

FOCUS

The magazine of Union Presbyterian Seminary

Spring/Summer 2011



Living the Vision

Union Sunday *presents*

Discovering FAITH

a 10-part DVD teaching series



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

If strengthening Bible study skills and expanding knowledge of scripture is one of your church's educational ministry goals, then Union Sunday will be a key resource for your congregation.

To sign up and to see the full list of the 10-lesson series, go to www.upsem.edu/unionsunday or order at www.unionstore.org.

Forming Leaders. Transforming the Church.

richmond, va

charlotte, nc

The Union Sunday teaching series is appropriate for:
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UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

Richmond, VA

Charlotte, NC

On the Cover – Union Presbyterian Seminary students pictured clockwise from top are **Darren Utley** (M.Div.'12), **Art Wright** (Ph.D.), **DeAnna Daniels** (M.Div.'13), **Mihye Jang** (M.Div.'11), **Delano Douglas** (Th.M.'11), and **Lisa Salita** (M.Div.'13).

PHOTO BY DAVE SWAGER

MISSION:

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

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

*As a theological institution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) standing within the Reformed tradition:
We confess the Lordship of Jesus Christ; we weave together distinctive approaches to theological education
for pastoral and educational ministries; we educate, inspire, and empower leaders for congregational life,
theological scholarship, and bold Christian service to the world; we serve as a theological resource for church and society;
we are a catalyst for the transformation of the church, and through the church, the world.*

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Volume 23 Number 1

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Director of Communications: Andrea Wright

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CORRECTIONS/OMISSIONS: Catherine Howard, vice provost for community engagement and associate professor of psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University, joined the board of trustees in January 2010.

Trustee Fairfax Fair graduated in 1988 with an M.Div. degree, not an M.A.'71, as reported in the Winter 2010 issue of *Focus*.



Brian K. Blount

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful Spring semester we had at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Anticipating the upcoming bicentennial celebrations as we are, we have been focused on a past that we have much to be thankful for, even as we look to a future filled with promise. Union Presbyterian is in a wonderful season of promise. There is so much happening that it is impossible for me to place it all within the confines of this brief introductory note. Indeed, Sharon and I have been hosting a series of small dinners on the campus where I have been talking with friends of the seminary about our vision for the future and all that we are doing to accomplish that vision. Our guests have said that they are excited by the energy that appears to be pulsating on and off our campus. Whether it is in Charlotte, where we are on the eve of breaking ground for a Charlotte facility, or in Richmond, where we are in the final stages of developing a new curriculum, planning a leadership institute, and so much more, we are caught up in the wonders of promise that this season brings us.

I wish I could share with you now the message that I shared with the Sprunts Luncheon group. Well, I can do the next best thing. Let me point you to Union Live on the web, where you can click in and hear the address yourself: www.unionlive.org. I hope you have opportunity to play the video. Until then, let me close here by appealing to the conclusion of that talk. Working from the ending of Mark's Gospel, 16:1-8, I pressed us to sense that we, like the readers of Mark's Gospel, are being pressed into a very important service. And so, I concluded:

It's like Spring around Union Presbyterian Seminary. Everywhere you look, signs of wonderful, bountiful promise. All I ask of you is that you help me any way you can to realize the promise that God has set before us this day. Promise me!

Yes, we're nervous. We're scared, because this season of promise is filled with new ventures, new ideas, and new is often risky. Change brings the risk needed to make change. The women at the tomb were rightfully scared about the prospect of going to Galilee, because going to Galilee, starting the Jesus story all over again, this time without Jesus walking by their side was risky business. No wonder they were afraid of their Galilee moment.

Today is our Galilee moment. Our season of promise of a new thing. Easter isn't all Good News. It's scary news. And most people who truly understand Easter think about running in the face of it. Easter means leaving behind the "why" of Golgotha and marching faithfully forward into the "why not" of Galilee, starting the discipleship life all over again, re-creating Jesus' transformative ministry, the same ministry that ultimately put him on that cross. Easter means not just reading the Jesus story, but finishing the Jesus story. It means stepping in to do what the male and female disciples were too afraid to do. It means living the Galilee of "why not" as we reach out into the future of theological education and Union Presbyterian Seminary's place in that future. It means not pining away for the happy ending that we wish might have been, but instead doing all we can do to make today's Union story end where we believe God would have it end. In the Galilee of our future. Where WE form leaders and, with God's help, where we transform the church.

Why not?

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Brian K. Blount, President

ON CAMPUS

Seminary Embarks on Year Long Bicentennial Celebration

In 2012, Union Presbyterian Seminary will celebrate 200 years of Forming Leaders and Transforming the Church. The year long bicentennial celebration will begin September 17-18, 2011, with a convocation ceremony for both Richmond and Charlotte campuses at Hampden-Sydney College, where the seminary originated in 1812.

Immediately following convocation, the more hearty alums and friends of the seminary will bike 90 miles over a two day period to commemorate the school's original journey from Hampden-Sydney to its current location in Richmond. The Sunday Homecoming Festival on the Richmond campus will cap the weekend festivities.

"As the seminary looks back, remembers, and reflects, we also prepare," says Brian Blount, president of Union Presbyterian Seminary. *"We want to use this celebration to build momentum for our future work of equipping tomorrow's church leaders. We hope to involve the communities around Richmond and Charlotte, and the entire region that the seminary serves, because we are also commemorating 200 years of generous support from faithful churches and church folk who have nurtured us in this wonderful work."*

The school's convocation will kick off an entire slate of events for the coming year inviting participation

from alums, laity, clergy and constituents across the country. Highlights include a wide range of community-wide worship services. There will also be educational events and lectures, reunion gatherings and a fundraising gala with an auction in the recently renovated Early Center on the Richmond campus.

Board of Trustees Chair William Rikard says, *"200 years of educating church leaders is significant cause for great celebration. We hope all members of the Union community will join our celebrations to affirm our marvelous history, but also, to recognize our continuing responsibilities to the future of God's church."*

Online registration for the Convocation Weekend is now open! Register for events as well as for transportation via bus from Charlotte and Richmond to Farmville and back, or transportation for bicycles from Richmond to Farmville. Go to www.regonline.com/ConvocationWeekend.

Visit our website, www.upsem.edu, for a full list of activities. Ω



Moderator Cynthia Bolbach Visits Seminary Campuses

Sharing her views on the future church, PC(USA) Moderator Cynthia Bolbach visited the Richmond campus in May. The moderator's visit was most timely as Union Presbyterian Seminary, while celebrating 200 years of success in training Christian leaders, is also contemplating the future church and implementing new initiatives to continue this rich legacy. Since her election at the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA) last July, Bolbach has also visited the Charlotte campus of Union Presbyterian. To view Bolbach's presentation live on the web, visit www.unionlive.org.



Resources for the Church

Union Sunday Launches Second Video Curriculum

This past fall, President **Brian Blount** kicked off an extremely successful first series of Union Sunday with a 12-lesson study on Revelation. A renowned scholar on the book of Revelation, Dr. Blount is the author of the Commentary on Revelation for Westminster John Knox Press's New Testament Library Series. His publication was selected as the top reference book of 2009 by the Academy of Parish Clergy.

The second series, *Discovering Faith*, is now available. Ten members of the faculty and staff — Assistant Professor of Old Testament **Samuel L. Adams**, Associate Professor of Biblical Languages **E. Carson Brisson**, Affiliate Assistant Professor of Christian Education **Cindy Kissel-Ito**, Dean of the Center for Ministry and Leadership Development **Kenneth J. McFayden**, Director of the Asian American Center for Ministry and Mission **Syngman Rhee**, Associate Professor of Bible **Rodney Sadler**, Professor of Pastoral Theology **Charles E.**

Brown, Vice-President for Advancement **Richard Wong**, Professor of New Testament **John T. Carroll**, and Associate Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Leadership **Richard Boyce**—explore faith in relation to Biblical context.

Union Sunday, an innovative video curriculum, was created to provide spiritual nurturing to churches, especially churches without a called pastor. Biblical and theological knowledge, grounded in the reformed tradition, is shared with Sunday school classrooms, Bible study groups and youth. The seminary recognizes that forming future leaders not only means training strong pastors and Christian educators, but also providing resources for people in the pews.

The Union Sunday Study Series is appropriate for adult Sunday School, Bible study groups, and personal Bible study.

It is available as a download or on DVD. To place an order or to find out more about Union Sunday, go to www.unionsunday.org. Ω

Congregations Awarded for Excellence

Union Presbyterian Seminary announced the 2011 Congregational Awards recognizing excellence in ministries to youth, older adults, persons with disabilities as well as minority communities. Recipient churches vary in size, culture and location from around the country.

In addition to publicly honoring these churches, Union Presbyterian Seminary awards \$1,000 to each congregation for the continued development of their specialized ministry. Applications are submitted for review by award committees and recipients are notified upon selection.

The 2011 Union Presbyterian Seminary Congregational Awards are as follows:

The Katharine Hawes Award for Effective Youth Ministry awarded to The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek of Pittsburgh, PA, and Burbank First Presbyterian Church of Burbank, CA;

The James Goodpasture for Excellence in Ministry to Persons with Developmental Disabilities was awarded to North Lakeland Presbyterian Church of Lakeland, FL, and Alpharetta Presbyterian Church of Alpharetta, GA;

The Elinor Curry Award for Outreach and Social Concern was awarded to Lord Jesus Korean Church of Richmond, VA;

The Louise McComb Award for Creatively Meeting Vital Christian Education Needs of Older Adults in the Church or Community goes to Salem Presbyterian of Studley, VA;

The Al Dimmock Award for Excellence and Congregational Involvement in the Empowerment of Older Adults was awarded to Mt. Hope Community Presbyterian of Penn Hills, PA.

The deadline for the 2012 Congregation Awards is February 15, 2012. Ω



Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond campus, held its 199th commencement exercises on May 28. The seminary conferred 65 degrees including twelve Master of Arts in Christian Education degrees and 35 Master of Divinity degrees. Seventeen degrees were conferred on April 30 at the Charlotte campus. Graduates will go out to serve as pastors and church educators in churches, hospitals, colleges, prisons, and in the mission field.

Charlotte Campus Expansion Moving Forward

About a decade ago, congregations and devoted Presbyterians in the greater Charlotte area initiated the effort to create Union's Charlotte campus and have continued to support the growth of the ministry with students, money, and prayers.

For the past ten years, the Charlotte campus has occupied space at Queens University of Charlotte, a sister institution that has been extraordinarily gracious and accommodating over the years. The lease with Queens ends in the summer of 2012, at which time the university plans to use this space for other purposes.

The Charlotte campus has been working to find a place to house the thriving seminary program and a place where its own identity can be established.

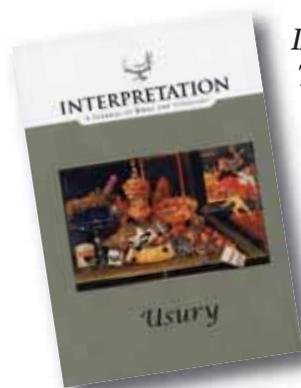
On Sunday, February 6, 2011, Sharon Presbyterian Church voted to invite Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus, to enter into a long-term lease with them, allowing the seminary to build on their property. Union Presbyterian plans to build a new facility that will house the entire Charlotte campus program, enabling expansion beyond the weekend courses currently offered.



The architect's proposed rendering of the Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus, site.

This is exciting news, and Union Presbyterian Seminary is grateful not only for Sharon's invitation but also for the expanded opportunity to serve congregations and students. Ω

SAGE Begins Publishing *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible & Theology*



A new partnership between *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* and SAGE will begin in January 2012 as SAGE begins publishing the journal on behalf of Union Presbyterian Seminary. The editors and editorial council of the seminary will still retain full editorial control of the journal.

Since 1947, *Interpretation* has offered pastors, scholars, and theologians a valuable resource for study, preaching, and teaching. Each quarter-

ly issue explores a theme or biblical book with writers who have relevant expertise. Four to five major articles, "Between Text and Sermon" essays, and book reviews offer a variety of options for adding to and enhancing readers' knowledge.

"*Interpretation is one of the world's most prestigious journals in biblical studies and theology, and is an exciting addition to our expanding theology program,*" said Karen Phillips, editorial director of

SAGE. "We seek to develop our list by partnering with high quality publications and leading institutions such as Union Presbyterian Seminary, and we look forward to supporting *Interpretation's* development by extending its circulation worldwide and via our innovations in digital delivery."

Editor and Professor of Old Testament Samuel E. Balentine commented, "I am very pleased to enter into this partnership with SAGE, which enables us not only to sustain the distinctive quality of our journal, now in its sixty-fifth year of publication, but also to extend its accessibility to a still larger international audience."

SAGE is a leading international publisher of journals, books, and electronic media for academic, educational, and professional markets. Since 1965, SAGE has helped inform and educate a global community of scholars, practitioners, researchers, and students spanning a wide range of subject areas including business, humanities, social sciences, and science, technology, and medicine. Ω

Communications Initiatives Supported by Grant

President Brian K. Blount announced a \$200,000 grant to support new initiatives to communicate the seminary's new mission and identity across multi-media platforms.

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations awarded the prestigious grant, which will position the seminary to widely share its story as a theological school preparing Christian leaders to renew and revitalize the church in the 21st century.

"We are extremely thankful to have been awarded this grant. It is another step in our forward movement as we continue to live out our mission of educating Christian leaders for the 21st century," says Dr. Blount.

The comprehensive communication plan will use a variety of resources to tell stakeholders about the seminary's historic tradition and its vision for the future. The grant will allow the seminary to document its history with a commemorative publication and video about its vital role in American Presbyterianism

in the south during the past 200 years. Other communication tools include an active presence on social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter, YouTube, high-profile media events, an interactive website, and print and promotional materials.

These social avenues will serve as the seminary's connectors to a more diverse applicant pool of students and faculty, active church partners, alumni, the Center for Ministry and Leadership Development participants, interfaith organizations, and other higher education institutions. In a changing world, the grant will allow the school's mission to be communicated in relevant, engaging, and inspiring ways.

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, located in Jacksonville, FL, award grants for graduate theological education, private higher education, secondary education, health care, and public television. The graduate theological education grants aim to strengthen projects that have a significant educational impact. Ω

Ladies and Gentlemen, Start Your Engines Please!



The Union Presbyterian Seminary community was treated to a unique worship experience when NASCAR and Motor Racing Outreach (MRO) came to town and visited the Richmond campus.

Just hours before competing in the Sprint Cup race at Richmond International Raceway, driver Michael McDowell (pictured above at left) led a lively service in Lake Chapel. He showed a heart-stopping video of a crash in which his car hit the wall and flipped numerous times. Although the car was totaled, he walked away unscathed. Television announcers marveled at the technological advances that made the car so safe. McDowell, however, had a different take. He attributes it to the grace of God.

"I really know that God's hand was on me," he said.

The pre-race service was a collaboration between Motor Racing Outreach, an outreach ministry of NASCAR, and the seminary. It featured the uplifting and high-energy Christian rock of the Brett Rush Band (above, right) and the sweet sounds of the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown (PA) Youth Choir.

A similar service is planned for September 8 when NASCAR again visits the Richmond area. The public is invited to attend. Ω

A BYTE of the Future:

A Conference on Using Technology
in Worship and Education

October 18-20, 2011



How have existing and
emerging technologies impacted
religious faith and practices?

How can technology benefit worship and education?

Consisting of keynote speakers, model worship and teaching sessions, and workshops, this conference will guide participants in exploring the uses of technology in both worship and education. Register now at www.regonline.com/abyteofthefuture.

Forming Leaders. Transforming the Church.



Sprunt Lectures Combine Faith and Economics

Sprunt lecturer **Kathryn Tanner**, professor of systematic theology at Yale University (left), explored how faith speaks to our current economic climate on May 3-5. Inspiring sermons were delivered by alum **Tom Are, Jr.** (M.Div.'86), and President **Brian Blount** shared the exciting new ways the seminary is engaging the church. Tom Are's sermon and Brian Blount's address are available for viewing at unionlive.org.

Lilly Endowment Funds for Pre-Matriculation Initiatives Announced

Union Presbyterian Seminary has received \$601,150 from Lilly Endowment, Inc. in support of the Communities of Learning Pre-matriculation Initiative, a new educational model that gathers students within small cohort communities from the moment of their admission to the time of their matriculation and beyond.

"This grant will enable us to begin the vocational formation for ministry as soon as our students are formally accepted into a degree program," says seminary president Brian Blount.

With this initiative, Union Presbyterian Seminary orients accepted applicants at the time of acceptance to begin the in-residence portion of their education. In this way, they will be ready to engage the seminary's curriculum and processes of spiritual and vocational transformation at a higher level. A cohort will consist of ten students, two faculty advisors, a spiritual advisor, and an alumnus/a mentor.

In a changing world, the grant will allow the school's mission to form leaders and transform the

church to continue in new and dynamic ways.

Using current technologies such as Blackboard, GoogleApps, and WIMBA, students will be introduced to their counterparts and advisors within their cohort/ learning community. Building community using an online tool like WIMBA will allow admitted students to have real-time conversations across the Internet while seeing one another and engaging one another on topics designed by the seminary curriculum and facilitated by a team of academic, spiritual, and alumni/ae advisors.

Lilly Endowment Inc. exists to support the causes of religion, education and community development. The Endowment has long had an interest in the role and purpose of religion in American life and strives to create opportunities across the country to learn more about the subject through research, to encourage the development of a new generation of talented ministers, nurture the excellent ministers who practice their faith every day, and build healthy vibrant congregations. Ω

Marilyn Johns Named New Director of Program Development



Marilyn Johns

Marilyn Johns (M.A.C.E.'94) joined the staff of Union Presbyterian Seminary as director of program development for The Center for Ministry and Leadership Development on June 27. Previously, she served as project manager for a Lilly Endowment grant program at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA, where she designed, implemented, and administered an ambitious

program for clergy, spouses, and congregations of fewer than 100 average attendees.

Johns has extensive experience as a Christian educator in three congregations and as a keynote speaker, workshop

leader, and consultant. She has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Virginia Theological Seminary, where she completed a project entitled "Hope for the Future of Educational Ministry in the PC(USA)," and has served as a regular adjunct instructor at VTS for a class on "Vital Ministry in Small Congregations."

Of her enthusiasm for Union Presbyterian Seminary, Johns has indicated, *"I am committed to continuing education for clergy and lay people, and to making that education accessible to those who are too far away or too financially strapped to be able to participate in traditional educational opportunities. I think Union Presbyterian has a rich opportunity to expand its opportunities and make them available to a wide audience."* Ω

MacMillan Named as New Associate Vice President of Advancement



Douglas B. MacMillan

Union Presbyterian Seminary announced the appointment of Douglas B. MacMillan as the associate vice president for advancement beginning April 18.

As alums of the seminary, **MacMillan** (M.Div.'99) and his wife, **Nichole** (M.Div.'99), are excited to rejoin the Union Presbyterian community.

"Coming to work for Union Presbyterian is very exciting," said Macmillan. *"I am delighted to be able to participate in God's work in the world by giving back to my alma mater—the seminary that shaped me for ministry."*

MacMillan has been at Columbia Theological Seminary for the past five years as the director of development. Prior to his time at Columbia, he served as a new

church development pastor in Flint River Presbytery, GA, and an associate pastor and co-pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Dalton, GA, and Warren, AR, respectively.

Richard Wong, vice president of advancement said, *"Doug is a wonderful addition to the advancement team at Union Presbyterian. He is well equipped with the necessary development skills and understands our mission and goals. We are blessed to have him return to serve the seminary."*

MacMillan is tasked with generating support for the seminary from both new and existing donors. Ω

Samuel L. Adams, assistant professor of Old Testament, spoke on “Wisdom and Wealth, Poverty and Abundance?” at the Sunday forum class of Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA.



Samuel L. Adams



John T. Carroll

Katie Geneva Cannon, Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics, was the co-editor of *Womanist Theological Reader* with Emilie Townes and Angela Sims for the Theological Library Series. She published a chapter, “Homecoming in the Hinterlands: Ethical Ministries of Mission in Nigeria” in *Ethics That Matters: African, Caribbean, and African American Sources* edited by Marcia Riggs and James Logan and a chapter, “Lessons of Liberation in the Struggle for Freedom,” in the *festschrift* honoring Allan A. Boesak, 2011. Cannon presented a keynote lecture, “The Underbrush of Paradise,” for the 24th annual meeting of Racial, Ethnic and Multicultural (REM) Pastoral Care Counselors and Pastors in Richmond, VA.

She presented keynotes at the African American Heritage Celebration Week at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, PA, —“Mixing the Made-Up with the Verifiable,” “Untutored Salvation: Making Sense of God’s Grace in the Lived Lives of Slaves,” and “Revolutionary Woman/ist Talk: Telling Stories with Nikky Finney.”

She was co-coordinator of the design team for *Calling for the Order of the Day—Theological Education for the 21st Century* at the

Interdenominational Center in Atlanta, GA. She taught a two-week Bible study class, “God’s Answer from the Whirlwind, Job:8-42,” at First United Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, and preached at First United Presbyterian Church.

John T. Carroll, Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament, presented a paper, “An Act of Deliverance and Teaching about God’s Realm: Welcome and Resistance (Luke 13:10–35),” for the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Theologians, at Princeton, NJ. Carroll also presented a lecture, “Faith Encounters Empire: New Testament Images,” at the Davidson College conference on Reformed Theology and Ethics, addressing Christian faithfulness and civil government.

Thomas W. Currie, dean of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus, and professor of theology, spent a week in Geneva, Switzerland, exploring the Reformed heritage of that city with a group of Presbyterian pastors. They met with officials from the World Council of Churches, the United Nations, and the Museum of the Reformation. They worshipped at the Cathedral of St. Pierre. The purpose of the trip was to prepare the way for a possible future travel seminar for Charlotte and Richmond campus students in the spring of 2013.

Frances Taylor Gench, Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation, delivered the Zenos Lectures at McCormick Theological Seminary and the Susan R. Andrews Lecture on Progressive Theology at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD. She led a staff retreat for the Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries/Presbyterian Women’s Office of the PC(USA) in Louisville, KY, and the All Church Family Retreat for First Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA, and preached at Old Presbyterian Meeting House, in Alexandria, VA.

Thomas A. James, assistant professor of theology, taught an adult church school course on faith and science at First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, and a course on Reformed theology for the Commissioned Lay Pastor training program in the Presbytery of West Virginia. He presented a paper, “Radical Monotheism and Multiplicity: Theology Engaging Deleuze,” at the Southeastern Conference on the Study of Religion in Louisville, KY.

J. Stanley Hargraves, registrar and adjunct assistant professor of evangelism, led a workshop at the Virginia Conference of United Methodist Church Ministers’ Convocation, “Shaping God’s People Through Creative Technology.”



Thomas W. Currie



Frances Taylor Gench



J. Stanley Hargraves



Kenneth J. McFayden



Samuel K. Roberts



Stanley H. Skreslet

Kenneth J. McFayden, dean of the Center for Ministry and Leadership Development and professor of ministry and leadership development, preached at First Presbyterian Church, Charlottesville, VA, and at the March assembly of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley. He was a seminar leader for *Leading Strategically Amid Change and Loss*, Professional Church Leadership of the National Council of Churches and the Ministry Development Council, St. Johns, FL. McFayden was the presenter and facilitator for *Leading Amid Change and Loss*, Interim Ministry Consortium Annual Event, Atlanta, GA, and for *Strategic Leadership for a Change*, March Presbytery assembly, Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley. He participated in the Trent Symposium for Newly Ordained Ministers, Second Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA. He led the Prepare/Enrich Certification Seminar for students at Union Presbyterian Seminary and was the leader for the Vestry Retreat at All Saints Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA. McFayden participated in the Distance Education Professional Development Certification Program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, with work completed in the nature of learning at a distance, distance education technologies, and instructional systems design. In exploring new initiatives to support graduates in early years of ministry, he participated in a consultation with Laura Cheifetz, staff for Transitions in Ministry programs for the Fund for Theological Education, in

Atlanta, GA; a research visit to the pastoral residency program at Central PC in Atlanta, GA; a research visit to McAfee School of Theology—part of Mercer University—in Atlanta, GA; and a research visit to the pastoral residency program at Second PC in Indianapolis, IN. He participated in the NEXT Event: A Conversation among Presbyterians about the Future of the Church, in Indianapolis, IN. He supervised church business administration projects for seven candidates for certification as a Certified Church Administrator through the National Association of Church Business Administration.

Samuel K. Roberts, Anne Borden and E. Hervey Evans Professor of Theology and Ethics, spoke on “Reading King as Preacher and Prophet” at the adult Sunday class of Ginter Park Presbyterian Church. He also participated in an online webchat for the *Richmond Times Dispatch*, leading a discussion on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stanley H. Skreslet, academic dean, Richmond campus, and F. S. Royster Professor of Christian Missions, spoke at the Union Presbyterian Seminary Alumni/ae Breakfast at the most recent annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. He was named to an international committee formed to edit the upcoming centenary issue of the *International Review of Mission*. He has spoken in several local churches on the revolution in Egypt and Christian witness in the Middle East.

AAR Honors Katie Cannon

Katie Cannon, Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics, was unanimously chosen by the American Academy of Religion to receive the 2011 Teaching Award. She will receive the award in November at the awards ceremony during the annual meeting of the AAR in San Francisco.



Katie Geneva Cannon

The American Academy of Religion’s mission is to promote reflection and understanding of religious traditions, issues, questions and values through excellence in scholarship and teaching in the field of religion. Ω

Professor’s New Book Analyzes Kaufman’s Theology

The relationship between Christian claims of divine activity and scientific knowledge of the natural order is studied in the career of noted theologian Gordon Kaufman.

Professor of Theology **Thomas James’s** book, *In Face of Reality: The Constructive Theology of Gordon D. Kaufman*, interprets Kaufman’s theology as an attempt to reconcile naturalistic explanations of the world with a theocentric frame of reference which characterizes the classical theological tradition. In Kaufman’s case, James argues, the relationship between divine sovereignty and human well-being is problematic. Nevertheless, Kaufman’s work represents a powerful option that can be developed further.



Thomas A. James

Through a constructive analysis of the promises and perils of Kaufman’s work, James suggests that a reconsideration of the meaning of Christ’s work offers possibilities for an even more naturalistic and yet also theocentric theology. Ω



Karen-Marie Yust



Beverly Zink-Sawyer

Karen-Marie Yust, associate professor of Christian education, published "A World Apart: Autism Spectrum Disorders" in *The Church Leader's Counseling Resource Book* and was keynote speaker at Children's Ministry Conference in Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in Mechanicsburg, PA. Yust was also keynote speaker and workshop leader at the Children's Summit of the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona. She taught adult education classes on Romans

and Sabbath Practices at St. John's UCC in Richmond, VA, and was worship leader at Pleasant Street Congregational Church in Arlington, MA, on the occasion of the congregation's closing after 168 years in ministry. Yust was a former pastor of the congregation. She published "Cyber spirituality: Facebook, Twitter, and the adolescent quest for connection" in the *International Journal of Children's Spirituality 15:4*, "Cyber spirituality II: Virtual reality and spiritual formation" in the *International Journal of Children's Spirituality 16:1*, and "How Will Our Children Know God? Resisting Cultural Epistemologies that Hinder Spiritual Wisdom" in *Journal*

of Childhood and Religion 2:2.

Beverly Ann Zink-Sawyer, Samuel W. Newell, Jr. Professor of Preaching and Worship, led presentations for the Lenten Wednesday series at Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA and at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, Williamsburg, VA. She taught a continuing education seminar with Dr. John Carroll on Preaching Challenging Texts of the New Testament. She also taught a seminar, Preaching and Worship for Holy Week, for a Charlottesville area ministerium comprised of several Union Presbyterian Seminary alumni and other area clergy. Ω

Engaging in Worship

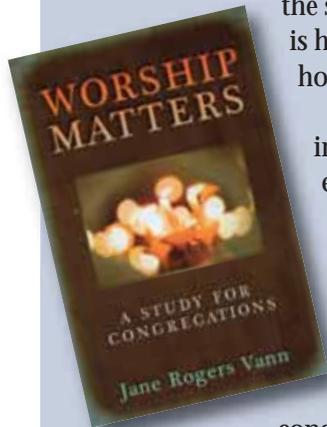
Sunday worship is the central act of Christian faith, yet few truly understand what is happening during the service, why it is happening, or how.



Jane Rogers Vann

Worship invites a congregation into God's presence through many elements: people, space, furnishings, the arts, symbolic objects, music, words, actions. These many elements are often called the "languages" of worship, languages that are symbolic rather than literal. It seems odd, then, that congregations and their leaders don't spend much time talking about worship.

In an effort to tear down that invisible barrier between pulpit and pew, Professor Emerita **Jane Rogers Vann** has written *Worship Matters: A Study for Congregations* based on numerous visits with congregations of many denominations. Loaded with practical advice, this is an ideal volume for all who are yearning to be fully engaged in worship. Ω



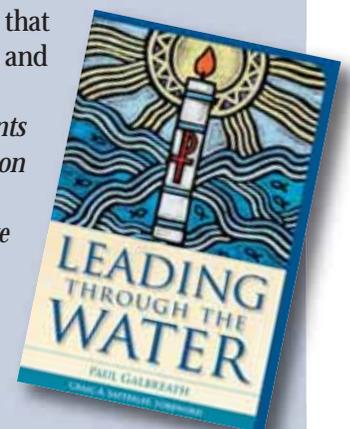
Leading Through the Water

Paul Galbreath's latest book, *Leading Through the Water*, explores Christian discipleship through baptism imagery in Scripture, history, and experience. Galbreath, professor of worship and preaching, identifies patterns of baptismal formation that guide the choices we make each day. He is concerned that we too often separate church life from daily life, marginalizing the gospel and the good news that God is with us at all times and places in our lives.

"Paul (Galbreath) wants us to arrive at an appreciation of baptism not as a single occasion but as a distinctive way of life within a faith community," observes Craig A. Satterlee of Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Ω

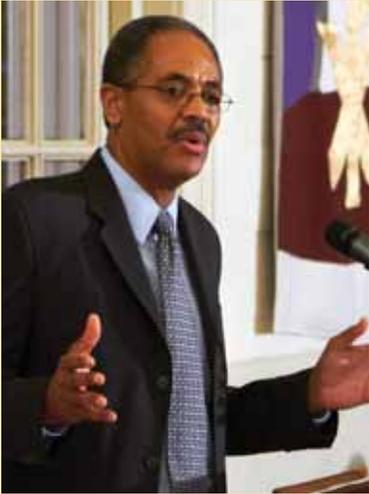


Paul Galbreath



Reaching Beyond

by Richard Wong



I often tell people the work of Union Presbyterian Seminary's Advancement Office is more than just asking for money. Our most important job is advancing the vision of the seminary in forming leaders for the transformation of the church.

In making this vision a reality we must first understand the challenges facing churches from the inside out. The Church has evolved into a more complex, diverse and challenging place for our graduates and the diversity of congregations they serve. Many denominations are declining in membership and in their perceived relevancy to society; small churches are underserved; many young people have lost their trust in religion; and financial resources are limited.

Union Presbyterian Seminary recognizes these challenges and educational opportunities—and embraces them. We rigorously prepare church leaders for this day and age while generously sharing our rich theological and biblical knowledge with church professionals and people in the pews.

Several years back, the auto maker Buick did an advertising campaign using the slogan “*Not your father’s Buick.*” It reminds us of the direction of our Seminary today—Union Presbyterian, not your father’s (or mother’s) seminary education.

Union Presbyterian has thrived for the past 200 years as a southern bulwark of academic learning and practical training. Our alumni/ae are recognized for their skilled praxis and critical thinking. We train

Our goal is for every church
to have the tools needed
to strengthen
their ministries
and reach
all multitudes.

renowned theologians, preachers, professors, authors and Christian educators. However, for the 21st century church, we have the urgency to do even more.

Forming Leaders

Addressing the needs of today's Church, built upon the same strong 200-year engine and chassis, Union Presbyterian education is adapting to changing times, morphing into an agile and creative learning curricula—preparing our seminary students to engage strategically with the church while building capacity for our graduates to multi-task as preachers, educators, pastors, evangelists, communicators, fundraisers, connectors and managers.

- We teach with a flexible 3-delivery platforms (Richmond Residential, Charlotte Non-residential, and the Extended Campus Program) enabling students in all phases of their lives to participate.
- Our Center for Ministry and Leadership Development shapes leaders with real-world skills, strategic congregational planning and practical applications for pastors, educators and lay leaders.
- Our redesigned Master of Divinity curriculum forges integrated disciplines in creating church leaders who are grounded in the theology, shaped for leadership, and ready to participate in the life of their church community.

Union Presbyterian Seminary is mindful of the legacy of our father's (and mother's) seminary education, but equipped and equipping to move beyond into our third century.

Transforming the Church

In becoming a catalyst for change, we have expanded our role in connecting and actively serving the church. Here are a few examples of our most recent developments:

- **Union Sunday**—Drawing from our faculty, this video Bible study series is a resource for Sunday school classrooms and study groups (unionsunday.org). Each year, two study series will be made available for congregations and individuals. After its launch less than a year ago, Union Sunday is now serving hundreds of churches from multiple denominations across the country and a third of all Presbytery resource centers.
- **Union Live**—Lectures from renowned theologians, book talks from significant authors, scholastic discussions, and special programs are broadcast to Web audiences in real-time (unionlive.org). Presentations are stored on-line in our UnionLive archives as resources.

Roll Camera! It's Union Live!



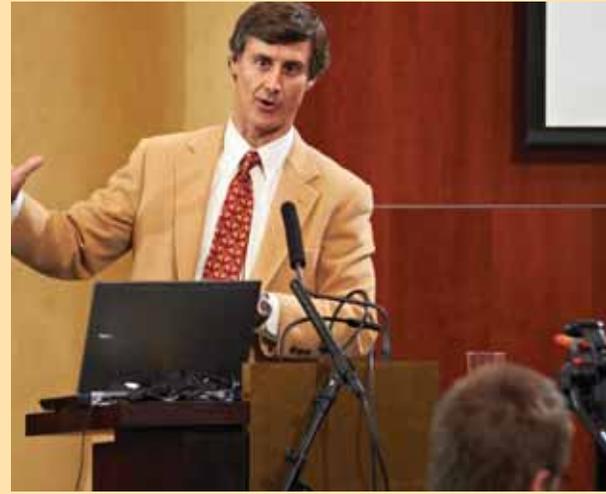
Above, dual degree student Monec Kelley and M.A.T.S. student Chaille Brindley.

Since the launch of Union Live last fall, the webcasting service has provided meaningful programs for churches and church leaders. The free offerings have included book lectures and continuing education seminars. In December, an interactive webinar, developed in partnership with the Presbytery of the James, was aired to discuss the Belhar Confession. More than 70 registrants signed in online to participate in the live webcast and members of the live studio audience were able to participate. Since then, Union Live has created video streams for other engaging speakers, including President Emeritus Louis Weeks, William C. Horton III, Paul F. Knitter, and Bill Sweetser. The Sprunt Lecture Series featuring Kathryn Tanner was also presented live and garnered viewership from as far away as Australia.

Union Presbyterian and churches have benefitted from the connection made through Union Live. Not only is the seminary able to create free resources for all those interested in theological education, but students are also made aware of how they can keep their future congregations connected with seminary programs and events.

Now, as we continue to equip church leaders with skills necessary to do ministry in the church of tomorrow, Union Presbyterian is taking the program a step further and offering the opportunity to current students to lead the creation and production of Union Live programs. Students work with the Communications office and guest facilitators to learn how to develop, produce, direct, and edit programs that are relevant to church leaders. The opportunity to work on these programs gives students beneficial skills that will surely be useful in the ministry.

As new students are added to the team, Union Live is poised for a new exciting set of events in the upcoming year. Everyone is invited to access Union Live to watch the video streams. Visit www.unionlive.org. Ω



Audiences from as far away as Australia and Germany are benefiting from our live webcast.

- **Union Solutions**—Technological tools offered with Google apps are empowering churches to build digital communities for young information-age members as well as prospective members. The same tools are made available to middle church government to facilitate committee communications. Union Solutions is currently in its pilot test phase with six churches and one presbytery, and will invite wider participation in January 2012.
- **Union Exchange**—Scheduled to launch in June 2011, this secure web portal offers candidates a place to post their resumes as well as digital sermons. In addition, churches and other ministry related organizations can post their job positions creating an online, one-stop job posting and searching website. Candidates can also protect their privacy by disabling an online search and offering their information only for the private viewing of designated search committees. These new programs, plus our all-time web

In becoming a catalyst
for change, we have expanded
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favorites such as Theology and Film and Children's Literature Review, are prominently featured as resources for church use. Our goal is for every church to have the tools needed to strengthen their ministries and reach all multitudes.

It is our hope that through these offerings for students, alumni/ae, church professionals, and laity, Union Presbyterian Seminary will be able to connect to churches and the faithful from around the world— advancing the vision of one Church, one hope, and one faith. Ω

Richard Wong is vice president of the Advancement Office.

With a Little Help from our Friends

Building community will begin upon acceptance into degree program

Anyone who's dared to answer the call to ministry and pursue a seminary education has asked the question: "How in the world am I going to get through all of this?" The regimen of attending classes, keeping pace with required readings, holding down a job, participating in an internship, Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), cultivating new friendships with future colleagues while nurturing existing relationships with family and friends can be a daunting undertaking.

Likewise, students who have weathered these challenges and are preparing to enter the field of ministry ask themselves, "How am I going handle the expectations of my new position? How can I be certain I'm ready? Who can I turn to for support once I leave campus?"

"It's exciting to see the emphasis on diversity in the plans which Union has for the pre-matriculation effort. Because of the theological and political diversity in our group, we were better able to engage people who believed and thought differently from us in our various fields of mission."

George Ramsey
The Conclave

ship development and collegial support through the two cutting edge pre-matriculation and post-graduate programs.

The pre-matriculation initiative, which recently received over \$600,000 in grant funds from Lilly Endowment, Inc., is centered on connecting students and familiarizing them with seminary culture. Beginning in the fall of 2011, peer groups will consist of up to ten students, one faculty advisor, and two alumni/ae mentors. *

"The beauty of the program," says Director Sandy Irby, "is that students will have an opportunity to develop connections before they ever arrive on campus."

Building community online will allow admitted students to have real-time conversations across the Internet while seeing one another and engaging one another on theological topics designed by the seminary curriculum and facilitated by a team of academic and alumni/ae advisors.

"The important thing is creating a nurturing environment," offers Irby. "This program is the first step into the Union Presbyterian community. We want to make sure we support and prepare students as they transition into the complex world of seminary life."

To address critical issues facing graduates as they enter into full-time ministry, the Center for Ministry and Leadership Development (CMLD) is designing a unique post-graduate program that will extend seminary resources into their first four years of ministry. This initiative will assist graduates as they begin a life of service in the church and accelerate their progress toward excellence in church leadership roles.

The Communities of Learning Initiative will focus on practical dimensions of ministry and draw upon participants' real-time experiences in ministry. Through this initiative, participants will demonstrate advanced skills in preaching, worship leadership, teaching, and pastoring. They will demonstrate an advanced understanding of the relation of careful administration to effective leadership, as well as the

* For a more detailed account of how the program is designed see page 10.

capacity to read diverse congregational and cultural contexts.

“We want to create a program where a student’s knowledge and experience are used mutually to inform one another,” says CMLD Dean Ken McFayden. *“We anticipate that participants will experience increased levels of competence, confidence, resilience, and satisfaction in ministry and that their participation in this initiative will provide a significant foundation for many years of ministry to follow.”*

In addition to opportunities for insight-oriented and actionable leadership education, participants will participate in peer groups led by trained facilitators and have the opportunity to work with one or more trained coaches in church leadership. Each of these components of the initiative will offer opportunities for assessment and support in the midst of leadership challenges in ministry. The launching of this initiative is anticipated in the fall 2012.

These initiatives are in direct alignment with Union Presbyterian’s vision, “Forming Leaders. Transforming the Church.” Beyond the positive impact upon participants, both programs anticipate that mentors, coaches and course instructors will experience new learning which can be transferred into their current contexts of leadership.

These pre-matriculation and post-graduate programs bring into sharp focus a tradition that has been longstanding at the seminary but until now has existed only informally. Students throughout the decades, recognizing the intense challenges of theological study and desiring experiences in Christian community have created groups which combined study, fellowship and support.



The Conclave circa 1960

The Conclave

In the 1960s a group of students which would become known as the Conclave, approached Professor Jim Mays, asking him to lead a study group focused on the Psalms. The impetus for the formation of regular meetings for the group came originally from George Ramsey and Louis Zbinden, and over the years many members of the Conclave played key roles in planning and organizing the gatherings, as well as did Dr. Mays.

Time spent together began with fellowship, and then transitioned into exegetical work and discourse on preaching. Sessions ended with answering the question, “How does this text matter to the ministries we serve and the world in which we live?” The curriculum designed by Mays would remain unchanged as the group met over the next fifty years.

“It’s exciting to see the emphasis on diversity in the plans which Union has for a pre-matriculation effort,” said George Ramsey. *“Because of the theological and political diversity in our group, we were better able to engage people who believed and thought differently from us in our various fields of mission.”*

*“We want to create a program
where a student’s knowledge
and experience are used mutually
to inform one another.”*

Dean Ken McFayden
Center for Ministry
& Leadership Development

Beginning in the late 1980s, various reading groups, made up mostly of Union alums, began to be formed at the invitation of Professor John Leith. Upon his retirement, Professor Leith established a fund to be used to encourage the continued reading of substantial texts in the Reformed tradition. This fund, now lodged with the Foundation for Reformed Theology, subsidizes many reading groups across the country.

“Our group had its origins as a study group while we were on campus, and Dr. Leith’s vision has helped us keep up the practice of reading important theological work,” says alumnus and group convener **Ed McLeod** (’85), *“but just as important to us is that it has kept us in touch with each other, allowing us to be in supportive relationships as we continue in the demanding field of ministry.”*

The tradition of students gathering has continued into the 21st century. **Jessica Tate** (’07) and several of her classmates met together once a week during seminary to share their journey over dinner. After graduation they organized weeklong events with scholars, with former professor Doug Ottati as their first presenter, and attended seminars to keep their skills current. In addition, the group has served as a place where one’s humanity can be remembered and celebrated.

“This is the group I go to when I have a joy, or a tragedy,” says Tate, *“which means a lot in a profession that requires clear boundaries.”*

Many of these groups have continued to meet beyond their graduation for decades, showing on-going commitment to theological study and enduring faithfulness as colleagues in a demanding profession. Now, by providing students with guidance and resources through the pre-matriculation and post-graduate programs, students will enter their coursework—and ministry—with a new kind of on-going support from the seminary community. Ω

Crystal Sygeel (M.Div./M.A.C.E.’96) is the events and communications coordinator in the Advancement Office.

The  GARGOYLE *speaks*

Living Vision



E. Carson Brisson

During a course a beloved colleague and I co-taught here several years ago, a student submitted in partial fulfillment of a class assignment a poem entitled *The Muttering of the Great Potter's Clay*. After the semester had ended and the grades were in, I asked the student for permission to feature the poem in a future *Gargoyle*. Permission, along with a request from the student that the poem be published anonymously, was winsomely and generously given. When I was informed that the rubric under which this *Focus* would go out was Living the Vision, I knew at once that this was the *Gargoyle* in which I wanted the student's work to appear.

I hope and suspect, gentle reader, that you will immediately recognize in *Muttering* symbols and ideas drawn by its perceptive author from the bitter-sweet well called by the name Witness. Hannah, the faithful, is audible; Jeremiah, the prophet, echoes through its lines; Paul, the apostle, seems to have passed closely by as it was being composed; Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo, is definitely and deeply present. Each of these sources was quite properly acknowledged in the original submission and class discussion of the poem.

I also hope and suspect that you will recognize something else in *Muttering*—a poignant and hopeful invitation to all who would and to all who are living the vision, which living is so compellingly and lovingly illustrated in the stories and articles contained in this edition of *Focus*, never to cease seeking that vision. For, gentle reader, ever to have finished such seeking is neither living the vision nor living vision. It will come to ruin. It is a form of blindness tragically commensurate with the very degree to which one claims to see.

Since my own record painfully proves that everything I have been able to see, so far, and I mean everything or I would use another word, can be transported in a thimble, with room for six selfish passengers and their luggage to spare, it is appropriate to move now, with sincerest thanks to the one who desires not to be named, to *The Muttering of the Great Potter's Clay*:

I'm clay in the art place, but I don't know who I am . . . yet.

Kneadingly

You are making "your best work"

You are drawing me to yourself.

But my heart seems to be in a dark and slippery path,

Because I'm failing to find your image in myself.

You are working and pressing with your hands

The more you press, the stronger I develop my "resistance"

Sometimes softly, sometimes thickly

Whenever my body is cracked, you spread water on my body.

Is this water your tear?

I'm looking at your fingertip,

I'm looking at your eyes toward your fingertip,

You make me in your own image.

I'm looking at your eyes toward your fingertip . . . O my soul. O my soul. Ω

Celebrating 200 Years

Union Presbyterian Seminary 2011-12 Convocation Kicks Off Year Long Bicentennial Celebration.

- September 17** **2011-2012 Opening Convocation for Richmond and Charlotte campuses**
Hosted at Hampden-Sydney College where Union Presbyterian Seminary originated in 1812.
- September 17-18** **Bike Ride and Homecoming Festival** Immediately following convocation, alumni/ae and friends of Union Presbyterian will bike 90 miles to commemorate the 1898 journey of the seminary from Hampden-Sydney College to Richmond, VA. The Sunday Homecoming Festival, held on the quad from 12-3 p.m., will cap the weekend festivities.

Registration is now open for Convocation!
Register for events as well as for transportation via bus from Charlotte to Farmville and back, from Richmond to Farmville and back, or transportation for bicycles from Richmond to Farmville.

www.regonline.com/convocationweekend

- October 18-20** **A Byte of the Future: A Conference on Using Technology in Worship and Teaching, Richmond Campus** Keynote speakers, model worship, and teaching sessions and workshops will guide participants in exploring the uses of technology in both worship and education. For more information or to register, www.upsem.edu/more-upcoming-events.html

- 22** **November 3** **Dinner and Auction Fundraising Gala, Richmond Campus**
This fundraising dinner and auction will feature Ed Ayers, president of University of Richmond and noted national historian.

For a full slate of events, visit our website at www.upsem.edu.



In celebration of Union Presbyterian Seminary's Bicentennial in October 2012, we will be presenting a four-part series of articles covering various eras of our history. The following article by **Don Shriver** covers the 1950's, when Don was in Richmond, and the formative influence of his teachers and classmates. Union became the center of the biblical theology, which sought to address fundamentalist literalism and liberal skepticism. Don graduated from Union with a B.D. degree in 1955 and is the President Emeritus of Union Theological Seminary in New York.

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

Peter Hobbie (D.Min. '84; Ph.D. '87) will discuss E. T. Thompson and his time. Ernest Trice Thompson is, perhaps, the most influential figure of Union's modern history. He institutionalized the seminary's position on social issues, and how those issues would be addressed. Moreover, his heresy trial affirmed the academic freedom of the southern seminary.

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

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

Reformed and Always Reforming Part I

The most telling history of any educational institution gets written in the minds and lives of its graduates. More than most, a Christian theological seminary must be judged by Jesus' own standard: "*You will know them by their fruits.*"

A few years after my own time as a student at UTS-VA (1951-55), at an alumni-gathering, I had asked myself, "*What were the outstanding fruits of my time in classrooms at Union?*" and I answered: "*Two things: Union deepened in me my love for the Bible, and my capacity to love people.*"



Biblical theology permeated the atmosphere of Union in the 1950s and the great biblical faculty of those decades — John Bright, Donald Miller, Balmer Kelly, and E. T. Thompson influenced the thinking of individual students, the Church, and our country.

Ernest Trice Thompson came close to having in his head the whole of Union's curriculum in the 1940s and 1950s. He taught church history, historical theology, and—by being assigned the Book of Acts—he was virtually a member of the Bible department. In those years he was also practically a professor of social ethics, pro-

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that alerts us to the works of the Spirit
en route in our own life journeys.*

viding us with many a reason to look critically at issues of racial justice beginning then to afflict the conscience of the Presbyterian Church U.S. He was the one who made the memorable statement, *“The PCUS, under the teaching of Robert Dabney in the 19th century, contributed only one original theological theme to the history of theology in America: ‘the spirituality of the church,’ the idea that secular affairs must not influence the church’s concept of faith and ethics. But the contribution was a heresy!”*

By 1954, the year the PCUS officially supported the Supreme Court mandate for desegregating public schools, we all had been prepared by Thompson at Union to join in that support.

I always liked the beginning of a church history course with the Book of Acts. It was a way

of affirming a view of the Bible that was powerfully present in the classes of Thompson's colleagues — John Bright, Balmer Kelly, and Donald Miller. Kelly's basic course in Biblical Theology presupposed that modern historical-critical study of the Bible underscored historical eventfulness as at the heart of Christian understanding of this Scripture: its teachings and its faith emerged from real history and real human life.

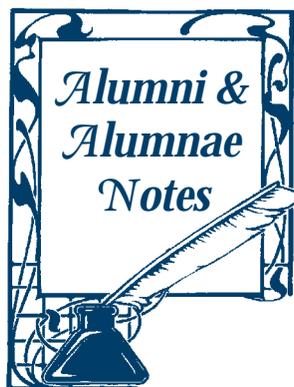
Kelly's course, “Biblical Theology,” had as its theme his take on the immediate “purpose of God” that ranges through the whole of the Bible — “To create a people with whom He could dwell.” That set the content of the book in the context of its origin in a once-living community of humans to whom the Lord of Israel and the church had revealed Himself. (I do not remember any critique of the “Himness” of God in those classes of the 1950s.) In these latter days, numerous Jewish voices have raised objection to an apparent Christian takeover of the Hebrew part of the Bible for the self-understanding of the Christian Gospel. But that objection,

old in Jewish-Christian dialogue, was not easy to hear over against in a Calvinist tradition that considers the “Old” Testament as basic to understanding the “New.” Ever since those 1950s, however, I have been sure that it is impossible to be a Christian without, in effect, first being a convert to the God of Israel. It was hard to read the New Testament aside from that assumption. Especially for the formation of a Christian ethic for society, the Hebrew part of the Bible was indispensable. The very phrase “biblical theology” required us students to attend to the weightiness of the whole Bible for the church’s teaching and preaching from any of its parts. “Comparing scripture with scripture” was a methodological must for interpreters.

Such teaching made it possible for many of us from the ‘fifties at UTS-VA to understand the Bible, not as a collection of maps to follow into our futures but as a book for looking out for landmarks on the roads of modern history, a vade-mecum that alerts us to the works of the Spirit en route in our own life journeys. For example, in looking over my notes from Kelly’s Biblical Theology, I am astonished at how seriously he took the realities of the natural world, understood as divine creation and a human habitat. Because “*The resurrected body of Jesus is a union of the material and spiritual,*” the Spirit that raised Jesus enables one to see that world as saved by the love of God and for love of all our neighbors, human and extra-human. Kelly could have written a biblical foundation for the post-‘fifties’ ecological movement. He believed that “*Christians should discern more beauty in nature*” than anyone else. This reformation-in-the-Spirit was the substance of the Messianic hope, “*springing to life from the ashes of every destroyed illusion*” to which Israelites and Christians have often been subject.

In that time of Union’s faculty, in spite of the courage and insight of “Dr. E. T.” into the ethical crises of church and society, a focused study of social ethics was not prominent in the curriculum—but it is just to observe that for most of us students the biblical courses gave us strong introductions to a biblically-based social ethic. Bright would write and preach usually with due comments on contemporary national and international affairs, and Kelly ended his course on biblical theology with a description of a human life over which the Spirit broods, as an adventure towards a more perfect obedience to the will of God that requires individual embodiment in the community of the church. It is a life of freedom, achieved victory and unachieved expectation—“*pushed by redemption and pulled by the Eschaton.*”

I had a classmate in the class of ‘51 who testified, at the end of Kelly’s course, that “*if he turned it into a book, I would be glad to be its salesman.*” We were not favored with that book, but we were favored with Kelley’s work on *The Layman’s Bible Commentary* and searching essays in the journal *Interpretation*. Kelly’s work as a teacher and defender of the claims of biblical theology will always be among our most profound debts to that era of Union’s history. Ω



The **Alumni/ae Office** maintains a database of names and addresses of alumni/ae.

If you have moved, changed your e-mail, or have other contact information that has recently changed, please contact Lynn McClintock at lmclintock@upsem.edu or 804.278.4382.

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

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

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

This issue of Focus includes information received through April, 2011.

1960s

Joe Sandifer (B.D.'60; D.Min.'73) is serving as the coordinator of pastoral team for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. The pastoral team aims to provide pastoral care for pastors and educators serving the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

John W. Kuykendall (B.D.'64) completes his service as interim president at Davidson (NC) College at the end of July. John previously served as Davidson's president from 1984-1997 and is a graduate of Davidson.

Robert Button (M.Div.'67) is now serving as interim pastor at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in Martinsville, VA. Bob previously served as interim pastor at Altavista Presbyterian Church in Altavista, VA.

Richard Koster (B.D.'70; Th.M.'71) is currently serving as the editor of *The Universalist Herald*, "The oldest continuously published liberal religious magazine in North America." Rich is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the Christian Universalist Association (CUA). Beginning in January, he move off the

board in order to serve the CUA Coordinator. Rich lives in Fort Thomas, KY.

Rachel Micol Christopher (M.A.'72), in collaboration with Judy Brooten, completed the first written history of First Presbyterian Church of Marianna, FL, as part of the celebration of the church's 175th anniversary.

Kenneth L. Thrasher (D.Min.'73) is now retired from Baptist ministry. Ken taught philosophy and world religions for twelve years after retiring from the pastorate. He lives in Pine Level, NC, with Judy, his wife, a retired school teacher.

Robert Tuttle (M.A.'75; M.Div.'11) has been ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Bob currently serves as the vice president for the Center for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, overseeing the development and implementation of conferences for youth and young adults.

Ted W. Fuson (D.Min.'76) has retired from ministry at Culpepper (VA) Baptist Church and began a new career. Ted now operates Fuson Coaching, a one-on-one coaching service that operates from a Biblical perspective.

1940s

Florence M. Sthreshley (M.A.'46) was awarded the 2010 Lifestyle Wellness Award, for her excellence in body, mind and spirit.

1950s

Katherine Paterson (M.A.'57) was the 2011 Buechner Lecturer at the annual Buechner Lectureship held by the Buechner Institute at King College. Katherine is currently serving as the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

William R. "Boney" Jones (M.Div.'59) is currently serving as interim pastor of Chadbourn (NC) Presbyterian Church. Boney previously served as interim pastor of Sardis Presbyterian Church in Linden, NC.

1970s

Did you know that at Union Presbyterian Seminary
over 85% of our incoming classes receive tuition plus grant aid?

Help us preserve this tradition
of equipping Christian leaders to be a catalyst
for the transformation of the church,
and through the church...
the world.



For more information, contact Lynn McClintock
at lmclintock@upsem.edu or visit our website,
www.upsem.edu/giving

Howard L. Hinman (M.Div.'76) is now serving as a staff chaplain at Presbyterian Hospice in Albuquerque, NM. He recently completed nine years of service as the director of pastoral care at Chilton Hospital in New Jersey.

Tom Tate (D.Min.'78) has been reelected to represent District Four of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and serves the board as vice-chair. He currently serves as the pastor of Plaza Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.

Richard Hamm (M.Div.'79; M.A.'80) has graduated from Hanil University and Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Jeonju, Korea with a Ph.D. in Christian Education. His dissertation is titled *"Educating the Soul: The Spiritual Disciplines as an Essential Component of Christian Education for Faith Formation."* Richard continues to live in Korea, teaching

at Hanil, serving as the director of the Asia Pacific Graduate School of Theology, and preaching weekly at WanSan Presbyterian Church in Jeonju.



John R. Elford (D.Min.'80) has been appointed pastor of University Methodist Church in Austin, TX. He previously served as pastor of St. Johns United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi, TX.

Eric Lohe (M.A.'81; D.Min.'83) is serving a two year term as the president of Westfield (IN) Chamber of Commerce. He continues to serve as pastor of CrossRoads Church at Westfield.

Edward McLeod (D.Min.'85) was a guest preacher at the "Fire up the Faith" renewal and revival at Williamsburg Presbyterian Church in Kingstree, SC. Ed is currently

serving as senior pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC.

Barbara (McClintic) Retzloff (M.A.'86) was married in October to Steve Retzloff. Barbara is currently serving as the director of discipleship and education at Pines Presbyterian Church in Houston, TX, while continuing to complete her M.Div. degree through Fuller Seminary.

Richard Hawks (M.Div.'87) is now serving as interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Eufaula, AL. He served as the 2009 Moderator of the Presbytery of East Tennessee.

William Cockrill (M.Div.'88; D.Min.'96) is now serving as interim pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Bill previously served as interim pastor at White Memorial and Hudson Memorial Presbyterian churches in

Raleigh, NC, and First Presbyterian Church in Hickory, NC.

Robert A. Bryant (M.Div.'89; Ph.D.'00) was awarded Presbyterian College's 2010 Faculty Scholarship Award. He currently serves as the associate professor of religion and chair of the department of religion and philosophy.



Leigh B Gillis (M.Div.'92) is currently serving as the associate executive presbyter for congregational vitality in Heartland Presbytery.

Barbara A. Hedin (M.Div.'94) is currently serving as interim pastor of Cypress Presbyterian Church in Cameron, NC. She previously served as interim pastor of Grove Presbyterian Church in Kenansville, NC.

Amy Merrill-Willis (M.Div.'94) and **Steven Willis** (M.Div.'95) along with their two children, Nate and Cate, have relocated to Lynchburg, VA, where Amy is serving as assistant professor of religious studies at Lynchburg College. Steve, Amy, and the children are thrilled to call Virginia home again.

James Davis (M.Div.'95) and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed home their second son, Kisung, from South Korea. Kisung is now 2½; he and brother, Jae (6), are doing very well together. James also recently wrote *In Defense of Civility: How Religion Can Unite America on Seven Moral Issues That Divide Us*.

Jennifer Dryden O'Donnell (M.A.'95) and Tim O'Donnell are happy to announce their marriage. The new family is making a home in Atlanta, GA, where Jennifer is a freelance costumer for film and television, and Tim works for CSM Bakery Supplies of North America.

Amy Busse Perkins (M.Div.'95) is currently serving in her fourth year as pastor at Canton-Scotland Presbyterian Church in Canton, MN. She is also serving as a regional coordinator for John Knox Presbytery.

Charles Aaron (Ph.D.'96) wrote a teachers' guide for the adult bible studies on Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Songs of Songs. The curriculum will be available from the United Methodist

Publishing House in the fall of 2011. Charles is currently serving as pastor of First United Methodist Church in Farmersville, TX.

M. Rick Underwood (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'97) is now serving as pastor at The Community Presbyterian Church in Lake City, CO, while continuing his D.Min. studies at Austin (TX) Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He previously served as pastor of United Presbyterian Church in Whitinsville, MA. Rick and his family are enjoying calling Colorado home.



Erica (Verdone) Mason (M.A.C.E.'01) is happy to announce her marriage to Chris Mason. Erica is now serving as the director of Christian education at the New Kent Christian Center, New Kent, VA.

Jared Wood (M.Div.'01) has recently been appointed as pastor of Vermont United Methodist Church, in Kingsport, TN. He previously served as pastor of Pisgah and Pleasant Hill United Methodist Churches in Tazewell, VA.

Rebekah Abel Lamar (M.A.C.E.'02), her husband Ashley, and their son welcomed a daughter and a sister, Ann Thomas, on December 14, 2010. Rebekah continues to her work as director of Christian education at Decatur Presbyterian

Distinguished Alumna Gay Mothershed



Union Presbyterian Seminary honored **Gay Mothershed** during the 2011 Sprunt Lectures, as The Distinguished Alumna of the year. This award recognized Mothershed's outstanding contributions as a Christian educator in the Presbyterian church. *"The joy of educational ministry centers in sharing,"* said Mothershed, *"and in enabling others to experience the same joy."*

In addition to her work in Christian education, Mothershed has provided leadership to the Presbyterian denomination, serving in a variety of roles: associate executive presbyter of Grace Presbytery, executive presbyter of the Presbytery of West Virginia, vice-moderator of the PC(USA), and Educator of the Year of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators.

"For nearly 50 years, Gay Mothershed has served the PC(USA) with integrity, intelligence, a sense of humor and a deep knowledge of the Presbyterian denomination," says Director of Alumni/ae Development, Rev. Lynn McClintock. *"We are proud to have her as one of our graduates."*

Gifts in her honor may be sent to Union Presbyterian Seminary, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, Virginia, 23227. Please indicate your gift is in honor of Gay Mothershed.

Continued on next page

Bob Buford Named Virginian of the Year

To the amazing life of the **Robert Bluford Jr.** (B.D.'50; Th.M.'54; Th.D.'57), add one more accomplishment. The one-time fighter pilot, preacher, historian, preservationist, and medical visionary was named Virginian of the Year by the Virginia Press Association at the group's annual conference in Norfolk.

Bob was honored for the humble, often selfless manner in which he has pursued nearly everything in his life.

"I'd really rather the focus not be on me," he said. "But if this increases awareness of the various causes I've supported, it's all right."

In years past, the retired Presbyterian minister's passions have included the Fan Free Clinic, which he helped found in 1968, and Civil War site preservation. Now 92, Bob is still a cause-oriented activist, with better treatment of Virginia's Native Americans and a Civil War memorial among his top pursuits.

Bluford's never-ending pursuit of something good is what prompted a former Hampden-Sydney College classmate to nominate him for the award.

"I can't think of a more giving, or more forgiving, man than Bob," said Sumpter Priddy, who suggested the nomination.

Among many other things, Bluford was a B-24 pilot in World War II, a Presbyterian pastor and campus ministry director in the southeast and a preservationist whose work helped save land around historic Polegreen Church in Hanover County, VA.

Church in Decatur, GA, where she has served since August of 2002 and continues her studies as a part-time M.Div. student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur.

Lara Gentry MacGregor (M.Div.'02) is now serving as designated pastor of Hickory

Hills (IL) Presbyterian Church. She previously served as pastor for Belspring and Old Brick Presbyterian Churches in Radford, VA.

Joan West Stewart (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'03) has been named the executive director of West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and

Workcamps, Inc. (WVMAW). As a disaster response agency in partnership with the Presbytery of West Virginia and the Synod of the Trinity, WVMAW welcomes volunteers from all over the U.S. who help rebuild homes and communities that are victims of disaster, including the disaster of poverty. Joan previously served as pastor of Montgomery (WV) Presbyterian Church.

Phillip Camp (Ph.D.'04) has been promoted to associate professor of Bible at Hazelip School of Theology at Lipscomb University in Nashville, TN. He previously served as an assistant professor of Bible.

Kevin Cartee (M.A.C.E./M.Div.'04) is now serving as the executive director of the Fellowship Camp and Conference Center in Trinity Presbytery. Kevin recently served as the director of outdoor ministries partnership between Trinity and Foothills Presbyteries in South Carolina.

Corey Ingold (D.Min.'04) is now serving as pastor for Buford Presbyterian Church on Sugar Hill, GA. Corey previously served as pastor of Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, VA.

Cheryl Carson (M.A.C.E.'06) is now serving as the leadership development and resourcing coordinator for Central Florida Presbytery. Along with serving as the resource

center coordinator, she will provide staff support to the leadership development committee and the committee on preparation for ministry.

Samuel Weddington (M.Div.'06) along with his family have traveled to Korea to serve as associate pastor of Lord's Presbyterian Church in Seoul.

Ophelia Garmon-Brown (M.Div.'08) has been named 2010 Charlotte Woman of the Year. This award is given in recognition of civic leadership and service in and beyond Charlotte. Ophelia, also a medical doctor, was ordained at Myers Park Baptist Church in March, 2011.

Mary Anne Welch (M.Div.'08) is currently serving as pastor of Great Falls (SC) Presbyterian Church.

Robert F. Chambers (M.Div.'09) has been ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and is currently serving as director of Christian education at Albemarle Road Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.

Bobbie Henley (M.Div.'09) has been commissioned as a provisional elder of the Virginia United Methodist Conference during the 2010 annual conference. Bobbie currently is serving as pastor at Craddockville United Methodist Church in Belle Haven, VA, and previously served as a chaplain resident at Carolinas Medical Center in Concord, NC.



Eleanor Moylan (B.R.E.'54), *With a Song in my Heart* (iUniverse, Inc., 2010).

Holmes Rolston III (B.D.'56), *Three Big Bands: Matter-Energy, Life, Mind* (Columbia: Columbia University Press, 2010).

Thomas L. Johnson (B.D.'64), *The Costume: New and Selected Poems* (Greenville: Ninety-Six Press, 2010).

Charles N. Davidson (M.Div.'70; Th.M.'74), *Bone Dead, and Rising: Vincent van Gogh and the Self Before God* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011).

Kenneth L. Thrasher (D.Min.'73), *With Christ Today in Paradise and Jesus Christ Is With Us* (Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2010).

John G. Cook (M.Div.'79), *Roman Attitudes toward the Christians* (Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament, 261. Tuebingen, Germany: Mohr-Siebeck, 2010).

Nancy Ferguson (M.Div.'84; M.A.'84; Ed.S.'99), *S'More Time with God* (Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2011).

William (Matt) Matthews (M.Div.'90), *Fritz & Christine and Their Very Nervous Parents* (Avenida Books, 2010).

Milondra Coleman (M.A.C.E.'01), *Ain'ta That Good News: Motivational Messages for Youth* (Henrico, VA: Kingdom Publishing Group, 2010).

Ron Lee (M.Div.'09) has been ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament, and is currently serving as stated supply at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in China Grove, NC.

James Mentzer (D.Min.'09) was appointed president of United Methodist Foundation of New England in Hampstead, N.H. Jim began this new position June 1st. He was serving as the director of planned giving for United Methodist Foundation, Inc., Garner, NC.

Joseph A. Sandoval (M.Div.'09) is now serving in his first call. He is currently pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Roanoke Rapids, NC.

Susan Sexton (M.Div.'09) was ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in August at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC. She is currently serving as pastor of Selma (NC) Presbyterian Church. Susan and her husband reside in Cary, NC.



Winfred Ahado (M.A.C.E.'10) is serving as lay minister of Presbyterian Church of Ghana Langhorst Congregation.

Jeffrey Coffey (M.Div.'10) has been ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and installed as pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Marion, NC.

Keith Cornfield (M.Div.'10) has been ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and installed as pastor at New Providence Presbyterian Church in Raphine, VA.

Denise Watkins (M.Div.'10) is now serving as the assistant director of Christian education at Salisbury Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA. She is also a certified candidate for ordained ministry in the United Methodist Church.

Jennifer Williams (M.Div.'10) was ordained on December 5, 2010 at Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church. She currently serves as a chaplain resident at Wellspan Health, York (PA) Hospital. 



Remembering Estelle Rountree McCarthy

A reception in honor of former Professor Emerita of Christian Education **Estelle Rountree McCarthy** (ATS'56) was held during the Sprunt Lectures. At left, her husband, Charley McCarthy, and President Blount unveil her portrait which is hanging in the William Smith Morton Library.

Alumni/ae Chapters Need YOU!

Union Presbyterian Seminary is supporting the development of Alumni/ae Chapters in areas across the country. These groups are primarily intended to connect alumni/ae with each other for fellowship and support. In addition, alumni/ae chapters work with the seminary to identify and recruit new students, provide a context for mentor relationships, assist with fundraising, and host continuing education opportunities. We encourage you to form a new chapter in your area. All interested alumni/ae are asked to contact Lynn McClintock, director of alumni/ae development, at lmclintock@upsem.edu.

Send Us Your News! Update Your Contact Info!

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

In Remembrance

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

Psalm 116:15

1930 —

Martha Houck Dickens (M.C.E.'35) of Salisbury, NC, died May 21, 2010. †

Susan Hill Goodwyn Rayburn (B.R.E.'35) of Charlotte, NC, died November 12, 2010. †

Joseph Graham Morrison III (B.D.'36) of Wilmington, NC, died January 26, 2011. †

Sam Nisbet Milton (B.D.'39) of Columbus, OH, died September 10, 2009. †

Carolyn Smith Ward (M.R.E.'39) of Black Mountain, NC, died April 26, 2010. †

1940 —

Marjorie Glenn Reich (M.R.E.'42) of Montreat, NC, died February 12, 2011. †

Doris K. Garlington (PSCE 1942-43) of Canoga Park, CA, died October 8, 2010. †

Helen C. Jackson (PSCE 1942-43) of Clarkton, NC, died March 23, 2011. †

Sidney Dixon Crane (B.D.'43) of Indianapolis, IN, died November 4, 2010. †

Margaret N. Harkins (B.R.E.'43) of Oklahoma City, OK, died February 12, 2011. †

Franklin Ray Riddle Jr. (B.D.'43) of Midland, TX, died March 2, 2011. †

Daniel Burke Kerr (M.Div.'45) of Clinton, NC, died February 10, 2011. †

Margaret Lambeth Hoyt (PSCE 1945-46) of McConnells, SC, died December 19, 2008. †

Carl A. Collins, Jr. (UTS 1945-47) of Daleville, VA, died January 15, 2011. †

Laura Shafer McInnes (M.R.E.'46) of Charleston, SC, died September 11, 2010. †

Jean Holmes Carrick (M.R.E.'48) of Berea, KY, died December 7, 2010. †

Ruth Rhea Landis Legard (B.R.E.'48) of Abingdon, VA, died December 26, 2010. †

Virginia Addison Martin (PSCE 1948) of Tallahassee FL, died October 2, 2009. †

DeVere Maxwell Ramsay (M.A.'48) of Germantown, TN, died December 26, 2010. †

Mary S. Rhodes (M.A.'48) of Florence, KY, died April 15, 2010. †

James Reynolds Crook (B.D.'49) of Columbus, NC, died February 9, 2011. †

Pierre Etienne (Th.M.'49) of Taize, France, died January 19, 2011. †

1950 —

Irma Lee Shepherd (M.A.'50) of Atlanta, GA, died February 27, 2010. †

Geraldine Mary "Gerry" Jones (M.A.'51) of Savannah, GA, died November 2, 2010. †

Norman Kenneth Morgan, Sr. (M.Div.'51) of Mooresville, NC, died March 25, 2011. †

Robert Glasgow Patterson, Sr. (B.D.'52) of Memphis, TN, died March 18, 2011. †

Herbert A. Miller (M.Div.'52, D.Min.'73) of Blacksburg, VA, died March 28, 2011. †

John B. Rice (M.Div.'52) of Farmville, VA, died October 24, 2010. †

Arthur Hubbard Stevens, Jr. (B.D.'52) of Norfolk, VA, died January 9, 2011. †

Robert Daniel Simmons (M.Div.'53) of Williamstown, WV, died December 23, 2010. †

Thomas Sproule (Certificate '54) of Wytheville, VA, died October 6, 2010. †

Marjorie Anne Hoffeld (M.A.'56) of Atlanta, GA, died April 24, 2010. †

Lucy Pennell Means (M.A.'56) of Lake City, FL, died September 12, 2010. †

Dorothy L. Moore (PSCE 1956-57) of Charleston, WV, died June 25, 2010. †

LeNora P. Brown (B.R.E.'57) of Fort Worth, TX, died February 7, 2011. †

George Doyle "Jeff" Heath (M.Div.'57) of Norfolk, VA, died March 3, 2011. †

James B. Crocker (UTS 1957-59) of Longview, TX, died October 28, 2010. †

Caroline Virginia Goodman (PSCE 1958-'59) of High Point, NC, died February 5, 2011. †

Perry Harvey Biddle, Jr. (B.D.'58, Th.M.'60) of Nashville, TN, died February 10, 2011. †

John McNeel Handley (M.Div.'58, Th.M.'62) of Jacksonville, FL, died March 7, 2011. †

Francis Clark "Frank" Preston (M.Div.'58) of Bristol, TN, died March 2, 2011. †

Gloria Jiene Brinkley (M.A.'59) of Otto, NC, died January 1, 2011. †

1960 ■

Jack Shaw Hudson (B.C.E.'61) of Myrtle Beach, SC, died December 19, 2010. †

Mary Thompson Sell (M.C.E.'61) of Charlotte, NC, died January 16, 2011. †

Charles Denton O'Dell (B.D.'63) of Lavonia, GA, died June 29, 2010. †

1970 ■

Kenneth Crumpton (D.Min.'73) of Henrico, VA, died September 29, 2010. †

Charles T. Olsen (D.Min.'75) of Searcy, AR, died April 5, 2010. †

1980 ■

Eleanor Joyce Rimes (D.Min.'81) of Gainesville, FL, died March 9, 2010. †

J. John Edgerton III (D.Min.'84) of Raleigh, NC, died November 15, 2010. †

Edward T. Wright (D.Min.'89) of Mechanicsville, VA, died October 31, 2010. †

1990 ■

Robert Campbell Morehouse (M.Div.'90) of Silver City, NM, died December 14, 2009. †

John Carroll Doubles (M.Div.'94) of Santee, SC, died November 12, 2010. †

2000 ■

Diane M. Guy (D.Min.'00) of Ridley Park, PA, died April 19, 2008. †

Franklin Ray Riddle Jr. (B.D.'43) of Midland, TX, died March 2, 2011. **Ray and Jane** (A.T.S.'40)

Riddle's generous gift of \$200,000 was a major contribution to the renovation of the Allen and Jeannette Early Center for Christian Education and Worship during the last campaign. They credited years of frugal living and good investing for making this possible.



"The first thing one encountered upon meeting Ray Riddle was his infectious smile and sparkling eyes which were like a window into his very being, a genuine person to be trusted," said Ed Stock (M.Div.'62). "I knew Ray from my early teenage years. He was a joy to be around whether at a youth conference, as an organizing pastor, as a presbytery executive who led by example, and as an associate pastor prior to his retirement. Supported by his wife, Jane, he was a mentor and friend to all even in retirement. His stewardship of life and commitment as a Minister of Word and Sacrament meant supporting the institutions of the Church, such as Union Presbyterian Seminary, his alma mater." †

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

This issue of Focus includes information received through April, 2011.

The Center for Ministry and Leadership Development

Calendar of Events

Workshops, Seminars, and Conferences

Shifting Styles for Shifting Sands: Leading for Adaptive Change

July 5-9, 2011

Jill Hudson and Ken McFayden

Montreat Conference Center

A Byte of the Future: A Conference on Using Technology in Worship and Education

October 18-20, 2011

Brian K. Blount, Eric Elnes, Chuck Marohnic, Adam Walker Cleaveland,
Von Clemans, Pamela Mitchell-Legg, Susan P. Wyche

Richmond campus



An Exploration of Romans

November 7-8, 2011

Paul J. Achtemeier, Professor Emeritus of Biblical Interpretation, Union Presbyterian Seminary

Interim Ministry

November 14 - 18, 2011

Gavin Meek team leader, practitioner and leader in interim ministry

Collaboration and Communication: Web Resources for Ministry

March 5-7, 2012

Ann Knox, director of the Instructional Resource Center
Leland Deeds, librarian for academic computing support

CALL THE CENTER FOR MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

804-278-4301, OR 800-229-2990 EXT. 301 FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE AND OTHER

PROGRAMS, OR VISIT LEADERSHIP CENTER AT WWW.UPSEM.EDU



The ABCs of a Good Will

Have you included
Union
Presbyterian
Seminary
in your will?

Accurate. When your will is completed and tucked away for safekeeping, you want to have the confidence that it was done accurately. A good will conforms to the legal requirements of the state in which you reside. It is prepared and signed correctly, and it fully expresses your desires regarding the disposition of your estate. It also adequately cares for such things as guardianships, trusts and trustees, business succession, final declarations, and other important matters your situation may require.

Benevolent. A good will does good. It addresses the needs of your spouse, dependents, and others who are within the circle of your responsibility. Further, it does good by providing support for those organizations that reflect your most important values and concerns. You can even endow your current gifts to Union Presbyterian Seminary through your will. A bequest of \$20,000 generates a perpetual annual gift of \$1,000 for the school; a bequest of \$40,000 brings an annual gift of \$2,000, and so forth.

Current. A good will is up-to-date. It incorporates the most recent changes in tax law and reflects changes in your own life. For example, you may no longer have minor children at home, or perhaps someone close to you has died or become dependent. You may have new grandchildren or changes may have occurred financially that have changed your estate tax status.



Find out more.

For information about wording a bequest to Union Presbyterian Seminary or about other ways to make gifts through your estate, contact Doug MacMillan, 800-229-2990, x 246 or dmacmillan@upsem.edu or Bernie Howell, 800-229-2990, x 243 or bhowell@upsem.edu. You may also find information at www.upsem.edu/giving/planned.php.



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- *Preparing students for the twenty-first century*
- *Building community begins upon admission to a degree program*
- *The first of a four-part series celebrating the Union Presbyterian Seminary Bicentennial*



7th Annual Ultimate Frisbee Tournament in Richmond, VA

Photo by Dave Swager