Dear Friends,

As president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, one of my greatest joys is celebrating the work of our faculty. Most days our faculty goes faithfully and quietly about their research, writing, teaching, and service—with little fanfare and not much attention. But, every now and then the work of one of my colleagues grabs the attention of the media and propels this particular professor and the Seminary into an exciting new arena!

Thanks to the work of archaeologist Ron E. Tappy, G. Albert Shoemaker Professor of Bible and Archaeology at PTS, this is happening right now. Dr. Tappy is one of a team of scholars and researchers being featured in an upcoming NOVA documentary on public television. Stories of the work of archaeologists who have studied biblical stories, examined artifacts, and deciphered ancient manuscripts to trace how the concept of one God emerged in the history of ancient Israelite religion will be the focus of "The Bible's Buried Secrets," a two-hour program that airs Nov. 18 at 8:00 p.m. on PBS stations across the United States.

The program includes rare motion picture recordings of Pittsburgh Seminary's work at the site of Tell Beit Mirsim from 1926 to 1932. It also features Professor Tappy's current fieldwork at Tel Zayit. You may remember that in 2005, Tappy and his team discovered what is currently the oldest known Hebrew inscription in the world—a complete Hebrew alphabet from the time of King Solomon. This discovery brought the world's attention to Dr. Tappy's work, and to our seminary.

If you live in the Pittsburgh area we hope that you will join us to watch the premiere in large-screen format on campus. We will gather in the Knox Room in Long Hall to share together in this experience. Pittsburgh residents can also tune in to WQED to see the documentary, while friends outside the area can visit www.pbs.org to find their local PBS affiliate and air time.

As you watch the program, keep in mind that the views expressed in this documentary are diverse, exciting, challenging, and sometimes even controversial. While not all the perspectives presented in the film represent the stance of this Seminary or our professors, the program is guaranteed to generate much thought and pave the way for future discussions. Whether here on campus or in your own living room, I hope you will join me in watching this special and in celebrating the archaeological traditions that have been so much of a part of our history at PTS. Join me, too, in giving thanks to God and celebrating the work of our contemporary archaeologist extraordinaire, Dr. Ron Tappy.
In Christ,

Bill

The Rev. Dr. William J. Carl III
President

P.S. As the finish line for this long national presidential campaign draws near, may Christ's spirit of peace be upon us, breaking down the wall that divide us and making us one. I hope that you will join me, not only at the polls, but in prayer for our nation during this important and historic time.

President Carl Preaches Two Sermons on "Day 1"

President Carl will be the featured preacher Nov. 9 and 16 on "Day 1," a nationally broadcast radio program also accessible by podcast at www.day1.net. Each program includes a sermon by Carl along with interviews conducted by the program's host and executive producer, Peter Wallace.

President Carl's sermon for Nov. 9, entitled "Tickets for Tarshish," focuses on the story of the prophet Jonah from the book of Jonah. In his second sermon, entitled "Having Trouble Sleeping Through the Night?", Carl explores the story of the prophet Samuel, who as a boy heard God calling him in the night and ultimately answered, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Sam 3). "You and I have to face up to ourselves in this self-revelation, which often occurs in the middle of the night as it did for Samuel. Until we do that we will never really hear God calling our names and leading us into new ministries and new lives," Carl said.

If you are not able to listen to Dr. Carl's sermons live on the radio click on this site www.day1.net and listen to them when you can. You will also find a video of a conversation with Dr. Carl and sermons and conversations with one of our other faculty members, Dr. Craig Barnes who preached for Day 1 last summer.

Continuing Education Offers Workshop on Sacramental Living

Clergy and laypersons of all denominations are invited to "Sacramental Living: Integrating Baptism and Communion in the Life of Your Congregation," Nov. 10 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at PTS. The Rev. Chip Andrus, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Harrison, Ark., will lead the group.

Participants will explore ways of reclaiming the Christian and Reformed tradition. Discussions include ways in which sacramental understanding helps give deeper meaning to worship, daily prayer, and life.
Continuing Education credits (0.6) are available. Fee is $60. Contact 412-441-3304 ext. 2196 or ConEd@pts.edu for more information or to register. Review the workshop brochure for complete details.

Seminary Celebrates an Evening of Archaeology Nov. 18

In addition showing the "Bible's Buried Secrets" on campus (see Dr. Carl's letter above) the Seminary will host Israel Finkelstein Tues., Nov. 18 at 5:30 p.m. During that time, Finkelstein, Jacob Malkow professor of the archaeology at Tel Aviv University, will present the lecture "New Revelations from Megiddo" in the Hicks Memorial Chapel. He will discuss new insights from his on-going excavation at Megiddo, a site that commanded the Jezreel Valley where critical trade and military routes crossed. Megiddo has provided evidence that is central to his revision of the Israelite history.

The Bible Lands Museum will be open before and after the presentation. For those staying for the documentary, the PTS dining hall will open at 7:00 p.m. with a buffet at a cost of $9.50. RSVP at kbowden@pts.edu or at 412-441-3304 ext. 2276 by Nov. 12.

Following the meal, "The Bible's Buried Secret" will be shown at 8:00 p.m. in the Knox Room, Long Hall. This two hour exploration of biblical archaeology includes Megiddo and two PTS excavations: Tell Beit Mirsim, 1926-1932 and Tel Zayit, 1998-present. Others can watch the documentary on WQED or any PBS affiliate.

Audio Available from Recent Genesis Lecture Series

During the recent four-part lecture series, "Beginnings: What Genesis Says and Doesn't Say," Associate Professor Steven Tuell led participants in exploring the Bible's first book and its two different accounts of creation. In addition to discussing the meaning of the two stories, those attending considered the implications of the creation accounts for the relationship between science and faith. All are invited to listen to the lecture audio.