



Dear Friends,

Can you believe that we have turned the page of the calendar once again and that today we welcome 2008? The older we get the more quickly the years seem to fly. As one year ends and another begins, I find myself thinking about the powerful significance of endings and beginnings in our lives.

Just two weeks ago, one of our beloved retired faculty members died after a struggle with leukemia. Eberhard von Waldow served as a professor of Old Testament at the Seminary from 1966 until his retirement in 1993. He was 84 years old. He will be remembered by generations of students for his strong, decisive lecture style and his famous riding crop or stick, which I'm sure awakened more than one sleepy student over the years! We give thanks to God for his life and for the life that he now knows through his faith in Jesus Christ.

Even while our community marks the ending of this life, we have been blessed with several new lives. Three of our professors welcomed new grandchildren over the past few weeks. Scott Sunquist (World Mission and Evangelism) welcomed Isaiah Thomas Lomelino, son of his daughter Bethany and her husband Josh. Ron Cole-Turner, (Theology and Ethics) welcomed Bernard (Ben) James Vincent, son of his daughter Sarah and her husband Hal. Edith Humphrey (New Testament) was doubly blessed as she welcomed Rachael Lauren Tiel to her daughter Alexandra and her husband Brian, along with Katherine Eva Burnett, to her daughter Meredith and her husband Josh. We have heard from several alumnae/i who have also welcomed new babies recently and two of our staff members are expecting their first children in the coming months. We give thanks to God for these many signs of new life and hope.

The year now behind us was full of much joy and excitement along with some sorrow and pain. Through all of those times, God has sustained us and provided us with deep and abiding joy that carries us through even the darkest hour. As we begin a new year how can we help but be full of hope? As 2008 begins this day, let us continue to place our faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, trusting as always in the promises of God which do not fade, season after season, year after year.

May God's blessings be with you and yours this year,

William J. Carl III, President

This Month

- Seminary Hosts Visit Event Jan. 5
- Four Part Lecture Explores Violence in the Bible
- Annual Kelso Lecture Honors Martin Luther King Jr.

Important Links

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Seminary Hosts Visit Event Jan. 5

The Seminary will host an Epiphany Event, a day of exploration for prospective students Sat., Jan. 5 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Throughout the day, participants will explore ministry and Pittsburgh Seminary's unique resources in fieldwork, urban issues, archeology, dual degree programs, and more. This daylong event features faculty-led workshops, tours of campus, information from admissions and financial aid officers, and fellowship opportunities with current students. Reservations are required. Contact the Admissions Office at 1-800-451-4194, e-mail admissions@pts.edu or visit <http://www.pts.edu/visit/> to reserve your spot at this free event. Overnight accommodations are available for those traveling from a distance.

Four Part Lecture Explores Violence in the Bible

The Rev. Dr. Jerome Creach, Robert C. Holland professor of Old Testament at PTS, will lead the four-part lectures in the series "Violence in the Bible," Wed., Jan. 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. With Internet technology at the Seminary, participants at three locations will receive live feed of the broadcast from PTS. Satellite locations include Vance Presbyterian Church, Wheeling, W.Va.; First Presbyterian Church, Bakerstown, Pa.; and Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers, Fla. Interested laypersons and clergy of all denominations are invited to explore the portrayal of violence in the Bible with particular attention to the theological and ethical implications of that portrayal. The lectures will provide ways of reading texts that seem to promote violence, so that these texts may be read as Christian scripture, as complementary and perhaps even in harmony with the teachings of Jesus.

Registration fee is \$60 on campus and \$45 off campus. Continuing Education units are available and certificates upon request. Congregation members of the hosting churches should register at the church. All others should register with the Office of Continuing Education at PTS by calling 412-441-3304 ext. 2196 or e-mailing ConEd@pts.edu. Visit [http://www.pts.edu/CE Violence in Bible Brochure.pdf](http://www.pts.edu/CE%20Violence%20in%20Bible%20Brochure.pdf) for complete details.

Annual Kelso Lecture Honors Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Fred D. Smith Jr., associate professor of urban ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary, will be on campus Mon., Jan. 28 as part of the annual Kelso Lecture in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. The lecture is free and open to the public. Smith will speak at 7:00 p.m. on "Prophets of the Beloved Community in Babylon!" The Bidwell Church Choir, under the direction of Leonard Johnson, will also perform. Before beginning at Wesley Theological Seminary, Smith was pastor of fellowship at United Methodist Church in Ambridge, Pa., and associate professor of Christian education and youth ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

For more information about this event, contact the Office of Continuing Education at 412-441-3304 ext. 2196, ConEd@pts.edu or visit http://www.pts.edu/CE_kelso_2008.pdf.

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