Dear Friends,

I can never decide which is the most exciting time on our campus. Is it May when the senior class graduates and goes out to answer God's call, or September when a new crop of students joins us to begin the circle all over again? Later this week, the incoming class will gather on our campus for orientation. The excitement in the air is palpable.

Enrollment in many seminaries and graduate schools has fallen sharply. On the other hand, we are getting ready to welcome an incoming class that is actually larger than last year's incoming class. Praise be to God! This week 80 students from Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Alabama, Maryland, Virginia, Minnesota, Texas, Kansas, Colorado, North Carolina, Kentucky, Washington, California, and Egypt will arrive on campus for orientation. Among these students will be a woman named Sally Henry. She and her husband sold their home and orchard in Colorado in order to come to Pittsburgh Seminary. Joel Montgomery, the son of our Board member and alumnae Sue Sterling Montgomery '77 will be coming along with his fiancée Janice Butcher who will also be a student. Several students will be coming from Santa Barbara, Calif., including Tony and Anna Lazzari. This Italian music loving couple and their adorable little boy (pronounced Tay) have made their new home on our campus. I can hardly wait to introduce more members of this class to you during their time in our midst.

Sometimes people ask what we are doing at PTS that inspires students to enroll in seminary in a time when the economy is driving students away. My answer always goes back to our PTS Vision Statement—it "is not what are we doing on this 13 acre campus, but what is God doing out there in the world" and how we are a part of that work. At the same time I celebrate our students, too. They are giving up much to come here to study, and they are choosing a vocational path that can be spiritually rewarding but financially challenging. And yet in the face of this, they come with a hunger to learn, an abundance of joy, and a hopefulness that is contagious.

I hope that in your life, hope is growing in many ways, too. Perhaps you, too, will begin something new this fall. I hope that you will find an opportunity to make PTS part of your life. Participate in one of the educational opportunities outlined in this newsletter. If you can't come to campus, spend some time surfing our website and catch up with some of our faculty's recent work. Pray always for our students and our mission.

May God's blessings be with all of us as we begin this new season!

Bill

The Rev. Dr. William J. Carl III
Annual Teacher Training Workshop Explores God in the Scriptures

The Seminary will host the 26th annual Teacher Training Workshop Sat., Sept. 26 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Keynote speaker Karen B. Tye, professor emerita of Christian education at Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. will present "Connecting with God in the Scriptures."

How do we interpret the Bible in classrooms made up of people who live in a rapidly changing world? The annual Teacher Training Workshop offers information and instruction for teachers of all grade levels. In addition to the keynote presentation, workshops will be offered on a variety of topics aimed at both new and seasoned teachers. This greatly loved fall workshop is co-sponsored by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh Presbytery, and Mt. Ararat Baptist Church.

Contact the Office of Continuing Education at 412-441-3304 ext. 2196 or ConEd@pts.edu to register for this event. Before Sept. 18 the fee is $20 and includes lunch; Sept. 18-22 the fee is $25 and includes lunch; after Sept. 22 the fee is $25 and does not include lunch. Conference Brochure

McClure Lectures Address Christ and the Chinese Mind-Heart

We welcome Diane B. Obenchain, professor of religious studies at Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Mich. Sept. 28-29 as she presents this year's McClure Lectures. She will address "Christ and the Chinese Mind-Heart (Xin)."

Sept. 28 events include "What is the Problem with 'Religion'?," at 11:30 a.m.; "Why is 'Religion' Especially Suspect in China?," at 4:15 p.m.; World Mission Initiative Dinner at 6:00 p.m.; and "Who is a 'Christian Minister of the Moral Order'?" at 7:30 p.m. Obenchain will present the chapel service "Chinese Calvinism Today: Partners in Prayer" based on John 13:34-35, Sept. 29 at 11:30 a.m.

These lectures are free and open to the public. To attend the WMI dinner, guests must pre-register and cost is $10 per person. Contact the WMI Office at 412-441-3304 ext. 2252 for dinner tickets. Contact the Office of Continuing Education at 412-441-3304 ext. 2196 or ConEd@pts.edu with questions about the lectures. Conference Brochure

Your Gift Goes Twice as Far During Oct. 28 Match Day

Double your gift to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary by donating online Wed., Oct. 28. Starting at 10:00 a.m., Oct. 28, (and running through Oct. 29 at 12:00 p.m. or until the match funds exhaust) The Pittsburgh Foundation will host Pittsburgh's Day of Giving—a day when your gift of $50 or more through the site will be matched 50¢ to the $1, up to a gift of $2,500 per individual. Donate online at www.pittsburghgives.org. Participants are urged to register online before the giving date.
as funds are expected to be exhausted quickly.