Dear Friends,

You'd think it would be quiet on the campus of a seminary during the summer months but that is not the case in Pittsburgh. We have had a steady stream of participants on campus for events that have included Doctor of Ministry groups, the Summer Leadership Conference, Greek and Hebrew classes, and a Post Doctoral Forum. The campus has been lively! I'd like to tell you a little more about one event that brought lots of energy for two weeks in July. Twenty-five soon-to-be high school seniors gathered on the campus to participate in the annual Summer Youth Institute. SYI is an innovative program begun at PTS in 1996 as a means of encouraging bright and faithful young people to explore possibilities for theological education and to consider ministry as a vocation. Our program continues to follow the young people throughout their college years and as they make their career choices and we are thrilled that more than 20 percent of past participants, now finished with college, have gone on to seminary. Throughout the Church, the program is hailed as a success for encouraging youth to engage in theological study and exploration.

This year's program was no exception. What a pleasure it was to interact with these terrific young people. The students absolutely fell in love with Dr. Steven Tuell, a professor of Old Testament here, who served as the Bible study leader. They enjoyed participating in workshops led by Drs. John Wilson and Timothy Son, also members of the faculty, and Dr. Nan Foltz, and adjunct instructor here. Dr. Son dealt with faith and pop culture, Dr. Foltz explored personality and the Bible, while Dr. Wilson introduced the youth to Kierkegaard! They were thrilled to have singer/songwriter David Bailey (son of PTS alum and New Testament scholar Ken Bailey) give a concert and spend several days just hanging out with them enjoying conversation and reflection. Daily small groups provided de-briefing opportunities with their counselors, all of whom are current seminarians at PTS. In turn, these seminarian counselors had a wonderful opportunity to engage in hands on ministry with high school youth within a top notch program.

As meaningful as the two weeks were for all participants, this is just the beginning for their relationship with the Seminary. Ellie Johns, director of the program, will continue to be in touch with them and they will be invited back to additional events on campus. At least four of this year's participants have already stated that they are experiencing a call to ministry. Who knows what God will do in these 25 lives over the next few years? Whether they choose seminary or not, we know that these participants will enter adulthood as more theologically articulate and aware people. And the impact of that will be significant throughout their lives.

We thank God for the lives of these young people who have touched us in so many ways
during their time with us here on campus. And we give thanks to the friends of the Seminary who have provided the financial support to make this program possible.

May this month of August bring all of us opportunities for relaxation, exploration, and transformation.

In Christ,

Bill

The Rev. Dr. William J. Carl III
President

Two Doctor of Ministry Focus Groups Meet this Month

The Reformed and Eastern Christian Foci groups will meet in August. Students in the Reformed Focus, a partnership with the University of Aberdeen, will meet at the Seminary. A new cohort group with six Scottish and 12 United States pastors from around the country will gather for two weeks. Professor John Burgess, James Henry Snowden professor of systematic theology, will teach the social transforming character of Reformed ethics and Professor Philip Zeigler of the School of Divinity, King's College, Aberdeen, will teach Reformed theology. This cohort group marks the beginning of a new two year cycle with the next beginning in 2011.

The Eastern Christian focus is a partnership with The Antiochian House of Studies and meets there. Students in the Eastern Christian Focus will be completing the last of two required seminars with Fr. Joseph Allen and Fr. Nik Ferencz. A new cohort group within the Eastern Christian Focus will begin in May 2009. Thirteen years of partnership in the EC focus create a program distinctive in the integration of theological reflection with the practice of ministry. D.Min. candidates in the EC focus are often clergy serving Orthodox and Eastern Rite congregations and agencies and those interested in dialogue with Eastern Christianity.

Former Dean Ulrich Mauser Dies at Age 81

Former dean of the Seminary 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, Hugh Thompson Kerr professor of pastoral theology. "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 PTS. Ulrich was chaplain at Oregon State University (1959-1964) and taught at Louisville Theological Seminary (1964-1977) before coming to the Seminary.

**Seminary Welcomes New Class During Orientation**

This fall the Seminary will continue its long history of preparing leaders who proclaim with great joy God’s message of good news. The incoming class will become acclimated with PTS during the annual Orientation held Sept. 3-5. Throughout the three days students will hear from various student services departments, register for classes, meet with faculty advisors, and spend time exploring the many wonders of Pittsburgh. Please keep these students and our faculty in your prayers as they begin another year of theological education.

**25th Annual Teacher Training Workshop Held Sept. 27**

The Office of Continuing Education will host the annual Teacher Training Workshop Sat., Sept. 27 from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Keynote speaker Cynthia L. Rigby, W.C. Brown professor of theology at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will present "We Will Tell the Next Generation." This day-long workshop is planned with educators, pastors, church school teachers, directors of Christian education, and youth leaders in mind.

Workshop selections include four 80-minute sessions in the morning and eight 90-minute sessions in the afternoon. Some topics for discussion include "Great Ideas for Reaching, Nurturing, and Encouraging our Youth," "From Elementary to Middle School: From Renters to Owners of Their Faith," "Special Needs Children," "Please Don't Ask Me to Sing (with the Kids)," and "Media" among others.

Contact the Continuing Education Office at 412-441-3304 ext. 2196 or ConEd@pts.edu to register for this event. Before Sept. 17, the fee is $20 and includes lunch; after Sept. 17, the fee is $24 and does not include lunch.