Dear Friends,

Although the rhythm of life changes a bit during the summer months, God's activity is still very visible as we look around our campus and at the lives of our students, faculty, and staff. We have had groups of students visiting both South East Asia and Turkey this summer through the World Mission Initiative. Faculty members are filling their summer hours with research and writing for future publications. Classrooms of students are immersed in intensive Greek and Hebrew study. Doctor of Ministry students come to campus for weeklong blocks of coursework. In just a few days the campus will really spring into active mode as 24 high school students arrive to participate in our annual Summer Youth Institute. SYI is an "honors academy" for high school youth who are interested in exploring deep questions of faith, studying with seminary faculty, and learning about the possibilities of ministry as a vocation. It is so exciting to see the joy and hopefulness that these young people have to offer the church we are grateful to be a part of shaping their lives through this very special program.

During this year's SYI, I am especially excited to see a family connection with PTS come full circle. Many of you know Ken Bailey, renowned author and lecturer in Middle Eastern New Testament Studies. We are proud to number Ken as one of our graduates, a member of the Class of 1955. Over the years he has had many connections with PTS, and a new connection was established when his son David began giving an annual concert at our Summer Youth Institute. David is well-known as a 12+ year survivor of a brain tumor that was to have killed him in six months. His amazing story of faith, hope, and survival has been shared with and inspired thousands of fans all over the world. His story has been featured on CBS News/48 Hours, 60 Minutes, NPR, Presbyterians Today, and dozens of newspapers and magazines across the country. You can read more about him at www.davidmbailey.com. We are delighted that this year we are adding a third generation of the Bailey family to our PTS family as Ken's granddaughter and David's daughter, Kelcey, comes to campus as a youth scholar in SYI. I'm sure that both Ken and David are proud of Kelcey's participation and we are very excited to welcome her to PTS.

We would love for you join us for David's concert on Friday, July 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the John Knox Room in Long Hall. I know that you will find David, along with the youth participating in this program, to be inspiring. Please keep these young student scholars, the program staff and seminarians who will work with them, and the faculty who will teach them in your prayers during this month. As always, thank you for your prayers and support which makes all that we do here possible.

Bill

The Rev. Dr. William J. Carl III
PTS Holds 13th Annual SYI this Month

Rising high school scholars will spend two weeks on campus studying with seminary faculty, digging deeper into questions of theology, and forming lasting friendships with future colleagues in ministry during the 13th annual Summer Youth Institute. From July 11-25 the students will spend time in study, worship, service, recreation, and reflection.

Tuition, room, board, and field trips for SYI participants are free thanks in part to the Lilly Endowment Inc. and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary donors.

For more information about the Summer Youth Institute, contact the Rev. Ellie Johns, director at 412-441-3304 ext. 2159, e-mail mjohns@pts.edu, or visit www.summeryouthinstitute.org.

First Evening Courses Discounted for New Students

The Seminary invites new evening students to take their first class at half price. Pick from Historical Studies or the Study of Prophets and Psalms. Classes meet one evening a week from 6:30-9:00. Discern the ministries of preaching and teaching and experience theological study with seminary professors.

Incoming students must complete the standard admissions process. Download the application online by clicking the "Apply Now" button in the upper right corner. Applications will be accepted until August 1.

Contact us at 1-800-451-4194 or admissions@pts.edu. Learn more about the evening program online at www.pts.edu/evening.

Allison Releases Book on the Historical Christ

Dr. Dale C. Allison Jr., Errett M. Grable Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Early Christianity, has written The Historical Christ and the Theological Jesus (Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009).

In this book, which Allison describes as "my personal testimony to doubt seeking understanding," he thoughtfully addresses ongoing historical-theological questions concerning Jesus. What should one think of the modern quest for the historical Jesus when there is such enduring discord among the experts, and when personal agendas play such a large role in the reconstructions? How much history is in the Gospels, and how much history does Christian theology require that there be? How does the quest impinge upon conventional Christian beliefs and what might it contribute to contemporary theological reflection?

Allison's other recent publications including The Love There That's Sleeping: The Art and
Spirituality of George Harrison (T. & T. Clark 2006); The Luminous Dusk (Eerdmans, 2006); Studies in Matthew: Interpretation Past and Present (Baker Academic 2005); and Resurrecting Jesus: The Earliest Christian Tradition and Its Interpreters (T. & T. Clark 2005). He is currently at work on a full-length commentary on the book of James. Additionally, Constructing Jesus: Memory and Imagination (Baker Academic) is forthcoming in 2010.

World Christian Discipleship Offered through World Mission Initiative

The 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). The program is non-traditional and experiential so students will live a simple life, they will live in community, and they will 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.

Contact the Rev. Don Dawson, director of WMI, at 412-441-3304 ext. 2149 or ddawson@pts.edu for additional information. Read more online at http://www.worldmissioninitiative.org/wcd/.