Dear Friends,

The red, orange, and gold leaves on the trees in our Western Pennsylvania hills remind us that everything in this world changes. Some changes are huge and life altering. Others are rather mundane, but it seems like it's the mundane changes that can be the most challenging!

At Pittsburgh Theological Seminary we are going through one of those times of change as we move to a new phone system. Being a bit of a "techie," I am excited about the features that this new phone system offers to us! On the other hand, I realize that change is never easy and adjusting to this new phone system will not be without challenges.

The biggest change related to this new system is that every phone on campus will have its own direct dial number. You can find all of our new numbers on the Seminary's website at www.pts.edu/directory. The Seminary's central number (412-362-5610) will remain the same. If you call this number during normal office hours, a student receptionist will assist you in connecting your call.

We are grateful for this new technology which I believe will improve our abilities to communicate with one another. I welcome opportunities to talk with you about how we can work together to carry out Christ's mission through Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. I am truly thankful for all that you do to make what we do possible.

Gratefully,

The Rev. Dr. William J. Carl III
President

World Mission Initiative Offers Mission Discernment During Annual Event

WMI will offer "Discerning Your Call to Mission" Sat., Nov. 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Knox Room. This event is designed to instruct and guide those who may sense a call to missionary service. The Rev. Dr. Don Dawson, director of WMI, the Rev. Jen Haddox, associate director of WMI, Nancy Cavalcante, coordinator of mission service recruitment for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and Rachel Weller, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) missionary to Ethiopia, will lead the sessions. Individuals and church groups are welcome.
A
dmission and lunch are free. Register by e-mailing wmi@pts.edu or calling 412-924-1402. Visit www.worldmissioninitiative.org to learn more about the World Mission Initiative.

Second Annual Scholarship Luncheon Held

Donors who gave $1000 or more to PTS last year will gather on campus Tues., Nov. 10 at noon for the second annual scholarship luncheon. During this time they will have the chance to meet with scholarship recipients and hear more from PTS senior Beth Arnold as she recaps her summer travels as the Valentour Scholarship recipient. From May through July she visited the Dominican Republic, Haiti, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and other places in South East Asia. We welcome this opportunity to express our gratitude to these generous donors.

Professor Installed in Church History Chair

The Rev. Dr. John E. Wilson will be installed as the P.C. Rossin Professor of Church History Tues., Nov. 10. Wilson has taught at the Seminary since 1984. In his teaching he focuses mainly on modern church history (since the Reformation). Before coming to Pittsburgh he was Privatdozent for church history at the University of Basel and a pastor in the Swiss Reformed Church (1972-1984). Wilson's research interests focus in the area of 19th century religious thought, especially hermeneutics. His most recent publication is Introduction to Modern Theology: Trajectories in the German Tradition (WJK, 2007). He is married and has three adult children. The P.C. Rossin Chair is named in honor of Peter C. Rossin who served as the chairperson and CEO of Dynamet Inc. Rossin affirmed his concern for the moral and literary fiber of America through his personal benevolence. His widow, Ada, continues to be motivated by an ongoing concern for the effective education of our younger generation.

Museum Hosts Archeologist Zvi Lederman Sun., Nov. 17

Dr. Zvi Lederman, a researcher in archaeology at Tel Aviv University, will be on campus Sun., Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Knox Room. He will present a lecture entitled "At the Border: Iron Age Beth Shemesh". Its location, name, and history would indicate that Beth-Shemesh was a community on the Philistine border. When the Ark of the Covenant was taken by the Philistines, it was finally returned to the people of Beth-Shemesh, but the Lords of the Philistines, stepping after the Ark, went only "up to the border of Beth-Shemesh". Lederman will discuss recent excavations that have illuminated life at Beth-Shemesh from a series of flourishing Iron Age 1 villages (1200-950 BCE) to a fortified Iron 2 city established during the days of the early Monarchy. In the course of its history, this important biblical town became embroiled in conflicts with the neighboring Philistines as well as conflicts between Israel and Judah, Syria and Ephraim, and eventually between Judah and the Assyrians.

A reception will follow the lecture. Additionally, the Bible Lands Museum will be open from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and after the presentation. This event is co-sponsored by the Biblical Archaeology Society of Pittsburgh. Contact Karen Bowden Cooper at kbowden@pts.edu or 412-924-1394 for more information on either event.
The Seminary Choir will present "Joy to the World! The Music and Poetry of Christmas" Tues., Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hicks Memorial Chapel. The Rev. George E. Tutwiler, organist-choirmaster, will direct the Choir. This event is free and open to the public with a reception immediately following. The 35-voice choir will sing Christmas music by a variety of composers from America, England, and Russia. Along with the audience the Choir will join in traditional carols. Representatives from the Seminary community will read poetry appropriate to the season.

For more information about this event, contact the Office of Continuing Education at 412-924-1345 or ConEd@pts.edu.