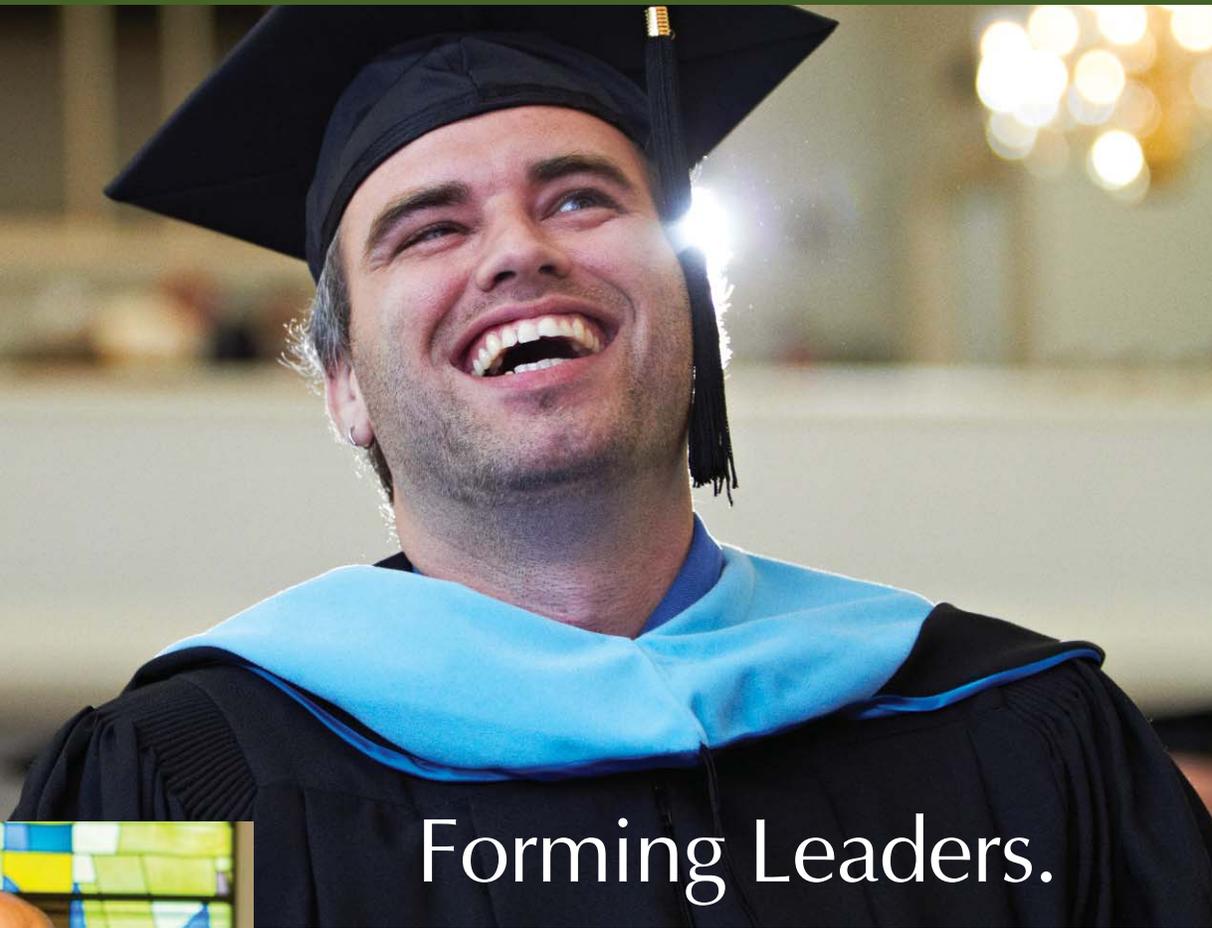


# FOCUS

The magazine of Union Presbyterian Seminary

Summer 2012



Forming Leaders.



# Vision FOR THE Future CONFERENCE



September 26 & 27, 2012 | Richmond Campus

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***We have a vision... to prepare pastors, educators, and scholars for ministry in today's Church and through the Church, the world.***



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**Forming Leaders. Transforming the Church.**

richmond, VA

charlotte, NC

*The Union Sunday teaching series is appropriate for:*  
Adult Sunday School • Bible Study Groups • Personal Bible Study

**On the Cover –** Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus, commencement was held on April 21 at Sharon Presbyterian Church. The Richmond campus commencement was held on June 2 at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church.

PHOTOS BY DAVID RAMSEY (CHARLOTTE) AND DAVE SWAGER (RICHMOND)

**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.*

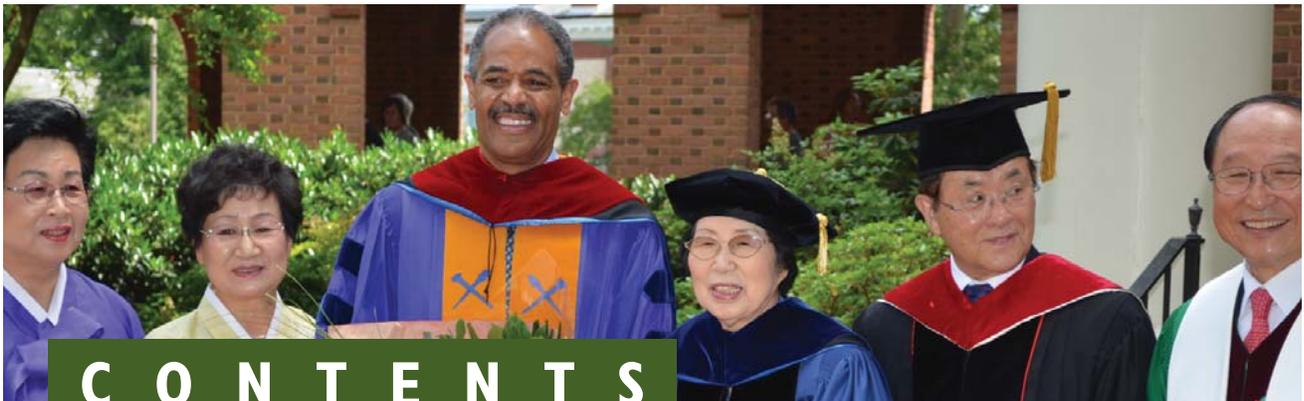


PHOTO BY ANGELO MINOR

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| <p><b>4</b> Forming Leaders<br/><i>A message from the president</i></p> <p><b>5</b> On Campus<br/><i>News and happenings</i></p> <p><b>10</b> Campus Notes</p> <p><b>14</b> Meeting the Challenge for the Future<br/><i>Professors Beverly Zink-Sawyer, Stan Skreslet, and Frances Taylor Gench unveil the new curriculum for UPSem's third century</i></p> | <p><b>20</b> The Gargoyle Speaks<br/><i>Professor Carson Brisson</i></p> <p><b>22</b> "The Removal"<br/><i>William Thompson (B.D.'61; Th.M.'62; D.Min.'92), in the third of a four-part bicentennial series, discusses the move from Hampden-Sydney to Richmond, VA.</i></p> <p><b>26</b> Alumni &amp; Alumnae Notes</p> |
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**Volume 24 Number 1**

*FOCUS is published by the Union Presbyterian Seminary Office of Advancement for alumni, alumnae, and friends of Union Presbyterian Seminary. Third-class postage paid in Richmond, Virginia. Director of Communications: Andrea Wright; Associate Director of Communications: Suzan White; Communications Coordinator: Crystal Sygeel*

Union Presbyterian Seminary uses a print vendor that is environmentally responsible to ensure that the printed product comes from environmentally responsible sources. The print vendor uses recycled papers, eco-friendly soy based inks, low and no-emission chemicals, and has a waste reduction, reuse and recycling policy.

**CORRECTION/OMISSION:** Photo on pg. 16 of *Focus* Winter 2011-12 issue is of the ATS class of 1917, not the PSCE class of 1917, as reported in *Focus*. Trustee Gary Charles is currently the pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA.



**Brian K. Blount**

Dear Friends,

For two hundred years, Union Presbyterian Seminary has been forming leaders who have, in their pastoral and education ministries, been transforming the church. In this, our bicentennial year, we took steps to do better what we have long done so well. We revised our Masters curriculum. Well, it takes more than a year to revise the structure upon which a seminary's teaching strategy is based. We started the process several years ago. We celebrated in this bicentennial year by finishing it.

The new curriculum focuses on strengthening the relationship between classroom and church. Instead of focusing on theory or discipline, the revised curriculum emphasizes roles. In considering our primary curricular goals, our faculty focused on outcomes. What kind of graduate do we want to come out of our seminary? Yes, we want someone highly skilled in biblical exegesis, literate in theological conversation, strong in homiletic presentation, practiced in pastoral care and leadership, well grounded in worship theory and practice, and solidly equipped in the work of Christian education. But we also want graduates who can apply all that they have learned in an integrated way that has meaning for their work as pastors and educators. So, we focused on three roles and now plan to orient our curriculum and classrooms around those roles: practicing theologian; congregational leader; community witness. When, for example, I teach the Gospel of Mark, I want more from my students than a mastering of the content of Mark's Gospel. I will want them to know how what they have learned will enable them to fulfill the expectations of those three roles in the life of a community of faith. I will want them to know and share how to use what they have learned in the practice of ministry leadership.

There are other significant changes to our curriculum. For example, we have added a Church in the World Component that will require students now to add course or supervised ministry work in three key areas: community service; evangelism; interfaith conversation. Future church leaders, given our multi-faith, secularizing culture, will be unable to lead effectively without such resourcing.

For two hundred years, Union Presbyterian Seminary has been excellent at forming leaders. In the very first post-bicentennial years, our aim is to do that job better.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian K. Blount, President

## ON CAMPUS

## UPSem Celebrates Bicentennial Graduation



The seminary awarded its first ever honorary degree, a Doctorate of Humane Letters, to **Dr. Yon Ok Lee** (M.C.E. '64), a tireless advocate for the ordination of women in the Presbyterian Church of Korea. Dr. Lee's life of service is a particular inspiration to the graduating class of 2012 as the seminary celebrates 200 years of equipping Christian leaders for the work of ministry in the world. Pictured above are Hee Won Kim, the 35th president of the National Korean Presbyterian Women; Ki Sook Hong, the 44th president of the National Korean Presbyterian Women; President Brian K. Blount; Dr. Yon Ok Lee; Professor Syngman Rhee; We Kun Park, moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Korea; Kyung Ja Min, the 46th and current president of the National Presbyterian Women; and Bok Ju Kwon, the 45th president of the National Presbyterian Women.



The indomitable Elsie Hackett, director of student life and UPSem staff member for 22 years, makes some final adjustments on a student's cap. Retiring this summer, it was Elsie's final "on duty" commencement exercise. We give thanks to God for Elsie's many years of service and devotion.

Union Presbyterian Seminary celebrated its 200th graduating class with ceremonies on both the Charlotte, NC, and Richmond, VA, campuses. The seminary awarded 14 Masters of Arts in Christian Education, 39 Masters of Divinity, three Masters of Theology, four Doctorates of Ministry, and six Doctorates of Philosophy.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Blumer of Sharon Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC, encouraged graduates to be wary of putting too much pride in their academic achievements: *"Today, you are not descending from Mt. Sinai to deliver the law, you are descending from your ivory tower to dwell with your kindred."* The ceremony was held at Sharon Presbyterian Church, the future site of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus.

Richmond graduates were addressed by the **Rev. Dr. Lewis Galloway** (D.Min.'77; Th.M.'79), senior pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, IN, and former member of the board of trustees. Ω

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## New Wineskins

*And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, "The old is good."*

Luke 5:37-39

Since the 1990s, Union Presbyterian Seminary has been offering courses and a way to earn a master's degree in Christian education (M.A.C.E.) through the Extended Campus Program, an initiative that combines eleven weeks of at-home study with short, intense periods of on-campus learning that occur at the end of each term. In a three-year pilot program begun in Fall 2011, the seminary is now offering an additional set of classes through a hybrid format. These courses are drawn from across the curriculum and feature online instruction, in addition to face-to-face meetings at the beginning and end of each term.

In the Fall of 2012, the following courses will be offered through the hybrid program: *Wealth and Poverty in the Bible* with Samuel L. Adams, associate professor of Old Testament; *Mission and Missionaries in Film and Fiction* with Stanley H. Skreslet, F.S. Royster Professor of Christian Missions and academic dean, Richmond campus; and *The Minister as Spiritual Guide* with Charles Brown, William B. Oglesby Professor of Pastoral Theology.

Spring 2013 courses offered will be: *Women in the Biblical World* with Frances Taylor Gench, Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation; *Women as Preachers, Prophets, and Priests* with Beverly A. Zink-Sawyer, Samuel W. Newell, Jr. Professor of Preaching and Worship;

*Visions of Ministry: Theological Reflection on the Work of the Pastor* with Thomas W. Currie, professor of theology and academic dean, Charlotte campus; and *Social Ethics and Contemporary Thought* with Katie Geneva Cannon, Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics.

On-campus instruction for Fall 2012 will take place on September 20-22 and December 6-8, 2012. The spring term 2013 on-campus class schedule will be announced at a later date.

Who may take these courses? A limited number of alumni/ae and qualifying prospective students or interested lay leaders in the church are welcome to enroll in these courses, alongside current students. Presbyterian students in non-Presbyterian seminaries may also find particular support for their vocational development in these offerings.

To enroll, contact the Admissions Office at [www.upsem.edu/admissions/](http://www.upsem.edu/admissions/) or 804-278-4339. **The Fall term application deadline is August 1, 2012. The Spring term application deadline is December 15, 2012.** Tuition for each course is \$1,280. Auditing is not allowed. Full course descriptions and more information about the faculty are available at [www.upsem.edu/academics/registrar](http://www.upsem.edu/academics/registrar) and then scroll down to "other information." Ω

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## HYBRID COURSE OFFERINGS

Just as the hybrid vehicle provides new opportunities for consumers to make the best use of the earth's natural resources, the hybrid courses provide expanded opportunities for students to balance the desire for learning with their individual schedules. Beginning this fall at Union Presbyterian Seminary, hybrid courses will be offered with a combination of online and intense on-campus classroom learning.

**Contact the Admissions Office of Union Presbyterian Seminary  
at [www.upsem.edu/admissions](http://www.upsem.edu/admissions) or 1-804-278-4339.**

**Fall term 2012 application deadline is August 1, 2012.**

**[www.upsem.edu/academics/registrar/other\\_information\\_in\\_progress/](http://www.upsem.edu/academics/registrar/other_information_in_progress/)**

## Chang Joins Faculty

**Sung Hee Chang** (M.A.C.E.'99; Ph.D. in Christian Education '09) began serving in January as director of the Asian American Ministry Center and assistant professor of Christian education.

*"We are blessed to have Dr. Chang join the Union community,"* says Syngman Rhee, former director of the Asian American Ministry Center and current special assistant to the president for global ministry and advancement. *"Her background and expertise will support our mission and vision as we seek to expand Christian education training and resources to the world."*

Since 2004, Chang served as the director of Christian education at First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, NC. She also served on the seminary's Christian education task force and was recently

invited to serve on the Certification Council for Presbyterian Church Educators. She was chair of the Christian education committee of the Presbytery of New Hope and is a member of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE).

*"It's an honor to come back to the very place where I started my academic journey of faith as a foreign student twenty years ago,"* says Chang. *"I look forward to bringing my experience of serving a local congregation, as well as my research on intercultural theological education, to my work at Union Presbyterian Seminary."* Ω



Sung Hee Chang

## UPSem Partners with Wesley and Pfeiffer University

*The University Senate of the United Methodist Church approves partnership among Wesley Theological Seminary, Pfeiffer University, and Union Presbyterian Seminary to expand seminary options for M.Div. candidates*

The University Senate of the United Methodist Church announces a new partnership among Pfeiffer University, Wesley Theological Seminary, and Union Presbyterian Seminary that will make it possible starting in Fall 2012 for United Methodist (UM) students to complete their master of divinity degree with Union Presbyterian Seminary at the Charlotte campus.

Since 2006, Wesley and Pfeiffer have helped prepare more than 100 United Methodist students for deacon ordination. Previously, those interested in pursuing a master of divinity degree beyond these studies enrolled in one of 13 United Methodist seminaries nationwide that offer full-time programs or one of the limited number of UM-approved programs offered by other denominations. Now, with the approval of Union Presbyterian Seminary Charlotte campus, United Methodist students who have completed required courses at Pfeiffer through Wesley will have the option to earn their master of divinity degree locally at Union Presbyterian Seminary with flexibility to enroll in weekday, evening, or weekend classes.

*"This collaborative effort is a welcome expression of Christian unity in the midst of a divided culture in the church and the world,"* said Thomas W. Currie,

dean of Union Presbyterian Seminary's Charlotte campus. *"Such an imaginative and creative response to the needs of the church will benefit both United Methodist students and others in providing theological training that is accessible, focused, and challenging."*

*"Pfeiffer University is pleased with the opportunity to expand its partnership with Wesley to include Union Presbyterian Seminary,"* said Tracy Espy, provost and vice president for academic affairs, Pfeiffer University. *"Pfeiffer remains committed to providing exceptional programs that support the church and those called to serve it."*

*"Wesley is delighted that its rich and productive relationship with Pfeiffer now includes Union Presbyterian Seminary,"* said Bruce C. Birch, dean emeritus and professor emeritus, Wesley Theological Seminary. *"These high-quality partners provide an especially attractive new option to United Methodists in the Charlotte area."*

UMC students continue to have the option to complete the M.Div. and M.A.C.E. in residence at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond. The addition of the approval for the Charlotte campus program strengthens and enhances the partnership between the seminary and the United Methodist Church. Ω

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## Seminary and Rhee in Partnership for Global Mission



Syngman Rhee

Union Presbyterian Seminary announces **Syngman Rhee** as special assistant to the president for global ministry and advancement. Rhee will focus primarily on mission and capital campaign endeavors, particularly as those endeavors relate to the seminary's work with Asian and Asian-American churches, both in the United States and Korea.

*"The Seminary is very fortunate to have a renowned churchman so dedicated to the mission of the church,"*

says Vice President of Advancement Richard Wong.

Rhee's new position is a continuation of service at

Union Presbyterian Seminary. Rhee first came to the seminary in 1998 as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Mission and Evangelism. As chairman of the One In Mission campaign, Rhee, along with his wife, Dr. Haesun Rhee, established the Asian American Ministry Center to assist in the education of Asian and Asian-American students, pastors, educators and laity. Rhee served as director until last year.

*"It has been my privilege to teach and serve as director of the Asian American Ministry Center for the last 13 years,"* says Rhee. *"Now it will be my privilege to work with President Blount and Vice-President of Advancement Wong to fulfill our common vision for theological education and global mission in partnership with churches in the United States and in Korea."* Ω

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## Professor Emeritus Donald G. Dawe Dies

As *Focus* prepared to go to press, we learned of the loss of a beloved professor, friend, and colleague—Donald Gilbert Dawe, Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology at Union. He joined the faculty of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond in 1969 where he remained a member of the faculty until he retired in 1996. Prior to that, he served on the faculty of Union Theological Seminary in New York and Macalester College.

To recognize the Dawes (Donald and his wife Nancy) for their commitment and dedication to the church, an endowment was established in 2005 through the Community Foundation. The Dawe

Lectures were developed and are held as an annual event for the teaching of emotional and ethical growth.

*"We were truly saddened to hear of the passing of Donald Dawe,"* said President Brian Blount. *"His love of God, stellar work at the seminary, and the legacy he left for our students will be remembered. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family."* Ω



Donald G. Dawe

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## Seminary Friend William (Will) Berry Dies

**William Willis (Bill) Berry** passed away on April 4, 2012, at the age of 79. One of the great friends and leaders of Union Presbyterian Seminary, loyally serving the school for nearly three decades, Berry served on the seminary's board of trustees from 1982 until 1997 and was chair of the board's business and finance committee during most of that time. He also served on the board's investment subcommittee from the mid-1980's until his death.

During and after his board tenure, Bill served on the executive committees for three seminary capital

campaigns, one of which is in progress. Both past campaigns which he helped lead successfully exceeded their goals.

*"Bill Berry was a very special servant leader, serving the seminary, his church, and many other organizations faithfully and effectively. The seminary will miss his calm and strong guidance, and his wise counsel. Our thoughts and prayers are with Betsy and the rest of the family in this sad time,"* President Brian Blount reflected. Ω

## 105 Years of Life and Service to the Church

**Joseph Miller Gettys**, formerly on the faculty of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, celebrated his 105th birthday on April 23.

His long and fruitful career spanned Christian education, pastoral ministry, and college teaching and administration, and in 2000 Getty was honored by the Association for Retired Ministers for “distinguished service after retirement.”

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Gettys was professor of Bible and religion at Queens College as well as founding pastor of Selwyn Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC, and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenwood, SC. A prolific author, he served on the faculty of PSCE for eight years, one as dean, before going on to serve at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, for many years.

“Dr. Joe” is one of eleven children who all grew up on a farm in York County, SC. All eleven graduated from college between 1921 and 1934 in the midst of the Great Depression.

Service is part of his family legacy. One brother was an Associate Reformed Presbyterian (ARP) missionary to India. Another minister brother was executive of a state supported home and school for underprivileged children. A sister was organist for her husband’s church for 31 years.

Both of Dr. Getty’s daughters are alums of PSCE. **Jean Gettys** (M.C.E.’65) now lives in Montreat after a lifetime of service with handicapped children. **Ann Gettys Nash** (M.A.’62), now deceased, married **David Nash** (M.Div.’63) while at seminary, and their son **David Nash, Jr.** (M.Div./M.A.’90) is also an alum. Dr. Getty’s son, Dr. Joseph M. Gettys, Jr., still serves as a diagnostic radiologist.

Married to Mary Louise Schirmer for 67 years, he has been living and serving voluntarily in the Presbyterian Home in Clinton for twenty years, continuing to garden and assist in chapel in various ways. In addition to their three children, they have a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. “Life is full. Life is fun,” even at 105 years.  $\Omega$

## Congregations Awarded for Innovative Ministries

Union Presbyterian Seminary honored six Presbyterian congregations for their innovative service in Christian education, outreach, and social concern with the annual Congregational Leadership Awards. Since 1991, 94 churches in 28 states have received Union Presbyterian Seminary Congregational Leadership Awards.

**The Elinor Curry Award** recognizes ministries of outreach and social concern that address the call of the church to “do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God” and in so doing change the congregation. This year the Elinor Curry Award was awarded to **Wythe Presbyterian Church in Hampton, VA. Clint (Thomas Clinton) Mitchell** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.’02) is the pastor of Wythe.

**The James Goodpasture Award** recognizes congregations that extend hospitality to persons with developmental disabilities, engaging them in the life of the church and thereby changing the congregation. This year the James Goodpasture Award was awarded to **Brooklyn Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, MI.**

**The Tolly Thompson Award** recognizes congregations that are creatively meeting a vital Christian education need in the church community. This year the Tolly Thompson Award was awarded to **St. James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC.**

**The Katherine Hawes Award** recognizes effective youth ministries that engage youth in all areas of the church’s mission and extends beyond the church into the community and the world. This year the Katherine Hawes Award was awarded to **Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church in Crawfordsville, IN.**

**The Al Dimmock Award** recognizes excellence and congregational involvement in the empowerment of older adults. This year the Al Dimmock Award was awarded to **First Presbyterian Church of Athens in Athens, GA.**

**The Louise McComb Award** recognizes congregations that are creatively meeting vital Christian education needs of older adults in the church community. This year the Louise McComb Award was awarded to **Trinity Presbyterian Church in Williamsport, IN.**  $\Omega$



Samuel L. Adams



E. Carson Brisson



Katie Geneva Cannon



John T. Carroll



Joe Coalter



Thomas W. Currie



Charles Davenport



Susan Fox



Paul Galbreath

**Samuel L. Adams**, assistant professor of Old Testament, was the speaker for the Duerr Lecture Series at St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston entitled “Confronting the Economic Crisis: the Biblical Witness on Wealth and Poverty.” He is finishing a book on wealth and poverty in the biblical world for Westminster John Knox Press. Adams led a Wednesday night Lenten series at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Richmond called “Death and the Afterlife in the Biblical World.” He led a workshop, “Discipleship in a Wired World,” for the UPsem bicentennial event, Seminary for A Day: Equipping Church Leaders for Ministry.

**E. Carson Brisson**, associate dean for academic programs, director of graduate studies, and associate professor of Biblical languages, spoke during Lent at Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, and at Chester Presbyterian Church, Chester, VA. Brisson led a workshop at the Seminary for A Day: Equipping Church Leaders for Ministry conference at Union Presbyterian Seminary on “Biblical Languages for Lay Persons.”

**Katie Geneva Cannon**, Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics, was the Margaret Lindquist Sorensen Lecturer, presenting “Squaring the Womanist Circle,” at Yale Divinity School, New Haven, CT. Cannon co-edited *Womanist Theological Reader* with Emilie Townes and Angela Sims for the Theological Library Series (Westminster John Knox Press, 2011). She published a chapter, “Homecoming in the

Hinterlands: Ethical Ministries of Mission in Nigeria in *Ethics That Matters*” edited by Marcia Riggs and James Logan (Fortress Pr., 2011). Essays recently published by Cannon are: “Cross-Cultural Service as Sources for Intellectual Bridge-Building” in *The Review of Faith and International Affairs* (Spring 2012), “Intellectual Faith-Practitioners: African American Theological Education in the 21st Century” in the *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center* (Spring 2012), and a book review of *Jesus, Jobs, and Justice: African American Women and Religion* by Bettye Collie Thomas for the Association for the Study of African American Life in *The Journal of African American History*.

**John T. Carroll**, Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament, taught an 8-week class on “Jesus and the Gospels” at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA, assisted by **Elizabeth Boulware Landes** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.’12). He led a workshop, “Jesus and the Gospels: From the First- to the Twenty-first Century Church,” for the bicentennial event, Seminary for A Day: Equipping Church Leaders for Ministry at UPsem.

**Joe Coalter**, library director and William B. and Mildred L. Nivison Professor of Bibliography and Research, received a \$ 1.1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to continue the work of the website “Resources for American Christianity” ([www.resourcingchristianity.org](http://www.resourcingchristianity.org)), the organization and

leadership of annual consultations of representatives from 20+ projects related to the initiatives of the religion division of the Lilly Endowment, and a portal to publicize on the web those projects and their websites.

**Thomas W. Currie**, dean of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus, and professor of theology, preached before a meeting of Foothills Presbytery and at First Presbyterian Church, Manning, SC.

**Charles Davenport**, associate director of supervised ministry and vocational planning, Charlotte campus, directed the officer training for a cluster of churches from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. He participated in the installation of **Michael Sears** (M.Div.’07) as associate pastor for youth and young adults at Waldensian Presbyterian Church in Valdese, NC.

**Susan Fox** (M.Div.’89), director of supervised ministry and vocational planning and professor of supervised ministry, spoke to the Birmingham, AL UPsem alumni/ae chapter at its first meeting on Feb. 17, 2012. She also led a workshop on mentoring and supervised ministry during the Communities of Learning training event for alumni/ae mentors.

**Paul Galbreath**, professor of worship and preaching, participated in the Roman Catholic-Reformed Dialogue and presented a paper, “Lingering in Nairobi: An Eco-Liturgical Experiment in Contextuality,” at the Ecology and Worship Seminar, of the

North American Academy of Liturgy in Montreal, Canada. Galbreath led “Dying and Rising with Christ: Sacraments, Church Unity and Faith Formation,” a seminar with N. T. Wright and a workshop on “Deepening our Baptismal Practice” at the Calvin Symposium on Worship. He preached and led a Sunday school series on ecology and worship at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA; participated in a consultation on teaching music and worship, convened by the Church Music Institute at Brite Divinity School, Ft. Worth, TX; and spoke at the pastor’s retreat for the Rehoboth Group in Shenandoah Presbyterian.

**Frances Taylor Gench** (M.Div.’82), Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation, was a keynote speaker at the Covenant Network National Conference in Durham, NC (“Progressive Presbyterians, Biblical Authority, and the Ministry of Reconciliation”). She made a keynote presentation and preached for the New Covenant Presbytery in Houston and led a two-day Leader of Leaders Event for the South Carolina presbyteries of Charleston Atlantic, Foothills, New Harmony, Providence, and Trinity on “Faithful Disagreement: Wrestling with Scripture in the Midst of Church Conflict.” She preached at the service of installation for **Rev. David Renwick** (Class of 1988) as senior pastor of The National Presbyterian Church; at First Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount, NC; and at Bethesda

Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD, where she also delivered the Grover Lecture.

**Stan Hargraves**, registrar, facilitated two workshops on social media and blogging at the James River District officers training in January.

**Ken McFayden** (D.Min.’86), dean for the Leadership Institute and professor of ministry and leadership, preached at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA, and at North Presbyterian Church, Williamsville, NY. He led many church retreats including: session retreat at Clemmons Presbyterian Church, Clemmons, NC; church officer and staff retreat at Three Chopt Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA; church officer and staff retreat at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA; session retreat at First Presbyterian Church, Winchester, VA; and a visioning retreat at North Presbyterian Church, Williamsville, NY. He led three workshops for The Blaze at Montreat Conference Center on transforming youth leaders, and a workshop on “Transforming Leaders: The Challenge of Adaptive Relationships” for the bicentennial event, Seminary for A Day: Equipping Church Leaders for Ministry, at Union Presbyterian Seminary. McFayden led a seminar on “Leading The Challenge of Leading in the Grip of an Undertow” for the education and leadership ministries commission of the National Council of Churches, Olive Branch, MS. He also co-led the Trent Symposium for

## Comprehending Mission

*The Questions, Methods, Themes, Problems, and Prospects of Missiology*

Understanding missiology to be “the systematic study of all aspects of mission,” **Stanley H. Skreslet’s** new book introduces this academic field in a comprehensive fashion. Both theological and secular studies of mission receive attention in this treatment of the field, which also describes the development of missiology over the past century. Skreslet (D.Min.’80) is the F. S. Royster Professor of Christian Missions at Union Presbyterian Seminary and academic dean on the Richmond campus.

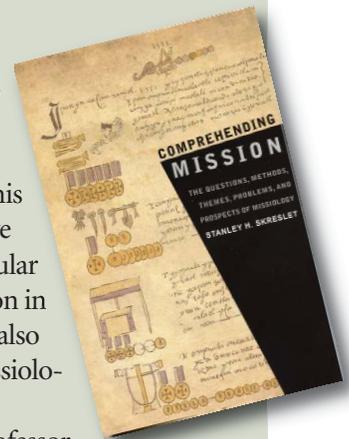
*Comprehending Mission* clarifies what is distinctive to missiology, including its characteristic questions and methods, while also exploring the many places where this research overlaps with other academic disciplines. Skreslet not only surveys the contributions of theologians and historians of mission, but also a wide range of scholarship originating in the work of anthropologists, area specialists, linguists, communication theorists, experts in the study of human organizations, and feminist scholars, among others. Catholic, Orthodox and Pentecostal perspectives are considered alongside the views of many different kinds of Protestants.



Stanley H. Skreslet

*“This book is an extraordinary achievement. It is a comprehensive guide, often, indeed, virtually an annotated index, to the whole modern literature on almost every aspect of mission studies. . . . Students and teachers of mission studies will find it a boon; and few readers, however learned, will put it down without learning things they did not know, or finding items they must read, or thinking again about things they do know, or have read,”* said Andrew F. Walls of the University of Edinburgh.

*“The renaissance of mission studies in the last twenty years begs for scholarly attention and assessment,”* adds Amos Yong of Regent University School of Divinity. *“Stanley Skreslet is a sure guide with a command of the territory. Comprehending Mission will be the standard introduction to the field of missiology for the next decade, and every student ought to begin right here.”* Ω





Frances Taylor Gench



Stan Hargraves



Ken McFayden



Syngman Rhee



Samuel K. Roberts



Mark Valeri



Karen-Marie Yust



Beverly Zink-Sawyer

Newly Ordained Ministers at Second Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA. McFayden's accomplishments include completing modules on blogs, wikis, podcasting, and designing for online learning in the Distance Education Professional Development Certification Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and publishing an article, "Stewardship of One's Self as Stewardship of One's Vocation," in the *NACBA Ledger*.

**Syngman Rhee**, special assistant to the president for global ministry and advancement and visiting professor of intercultural studies, received a honorary doctorate of divinity from the Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea during their Founders' Day celebration in recognition of Rhee's significant contributions to the global church and the world.

**Samuel K. Roberts**, Anne Borden and E. Hervev Evans Professor of Theology and Ethics, gave the Bonner Lecture at the Virginia Historical Society, entitled "When the Sun Moved: Reflections on the Reverend John Jasper in his Bicentennial Year." He led a workshop, *Urban Ministry for Today*, during the bicentennial event, *Seminary for A Day: Equipping Church Leaders for Ministry*.

**Mark Valeri**, E.T. Thompson Professor of Church History, gave a paper at the American Society of Church History annual meeting in Chicago. He gave guest lectures at National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC, Duke University Divinity School, and Washington University, St. Louis.

**Karen-Marie Yust**, associate professor of Christian education, led a "Faith 'On Demand' and Via Hulu" workshop at the Association of Presbyterian Church

Educators annual conference in Grand Rapids, MI. She preached at First Congregational Christian Church in Chesterfield, VA; taught an intergenerational class "Preparing for Lent by Going Over the Hedge" and an intergenerational workshop on the Stations of the Cross at St. John's UCC in Richmond, VA.

**Beverly Zink-Sawyer**, Samuel W. Newell, Jr. Professor of Preaching and Worship, gave the 2012 Women in Church and Ministry (WICAM) Lecture at Princeton Theological Seminary on "Divine Dreamers: Feminist Religious Imagination and the Shaping of the American Church." She taught a seminar on "Shaping the Sacred Space" with **Carol Schweitzer**, associate professor of pastoral care, for the Union Presbyterian Seminary bicentennial event, *Seminary for A Day: Equipping Church Leaders for Ministry*. Ω



Jane Rogers Vann

## Professor Vann's Book Recognized by the Academy of Parish Clergy

The Academy of Parish Clergy selected the 2011 Top Ten Books for Parish Ministry. Included was *Worship Matters: A Study for Congregations* by **Jane Rogers Vann**, Professor Emerita of Christian Education at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

In *Worship Matters*, published by Westminster John Knox Press, Dr. Vann attempts to tear down the barrier between pulpit and pew by examining the various elements of worship. Loaded with practical advice, this is an ideal volume for all who are yearning to be fully engaged in worship. Ω



# Student Shout-Outs

*Congratulations  
to all UPSem 2012 graduates!*

The Thomas Johnson Fellowship for Graduate Study was awarded to M.Div. students, **Patricia Greene** and **Jessica Cook**. The Patrick H. and Mary P. Carmichael Fellowship was awarded to M.A.C.E. student **Thandizo Yobe** and M.Div./ M.A.C.E. student **Sarah Craven**. Ph.D. student **Hyoung Seop Shin** received the William Bean Kennedy and Sara P. Little Dissertation Fellowship in Christian Education.



Charmaine Miles

**Charmaine Miles**, journalist and second year student at the Charlotte campus, received first place from the South Carolina Press Association for faith reporting in daily newspapers. Some of the stories she wrote were: a look at local residents' old versions of the King James Bible and why those Bibles were important to

them; a discussion with several local pastors about what they planned to preach to their congregations on the 10th anniversary of September 11; how prayers were lifting up a family whose youngest daughter suffers from severe medical issues; and the efforts of several local churches to rebuild a man's home in Alabama after a deadly tornado struck the area.

If you missed the Alumni/ae Reaching Out Breakfast in Richmond, you missed a real treat! *Tonal Depravity*, Union's very own a capella singing group, was the featured entertainment. *Tonal Depravity* members are **Rachel Jenkins** (M.Div.), **Daniel H. Ervin** (M.Div.), **Miriam Foltz** (M.Div.), **Allysen Schaaf** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.), **Jordan Buck** (M.Div.), **Ginna Irby** (M.Div.), **Rachel Erb** (M.Div.), **Matt Drumheller** (M.Div.'12), **Aaron Houghton** (M.Div.), **Shannon Waite** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.), and UPSem community member Grayson Privette. ☺



**Lynn McClintock**, alumni/ae development director, shares a light moment (above) with M.Div. students **Christopher Tweel** and **Cameron Thomas**. She led a travel-work trip to Haiti during spring break in March. Participating students were **Ben Behrendt** (M.Div.), **Whitney Caswell** (M.A.C.E.'12), **Rachel Erb** (M.Div.), **Richard Nimo** (M.A.C.E.'12), **Cameron Thomas** (M.Div.), and **Christopher Tweel** (M.Div.) from the Richmond campus, and **Thomas Agbemenou** (M.Div.), **British Hyrams** (M.Div./M.A.C.E), and **Kathy Sharp** (M.Div.) from the Charlotte Campus.



During Seminary Sunday, students **DeAnna Daniels** (M.Div.), **Cameron Thomas** (M.Div.), **Christopher Tweel** (M.Div.), and alum **Mihye Jang** (M.Div.'11;Th.M.'12) performed an interpretive dance of Revelation 12. Also participating was **Kathryn Sparks**, adjunct professor of liturgical dance at Wesley Theological Seminary, and **Crystal Sygeel** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'96), communications/events coordinator at Union Presbyterian Seminary. A part of the bicentennial celebrations, Seminary Sunday was a gathering of churches throughout the Richmond,VA, area.

# Theological Education for the Twenty-First Century



*“Once again, we find ourselves at an hour of destiny, an hour that corresponds with our second century of following the call of theological education... We will seek to build a new incoming class for 2012-2013 in Richmond and Charlotte... because we still believe it is vital that we educate leaders who can lead for the place and time in which the church finds itself. We will continue with curriculum revision, not just because every 50 years or so we ought to rethink how we teach, but because the changed situation in our world and church demands a change in the way we teach the people who will lead our church.”*

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These are some of the challenging words we heard from President Brian Blount in September 2011 as we began our celebration of Union Presbyterian Seminary’s two hundred years of work and witness. In his convocation sermon given on the campus of Hampden-Sydney College where our

venture in theological education began, President Blount recounted critical moments in the history of the seminary when its leaders were called to address the demands of a changing church and culture.

One of those critical moments occurred in the late 1800s when Professor Walter W. Moore and his

colleagues first conceived of the idea of moving the seminary to Richmond. Another critical moment occurred decades later in the mid-twentieth century during Benjamin Rice Lacy's presidency in a time of unprecedented church growth when there were more pulpits to fill than ministers to fill them. That, unfortunately, is not our problem today, but we are at yet another critical moment—"an hour of destiny"—as we look toward the seminary's third century. In case you hadn't noticed, this is not your father's or mother's church—not even the church many of us grew up to know and love. With declining membership and budgets, worship wars and culture clashes, today's church looks like nothing we have ever seen before. As a result, voices across the denominational and theological spectrum are calling for seminaries to take an honest look at what they teach and how they teach it in order to train effective leaders for the new world in which we find ourselves.

Part of Union Presbyterian Seminary's effort to address the present "hour of destiny" has been the preparation of a new curriculum. Changes in church and culture and educational theory along with institutional changes inspired by a new president and a new strategic plan made the time ripe for a critical look at our curriculum. A Curriculum Task Force of the faculty was established and began meeting in February 2009. For the next three years, we did a painstaking—sometimes painful!—review of our curriculum and those it has served. After several months spent reading about theological education and consulting with leaders in the field, we constructed a statement of "curricular commitments" making clear what we believe is the "signal task," as we put it, of Union Presbyterian Seminary. We asked the question, "What do we want to be about as a theological seminary in this time and place?" The answer to that question, with input from the faculty and endorsement from the board of trustees, went on to become the vision for the remainder of our work.

I refer to the many months that followed our discernment of a vision for the curriculum as "sausage making." You know what they say about making sausage: you really don't want to see the process, but the end product is great! So it was with our "making" of a new curriculum. The process was tedious and sometimes difficult as we listened and discussed, argued and pondered and—yes!—prayed. One question kept haunting us in the process: What are we preparing our students to *be* and *do* in this brave new world of the church? Our response came in the form of three "roles" that we believe our graduates will be called upon to fulfill regardless of their particular venues of ministry: "Practicing Theologian," "Congregational Leader," and "Community Witness." We then reaffirmed the many strengths of our current curriculum, but we also acknowledged areas that were weak or lacking. The result was an intentional effort toward greater integration of disciplines and more connectedness across the curriculum and with related programs. Most exciting for me is a new "Church in the World" section with distribution requirements in evangelism, community engagement, and interfaith relations, insuring that our students are equipped to do ministry in the twenty-first-century world.

The "hour of destiny" that is upon us as members of the church of Jesus Christ in this time and place calls for leaders who will blend faith, learning, and creativity in discerning new places and ways to do ministry. "In 1952," as President Blount noted in his convocation sermon, "the desperate need was for the training of more ministers; in 2011, the need is to train them differently." As Union Presbyterian Seminary begins its third century of preparing ministers and educators for the church, we are excited about the new curricular vision that pulls us forward into God's promised future. Ω

# Meeting the Challenge



## *New Curriculum to debut in Fall 2013*

Upon the recommendation of the seminary's Curriculum Task Force (CTF), the faculty in May 2012 approved a new set of requirements for the dual M.A.C.E./M.Div. degree program and so brought to a close three and a half years of intense curriculum revision work. Along the way, the CTF listened carefully, consulted widely, and thought creatively about how to strengthen the seminary's professional degree programs. Professors Beverly Zink-Sawyer and Pamela Mitchell-Legg co-chaired the task force, which included faculty members drawn from each of the seminary's five academic departments (Bible, Christian Education, History, Practical Theology, and Theology/Ethics).

### **Study and Listening**

Soon after its first meeting in February 2009, the CTF began its work together with an intense season of study. Among the data initially considered were other seminary curricula and the best new thinking about theological education and the practice of ministry. The CTF also looked carefully at our own curriculum. What are our strengths? Where are the gaps? Have our recent graduates been well prepared

for the challenges of pastoral and educational leadership in a vigorously multicultural and multi-religious world?

The CTF sought additional input from a variety of sources. Samples of alumni/ae, for example, were asked to reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of their training in the light of ministry involvements begun after seminary. Graduating seniors over two years were similarly interviewed with respect to

their learning experiences on campus and in field education. Members of the CTF met with other focus groups for extended conversations, as with the steering committee of the Rehoboth Project and the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees. Yet more information about the larger context(s) in which the seminary and its graduates must function came to the CTF by way of denominational surveys and presentations by acknowledged experts in theological education, such as Daniel Aleshire, director of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), and Barbara Wheeler, then president of Auburn Theological Seminary.

### A Place to Stand

Having listened intently to these many different viewpoints and voices, the CTF formulated and the faculty adopted a statement of “curricular commitments” that would guide the work of the Task Force going forward. This statement represented what the faculty considered to be the core values of its curricular mission.

#### *Curricular Commitments at Union Presbyterian Seminary*

*The signal task of Union Presbyterian Seminary is to prepare students for vocations centered on the interpretation, proclamation, and praxis of the Word of God. We prepare them to be theologians who equip communities of faith to participate in God’s mission in the world. Our pedagogy thus features direct engagement with formative and representative texts of the Christian community. Faculty and students work with the highest integrity from within a disciplinary framework and pursue integration with other disciplines in all areas of the seminary’s life. We encourage students to develop their own theological voices in conversation with the Reformed tradition in particular. We also set at the core of our educational mission the nurture of students’ ability and commitment to articulate the transforming power of the gospel. A crucial component of this communication is the ability to express the gospel in different cultural idioms, including the languages and discourses of an increasingly pluralistic and skeptical world.*

### From Curricular Commitments to Ministry Roles

Out of the faculty’s commitment to prepare graduates to become “theologians who equip communities of faith to participate in God’s mission in the world” came a new conceptual framework for the M.A.C.E. and M.Div. degrees, organized around three distinctive but interrelated ministry roles, described in the following terms:

**Practicing Theologians** nurture communities of faith. They receive, interpret, and pass on the inheritance of Christian tradition as expressed in the canonical Scriptures and other formative texts. They model, and enable others to engage in, disciplined reflection on the meaning of the gospel for, and its faithful enactment in, their particular time and place.

**Congregational Leaders** equip communities of faith for the praise and service of God. Informed by the theological traditions of the church and its contemporary realities, they seek to bear witness to the gospel through ministries of preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and liturgical and congregational leadership. They call individuals and congregations to hear and respond to the Word of God.

**Community Witnesses** practice ministry by participating in God’s mission in the world. In a multicultural and multi-religious world, they bear witness to Jesus Christ. In response to Christ’s call to serve the least, these witnesses seek to encourage communities of faith to proclaim the gospel, work for justice, and resist the powers of sin and evil. They do so joyfully anticipating the fullness of God’s reign.

Up to this point, the CTF had been laying down a common foundation for the renewal of the M.A.C.E. and M.Div. degrees at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Sets of competencies specific to each degree were also devised. Pastors and educators alike might be expected to become well-trained practicing theologians, congregational leaders, and community witnesses but would not necessarily fill these roles in precisely the same ways. As practicing theologians, for example, graduates of the M.Div. program “engage scripture in its original languages, interpret it in a faithful manner, and preach and teach it with integrity.” Again, to illustrate, Christian

educators as congregational leaders have a special task to “connect educational ministry to the church’s worship and sacraments.”

*“Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”* (Matthew 13:52)

A next step was to re-examine the current curriculum, in order to see how well it fit with the new program goals just adopted. Many parts of the old curriculum would be carried over into the new, since our graduates would still need to learn how to preach, teach, conduct worship, and offer pastoral care, while serving as able interpreters of scripture. In addition, the faculty had affirmed through the revision process the continued value of the classic disciplines of theological education to formation for ministry, including the study of theology, history, and ethics. Students will also continue to do supervised ministry in parish settings. Further, the faculty reaffirmed for the M.Div. degree a long-standing requirement that every graduate study Hebrew and Greek in preparation for exegetical studies. In this regard, Union Presbyterian Seminary remains one of just a few seminaries that still require both biblical languages for the M.Div. degree.

The most significant change in the curriculum came in connection with the role of Community Witness. The CTF recognized and the faculty agreed that more could be done to prepare our graduates to “bear witness to Jesus Christ in a multicultural and multi-religious world.” In response to this need, a new sector of the curriculum was constructed, designated “The Church in the World.” In the new curriculum, M.Div. and dual degree graduates will be required to take an approved elective course or participate in a specialized supervised ministry experience in each of three areas: evangelism, inter-faith relations, and community engagement (M.A.C.E. students must select one of these three foci, but may elect to earn credits in all three areas). Whether in an elective course or a supervised ministry

placement, active participation with guided reflection will be featured in this part of the curriculum.

Other changes to be introduced in the fall of 2013 include:

- UPSem will switch to a credit-hour system, in accordance with ATS guidelines.
- In the new system, 90 hours will be required for the M.Div. degree (down from 96, but still well above the median within the ATS).
- A fourth required biblical course has been added to the M.A.C.E. curriculum.
- Two courses previously required in the M.A.C.E. curriculum have been dropped, making room for more electives.
- A required course in Worship, Sacraments, and Education (EDU 127) has been added to the dual M.A.C.E./M.Div. program.
- A new advising system that stresses integration across the disciplines and between theory and practice, based on the new curriculum, will also be instituted in 2013. Other aspects of the academic program that have already been impacted by the direction taken in the new curriculum include resources developed for the Communities of Learning initiative, course evaluation forms, the training of ministry supervisors, and redesigned processes of program assessment. In time, classroom-level changes instituted by individual instructors in existing courses, plus the development of new courses, will also begin to show an increasingly broad and deep reach for the new curriculum.

Small-scale work on curriculum revision is necessarily ongoing, as new circumstances arise in the various contexts within which seminary graduates engage in ministry. In contrast, wholesale efforts to evaluate and revise an institution’s academic program take place only rarely because of the time and energy required to do such work well. With not a little relief and much gratitude to God, the faculty rejoiced in May 2012 that a new professional degrees curriculum had been made ready for Union Presbyterian Seminary’s third century. Ω

# Wrestling with the Words of Faith

*The work of practicing theologians*

The UPSem classroom is holy ground where we wrestle with biblical texts, refusing to let them go until they bless us—until we have discerned together a word in them from God.

My workshop was entitled “Desperate Housewives?: Engaging Tyrannical Texts,” and it was a joy to welcome guests onto that holy ground to wrestle with 1 Timothy 2:8-15, one of the most painful of New Testament texts for modern sensibilities—a text that exhorts women to “learn in silence, with full submission,” insists that “no woman” is “to teach or to have authority over a man,” and observes that women “will be saved by bearing children.” (So much for justification by grace through faith alone)!

What are practicing theologians to do with texts like this that present serious interpretive challenges for contemporary Christian faith and practice? Should they be repudiated? Discarded? Silenced? Or are there perhaps more effective and faithful ways of handling them?

We spent the morning wrestling together with this text, striving to engage it directly and with integrity, with the expectation that we might encounter the living God in our conversation with it. I know I was blessed by the lively participation and intelligent questions that our wonderful guests for the day brought to the UPSem classroom, and by the insights that emerged from our collective engagement with a challenging biblical text.

I hope the Seminary for a Day experience gave them a sense of what life is like in the UPSem classroom and of ways in which we are engaging the



What are practicing theologians to do with texts like this that present serious interpretive challenges for contemporary Christian faith and practice? Should they be repudiated? Discarded? Silenced?

holy work of preparing future leaders for the church. I also hope it gave them ideas and resources to take back to their own congregations, to enliven their own ministries as practicing theologians. Most of all, I hope they will think of Union Presbyterian Seminary as their partner in ministry—and that we will have an opportunity to welcome them back to campus soon for Seminary for a Day II! [Ω](#)

Frances Taylor Gench is the Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Union Presbyterian Seminary. She led a workshop, *Desperate Housewives? Engaging Tyrannical Texts*, during the bicentennial event, Seminary for A Day: Equipping Church Leaders for Ministry.



## Rain and Bread 101

It was September, the second Wednesday of the month, the first day of fall classes, and it was raining, not a gentle rain like in a poem, but a fierce deluge of icy-cold, cherry-sized legions of precipitation cascading down the wind in wave after curvilinear wave, a hurt-your-feelings kind of rain.

I thought of him as Ted. His real name was Theodore. In any case, I treated him like a Ted-type (more on that later). His last name was melodic to the ear, beautiful to the mind. It sounded as if it had traveled across several continents picking up a syllable or two from each, blending them into what could have passed for the exotic opening verse of some song about wandering.

Ted was not an enrolled student, but he wanted to “sit in” on a New Testament elective being taught by a well-known member of the seminary faculty. Ted did not drive. So he had, every few weeks since late June, been catching a ride over to the Richmond campus with friends from the small coastal town where he lived. On each visit, never arranged in advance (Ted did not have a telephone.), he’d ask me about progress toward getting permission to attend the New Testament elective. Each time I would inform him, correctly, that there had been no progress.

The reasons for no progress were, I think, three. First, I was really, really busy, nearly overwhelmed I think, with the needs of many enrolled students, and with my own large summer class. So, I had not found, or taken, the amount of time and energy needed to track down the professor whose permission for the elective Ted needed. Second, the professor was really, really busy with research and writing projects, was I hope enjoying a summer respite, and in any case was not leaving many tracks by which to be tracked down. Like some sleepy beagle, I’d try to track him for a bit now and then, and then I’d let it go. Third, I considered Theodore a Ted-type: he had I thought lots of leisure and he was not very far up on the long list of demands on my time and energy and I suspected that he had no “connections” (I was correct.) to push the issue for him. Moreover, every time he came by, he brought his own books with him in a worn, mesh haversack. We have a world-class library, I would think when I saw Ted and his burden of books. Why does he bring his own books in a worn, mesh haversack? Obviously, someone who brings his or her own books in a worn, mesh haversack to our world-class library is not worth much of my time and energy.

On this rainy, September day, Ted was aware that the class would in the afternoon be convening for its first meeting, and so was I. He was in my office to ask, yet again, about progress. I was feeling pretty good. I had tried, some. The clock had simply run out and I had that day a thousand other things to do. So, I told Ted that, alas, “our” efforts had come to naught.

Then “it” happened. Theological education occurred. It took the following incarnate form: Ted got it. There was no lightning, no thunder, just icy-cold rain drops crashing against the window of my office, but Ted got it. I saw him see that the reason there had been no progress was that I did not have to help him, and that I had not. I saw this revelation actually happen on his face as he, and his dripping worn, mesh haversack, sat three feet from me across the wilderness of my desk.

Then, “it” happened again. Theological education occurred. It took the following incarnate form: I got it. Ted smiled, not deeply but actually. “Thank you,” he said, rather simply with no “tell” in his voice. Then, without drama, he left. I sat there. There was no lightning, no thunder, just Ted’s quiet exit into the bruising rain. I realized that Ted understood that I had not helped him. I realized that he had comprehended that, while I had intended him no harm, I had equally intended him no care. I saw him see in me the absence, deliberate that is, of care, and I saw him decide that revelation was more important for me than his desire to sit in on the New Testament elective was for him.

By the time I found the professor whose class Ted wished to audit, I was soaked and cold. Without hesitation he gave permission for Ted to sit in his class. “Do you need my umbrella or my coat?” he asked me.

When I finally found Ted, he was sitting, of all places, in the reference section of our (world-class) library. His worn, mesh haversack stuffed full of books was in a small puddle by his side. His eyes were closed, but he was not

asleep. I handed him, wet with the blue ink beginning to bleed, a piece of paper with the course building, room number, and meeting time noted on it.

It will be 21 years this September since that rainy day. I never saw and I never spoke to Ted again. When I returned from teaching Hebrew class on the last day of that fall semester so long ago, there was a small, linen package tied in butcher's twine nestled against my office door. In it, I found a loaf of baked bread. The note with the bread said, "Thank you for all you did for me to be able to learn here. Theodore." When I took the loaf and the note home that evening, my wife, who is the resident counselor, artist, scientist, nutritionist, and theologian in our home, said, "You look so worn out, but you seem happy. This is lovely; it looks like barley. It will be very good. Who is Theodore? Why did he bring us bread?" Ω

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*E. Carson Brisson is associate professor of biblical languages and associate dean for academic programs.*

ON CAMPUS news continued from page 9.

## Faith Seeking Understanding

Dr. Alan Jacobs will be speaking on "Theology and Literature" during the Charlotte campus Faith Seeking Understanding event in Fall 2012. Jacobs is the Clyde S. Kilby Professor of English at Wheaton College and author of *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*.

From October 13-15, Jacobs will meet with seminary students and area pastors, as well as present a lecture open to the public. Ω



### Bicentennial Gift

The fabric art on display at the William Smith Morton Library is a gift from the Presbytery of the James to commemorate the bicentennial theme, Seminary and Church Together. It was designed by Heide Schumann and Linda Makrancy from South Plains Presbyterian Church, Keswick, VA, to represent the mountains, piedmont, and flat lands of the presbytery, as well as the passage of time that continues to give us new opportunities to love and serve the Lord. Ω



*As we continue the celebration of Union Presbyterian Seminary's Bicentennial which culminates with convocation on the Charlotte campus in September 2012, we present the third of a four-part series of articles covering various eras of our history. The following article by **William Thompson** (B.D.'61; Th.M.'62; D.Min.'92), *The Removal*, discusses the second most important event in our history after our founding in 1812. With the transition from Hampden-Sydney College (in southside Virginia) to Richmond, the entire character of the seminary changed. What had once been a rural, inward-looking, stubbornly conservative seminary became an urban, socially conscious, comparatively open-minded institution.*

*In the next and final article, **William "Bill" Sweetser** (M.Div.'89; Th.M.'90; Ph.D.'00) will address issues related to the founding of Union Presbyterian Seminary. 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.*

## The Removal Part III

The noted Scottish preacher, James Stuart Stewart, had a famous sermon about the Veil of the Temple, which he often repeated to appreciative audiences in the mid-20th century. His attention-grabbing first sentence was, "It had been hanging there for many years; it looked as if it would hang there forever."

Those words could also describe the feelings that many 19th century Presbyterian ministers in the synods of North Carolina and Virginia had for "their" Union Theological Seminary that adjoined the Hampden-Sydney College campus in Southside Virginia's Prince Edward County. Its theological library was established there by the Hanover presbytery in 1806; its theology department was funded by the synod of Virginia in 1812 as a vital part of the college's curriculum. The Rev. John H. Rice and the Virginia synod re-established the institution as a separate post-graduate school in 1824, and within two years, Rice recruited the endorsement of

the neighboring North Carolina synod, an action that resulted in the seminary's new name —“Union.” Within a half-decade Rice also raised sufficient funds from throughout the nation's east coast for faculty salaries and student scholarships, and for the construction of several handsome Federal-style buildings.

Thereafter generations of faithful ministers were proud that their seminary had stood strong and straight through the denomination's and the nation's division, warfare, and peacemaking. Following the Reconstruction era, most of these alumni and their congregations had every reason to believe that this seminary would stand there forever.

In the summer of 1883, however, a different kind of professor returned to the seminary campus. In many ways Walter W. Moore resembled his alumni peers: a native of Charlotte, NC, educated at Davidson College, a graduate of UTSVA, married to the daughter of a prominent Moravian couple from Winston-Salem; furthermore his ministerial career had begun with rural pastorates, first in North Carolina and then in Kentucky. The seminary trustees summoned Moore to teach biblical Hebrew and several Old Testament courses. In retrospect, the timing of Moore's arrival could be seen as providential, since earlier that same summer an ill, irascible, and backward-longing, Robert L. Dabney, the seminary's longtime pre-eminent professor, declared that his community's glory had permanently faded and he moved to Texas, largely out of dissatisfaction with the presence of so many black (and now voting!) citizens in his county.

Belying his own southern heritage, however, Walter Moore embraced a much larger world than Southside Virginia, e.g., in preparation for becoming the seminary's new Hebrew professor, the 25-year old Moore spent a month as a private student of the nation's most acclaimed Hebrew scholar, the 26-year old Dr. William Rainey Harper of Chicago. The month that these two men spent together forged the most transforming friendship of Moore's adult years. These new friends established a decade-long partnership in co-leading summer seminars in Hebrew instruction for pastors. No Union Seminary professor had ever traveled in as many interdenominational circles, nor had any Union Seminary professor ever had as many appreciative contacts with northern Presbyterian ministers! Furthermore, after Harper became the president of the University of Chicago in 1891, Moore's exposure to that university's unique experientially-based curriculum that was being developed by the boundary-breaking pedagogy of philosopher John Dewey, prompted Moore's own dreams about the possibilities of seminary field work.



*“You might as well consider moving the Blue Ridge Mountains to Tidewater Virginia,” was the sarcastic response of the Farmville newspaper.*

Meanwhile, throughout the decade of the 1880s and early 1890s this same Union faculty member was also being sought as a preacher in numerous eastern U.S. cities, a summer platform speaker at religious assembly grounds in such places as Lake Geneva, WI, Northfield, MA, and

Chautauqua, NY, and a candidate for seminary professorships in Chicago, Princeton, Louisville, and Austin.

Moore also was proving to be the seminary’s most effective fundraiser for several new campus buildings, but amidst those efforts he often heard criticisms about how difficult it was to travel to the isolated campus of Union Seminary, since even after several train changes delivered students to Farmville, they were still left with a two-hour carriage ride, or a one-hour horseback ride, over seven muddy miles (sarcastically termed “The Red Sea”) to Hampden-Sydney.

Thus Walter Moore and George Watts, the new (Durham, NC) chairman of the board of trustees, boldly suggested in May of 1892 that the trustees should consider moving the seminary to a city in one of the supporting synods, because a city offered readily-available train connections and many opportunities for practice-based field work. It also did not go unnoticed that when Moore made this suggestion, he was being publicly sought as a professor at both McCormick and Louisville seminaries.

“You might as well consider moving the Blue Ridge Mountains to Tidewater Virginia,” was the sarcastic response of the Farmville newspaper. Similar reactions were often repeated, especially within the presbyteries in the Virginia synod, where the greatest numbers of Union alumni were serving. However, following a three-day debate at the October 1892 meeting of the Virginia synod, Virginia’s trustees were at least given permission to consider a move (it seems to have been “a given” that the NC trustees would favor such). The president of Hampden-Sydney College, Dr. Richard McIlwaine (a Union alumnus), even “played the race card,” suggesting that if such a move occurred, the seminary trustees might rent its property for “a negro trade school,” which was exactly what the Methodists had done with their property in nearby Boydton, VA, when Randolph-Macon College was transferred to Ashland, VA, in the late 1860s. That suggestion, however, turned out to be a red herring when a college alumnus eventually purchased the seminary property for the college’s use.

The final city choices were Charlotte and Greensboro, NC, and Lynchburg and Richmond, VA. The last was selected, thanks to the fundraising efforts of a number of Richmond pastors and business leaders, led by Episcopalian Lewis Ginter’s gift of eleven acres in what was then his floundering residential real estate development. A decisive factor in that pre-automobile age was that the Richmond site had streetcar service on

both Chamberlayne Avenue and Brook Road. The construction of Spence Library, Watts Hall, Westminster Hall, and adjacent faculty houses began in 1896 and on October 8, 1898, classes opened on the new campus.

Two decades later Dr. Moore's leadership was a principal force in creating the General Assembly's Training School for Lay Workers (with classes for missionary wives, church musicians, and Christian education directors). He also helped create the nearby Mission Court that provided temporary residences for foreign missionaries during their furloughs, because Moore correctly believed that their presence would inspire more students from both schools to aspire to become missionaries.

Nearly a century later some disturbing "behind the scenes" details about this move were uncovered, viz., (1) that for many years between 1865 and 1890, the trustees' minutes had recorded heightening concerns about the presence of an African-American community that was developing adjacent to the seminary's property at Hampden-Sydney, (hence, a 19th century version of the mid-20th century racist mantra, "NIMBY," or "Not In My Back Yard"), plus the fact (2) that not only were developer Ginter and trustee Watts, respectively, the president and the secretary-treasurer of the American Tobacco Company, and close friends, Watts was also a silent business partner in Ginter's residential real estate development, whose struggles virtually disappeared once the seminary's presence was advertised as a potential force in shaping "the moral purity of the neighborhood." Perhaps this relationship should not have been that surprising, since cronyism was often an acceptable factor in Gilded Age business developments. As an aside, it should probably also be noted that the 1890s selection of Richmond as the new seminary site occurred at the height of "The Lost Cause" romanticized magnetism that attracted many people to the new statue sites in the Capital of the old Confederacy.

However, the full face of these late 19th century realities (plus the additional reality of those seminary trustees' blessedly-short-lived fascination with Queen Anne architecture!) should not deter more recent alumni/ae from being absolutely grateful for the new worlds that Walter W. Moore and his colleagues opened for hundreds of theological students at this place for over a century since then! [Ω](#)

**For more information, visit our website at [www.upsem.edu](http://www.upsem.edu).**

## Seminary History Unveiled

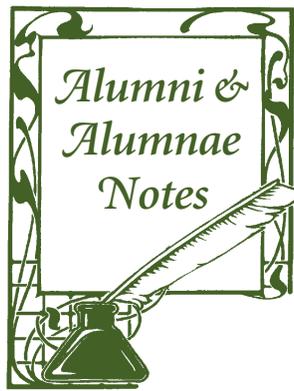
In anticipation of his new book celebrating the history of Union Presbyterian Seminary, **William "Bill" Sweetser** (M.Div.'89; Th.M.'90; Ph.D.'00) has recorded seven, 7-8 minute long podcasts about key moments in the seminary's history. The fifth podcast on "Integration" is the most recent post on the UPSem website.

These podcasts can be accessed on iTunes and from the timeline on the UPSem website. Go to [www.upsem.edu/timeline/](http://www.upsem.edu/timeline/) and wherever you see



the graphic image of the "speaker" on the timeline there is a podcast. Click the speaker and take a few moments to enjoy these wonderfully informative resources!

*A Copious Fountain: Union Presbyterian Seminary, 1812-2012* will soon be available through Westminster John Knox Press. [Ω](#)



If you have moved, changed your e-mail, or have other contact information that has recently changed, please contact Alumni/ae Development Director Lynn McClintock at [lmclintock@upsem.edu](mailto: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

Or e-mail:  
**Lynn McClintock**  
[lmclintock@upsem.edu](mailto:lmclintock@upsem.edu)

This issue of Focus includes information received through April 2, 2012.

## 1960s

**Eric Mount** (B.D.'60) serves on the advisory committee on social witness policy of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and the Justice Advocacy Commission of the Kentucky Council of Churches. His article about Kentucky author Wendell Berry, "Husbandry and Atonement: Wendell Berry as Sacramental Theologian," appeared in *The Progressive Christian*.

**Bill Branch** (M.Div.'63; S.T.M.'72; D.Min.'74) is interim pastor at Wynne (AR) Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Liz (M.C.E.'63), went to Colombia with the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Accompaniment Program. They are members of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team and deployed to Joplin, MO, last year. Both have preached and worked in Chiapas, Mexico, with the Presbytery of Arkansas' mission to the Presbytery of Lacandon.

**Douglas Vaughan** (M.Div.'63) taught and preached at several South Carolina churches in the summer and fall of 2011. On October 16, he preached for the 40th anniversary of the North Anderson (SC) Community Church (Presbyterian), where he served as organizing pastor. He and his neighbor, Dr. Charles Coker, a retired Presbyterian College profes-

sor, play the viola and piano together at the Presbyterian Community Retirement Center of Clinton, SC.

**David Garth** (M.Div.'68; Ph.D.'79) retired on April 29, 2012 from South Plains Presbyterian Church in Keswick, VA. Because of his love of small churches, David chose to serve his last pastorate in a small church. He has served churches in Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee.

**Duncan "Cam" Murchison** (B.D.'68) was named to the new volunteer position of earth stewardship theologian at Montreat (NC) Presbyterian Church. With the earth ministry team, he will help provide a biblical basis for the congregation's environmental efforts, including Bible studies and eventually mission trips.

## 1910s

**Thomas McNeill Bulla** (B.D.'11) was posthumously awarded the Virginia Distinguished Service Medal by the Virginia National Guard. A chaplain in World War I, Bulla was hit by enemy fire in 1918 while helping wounded soldiers and died two days later.

## 1940s

**Thomas Clay** (M.Div.'45) was honored with two stained-glass murals in the chapel of Richfield Retirement Community in Salem, VA, where he has been chaplain for nearly 30 years.

**Allix B. James** (Th.M.'49; Th.D.'57) was honored as a Trailblazer at the Union Presbyterian Seminary Black Alumni/ae Association's banquet in February 2012.

## 1970s

**Douglas Kanney** (M.Div.'71) began a two-year term as president of the board of visitors for Emory & Henry College in Virginia. The board members are advisors to the school's president and trustees and ambassadors for the college. Rev. Kanney is retired after 35 years as a United Methodist minister in the Virginia Conference. He is currently the visiting minister at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Christiansburg, VA, where he served from 1993 until 2004.

**Mark Conard** (Th.M.'75; Th.D.'79) was elected by the clergy of the Kansas West Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to serve, for the fifth time, as a delegate to the 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church. He will also serve as a delegate to the 2012 South Central Jurisdictional Conference in Oklahoma City, OK.

**Winford Hendrix** (D.Min.'76) gave the opening prayer for the United States Senate on March 15, 2012, having done so once before, in 1999. Winford has been pastor of Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC, since January 2011.

**Leontine T.C. Kelly** (M.Div.'76) was honored as a Trailblazer at the Union Presbyterian Seminary Black Alumni/ae Association's banquet in February 2012.

**Gloria Taylor** (M.A.'78; Ed.D.'95) was honored as a Trailblazer at the Union Presbyterian Seminary Black Alumni/ae Association's banquet in February 2012.

**John Turner** (D.Min.'78; M.A.'86) began serving as interim pastor at Tappahannock (VA) Presbyterian Church on January 1, 2012.

**Bill Caruso** (M.A.'79) retired in 2011 after 32 years as a Christian educator. He and his wife, Bekah, are active in the music program at First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, TN, where Bill was director of adult education

for 22 years. At the 2012 APCE conference (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators), Bill received a lifetime achievement award.

**George Megill** (D.Min.'79) is retired and serving as minister of visitation at Westover United Methodist Church in Raleigh, NC. He and his wife, June, were missionaries in Brazil for 28 years; they hope to return there this year after their 63rd wedding anniversary and visit some of the fifteen churches they served.



**Charles Svendsen** (D.Min.'85) is the transitional pastor for First Presbyterian Church in Portland, OR, where his Union classmate **J. Spencer Parks** (D.Min.'85) is associate pastor. Charles was previously interim pastor at Wilshire Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, CA.

**Raymond A. Bell** (M.A.'87) recently celebrated 25 years as pastor of Mount Hope Baptist Church in Spotsylvania, VA. When he arrived, the church was so small it could not pay him, but now has over 1,000 members and two services.

**Erich Thompson** (D.Min.'87) finished a suite of chancel furniture for Montreat Conference Center in 2004 and now builds baptismal fonts, processional crosses, communion tables, and pulpits for all sorts of congregations. Visit his website at [erichthompson.net](http://erichthompson.net).



**Bob Dunham** (D.Min.'75) was honored as the 2012 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year at a reception held during the annual Sprunt Lectures.

**Mary Harris Todd** (M.A.'87; M.Div.'88) led a workshop entitled "What's Right with the Small Church" at the Presbytery of the Peaks Leadership Event 2011. She has posted many resources for small church ministry on her blog *The Mustard Seed Journal* ([maryharristodd.wordpress.com](http://maryharristodd.wordpress.com)).

**Bill Cockrill** (M.Div.'88; D.Min.'96) is interim pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. He has served as interim pastor at five churches in five years.

**Marnie Miller-Gutsell** (M.Div.'89) retired from her positions as pastor of Smithfield Friends Meeting House in Woonsocket, RI, and as archivist for the New England Yearly Meeting of

Friends. She has moved to Ashland, VA, where she grew up.



**Roy A. Harrisville III**, (Ph.D.'90) is pastor of New Life Lutheran Church in Menomonie, WI, where he also serves as dean of the Wisconsin/Upper Michigan Mission District of the North American Lutheran Church.

**Jeffrey Jones** (M.Div.'90) is pastor of Harmony Presbyterian Church in Harrisville, PA. He previously served Providence and Memorial Presbyterian Churches in Nathalie, VA.

**Jane Nicholas Wesson** (M.A.'90; M.Div.'93) retired

*Continued on next page*



**William “Willie” Thompson** (B.D.’61; Th.M.’62; D.Min.’92) used humor and pathos to address the crowd gathered at the corner of Westwood Avenue and Brook Road for the Bicentennial Time Capsule Ceremony held during the Sprunt Lectures. Thompson invited guests to reflect on the seminary’s two hundred year journey by asking the same question posed to the Israelites in Joshua 4, “What do these stones mean to you?”

**Ophelia Garmon-Brown** (M.Div.’08) received the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Charlotte Award of Excellence for her leadership and community involvement, including the founding of a free medical clinic in Charlotte, extensive volunteer work in Africa, and her work in Christian ministry. Dr. Garmon-Brown is vice president of community partnerships at Novant Health.

The Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF) annually recognizes leaders in business, health, sports, arts and culture for their professional and civic excellence and their contributions to education and diversity initiatives that honor the legacy of U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall.

on June 30, 2010, as chaplain of Westminster Towers, a Presbyterian retirement community in Orlando, FL. She and her husband, Tony, live in Cocoa Beach, FL, where she enjoys supply preaching, teaching Bible studies and providing pastoral care to the pastors in Southern Brevard County.

**David T. Anderson** (Ph.D.’91) is priest in charge at St. James the Less Episcopal Church in Ashland, VA. He was previously a priest at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA.

**Daniel Griswold** (M.Div.’91) received a sabbatical grant for pastoral leaders from the Louisville Institute, a center for Christian leadership development and research. His project for sabbatical study is entitled “Calling in Counterpoint: A Musical

Exploration of Pastoral Vocation.” Daniel is pastor of Trinity Reformed Church in Rochester, NY.

**Brenda Tribbet** (M.A.’91; Ed.S.’92) was named program specialist for the committee on the uniform series church school curriculum with the National Council of Churches in September 2011. Brenda was previously director of children’s ministries and black church education at American Baptist Churches USA in Valley Forge, PA. She is also pursuing a doctor of educational ministries degree from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

**Grace Boyer** (M.A.’92) and Dr. Marc Mullinax were married on September 3, 2011. Grace is the associate presbyter for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

**George “Spike” Coleman** (M.Div.’94) is a volunteer chaplain with Coastal Crisis Chaplaincy, providing a “ministry of presence” to emergency workers and others involved in crises near Charleston, SC. Spike was named a “Rookie of the Year” after completing chaplain training. He is pastor of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Charleston.

**Michael Hoyt** (M.Div.’95) is pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC. He was previously pastor of Glenshaw Presbyterian Church, PA.

**Amy Busse Perkins** (M.Div.’95) is pastor of United Presbyterian Church in Shawnee, OK. She previously served as stated supply pastor at Canton-Scotland Presbyterian Church in Canton, MN. **Ellen Gurnon Brantley** (M.Div.’94) gave the

charge at Amy’s installation on November 6, 2011.

**Steve Willis** (M.Div.’95) is stated supply pastor at Virginia Presbyterian Church in Buchanan, VA.

**Christopher Richardson** (M.A.’99; Ed.D.’01) is director of library services at Southern Virginia University. He has worked as an instructional services librarian there since 2007.



**Patricia Jones-Turner** (M.A.’00) was honored by the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance at their 30th anniversary gala in December 2011. The Alliance named Jones-Turner as one of 30 individuals who has done significant work to end sexual and domestic violence.

**Ronald Reyburn** (M.Div.'00) is pastor of Columbian Presbyterian Church in LaFayette, NY. He previously served Briery Presbyterian Church and Meherrin Presbyterian Church in Keysville, VA.

**Donna Holder** (M.Div.'01) is pastor of Westover Hills United Methodist Church in Richmond, VA. She was previously pastor of Woodlake United Methodist Church in Midlothian, VA.

**Anita Mays** (M.A.C.E.'01; M.Div.'10; Th.M.'11) was licensed as a local licensed pastor in the United Methodist Church and appointed as a chaplain to The Hermitage in Richmond, VA.

**Bill Youmans** (D.Min.'02) is organizing pastor of Valley Presbyterian Church in Mesquite, NV. He was previously interim pastor of Riverview Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, SC.

**Joan Stewart** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'03), executive director of West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW), was featured in the May 2012 women in ministry issue of *Presbyterians Today*. WVMAW's most recent efforts have focused on recovery from March 2012 floods in Logan, WV, a community that had also flooded less than two years before. Joan was recently featured on UPSem's website's, "Alumni/ae Corner." To read more about Joan's work, visit [www.upsem.edu/alumni\\_ae/1/newsletter\\_archive/](http://www.upsem.edu/alumni_ae/1/newsletter_archive/)

**Whitney Salter Bayer** (M.Div.'06) and her husband, Daniel, had a baby girl named Adeline Marie Bayer on December 28, 2011. Whitney will begin serving as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church of New Bern, NC, in June 2012. She was previously associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury, NC.

**Jennifer Day** (M.Div.'06) was ordained as a full elder in the United Methodist Church and appointed as pastor at Noland United Methodist Church in Newport News, VA. She previously served as associate pastor at Peace United Methodist Church in Manassas, VA.

**Berry French** (M.Div.'08) is associate pastor at Black Mountain (NC) Presbyterian Church. He previously served as youth minister at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC. He and his wife, Katie, celebrated the birth of their first child, Aubry Katharine, born March 28, 2012.

**H. Leigh Holder-Bobo** (D.Min.'08) is pastor at Ogden Memorial Presbyterian Church in Chatham, NJ. She was previously pastor at Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church in Columbus, OH.

**Mike Sears** (M.Div.'08) is associate minister of youth and young adults at Waldensian Presbyterian Church in Valdese, NC. He was previously pastor of Olney Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, NC.

**Dorothee Tripodi** (M.Div.'08; Th.M.'10) was commissioned as a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church and is serving as associate director of the SMVPO (Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning Office) on the Richmond campus of Union Presbyterian Seminary.

**Ginny Groves Nambiar** (M.Div.'09) gave birth to a daughter, Grace Carolyn Nambiar, on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2011.

**Peter Thompson** (M.Div.'09) married Kathryn Barrett Patty on March 26, 2011, at First Presbyterian Church in Burlington, NC. Peter is the associate pastor at First Presbyterian for youth and college ministries.

**Faith Williams** (M.A.C.E.'09; M.Div.'11) was ordained on April 22, 2012, at Olivet Covenant Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA. She is serving in two part-time positions: as pastor at Carversville Christian Church, PA, and as a chaplain at the Wyncote, PA location of Phoebe Ministries, a retirement and nursing home.



**Peter Atkinson** (M.Div.'10) is serving as pastor at Gordonsville Presbyterian Church, VA. He was ordained there on November 13, 2011.

**Aimee Goldmeyer** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'10) was ordained and installed on January 8, 2012, as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of New London, IA, and began work on January 9.

**Herbert Jones** (M.Div.'10) was installed as vicar of the Church of Our Savior in Montpelier, VA, on December 8, 2011.

**Amelie Allen Wilmer** (M.Div.'10) was ordained on December 10, 2011, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA. She began serving as vicar at All Souls Episcopal Church in Mechanicsville, VA, on January 1, 2012. All Souls has about 100 people worshipping each week in a school and hopes to have a church building in a few years.

**Tom Winstead** (M.Div.'10) was ordained at Sardis Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC, on March 4, 2012.

**Joshua Andrzejewski** (M.Div.'11) was ordained on February 18, 2011, at Langhorne Presbyterian Church, PA. He was installed as a chaplain with United Methodist Family Services in Richmond, VA, on March 24, 2011.

**Sara Anne Berger** (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'11) was ordained on September 18, 2011, at Historic Franklin Presbyterian Church, TN. She was installed as pastor of Whitmire Presbyterian Church, SC, on October 30, 2011.

*Continued on page 31*



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

**Dr. Robert H. Ramey, Jr.** (B.D.'54; Th.M.'55; D.Min.'73), *You and Your Pastor: Fulfilling God's Mission*  
(CreateSpace, 2011).

**William E. Thompson** (B.D.'61; Th.M.'62; D.Min.'92), *Bad Friday: April 17, 1865* (Farmville, VA:  
Zebra Books, 2011).

**Thom Shuman** (D.Min.'86) contributed several prayers in *50 New Prayers from the Iona Community*  
(Glasgow, Scotland: Wild Goose Publications, 2012).

## MORTON LIBRARY BOOK TALK

July 31, 2012 6 p.m.

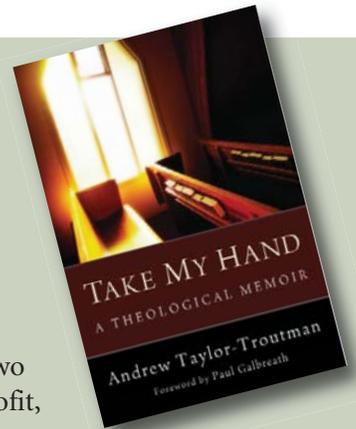
*Take My Hand: A Theological Memoir*  
Andrew Taylor-Troutman (M.Div.'09)

Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of a growing church, serves on two committees in his presbytery, was elected to the board of a local non-profit, and is involved in ongoing efforts to strengthen the PC (USA).

Where does he find time to relax, much less write?

*Take My Hand: A Theological Memoir* is an invitation to experience Taylor-Troutman's first year in parish ministry through his reflections. As part of the *Union Live* webinar series, he will talk about the spiritual discipline of writing. Rather than another chore to check off his to-do list, Taylor-Troutman will talk about the bridge that writing creates between engaged ministry and pastoral reflection. Drawing on *Take My Hand*, he will discuss how the practice of writing energizes, interprets, and inspires the rest of his professional and personal life.

Please join us on July 31, via [www.unionlive.org](http://www.unionlive.org). Ω



Continued from page 29

**Larry Cochran** (M.Div.'11) was commissioned as a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church and appointed as pastor at Belmont United Methodist Church in Richmond, VA.

**Brian Johnson** (Th.M.'11) was commissioned as a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church and appointed as associate pastor at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Fairfax, VA.

**Matt Randolph** (M.Div.'11) is pastor of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in Mebane, NC.

**Katie and Mason Todd** (both M.Div./M.A.C.E.'11) welcomed their first son, Luke Daniel Todd, on November 11, 2011. Both Mason and Katie are certified, ready to receive a call to Ministry of Word and Sacrament by Trinity Presbytery.

**Allison Unroe** (M.Div.'11) was installed as associate pastor for youth at River Road Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA, on January 15, 2012.

**Tim Ware** (M.Div.'11) started a new church, Chapel of Christ, in Shelby, NC. The first service was held on January 22, 2012.  $\Omega$

### 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](mailto:lmclintock@upsem.edu).

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



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

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



### Send Us Your News! Update Your Contact Info!

Please send to: Alumni/ae Office, Union Presbyterian Seminary, 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227 or email Lynn McClintock at [lmclintock@upsem.edu](mailto:lmclintock@upsem.edu). **Check out our new online alumni/ae directory!** Go to [www.upsem.edu/alumni\\_ae/](http://www.upsem.edu/alumni_ae/) and scroll down to the "Alumni/ae Online Directory."

# In Remembrance

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

Psalm 116:15

## 1930 —

**Paul G. Wiley** (UTS 1937-'38) of Springfield, VA, died August 20, 2011. †

**William Bond** (UTS 1937-'39) of Linthicum, MD, died June 4, 2010. †

## 1940 —

**Katherine Patton Carsow** (PSCE 1940-41) of Cedar Park, TX, died June 29, 2009. †

**Leila McGeath** (B.R.E.'41) of Austell, GA, died February 24, 2012. †

**Elizabeth "Bess" Kimbrough Donald** (PSCE 1941-42) of Ridgeland, MS, died May 21, 2005. †

**Sara Staples** (B.R.E.'42) of Anniston, AL, died February 17, 2012. †

**Evelyn Martindale Thom** (PSCE 1941-43) of Baton Rouge, LA, died April 4, 2011. †

**Catherine Murphy McKeever** (PSCE 1943-44) of Bulloch, GA, died November 3, 2009. †

**Martha Little** (B.R.E.'45) of Carnesville, GA, died October 8, 2007. †

**James Houff** (UTS 1944-46) of Champaign, IL, died November 29, 2009. †

**Maryana Huff** (PSCE 1945-46) of Johnson City, TN, died July 31, 2011. †

**Jon Crow** (B.D.'47) of Etowah, NC, died January 14, 2012. †

**Monica Jackson McGregor** (M.R.E.'47) of Easley, SC, died January 20, 2012. †

**Lewis Oliver Overstreet** (B.D.'47) of Portland, OR, died May 3, 2011. †

**Mary Josephine Jennings Sthresley** (M.A.'47) of Signal Mountain, TN, died August 17, 2008.

**Mary Rose Mitchener Wilds** (PSCE 1946-47) of Oxford, MS, died November 20, 2009. †

**Ruth King Wood Coffey** (M.R.E.'49) of Davidson, NC, died November 18, 2011. †

**Richard Hardie, Jr.** (B.D.'49; Th.M.'59) of Little Rock, AR, died November 29, 2011. †

## 1950 —

**Louisa Hall West** (M.R.E.'50) of Maplewood, NJ, died May 9, 2011. †

**Retha Darden** (M.R.E.'51) of Williston, FL, died March 24, 2008. †

**Charles Lindsey Donnell** (B.D.'51) of Black Mountain, NC, died October 20, 2011. †

**Charles Elyea** (UTS 1949-52) of Henrico, VA, died January 13, 2012. †

**Frank Riley** (UTS 1949-52) of South Boston, VA, died February 18, 2012. †

**Alice Randolph Neely McGeachy** (M.A.'52) of Brentwood, TN, died December 6, 2011. †

**Herbert Underwood** (M.Div.'52) of Burlington, NC, died November 5, 2011. †

**Billy Wilson** (B.D.'52) of Rice, VA, died November 23, 2011. †

**Jane Rasmussen Riedel** (PSCE 1952-53) of Saint Paul, MN, died December 9, 2009. †

**Olene Pleasants Book** (B.R.E.'54) of Duarte, CA, died March 12, 2012. †

**Edwin Clark Brammer** (B.D.'54) of Reidsville, NC, died March 31, 2010. †

**Marjorie Felder** (M.A.'54) of Clarkesville, GA, died January 16, 2012. †

**Margaret Ann Choate Irby** (M.R.E.'54) of Martinsville, VA, died December 17, 2011. †

**Leslie Robinson** (B.D.'54; Th.M.'56; D.Min.'73) of Palm Harbor, FL, died January 10, 2012. †

**William D. Varker** (B.D.'54) of Greensboro, NC, died November 19, 2011. †

**Harold Carder** (UTS 1955-56) of Sun City Center, FL, died February 13, 2012. †

**C. Linwood Cheshire** (Th.M.'56; D.Min.'75) of Burlington, NC, died December 15, 2011. †

**Dawn Houck** (M.A.'56) of Chicago, IL, died June 11, 2011. †

**Warren C. Brannon** (M.Div.'57) of Stoney Creek, NC, died January 10, 2012. †

**James Wallace Campbell** (M.Div.'57) of Memphis, TN, died October 1, 2009. †

**Walter Ned Hollandsworth** (B.D.'57) of Stone Mountain, GA, died August 29, 2011. †

**Elizabeth Marlette** (PSCE 1957-58) of Hayneville, AL, died March 13, 2011. †

**Richard Newkirk** (M.Div.'58; M.A.'73) of Gainesville, GA, died August 21, 2011. †

**Catherine Rogers** (B.R.E.'58) of Jacksonville, FL, died July 26, 2011. †

**Sue Fain Vondracek** (M.A.'59) of Jacksonville, AL, died January 5, 2012. †

**1960 ■**

**Hans G. Engler** (Th.M.'60; Th.D.'67) of Due West, SC, died November 11, 2011. †

**Lawrence Haygood** (B.D.'60) of Tuskegee, AL, died October 19, 2010. †

**Elizabeth Ruth Lollar Weaver** (M.A.'60) of Oceanside, CA, died February 26, 2011. †

**Eric McQuitty** (UTS 1958-61) of Shreveport, LA, died October 26, 2009. †

**Nancy Jean Close Vanture** (PSCE 1960-61) of Helena, AL, died July 25, 2011. †

**William Young, Jr.** (B.D.'61; D.Min.'73) of Richmond, KY, died February 28, 2012. †

**Martha Lloyd** (M.C.E.'62) of Binghamton, NY, died November 19, 2009. †

**William A. Stewart** (B.D.'62) of Carthage, NC, died November 28, 2011. †

**Kaman "Jack" Masters** (M.C.E.'63) of Banner Elk, NC, died February 29, 2012. †

**Roy Wyatt** (UTS 1962-63) of Knoxville, TN, died April 6, 2010. †

**Gene Canestrari** (Th.M.'64) of Johnson City, TN, died March 12, 2012. †

**Susan Egnew** (M.A.'64) of Metairie, LA, died June 11, 2010. †

**James Guthrie, Jr.** (M.Div.'64; D.Min.'73) of Harrisonburg, VA, died January 10, 2012. †

**Evelyn Murdoch** (PSCE 1963-64) of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, died November 1, 2010. †

**Helen Largent Baker** (PSCE 1964-'65) of Nashville, TN, died June 21, 2008. †

**Joseph Hertzler** (UTS 1964-66) of Goshen, IN, died April 15, 2008. †

**Suzanne Heath Manges** (PSCE 1965-66) of Denver, CO, died October 16, 2008. †

**Juanita Jones Reiter** (M.C.E.'66) of Easley, SC, died December 25, 2010. †

**Lois Althea Tupper** (PSCE 1965-66) of Dundas, Ontario, Canada, died July 5, 2010. †

**Claudia Fleming** (M.C.E.'67) of Woodleaf, NC, died March 4, 2007. †

**David Peters** (B.C.E.'68; M.C.E.'71) of Henrico, VA, died February 15, 2012. †

**Louise Wells** (B.C.E.'68) of Richmond, VA, died January 2, 2012. †

**Harvey Musser** (M.C.E.'69) of Richmond, KY, died January 15, 2011. †

**1970 ■**

**Michael Brannock** (UTS 1969-70) of Asheville, NC, died October 12, 2007. †

**James Robert "Bob" Brown** (M.A.'70) of Colorado Springs, CO, died November 25, 2010. †

**Gregory "Benny" Key** (UTS 1971-72) of Kenova, WV, died March 25, 2011. †

**Neil Jerome "Jerry" Armstrong** (M.A.'75) of New London, NC, died September 25, 2011. †

**George B. Harris III** (D.Min.'77) of Marietta, OH, died September 21, 2011. †

**1980 ■**

**Suzanne Meyer** (UTS 1979-80) of Cheyenne, WY, died January 23, 2010. †

**Martha Jane Raedels** (D.Min.'82) of Holden Beach, NC, died March 25, 2012. †

**Carol King Robertson** (M.A.'85) of Staunton, VA, died October 12, 2011. †

**1990 ■**

**Geraldine Lois Nack** (M.A.'90) of Costa Mesa, CA, died December 24, 2011. †

**Addison "Bud" Headley** (M.A.'94) of Mechanicsville, VA, died April 9, 2010. †

**REMEMBERING FACULTY, STAFF, AND FRIENDS**

**Malcolm McIver** (Dean of faculty, 1959-81) of Wilmington, NC, died November 4, 2011. †

**George Telford** (Director of the Institute for Reformed Theology, 2003-06) of Charlottesville, VA, died February 28, 2011. †

**Catherine Thompson Sugg**, formerly Catherine Slay (Circulation librarian, 1962-72) of Chatham, VA, died February 17, 2012. †

***When you learn of the death of an alumnus or alumna of Union Presbyterian Seminary, please inform the Alumni Office. Call 1-804-278-4382 or email [lmcclintock@upsem.edu](mailto:lmcclintock@upsem.edu).***

*This issue of Focus includes information received through April 2, 2012.*

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Multiple leaders

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## **The Value of the Small Church**

Marilyn Johns, director of program development for the Leadership Institute

October 8, 2012

## **GREAT SPEAKERS SERIES: The State of Our Religious Union**

David Campbell, author of *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* and professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame

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## **FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING, CHARLOTTE CAMPUS: Theology and Literature**

Alan Jacobs, the Clyde S. Kilby Professor of English at Wheaton College and author of *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*

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L. Gregory Jones, professor of theology and senior strategist for leadership education at Duke Divinity School

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Ken McFayden, professor of ministry and leadership development and dean of the Leadership Institute

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Jooseob Lee, director of the Institute of Biblical Geography and assistant professor of historical geography at Georgia Christian University

October 29-31, 2012

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