Dear Friends,

Over the past month of February, God has poured a generous gift on the city of Pittsburgh and much of our country in the form of SNOW! We have broken a record for the most snow in one month. How beautiful this white blanket is, and how much this gift does to water and refresh the earth. But... if you live in an area like Pittsburgh that has received such an excess of this gift over the past month, you will understand the challenging days that we have just lived through at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The snow began falling heavily over a weekend. By Sunday evening we knew that the prudent thing to do was cancel class and close the Seminary for Monday. Those who live off campus faced driveways in need of plowing, cars buried so deeply in snow that the shoveling went on for hours, and even those who lived close to campus found the city streets to be impassable. Each night that week, our administrative council would spend hours by phone and e-mail wrestling with whether or not to open the campus for the following day. We needed the wisdom of Solomon to try to balance the safety of our employees and students with the desire to get back to the classroom at such a critical time in our academic year. Because the Seminary is on trimesters, the second term was quickly drawing to a close and time for making up missed classes was limited. By Friday, at the end of a long week, we were all very happy to return to campus and to the normal rhythm of our lives.

I know that some of you faced great hardship during these recent snowstorms. Travelers were caught in distant locations for days at a time. Some from our extended PTS community were without power for a week. You were in our prayers. The level of frustration across the city was great. Still, we found many blessings during these days. Members of our maintenance crew did an amazing job of keeping the campus parking lots and sidewalks clear. They worked round the clock (neglecting their own homes and driveways) in order to keep our students safe and allow us to return to classes as soon as possible. One of our security guards stayed on campus round the clock to make sure our students were safe. Work-support students assigned to the cafeteria opened the dining room and provided food services to students living in campus housing, while the work-support students assigned to the library opened it for a few hours each day so that fellow students could finish their paper writing by the end of the term. In big and small ways people worked together to find the joy in this challenging time.

This blessing of snow from God brought our lives as we know them to a halt, and with this interruption we realized the blessings of being still, of unexpected quiet moments at home with family, and the camaraderie that comes from sharing such an experience together.

As we round the corner into March, our students will turn in their papers today and Term II will
officially come to a close. As you will see below, quite a few of our students will spend the two week break participating in cross-cultural immersion experiences through the World Mission Initiative. On March 15 we will return to class with the sincere hope that the warmth of Spring will be with us throughout this next term.

As we continue our Lenten journey, we are grateful for God's many gifts. We are grateful for you and the encouragement and support that you offer the Seminary through your prayers and your generous gifts. We are grateful for Christ who binds us all together in one body, no matter where we are. And, yes, we are even grateful for SNOW! May the warmth of God's love sustain us throughout our days.

Yours in Christ,

Bill

The Rev. Dr. William J. Carl III
President

P.S. We have some pictures of our snowy campus online if you'd like to take a look!
http://www.eprologue.org/snowphotos.htm

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**Students Travel on Cross-Cultural Trips during Spring Break**

During the Seminary's spring break, 56 students, alums, and others from PTS will explore mission opportunities abroad. Ten students will travel with the Rev. Dr. Scott Sunquist, professor of world Christianity, to Egypt. A second group of five students will travel with the Rev. Dr. Don Dawson, director of World Mission Initiative, and the Rev. Jennifer Haddox '06, assistant director of World Mission Initiative, to Southeast Asia. A group of 12 students will be visiting Israel and Palestine with the Rev. Todd Leach, associate pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church. Traveling to the Mexican border are seven others under the leadership of the Rev. John Welch '02, vice president for student services and dean of students. Also heading to Mexico is a group of six with the Rev. Keith Kaufold '07, pastor at Eighth Avenue Place, Homestead, Pa. A final assembly of four are planning their trip to Nepal with PTS student Jonathan Wagner organizing.

These trips are coordinated through the Seminary's World Mission Initiative. WMI is a fellowship of Presbyterians dedicated to developing mission vision, nurturing missionary vocations, and cultivating missional congregations. WMI exists to help Christians understand how God is at work in the world and how they can share in that work. Learn more about WMI at http://www.worldmissioninitiative.org.

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**Prospective Students Visit Campus March 12-13**

*Spring Journey*, a day of exploration for prospective students, will be held March 12-13. Since 1794 the Seminary has been bridging the Word and the world. Throughout the day, prospective students will explore the many ways that the bridge to their future can start here. They will learn
about the Seminary's unique resources in fieldwork, urban issues, archaeology, joint degree programs, and more. The Friday portion of the program will be devoted to the discernment journey. In addition, lunch and dinner will be served, participants will explore the city, and they will join together for evening prayer. Saturday will be filled with faculty-led workshops, tours of campus, information from the admissions and financial aid officers, and fellowship opportunities with current students.

For those traveling from a distance, overnight housing will be provided. There is no fee for this event. Spouses, parents, or family members are welcome to attend. Reserve a place at this Spring Journey event using the online reservation form found at www.pts.edu/visit, e-mailing admissions@pts.edu, or calling 1-800-451-4194.

Semi-Annual Conference Addresses the Future of Christian Education

Join us Tues., March 16 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. for the semi-annual retreat "Journey Inward Journey Outward" gathering church educators, volunteers, and pastors. This conference, "The Future of Christian Education: Wishin' and Hopin' and Thinkin' and Prayin', Plannin' and Dreamin'" engages participants in worship, keynote lectures, and workshops. Debbie Hough, director of Christian education at Derry Presbyterian Church, Hershey, Pa., will lead the discussion. Registration fee is $25. Contact the Office of Continuing Education at Pittsburgh Seminary at 412-924-1345 or ConEd@pts.edu to make a reservation. Lunch is not provided but is available for purchase.

World Mission Initiative Conference “God Says Go!” Held March 19-20

The World Mission Initiative at PTS will hold its bi-annual conference March 19-20. This year’s event "Go Says Go!" will feature keynote presentations by missiologist and author Michael Frost and an Iranian missionary. Workshops cover three topics: discovering, equipping, and connecting. Registration fee is $25 with a maximum of $100 per congregation. Meals are also available for purchase. Contact WMI with additional questions at WMIConference@pts.edu or 412-924-1441. Visit www.worldmissioninitiative.org for complete details.

Schaff Lectures Address Theological Education and Ministry

The annual Schaff Lectures will be held Wed., March 24 at the Seminary. Keynote speaker Dr. Daniel Aleshire, executive director of The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, will present "Finding Our Way in the Wilderness: Theological Education and Ministry in a Changing Church and Society". The lectures are free and open to the public.

This year's events include "Egypt: The Past that We Think the Seminary Served" at 11:30 a.m.; "Wilderness: The Changing Seminary and Church" at 4:30 p.m.; and "Promise: A Faithful Future for Theological Education for the Church" at 7:30 p.m. Lectures will be presented in the Knox Room. A dinner will also be held on campus at 6:00 p.m. in the Kadel Dining Hall. Reservations are required for the dinner only. Cost is $10.
Aleshire will also speak at the First Presbyterian Church in Youngstown Tues., March 23 at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact the church at 330-744-4307.

Contact the Seminary's Continuing Education Office at ConEd@pts.edu or 412-924-1345 for more information about the lectures or to make your dinner reservation. The Schaff Lectures are named in honor of the late David S. Schaff. For 23 years, Schaff taught church history at Western Theological Seminary on the north side of Pittsburgh, one of the antecedents of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.