Div. graduates. Below are the demographics:

2014 M.DIV. GRADUATES BY THE NUMBERS

RACE

6

Anglo

5

African-American

4

Korean-American

GENDER

8

Women

7

Men

AGE

Mid 20s

to early 60s

WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

7

California

8

Out of State

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THEM?

4

already received calls to serve congregations

3

began Clinical Pastoral Education training

2

are continuing in their congregational ministries

2

are continuing their education

1

- ...is continuing service as a military chaplain
- ...is heading to Indonesia as a mission co-worker for the PC(USA)
- ...is preparing for bi-vocational ministry as a plumber
- ...is ministering to homeless people on the streets of San Francisco while continuing her education

Yung Me Morris, M.Div. 2014, stands as she is recognized for the Seminary Fellowship award and the Martin Dwellle Kneeland Preaching Prize. She is currently serving as pastor of St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in San Rafael.



I am amazed and proud of this class of graduates. They are doing profound things. There is a spirit of adventure in each of their calls and their continuing search for meaningful ministry. They know the Church has changed and is changing. They are prepared not simply to hold a job, but to lead and serve. They have joined a proud tradition of SFTS alumni across the years, women and men who share a deep, abiding faith in Jesus Christ, a passion for ministries of healing, peace and justice, and a deep commitment to the Church's hopeful, loving engagement with the world. I hope you will remember them in your prayers.

This fall there are 200 students in all our SFTS programs. Fifty-nine are in master's programs, including 41 M.Div. students. One hundred and one students are working on their D.Min. The total student enrollment at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), of which SFTS is a founding and full member, is 1150, including about 200 doctoral students. SFTS has the largest enrollment of the eight member schools.

Perhaps it would surprise you to learn that SFTS, with our 200 students, is a mid-sized seminary. The median enrollment for seminaries and theological schools in North America is 155, meaning half the schools are larger than SFTS and half smaller. Very few schools of any size or theological persuasion are growing these days.

Here at SFTS we are committed to growing our enrollment. This goal drives us not because we think "big is better," but because we believe we have an exceptional and valuable educational product to offer. We have an outstanding, thought-leading faculty, who are dedicated to our students and to teaching, learning, and challenging the status quo. Their expertise builds students' abilities in critical thinking and judgment.

SFTS offers a unique educational experience, one that cannot be found anywhere else. We are academically rigorous: we ask our students to stop and think, not stop thinking. And we provide a rich learning environment that encourages our graduates to think innovatively about ministry, venture into challenging contexts, and serve God's purposes with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

I am humbled and grateful to be part of such an astounding, high quality institution.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald

President and Professor of Faith & Public Life

A New Campus for a New Century

Community celebrates the breaking of ground on new Seminary housing



By Jeff Hoover and Rachel Howard

After years of planning and development of a master plan for new construction, the resulting re-imagination of San Francisco Theological Seminary's campus is now visible. The structural frames of the new student village buildings have been raised, and the properties for new faculty homes have been cleared and prepared for foundations.

To celebrate the breaking of ground on construction, in October of 2014, the Seminary invited the community to a gathering on the SFTS campus. Trustees, faculty, students, alumni, staff, neighbors, and San Anselmo Town leadership flocked to campus where they heard remarks of excitement and gratitude from Seminary President Rev. Dr. Jim McDonald, Dean Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, and SFTS Chair of the Board Marion Stanton.

"We are a new kind of Seminary for the 21st century, and this construction demonstrates that," said McDonald regarding the plans. "It is a win-win-win for the Seminary, the town, and for a hopeful future."

Stanton concluded the ceremony by thanking all of the partners who made the project possible, which include: members of the SFTS Board Facilities Committee; Barbara Brenner Buder, vice president of finance; and Hart-West, the Seminary's real estate consultants.

The consolidation and modernization of the Seminary's campus housing will usher in a more communal, dynamic, and family-oriented institution capable of meeting the unprecedented demands of the 21st century. To fund the plan and meet these goals, the Seminary

See Construction on page 8

"We are a new kind of Seminary for the 21st century, and this construction demonstrates that. It is a win-win-win for the Seminary, the town, and for a hopeful future."

— Seminary President
Rev. Dr. Jim McDonald



Top: President Rev. Dr. Jim McDonald and Chair of the Board Marion Stanton at the groundbreaking in October. Above: San Anselmo neighbors look at renderings of the new student village and faculty housing.

MASTER PLAN

The master plan, building renderings, and blueprints are all available for viewing on the Seminary's real estate developer's website at tinyurl.com/SFTSconstruction.

Right: The floor plan and site plan for the student village. Below: The plan becomes reality during fall of 2014.



Below: An elevation drawing shows a finished student village building. Right: The windows are installed in the newly-framed building.





Construction

From page 6

sold peripheral properties around San Anselmo. The sale of this property also allows the Seminary to replenish its endowment after the difficult times that followed the stock market crash in 2007.

Besides being based on sound financial reasoning, the project also offers a new kind of housing for a changing student body. The housing will feature a modern, flexible, and eco-friendly student village in the heart of campus. Students who have families or who are seeking a new career path are enrolling in seminary in increasing numbers, and the new facilities will help ease their transition to campus. SFTS will also debut a faculty row—new housing that will allow greater interaction between seminarians and their instructors.

Throughout the development process, the Seminary faculty and administration have paid attention to details great and small—from the planting of trees around buildings to ensure maximum privacy to the type of light bulbs installed in student apartments. This attention to detail will ensure the on-campus student experience will be as comfortable as possible.

SFTS has long been a cornerstone of the theological education community, and these campus changes will ensure that students can continue training for ministries of justice, peace, and healing at SFTS for generations. This will in turn allow more and more graduates to engage in service as they care for people around the world.



Aerial views show the construction of the student village as it progressed throughout fall of 2014.



Collaboratory participants work together to build a pyramid of cups using string.

Featured guest Dr. Jane McGonigal gives her keynote presentation on Gaming for Good.

Gaming for Good

Game designers, pastors, and community activists come together to explore the theology of video games at the launch of the Center for Innovation in Ministry

T | By Rachel Howard

Today, 99% of boys and 94% of girls ages 12-17 play video games. This same demographic is likely to play 10,000 hours of video games by the time they graduate from high school, which is just shy of the total number of hours they will spend in school during this same period.

What skills are these young gamers learning, and could they possibly be used for social good?

To explore this question, San Francisco Theological Seminary's new Center for Innovation in Ministry welcomed almost 200 participants from across the country. The

new Center, which launched in a two-day event in October, brought together unlikely partners for conversation, collaboration, and creativity for the good of the Church and the world.

The Seminary invited Dr. Jane McGonigal, a visionary game designer, TED talk speaker, and *New York Times* bestselling author as the event's keynote speaker. McGonigal joined experts in the fields of education, non-violence, and hunger on the SFTS campus to explore how games can be applied in a variety of real-world contexts.

See Gaming on next page



Gaming

From previous page

McGonigal has conducted extensive research on the skills young gamers are learning. There are four key qualities she believes make gamers excellent resources for positive action in the world:

1. Urgent optimism: believing that an “epic win” is possible
2. Weaving a tight social fabric: building bonds, trust, and cooperation
3. Blissful productivity: finding joy in hard, meaningful work
4. Epic meaning: connecting to a meaningful mission

To engage gamers (who McGonigal calls “super-empowered, hopeful individuals”) in positive change, McGonigal has designed successful “games for good” for a variety of organizations, including the Olympic Games, the American Heart Association, and the New York Public Library.

While the skills fostered in young gamers have clear and positive real-world implications, the connection between gaming and theology is less apparent. What is theological about gaming?

“Everything!” replied Dr. Mary Hess, a panelist at the event who serves as professor of educational leadership at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

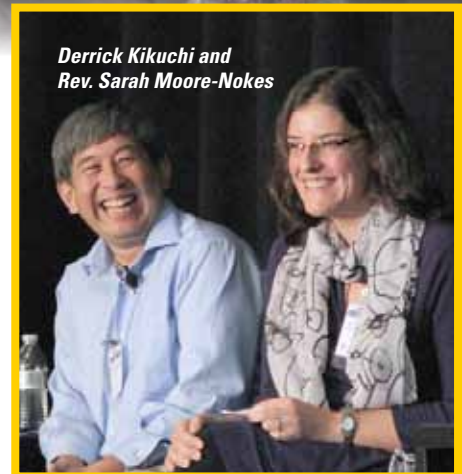
“God can be found in our playful activity,” said Hess. “God is calling us to see brokenness, and is giving us the promise that we can move through that brokenness.”



Dr. Marcia McFee leads Smallify lab participants in closing worship.

Hess continued, “Part of the power in games is that we hold them lightly; we delight in the process. We can bring this lightness to the religious community as well.”

Additionally, many pastors who attended are exploring how to incorporate the positive features of gaming into their church services to keep congregants engaged and church attendance high.



Derrick Kikuchi and Rev. Sarah Moore-Nokes



After exploring the positive social implications of gaming, participants had the opportunity to work with Smallify, an innovation-capacity building firm from the Silicon Valley. The Smallify model is one that breaks down large issues – such as societal injustices of poverty, hunger, and violence – into smaller, actionable pieces. When tackling a large number of small tasks, failure comes at a much smaller cost. This makes people more likely to be creative and take risks.

“I’m already thinking about how the Presbyterian Mission Agency can smallify some of our objectives...and take tolerable risks,” said

During the Smallify lab, a group discusses their upcoming presentation.



Connecting with God Online

D.Min. student focuses his studies in online pastoral care

By Patricia Corrigan

Sitting in a café in his native Korea, Rev. Byung Hee Kang noticed four young people at a nearby table. At first, they spoke animatedly with one another, but soon all four were interacting with their cell phones.

That got Kang thinking about the times he served middle and high school students at his church. When he asked students face-to-face about their thoughts on worship, they would say “it’s all good” and nothing more. “However, when I used the internet to communicate, they talked freely,” says Kang, a D.Min. student at San Francisco Theological Seminary since 2012.

“These two events inspired me to think about the importance and effectiveness of cyber communication,” Kang says. “The goal of my doctoral work is the restoration of a relationship with God for the Korean digital generation through online pastoral care.”

Rev. Dr. Virstan Choy, Director of Advanced Pastoral Studies and Associate Professor of Ministry at SFTS, is enthusiastic about Kang’s work. “Given the very innovative project that Rev. Kang has chosen, he’s going to be a rock star,” Choy says. “The work is contextually relevant and timely, especially in light of a recent *New York Times* piece about the spread of social media and digital gaming in South Korea. Plus, Rev. Kang is attentive to cultural factors that influence the provision of ministry and is groundbreaking in his approach.”

Kang’s work focuses on online Bible study, counseling, and visitation. “Facebook is filled with happy stories that young people want to show others, but they don’t want to show their weaknesses or [share] personal problems there.” Fortunately, they are willing to talk one-on-one with a pastoral caregiver online, he says. “I think



Rev. Byung Hee Kang

this is the way of the future, and a very effective one.”

In October, Kang participated in the launch of the SFTS Center for Innovation in Ministry, a “think, do, and be” tank that will encourage faith communities to think and act creatively about how they can engage the world with the gospel (see facing page for full story).

Kang’s work also serves the Seminary’s emphasis on innovative research and development of ministry practices in the D.Min. program. Dr. Mary Hess, Kang’s advisor (and panelist at the Center launch event), is a recognized expert in exploring the implications of social media and digital culture for church leadership—a relatively new field for theological education.

An experienced pastor, Kang has used cyber communication in pastoral care for 10 years. He says he has been online for more than 20 years, dating back to his days as a middle school student. He is a graduate of the Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary in Korea, and earned a second master’s degree, in missiology, at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena.

“I decided to come to SFTS because I like the academic atmosphere,” Kang says. “Actually, it is very hard to find a theological seminary and professors with an interest in the internet, but SFTS also has helped me broaden my understanding and thinking.”



Dr. Mary Hess

Chip Hardwick, the Theology, Worship, and Education Director at the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Of the Center’s inaugural event, Rev. Sherri Hausser, the Center’s director, said, “It was our desire to not merely tell people about the mission, purpose, and programs of the Center, but to instead give participants an embodied experience of the things the Center will do.”

Hausser continued to say, “We are so grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make this event an incredible success.”

For more information about the new Center, including other upcoming events, please visit www.sfts.edu/Center.

CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

Rev. Paul Gaffney selected as first fellow in new CPE fellowship program, funded by John and Julia Shaw

Rev Paul Gaffney holds a memorial service for members of the homeless community who have died on the streets.



Generosity in a Name

The Shaw family's history of giving

T | By Rachel Howard

he Shaw name is very familiar to the entire San Francisco Theological Seminary community. It adorns the sign in front of the beautifully restored Shaw Guest House. It denotes the first fully endowed chair in the discipline of Clinical Pastoral Education at a theological institution—the Shaw Family Chair for Clinical Pastoral Education. And as of November 2014, it is included in the title of Shaw Supervisory Education Fellow awarded to Rev. Paul Gaffney, a student in the CPE program (please see above).

It is time to get to know the man and woman behind these generous gifts that have both improved the student experience on the SFTS campus and helped keep the Seminary at the forefront of theological education.

Allow me to introduce Rev. Dr. John and Mrs. Julia Shaw.

As I sat with the Shaws in their beautiful apartment in Seattle, I learned that chaplaincy and generosity are common threads running through their lives.

John and Julia both found their way to SFTS in August 1951. Julia had just graduated from Smith College, and John had graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles and Fresno State. The two met one evening while waiting in line for dinner and shortly after had their first date at the San Rafael theater. They were married a year later, in 1952. Julia put her studies on hold after the birth of their first child, a boy. (She would later go on to earn a master's in education.)



John Shaw

The Power of Presence

T | By Rachel Howard

here's an intersection in Marin where I often see people on the median with signs for help written on weathered cardboard. Sometimes I recognize the people: an older man with a black and white dog, a woman with long brown hair who always sits cross-legged on the ground. But just as frequently, I see a face one time and never see it again.

I always wonder about their stories. How did they end up here? Where do they sleep? Are they lonely? Are they hungry? Are they loved?

When I see these people on the street in Marin, I think with gratitude of the students at San Francisco Theological Seminary, whose work often takes them to people and communities in need. I think particularly of Rev. Paul Gaffney, an SFTS M.Div. graduate who completed three of his four Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) units at SFTS. He is now enrolled in his first student unit of Supervisory CPE, and is in his 11th year serving as the chaplain and director of the Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy.

"God is evident in the time that we spend, in our listening, and in our presence with those who are suffering," says Gaffney. For him, Tuesday

afternoons always begin by gathering with members of the homeless community in San Rafael, California, for reflection and prayer, followed by a communal dinner prepared by the group.

The Tuesday activities are just one of Gaffney's many efforts to nurture a spiritual presence on the streets of San Rafael. Other activities include providing spiritual support to inmates at a local prison who are battling addiction, helping a local wellness center stay in touch with its clients who live on the street, and providing Friday morning coffee and conversation to the local homeless population.

Because of a generous gift made by Rev. and Mrs. John and Julia Shaw, Gaffney is now the first Shaw Supervisory Education Fellow (Please read more about John and Julia Shaw below). He will work closely with Rev. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina, Shaw Family Chair for Clinical Pastoral Education, to train students in the field of chaplaincy and pastoral care.

See CPE on page 30



John and Julia Shaw in front of Landon Hall.

Upon graduating from SFTS in 1954, John was called to Stery Memorial Presbyterian Church in Idaho, where he served for four years.

He recalls a Sunday morning about a year into his tenure when frantic knocking on his door interrupted his preparation for the morning's service.

"When I opened the door, there were two men in hunter's outfits standing there, asking who was in charge of the building here. When they found out I was the pastor, they told me the church had caught on fire."

The janitor had gone to the church early that morning to light the coal in the furnace and warm up the space. By the time the fire was discovered, the church had almost burned to the ground. John spent his next three years as pastor raising money to rebuild the church, resulting in the erection of a beautiful new brick building.

The Shaws later moved to Scottsdale, Arizona, where John served as associate pastor of Valley Presbyterian Church. Over the next 15 years, John and Julia lived in Scottsdale with their growing family. They had four more children, all of whom attended school there. When John's father died in 1973, he and Julia moved to Southern California to be closer to John's mother, and he took a call at St. John's Presbyterian Church in West Los Angeles.

John felt, however, that he had never truly found his calling. It was through his volunteer work at a local hospital that he discovered his passion for chaplaincy. He was a weekly guest speaker at the hospital and also met one-on-one with patients. He noticed how different

See Shaw Family on page 29



Honoring & Remembering:

C | By Jack Kirkman and Judy Carr

ollective giving. Remembering and honoring those who have profoundly touched and influenced our lives. These are the attributes of a new program at SFTS.

The Seminary’s Mosaic Tribute Program is a cornerstone in building a \$6 million fundraising initiative entitled *Chapter 1: Designing a Mosaic for Ministry*. The Mosaic Tribute recognizes opportunities of a lifetime of ministry involving thousands of SFTS graduates, faculty and associated friends. It represents an opportunity reflective of the remarkable position occupied by the Seminary. And, it invites thousands of individuals and churches to join us in honoring and remembering women and men whose service has resulted in life-changing impacts, both nearby and around the world.

In the spirit of the new tagline for SFTS, “*In Christ. A New Creation.*”, we are proud to recognize 100 honorees in 2015 by inviting gifts and pledges of at least \$1,000 in honor or memory of each individual nominee (to see the first nominees turn to page 16). A goal of \$50,000 for each honoree has been established. This collective gift endeavor enables SFTS to recognize lifetime achievements and commitments on a personal basis. Each tribute will be honored and memorialized throughout meaningful locations on the SFTS campus. This acknowledgement is permanent, and the program will continue for years to come.

The program is wide-ranging with respect to those honored and remembered for their ministry and service. Recall those who have spent thousands of hours ministering in complex and diverse congregations; serving communion; offering a Children’s Sermon with special poignancy for all God’s children; baptizing, marrying or burying; or being at a bedside during a critical illness or emergency. Consider those ministering on the streets and back roads, on the battlefields, in Hospice. These are but a sampling of instances that describe SFTS graduates. And consider the lessons learned through lectures, one-on-one teaching, and counseling offered by SFTS faculty both during your time at the Seminary and for decades later. Or consider those volunteers who have faithfully served SFTS students and their families with basic needs. Also remember and honor Trustees who have served to promote and secure the present and future of the Seminary and to preserve and extend its mission.

To a person, the honorees and those who pay tribute occupy a common ground that is SFTS. They belong to a 150-year-old community that has brought grace and peace – and challenge – to hundreds of congregations and

The Opportunity of a Lifetime

worshiping communities. They have marched in streets, both literally and figuratively, and have appeared on battlefields and hospitals to provide comfort and healing. They have ministered to those without homes, to the prisoners of hopelessness in our society, with unswerving loyalty and dedication. The result is truly life changing.

And one final thought: There is a time in every institution's history when a special opportunity occurs for donors to make the only gift they can make to honor and remember the only person(s) they can so honor to the only institution that can receive such a commitment. All funds contributed to the SFTS Mosaic Initiative through this Mosaic Tribute Program are dedicated to the support and development of students, faculty, curricular and special programs, and the Center for Innovation in Ministry.

This is SFTS, where we are moved through our Mission: Moved by God's love in Jesus Christ, San Francisco Theological Seminary prepares women and men for transformational ministries of justice, peace and healing, which advance the Church's hopeful, loving engagement with the world.

PLACE YOUR PIECE IN THE SFTS MOSAIC TRIBUTE PROGRAM

1. Nominate a special person to honor or remember using a form on the website (www.sfts.edu) or by contacting Kaaren Van Dyke, Mosaic Initiative Administrator, at kvandyke@sfts.edu or 415.451.2821. We plan to complete the first round of 75 nominations no later than March 1, 2015.
2. Make a pledge of support for the tribute to the individual(s) of your choice. You may track the list of nominated honorees at www.sfts.edu.
3. A \$50,000 collective gift goal is established to recognize the far-reaching ministry and service of each honoree. Accordingly, 50 tribute gifts in the minimum amount of \$1,000 each must be pledged and paid over a period that concludes April 30, 2017, to achieve this goal. Pledges are fulfilled through regular monthly payments beginning with the initial date of the pledge.
4. All pledges for the 2015 round of this Tribute Program should be formally submitted and dated not later than March 31, 2015.
5. The collective gifts of \$50,000 contributed for individual honorees will be acknowledged and dedicated in a formal Honor Court that provides for a place of permanent inscription of the tribute.





MOSAIC TRIBUTE NOMINEES

Don't miss the opportunity to take part in the Mosaic Tribute Program! Please either nominate and/or make a pledge in honor or memory of an SFTS community member who has made a meaningful impact on your life. Below are the first Tribute nominees as of January 21, 2015, and we expect many more to come.

To make a donation in honor of one of the tributes listed below, please fill out the form at <http://tinyurl.com/TributePledge>.

To nominate someone to be honored through the program, please fill out the tribute nomination form at <http://tinyurl.com/TributeNomination>.

We are truly grateful to be able to honor the lifetimes of service exemplified by each of the SFTS nominees below.

- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|--|
| John Anderson | John Hadsell | Deanna Reed | Jane Spahr |
| Byron Bland | John Harris | Don "Cash" Register | Candy Unruh |
| Pam Byers
<i>(See story page 42)</i> | Tim Lanham | Ben Reist
<i>(See story page 43)</i> | Herb Valentine |
| Marvin Chaney | Jackie Leonard | Howard Rice | Peter Van Bever |
| Jim Emerson | Martha Longbrake | Earldean Robbins | Jerry Van Marter |
| Roy Fairchild | Jim Moiso | Jack Rodgers | Herman Waetjen
<i>(See story page 17)</i> |
| Eugene Farlough | Bud & Carol Moon | Will Russell | Antoinette Wire |
| Sue Fleenors | Paul Nazarian | John & Julia Shaw
<i>(See story page 12)</i> | Steve Wirth |
| Ted Gill | Jean Pak | | |

Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Last Will and Testament

Commentary written by SFTS Professor Emeritus Dr. Herman Waetjen honored as one of best in 21st century

By Rachel Howard

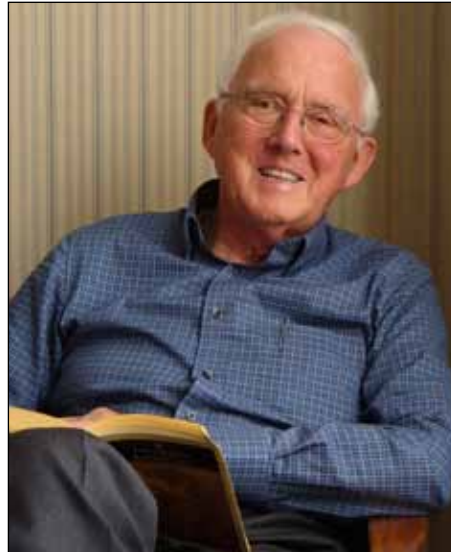
Dr. Herman Waetjen, who served as professor of New Testament at San Francisco Theological Seminary for 34 years, says a conversation with three Swiss scholarship students in 1964 helped shape his approach to biblical interpretation.

"They took a course I taught on First Corinthians. When it was over, they kindly invited me to Alexander Hall, bought me a cup of coffee, and told me it was the worst course they had ever experienced in their lives," recalls Waetjen. "They qualified it by saying that what the course taught of Paul's teaching 2,000 years ago was good, but I had not related it to life today."

In the following years, Waetjen struggled to bridge the gap between the first century and today in the courses he taught as well as the books he wrote. These included books on the Gospels of Mark and John and more recently, his commentary *The Letter to the Romans: Salvation as Justice and the Deconstruction of Law*.

Waetjen now believes biblical interpretation requires "a theory that combines the *subjectivity* of coherence and plenitude of meaning and the *objectivity* of historical and social scientific criticism."

In his latest commentary, Waetjen writes that Paul's letter to the Romans was much more than an attempt to reconcile the relationship between Gentile Christians and Jewish Christians living in Rome. The possibility that he might be killed during his visit to Jerusalem motivated him to write this lengthy letter to the Romans as his last will and testament. His



letter summarized the theology he had synthesized in dialogues with the congregations he established in the eastern Mediterranean. To ensure the widest circulation possible, he sent copies of the letter to Rome and to Ephesus. Romans, therefore, became the first publication of the early church.

Waetjen's commentary caught the eye of Dr. Stanley Porter, president and professor of Linguistics and New Testament at McMaster Divinity College in Ontario, Canada.

While compiling material for the book *Reading Commentaries*, Porter reviewed 50 commentaries on Romans written from 1742 through the present day.

Porter writes: "At the end of my exhaustive analysis, I have to admit that I was sadly disappointed—though not entirely surprised. I could only find six commentaries that stand out for their overall strength." The following commentaries appear on Porter's list:

Joseph Agar Beet, *Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans*, 1877.

William Sanday and Arthur C. Headlam, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistles to the Romans*, 1895.

Heinrich Schlier, *Der Römerbrief*, 1977.

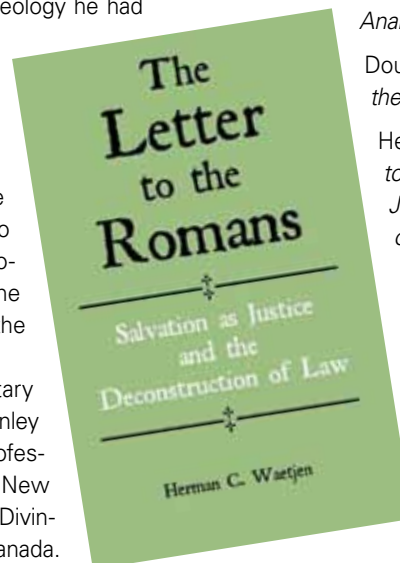
J. P. Louw, *A Semantic Discourse Analysis of Romans*, 1987.

Douglas J. Moo, *The Epistle to the Romans*, 1996.

Herman C. Waetjen, *The Letter to the Romans: Salvation as Justice and the Deconstruction of Law*, 2011.

Not only did Waetjen's commentary make the list; it was the only one published in the 21st century.

Waetjen's book is available for purchase through the publisher's website at <http://www.sheffield-phoenix.com>.



Waetjen now believes biblical interpretation requires

"a theory that combines the subjectivity of coherence and plenitude of meaning and the objectivity of historical and social scientific criticism."



A Garden for Kimberlee



Led by M.Div. student Nick Morris, the SFTS community honors the life and work of a fellow classmate

M | By Charles Wei

embers of the San Francisco Theological Seminary community celebrated National Food Day on October 24, 2014 by remembering Kimberlee Rasmussen, a former SFTS M.Div. student who died in February of 2013. More than 20 people gathered to dedicate a community garden to Kimberlee because of what she brought to the community.

“[Kimberlee] lived below the radar, but after she passed away, everyone came out to express their love for her,” said M.Div. student Nick Morris, organizer of the event. “She was a very good friend for a lot of people.”

Morris opened the dedication with a prayer and a story about how the garden grew. Susan Lawlor, Academic Services Coordinator for SFTS, read two letters written by prisoners with whom Rasmussen had done chaplaincy work in San Quentin.

The garden started out as a small plot of unused dirt near the J.R. Little townhouses, which are student homes. Morris thought it would be a great place for a community garden, so he gathered some people to dig up the plot. But, as time went on and schedules filled up, the project stalled.

Around one year later, after Kimberlee’s death, Morris decided they needed to get the project moving again. This time, it would be to honor their friend. He again mentioned this idea to a few people, and one day, after coming back from a bike ride with his son, he found a crowd of people digging up the plot.

“It was like a flash mob,” Morris says, laughing. “They just showed up and started digging.”



The SFTS community gathers for the October garden dedication.

See Garden on page 30

When the Academic Becomes Personal

The legacy of Dr. Carol Robb at San Francisco Theological Seminary

By Dori Hjalmarson

Having taught and researched Christian social ethics for more than 30 years, Dr. Carol Robb is familiar with the discomfort that can be experienced when one's research throws light on one's personal life. As she retires from the faculty this year, Robb will lean into that discomfort again as her own farm in Kansas becomes a topic in her next research project.

Robb discovered about four months ago that her ancestors moved to what is now Chautauqua County, Kansas, in 1872, a year before the Osage people were removed from that land to a reservation in Oklahoma. It seemed a clear injustice was done in the 1870s. She wondered: For how many generations does the responsibility for injustice last? Do present generations have duties to address a wrong that was committed before anyone now alive was born?

"All but the most nihilistic among us have interests in future generations," Robb said in her valedictory address to the Seminary in October. "All the disciplines of a theological education are necessary for nourishing a thirst for justice in Native American-Anglo relations."

Robb said in an interview that her work in Chautauqua County (see "Restoring Relationships with Native Americans" in the Fall 2013 issue of *Chimes*) has revealed to her a more complex history of intercultural relationships than she had known before. She merely had to ask a simple question about the record of land ownership at the county Register of Deeds to open up a wellspring of interest in the history of Native peoples in that county.

Robb says she has discovered that "history is in people's bodies much more than they ever knew."

This isn't the first time Robb has taken up academically a topic that is intensely personal in nature. When she began researching what became the book *Equal Value: An Ethical Approach to Economics and Sex*, she was a college campus minister, unmarried but wanting to have a child. Reflecting on her personal situation, she became intensely aware of the obvious: sexuality is a matter of economic justice



Dr. Carol Robb gives her valedictory address in October.

as it relates to childbirth, lesbian identity, sexual harassment, and domestic violence. Because of the economic consequences of these ways of living in one's body, she decided to make explicit the fact that sexuality is a matter concerning justice.

"That also was a time when I was living what I was writing," she says.

Robb's colleagues at San Francisco Theological Seminary laud her for challenging her students to take direct action as a result of their own research, especially on ecology, climate change, food, and economic justice.

"In every iteration, the students were required to work together on a common project that brought their ethical thinking together with concrete action," says Dr. Elizabeth Liebert, SFTS professor of spiritual life, who arrived at SFTS one year after Robb did, in 1985. Robb's classes have resulted in the placement of solar panels on top of the student housing facilities Oxtoby Hall and Trinity House, and perhaps most visibly, in the development of an organic community garden on Seminary grounds. In 2009, she worked with a student, Doug Olds, to calculate the Seminary's carbon footprint. Their work became a model for other seminaries.

"I think Carol is never so happy as when she has her hands dirty," Liebert says.

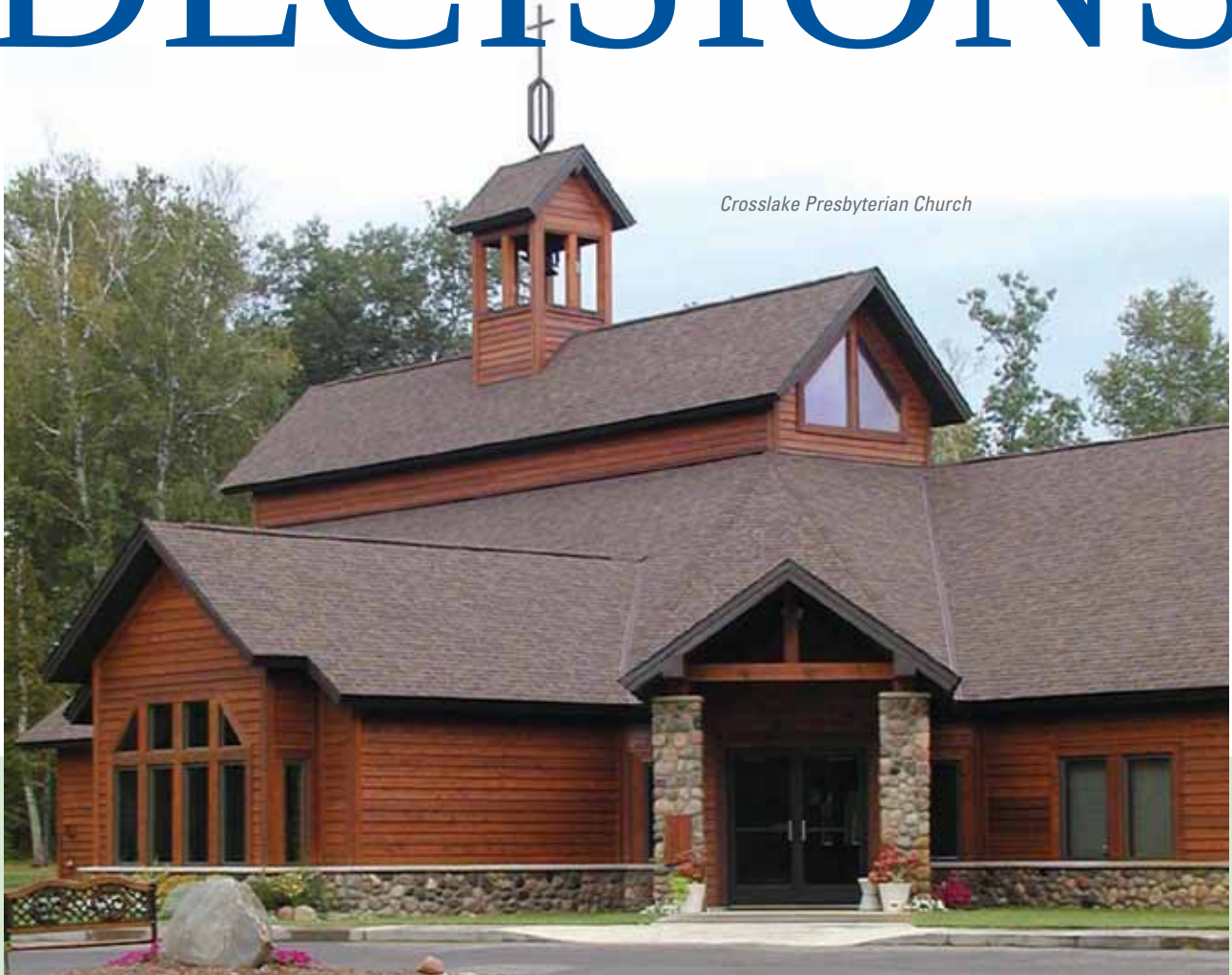
Of Robb's service at SFTS, Dean of the Seminary Jana Childers says, "Professors like Carol Robb are rare indeed. They do not come along every day, every year, or even every decade. Not only did she give freely and heavily – but persistently, sustaining an exemplary career of service and scholarship for thirty years."

After Robb's valedictory address in October, she was serenaded by female students, alumnae, and faculty, who resurrected a women's singing group that repurposes rock songs and hymns. They lauded Robb's tireless support of students, women especially, through her leadership of the school's Feminist Perspectives Committee, which has sponsored a campus production of the play *The Vagina Monologues* for the past four years.

After leaving SFTS, Robb plans to spend 12 to 18 months on her farm in Kansas, researching the ethics of reparations, before moving to a retirement community in Claremont, California.

"Uncovering the history of my own family as they intersected with Osage history on that land has strengthened the pull on me to go to Kansas," she says. "How long do I have to work with the question of whether reparations are due the Osage people? That depends on the relationships I can make with people who are asking this question."

EARTHY DECISIONS



Crosslake Presbyterian Church

W | By Roger Grussing

ho would retire on a northern Minnesota lake that is frozen five months every year and warm enough in the three summer months only for the most intrepid swimmers? People who are fascinated by phenology and fishing and relatively unspoiled nature.

Among such were Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, and others, all living an undesirable distance from the nearest church of choice. They discovered one another, and a weekly Bible study, led by the late Rev. Dean Williams (former San Francisco Theological Seminary student), morphed into Crosslake Presbyterian Fellowship. This intrepid group of woods and water aficionados petitioned the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys to receive new church development status.

This status was granted and they became known as Crosslake Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery assisted with the design and construction of a building. Space and ecology competed for limited resources, but a grant from a sister congregation and extra giving by members made both possible. Without using the word, *eco-stewardship* was built into the design of the building and the identity of the congregation.

Competition between the new congregation's space needs and energy stewardship was core to many building design decisions. Respect and gratitude for the environment were in keeping with what drew these people of faith to live "up north at the lake." Care of God's creation gradually emerged as a faith-based response to the privilege of living so close to nature.

How a new church development embraced clean energy



Vanman Architects

In addition to the installation of a photovoltaic system, other energy-saving measures were built into the design of the church, and include: efficient lighting, energy-saving windows, and geothermal heating and air conditioning.

Church members individually took leadership in lake associations and other efforts to maintain water quality and avoid environmental degradation. The church began paying a premium for its electricity, buying "green energy units" to support the co-op power company's efforts to include wind-generated electricity in its mix of energy sources.

Session established an "Energy Stewardship Task Force." On-site wind-generated electricity was considered but rejected due to the minimal amount of wind available. On-site photovoltaic (solar) electricity generation met with resistance for multiple reasons: The \$24,000 investment in a basic solar electric system could impact many lives if used for hunger, housing, peacemaking, medical care, evangelism, or other mission. The church needed funds to add multi-purpose space for its own ministries and for use by the community.

The congregation realized its decision was a matter of financial stewardship. As a non-profit, the church was ineligible for federal or state subsidies for installing a photovoltaic system. Payback on investment would take at least 15 to 20 years. Using the money instead to reduce building indebtedness would free up dollars spent on interest.

So the Energy Stewardship Task Force embarked on a study it called "The New Noah Project." The study looked at past energy consumption and associated financial costs and compared the costs and benefits of geothermal,

See Energy on page 30



*Rev. Roger Grussing (SFTS '62) is pastor emeritus and former organizing pastor of Crosslake Presbyterian Church. After reading a review of Carol Robb's book *Wind, Sun, Soil, Spirit: Biblical Ethics and Climate Change* Grussing invited Robb to serve as a guest preacher at the dedication of Crosslake's rooftop solar electricity generating system and lecturer for the church's Earth Care Fair." The influence of SFTS faculty research stretches far beyond the Seminary campus," says Grussing, on connecting with Robb.*

Learning from “Others”

Professor Park returns from sabbatical with new ideas for teaching

By Barbara Chaapel

New Testament professor Rev. Dr. Eugene Park spent his spring 2014 sabbatical with the Gospel of Matthew. Park completed half of his book, a study of Matthew’s soteriology, to be published by Fortress Press. His thesis: Jewish-Christian communities were struggling with issues pertaining to “others.”

For the Apostle Paul, Park explains, “others” referred primarily to Gentiles. In Matthew, the issue of Gentiles is still important, but Matthew’s community was also debating, even fighting about, issues within Judaism. For Matthew, there were “others” among the Jews themselves. Some Jews embraced Jesus, while others did not, and some even rejected him. So, Park concludes, Matthew’s fight is a little more complex than Paul’s.

Park finds parallels today in attitudes toward “others.” “We have our own socio-cultural, ethnic, and theological groups,” he says. “How do we look at people outside of Christianity, and how do we treat those within our faith who have different understandings of Jesus than we do?” He finds in Matthew lots of hints and textual clues to the interplay between inclusive attitudes and simultaneously exclusive, even hostile, attitudes to others. “Often,” he says, “as in the first century CE, we are more inclusive to the ‘other’ far away and more belligerent to the ‘other’ closer at hand, in our own community.”

Time away from the classroom opened the door for Park to experience other cultures and

institutions during his sabbatical. First, he traveled to Szeged, Hungary, where he chaired a session on the expansion of early Christianity at a meeting of an international society of New Testament scholars. June took him to his native South Korea with SFTS President Rev. Dr. James McDonald for the annual Hanshin/SFTS Symposium sponsored by the Hanshin Church.

Next, Park traveled to Hong Kong, where he spent the summer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, mentoring young scholars from around the world in their first five years of teaching. “I enjoyed it very much, learning from scholars in other fields, from other cultures,” he says. “Being with the young scholars was very energizing.”

Capping his travel was a trip to Turkey, focusing on visits to archaeological sites of ancient cities. “I’d love to put together a traveling seminar to Turkey for M.Div. students,” Park says.

The sabbatical conversation continues for Park in the SFTS community. He lectured this fall as part of an interdisciplinary series—a required M.Div. course in the new curriculum—in

“We have our own socio-cultural, ethnic, and theological groups. How do we look at people outside of Christianity, and how do we treat those within our faith who have different understandings of Jesus than we do?”

— Professor Dr. Eugene Park

which all faculty members address an umbrella topic. The fall term’s topic was spirituality. Park lectured on *pneuma* and *psyche* in Greek philosophical texts, with an emphasis on Plato, whose dialogues he loves for their literary imagination and fine prose, and whose influence he recognizes in Paul.

Park also looks forward to post-sabbatical opportunities to speak and preach in area churches. “I try to engage laypeople in contemporary theological discourse,” he says. “I try experimental thinking, not just classic theology. I love inviting people into conversation”—much as Matthew’s community conversed about the issues of the first-century church.

And of course, there is the second half of the book on Matthew to finish—“a challenge,” he admits. “But the blessing of my sabbatical will propel me.”



The Space to Create

Sabbatical allows Professor Liebert to write book on spiritual discernment

By Barbara Chaapel

For the first time in her career, Dr. Elizabeth Liebert, Professor of Spiritual Life at San Francisco Theological Seminary, took a whole year away from teaching and administration to write. She spent the first four months of her yearlong sabbatical—overdue because of her years as academic dean of SFTS—at the Collegeville (Minnesota) Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, where scholars, writers, and artists gather to discern the meaning of Christian identity and unity in a culturally diverse world.

“It was a lovely, spacious time,” she says, “and I finished my entire manuscript.” That manuscript, now being prepared for publication by Westminster John Knox Press, is titled *The Soul of Discernment: A Spiritual Practice for Communities and Other Institutions*. It is a companion volume to her earlier book *The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision Making*.

Liebert’s days in Collegeville had a simple rhythm: the 10-minute walk around a lake to her office at St. John’s University, a morning of writing, a quick walk to the chapel for noon prayers, writing in the afternoon, and then back to the chapel at 4:55 for the Eucharist. Sprinkled in were a weekly bag lunch, one evening potluck with the other residential scholars, and one seminar in which the scholars presented their work to each other.

The cadence of these weeks allowed Liebert to transform years of reading, teaching, and thinking about spiritual discernment in communities—her “incubation period” for this book—into words on pages. She hopes her words, once published, will offer counsel to institutions facing complex issues and decisions.

“The process of spiritual discernment can work in any system,” Liebert says. “Whether we’re talking about the impending climate crisis or how SFTS can discern its future as a theological institution, discernment offers a way forward. This pushes spirituality beyond

the bounds of the intimate and personal, and that’s important to do. If spirituality allows us to remain only personal, we have vacated the notion that we live in a world and that it is God’s world.”

Liebert continues, “The process helps answer the question ‘What can I do?’ in the face of overwhelming corporate and institutional issues. We look intentionally at our experiences, our socio-economic location, where we have leverage, then we enter into prayer within community. And we can discern what our own appropriate first response could be. It’s only a first step, but it gets us off the dime. It affirms that we can find a faith-based way to take a step in making a difference.”

Energized by her sabbatical, Liebert is now back at SFTS teaching courses in spirituality and developing a new required course as part of the new curriculum that will introduce M.Div. students to the disciplines of reading, listening, introspection, theological reflection, and the rule of life.

She, along with all members of the faculty, will lecture this spring on the topic of new creation, as part of the Seminary’s new interdisciplinary lecture series. “My creativity is developing new things *ex nihilo*,” she says. “I’m busy developing a collegium for pastor as spiritual leader and new curriculum for a certificate in common spiritual care. I needed the deep space away. I’m coming back with renewed energy. Hard work is not exhausting for me; it’s an expression of creativity.”

Liebert has been asked to set up a novitiate community next summer for her congregation, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, a religious order of Roman Catholic sisters headquartered in Montreal. She looks forward to her next writing project, addressing spirituality within her congregation.

Whatever the calling, she resonates with what Presbyterian author Frederick Buechner writes about vocation as the place where “your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”



The life and contributions of Dr. Surjit Singh

By Charles Wei

Articles in the Spring 2014 issue of *Chimes* highlighted areas in which the Seminary has been leading the way in theological education. In this issue, we take the opportunity to acknowledge the work of Dr. Surjit Singh, one of the first individuals of Indian descent to teach at a U.S. seminary.

Singh, who died in 2006, was a Sikh who converted to Christianity as a young man. A member of the SFTS faculty from 1951 through 1988, he was Professor of Philosophical Theology, with a particular interest in Christology.

Singh and his wife, Indira, established the Surjit Singh Essay Award in Christology, which provides incentive and opportunity for graduating students to organize their theological convictions around a central doctrine of the Christian faith. The Singhs also endowed the Surjit Singh Lecture in Comparative Religious Thought and Culture, an annual lectureship that is hosted by the Graduate Theological Union.

Singh served with distinction as Dean of SFTS from 1972 to 1978, and he and his wife were long-time members of First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo. Singh is remembered well by the faculty for his contributions to shared governance, and the community is grateful for his service to the SFTS and wider community.

FACULTY UPDATES



Rev. Dr. Virstan Choy, Director of Advanced Pastoral Studies and Associate Professor of Ministry, led a seven-week Bible study on “The Psalms: The ‘No-Secrets’ Part of the Bible”

at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Marin City, California, in fall 2014. The series was based on a book by Walter Brueggemann and Brent Strawn, *From Whom No Secrets Are Hid: Introducing the Psalms*. In November, Choy hosted a gathering of directors of Doctor of Ministry programs at Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) theological institutions.



Dr. Elizabeth Liebert, Professor of Spiritual Life, planned the January 2015 Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction program, created and taught the Orientations to Theological Education course for the new M.Div. curriculum, offered the inaugural lecture of the new Interdisciplinary Lectures series, developed a revised emphasis for the D.Min. (Pastor as Spiritual Leader), and worked on strengthening the Trauma and Spiritual Care Certificate. She also completed final revisions on her new book manuscript entitled *The Soul of Discernment: A Spiritual Practice for Communities and Other Institutions* to appear in 2015 (see full story on page 23).

Liebert was installed as a member of the Board of Trustees of Holy Names University in Oakland, California, in September. Since January 2014, she has provided consultation to the international leadership of Sisters of the Holy Names in the areas of charism, new member initiatives, and associate membership. She also serves as a member of the U.S. Vowed Membership Task Force and as Director of the Novitiate for the U.S. and Manitoba provinces of her religious congregation. She is in the process of setting up a Novitiate-oriented community to be located near the GTU.

Liebert gave an academic presentation November 21 at a meeting of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, a response to Douglas E. Christie’s book *The Blue Sapphire of the Mind: Notes for a Contemporary Ecology*.

Liebert gave an academic presentation November 21 at a meeting of the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, a response to Douglas E. Christie’s book *The Blue Sapphire of the Mind: Notes for a Contemporary Ecology*.



Dr. Christopher Ocker, Professor of Church History, presented a paper, “Medieval Reforms That Matter,” in the session “Humanism and Reform” at the Sixteenth Century Society

Conference in New Orleans in October.

In November, he gave the Distinguished Faculty Lecture at the GTU. The lecture, titled “Reformations That Matter,” can be read at <http://gtu.edu/news-events/events/lecture-address/dfl>.

Ocker was asked to serve a two-year term (2015–16) as managing editor of the *Journal of the Bible and Its Reception*. This international journal, which “promotes the study of the reception history of the Bible in terms of both methodology and content,” has just put out its first volume (<http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/jbr>). His article, “The Four Senses of Scripture,” appeared in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, edited by Dale Allison Jr., Volker Leppin, Choon-Leong Seow, Hermann Spieckermann, Barry Dov Walfish, and Eric Ziolkowski (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2014).



Rev. Dr. Eugene Eung-Chun Park, Dornsife Professor of New Testament, published an article, “Cynic Itinerant Philosophers and Galilean Wandering Missionaries in Matthew,” in

Reading a Tendentious Bible: Essays in Honor of Robert B. Coote (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2014), edited by Marvin Chaney, Uriah Kim, and Annette Schellenberg.

He gave a series of lectures on Galatians at the SFTS-Hanshin Conference in Korea in June and chaired the Expansion of Early Christianity seminar at the 69th annual conference of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas in Szeged, Hungary, in July. In November, he gave a public lecture on “Antioch as a Cradle of Christianity” at the Pacifica Institute, a Turkish Muslim Organization.

Park also preached at the Green United Methodist Church in Fremont, California, in November and gave a series of lectures on “Galatians: When Truth Meets Freedom” at First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame, California, in November and December.



Dr. Carol Robb, Margaret Dollar Professor of Christian Social Ethics, served as a resource for Crosslake (Minnesota) Presbyterian Church as the congregation, under the leadership of

Rev. Roger Grussing, pastor emeritus, conducted an Earth Care Fair and celebrated Earth Care Sunday in April. She provided an Adult Forum on “Christian Spirituality for a World Experiencing Climate Change” and preached on “The Power to Change.” Both events recognized the power of this congregation to move toward net zero energy use and to trust in the Holy Spirit to push out despair over the inability of the nations to address climate change (see article on page 19).

Robb’s October 6 valedictory address to the seminary community, “An Intergenerational Duty to Address Historic Wrongs?” joined ethical theory of reparations with family history, describing a path to research and practice in a region that could do more to acknowledge Anglo impact on Native America. The fall 2014 issue of GTU Currents focused on climate change and featured Robb’s article “Choosing Our Kingdom” and an article “Environmental Ethics for Today—and Tomorrow,” by Chaitanya Motupalli, a doctoral student studying with Robb.



Dr. Annette Schellenberg, Associate Professor of Old Testament, edited a Festschrift (honorary volume) for emeritus SFTS professor Robert B. Coote, entitled *Reading a Tendentious Bible*, along with editors Marvin Chaney and Uriah Kim. The book contains contributions by Schellenberg, Chaney, Eugene Park, Herman Waetjen, Annette Weissenrieder, and others.

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In January of 2015, Schellenberg accepted a role with the University of Vienna in Austria as Professor of Old Testament with the Department for Protestant Theology.

Of her departure, Dean Childers says, “Dr. Schellenberg’s talent for scholarship, passion for scripture, and ability to infect those around her with a desire to study sacred texts more often and at greater depth made her an ideal professor. She enjoyed the admiration and affection of her students and colleagues alike. Though we heartily wish her the best, we will miss her sorely!”

ALUMNI UPDATES



1958 (MACE), 1975 (M.Div.)

Rev. Virginia Siewert has known and worked with migrant and homeless people since the 1970s, especially since her retirement. The last story in her book, *People Like Us: Facts and Stories of the Homeless*, is written by a homeless man. After earning her degrees from SFTS, she took Clinical Pastoral Education courses and worked as a hospital chaplain. From the late 80s until 1994, she served as pastor of two churches in southeastern Illinois.



1971 (STM)

Robert R. Ball has written a new book, *Being With: Maybe This Is What Life Is All About*, in which he contends that authentic personal relationships

are essential to human health and well-being, in day-to-day relationships as well as in times of crisis and loss. The book reveals the profound meanings contained within the simple phrase "being with." Using both modern psychology and extensive biblical references, Ball shows how this little phrase expresses the fullest realization of our authentic humanity and our most compelling hopes and dreams. Ball speaks from his experience of serving for 28 years as a Presbyterian pastor and later as executive director of California's Task Force to Promote Self-Esteem and Personal and Social Responsibility. Now retired, he resides in Austin, Texas.

1971 (M.Div.)

Rev. James Offrink is serving as interim pastor of Sandusky (Michigan) Presbyterian Church. Offrink and his wife, Sally, have three grown children and several grandchildren. In addition to being active in the ministry, Offrink has held positions as a small-town assistant police chief, emergency medical technician (EMT), deputy fire chief, and advanced fire instructor.



1979 (D.Min.)

Rev. Andrew "Duke" Robinson will be the featured author at the library of Rossmoor retirement community in Walnut Creek, California, in May. His newest book, *A Middle Way: The Secular/Spiritual Road to Wholeness*, will be on display

along with three other titles: *Too Nice for Your Own Good*, *Create Your Best Life* and *Savior*, his only work of fiction. In *A Middle Way*, Robinson exposes the holes in traditional religion and the flaws in what he describes as "arrogant, closed-minded science." Rather than trying to reconcile science and religion, he paves a path between the two that he says can lead to personal grounding, integrity, balance, and liberation. Robinson spent 28 years as pastor of Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland, California. He moved to Rossmoor with his late wife, Barbara, in 2000. He created and oversaw production of the Rossmoor Tennis Club's 2005 tongue-in-cheek calendar that raised more than \$53,000 toward a cure for breast cancer. He was a prime mover behind the creation of the Drama Association of Rossmoor and the Published Writers of Rossmoor, of which he is the current president.



1981 (MA)

Dr. Joan Carter has been named Board Member Emeritus for the Center for the Arts, Religion, and Education—an affiliate of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Carter is an artist, art historian, and pastor, who has focused on incorporating the arts into congregational life and worship. She earned a PhD from the Graduate Theological Union, an MA from San Francisco Theological Seminary, and a BA from the University of Washington.



1983 (M.Div.)

Rev. Roland Gordon, pastor of Ingleside Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, has been praised by three former mayors, a former California governor, and a member of the U.S. Senate for his church's outreach to the community. The church's ministries include after-school programs for children at its community center and assistance at the San Francisco Food Bank. A unique aspect of the church is that almost every bit of wall space and parts of the ceiling are covered with an ongoing collage and mural celebrating African-American history. Gordon, known to his congregation as "Rev. G," calls it "The Great Cloud of Witness." He says he wants to show that the African-American community has accomplished many great things.

Gordon hopes to get historical landmark status for Ingleside Presbyterian, which is more than 100 years old and currently has about 75 members.



1986 (M.Div.)

David Robert Ord, a former Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) minister, is now Editorial Director of Namaste Publishing. He is the author of *Your Forgotten*

Self: Mirrored in Jesus the Christ and coauthor with Dr Robert B. Coote of *The Bible's First History: From Eden to the Court of David with the Yahwist, In the Beginning: Creation and the Priestly History, and Is the Bible True? Understanding the Bible Today*.



1988 (STD)

Rev. Thomas E. Fisher is Pastor Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church in Athens, Ohio. He also held pastorates in suburban Philadelphia, Phoenix, and San

Francisco and served for 11 years as a member of the national Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People. In June 2000, he completed two three-year terms as a member of the General Assembly Council (GAC) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), including one year on the GAC Executive Committee. During his time on the GAC, Fisher was a director of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, liaison to the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, and member of a task force and advisory committee for the Call/Placement System. He also chaired a "Blue Sky Think Group" challenged to envision the church of the future.

Fisher and his wife of 55 years, the former Clara Joe Minarik, live in Amherst, Massachusetts, where he serves as adjunct religious advisor at Amherst and Smith Colleges and as a member of the University of Massachusetts Religious Affairs Committee and preaches occasionally for area congregations. Fisher has served two terms as president of the Amherst-based Lay Academy for Oecumenical Studies and is a member of the Preparation for Ministry Committee of the Presbytery of Southern New England.

APRIL 9–11, 2015 Register at www.tinyurl.com/sfts2015reunion

Alumni Reunion Commemorates Selma March

This year's Alumni Reunion is one you won't want to miss. Worship and reconnect with former classmates on the campus of San Francisco Theological Seminary and reflect on one of the most significant events of the civil rights era—the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery.

The Alumni Reunion is a fitting occasion to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the march, which is part of the Seminary's heritage. More than 50 SFTS students and faculty members, including the Rev. Theodore "Ted" Gill, Seminary president at the time, traveled across the country to Alabama to step out with thousands in the movement for racial justice.

Ted Gill's son, the Rev. Theodore "Theo" Gill Jr., who grew up on the SFTS campus in the '60s, will speak at Alumni Reunion. Gill is senior editor in the communication department of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva. Also scheduled to speak is the Rev. Dwain C. Epps (SFTS '67), a participant in the Selma March, whose long career with the WCC and the National Council of Churches focused on human rights and international affairs. Georgia Congressman John Lewis, a colleague of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and key leader in the civil rights movement, has also been invited to speak.



Photo from 1965 edition of *Chimes*

Students gather in prayer prior to departing for Selma.



1990 (M.Div.)

Rev. Hurmon Hamilton is pastor of New Beginnings Community Church (NBCC) in Mountain View, California, which held its first worship service on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014. The congregation now hosts three gatherings on Sunday mornings with total attendance of around 1,200 people. NBCC describes itself as "a group of people on a journey with Jesus. We are a safe place where people in different places on that journey can explore, ask questions, and grow in their relationship with God." The church does not have "members," but approximately 400 people have signed up to become NBCC "partners," with the expectation that they will contribute by volunteering in some way.

Hamilton served previously as pastor of Roxbury Presbyterian Church in Boston. He also has been an adjunct professor at Harvard Divinity School and Gordon-Conwell Seminary, a lecturer at Yale University, and a guest preacher at Princeton University and Boston University.

1990 (M.Div.)

Kris Moore is the new executive director of FolkTime, an organization in Portland, Oregon, that provides support to people with mental illness. He says FolkTime is nearly 30 years old, but the idea of offering peer-provided services to people with mental health issues, which the organization has done since 1986, is just starting to gain traction in policy discussions. The nonprofit was started in 1985 by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon after a group of clergy expressed concern about congregation members with mental illness. Prior to accepting the position at FolkTime, Moore worked at the Zimmerman Community Center in Portland, which helps start day-care centers for children in affordable housing.

but now serves primarily in Korean ministry. He and his wife, Hanna, have been married for 25 years and have six children, two of whom God brought to the Park family through adoption.



1993 (M.Div.)

Rev. Todd Freeman began serving as pastor of College Hill Presbyterian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in March 2008. He says his "unapologetically progressive theological perspective" includes dedication to a ministry of inclusion, hospitality, education, and outreach. He is active with the interfaith community of Tulsa and works with other pastors in the Kendall Whittier neighborhood on a variety of issues, including food security. Freeman served churches in the Dallas area before moving to Oklahoma. He began his professional career as a petroleum geologist in Houston.



1991 (M.Div.)

Rev. Jim-Bob Park is Senior Pastor of Oriental Mission Church: Family Chapel in Los Angeles. Park began his career as an English ministry pastor



1993 (D.Min.)

Rev. Ut To, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, is assigned to Vietnam as country director and mission superintendent. He trains Christian leaders in developing and nurturing new congregations, incorporating Wesley's model of class meetings or cell groups into Vietnamese culture, tradition, and social settings. An ordained elder in the Detroit Annual Conference, To served 10 years as associate director of the Vietnamese United Methodist Ministry of the Michigan Area. During that period, he also served on the Detroit Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and the Board of Global Ministries. In addition, he has served as vice president of Union College of California and as academic dean of Vietnamese Bible College in Europe, based in Germany.



1995 (M.Div.)

Rev. Dr. Sahara Chea is a missionary to the indigenous people of Cambodia. Originally from that country, Chea is a survivor of the Killing Fields in the late 1970s, when the Khmer Rouge regime massacred more than a million Cambodians. He recently returned from a three-week mission trip to Cambodia and is hoping to get funding to go back. He has worked in Cambodia with a house church of about 60 people and is trying to help them raise money to construct a building. They have already gotten permission to build from the government of the predominantly Buddhist country.



1998 (M.Div.)

Rev. Andrea "Andy" Castrolang remembers her years in seminary as some of the most inspiring, challenging and fun in her life. Castrolang has been pastor of Westminster Congregational United Church of Christ in Spokane, Washington, since 2002. She describes her congregation as loving and warm, full of diverse ideas, and ready to grapple with questions about God, Spirit, and Jesus in history and in the Christian tradition.

Castrolang came to Spokane after serving four years in small-town congregations in southeast Nebraska. She serves the ecumeni-

cal community through her participation in the Spokane Alliance. She also is chair of the Eastside Committee on Ministry in the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. Castrolang loves to garden, take walks, read books, go camping, and play golf (a new endeavor) with her son and her husband, Jim, who is also an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.



1999 (D.Min.)

Rev. Dr. Chris Bowman accepted a call to become pastor of Manassas (Virginia) Church of the Brethren in September 2014. His 27 years of pastoral experience include serving Oakton Church of the Brethren in Vienna, Virginia, and congregations in Pennsylvania and Illinois. Bowman was ordained in 1987. He received degrees from Manchester College (1984) and Bethany Theological Seminary (1987) prior to receiving his D.Min. from SFTS. An accomplished speaker, Bowman preached for the Christmas Eve service broadcast nationally on CBS in 2004 and delivered the message at the 2008 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren celebrating the 300th anniversary of the denomination.



1999 (M.Div.), 2005 (D.Min.)

Rev. Dr. Susan C. Hamilton spent her formative years in Indiana, Florida, and California. High School provided her with dramatic and musical performance opportunities, which have benefitted her professionally since then. As an ordained minister, she served a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation in Sacramento, California, for 15 years, growing the membership from approximately 45 to 130 through creative worship and dynamic programming that included a drama ministry. In January 2011, Hamilton and her husband moved to Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where she served as Dean of Sancta Sophia Seminary until its closing in November 2012. Hamilton has served on the boards of California nonprofits, including AIDS Support, Interfaith Service Bureau, and a local food pantry, and on regional committees in the Northern California Conference of the UCC. She finds artistic expression through music, drama, and oil painting. She is currently pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tahlequah.



1999 (D.Min.)

Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, president of the Global Fund for Women, has been named one of four "ambassadors" for the 2015 Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), which furthers issues of justice for women. Coordinated by the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), GMMP has met every five years since 1995 to monitor gender representation in the global news media. Kanyoro's involvement with the GMMP began with her service on the WACC board, which included six years as president. She says the GMMP "seeks to correct the injustice of gender-based media biases." Kanyoro's work focuses on women's human rights and philanthropy. She serves on several international boards and working groups, including the Aspen Leaders Council, the United Nations High Level Taskforce for Reproductive Health, and the boards of CARE, IntraHealth, and CHANGE. She was named one of "21 women leaders for the 21st century" by Women's E-News.



2001 (D.Min.)

Bishop Yvette Flunder was a keynote speaker at the second ecumenical "Awakenings" conference at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke, Massachusetts, in April. Flunder addressed the question "How do we seek and find our place in the world so that we do not have to put so much energy into adjusting to environments that are not designed for us?" Flunder is a native San Franciscan and third-generation preacher. In 2003, she was appointed Presiding Bishop of the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, a multi-denominational coalition of more than 56 churches and faith-based organizations around the world. Flunder is a trustee and adjunct professor at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. She has lectured at numerous seminaries and is the author of *Where the Edge Gathers: Building a Community of Radical Inclusion* (Pilgrim Press).

ALUMNI UPDATES



2001 (MATS)

Juan Sarmiento began work as evangelism catalyst for Presbyterian World Mission in October, supporting the international evangelism efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He works with global partners, focusing on three critical global initiatives: evangelism, poverty alleviation, and reconciliation. His first task involves "Training Leaders for Community Transformation," a campaign that connects U.S. Presbyterians with global church partners in order to train local leaders to share the good news of the gospel as they address the specific challenges they face in their own communities. The vision is to equip church leaders to become agents of transformation who reflect theologically as they lead their communities toward local solutions. Sarmiento worked previously for six years as director and chairman of the board for PM International (U.S.A.), a Latino-based mission society.



2004 (D.Min.)

Dr. Aruna Gnanadason, a member of the Church of South India, was named the 2014 Anne Duncan Gray Scholar by the Asian Women's Resource Centre for Culture and Theology, an Indonesia-based organization of women theologians from 18 countries. As executive secretary of the All India Council of Christian Women, a unit of the National Council of Churches in India, Gnanadason organized conferences on development, violence, health, and justice and lobbied the Indian government to bring change. In 1991, she began working with the World Council of Churches, where she is now executive director for planning and integration. At the WCC pre-assembly in 2013, Gnanadason invited participants to revive "Thursdays in Black," a global movement supported by the WCC in the 1980s in which people wore black on Thursday to urge an end to violence based on gender or sexual orientation. She is author of *No Longer a Secret: The Church and Violence Against Women*.



2004 (M.Div.)

Rev. Will McGarvey has been pastor of Community Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg, California, for the past 10 years. His congregation shares ministry with First Congregational Church of Antioch (California), a United Church of Christ congregation. Both identify themselves as Open and Affirming Congregations. McGarvey also serves part-time as executive director of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. As an adjunct faculty member at the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley, he leads one of the field education seminars in which students consider models for their future ministry. He serves on the boards of the Coalition of Welcoming Congregations (a ministry of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at PSR) the Rainbow Community Center (an LGBTQ center offering counseling and social services), and More Light Presbyterians (a network seeking full participation of LGBTQ people in the Presbyterian Church [U.S.A.]).

2005 (M.Div.)

Christine Francisco is a member of the prestigious O'Hanlon Center for the Arts in Mill Valley, California. She won a Best in Show, three first-place ribbons, a second place, a fifth place, and an honorable mention in the 2014 Marin County Fair art exhibit. In a solo show last July titled "Progress Not Perfection," Francisco showcased her talents as a painter, printmaker, collagist, quilter, and maker of polymer-clay jewelry. After attending Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, she sold jewelry at craft fairs and as a street vendor. Ordination as a Presbyterian minister led her to specialize in caregiving for elders with dementia. She taught paper-crafting and jewelry-making classes at an assisted living facility.



2011 (D.Min.)

Dr. Leon B. Brown Sr. was named African-American Ministries coordinator for the Northern California Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists in March 2014. The conference also named Brown director of Inner City Ministries and coordinator of Men's Ministries and Prison Ministries. Born in Jamaica, Brown grew up in Rochester, New York. He double-majored in theology and business as an undergraduate and earned master's degrees in divinity and business administration at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, before receiving his Doctor of Ministry at SFTS. Brown worked for a decade in business and education before serving as a pastor from 1998 to the present. He and his wife of 26 years, Julie, have two adult sons: Leon II, a business major at Oakwood University, and Lawrence, a medical student at Meharry Medical College in Tennessee.



2011 (DASD)

LaRae Quay worked as an undercover and counterintelligence FBI agent for 24 years, exposing foreign spies and recruiting them to work for the U.S. government. She developed the mental toughness to survive in environments of risk, uncertainty, and deception. Now she speaks and writes about how others can develop the strength to move through roadblocks and adversity in business and daily life. She is passionate about sharing no-nonsense FBI practices to help others succeed. Quay is director of the Mental Toughness Center and is the author of two books: *Secrets of a Strong Mind* and the soon to be published *Mental Toughness for Women Leaders: 52 Tips to Recognize and Utilize Your Greatest Strengths*.

To submit your alumni update to SFTS, please send an email to info@sfts.edu

Shaw Family

From page 13

this form of ministry was from the ministry he had engaged in previously.

"The relationships with patients was so different from the relationships I had built in parish ministry," John says. "These are short-term relationships built during a time of crisis, and they triggered my ability to minister to people in short-term crisis situations."

John decided to apply to a Clinical Pastoral Education program at a local hospital. He was accepted into the program and served as a CPE intern for the next six months, then as the interim chaplain, and ultimately he received his CPE certification. As a result of his chaplaincy work at a local renal dialysis center, he pursued a PhD in pastoral counseling and wrote a dissertation on the care and treatment of persons with end-stage renal failure.

John and Julia later found themselves living in Seattle, where John led the chaplaincy program at Overlake Hospital Medical Center. When the hospital was being rebuilt, the Shaws discovered that the chapel had been eliminated from the building plans. Their generosity rose to the surface. Because of a substantial gift from John and Julia, the hospital was able to include a worship space named the "Julia Pickard Shaw Chapel" after Julia.

The Shaws turned their warmth and generosity toward the Seminary in 2006, with the development and funding of the Shaw Family Chair for Clinical Pastoral Education (John describes this as "a dream which was fulfilled"); in 2010, with the renovation of the Shaw Guest House; in 2011, with a renovation of Landon Hall; and most recently, in November, with the



Julia, John and family standing in front of the Shaw Guest House.

The Shaws turned their warmth and generosity toward the Seminary in 2006, with the development and funding of the Shaw Family Chair for Clinical Pastoral Education (John describes this as "a dream which was fulfilled")

creation of the new Shaw Supervisory Education Fellowship, which was awarded to Rev. Paul Gaffney. With the addition of Rev. Gaffney as a fellow, the Seminary can now accept more students into the CPE program.

The SFTS community is grateful for the generosity expressed by the Shaw family over the years. Below are words of thanks from a former CPE student, who served and studied under the warm care of Rev. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina.

"I have noticed that my Clinical Pastoral Education work, most especially the work that came out of our verbatims and group exercise, has helped me to better navigate and negotiate interpersonal relationships within the congregation. CPE has helped provide me with another lens and help open up its meaning to the congregation. And finally, CPE has helped me continue to reflect on the personal dynamics I bring into my ministry. Thank you both for your generous support of this valuable program!"

— Rev. Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke

Teaching elder, First Presbyterian Church of Williamstown and Waverly-Bethel Presbyterian Church, West Virginia

CPE

From page 13

Garrett-Cobbina worked closely with the Shaws to develop this new Fellowship opportunity that will increase the number of students that can be trained in CPE at SFTS. It also confirms SFTS' commitment to educate future religious leaders to teach in the field of pastoral care through the Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education vocational process.

"I recognize the Shaw's place as the theological education visionaries and underwriting founders for the Shaw Chair and CPE program here at SFTS," says Garrett-Cobbina. "I could see that SFTS would provide an exceptional context within which to learn the art of CPE Supervision. Because of the continued generosity of the Shaws, the Seminary has an opportunity to develop and implement a Chaplaincy/CPE Supervisory Education program."

Garrett-Cobbina recently returned from Ghana, where she will soon begin

offering a unit of CPE at the Roman Catholic Spiritan University College (SUC). In July 2015, three to five SFTS students will accompany her to Ghana, where they will study with students from SUC. The next phase of the partnership will bring students from SUC to the SFTS campus for an additional CPE unit.

The CPE program at SFTS prepares students to walk with others through their darkest times of grief, anger, and despair. The program requires students to explore and become familiar with their own pain so they can be truly present instead of retreating from the pain of others.

By providing the resources to train chaplains and by placing CPE students off-site in places of need, the Seminary enables smaller and more resource-constrained organizations to provide chaplaincy services that otherwise would not be available.

The CPE program is another important resource through which SFTS faculty, students, and graduates serve communities in the Bay Area and around the world.



"I recognize the Shaw's place as the theological education visionaries and underwriting founders for the Shaw Chair and CPE program here at SFTS."

— Rev. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina,
Shaw Family Chair for
Clinical Pastoral Education



Garden

From page 18

Heritage Landscaping donated soil for the beds, and local nurseries donated plants. Morris even procured a grant from the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative. The food that is grown will be available for students to harvest.

"She never had the opportunity to garden but she loved the earth," said Roberta Fol-

mer of her daughter, Rasmussen. "She loved natural things. She didn't have a garden of her own, but I'm sure that it would please her immensely to know that people are using the garden and doing well."

"The way everything came together was just amazing," Morris says. "Students, the Seminary, local business, all coming together to help this garden grow. I could definitely feel the Spirit at work in this process."

Energy

From page 21

wind-generated, and solar-based heating and cooling. The study was prefaced by a biblical and theological rationale for the church's involvement in energy stewardship.

As a result, Crosslake Presbyterian Church's session endorsed efforts to fund the installation of a photovoltaic energy system, with the understanding that donations not be in lieu of

giving for the planned building extension. Modest grants were secured from the University of Minnesota Extension Service and the Presbyterian of Minnesota Valleys. These grants helped motivate member contributions sufficient to cover the \$24,000 cost of the project.

A more recent proposal seeks to expand the church's solar energy system. The capital costs would be covered by grants and the value of the electricity produced would be contributed to the installation of solar hot-air furnaces in Habitat for Humanity homes. However, the

session is questioning the stewardship of seeking grants for a project with a small rate of financial return.

And so conversation continues around financial and earth-care stewardship as well as valuable mission goals. Ministries that address present-day human needs stand in tension with clean-energy efforts that benefit future generations. Crosslake Presbyterian Church faces earthy decisions as it struggles for maturity and faithfulness. Are there similar decision-making dynamics in your congregation?

2014 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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*To see how to honor
and remember members
of the SFTS community
through the new
Mosaic Tribute
program,
turn to page 14.*

IN MEMORIAM

Each year on All Saints' Day, we remember, celebrate, and give thanks for the saints of the church – for all those who have believed and served the world through lives of faithfulness to Jesus Christ – for those who now “from their labors rest.”

In like manner, in this issue of Chimes we remember, celebrate, and give thanks for the saints of SFTS whose loss we mourn this year. We remember and celebrate faculty, trustees, alumni, and others who have served the world God loves – not only as a part of this Seminary community, but also in churches and ministries that they have blessed with their life's work.

As we read the tributes and the names that follow, I invite us to do so together in prayer: Let us give thanks to God, speaking these names out loud; bringing to mind and heart those whom we have known; praying for their families; and leaning into the great truth of our shared faith in Jesus Christ that as “we feebly struggle, they in glory shine.”

In Christ,



Rev. Scott Clark

Chaplain, San Francisco Theological Seminary

SFTS Remembers the Life and Contributions of Distinguished Alumna Dr. Pamela Byers

By Charles Wei



The San Francisco Theological Seminary community is saddened at the death of 2014 Distinguished Alumna, Dr. Pamela McLucas Byers. She was an exemplary ruling elder, a tireless evangelist, and a true friend. Her service to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and her fight for equality for LGBTQ persons were incomparable. She will be deeply missed.

Byers was a woman of many talents. She worked as a publishing executive for John Wiley & Sons, Doubleday, Simon & Schuster, and Harper San Francisco. She was also the founder and editor of KQED Books.

She later founded and was executive director of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. The mission statement of the Covenant Network says the group seeks to “strengthen the Church of Jesus Christ, with the help of God’s

grace. We are called to achieve this goal by furthering the inclusion of LGBTQ persons, and by working for the unity of the PC(USA).”

Byers began her work with the Covenant Network in September 1997 and retired in June 2011—the same month that a majority of PC(USA) presbyteries affirmed a General Assembly action to remove G-6.0106b from the denomination’s Book of Order, opening the door to the ordination and installation of openly lesbian or gay Presbyterians as deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders. Byers spoke of this change, long-sought by the Covenant Network, as one of the highlights of her life.

“It is not an exaggeration to say that the Church is very simply a different place because of the hard work and faithful persistence of Pam Byers,” says Rev. Brian Ellison, executive director of the network since 2012. “She took the Covenant Network from being a group of people with a good idea to being a nationwide

entity that achieved real transformation. It was service done from a place of passionate faith and abounding love, and in that she was a model for me and for us all.”

Rev. Dr. James McDonald, President of SFTS, says, “Pam was an inspiration to many people, myself included. I am so grateful for her extraordinary Christian witness. It was the work of the Holy Spirit that SFTS was moved to honor her as a distinguished alumna last May, when she was alive and well and able to share in the joyful celebration of her life and ministry. I’m grateful for that bright sunny day here in San Anselmo.”

Byers is survived by her husband, Jeff; daughter, Katie; sister, Susan McLucas, and brother, John McLucas.

A memorial service for Byers was held November 8 at Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. Condolences may be sent to 180 Lippard Ave., San Francisco, CA 94131.

A Mighty Lion of God: Remembering Professor Benjamin A. Reist

By Patricia Corrigan



A powerhouse theologian. A force of nature. A Pentecost-like presence.

Rev. Dr. Benjamin A. Reist has been hailed as all that and more, including “a favorite professor”

and “an exciting teacher.” His memory lives on in the hearts and minds of the many individuals who had the good fortune to encounter him.

Reist, who taught systematic theology at San Francisco Theological Seminary from 1957 to 1992, died Sept. 15, 2014, at the age of 87.

SFTS Dean Jana Childers, who also teaches homiletics, sums up Reist this way: “Ben Reist shaped the ethos of SFTS. As far as singular personalities go, he might have been the most influential individual of the contemporary era. He had high energy, tremendous brainpower, and rapid-fire speech. When Ben spoke at a faculty meeting, tea cups would rattle.”

Childers, who also teaches homiletics, met Reist in 1985 when she first joined the faculty at SFTS. “Ben was at the peak of his career, in his golden years, when I had just a toehold on the starting line,” she says. “He was a classic, with a tough exterior but tenderhearted inside. He inspired students to dig deep, to rise to the occasion, to articulate something they didn’t know they could articulate. That was his great gift.”

Reist began his teaching career in 1952 at Wellesley College. Five years later, he joined the SFTS faculty, where he served as dean from 1970 to 1972. He played a significant role in the creation and early development of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) in Berkeley. And he was a founding member of the board of directors of the Center for Theology and Natural Sciences, which promotes “the creative mutual interaction between theology and the natural sciences.” In 1976, Reist was honored as the GTU Distinguished Faculty Lecturer.

Rev. Dr. James McDonald, SFTS president, declares that Reist’s legacy “is the stuff of leg-

“Ben Reist shaped the ethos of SFTS. As far as singular personalities go, he might have been the most influential individual of the contemporary era. He had high energy, tremendous brainpower, and rapid-fire speech. When Ben spoke at a faculty meeting, tea cups would rattle.”

— SFTS Dean Jana Childers

end.” For more than three decades, McDonald says, Reist “shaped the theological perspectives of countless SFTS graduates through his impassioned and intellectually pointed teaching.”

Former students praised Reist in an online forum published by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) after Reist’s death. Rev. Dr. Janet E. Wolfe, a student at SFTS from 1965 to 1969, noted, “I took several theology courses from Dr. Reist. I had already done a master’s thesis on the political philosophy of Reinhold Niebuhr, and he helped me to extend my study of his theology, not to mention many others. I appreciated his teaching.”

Bob Stebe said, “Ben opened me to thinking theologically and [gave me] the encouragement to express it. He was a gifted teacher with a heart for students. I will always be grateful and give God thanks for the gift of Ben Reist.”

Other former students also remarked on Reist’s excellent teaching skills. Rebecca

Strader wrote: “Ben helped me come of age theologically and put me in charge of my own learning, with his guidance. Michael Polanyi’s work helped me understand the difficult-to-articulate search for God’s revelation. Thanks be to God for Dr. Reist!”

A gifted author, Reist wrote articles for the *Pacific Coast Theological Review* and published works on Ernst Troeltsch, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Paul Ricoeur. Reist’s early books include *Theology in Red, White, and Black*; *The Promise of Bonhoeffer*; and *Ricoeur for Preachers*. After retirement, he published *A Reading of Calvin’s Institutes and Processive Revelation*.

Commitment to social justice was another consistent theme in Reist’s life. In 1965, Reist joined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. He also worked closely with leaders in African American, Native American, and Latino communities. Reist served as a member of the executive committee of the Presbyterian Church’s Council on Church and Race from 1968 through 1977, chairing the council from 1974 to 1975.

Family was important to Reist. He and his wife, Harriet, had a daughter and two sons, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He also was a big fan of football.

In the eulogy Childers gave after Reist’s death, Childers describes him as “a mighty lion of God.”

“Our mighty lion of God had a magnificent voice. With it he roared, made rapid exchanges with colleagues and students, and laughed. It was a voice - a teacher’s voice, a theologian’s voice, a voice he practically wore out with great, good use. Yes, it roared. But it also wooed, and it respected and made room for the voices of thousands of others.”

Childers concludes by thanking Reist for “the scholarship, the profound thought, the leadership that was Ben Reist. We miss him already, and we are grateful for the way his voice still rings, still rings in our ears.”

Remembering Board Member Martha Longbrake

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The San Francisco Theological Seminary community notes with great sadness the passing of trustee Martha Longbrake, who died June 24 after a long struggle with cancer. Longbrake joined the SFTS Board of Trustees in 2004 and served as a dedicated member for 10 years.

“Martha was a wonderful board member,” says Marion Stanton, chair of the SFTS Board. “She was very supportive of SFTS but never hesitated to speak her mind or vote with her conscience. We already miss her voice and her wisdom.”

Longbrake was born June 9, 1946, in Portage, Wisconsin, to J. Robert and Ruth (Pepper) Curtis. She graduated from Portage High School in 1964. She received a BS in zoology in 1968 and an RN in nursing in 1970 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW).

While a student at UW, she was an active member of Pres House, where she met Bill Longbrake. The two were married August 23, 1970. They relocated to College Park, Maryland, where Bill continued his education at the University of Maryland and Martha worked as an operating room nurse.

A passionate advocate of education, Longbrake served in many capacities—from PTA member and classroom assistant to board member at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York (1997–2001).

She donated her time to many organizations, including the Childbirth Education Association, the Junior League of Seattle, and Swedish Hospital Volunteer Services. A lifelong curler, she was a regular at Seattle’s Granite Curling Club.

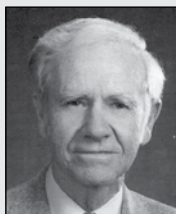
A member of First Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Longbrake served as a session member, Bible study teacher, and active volunteer. She was ordained as a deacon and ruling elder and was a passionate advocate for the Presbyterian Church. She was a commissioner to the 1981 General Assembly.

Longbrake served on the board of the Presbyterian Counseling Service (now known as the Samaritan Center of Puget Sound) from 1982 to 1988. She and Bill co-founded the Longbrake Family Foundation to perpetuate their legacy of supporting education, affordable housing, and Christian mission.

Longbrake always marched to the beat of her own drum, whether that meant taking her five-hour-old son to church, nursing a baby on the floor of the General Assembly, or insisting to her stockbroker that she—not her husband—would sign papers for herself. She is remembered by many for her feistiness and no-nonsense approach.

She lived her life to the full, and toward the end of her life expressed her readiness to die and be at peace. That wish was granted. She died quietly at home and is now with her Lord.

Longbrake is survived by her husband, William Longbrake, of Seattle; her stepmother, Kathryn Curtis; her sister, Eleanor (Bill) Voigt of Portage, Wisconsin; her brother, Mark Curtis, of Rogers, Arkansas; two sisters-in-law, Margaret (Doug) Harter and Julia Longbrake; a brother-in-law, David Longbrake; three sons, Derek (Katie), Mark (Erin), and David; her daughter, Dorothy; and five grandchildren, Aaron (9), Rachel (7), Rebekah (3), Adam (2), and Leah (9 months). She was preceded in death by her father, J. Robert Curtis.



1942 (B.Div.)

Rev. Paul Lane Hall died April 25 at his home in Glendale, Arizona, at age 98. He was born September 7, 1915, in Amboy, Georgia, to Willis and Ellen Hall.

He graduated from Hutchinson Junior College in 1935 and Bethel College in 1937. In 1939, he moved across the country to attend San Francisco Theological Seminary. Hall served churches in California and Arizona, including Page Community Methodist Church, where he served as pastor from 1965 to the early 1970s. He is survived by his wife, his son, and three grandchildren.

1950 (M.Div.)

Dr. Asa Weston Collins III died August 30 in Reno, Nevada. Born September 23, 1926, in San Francisco, he served congregations in his native city and Lake Tahoe, including Village

Presbyterian Church in Incline Village, Nevada, which he served as parish associate.

1953 (B.Div.)

Rev. William Henry Johnson died July 7 at age 87. He was born March 19, 1927. Johnson joined the U.S. Navy on his 18th birthday and served on Destroyer Escorts in the Atlantic Ocean until the end of World War II. He then resumed his education at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, and went on to San Francisco Theological Seminary. After graduation, Johnson was ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church. He served churches in La Crescenta, Mt. Washington, and Lakewood, California, eventually leaving the ministry to teach school in Irvine, California. Johnson is survived by his brothers, son, daughter, and granddaughter.



1956 (B.Div.)

Major John Lansdowne Smart died June 28 at age 92. He was born February 17, 1922. After graduating from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, he

joined the U.S. Navy. He returned from World War II and married Patricia Fay Gaffney. After the Korean War, John attended San Francisco Theological Seminary. Upon graduation, he became a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Maine, Korea, Illinois, California, Turkey, Nevada, Japan, North Dakota, Florida, and Germany. Upon retirement, he moved to Lake Helen, Florida, and served as the town’s mayor for more than 10 years. His body was laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon, with military honors as a 34-year veteran of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Smart is survived by three sisters, two daughters, and four granddaughters.



1957 (BA), 1958 (MA)
Dr. Gerard Johannes Kuiper of Amsterdam died September 12. He was born in April of 1933 to the late Gijsbertus and Hendrika Kuiper. Kuiper

and his family immigrated to the United States in 1950. He studied at St. Andrews University in Scotland, taught theological studies from 1963 to 1976 at John C. Smith Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia, and was a Presbyterian pastor in Montana, Arizona, and Idaho. Kuiper is survived by his wife, daughters, son, seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brother, Henk Kuiper, and an infant daughter, Marijke.



1958 (MA)
Marjorie Lois Elizabeth Garcia Buehler died June 8, 2013, in Tucson, Arizona. Born in Gilroy, California, in 1929, Buehler received a Bachelor of

Science degree from Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington. She then received an MA degree from SFTS. Working with her husband, Bill, whom she met at SFTS, Buehler helped train pastors and educators for indigenous populations, supported hostels enabling young women to acquire higher education, and promoted health programs in rural villages. After retirement, Buehler volunteered for many years serving the needs of the homeless. She is survived by her husband and sons.



1958 (B.Div.)
Rev. B. Mark Moore died October 23 at age 91. Moore's studies at Hanover (Indiana) College were interrupted by the beginning of World War II,

when he enlisted in the Navy Air Corps. After his discharge in 1945, he returned to school, enrolling in Indiana University. He served in the Naval Reserve until being recalled to active duty in 1952 during the Korean War. After the war, he enrolled in San Francisco Theological Seminary. While in seminary, he met Nancy Jo Cook, and they were married in March 1956. Two years later, the Moores began mission work in Brazil. After 10 years in Brazil, Moore was called to be assistant pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church in Aurora, Colorado. He retired in 1985, but continued to serve as pastor of the

Union Church in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Moore is survived by his wife, four daughters, nine grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, his sister, and several nieces and nephews.

1960 (B.Div.)

Rev. William Ng died July 22 in Oakland, California, at age 80. He was born March 12, 1934, and earned degrees from San Francisco State University and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was ordained in November 1961 and remained active in ministry after his retirement in 1996. While in the Los Angeles area (Presbytery of the Pacific), Ng served Grace Presbyterian Church, worked on ecumenical projects, served on the PC(USA)'s national Self-Development of People Committee, and was a commissioner to General Assembly. He moved back to the Bay Area in 1995 and continued to be involved in development projects. He served on the board of Cameron House, helped with the Urban Institute, and was part of the Christian Discipleship in the World Committee. As director of Unitas campus ministry at the University of California, Berkeley, from 1977 to 1994, he had a lasting impact on the lives of many young adults. He served at the Indochinese Housing Development Corporation and in retirement was resident manager for Berkeley Presbyterian Mission Homes.



1962 (M.Div.)

Rev. Michael Andrew Shaw, of Camas, Washington, died September 17 at age 77. He was born October 8, 1936, and attended Drake University

in Des Moines, followed by Iowa State University in Ames. During his second year of college, he decided to go into ministry. He earned a bachelor's degree from Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa, in 1959 and a Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1962. Shaw was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in June 1962 at Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines and served congregations across the United States. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, one son, a brother, two stepdaughters, two stepsons, four grandsons, two great-granddaughters, and 11 step-grandchildren.

1966 (B.Div.)

Rev. Dr. H. William "Bill" Dummer died April 13 at age 73. Dummer served as pastor of Presbyterian churches in California, Nebraska, Kan-

sas, and Wisconsin, and also provided interim ministry to numerous churches. A man of faith committed to social justice, Dummer traveled to Ghana many times in support of a Presbyterian Mission Partnership in that country. Dummer is survived by his foster mother, his wife, his son, his daughter, and five grandchildren.



1967 (M.Div.)

Rev. Scott C. Miller died January 20, 2014, in Tacoma, Washington. He was born May 1, 1938, in Salt Lake City. Miller served as pastor of churches in

Hector and Watertown, New York, from 1967 to 1972 and then earned a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Syracuse University in 1974. He worked as a mental health counselor with children and adolescents for the next 20 years. Miller became a tour director after retirement and also studied to be a master gardener. He lived his life with love and joy and was a charming companion and explorer along the many paths to God. He is survived by his wife, son, and two sisters.

1969 (STM), 1971 (STD)

Rev. Dr. Jim Moore died in April. He and his wife, Alice, served together at churches in Walla Walla, Puyallup, Aberdeen, Oceanside, Albuquerque, Boise, and Salt Lake City. Upon retirement, they continued to serve churches in Horseshoe Bend, Parma, King Hill, Glenns Ferry, Emmett, and Boise. Moore saw goodness in everyone he met and tried to tenderly elicit goodness from the most unsuspecting. He valued kindness above all else. He was proud of his diverse family, because he believed in a tent big enough for everyone. Moore is survived by five children, 10 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



1970 (M.Div.)

Larry Temple Miller died March 20 at age 69. Miller was born in Fort Worth and graduated from the University of Texas-Arlington. He received an

education degree from Sonoma State University and a Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Miller taught elementary school in Englewood, Colorado, for 10 years before taking a job with the Colorado Education Association/NEA. He then moved to Oklahoma and worked for the Oklahoma Edu-

IN MEMORIAM

cation Association/NEA until retiring in 2011. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City, serving as elder and in many other roles. He organized the church's Youth in Mission program, which sent many FPC youth to work on mission projects throughout Oklahoma City and the United States. In 2012, he completed his goal of visiting all 50 states. Miller is survived by his wife, son, daughter, and six grandchildren.



1977 (D.Min.)

Rev. Dr. Roy Dale Copsey died October 8 in Phoenix, Arizona, at age 86. Copsey was born December 10, 1927, in Kimberly, Idaho, and earned his Bachelor

of Theology degree at Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Oregon, in 1957. Later that year, he was ordained as a minister in the Christian Church in Kimberly, Idaho. Copsey obtained his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis in 1962 and his Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1977. He entered military service as an Army private in 1946 and was commissioned to the Idaho Air National Guard in 1963. He entered active duty in 1965 and retired with the grade of Lieutenant Colonel in 1987. Copsey served many congregations and was one of 18 veterans inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame in 2007. He is survived by a son, a daughter, a grandson, and a granddaughter.



1991 (D.Min.)

Rev. Dr. Robert B. Davis died September 22. A graduate of Heidelberg College, Oberlin/Vanderbilt Divinity Schools, and San Francisco Theological

Seminary, he was a pastor in the United Church of Christ for more than 50 years, serving churches in Bedford and North Olmsted, Ohio, and Hacienda Heights, California. He is survived by his wife, three sons, and six grandchildren.



2003 (M.Div.)

Mary L. Bodily died August 20 in Santa Rosa, California, at age 72. A native of Springfield, Missouri, Bodily began her career with the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), where she received NASA Honors from Headquarters. She established the Post-Polio Support Group of Sonoma County and worked on locating services for seniors and persons with disabilities. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church of the Roses. Bodily is survived by two sons, a brother, and three nephews.



Former Trustee

Richard Geary died October 19 in Lake Oswego, Oregon, at age 79. Geary graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University in 1956 with a bachelor's degree

in civil engineering and earned a master's degree in 1957. He spent his 41-year career in construction with Kiewit Pacific Co. In 1988, he became a Director of Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc. Geary served on the boards of many nonprofit entities, including the Oregon Health Sciences University Foundation, the Oregon Symphony, Lewis and Clark College, and San Francisco Theological Seminary. Geary is survived by his wife, four children, 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



Former Trustee

Everett Armistead

Marley Jr. died May 5 at age 80. Born June 15, 1933, in Memphis, Marley graduated from Rice University in 1955 and from

the University of Texas School of Law in 1959. He was a partner in the law firm of Butler & Binion for more than 40 years and a member of St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston for more than 50 years. At the time of his death, he was a member of Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church in Richardson, Texas. Everett was also active in the Presbytery of New Covenant, serving on several committees and as moderator. He served on the Board of Trustees of San Francisco Theological Seminary for 10 years, the last three years as chair, and also served on the boards of several other institutions. He volunteered as a hospital chaplain after retirement. Everett is survived by his wife, two daughters, and four grandchildren.

Friend of the Seminary

Rev. Philip U. Martin died Aug. 13. He was born December 10, 1925. Educated at the College of Wooster (Ohio) and Princeton Theo-

logical Seminary, Martin became an ordained minister in the United Presbyterian Church. Deeply committed to social justice, he always expressed gratitude for the opportunity to join in the organizing of some 22 buses to take people, including himself, to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington. A visionary within his own denomination, he served creatively in administrative leadership in the presbyteries of Philadelphia, Golden Gate (California), and Cascades (Oregon). Martin is survived by his wife, four children, and six grandchildren.

Faculty Emeritus

Rev. Dr. Edward David Willis died November 23 in Alexandria, Virginia, from Parkinson's disease at age 82. Willis leaves a legacy as a scholar, Presbyterian minister, and teacher. Working with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, he traveled often to Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe building support for congregations, and he was fluent in several languages. He was awarded an honorary degree from the Reformed University in Budapest, Hungary, and was an international authority on John Calvin.

A native of Longmont, Colorado, Willis received a BA from Northwestern University, an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and a doctorate from Harvard Divinity School. He taught church history at SFTS and the GTU and then became Charles Hodge Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton, where he remained until his retirement in 1998. Willis influenced countless students with his passionate teachings and terrible puns.

Willis is survived by his wife, five children, three step-children, and 10 grandchildren.

SFTS prayerfully remembers those from our community who have died. To inform the Seminary of the death of a loved one, please contact

*Joanne Larson
at jl Larson@sfts.edu or
415.451.2846.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEB. 2 – MAY 1

Online Courses

San Francisco Theological Seminary is offering two online courses this spring 2015: Gospels: In-carnation Into The World and Environmental Ethics. These courses allow the flexibility of a personalized schedule while maintaining the high level of academic rigor for which SFTS is known. Contact Susan Lawlor at 415.451.2820 or slawlor@sfts.edu to register.

FEB. 17 & 18



John Bell

Bell is a world-renowned liturgical composer and member of the Iona Community. He is a preacher, teacher, musician, and hymn-writer on the cutting edge of music education, and his primary concern is the renewal of congregational worship at

the grass roots level. Contact the Center for Innovation in Ministry for more information: 1.800.447.8820 ext. 838 or klahaye@sfts.edu.

FEB. 26-28

Inquirers' Weekend for Prospective Students

Do you know someone who might be discerning the next steps in their life and where God may be calling them? Please encourage them to contact the enrollment department to register: 1.800.447.8820 ext. 831 or admissions@sfts.edu.

MARCH 8

Muilenburg-Koenig Workshop

Convened by Dr. Ocker, Professor of Church history, this workshop is open to students, alumni, and friends of the Seminary. Scholars from around the world will come to SFTS to discuss their current research on orthodoxy, pluralism, complexity, and entanglement in religious practice. No registration required.

APRIL 9-11

Alumni Reunion

This upcoming reunion marks the 50th anniversary of SFTS' participation in the March on Selma, which we will commemorate with special speakers and guests. As with all SFTS Alumni Reunions, this is the perfect time to renew friendships, participate in stimulating discussions on important topics, worship God, and celebrate memories together. Register at www.tinyurl.com/sfts2015reunion



APRIL 22

Theology & Social Media Boot Camp with Bruce Reyes-Chow

Reyes-Chow is a pastor, blogger, consultant, and coach who focuses on the issues of faith, politics, technology, and parenting. He is the author of the eBook, *The Definitive-ish Guide for Using Social Media in the Church*. Contact the Center for Innovation in Ministry for more information: 1.800.447.8820 ext. 838 or klahaye@sfts.edu.

MAY 22

Baccalaureate Ceremony

The Baccalaureate Ceremony for the class of 2015 will be held at 4:00pm in Stewart Chapel, located in Geneva Hall.

MAY 23

Commencement

The Commencement Exercise for the class of 2015 will take place at 9:30am on Bouick Field in front of the Playhouse.

JUNE 2015

An Evening with Phyllis Tickle

Date to be announced. Tickle is the founding editor of the Religion Department of *Publishers Weekly*, the international journal of the book industry, and is an authority on religion in America. In addition to lectures and numerous essays, articles, and interviews, Tickle is the author of over three dozen books on religion and spirituality. Contact the Center for Innovation in Ministry for more information: 1.800.447.8820 ext. 838 or klahaye@sfts.edu.





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