Life-Long Learning

Learning for a Lifetime
Convocation
New Programs
On a dynamic and challenging global stage
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary plays its part in
God’s redemption of the world through Jesus Christ
By preparing leaders who proclaim with great joy
God’s message of good news in both word and deed!

Life-long learners who continue seeking wisdom and
modeling the faith knowing that the front line of ministry
is not the church building but wherever the people live, work,
study and play “glorifying God and enjoying God forever”.

To view the full mission and vision statements,
visit www.pts.edu/aboutus.

Throughout this issue of Panorama you’ll
notice the arrow symbol at the end of various
articles. This symbol indicates that more
information is available online regarding the
topic. Please visit the Seminary’s website at
www.pts.edu to learn more.
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Dear Friends,

In this issue of Panorama we turn our attention to the fourth of seven bullet points in the Seminary’s vision statement. At PTS, we strive to prepare “Life-long learners who continue seeking wisdom and modeling the faith knowing that the front line of ministry is not the church building but wherever the people live, work, study, and play ‘glorifying God and enjoying God forever’.”

It has never been more important for pastors to be life-long learners. In order for our graduates to understand that the front line of ministry is where God’s people live, work, study, and play, it is critical for them to immerse themselves continually in the study of Bible, theology, spirituality, and worship, along with the realities of our contemporary culture.

Because our world is changing so rapidly, only a commitment to life-long learning will prepare us for the new realities in which we live. Pastors in particular need to continue learning in order to apply the foundational lessons learned in seminary to the society’s ever-changing needs. Laity need to keep growing in their knowledge of Scripture and theology in order to fulfill their true calling—the purpose God has given them for living.

Because the front line of ministry is where lay people live and work, our graduates see themselves as ‘pastor-theologians’ equipping the ‘saints’ for their ministry. In my lecturing on the brain at medical schools and medical conferences around the country, I always point out the need to keep our brains active and keep those neurons bouncing. In fact, in my church in Dallas, we had six years of beginning Greek classes for laity. I always advertised it as “Delay Alzheimer’s and Dementia—take Greek!” and lots of people of all ages came out of the woodwork from all over the city to learn this ancient language.

At Pittsburgh Seminary we have more and more people taking Continuing Education courses in Bible, spirituality, theology, and church history. And many, including my wife, Jane, are actually auditing courses with the Seminary students. Now, she’s asking me questions about Luther, Calvin, Kierkegaard, and Schleiermacher and really enjoying it! You can, too.

We hope that the years spent in seminary at Pittsburgh leaves our graduates hungry for more and eager to return to participate in the many programs and resources that are available. Every year nearly 2,000 people come to campus or participate via satellite in a wide variety of opportunities. Whether you are clergy or laity, you will find programs here that will both challenge and inspire.

As we continue learning and growing together, we will know the joy of “glorifying and enjoying God forever!”

In Christ,

[Signature]

The Rev. Dr. William J. Carl III
President and Professor of Homiletics
Life-Long Learning

It has been at least two years since a PTS student told me, “You should join Facebook. More and more students are on there. It would be a good way to stay in touch.” Curious, I checked out the online social networking site, which at that time was primarily inhabited by college-age people. Thinking that I was a little old for such a thing, I spent my first year or so on Facebook lying low.

Every couple of months I would check my high school and college class listings to see who else had joined the “community.” In time, I started to witness an explosion of sorts as more and more mid-lifers like me joined the Facebook bandwagon. My observations prove correct. Facebook itself has announced that the number of users over 35 doubles almost every 60 days. Its fastest growing demographic is people over age 55. With 175 million users around the world, if Facebook was a country it would be the sixth largest one in the world. And it’s not done growing yet. Yes, to the chagrin of my teenage children, Facebook isn’t just for kids anymore.

While some life-long learning is formal and organized, other life-long learning takes place when old friends get together to share life’s joys and challenges, new ideas and old reflections, lessons learned along the way. Thanks to Facebook, I have reconnected with old friends from many phases in my life: high school friends, college friends, fellow Pittsburgh Seminary graduates. Not long ago I shared a wonderful weekend with two of my dearest friends from college, after nearly 25 years of never hearing a word from one another! For me, Facebook has made the world a little bigger and a little smaller all at the same time, and I have learned much from my connections there.

If you are already using Facebook, we hope that you will use this tool to keep in touch with what is going on at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Become a fan by signing up for our fan page. While signed in to Facebook, search “Pittsburgh Theological Seminary”. Click the “Pages” tab and be our friend! If you are a graduate, add PTS as one of your networks of affiliation by updating your profile. And for those who have ventured into the deep end of social networking sites, you can follow our tweets on Twitter at www.twitter.com. (Don’t know about Twitter? Ask your favorite 20 year old!) Search for “pghseminary”.

As with all things technology, Facebook is this week’s “hot idea” and by next week enthusiasm is sure to fade. We realize that. For now, however, it provides us with a wonderful (and free) tool to stay connected with people who care about PTS. Besides that, as old seminarians, we’ll be lagging behind the young folks a bit anyway. For that, my kids will be grateful.

The Rev. Lisa M. Dormire ’86
Vice President for Seminary Relations
Continuing Education at Pittsburgh Seminary covers a broad range of areas. But what is “continuing education,” really? Personally, I am attracted to the phrase “life-long learning” as a descriptive term. This phrase has become popular in the last 15 years or so. For me, “life-long learning” captures the essence of what continuing education is all about. You’ll note that the phrase is also used in our vision statement: we strive to foster “life-long learners who continue seeking wisdom and modeling the faith.”

All terms have their limitations, of course, but the beauty of the phrase “life-long learning” is that it points to the possibility of growth for either professional or enrichment aims, or both. Aristotle once defined a human being as a “rational animal.” For purposes of these reflections, I will play off that description to suggest that humans are “learning animals.” There appears to be an inquisitive impulse in each of us.
This is most obvious in children. Probably all of us have marveled at the curiosity a child displays about a truck driving by, a dog playing in a field, or an ant climbing up a wall. Once they (and we!) are grown, that curiosity seems to diminish somewhat. As people like to say, it’s amazing the things little children notice in a setting that adults find commonplace. Nevertheless, even if our curiosity is on mute, so to speak, we still want to learn and to understand.

Obviously, we don’t all want to learn and understand the same things. Some of us learn to cook Italian cuisine; others take handcraft classes. Still others study business or market trends (a fearsome roller coaster ride, as I write this!). Spend an hour browsing at Barnes & Nobles, or Borders, and you will be amazed at the numbers of different topics filling the shelves. Not the least are all those books on religion—spirituality, Bible study, church history, and world religions, for instance.

Even when we complain that our culture of mass entertainment dulls our senses and makes us spectators on life, people continue to buy magazines, to read books, to take up hobbies, and generally to search out information on things that interest them. In other words, curiosity to know and learn is basic to us. As humans, we are programmed to grow, and growth by nature involves learning.

You may be aware that general education for adults began to develop only in the latter half of the 19th century. Over the next century or so, Chautauqua and similar institutes, extension courses, land grant universities, and other educational initiatives for adults made up various loosely organized threads of what came to be called the “adult education movement.” Much of the emphasis in this movement centered on basic literacy and vocational training, but over time initiatives for more general enrichment—art education, parent training, etc.—gradually gained traction.

In the second half of the 20th century these trends increased in momentum. With the advent of increasing leisure time and more discretionary income, along with easier opportunities for travel and greater access to a widening field of information sources, more and more adults began to take advantage of occasions to learn. In the last 50 years, these learning opportunities have proliferated to the point that the only barriers for an adult to learn more about almost anything they might want are time, energy, and cost.

Now what does this have to do with Continuing Education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary? Just this: along with many other institutions, the Seminary has realized that part of its on-going task is to provide further opportunities for learning beyond the primary M.Div. curriculum. This general task has two sides to it.

First, and primarily, “life-long learning” focuses on offering educational and training opportunities to clergy in order to enable them to be more effective in their practice of ministry. Just as in other professions—medicine, psychology, social work, law, and the like—religious educators have come to appreciate the fact that when newly minted pastors go out into the field they are just at the beginning of what
they will need to learn for effectual ministry. Of course, presbyteries, conferences, and other denominational judicatories can develop programs to help equip their pastors, but the Seminary is the most logical location to situate consistent further education. The name traditionally given to this training is “continuing education.”

Second, “life-long learning” has gradually come to embrace enrichment and training for laypersons and leaders in our congregations. Once again, some training for laypersons can be provided by the congregations themselves, or by their presbyteries or conferences, but the Seminary is a particularly good place to locate workshops and classes that will enable laypersons to grow in their faith and/or to become better trained for their own ministries in their congregations.

As you may imagine, attempting to accomplish these two broad tasks can create a complex mix of offerings and audiences. Many classes in Continuing Education are directed to both clergy and laity and must be taught with both in mind. In other cases, courses are designed specifically for laypersons. Then the theme is addressed at a more basic level than if it were aimed at pastors. In still other cases, courses are intended for pastors, and a layperson who ventures into the class will likely find the level somewhat too high and the language a bit too esoteric.

Nearly 50 continuing education opportunities are offered annually at PTS making it a major arm of Seminary education these days. But, it was not always so. Just 70 years ago, there was no such thing as a “Department of Continuing Education” at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

That began to change in 1942. In that year, Hugh Thompson Kerr, pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church, and James Rea, an elder and trustee of the congregation, set out to design a program for pastors in small Presbyterian churches across Pennsylvania. They reasoned that most ministers, working with little support—and often even less income—deserved an opportunity to get away for a week for learning, worship, fellowship, and relaxation. From this concern the Summer School of Religion was born.

For 66 years now, the Summer School of Religion has continued due to strong financial support provided by a local foundation. The event has of course changed over the years. At the beginning of this decade, it gained a new name, the “Summer Leadership Conference.” In a much busier world, the “week away” has been reduced to three very full days. More significantly, the Conference now invites not only pastors, but also laypersons, to attend. In addition, the doors are now open to welcome all denominations to participate.

This Conference, which has such a venerable history, marks effectively the beginning of Continuing Education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Both on this campus, and at most other schools around the country, “continuing education” has become an established concept in the intervening years.

It was nearly a quarter century later that the next step occurred. In 1966, the Seminary founded an annual series of lectures honoring David Schaff, son of church historian Philip Schaff. Each year, this lectureship brought an outstanding scholar to speak on a topic in one of the areas taught at the Seminary, such as New Testament, theology, Christian education, or ethics. Because the honoree of the lectures, David Schaff, was for many years the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, Ohio, the Schaff Lecturer was asked to spend a day speaking in Youngstown too.

This pattern has continued to the present. It is worth noting, therefore, that the Schaff Lectureship can be considered the Seminary’s first attempt to carry education beyond the campus. Continuing Education became a formalized program a few years later, in 1979, when the Seminary hired its first director of Continuing Education. Richard Rapp, in fact, directed both Continuing Education and the growing Doctor of Ministry program. Over the decades since then, the program has continued to develop—gradually, to be sure, but consistently also.

Learning experiences that are now part of the package of offerings in Continuing Education include:

- Additional lectureships—the McClure Lectures in World Mission, the Kelso Lecture in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., the Henderson Conference on Church and Ministry, the Albright-Deering Lectureship in Methodist Studies, and the annual lectures in archaeology sponsored by the Bible Lands Museum.

- Workshops and seminars offered by Seminary professors in their areas of expertise and interest.

- Classes for pastors on various pastoral and theological topics.

- An extensive course of studies for Commissioned Lay Pastors offered in cooperation with the presbyteries in southwestern Pennsylvania.

- A comprehensive certificate program in Spiritual Formation offered in collaboration with Columbia Theological Seminary and, at various times, with other schools.

- An Interim Ministry training program in cooperation with the Synod of the Trinity.
Courses for church educators: the annual Teacher Training Workshop, semi-annual Journey Inward / Outward workshops, and certification courses for educators.

Courses providing continuing professional education for psychologists and social workers.

On-campus classes broadcast live via the Internet to distant sites.

It is a challenge to design courses in Continuing Education that meet all these varied needs. This challenge is also exciting, of course, because the range of topics is consistently broad and stimulating. Naturally, too, there is always something new that could be developed, and our department is always in the process of envisioning and thinking through additional program topics and methods of learning. It will take you no time to guess that, with a strategic planning process underway at the Seminary, there is a lot of that sort of envisioning going on at the moment.

As we imagine expansion and reorientation possibilities for life-long learning programs in Continuing Education, a few things are currently under discussion. Some themes that are particularly prominent are the following:

- **Peer-learning groups.** One of the recent directions adult education has been taking is the development of groups of people who wish to take responsibility for their own learning: the topic, the approach, the content, the timeframe – in short, all aspects of their study. Such groups have often formed on their own. A number of pastors, for instance, might agree to meet regularly for discussion of a specific topic, and the group might continue meeting for years. Such groups also tend to function effectively because of their commitment to one another and the community that grows within the group over time. One of our questions now in Continuing Education, therefore, is whether we should seek to foster such self-guided groups, as another way to make learning more effective.

- **Web-based courses.** Here on campus, we are already streaming some of our courses across the Internet to distant sites. Our technology permits three other sites to watch a video broadcast of a course taught on campus. The connections are live, with the result that people at distant sites can participate in real-time with the speaker. This use of technology will undoubtedly be used more and more as time goes on. In addition, we are in the early stages of video recording speakers and placing their presentations on our website, available to anyone around the world as a web-based audio broadcast. We will also be talking about how we might build educational programs around these materials.

- **On-line learning.** We have already been experimenting with distance learning over the Internet as part of our Commissioned Lay Pastor training program. Many courses need to be taught in a face-to-face setting; however, when used in the appropriate settings, on-line classes can deliver course content in a highly effective and efficient manner. One of the advantages, obviously, is that geography is not a factor: class members can participate from their homes, and they can reside in any part of the country, or in any country anywhere in the world. I expect that distance learning will become a major part of Continuing Education in the not-too-distant future.

- **Theology and science focus.** You may have noticed that some of the Continuing Education offerings over the past year have considered themes connected to the relation of science and theology. The variety of topics is large, ranging from cosmology to neuroscience, to bio-evolutionary theory, to medical ethics and technology. Nearly two years ago, I became part of a small team working on ways to introduce this theme of science and theology to our Seminary educational endeavors. We are looking at ways to integrate this theme into our M.Div. coursework, and the Doctor of Ministry program will be introducing a new track emphasizing theology and science this fall. (See page 17 for more details). You can expect to see increasing programming on this theme in Continuing Education too.

As you can see, the Seminary continues to develop a broad array of initiatives in Continuing Education. I said earlier that “life-long learning” aims at providing both personal enrichment and professional training for both pastors and laypersons. It is our hope that more and more people will take advantage of these opportunities in order to (borrowing the words of our vision statement) “continue seeking wisdom and modeling the faith.”

If you have not yet participated in a Continuing Education event, I encourage you to come sample our offerings. You will find a complete list of events at [www.pts.edu/continuing-education](http://www.pts.edu/continuing-education). If you have participated, I hope we will see you back on campus again soon!
The Rev. George E. Tutwiler, instructor in church music and United Methodist Studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for the last 28 years, is the poster child for life-long learning – though child might be a misnomer. Well into both his Seminary tenure and boasting a considerable pastoral career, Tutwiler does not necessarily look like a child, but in the classroom he brings all the vigor, interest, and curiosity of a preschooler’s first experimentations with Play-Do.

During both his pastoral and professorial career, Tutwiler has participated regularly in continuing education classes, beginning during the 1960s when he studied under Donald G. Miller at PTS and continuing through most recently when he audited Professor of Church History John Wilson’s American religious history class during this past school year.

All told, Tutwiler has participated in or led dozens of courses ranging from Old and New Testament studies to missiology to worship to church administration, to say nothing of the courses he has taught in hymnody throughout his career.

One might be so inclined to ask, “What gives?” or “Didn’t your Seminary teach you enough?” but Tutwiler has many good reasons for staying so classroom committed. First, Tutwiler has felt the need to practice what he preaches.

“I try to encourage life-long learning when I’m teaching continuing education classes, as well as in my teaching the normal coursework at the Seminary,” Tutwiler said.

For this reason, Tutwiler signed up, a few terms back, for Donald Gowan’s class on Job. Tutwiler had long been encouraging the students he advises to take advantage of the yearly course offered by the professor emeritus and decided he needed to follow his own advice.

As a professor, Tutwiler tries to instill this desire for continuing education in his students by giving them “The Pastor’s Book Shelf,” which is a list of three to four books that relate to each class he teaches, but that are not covered in the class due to time restraints.

Yet, Tutwiler’s ambitions in the classroom are not just to protect his integrity as an academic advisor and professor; he has personal reasons for continuing his education.

“They are helpful in terms of my personal growth and keeping abreast of current information that is coming out,” he said.

Tutwiler has noted this keeping abreast the most in the courses he has audited with current seminarians.

“There was a certain freshness in auditing Seminary courses with seminarians,” Tutwiler said, “as it benefitted me to see how students were developing biblically/theologically apart from the classes I teach.”

There’s also a certain ecumenical flare to Tutwiler’s continued education – not surprising for a Methodist minister and professor at a PC(USA) Seminary.

“It’s important to engage in academic and theological dialogue with colleagues in ministry from a variety of denominational backgrounds,” Tutwiler said.

Always the pastor, Tutwiler concedes that it is not always easy to pursue continued education.

“The quest for knowledge comes naturally for many people, but others require a nudge or even a shove to encourage them,” he said. Tutwiler sees the continuing education courses offered at PTS providing that gentle nudge, as well as offering the opportunity for an ecumenical educational experience.

Ultimately, though, it is Tutwiler’s strongly held convictions about continuing education that provides the greatest motivation for staying in the classroom.

“Life-long learning is not an option, it’s an essential,” he said. “I hope to continue auditing courses.”
For the past seven years the Rev. Clint Cottrell ’00 has met with fellow PTS alums for one week annually to continue his commitment to life-long learning. Through the Foundation for Reformed Theology, Cottrell—along with Allison Bauer ’05, Jeri-Lynn Bouterse ’00, Ellen Campbell ’02, M. Catherine Day ’97, Clark Kerr ’99, Rob Marrow ’97, and Jim Yearsley ’97—reads and discusses serious Reformed theology works.

“As a new pastor who thoroughly enjoyed the academic side of seminary, I wanted to hang on to the part of my brain that likes to learn and to be challenged,” said Bauer. “As a Presbyterian who is interested in all things Reformed, this was an excellent opportunity to dig a little deeper into theologians and topics that I was only introduced to during seminary.”

The group of Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry grads has met at PTS each year except one. “We found the library at PTS to be an incredible resource that is second to none and a faculty member leads a seminar,” said Cottrell. “Hence we meet at PTS!” Yearsley also appreciates the connection to the Seminary. “This group is a means of maintaining an ongoing professional and personal collegial relationship structured around study and exploration. It brings a variety of perspectives to the table and enhances other experiences as well. It also, and this is important, maintains a concrete link to the Seminary. We are the Pittsburgh Seminar, after all.”

Prior to each group seminar, members complete the readings then join for a time of discussion, prayer, reflection, and self-renewal. “This is life-long learning 101 for PTS graduates,” said Cottrell. “Our time is spent studying serious authors from Leith to Calvin to Barth to Augustine. The readings are challenging and the discussion is brisk. For one week each year we gather to truly engage Reformed theology, using all our tools from seminary combined with our years of experience.”

Day also joined the group because of the overall commitment to life-long learning. “In ministry, you can only give what you are receiving. If you are not engaged in study and learning, you have nothing to give after a time. You become like an emptying pool, or worse, a stagnate pool of water. There must be an inflow and an outflow for the pool to be functional and refreshing. That is true for ministry as well. This group provides that flow.”

Founded in 1982 by the late John Leith, former pastor and professor at Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education, the Foundation for Reformed Theology is committed to renewing the theology, ethos, social vision, and hope of the Reformed and Presbyterian community.

“Since you are a member of the Seminary for life, it is in essence a life-long covenant to continue our quest for knowledge about the Reformed tradition.”

“Since you are a member of the seminar for life, it is in essence a life-long covenant to continue our quest for knowledge about the Reformed tradition,” said Cottrell.
COPPE FREQUENTS LIFE-LONG LEARNING EVENTS

A former reporter—for The Pittsburgh Press for 31 years and the Post-Gazette for 12 years—Roger Stuart felt a call to ministry after retiring from the newspaper business. “As much as I loved journalism I experienced a need to convert the ‘Good News’ of gospel lessons and believed that I could make effective use of my story-telling career in ministry” Stuart said. With that reason he enrolled in the Seminary’s Commissioned Lay Pastor Training, a program offered through the Continuing Education Office at PTS.

Now a commissioned lay pastor, Stuart is serving his fifth year-long commission at the United Presbyterian Church of Universal in Penn Hills, Pa. Through the Commissioned Lay Pastor Training program, Stuart learned more about pastoral calling and counseling duties, spiritual formation, preaching, teaching Bible study classes, moderating session, premarital counseling, baptism services, and communion.

Though now complete with his CLP training, Stuart, along with his wife Cindy, continue to attend a number of the Seminary’s Continuing Education programs. “Life-long learning is vastly important because one never knows how long one will live and because life keeps changing as long as one lives,” Stuart said. “As much as we would like to think that settled issues remain settled, that so often is not true. Many issues come back to haunt us repeatedly just as they come back again and again in biblical history.”

Cindy added, “When one stops learning one is effectively dead.” Actively involved in church life, as a Sunday School teacher among other duties, she believes “it behooves me to learn about the history of our religion.”

Ranking among the couple’s favorite Continuing Education events are the Kelso, McClure, and Schaff Lectures. Particularly stimulating were this past fall’s McClure Lectures by J. Dudley Woodberry who spoke about Islam and Christian mission. “We found them especially timely and cogent.” (See page 16 for the McClure Lecture wrap up.) Also thought-provoking was the recent Teacher Training Workshop with Cynthia Rigby, W. C. Brown Professor of Theology at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, as keynote speaker.

In addition to the structured events, the Stuarts also enjoy the spontaneity, intimacy, and sometimes intensity of the breakout sessions each evening with the principal speakers. “Daily chapel services and the sharing of meal fellowship and conversation complement each other,” Roger said.
Did you know that you can complete your pastoral leave at the Seminary? Pursue your own plan of study, prepare sermons, or work with a faculty member. PTS offers comfortable rooms or furnished apartments. In addition, the Clifford E. Barbour Library is the largest theological library in the three-state region. Its 285,000 volumes and 900 periodical subscriptions place it among the largest stand-alone seminary libraries in the country. An extensive array of new materials is added each year in various formats and languages, and includes a growing number of electronic resources.

Visit www.pts.edu/continuing-education for more information.

For PTS alums Tim Becker ’07 and Matt Bell ’06, both doctoral students, life-long learning is not only about taking in more information but it is also about sending out their knowledge to others. This spring the duo is leading a group of 15-25 in studying the writing of the great teachers on the Christian faith through the Ancient Christian Faith Initiative.

Meeting weekly for two months, the group of pastors and laypersons learn about the teachers and grow together in their knowledge of these persons. “We believe that the future of the Church lies in spiritual communion with the past,” said Becker. “Further, we have personally experienced the ancient Christian faith to be challenging, nourishing, and provocative and we share that with the group.”

Fellow alum Dan Thayer ’08, supply pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Crescent City, Fla., is completing the seminar from a distance. Through phone, e-mail, and a blog, the trio is able to stay connected.

“Since graduating from the Seminary, I have missed the opportunities for theological reflection and discussion that I had there,” Thayer said. “I had the idea of starting an online reading group for others in the same position, possibly reading something from the ancient Christian writings. When I heard about what Tim and Matt were doing, we started a conversation about adding an online element to their project. I believe God wants to do something bigger than what any of us could have come up with individually.”

In explaining why they started the group, Becker said, “We want people to deepen in the conversion of their minds and souls so that they might encounter our post-Christian age with confidence, humility, and spiritual authority for the sake of the cultivation of Christian culture.”

A number of professors at the Seminary have interests in the great teachers, and this encouraged the group to make them their primary focus. Their reading of these teachers is very much a result of their studies at the Seminary.

Although the future of the program’s expansion is unclear, Becker reasons, “Who can know what to expect when people think new thoughts, dream new dreams, and pray new prayers?” Intended plans include two spring and two fall courses annually.

“We want people to deepen in the conversion of their minds and souls so that they might encounter our post-Christian age with confidence, humility, and spiritual authority for the sake of the cultivation of Christian culture.”

Ancient Christian Faith Initiative
CONVOCATION

McCULRE LECTURE WRAP UP

NEW PROGRAMS
Bow in prayer

May the words of my mouth and meditation, my heart, be acceptable my Lord and Savior.

It is with honor, humility, and great joy I stand before you this morning. When Bill Carl asked me to give this address I asked, “What should I talk about?” He said, “Your Seminary experience.” I’ve always been highly coachable, so that’s what I am going to do this morning.

As many of you are starting your journey at PTS today, my journey began more than 10 years ago when a member of the Board Ed Clarke asked me to consider coming on the Board of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. At the time I was very busy in a new career and also on several non-profit boards and really didn’t need another cause. So, I side-stepped the question and said I never commit to an endeavor unless I test the product. I then told Ed, I will do some due diligence and try a class at PTS. I went far beyond just a class in this case and not only signed up for a class, but also enrolled as a part-time MA student. Little did I know what a joyful journey was in store.

My life has been blessed with numerous events that I am convinced are guided by God’s strong hand. In fact, I preach a sermon entitled “My Faith and God’s Hands” that outlines numerous miraculous events that have changed my life. And, my Seminary experience certainly has!

I took that first class and then a second from Scott Sunquist—World Mission History—as I remember, and then, I was hooked! Since that time I have taken 31 classes from 20 different faculty members. This joyful journey has been one of the most enlightening and rewarding experiences of my life…God’s hand again.

• I have explored and been trapped in Hezekiah’s tunnel with Dr. Ron Tappy in biblical archaeology.
• I have been with Dr. Edith Humphrey when she twirled through the book of Revelation’s mystery and symbolism.
• I have been introduced to learning by surfing the Internet in Dr. Ron Cole-Turner’s pastoral medical ethics class.
• I have explored the dry bones in the valley with Dr. Steven Tuell. I love the joy in his voice when he says “Ezekiel”.
• I have been on many excursions with Dr. Charles Partee, the master of excursus in “creeds of Christendom”.
• I have turned water into beer in Dr. Andrew Purvis’ Celtic Christianity class. Fun stuff!
• I have explored early church history with Dr. John Wilson and then been deemed as unfit to take his class on the Enlightenment.
• I have been held hostage by Dr. Rob Gagnon until he determined that it was time for class to end in my Romans encounter.
I have been greatly awakened by Dr. Scott Sunquist in the 19th century church history class and also hung out with an illegal alien in his world mission history course.

I have been awed by Dr. Gowen in his Ministry in the Old Testament: Priests, Prophets, and Sages course.

And last but not least mystified by Dr. Dale Allison in his biblical theology course with his 11 point lectures with the 11th point always—it’s a mystery; and, I’ve had numerous other joyful experiences with very capable adjunct faculty.

To complete the story, I so enjoyed the learning and experience with the students that I agreed to come on the Board and have served for nearly nine years. In that time I have been on the Student Affairs, Property, and Planning Committees and had the honor to chair the Search Committee that called Dr. Bill Carl. I am now in my third year as Chair of the Board and have enjoyed every minute of time that I have devoted to our Seminary. Of all the endeavors I have undertaken in my 68 years on this earth, the Seminary experience has given me the most joy and fulfillment. I am especially honored to be a part of graduation and put tassels on graduates that I have known in class.

As a part of the last two opening Convocations, after I have called the academic year into session I have provided my wish for the entire Seminary community. It is a “gift” that my son Ian Isherwood’s college chaplain gave the students at the Gettysburg College’s baccalaureate. He simply stated … “my wish for you is to begin each day in hope; live every day in love, and go to sleep each night in peace.” Today, I would like to add “joy” to this wish and talk about my “joy” as it applies to our Seminary.

Our mission statement says, “On a dynamic and challenging global stage, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary plays its part in God’s redemption in the world through Jesus Christ by preparing leaders who proclaim with great joy God’s message of good news in both word and deed.”

Recently the entire Seminary community was involved in developing an inclusive mission, vision, and strategic plan that was vetted by the community and approved by our Board of Directors. I would like to quickly review the vision statement as it speaks as to why we are starting this journey together this morning.

**Vision Statement**

The question is not what are we doing on this 13-acre campus, but what is God doing out there in the world and how can we be a part of it. With God as author and director, Christ as protagonist, and the Holy Spirit as prompter, we participate in the great drama of salvation history by preparing **pastor-theologians** and **joyful communicators of the word** who are:

- **Inspired by** and **enthusiastic about** the gospel of Jesus Christ, which points to the one who is the center of our lives and the center of the church;

- **By preparing engaging preachers and teachers** who interpret both sacred texts and contemporary contexts, and **have the audacity to preach with joy** amidst a broken and hurting world—theologians in residence—who understand history and the constantly changing culture in which we live;

- **By preparing perceptive spiritual directors who “equip the saints”** for ministry by helping people discern their gifts through worship and education, and **helping them see that true joy is no stranger to pain** so that, moved by the Holy Spirit, they can say with confidence, “I care therefore I am”;

- **By preparing life-long learners** who **continue seeking wisdom** and **modeling the faith** knowing that the front line of ministry is not the church building but wherever the people live, work, study, and play—**glorifying God and enjoying God forever**;

- **By preparing mission-minded advocates who delight in both evangelism and social justice ministries**, which are neither conservative nor liberal because Jesus never labeled them that way since both represent the Gospel as in the Luke-Acts tradition;

- **By preparing wise leaders who demonstrate with integrity how to build joyful communities** by creating with God’s help **positive, happy, and healthy cultures** where people “speak the truth in love” and understand that real friendship in Christ means having the right to disagree knowing that mutual respect and affection are not at stake;

- **By preparing responsible stewards** who know how to **raise and manage resources** while encouraging people to be “cheerful givers.”
At Pittsburgh Theological Seminary we are more than stately buildings and nice classrooms nestled in an urban setting of pathos and hope “surprised by joy”, we are a transient community of scholars and learners who rejoice at the opportunity to share in God’s redemptive work in the world.

We prepare students of the word who, called by God, committed to Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, bear witness to the joy of and, following his ancient commission that is new every morning, our graduates and program participants proclaim with great joy God’s grace-filled message of healing and shalom. To God be the glory!

Each time I read the vision, I become more inspired! Now, I will take time to discuss a few great joys and concerns I have for our Seminary.

What gives me joy at PTS?

- First and foremost our new vision and plan for the future. God has blessed us abundantly. We have a beautiful campus with excellent facilities.
- In addition, we have been blessed with adequate financial resources and many identified future supporters.
- We have energized, excellent, experienced leadership in Dr. Bill Carl and his senior management team, and competent, committed administrators and support staff.
- We have a world class faculty who conduct outstanding educational programs actively working in harmony to support our mission and vision, through their teaching and publishing. I know this to be true through my own experience.
- Vital outreach programs like WMI, MUI, SYI, and the Center for Business, Religion and Public Life and continuing education programs which support our mission and vision in the world, in word and deed.
- An engaged, talented, committed, and supportive Board.
- Last but not least, we have all of you—an outstanding student body. Our product, our real reason for being, who will be able to go out into the world and as our mission states, joyfully proclaim God’s message of good news in both word and deed.

With a list of joys like this, what could be a concern? Many of you know that I come from a business background. When we are considering an investment in a company, I quite often ask the CEO of that business, “What keeps you awake at night?” to get a feel for any problems in the business. Well, what keeps me awake at night in my role as Board Chair is not taking advantage of the gifts that God has provided, and not fulfilling our mission, vision, and God’s will for us. What can we do as a Seminary community to insure God’s will for us is fulfilled? This is where the Scriptures I read earlier provide advice and comfort.

“Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again—rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God, and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7).

Standing in the hall a few weeks ago, when I asked Dr. Carl and Dr. Sunquist for a scriptural passage that would deal with joy they both simultaneously said Philippians 4:4. So as I began to craft my remarks for today I started at the beginning at 4:1 and kept reading to the end of the chapter. I’m a Presbyterian and do everything decently and in order. This passage immediately struck me as a way to deal with my concerns over the immense responsibility that we all have to use the bountiful blessings that God has provided in order to fulfill our mission and vision for the Seminary and also provided some tools to use in our journey together to stay on the right path and have joy, hope, live in love, and share peace. Paul’s instructions to the Philippians relates to how they are to conduct their lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

In Philippians 4:2-9 Paul tells us how to deal with our vision and plan and how to live this academic year in joy, hope, love, and peace. Paul’s instructions to the Philippians’ relate to how they are to conduct their lives in a manner according to the gospel of Christ and I believe these instructions apply to our Seminary community today.

First, as I stated earlier we have many, many, many blessings and we must continuously rejoice in these gifts. We need to be gentle, generous, and courteous to all. We must think of others first in both good times and bad.

Second, we must not be anxious. The Lord is near. Have faith the Lord is with us always. We must trust in the Lord at all times. We cannot accomplish these plans ourselves. These are God’s plans for us and God will provide. As our vision statement states, We need to find out what God is doing in the world and be a part of it. It is not how God fits into our plan but how we fit into God’s plan. Our journey forward will always be a moving target—it will have ups and downs, good times and bad. We need to be a community of faith living and working together to accomplish God’s will for us.
Third, we must be thankful for God's many gifts. We need to constantly give thanks and praise. We must have faith and bring all of our concerns to God in prayer and petition. We must be a spirit-filled community glorifying God and bringing everything to him in prayer. When I chaired the Student Affairs Committee our top objective was to become a more spirit-filled community and to enhance the worship and prayer opportunities a PTS. We have come a long way in this area and need to continue to be a joyful, loving, supportive faith community treating each other with the gentleness that emulates Christ.

Fourth, if we rejoice, are gentle, give thanks, and bring our anxieties to God in prayer and petition we will become a community that shares God's shalom—God's peace—the well being that comes from God. When we are at peace with sins confessed, anxieties removed, and hope revived we will live with Christ in our hearts. As Paul states, "Rejoice, be gentle, love God, give God our anxieties and receive his peace." What a comforting promise!

In reviewing the list of virtues Paul describes in verses eight and nine, I see tools we can use in our everyday lives both inside and outside the Seminary community.

After Dr. Sunquist and Dr. Carl provided some Scripture, Scott sent me his excellent commentary on Phillipians. I highly recommend it. In the beginning pages there is an ominous quote that says, "Note: This material is not to be quoted from or copied without the permission of the author." Scott, if you hear anything familiar I hope I have your permission because I don't want to self destruct, be thrown out of school, or be seized by the FBI.

To quote Scott, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a big sign over the entryway to the Seminary saying, "Welcome to PTS. Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about these things."

As a community we can use these tools in our lives together and in the pursuit of our mission and vision. Paul is asking us to take these virtues into account in the name of Christ and the think about them, pray about them, and then make them a part of our everyday lives. Do them so that we emulate Christ in all we do. When we do these things we will have Christ in our hearts and our lives and our community will become one of joy, hope, love, and peace and we will achieve God's plan for us.

In conclusion may you joyfully awake each morning with hope, live each day in love, and go to sleep each night in peace. Amen.

Blessing and now may the peace of God which transcends all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
ANNUAL MCCLURE LECTURES PRESENT THE CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES OF MINISTRY AMONG MUSLIMS

Dr. J. Dudley Woodberry, professor of Islamic studies and dean emeritus of the School of Intercultural Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary, presented the W. Don McClure Lectures in late September.

After giving an account of the theological and religious barriers of ministering among Muslims, Woodberry concluded his lectures with an evaluation of a current phenomenon among Muslims. Many Muslims are becoming followers of Jesus Christ without decisively leaving their religious and cultural identity as Muslims. This level of contextualization, which continues to be debated among missiologists, is not easily evaluated apart from being among them. Woodberry has visited many such communities and found clear evidence that it is possible to be a faithful disciple of Jesus, without clearly leaving the religious system of Islam. This type of Christian expression in the Muslim world gives these new followers of Isa the opportunity to maintain their witness to family and neighbors, something that would be lost if they clearly identified as Christians.

The Rev. Dr. Scott Sunquist, associate professor of world Christianity, said, “Having devoted his whole life to learning Arabic and Islamic cultures, Dr. Woodberry showed us how to be a friend closer than a brother or sister to Muslims while being a faithful witness to the Son of the Father. He amazed us with his stories of Muslim believers in Jesus, stories that force us to rethink what it really means to be a Christian...or to be a Muslim.”

Woodberry has also been active in the Zwemer Institute of Islamic Studies and the Muslim track of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. He served as a teacher in Pakistan, a pastor in Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, and has ministered in at least 35 predominantly Muslim nations around the world. He recently edited, *From Seed to Fruit: Global Trends, Fruitful Practices, and Emerging Issues Among Muslims*.

In conjunction with the lectures, the World Mission Initiative hosted a dinner with nearly 200 guests representing students, faculty, and a variety of pastors and church leaders from the Pittsburgh region. Of special note were the 45 students from the Faith Builders Mennonite School in Meadville, Pa. Testimonies were given by the Rev. Michael Gehrling ’08 and Carrie Hanson ’08 about the influence that the World Mission Initiative has had on their preparation for ministry.

In October 2009, a new Science & Theology Focus will begin, drawing from our faculty strengths in science and technology and an invited cadre of guest lecturers. We are undertaking a nationwide search for 15 pastors to meet for two years of seminars with leading theologians and scientists. President Carl, as a part of his leadership at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, has encouraged a refreshing engagement between science and religion. There are on-campus lively debates and a growing recognition that we are poised to provide vital leadership to and for pastors.

Who among us does not benefit from science in countless ways; and who among us does not draw upon the deep resources of faith and belief in ways known and unknown everyday? Most interesting is where the discussions of these major subjects of human life diverge, lead to conflict, and converge. At times the media-fueled debate aim is solely to create an unending conflict, but imagine two spaceships launched in the vastness of space and time, heading in opposite directions. To be so correct is to lose sight of a commonly shared humanity. And there in lies the point.

If we pay attention to the extreme boundaries of the science and religion conversation, we may be entertained by the rhetoric, amused by the accusations, and sometimes angered and saddened. Too often it appears that we will be forever locked into a debate that has no point of connection to the reality of daily life.

Christianity is ultimately always about daily life: the patterns and practices, the hopes and fears, the despair and tragedy. If we pay attention to Jesus’ words and actions, we are challenged again and again to fully believe and to fully engage in the living of life.

Taking clues from the gospel narratives, the purpose of the Doctor of Ministry Program Science & Theology Focus is to create opportunity for pastors and scientists to be in conversation, to share concerns, to listen, to research new ways of working together, and to prepare pastors to model and shape an interdisciplinary approach. What science and religion does share, as John Polkinghorne says, is that throughout the years of honest truth-seeking, an important component of the faith and science debate will be “the demonstration that theology is as much concerned with the search for truth attainable through motivated belief as is the case in science.”

The call then is one of imaginative thinking, courageous searching, and pastoral excellence.

We invite nominations and applications. If you are a pastor who wishes to participate in the leading edge of an exciting and engaging set of seminars, contact:

The Rev. Dr. Susan Kendall, Director
412-362-5610 ext. 2112
www.pts.edu/ministry
doctorofministry@pts.edu

Endnotes
Pneuma, a certificate program in spiritual direction and leadership, is an extension of the Seminary's mission to prepare pastors and lay leaders to be perceptive spiritual directors. Graduates of the program will be able to ‘equip the saints’ for ministry by assisting persons, groups, and congregations to deepen their true identity in Christ, grow in Christian discipleship, and discern their unique calling and gifts for service and leadership in the Church and world.¹

**Pneuma** is a two-year program that offers educational and supervised practical training of spiritual directors and spiritual leaders in the methodology of the *Spiritual Exercises* of Ignatius of Loyola while engaging in Reformed, Wesleyan, and Catholic theological perspectives on the dynamics of growth in faith and the Christian life. The **Spiritual Exercises** offer both structure and flexibility for persons and groups to reflect upon, contemplate, and internalize the major doctrines of the Christian faith in a uniquely personal encounter with the Triune God and through the Sacred Scriptures. The movements of the **Spiritual Exercises** follow a pattern similar to that found in growth in Christian faith and discipleship.

Preparation for the **Spiritual Exercises** begins with prayerful reflection on God’s desire to be in relationship with us and the world. Those who make the **Spiritual Exercises** (often called exercitants) ask for the grace to consciously receive God’s unconditional love. This foundational gift prepares for the next movement of grace whereby exercitants become aware of personal and corporate sin—ways that they refuse, distort, or misuse God’s gifts—while yet receiving the unimaginable grace of God’s forgiving and healing love in Christ. In receiving God’s forgiveness they are opened to a new life in Christ, filled with a profound gratitude, and invited to a companioning discipleship. The next movement in the **Spiritual Exercises** is asking for the grace to be formed as a disciple through contemplating Jesus in the Gospels. Exercitants learn of his ways, ponder his words and teachings, and notice his interactions with sinners, the marginalized, his followers, and those in religious and political power. They also learn to reflect upon, discern, and respond to Christ’s ongoing call in their prayer, worship, and daily life with ever increasing interior freedom. By thus allowing the Spirit to transform their minds and hearts into Christ’s (Philippians 2:5, 2 Corinthians 3:18) exercitants walk with him on the road to Jerusalem in their prayer and in the concrete realities of their lives, asking for the grace to share in Christ’s sufferings so that they can know the power of his resurrection (Philippians 3:10) and share in the joy of Christ’s risen presence in their lives and the world.

The dynamics of the **Spiritual Exercises** are a graced pedagogy wherein the Word reveals to and the Spirit quickens in persons a deeper awareness of the tremendous gift of union in Christ to which they are called and by which they share in Christ’s mission of reconciliation in the concrete particularities of their lives and ministries (2 Corinthians 18-20). They provide a method whereby persons learn to consciously pay attention to, discern, choose, and respond to what God is doing in their lives, their communities, and the world. Drawing from their faith traditions, participants in the **Pneuma** program will engage in readings and discussions of the theological foundations that enrich their understanding of these graced movements.

The educational aspect of the **Pneuma** program, therefore, is designed around three areas of study: (a) Scripture and theology with particular emphasis on Christian anthropology, Christology, and scriptural exegesis as resources pertinent to the work of spiritual direction and leadership; (b) spirituality, particularly personal and corporate discernment, types and methods of prayer, and personal and congregational models of growth in Christian maturity; (c) group process and ministry designs for spiritual leadership, creatively adapting the **dynamics of the Spiritual Exercises** to various ministerial contexts.
Year I
Participants in the program will make the full Spiritual Exercises in some form (if they have not already done so) and meet once a month (Friday evening and Saturday) from September through May for class presentations while participating in discussions of required readings and supervised practice in small groups. Each year begins with a two-day retreat the last weekend of August. The director of the program is the principal instructor while supervisors, guest lecturers, and workshop leaders will provide additional instruction and resources for learning and skill building in the art of spiritual direction and leadership.

Year II
Participants will engage in the supervised practicum or internship in spiritual direction or spiritual leadership. Participants develop their plans for practicum in consultation with the program director and supervisor, meet at least monthly with their supervisors, complete required reports and reflections, and have two team review sessions pertaining to their personal and professional growth in the ministry of spiritual leadership or spiritual direction. In addition, participants meet monthly at PTS for continued educational classes and small group practice, discernment of spiritual gifts and areas that need further growth.

Certificates in Spiritual Direction and/or Spiritual Leadership will be given at the completion of all requirements and a graduation ceremony date will be determined. CEU’s may be obtained from the Office of Continuing Education. Doctor of Ministry students in the Reformed Christian Spirituality Focus, who are accepted into and complete the Pneuma program, may on a case by case basis fulfill up to three elective courses for the D.Min. degree.

Persons who apply to this program should have the following:

- a bachelor’s degree and some basic biblical and theological background.
- completed the full Ignatian Spiritual Exercises in some format or are preparing to do so concurrently with application to Pneuma program.
- experienced ongoing spiritual direction.
- a demonstrated capacity for self awareness and critical reflection on the intersection of faith with one’s life and ministry;
- support of one’s faith community to the ministry of spiritual direction or spiritual leadership;
- some indications of being called by others to this ministry; and,
- willingness to engage in ongoing vocational discernment to this ministry with one’s spiritual director, supervisor(s), and the director of the program.

Learn more about Pneuma at www.pts.edu/pneuma or contact Dr. Martha Robbins at mrobbins@pts.edu or 412-362-5610 ext. 2125.

Endnotes
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, through the World Mission Initiative, will offer a certificate program in World Christian Discipleship. The program—designed for recent university graduates who are interested in discerning and preparing for Christian vocation—offers a monastic missional encounter. The WCD allows young adults to discern and prepare for Christian vocation, regardless of occupation (pastor, church planter, lawyer, teacher, missionary, etc.). The program is non-traditional and experiential so students will live a simple life; they will live in community and serve the East End community and churches in Pittsburgh while reflecting on Scripture and great interpreters of the faith. The community of about 12 will be a diverse ethnic community from across the nation, committed to living according to a religious rule, accountable to one another, while exploring the global needs of the Church.

Disciples work 15-20 hours per week in local businesses as a missional presence in the East End. In addition they volunteer with local ministries and are assigned to a local church plant or a church in redevelopment.

“The World Christian Discipleship program is the kind of program that today’s young pastors need in order to minister to a world that is broken and in need of God’s incarnational love. College students are longing to engage in authentic hands-on ministry but need the community care to pursue this difficult road. The WCD is a wonderful marriage of these two needs. This is the New Friars for seminarians,” said Chloe Papke, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

Find out more about the program at www.WorldMissionInitiative.org/wcd or contact Don Dawson, director of WMI, at 412-362-5610 ext. 2149 or ddawson@pts.edu.

The World Mission Initiative exists to help others understand how God is at work in the world and how they can share in that work. WMI seeks to light a fire for mission while working to unite the resources of key mission entities: our local congregations, the Seminary, and the World Mission office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in order to advance the mission of Jesus Christ in our world of ever increasing need.
Giving Makes a Difference

By Tom Pappalardo
Vice President for Strategic Advancement and Marketing
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My family and I are not natives of western Pennsylvania. We have made our way to Pittsburgh from New England living first in Rhode Island and then upstate New York. With each move we have left something behind; on the conscious level it was something that we thought left the place where we lived a bit better than how we found it.

In Rhode Island I planted a London Plane tree in our backyard, a tree similar and related to the Sycamore tree. This is one of my favorite trees and a real beauty because of its bark and leaves. I drove by the house we had owned about eight years after we moved and indeed it had grown to be very special and very beautiful among a sea of Norwood Maples.

In New York, I remember my 10 and 14 year old daughters, just as we were moving, writing their names on the inside molding of their closets with the dates that they had lived in the house. This was a “message” to be found by future residents who might wonder who these girls were and where they might be now.

Legacies are special in many ways. At Pittsburgh Seminary we recognize legacies through the McMillan Society. This is a planned giving society that recognizes those donors who have included the Seminary in their estate plans. These are gifts that are like beautiful trees that eventually provide shade and protection to those who follow. They bless future generations of PTS students by providing them with the financial aid to complete their studies and pursue the call that God has given to them to share the gospel of Jesus Christ at home and abroad. Or, they provide the Seminary with the seed money to support new faculty initiatives or to enhance the campus where generations of future pastors and leaders will prepare for ministry.

I encourage you to “plant a tree” or “write your name on some doorway” by including Pittsburgh Seminary in your will for a specific dollar amount or for a percentage of your estate. A bequest like this might go to name a scholarship fund in your honor or someone special to you. Other ways to realize tax benefit for your estate and bless our students and faculty through a planned gift are outlined on our website at www.pts.edu/support. Or, you may call or write to me. You can reach me at 412-362-5610 ext. 2122.

Take this opportunity to “plant a tree or write your name” and leave a legacy.
The Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes, Robert Meneilly Professor of Leadership and Ministry and pastor of Shadyside PC, authored a new book The Pastor As Minor Poet (Eerdmans, 2008).

The Rev. Dr. John Burgess, James Henry Snowden Professor of Systematic Theology, lectured on “Orthodoxy and Contemporary Russian Society” at Foreign Service Institute, Washington, D.C. and “Orthodoxy and Contemporary Russian Identity” at University of Pittsburgh. He helped to host two visitors from St. Tikhon’s Orthodox University in Moscow, who were learning about Reformed theology and Presbyterian ministry in the city of Pittsburgh. In late October Burgess attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Chicago and spoke on a panel of the Reformed History and Theology Group on the topic “What is Reformed about the Reformed Tradition?” He contributed to an essay on “Learning from the Orthodox about Eucharist,” in Theology in Service of the Church, ed. Charles A. Wiley et al., (Geneva Press, 2008) and wrote an essay on “Climate Change: What Does it Tell us About God?”, SciTech: Journal of the Presbyterian Association on Science, Technology, and the Christian Faith (May 2008). Burgess also taught the adult Sunday School class “What Happens in the Sacraments?” at Wallace Memorial PC. He attended the annual retreat of the Company of New Pastors in Louisville, Ky., a mentoring program sponsored by the Office of Theology and Worship PC(USA), for which President Carl and Burgess serve as faculty mentors on the PTS campus. Burgess helped to host and participated in the Core Cluster of the Re-forming Ministry Initiative of the Office of Theology and Worship PC(USA), which was meeting at the Seminary. In addition, Burgess spoke on “Christ and the Religions” at Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cranberry, Pa. and First PC of Irwin, Pa.

The Rev. Dr. William J. Carl III, president and professor of homiletics, wrote a book entitled, Dancing in Holy Places (CSS Publishing, 2008). He also penned three homiletical articles published in Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Lectionary (Year B, Vol. 1) Advent Through Transfiguration, edited by David Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor (WJK, 2008). Carl preached at Tryon PC, Tryon, N.C.; Point Loma PC, San Diego, Calif.; 50th Anniversary worship service at University PC, Rochester Hills, Mich.; The Chapel of the Sacred Heart at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Calif.; Ben Avon PC for the installation service of Page Creach, Ben Avon, Pa.; First PC, New Castle, Pa.; Shadyside PC, Broad Street PC, Columbus, Ohio; and Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas where he also delivered the annual Shipp Lectures; and Newlonsburg PC, Murrysville, Pa. He was also the speaker and worship leader at Northumberland Presbytery meeting, Berwick, Pa; Presbyterian Council for Military Chaplains’ Retreat in North Carolina; speaker at Wee Kirk Conference, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.; and conducted a seminar on preaching without notes at Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pa. The Carls’ older son, Jeremy, is now a Tennis Pro at Regency Sport and Health Club in McLean, Va., having just completed his USPTA certification. Their younger son, David, recently performed on All My Children on ABC and continues to do stand-up comedy in Manhattan.

The Rev. Dr. Ronald Cole-Turner, H. Parker Sharp Professor of Theology and Ethics, presented a paper on “Technology and Eschatology: Scientific and Religious Perspectives on the Transformation of Human Nature” at a conference on “Subject, Self, and Soul: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Personhood,” at Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid, in July. He also presented a brief talk on the work of the International Society for Science and Religion at the Euroscience Open Forum, meeting in Barcelona. Cole-Turner gave one of the keynote addresses on “Humanity in the Laboratory: Chimeric Brains and Human Minds,” at a conference hosted by “Sophia Europa,” a coalition of European universities, meeting at Gorizia Castle, Gorizia, Italy, on the theme of “Human Beings: Philosophical, Theological and Scientific Perspectives” in October. He attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, serving as a steering committee member for the consultation, “Transhumanism and Religion,” meeting in Chicago.

The Rev. Dr. Jerome Creach, Robert C. Holland Professor of Old Testament, published a book entitled The Destiny of the Righteous in the Psalms (Chalice) in the summer of 2008. He authored the article on the book of Judges for The New Interpreter’s Bible One Volume Commentary, to be published this year. Creach also wrote 13 lessons for the New International Lesson Annual, a curriculum project of Abingdon Press. Creach is completing work on a book entitled Violence in the Bible, to be published by Westminster John Knox. In addition to his scholarly writing, Creach spoke to the honors English class at North Allegheny Intermediate High School in October. He addressed the literary character and cosmology of the flood story in Genesis 1. He also preached at the Community PC of Ben Avon as part of the Nelson-Pomeroy Lecture Series.
The Rev. Dr. James E. Davison ’69, director of continuing education and special events and adjunct professor of Greek, preached at Sampson’s Mills PC, Forest Hills PC, and The Presbyterian Church, Mt. Washington. In early October, he taught a day-and-a-half course in the Seminary’s Continuing Education program on the theme, “Must Faith End? A Conversation with Sam Harris, Richard Dawkins, and Friends.” Also in October, Davison officiated at a wedding service for one of his son’s friends.

The Rev. Dr. Don Dawson, director of World Mission Initiative, preached at the following churches: Glade Run PC, Valencia, Pa.; Newlonsburg PC, Murraysville, Pa.; Oakdale PC, Robinson, Pa.; West Middlesex PC; and Rehobeth PC, Belle Vernon, Pa. in addition to teaching adult education at Hampton PC, Gibsonia, Pa. Dawson also participated in ordination of Michael Gehrling ’08 and installation of Jeff Eddings ’08 as co-pastor at Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community. He led the 103rd New Wilmington Mission Conference. Professors Edith Humphrey and Scott Sunquist, along with the Rev. Jen Haddox ’06, associate director of WMI, were featured speakers. PTS alumni Ken Bailey ’55 and Bill Crooks ’76’04 were also primary speakers.

The Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Peters, Henry L. Hillman Associate Professor of Urban Ministry and director of the Metro-Urban Institute presented “HIV/AIDS in Theological Education” to the HIV/AIDS Consultation of the Presbyterian AIDS Network at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga. and “Diversity and its Challenges to Presbyterian Seminaries” to Theological Educators for Social Witness Policy PC(USA) at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Peters preached at New Light Temple Baptist Church; Men’s Day at Roseville PC, Newark, N.J.; Oakdale PC, Robinson, Pa.; and Mt. Olive Baptist Church 115th Anniversary, Rankin, Pa. He also lead workshop on “Facing Challenges in 21st Century Urban Ministry” for Eastern District, at Moravian Church, Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa. and taught a class on “Public Issues in Urban Ministry” at Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education in Chicago, Ill.

The Rev. Dr. Andrew Purves was promoted to professor of Reformed theology. He recently completed his book The Resurrection of Ministry due out later this year from InterVaristy Press. Last summer he gave eight conferences and preached four times to ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa and Namibia. In the fall, Purves presented the lecture “The Shape of Tolerance Theology” at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland at a conference in honor of Professor T.F. Torrance.

In August, Dr. Martha Robbins, Joan Marshall Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and director of Pneuma Spiritual Direction & Leadership Program, provided spiritual direction and leadership during a six-day silent retreat for members of the Companions on the Road Community comprised of Presbyterian and United Methodist pastors and lay leaders at Sandscreset Retreat and Conference Center, Wheeling, W.Va. The COR Community was founded by Robbins in 2005 in response to requests for intentional companionship and accountability in growing in spiritual life and practices in community. Then in October Robbins led a half-day workshop on “A Holistic View of Clergy Self-Care” for Interfaith Clergy at the Western PA Hospital-Forbes Regional Campus, Monroeville, Pa. She also presented “Transforming Faith in Times of Transition” at Hope Lutheran Church, Cranberry, Pa. Robbins met with the co-coordinator and three members of several Christian Life Communities in Munich, Germany.

The Rev. Dr. Scott Sunquist was promoted to associate professor of world Christianity. Sunquist was a speaker at the “Imaginarium” at the Cornerstone Festival in Illinois. Cornerstone is a Christian rock festival held every summer for the past 25 years bringing together about 15,000 Christians to hear music artists and, more recently, speakers from across the U.S. The event is one of the many ministries of Jesus People, USA out of Chicago, Ill., a Christian community dedicated to serving the homeless and needy in the city. Sunquist gave three lectures on “Missions and Empire: Livingstone, I Presume?” . The theme this year was Empire, with a focus on the British Empire and lessons from that Christian experience for Christians in the U.S. today.

The Rev. George E. Tutwiler, organist/choirmaster and instructor in church music and United Methodist Studies, attended the national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Minneapolis, Minn. He served as guest organist at Baldwin Community United Methodist Church, Fox Chapel Episcopal Church, and Trinity Cathedral. He devised a hymn festival—"Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs" for the Pittsburgh Chapter, American Guild of Organists at Southminster PC. Tutwiler served as organist for the installation of Janice Good ’08 at Tower PC, Grove City, Pa. He also was a participant in a continuing education program—Paul’s Fourth Missionary Journey—in Greece and Italy.
A
n officially licensed Dutch cheese master with four master’s degrees, Dr. Edwin Chr. van Driel, assistant professor of theology, began his service at the Seminary this spring. Van Driel earned his cheese master license while working in a cheese shop as a student in the Netherlands. Since then, he has been awarded degrees in both theology and philosophy from Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and has received two master’s degrees and a doctorate in religious studies (theology) from Yale University. Van Driel’s dissertation, entitled “Incarnation Anyway: Argument for Supralapsarian Christology”, was published by Oxford University Press last summer.

As a child, and son of a Netherlands Reformed minister, the van Driel family home was being painted. The painter asked the young van Driel if he would like to be a painter when he grew up. His response: “No, I will become a minister.” This has never changed. “I have no moments of sudden illumination or anything like that; just a quiet knowledge that this was my call, a knowledge that always was there and that never has left. I have never really contemplated doing anything else.”

Before coming to the Seminary, van Driel served as a post-doctoral fellow in the department of theology at Fordham University. Originally from the Netherlands, he currently lives in Naugatuck, Conn. with his wife Kimberly and son Christiaan. Kimberly serves as pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, where she is committed through the end of this calendar year. After that time, the family will move to Pittsburgh where she will look for another call. Van Driel is a candidate with Southern New England Presbytery. He will complete his CPE this summer and then hopes to be ordained for teaching and installed at the Seminary.

He has written many articles and lectures frequently on the subject of the humanness of God. Van Driel’s professional affiliations include American Academy of Religion, Society of Christian Philosophers, and the Karl Barth Society of North America.

In announcing van Driel’s appointment, President Carl said, “We are excited to have a theologian with Dr. van Driel’s intellectual prowess, encyclopedic knowledge, and obvious love for the Church join our academic faculty thus continuing our tradition of building a strong scholarly team.”
Dean Mauser Dies at 81

The Seminary’s former dean the Rev. Dr. Ulrich W. Mauser died July 5 at the age of 81. He is survived by his wife Margaret, their four sons, and five grandchildren.

Ulrich served as the Errett M. Grable Professor of New Testament from 1977 to 1990 and as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the Seminary from 1981 until his departure in 1990.

“His students just loved him,” said the Rev. Dr. Andrew Purves, professor of Reformed theology at PTS. “He has been missed a long time since his retirement.”

Mauser was born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1926. Living in Germany during World War II helped shape his theological beliefs about the need for peace.

“Peace-making became a major part of his professional life,” Purves said.

Ulrich was the author of several books in English and German and served as editor of Horizons in Biblical Theology while at the Seminary. Ulrich was chaplain at Oregon State University (1959-1964) and taught at Louisville Theological Seminary (1964-1977) before coming PTS.

Mauser received his bachelor’s and doctorate from the University of Tubingen in 1951 and 1957. He attended St. Andrews for his master’s in 1952.

Board Member Sandra McLaughlin Byers Dies

Grandmother, role model, and bank vice president Sandra McLaughlin Byers died Aug. 26 at age 72. Byers served on the PTS Board of Directors since 1993.

She graduated from Edgewood High School in 1954 and four years later received her undergraduate degree from Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa. Byers began her banking career in 1958 as a teller for Mellon Bank. When she retired in 2001, she was a senior vice president of Mellon Bank Corp.

Byers sat on the boards of numerous corporate and nonprofit organizations including the Seminary, the Senator John Heinz History Center, Allegheny College, the Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children, and Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

“My stepmother was a strong, ethical person. Whatever task she took on, she did it with a strong sense of spiritual values,” said Cynthia Costa, Byers’ stepdaughter.

“As I went on in my professional career after I finished college, my stepmother often said to me, ‘Many women think that they need to be like men to become successful. I never felt that.’”

“‘Sam,’ as I called my stepmother, was a role model for young women like myself.”

Frank Cahouet, retired chairman and CEO of Mellon Financial Corp., recalled the helpful advice Byers gave to him when he joined Mellon in 1987. “She was one of the key people I could rely upon for a good unbiased assessment on some of our key issues. And I can understand why so many organizations sought her out for their boards. She was the kind of person you’d want around.”

In 1984, Sandra married Lyle W. Byers, who at the time was the executive director of the Eye & Ear Hospital in Oakland. A frequent auditor of classes at the Seminary, he died in 2007.

Sandra was honored by the Pittsburgh YWCA’s Tribute to Women in 1986. A year later, she was named a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania by Gov. Robert Casey.

In addition to her stepdaughter, Byers is survived by her stepson Douglas S. Byers and six grandchildren.
COMINGS AND GOINGS

The Seminary bids farewell to the Rev. Richard Chapple, assistant professor of homiletics, as he has been appointed to senior pastor of First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Los Angeles, Calif. An ordained elder in the AME Zion Church, Chapple has been preaching and teaching for nearly 30 years. Prior to his service at the Seminary, Chapple was pastor, presiding elder, general conference delegate, delegate to the World Methodist Council, and church consultant. He currently serves as a member of the AME Zion Church’s Judicial Council.

Joyce Diamondstone, director of the Playroom for nearly 25 years, has also left the Seminary. She retired from her post in May. During her quarter-century of service, she touched many lives in the community and will be missed. Taking over as director of the Playroom is Lisa Bick (right), former assistant director. New to the Playroom are Brenna Henry (left), assistant director, and Holly Stanton (middle), aide.

Helping to recruit new students for ministry will be Anthony Rivera, associate director of admissions. Rivera joined the staff this winter and will be working with the Rev. Sherry Sparks ’95, associate dean of admissions (former director of admissions), to increase enrollment at the Seminary. Rivera is a graduate of The Inter-American University of Puerto Rico (bachelor’s), and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Th.M.). Rivera is also a candidate certified to receive a call with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
This year Pittsburgh Seminary celebrates the 50th anniversary of the consolidation of Pittsburgh-Xenia and Western Theological Seminary. The Western Watch, a publication of Western Theological Seminary was printed four times yearly. In the final issue President Clifford E. Barbour (1951-1959) wrote the following:

**Help Build the Bridge**

Your gifts make it possible for students to answer their life-time call of bridging the Word and the world.

So it is also with the seminaries involved in the consolidation. We who have loved Western—and those who have loved Pittsburgh-Xenia—glory in the realization that our heritage will not be lost, but will, under God, become still more worthy for those who shall come after us. Those who live off their heritage lose it. Those who live up to their heritage enrich it. As these two schools were instituted to serve the cause of Christ and His Church, so the development of the new Seminary must be for still more worthy and effective endeavor in strengthening His Kingdom. While we somewhat reluctantly relinquish the past, we happily—and with considerable excitement—look toward an even more glorious future.

As always, Christ has a word for us: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but, if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”
The faculty—the heart of the educational experience at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary—continues in a tradition of academic strength, publication, and commitment to the Church. Recently five faculty members published six books including *The Pastor as Minor Poet: Texts and Subtexts in the Ministerial Life* by M. Craig Barnes; *Best Advice: Wisdom on Ministry from 30 Leading Pastors and Preachers* edited by William J. Carl III; *Preaching Christian Doctrine* by William J. Carl III; *The Destiny of the Righteous in the Psalms* by Jerome Creach; *The Theology of John Calvin* by Charles Partee; and *Ezekiel* by Steven Tuell.

*The Pastor as Minor Poet: Texts and Subtexts in the Ministerial Life*

The Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes, Robert Meneilly Professor of Leadership and Ministry and pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church, wrote *The Pastor as Minor Poet: Texts and Subtexts in the Ministerial Life*. Today’s pastors—often expected to be multitasking marvels who can make their churches “successful”—are understandably confused about their role. Barnes contends that the true calling of a pastor is to assist others in becoming fully alive in Christ, to be a “minor poet.” The pastor absorbs the wisdom of major poets—the biblical poets as well as the church’s theological poets—and distills its essence for parishioners. *The Pastor as Minor Poet* calls pastors to continually search for the deeper, truer understandings of what they see both in the text of Scripture and in the text of their parishioners’ lives.

*Best Advice: Wisdom on Ministry from 30 Leading Pastors and Preachers*

The Rev. Dr. William J. Carl III, president and professor of homiletics, edited *Best Advice: Wisdom on Ministry from 30 Leading Pastors and Preachers* (WJK, 2009). This book gathers a diverse group of leading pastors and preachers and asks them: “What is your best advice to colleagues in ministry about preaching and being a pastor?” The responses are full of wisdom and practical advice, illuminating and helpful for all who are in ministry. This book is a unique window into perspectives on ministry in the 21st century. It is an ideal book to give to one’s pastor or a graduating seminarian. A book pastors will turn to often for inspiration, insight, and wisdom.
These theologians brought life to the pulpit and what today’s preachers can learn from them. *Preaching Christian Doctrine* organizes and describes the various approaches to doctrinal preaching developed throughout the history of the church and across denominational lines, making this volume a unique systematic homiletics text dealing with the problem of preaching Christian doctrine today.

**The Destiny of the Righteous in the Psalms**

Robert C. Holland Professor of Old Testament, the Rev. Dr. Jerome F. D. Creach, authored *The Destiny of the Righteous in the Psalms* (Chalice Press, 2008). The first chapter in the book of Psalms promises that the righteous will be secure and prosperous, “like trees planted by streams of water” (Psalms 1:3). In this thorough analysis of the book of Psalms, Creach expounds on his proposal that Psalms is centrally concerned with the destiny of the righteous.

**The Theology of John Calvin**

P.C. Rossin Professor of Church History, Dr. Charles Partee has penned *The Theology of John Calvin* (WJK, 2008). The theology of John Calvin (1509-1564) was given classic expression in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1559). In this definitive work, longtime Calvin expert Charles Partee offers a careful exposition of Calvin’s theology as it appears in the *Institutes*, paying special attention to the relation of Calvin’s theology to the history of Christian thought and to the questions of Calvin’s own time. Partee also examines the development of later Calvinism and the adaptations of Calvin’s thought by his later followers. As Partee shows, Calvin’s theology provides a profound exposition of Christian faith and a magnificent resource for theology today.

**Ezekiel**

The Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell, associate professor of Old Testament, wrote *Ezekiel* (Hendrickson, 2008) in the “New International Biblical Commentary” Old Testament Series. In this text, Tuell has captured the breadth and depth of Ezekiel and his profound recognition of the power and grace of God for a disenfranchised community. The publication provides a clear understanding of a complex book of the Bible that many in the past have found confusing and murky. The text also includes Tuell’s explanation of the visionary closing chapters of the book that center on a new nation and a new center of worship.
# UPCOMING PTS EVENTS

## May

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| 1    | **Alumnae/i**  
       | Alumnae/i Days |
| 1-2  | **World Mission Initiative**  
       | Crossing Cultures: Building Bridges with Ethnic Communities in Pittsburgh |
| 1    | **Continuing Education**  
       | The Legacy of John Calvin and the Renewal of Christian Worship/ Henderson Lectures, John Witvliet |
| 4-8  | **Doctor of Ministry**  
       | Eastern Christian Focus, Antiochian Village |
| 7    | National Day of Prayer |
| 8    | **Continuing Education**  
       | Reflections on Ministry/ Continuing Education for Psychologists and Social Workers/ John Makransky and Bonnie Thurston |
| 9    | **Continuing Education**  
       | Meditations of Compassionate Communion and Presence/ Continuing Education for Psychologists and Social Workers/ John Makransky |
| 10   | Mother's Day |
| 19   | Last Day of Classes |
| 20-22| Reading and Exam Week |
| 21   | Ascension of the Lord |
| 25   | Memorial Day, Seminary Closed |
| 27   | Baccalaureate |
| 28   | Commencement |
| 28-29| Annual Board Meeting |

## June

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| 1-12 | **Doctor of Ministry**  
       | Reformed Christian Spirituality Focus |
| 7-10 | **Continuing Education**  
       | Summer Leadership Conference/ Emotionally Healthy Spirituality, Pete Scazzer, Andrew Purves, and Nancy Lammers Gross |
| 8-19 | **Doctor of Ministry**  
       | Parish Focus, Phoenix |
| 15-26| **Doctor of Ministry**  
       | Parish Focus, Pittsburgh |
| 21   | Father's Day |
| 22-26| **Continuing Education**  
       | Becoming the Blessed Church/ Spiritual Formation |

## July

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<td>Seminary Closed</td>
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<td>Independence Day</td>
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| 11-25| **Summer Youth Institute 2009**  
       | Doctor of Ministry Forum |
| 27-1 | **Doctor of Ministry**  
       | Parish Focus, Pittsburgh |
## August

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| 9-14  | **Continuing Education**  
Old Testament Spirituality/ Spiritual Formation |
| 17-28 | **Doctor of Ministry**  
Reformed Focus, Aberdeen |
| 21-22 | PC(USA) Ordination Exams |
| 28-30 | **Pneuma**  
Spiritual Direction and Leadership Program |
| 31-4  | **Doctor of Ministry**  
Eastern Christian Focus, Antiochian Village |

## September

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<td>Labor Day, Seminary Closed</td>
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| 7-11  | **Doctor of Ministry**  
Eastern Christian Focus, Antiochian Village |
| 14-17 | **Alumnae/i**  
Western Remnant |
| 18-19 | **Pneuma**  
Retreat |
| 20-25 | **Continuing Education**  
A Spirit-Led Life/ Spiritual Formation |
| 26    | **Continuing Education**  
Teacher Training Workshop |
| 28-29 | **Continuing Education**  
Mission in Central and Eastern Europe: The Calvinist Heritage/ W. Don McClure Lectures/ Anne-Marie Kool |
| 30-1  | **Continuing Education**  
Retiring From a Congregation |

## October

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| 5-9   | **Continuing Education**  
Interim Ministry, Part I |
| 12    | Columbus Day |
| 16-17 | **Pneuma**  
Retreat |
| 16-17 | **Admission**  
OctoberQuest Visit Event |
| 19-30 | **Alumnae/i**  
Phonathon |
| 19    | **Continuing Education**  
Disability Workshop |
| 19-23 | **Doctor of Ministry**  
Science & Theology Focus |
| 26-30 | **Continuing Education**  
Reformed Theology/ Christian Educators’ Certification |
| 29    | **Continuing Education**  
Journey Inward Journey Outward |
GRADUATION SCHEDULE

BACCALAUREATE

Baccalaureate Service
Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Charles Partee, P.C. Rossin Professor of Church History, PTS
Wednesday, May 27
7:30 p.m.
Hicks Memorial Chapel

213TH COMMENCEMENT

Alumnae/i and Awards Brunch
Thursday, May 28
11:00 a.m.
Kadel Dining Room
Dinner
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Kadel Dining Room
Pre-paid Tickets Required

Shuttles between PTS and East Liberty Presbyterian Church begin at 5:00 p.m.

Graduates Robe
5:15 p.m.
Chapel off the Narthex at ELPC

213th Commencement Ceremony
Speaker: Dr. Russell E. Richey, Professor of Church History
Candler School of Theology, Emory University
7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary at ELPC

Reception
8:30 p.m.
Social Hall at ELPC

Shuttles run through 10:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER YOUTH INSTITUTE

Two weeks of theological inquiry and spiritual formation for students entering their senior year of high school. Participants receive full scholarships.

JULY 11-25, 2009

Acceptance for the 13th annual Summer Youth Institute begins April 1, 2009. For a brochure and application for this event visit summeryouthinstitute.org
write Staff Box 56
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
616 N. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
call 1-800-451-4194
e-mail syi@pts.edu

PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
1940s

Ken Kettlewell ’47 has a new book of daily devotions which he shares each morning on the public address system where he resides at the Masonic Home in Springfield, Ohio. The devotions are much enjoyed by staff and residents. Anyone interested in a copy of Kettlewell’s book may obtain more information by e-mailing kenk@siscom.net or calling 937-505-4089.

1950s

Robert Kelley ’51 taught on Sundays for two months in the summer on Philippians at his home church, Mt. Lebanon UP. He returned for four Sundays in November to teach on “Meals with Jesus in Luke.” Kelley spoke on “Giants of the Faith” in October at two Christian Formation seminar sessions at Westminster PC, Upper St. Clair where two recent PTS graduates are associate pastors: Tammy Yeager ’07 and Amanda Richey ’06. In October he participated in the Phonathon by calling classmates.

Wayne Keller ’55 continues to participate in the Senior Olympic Games; lead worship when invited; conduct a variety of workshops; teach at Pacific Lutheran University’s “Second Wind” program and the Graham Community Learning Center; exercise for two hours each day in addition to walking several miles; write articles for several newspapers; and follow the career of his famous soccer goalie nephew, Kasey Keller. He has been prepared in advance all of his life. So, it should be of little surprise to those who know him that he wrote his own obituary and prepared his own memorial service, for which he plans to be present. He wants to see and celebrate with all of his family, friends, and enemies before he dies. Keller is inviting everyone to his Celebration of Life Memorial May 22, 2010. Not only will the event be a celebration of Wayne’s life, guests will be asked to bring a gift for his/her favorite charity. Those who are interested in attending may call 253-841-3093 for more information.

1960s

W. Terry Schoener ’60 has had a profound impact upon others. With a passionate dedication to civil rights and social justice, he has extended his singular ministry far beyond the physical boundaries of the congregations he guided during his 44-year pastoral career. In 2008, Schoener was presented a Distinguished Service Award during the Muskingum College Alumnae/i Weekend. The award, presented to Schoener for a career in the pastorate that impacted the nation’s civil rights movement, is the college’s highest alumnae/i honor. Schoener is married with three children.

Bob Palisin ’62 is retired and living in Concord, N.C., within hearing distance of the Lowe’s NASCAR race track, but too far to rent his front lawn as a parking lot. He is still a member of Tropical Florida Presbytery where he serves on the Judicial Business Committee. Palisin recently was asked by the Poplar Tent Presbyterian Church of Concord to be their parish associate to work with Jay Smith ’00. He is also serving his third year as registrar at the Montreat Wee Kirk Conference.

Carl Hull ’65 and Thomas McLaren ’57 worked together to assist in the merger of two Erie, Pa. churches. Sarah Hearn and Perkins have joined together to form The New Hope Presbyterian Church. Both of these missionally minded churches are excited about a bright future.

Ernest Peterson’s ’65 wife of 43 years, Evelyn, died Sept. 13, 2008.

Jean H. Henderson ’68 and her family welcomed first grandchild, Carl David Munter, Aug. 9, 2008.

Harold Rainey ’69 moved to Hebron, Neb. in September to begin service as the temporary supply pastor at First Church. This is the third congregation that Rainey has served in Homestead Presbytery.

James T. Dennison Jr. ’69/’73 is the compiler and editor (and occasional translator) of The Reformed Confessions of the 16th and 17th Centuries in English Translation (Reformation Heritage Publications). Volume one includes 33 confessions drafted between 1523 and 1552, including John Calvin’s Catechisms, several Waldensian confessions, and more. Dennison has gathered more than 120 documents (ranging from 1523 to 1693) from Europe and America for this first of its kind multi-volume series. He is academic dean and professor of church history and biblical theology at Northwest Theological Seminary, Lynnwood, Wash.
Paul Heller ’72 and his wife Darlene are serving with the Ministry of Hope, a crisis nursery in Mzuzu, Malawi. Paul, a pastor, is the director and Darlene, a nurse, serves as matron. The Ministry of Hope, which is based in Lilongwe, operates a nursery in that city and feeding centers in six villages.

Neeta Nichols ’73 served several churches in Ohio and Michigan over her 35 years in ordained ministry. She is currently serving as the stated supply pastor at Westminster Church of Detroit. In celebration of Nichols’ 35 years of ministry, a luncheon was held in her honor in October.

John T. Campbell ’74 shared the story of a Sept. 13, 2008 miracle when four graduates of the Class of 1974 and their spouses (John and Sharon Campbell; Ron and Pat Moslener; Jon Speck and friend Grace; and Keith and Jenni Horning) met for a reunion dinner for the first time since Seminary graduation. When the group considered the highlights of ministries, they reflected: “Being at the bedside when death came.”; “Baptizing and burying my first grandson.”; “Officiating at a Baptismal service for 30 Tonga natives.” “Walking with a young man as he gave his heart to Christ at a Billy Graham Crusade.”; and “Holding my wife in my arms as she lost her battle with cancer.” Truly, it was a joyous and wondrous reunion that served to remind them that at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary there really is a “spirit that binds.”

Edward T. “Terry” Wimberley ’75 has a book coming out this Spring with Johns Hopkins University Press entitled Nested Ecology: The Place of Humans in the Ecological Hierarchy. This book articulates a pragmatic philosophical approach based upon the assumption that the entire creation consists of a set of nested ecological communities or “households” that are intimately interrelated to one another. The book articulates a world-view or “cosmology” that also includes what Wimberley refers to as “cosmic ecology” which incorporates both scientific and spiritual perspectives. While this is not a theology book or a book about religion per se, it is a philosophy book that addresses one of the generation’s most important issues and does so by in part describing how religious faith and values can help in preserving and protecting the resources of the planet.

Kenneth White ’76 accepted a call as the associate pastor of Southminster PC. He was installed Oct. 12, 2008. The Rev. Donald Ewing ’72, moderator of Pittsburgh Presbytery and interim pastor of Northmont PC, William M. Paul ’59, honorably retired, and Deborah Evanovich ’94, parish associate at Southminster PC, participated in the service of installation.

James Durlesser ’78 was appointed to the First United Methodist Church of Ellwood City, Pa.
1980s

Michael Carr ‘81 joined the Addiction Unit at South Central Human Service Center in Jamestown, N.D. in September. He is a licensed addiction counselor in North Dakota.

Glenn McQuown ‘82 was recently deployed to Afghanistan.

Ed De Lair Jr. ‘85 accepted a call as the pastor of Faith United PC in Washington, Pa. where he was installed in November.

Larry C. Menyweather-Woods ‘85 was awarded a doctorate in human sciences with a specialization in gerontology from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb.

Bebb Wheeler Stone ‘86 accepted a call as pastor of Calvin Church in Linden, N.J.

John E. Flower ‘86 was appointed as the pastor of Heritage United Methodist Church in Ligonier, Pa.

Jay Langley ‘87 was appointed as the senior pastor of Dutill United Methodist Church in Cranberry Township, Pa.

Mark Juengel ‘87 is serving as the head of staff at Parma South Church in Parma, Ohio.

Robert Trask ‘88 was commissioned and received into the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church in June 2008.

Ronald Kronk ‘88 is serving as the pastor of Fairview Church in Hillsville, Va.

Stewart Bair ‘88 is serving as a parish associate at Covenant Community Church.

Keith Dunn ‘89 is serving as the pastor of Oakmont United Methodist Church in Oakmont, Pa.

1990s

Bryan Powell ‘90 has been serving the Linesville and Harmonsburg Churches in Linesville, Pa. for the past three years. Powell has also learned that he loves to play the bagpipes. He has shared his talent with the congregation, most recently playing “Amazing Grace.”

Stuart Broberg ‘90 accepted a call to serve as the designated pastor of Covenant Church in Washington Presbytery.

Lori Holstein ‘92 began as pastor at First Church in Sharpsville, Pa. in August. She has moved to Sharpsville along with her dad and her dogs.

Patricia Ciampa ‘92 is a deacon in The United Methodist Church and was appointed to serve in the Community United Methodist Church in Harrison City, Pa.

John Zingaro ‘93 has a new book out entitled, Who Are the Faithful? It is available through Amazon.com.

Susan Rector ‘93 and her husband, Steve, have been appointed to the Bluefield W.Va. area. Susan will be serving as senior pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church and Steve will be serving as senior pastor of Bluewell United Methodist Church. They celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last year.

Thomas E. Johnson ‘93, the 2008 Baccalaureate speaker for Bethany College, is the head of school and co-founder of The Neighborhood Academy (with Jodie Moore ‘96) in Pittsburgh, Pa. In 1993, he founded The Neighborhood Academy Summer School in the basement of Allegheny United Church of Christ as a summer remedial academic program serving students from low-income neighborhoods. Now it is a college preparatory school serving students and families representing a cross-section of Pittsburgh neighborhoods. In addition to his work at The Neighborhood Academy, Johnson speaks to audiences across the region about issues concerning education and low-income youth. In 2005, he was honored through the Local Ministries program at the United Church of Christ’s General Synod in Atlanta, Ga. for “Excellence in Teaching.”

Tom Topar ‘96 is serving as the pastor of Wurtemburg United Methodist Church in Ellwood City, Pa.

Joseph Hedden ‘97 was published in the Spring 2008 issue of The New Mercersburg Review along with Dr. Gabriel Fackre. Their article was entitled: “The ‘Open Table’ in Mercersburg Perspective: A Debate Between Friends.”

David Means ‘98 was appointed to the Perryopolis and Concord United Methodist Charge in the Western Pennsylvania District.

John Shaver ‘98 accepted an appointment to Valencia United Methodist Church in Valencia, Calif. He began serving there in July.
Jeff Ott ’98 was installed as the designated pastor, head of staff at Lake Shore Church in St. Clair Shores, Mich. in September. The Rev. Carolyn Cranston ’99 gave the Charge to the Pastor. During his service, Ott’s daughter headed to the hospital to deliver his first grandchild. Alyssa Nicole was born that evening.

William Beatty ’98 was appointed to the Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park, Pa., where he began his service in July.

Joe Seese ’99 accepted a call to the First Baptist Church in Zanesville, Ohio.

Marsha Sebastian ’99 will serve for an additional three years as designated pastor at the request of the Brookline Boulevard United Presbyterian Church.

2000s

Jeff Conn ’00 shared that his wife, Wendy, a junior at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, began in the fall on a Presidential Scholarship.

Jeri-Lynne Bouterse ’00 served on the Administrative Commission to install Mark Simonds as the pastor of the Oakdale Church in Oakdale, Pa.

Maggie Foreman ’00 lost her husband Peter to ALS Sept. 4, 2008. He had only been diagnosed in February last year. Peter, a candidate in the D. Min. program, was an ordained pastor in The United Methodist Church, an Army veteran of the Vietnam era, and the recipient of two purple hearts.

Wendy Norris Keys ’00 is serving as the interim pastor at Hillcrest United Presbyterian Church in Monroeville, Pa.

Michelle Wobrak’s ’02 son Craig was married to Meghan O’Halloran in September 2007. The couple resides in Greensburg, Pa.

Connie Garlick ’03 and her husband Hal Garlick ’04 both received dual standing by the Church and Ministry Committee of the Northeastern Association of the Nebraska Conference of the United Church of Christ in July. They were officially installed at St. Luke’s United Church of Christ, where they have been serving since July.

Steve Falci ’03 has joined KBC Asset Management Ltd. in Dublin, Ireland in a newly created role of vice president sustainable investing. Steve, his wife Christine, and their two sons, Matthew and Isaac, will be living on the Irish Sea in Dun Laoghaire.

James Kimmel ’04 was appointed to serve as the pastor of Emlenton United Methodist Church.

James Parkinson ’05 was ordained an elder and elected to full membership in the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church in June 2008.

Leslie Boone ’04, at the request of the Hazelwood Presbyterian Church, renewed her services as temporary supply.

Barbara Stoehr ’05 was ordained an elder and elected to full membership in the Western Pennsylvania Conference during the June 2008 meeting of The United Methodist Church.

James Lewis ’05 was ordained an elder and elected to full membership in the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church in June 2008.

Lorrie Ghering ’05 recently made her debut at the Red Barn Theatre playing Joann in Subject to Change.

Twyla Boyer ’05 accepted a call as the pastor of Middle Island Presbyterian Church in Ridge, N.Y. where she began serving in July.

Alan Jeffries ’06 was ordained to Minister of Word and Sacrament by Redstone Presbytery at the First Church in Irwin, Pa. Donna Havrisko ’93, pastor of Westminster Church in Greensburg and Jennifer Haddox ’06, associate director of World Mission Initiative, participated in the service. Richey accepted a call to be the associate pastor for Christian education to Westminster PC, Upper Saint Clair, Pa. She was installed in November. Moderator Donald Ewing ’72, interim pastor of Northmont, and Brian Wallace ’06, associate pastor at Hampton PC, participated in the service of installation.
Jennifer Haddox ’06 was named associate director of World Mission Initiative by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Karen Baughman ’06, library technical processor at PTS, was licensed for ministry in October at the Monroeville Church of the Brethren. Her licensing service took place during the morning worship service with Dr. Scott Holland, associate professor of theology and culture, Bethany Theological Seminary, preaching.

Andrea Ceplecci ’07 and PTS student Sean Hall were married Oct. 26 in Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Warren, Ohio. Sean is the son of PTS alumnus Tom Hall ’08. In addition to the many guests from Pittsburgh Seminary, several PTS people took part in the ceremony. The Rev. Brian Wallace ’06, the Rev. Dr. Andrew Purves, professor of Reformed theology; and Dr. Edith Humphrey, William F. Orr Professor of New Testament, along with the Rev. Dr. Kang-Yup Na, the PTS 2008 Commencement speaker from Westminster College, conducted the worship service. PTS students Beth Arnold and Steve Franklin were both in the wedding party. Robert Ruefle ’07 was the videographer. The couple will make their home in Pittsburgh while Sean finishes his studies.

Derek Campbell ’07 was ordained to Minister of Word and Sacrament in July at East Main Church in Grove City, Pa. He accepted a call to serve as the pastor of Brockway Church in Brockway, Pa.

Stephen Cramer ’07 received and accepted a call to be the designated pastor of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church in Gibsonia, Pa. He was ordained together with his daughter, a 2008 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, in a Service of Ordination at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Zelienople, Pa. in September. His daughter is serving as the associate pastor of John Calvin Church in San Antonio, Texas.

Allen Thompson ’08 accepted a call as associate pastor for misional renewal at Peachtree Church in Atlanta, Ga.

Andrew Weber ’08 is serving as the intern minister at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church in Carrollton, Texas.

Chris Brown ’08 was ordained to Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Western Colorado Presbytery and is the co-organizing pastor of The Upper Room New Church Development in Squirrel Hill, Pa.

Daniel Thayer ’08 was ordained to Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Southern New England in September. He is serving as the supply pastor for First Church in Crescent City, Fla.

Lynda “Doodle” Harris ’08 accepted a call to Highland Church in Louisville, Ky. as associate pastor for youth and their families. She was ordained at Highland in December. Those participating in the ordination service from PTS were Dr. Byron Jackson, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty, and Dr. Deidre Hainsworth, assistant professor of ethics and director of the Center for Business, Religion and Public Life.

Douglas Myers ’08 was commissioned and received into the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church during the June 2008 meeting in Grove City. He was appointed to the West End Circuit.

James W. Kirk ’08 was ordained by the Presbytery of Pittsburgh in October at the Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek. He will serve as temporary supply pastor at Ken Mawr United.

Janice Good ’08 accepted a call as associate pastor at Tower Church in Grove City, Pa. She was ordained to Minister of Word and Sacrament at her home church, Fairfield in October surrounded by friends from PTS. Participants in the service included: Brian Ennis ’04, John Culp ’98, and Dr. Steven Tuell, associate professor of Old Testament, who preached the sermon “You’re Putting Words in My Mouth.” Tuell is also the sole owner of the “Tuelldoll,” created in his likeness by Good and presented to Tuell from his 2005-2006 Hebrew class. The “Tuelldoll” was present in the pulpit during the sermon, dressed in his robe and stole. Later that evening, Good was installed into her position at Tower Church surrounded by more PTS friends. During that service, Brian Ennis ’04 led the Prayer of Confession; Richard Baker, D.Min. ’87 offered the prayer and led the laying on of hands; John Culp ’98 gave the Charge to the Pastor, Carolyn Cranston ’99 gave the Charge to the Congregation; and Dr. George Tutwiler, organist-choirmaster and instructor in church music and United Methodist studies, played the organ. During the prelude Tutwiler was accompanied by Culp on the French horn as a special gift to Good.
2000s continued

Jeff Eddings ‘08 was ordained to Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). He will serve as organizing co-pastor of the Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community. Members of the PTS community who participated in the ordination were: The Rev. B. J. Woodworth ‘07, organizing pastor of The Open Door; The Rev. Dr. Don Dawson, director of World Mission Initiative; and The Rev. Dr. Scott Sunquist, associate professor of world Christianity. Eddings was installed in October. PTS was well represented in the installation service by Moderator Ann Morris ‘00, Don Dawson, Scott Sunquist, and current student Elder Sharon Stewart of the Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church.

Jill Terpstra ‘08 is the foster care treatment coordinator at Burlington United Methodist Family Services in West Virginia.

Justin Judy ‘08 was appointed to the Grace United Methodist Church in Natrona Heights, Pa. where he began his service in July.

Lauren Myers ‘08 is serving as the director of Christian education at First Church in Irwin, Pa.

Linda Pokrajac ‘08 is serving as director of senior adult ministry at Mt. Lebanon United PC in Mt. Lebanon, Pa.

Michael Gehrling ‘08 was appointed to the staff of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship’s Graduate Student and Faculty Ministry, assigned to the campuses of Carnegie Mellon University and University of Pittsburgh. He was ordained by the Pittsburgh Presbytery in September at Parkwood United to be the co-organizing pastor of Upper Room New Church Development. Participating in Gehrling’s ordination were, Jeffrey Potter ‘97, pastor of Parkwood United; Scott Sunquist, associate professor or world Christianity at PTS; and Sarina Meyer ‘07.

Rachel Nicholson ‘08 was accepted into the one year Clinical Pastoral Education residency program at the West Virginia University Hospitals.

Randall Boyer ‘08 was serving as the interim head of staff at Church of the Covenant in Washington, Pa.

Weddings

Mary J. Sickels Kitchen ‘80 was married to Allen Kitchen May 24, 2008.

Births

Soe Min ‘04 and his wife Puii are new parents again. Their new baby boy, Jonathan Zomuanpuia Min, was born June 23. He weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 22 inches long. Jonathan joins his sister Joy.


Kate Lockard Snyder ‘05 and Joshua Snyder ‘07 welcomed their new baby daughter in October. Eliah Jean Snyder weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21 inches long. Also on hand to welcome the baby was Aunt Melissa Snyder, a current PTS student.

Mark Tippin ‘06 and his wife Jenny recently welcomed a new baby girl, Bethany Samantha, into the family. Her baptism was held in November in Michigan. Tippin preached and the Rev. Paul delong conducted the baptism. Bethany joins her sisters Hannah and Lexie and brother Hezekiah.

Retirements

Daniel C. Graham ‘67 retired from the pastorate at First Church, Grundy Center, Iowa, after more than nine years. He and his wife Judy relocated to suburban Saint Paul, Minn. to tend to the needs of his mother-in-law.

Gary Close ‘68 was honorably retired from the Redstone Presbytery, where he had served as the pastor of Puckety Church in Lower Burrell, Pa., in May 2008. He is currently serving as the Stated Clerk of Redstone Presbytery.

Hetz Marsh ‘68 was honorably retired from the Presbytery of Pittsburgh in November.

Paul McQueen ‘68 was honorably retired in May 2004.

Donald D. Ludwig ‘69 was honorably retired from Pittsburgh Presbytery in April 2008.

Robert O. Brown ‘69 was honorably retired from Lake Huron Presbytery in August 2007.

Norman L. Dalton ‘72, pastor of Community Church of Deerfield Beach, Fla. for 21 years, began his retirement April 1. The congregation celebrated his more than 35 years of ministry at a gala dinner in March. The Daltons have moved to their townhouse just off the beach on Amelia Island, north of Jacksonville, Fla. where their sons live and have businesses.
Thomas Funka ’74 retired in July from the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church. Funka served as the associate pastor of Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park, Pa. He and his wife Nancy are enjoying retirement more than they dreamed they would. His spare time includes tinkering with his TR7, pampering his orchids, reading church history uninterrupted, and occasional preaching.

Richard Hartman ’84 retired from active service in The United Methodist Church July 1, 2008.

Norie Newell Erickson ’87 was honorably retired from the Ohio Valley Presbytery in 2004.

Peggy Petrich ’89 recently retired from The United Methodist Church.

Larry G. Rowe ’89 retired from active service in The United Methodist Church in July. He had been serving as the pastor of Clark Trinity and Charleston United Methodist Churches since July 2002.

Jean Haslett ’96 retired from the Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church in July.

Charles G. Robertson Jr. ’98, a D. Min. graduate, retired from active ministry in August after 41 years of service. He served as the pastor of Wilshire Church in Los Angeles, Calif. for the past nine years. Robertson has a daughter, Michelle (David) Harrison and granddaughter, Olivia, in Atlanta, Ind., and a son Christopher (Kristin) in Flint, Mich. He will continue to reside in Los Angeles.

Mary “Molly” Halter died April 10, 2008. She earned her Certificate in Spiritual Formation from PTS in 2005. Halter served as Christian educator at the First Covenant Church in Boardman and at the Poland PC for more than 30 years before retiring. She is survived by her husband William, two children, and five grandchildren.
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