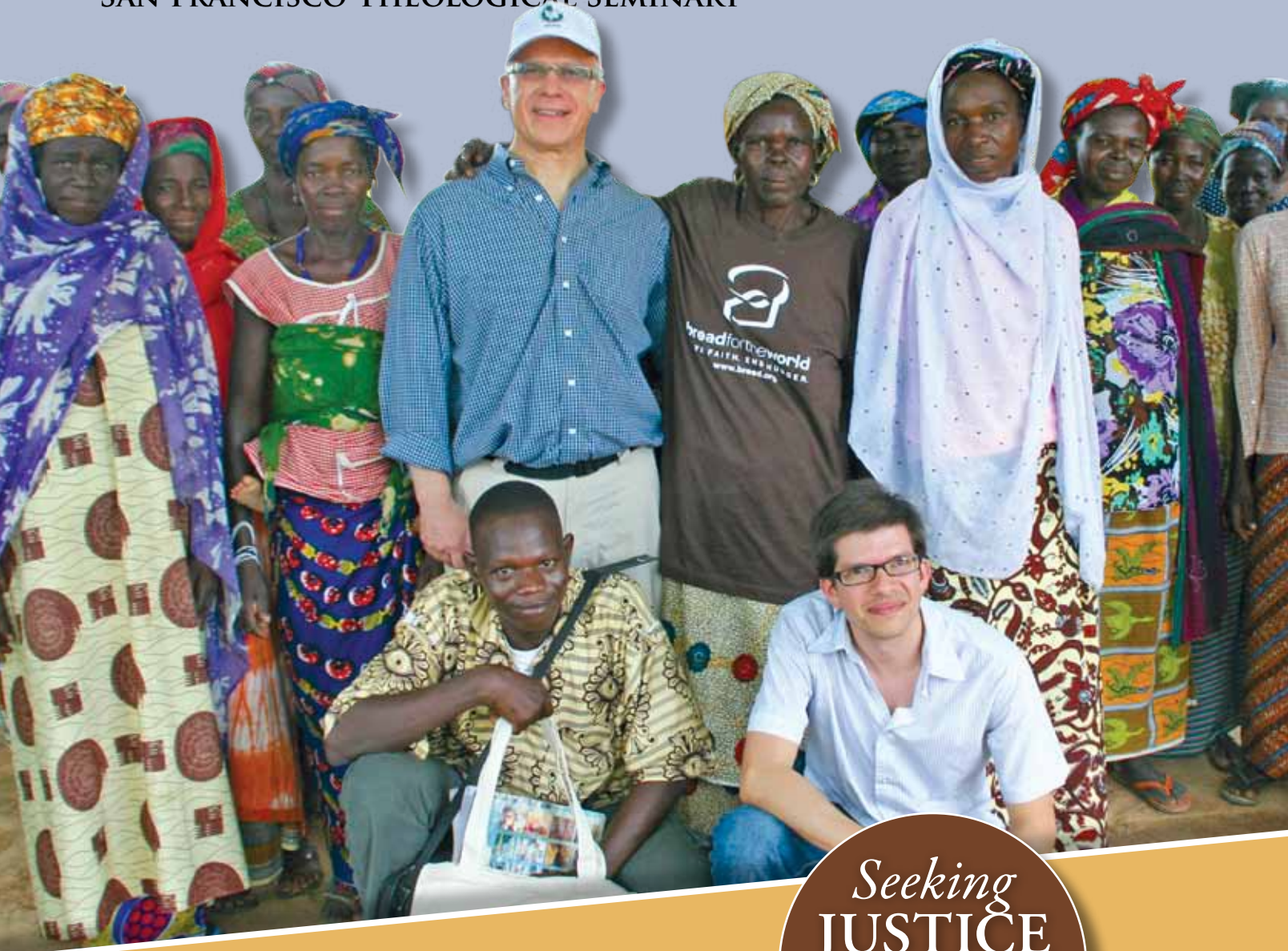


CHIMES

SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Fall 2011 | Volume 57 | No. 1



at the

INTERSECTION

of CHURCH

& WORLD

Seeking
JUSTICE

**14-PAGE
SPECIAL
FOCUS**

SFTS President Jim McDonald seeks to engage congregations and communities to serve the larger church and world

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

A few days ago someone noted that I had just passed my first 100 days here at the seminary, and wondered what I would say about my experience thus far. My response? “It’s been exhilarating.”

Despite the dislocation from our move cross-country, my wife, Dean, and I have thoroughly enjoyed these first months here at the seminary. Getting to know students, staff, faculty, trustees, alums and friends of the seminary has been wonderful. I am inspired by the warmth, engagement, energy and openness of the SFTS community in all its manifestations. Dean and I are deeply appreciative of the generous, wholehearted hospitality we have been given. In short, we feel at home in our new community.

So begins a new chapter in the history of SFTS.

Institutional and political histories are often written around presidents and those at the top. Traditionally, historians have looked at the context and circumstances of the time and made judgments about how effectively a leader created or responded to the opportunities that emerged. But the new historians recognize that leadership is collective, that communities and groups determine the shape of events and their consequences.

Just so, the next chapter of SFTS’s history will be about what we do together. It will be measured by how well this institution, committed to preparing religious leaders for the church of the future, aligns itself with God’s purposes, adopts a common vision undergirded by a set of core values, marshals its resources and assets, and responds to a set of opportunities and challenges.

The world is changing at breakneck speed. Whole economies are being restructured, not by some grand design but by financial necessity, technological innovation, and an irrepressible entrepreneurial spirit. Not everyone welcomes such change, or benefits, to be sure. But change can bring new opportunity and hope for many, even for the reluctant and the resistant. Ten years ago few could have imagined the changes we are now witnessing in the Arab world or in global communication. Amidst such changes, we are inspired even as we struggle to keep up.

I believe God is calling the church to new forms of ministry and mission. In times such as these, the church of the past, even the recent past, cannot be the church of the future. That’s why I am here at SFTS, and why I left a wonderful job at Bread for the World in Washington,

D.C., to take on the daunting task of seminary president. As the name implies (seminary: from the Latin *seminarium*, meaning “seedbed”), seminaries are the seeding grounds for the transformation and renewal of the church in the world. They are a prime laboratory for incubating religious leaders who will inspire and challenge communities to live in the light of the Gospel.

As I think about the future of SFTS, the following possibilities come to my mind:

- ✚ We need to balance excellent scholarship and the excellent practice of ministry.

- ✚ We need to beef up the practical side of our theological education: expand public ministries of the church; teach students how to be entrepreneurial, deal with power and conflict, raise money and manage it; teach students how to be community organizers, mediators and negotiators; and teach students how to involve the church in public policy at local, state and national levels.

- ✚ We need to continue to expand the diversity of the students we educate.

- ✚ We should consider how to bring cross-cultural education into our curriculum and into our work.

- ✚ We need to strengthen the seminary’s partnership with congregations and pastors.

- ✚ We need to build stronger, more meaningful ties with SFTS alums.

- ✚ We should consider innovative, strategic, collaborative partnerships with other institutions, including churches and seminaries outside the U.S.

- ✚ We should think about how to move the seminary out into the world in order to engage the world, not just assume that our main job is to bring students to seminary.

These are my initial thoughts about how SFTS ought to move forward in the years ahead. I offer them as the starting point for a much larger, richer conversation in the months and years to come. I welcome your thoughts.

With gratitude for your prayers and support,

Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald
President and Professor of Faith and Public Life



CHIMES

SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SAN ANSELMO

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Be a part of the change at SFTS



San Francisco Theological Seminary is embarking on a journey of vision and faith. With the election of Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald as the 11th president in seminary history, and his inauguration weekend February 10-11 in San Anselmo,

over the next four years and generate \$29 million in San Anselmo business revenue. The Town of San Anselmo and our neighbors appear to be enthusiastic about the plan. As attractive as the campus is now, it will be far more beautiful when the plan is fully implemented. Prospective students visiting the campus will be excited about the new housing options while also beginning to sense and value the seminary's community life.

Another indication of change is the seminary's Financial Equilibrium Plan (FEP). This strategic, five-year financial plan aims to manage our expenses, increase our revenue and balance our operating budget by 2016. This requires increasing our endowment by about 50 percent to \$75 million over the next five years to reach a more sustainable level. A new investment policy, asset allocation strategy and new investment advisors are already contributing to endowment growth. The Campus Property Redevelopment Plan proposed in the MPA described above is a critical component of the FEP. This unique opportunity capitalizes on Marin housing prices to consolidate housing on the core campus and to grow the endowment.

Beyond housing consolidation and financial management, SFTS has identified enrollment and fundraising as its top priorities. New Director of Enrollment Elizabeth McCord – a 2006 Master of Divinity graduate of SFTS – is developing approaches and strategies to recruit students to our core academic programs. The Office of Institutional Advancement is working to reconnect with and expand our base of support to meet the goals set forth in the Financial Equilibrium Plan.

These and other changes are setting a new course for SFTS. There is excitement among the board, administration, faculty, staff and students as this new chapter in the seminary's history unfolds.

SFTS is beginning a new chapter in its history of service to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the wider church.

SFTS has been in transition for several years. Rev. Dr. Laird J. Stuart postponed his retirement to serve as interim president for 16 months. He is recognized for having led the seminary at a time when difficult decisions needed to be made, all the while instilling a sense of calm, caring and compassion. The collective wisdom and devotion of the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, together with the skills and sensitivities of those serving in interim positions, such as Rev. Scott Clark, interim associate dean of student life and chaplain, continue to support the transition as the new administration looks to the future with anticipation.

Our students feel called to this place, and in choosing to attend seminary at SFTS they have become part of the cherished story that began in 1871. Students, too, are experiencing transition at SFTS. It is part of their learning, part of their preparation in being able to lead churches and other organizations in transition.

What's changing, you may be asking?

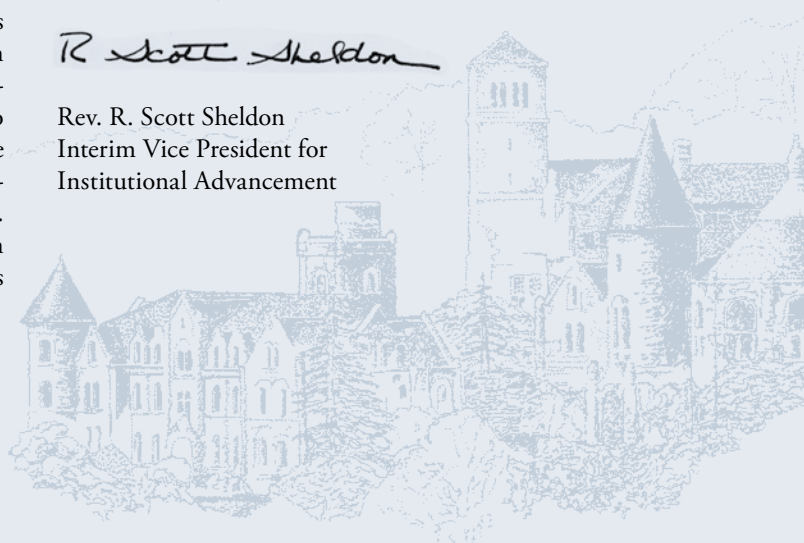
For one, the Town of San Anselmo's Planning Commission is reviewing SFTS's Master Plan Amendment (MPA) to consolidate student and faculty housing. The MPA is designed to assist the Seminary in adapting to changes in enrollment and the economy, and calls for the sale of off-campus housing, including 57 units ranging from houses to apartments to townhouses. It will also better organize the campus with a new student village and a faculty row, creating 29 on-campus units including apartments for students. The environmental review was positive, and the Marin Economic Forum projects the plan could create 168 jobs

Join us on this journey of vision and faith!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Scott Sheldon".

Rev. R. Scott Sheldon
Interim Vice President for
Institutional Advancement



The SFTS Partner Congregation Program

San Francisco Theological Seminary seeks active partnerships with congregations throughout the West. Partner congregations pray regularly for the students, faculty and staff of SFTS, recommend prospective students to SFTS, and provide generous support for the Seminary's Annual Student Support Fund.

To learn more, please contact Lynn R. Dunn, associate vice president for alumni and church relations, at ldunn@sfts.edu or 415-451-2882.

Partner Congregation

Knox Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, Calif.

By Christopher L. Schilling

As pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, Calif., Rev. Dr. Matthew Colwell brings a lot of experience into ministry. Not only does Colwell have experience working with peace and justice issues, teaching seminary courses and being an author, but he also has experience in something that very few Presbyterian pastors possess: experience in auto-mechanics.

"You can say my post seminary experience is a little different," Colwell said.

Working as a Toyota mechanic not only helped support Colwell before he received his first call in 1994. But it was the experience he gained working a 9-5 job that has helped him relate to everyday people who make up his congregation.

Colwell, a native of San Diego, has served as the senior pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church since 2007. Prior to becoming the pastor of Knox Presbyterian, Colwell served as pastor in Connecticut and also worked with Bartimaeus Cooperative Ministries, a faith based ministry in Pasadena.

He earned his Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1994 and received his Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2010.

Knox Presbyterian Church has a unique history dating to 1888. The congregation has seen tremendous growth in the past



Colwell

decade. Sunday worship services blend traditional and contemporary traditions drawing individuals from various ethnicities with many young adults and children.

"Children and young adults have been a real focus for us," Colwell said. "However, we try to be multi-generational especially through our music."

Knox has also begun to minister to those who someday plan to minister others. Early this year when SFTS announced the closure of its Pasadena campus, Colwell and Knox agreed to serve as home to the current teach-out program for the Southern California students.

The recent D.Min. graduate recalled his experiences at SFTS as being instrumental in his life. He chose SFTS because of its emphasis on spirituality and broad diversity. His dissertation will be part of a book called *Our God is Undocumented* that will be released in May 2012.

"Our church had the space and SFTS is a great institution so it was a good fit for everyone," said Colwell, who taught Sabbath Economics for the teach-out program last summer.

Courses will be taught at Knox as part of the teach-out program until June 2012. While Colwell and SFTS Southern California students and faculty are still grieving the closure of their campus, Colwell and Knox have reached out to the students affected by the closure to help them with their studies and offer a place for healing.

"Dr. Colwell was the most inviting presence in welcoming us to his church," said Jefferson Beeker, a Southern California student. "He gave us a tour of their campus and helped us to get settled in. As we have begun the fall semester he has also been available if we have any questions or need anything. He also offered us the use of their sanctuary for a Saturday worship setting, should we choose to have one during a break from a Saturday class."

Colwell believes theological and biblical training are important cornerstones of theological education. He added that focusing on diversity and spirituality are great benefits for those going into ministry, and SFTS's commitment to these aspects will continue to define it as a great seminary.

"These are great tools that will be helpful in doing ministry," Colwell said.

Christopher L. Schilling is pursuing a Master of Divinity at SFTS and is serving his internship this year at First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo.

STUDENT PROFILES

By Holly Woolard

Ryan Schlimgen has quite the internship planned as he works toward earning a Master of Divinity degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary. During the 2011 Fall semester, he began a two-year part-time internship at St. John's Presbyterian Church in San Francisco and took a hiatus to attend Navy officer development school in Newport, R.I. He will cap the year with an eight-week tour at the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center in South Carolina in the summer.

Growing up in the military town of Great Falls, Mont., Schlimgen believes he is called to help those serving in the armed forces to “have a sense of God’s presence in everything they’re doing.” He says that his theological education at SFTS and the Graduate Theological Union is proving to be an ideal training ground for chaplaincy.

“When I visited SFTS, I knew this is where I should go,” Schlimgen said. “It felt like home. The GTU was a big influence.”

SFTS is a founding member of the GTU, the largest and most diverse partnership of seminaries and graduate schools in the United States. For Schlimgen, exposure to various faiths and spiritual beliefs gives him the exact insights needed to minister to military personnel from all denominations.

“Having an ecumenical understanding is needed since I will be seeing all faith groups,” he said. “At the GTU, I can go and study with other faith groups.”

Another benefit Schlimgen points to is the increased options for learning through courses taught at all GTU schools, including SFTS. Schlimgen is particularly interested in pastoral care classes and plans to take advantage of ethics classes taught by Dr. Carol Robb at SFTS, which complement many military principles.

Schlimgen's own faith path includes his days as a kid when he spent summers at Glacier Camp & Conference Center, a mission of the Glacier Presbytery. He would later return as a counselor and guest pastor, and initially thought he was called to youth ministry.

Schlimgen earned a bachelor of arts in psychology from University of Montana and an MBA in human resource management from Colorado Tech University. He entered officer candidate school with the Marines to train to become a pilot, but did not complete the training because of personal beliefs about taking a life. Military chaplaincy



ultimately turned out to be the best of both worlds for Schlimgen.

“I’m much more focused on the personnel of the military rather than the military itself,” Schlimgen said. “Growing up near an Air Force base I learned the ways the military has affected lives positively and negatively, and how God can affect these people’s needs.”

Schlimgen has really grown to appreciate the SFTS community, especially his fellow students. “They’re influential – they challenge you. I know I have people I can reach out to to help me work through things.”

This past summer, Schlimgen was commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy Reserve. Several of his SFTS classmates attended the ceremony aboard the USS Hornet in Alameda, Calif. Just as the ceremony was about to begin, the seminarians realized no one had carried a Bible onto the flight deck. One quick-thinking and resourceful student pulled out his iPhone with a Bible app, allowing Schlimgen to be sworn in on the phone.

“It’s a great network I’m creating,” Schlimgen said.

Holly Woolard is the editor of Chimes and the SFTS communications manager.

Ruth T. West developed lots of managerial skills relative to ministry before embarking on her Master of Divinity degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary. For example, as controller, accountant and general manager for a retail transportation company in the Bay Area, she experienced transition over and over.

Now in her senior year of seminary, West harks back to the many ways God has prepared her to serve Christ's church, despite being unaware of any divine plan to pry her away from the comfortable life she was living with her daughter.

"I just wanted to help the church," said West, an ordained elder and deacon at New Liberation Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. "I had no idea about going into pastoral ministry."

One day, while speaking with her pastor, West's eyes were opened to what would evolve into her new career. As they spoke of livelihoods, the pastor told West "you do have a passion – you just haven't seen it as a vocation."

"That was the start of me being prayerful about going to seminary," West said.

It was also the start of West reflecting on a life filled with evidences of divine intervention, which began to have more meaning as she listened to God's calling in her life.

West did not grow up in a Christian household and was encouraged to seek her own spirituality by her Muslim father and Buddhist mother. Proving that God works in unexpected ways, West came to know Christ via an evangelical tract she picked up in a Chinese restaurant while her family was visiting her grandmother in Tennessee. A decade later while attending University of the Pacific, West joined Campus Crusade for Christ, and that tiny seed planted by a pamphlet left at a Chinese restaurant began to be nurtured.

"I kind of always felt Christian," said West, whose untraditional spiritual upbringing has given her a deep appreciation of interfaith and ecumenical dialogue. "One of the reasons I really like being able to take classes at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley is that it's good for us to get an ecumenical feel. That's the world we're going out into."

To prepare for that world, West is pursuing a Master of Divinity concentration in Christian Spirituality. She participated in the SFTS Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction program through the Program in Christian Spirituality during the 2011 Winter Term, and is more convinced than ever that she is called to work with churches and people in transition.

"It was so affirming," said West of DASD. "It was an incredible experience to be around people who are like-



spirited. To all be in the same place and be focused in the same way, that space became more pronounced."

West has just completed an internship at Imani Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Vallejo, where she led a women's Bible study and preached, both areas of need since the small congregation was in transition. She has already been able to implement practices she learned during the DASD term.

"They are loving and excited to have a seminary student sharing things with them," West said. "I appreciate that they are open to experiencing new things."

At the same time, her home church was also beginning transition. Its interim pastor is Rev. Dr. James Noel, the SFTS Professor of American Religion and the H. Eugene Farlough, Jr. California Professor of African American Christianity.

"I feel called to minister to people and congregations in transition," West said. "People in transition need to be listened to. It requires a ministry of presence."

West's own spiritual journey has been filled with transition. She admits feeling a sense of guilt about not working full-time to attend seminary, having to cut back on things like vacations and shopping trips with her daughter. But just as that literature she picked up at a Chinese restaurant piqued her interest in Christianity and just as her parents encouraged her to explore her own spirituality, West knows that God has a plan for her life.

"God has made it very clear that this is the path I needed to be on," West said.

Holly Woolard is the editor of Chimes and the SFTS communications manager.

Seeking JUSTICE



Do justice,
love kindness
& walk
humbly
with God.

—Micah 6:8

Editor's Note

By Holly Woolard

The theme of our 2011 Fall issue of Chimes magazine is "Seeking Justice." The operative word in this title is "seeking." There is always more we can do to reach out to people who are marginalized or find themselves in catastrophic circumstances.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and many SFTS faculty members, students and alumni are passionate about justice and ministering to people in need. In the following pages, we lift up acts of faith and callings to inspire others to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Please share how you are "Seeking Justice" by sending an e-mail to info@sfts.edu.

A commitment of the Presbyterian Church

By Sara Lisherness

The Presbyterian Church's commitment to justice is core to its identity and understanding as followers of Jesus Christ. Beginning with the ancient texts of the faith, God's people have given both voice and witness to the prophet Micah's calling to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

The Confessions of the church, especially the Confession of 1967 and A Brief Statement of Faith, challenge the church to follow Christ into a broken and fearful world to:

- ✚ pray without ceasing,
- ✚ to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
- ✚ to unmask idolatries in church and culture,
- ✚ to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
- ✚ and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.

— A Brief Statement
of Faith 10.4

The Book of Order also makes it clear that the whole church gathers in worship and its corporate life for the purpose of being sent out into the world to engage in the reconciling, healing work of God through Jesus Christ. God sends the church in the power of the Holy Spirit to share with Christ in establishing God's just, peaceable and loving rule in the world. (W-7.4000)

The PC(USA) Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry draws together many of the ministries responsible for fulfilling the denominational priorities for social justice ministry. It inspires, equips and connects the whole church as it seeks to live out its commitments to social justice.

The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness in Washington dares to speak truth in the halls of power, praying and advocating for a national budget that is just and attends to the needs of the most vulnerable in our society. The Office of Public Witness provides inspiration and support for individuals and con-



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance was one of the first faith-based organizations to reach out to those affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and ministries continue in the region.



gregations called to engage in advocacy with elected officials. It connects Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly policy with issues on the legislative agenda, offers guidance to people who want to visit elected officials and encourages congregations to engage in letter-writing campaigns sponsored by partner organizations like Bread for the World.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People have equipped villages in Liberia and Sierra Leone to build a more just and sustainable society. The West Africa Initiative is an agriculture and development project that provides seeds, tools and training for community-based farming. The effort has been tremendously successful. The effort provides entire communities with healthy nutritious food and has also helped these communities build schools, community centers and places of worship.

A similar initiative has also been implemented in Haiti, where over 800,000 people fled Leogane and Port au Prince for the countryside after the devastating earthquake in 2010. These rural communities, already poor, were overwhelmed by the influx of people displaced from the cities. Working in partnership with the Farmer's Movement of Papay, seeds and tools have been distributed to over 10,000 families, enabling them to feed the displaced people in their midst and equip them

Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti in 2010, Presbyterians helped rural communities feed poor people by supplying seeds and tools to grow food. The West Africa Initiative also supports community-based farming. The 2010 Youth Triennium kicked off the Red Hands Campaign to call attention to children recruited for war.

to rebuild their economy and country. These efforts have helped both West Africa and Haiti, struggling to recover from years of civil war, multiple disasters and overwhelming poverty, to take steps in creating a hopeful future for their children and their communities.

At the 2010 Youth Triennium, the Child Advocacy Program, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations invited participants to connect with the Red Hands Campaign, an international effort to stop the recruitment of child soldiers. Over 800 red hands made by young people at Triennium were sent to the Russian Mission at the United Nations. Just a few weeks later the Mission ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding the involvement of children in armed conflict.



Five more countries that received red hands have ratified the protocols. Presbyterians young and old are now connected to the campaign, which has sent over 350,000 red hands from 40 countries to world leaders.

The Presbyterian Church has been a visible witness in transforming society to reflect God's intention for a just, peaceful and compassionate world. As we live into the future of a rapidly changing world may we honor our history and continue to claim the prophet's call to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Sara Lisherness is director of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry based in Louisville, Ky. She is a graduate of Miami University in Ohio and later took courses at San Francisco Theological Seminary's Southern California campus.

Ecumenical education and reconciliation in South Sudan

*Love and
faithfulness
embrace,
peace and
justice kiss.
Faithfulness
springs up
from the earth,
justice
leans down
from heaven.*

— Psalm 85:11-12

By Rev. Dr. Sam Hamilton-Poore

In South Sudan this past May and June, it was my privilege to witness the words of Psalm 85 embodied among church leaders—bishops, presbyters, elders, and deacons—of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) and the Presbyterian Church of Sudan (PCOS) as we met in Malakal to study and pray the scriptures together. I was there as part of a four-person, ecumenical teaching team that included: Dr. Ellen Davis, professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School; Dr. Peter Morris, a pediatrician and public health specialist; and Rev. Ann Copp, an Episcopal priest of the Diocese of Maryland.

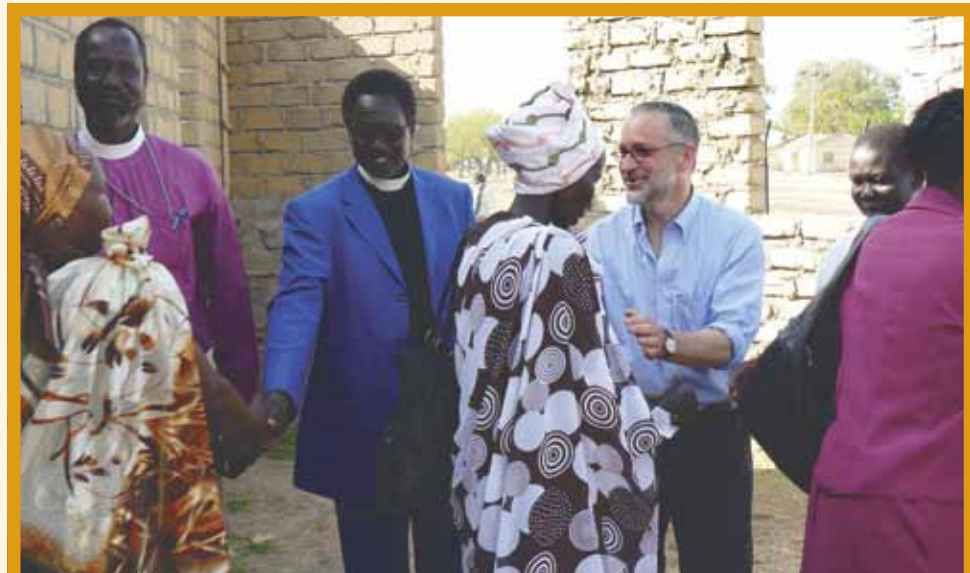
For the most part, the ECS and PCOS had enjoyed a cooperative and mutually supportive relationship for nearly a century, working as partners in worship, mission and theological education throughout Sudan. But their relationship had become severely strained during the recent decades of civil war in Sudan, as the Khartoum-based government of the north sought to divide and defeat the in-



surgency by pitting one southern-based tribal group against another. In Sudan, most Presbyterians are from either the Nuer or Shilluk tribes, while the majority of Episcopalians are Dinka—and the Khartoum-based government was especially successful in dividing these tribes against each other, resulting in significant losses of life and property.

A “People to People” peace process—facilitated by the New Sudan Council of Churches, the PCOS, the PCUSA, and other church leaders and tribal chiefs—led to a landmark Dinka-Nuer peace covenant

*Rev. Dr. Sam
Hamilton-Poore
(middle) was part of
a four-person team
that traveled to South
Sudan. To Sam's
right are Rev. Peter
Makuac, moderator
of PCOS, and Bishop
Hilary Garang, ECS
Diocese of
Malakal.*





Christian leaders in South Sudan are praying that the world's newest nation finds peace and justice after decades of war through ecumenical reconciliation.



in March 1999. This peace covenant has not been broken in the succeeding years; nevertheless, the work of reconciliation still continues.

Our teaching team was invited to Sudan by two ECS leaders, Bishop Joseph Garang Atem Zorial and Bishop Hilary Garang Deng Awer, to work with seminarians, pastors and women leaders in Renk and Malakal. Classes and workshops at the Renk Theological College included topics such as “Transforming Unjust Economic and Gender Structures,” “Biblical Guidance for Prayer” and “Healing and Wholeness in Scripture.” The enthusiasm for theological education in Renk is strong, and the hunger for learning is profound.

As our teaching team traveled from Renk to Malakal, we discovered an equally profound desire for Christian unity in South Sudan. Since the city of Malakal is the headquarters of the PCOS, as well as the location of two PCOS-related schools, Nile Theological College and the Giffen Institute for Theology, the PCOS is the largest and most culturally influential Protestant denomination in that region. Knowing

this, Bishop Hilary was resourceful in using the occasion of our visiting ecumenical team (Episcopalian and Presbyterian) as an occasion for bringing together and rebuilding relationships between ECS and PCOS pastors and leaders. We sought and received approval from PCOS Moderator, Rev. Peter Makuac, to invite local PCOS leaders to our workshops. Makuac proved so supportive that he invited Bishop Hilary (a Dinka) to address his 1,300-member (mostly Nuer) congregation on Sunday, and Makuac himself offered the opening devotion to our team’s workshop on Monday morning.

Of the 30 pastors and lay leaders who attended our workshop, half were ECS and half were PCOS. There was no evidence of division or hesitancy among this group; in fact, quite the opposite: joy, cooperation, respect, and a happiness to be together in worship, study and prayer.

During a time of biblical study and reflection on Galatians 3:26-29, one of the PCOS pastors stood and offered a few personal insights. Rev. Thomas—a young pastor and emerging leader within the PCOS—said that the phrase from Galatians that most captured his imagination was “in Christ there is no

longer.” Asking him to elaborate, he then shared that just as he prayed and worked for gender equality in his own congregation, he also hoped and prayed for a day when “in Christ there is no longer Dinka or Nuer or Shilluk.” As a Christian and Nuer man, married to a Christian and Shilluk woman, with three children, Thomas longed for a coming together of all tribal groups within the Body of Christ. His words made a very deep impression upon everyone, pastors and laity.

As South Sudan emerges as a new nation, working to establish a new order of peace and justice after decades of war, church leaders such as Bishop Joseph, Bishop Hilary, Moderator Makuac, and young Rev. Thomas are also every day at work seeking renewal and ecumenical reconciliation in Christ. Their hope and prayer is that their common identity in

Christ will challenge and trump all other sources of identity, including tribal divisions. It was a privilege this summer to be a both a partner and witness to their work, and I hope to return with other faculty colleagues in the coming years.

Rev. Dr. Sam Hamilton-Poore is director of the SFTS Program in Christian Spirituality and assistant professor of Christian Spirituality.



Seeking JUSTICE at SFTS

❖ 1906

SFTS provides shelter for 60 Chinese girls and women rescued from slavery and prostitution in San Francisco's Chinatown following devastating earthquake.

❖ 1911

SFTS admits women.



❖ 1915

Margaret S. Dollar Chair of Christian Sociology is created, including course on Christianity and Social Reform.

❖ 1922

SFTS draws six students from Asia. Women constitute a third of the enrollment.

❖ 1938

Professor Lynn T. White Sr. promotes pacifism as World War II looms. Course bibliographies include the writings of Reinhold Niebuhr.



❖ 1938

Margaret Tappan becomes first woman faculty member.

❖ 1942

Japanese and Japanese-American alumni serve as clergy at internment camps following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.



❖ 1951

Surjit Singh of India begins 37-year career as SFTS faculty member.

❖ 1952

Ministry training includes internships at San Quentin Prison.

❖ 1956

h❖ 1961

Sixth-generation Chinese-American Robert Lee becomes first professor of East Asian background at an American seminary.

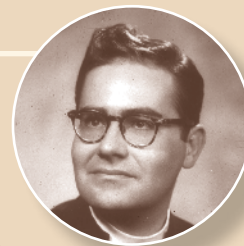


❖ 1962

SFTS joins Baptist, Episcopal, Lutheran and Multidenominational seminaries to form Graduate Theological Union, a center for ecumenical learning.

❖ 1965

President Theodore Gill, faculty members and students march with Martin Luther King, Jr., from Selma to Montgomery. SFTS students set up tents, dig latrines, and serve as guards and lookouts.



❖ 1967

SFTS students join San Francisco protest, refusing to cooperate with the Vietnam War draft. SFTS student association votes to offer sanctuary to those avoiding the draft.

Student Voices

Reclaiming our prophetic voice

Ineda P. Adesanya,
Master of Divinity, DASD/Middler, Intern
American Baptist



In addressing the role that Christians should play in fighting for social justice, it is important to note one's social context. I am an African-American, American Baptist, female seminary student having worked for 25 years in the often bureaucratic public administration of land use and construction programs and projects. On the relationship between faith and social justice, I believe that the church should take an active and leading role in advocating for human rights as an implementation of our Christian social ethics responsibilities. In my experi-

ence, the prophetic voice of organized Christians, whose goals are not primarily self-serving, has been very effective in garnering the attention of the powers that be, and their efforts when diligent, often result in social justice. My church home, Allen Temple Baptist Church located in Oakland, Calif., has an active Prophetic Justice ministry of which I am a member. Through the advocacy of this ministry, we were recently able to effect change in proposed public transportation policy that will minimize the otherwise negative impacts on senior citizens in the community. This may serve as an example of what noted theologian and preacher Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., meant in a recent sermon entitled "Reclaiming our Prophetic Voice." He encouraged "the recovery of the old prophetic gospel that once animated the civil rights movement."

Christian life embodies social justice

David TenBrook
Master of Divinity/Senior
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



The follower of Christ is a social justice. Often we talk of working for social justice, or advocating for social justice, or supporting social justice ministries, but that is too far removed from reality. In truth, to be a follower of Christ is to be a social justice. If we take seriously Christ's call to love our enemies, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength then we cannot separate the Christian life from embodying social justice.

Indeed, it is nearly a misnomer to call it "social justice" as it implies a sort of niche or specialization. If we authentically take Christ's call to heart, then justice is made manifest in a multiplicity of synecdoches: social, legal, ecclesial, sexual, international, familial, economic, etc. For where Christ is embodied, there will we find God's will being done. And where God's children cry out in suffering, personal or systemic, God's Spirit drives us. The question ought not be: "Why ought Christians engage in (social) justice?" The question ought to be: "What (social) injustice has not yet been confronted by the Body of Christ?"

Seeking JUSTICE at SFTS

❖ 2005

Solar panels are installed at Oxtoby Hall Apartments to begin reducing carbon emissions. The project is inspired by the Environmental Ethics class taught by Dr. Carol Robb.



❖ 2007

SFTS faculty and students spend Spring Break helping rebuild homes toppled by Hurricane Katrina.

❖ 2008

Faculty members Walt Davis and Herman Waetjen, their spouses, and M.Div. student Beverly Brewster travel to Bethlehem to plant olive trees for Palestinian farmers.



❖ 2009

SFTS completes campus carbon footprint analysis to curtail carbon dioxide emissions and educate future church leaders.

❖ 2011

SFTS students, faculty, administration and staff adopt an Inclusive Community Statement, ensuring a welcoming environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.



❖ 1969

African-American theologian Cornelius "Neal" Berry joins the faculty.



❖ 1978

Student caucus discusses the role of gays and lesbians in the church.

❖ 1970

SFTS and other GTU members hold a one-day strike to protest the National Guard's killing of four Kent State University students.

❖ 1985

Virginia Hadsell, wife of SFTS Professor John Hadsell, starts the Center for Responsible Tourism housed in Montgomery Hall.

❖ 2004

Chaplain Charles Marks and students travel to South Lebanon to learn more about Christian-Muslim co-existence.



"San Francisco Theological Seminary: The Shaping of a Western School of the Church, 1871-1998," by Dr. Robert B. Coote and Dr. John S. Hadsell provided many of the highlights in this list.

❖ 1974

Faculty members, including Herman Waetjen, send telegram to the South African government protesting the expropriation of Federal Theological Seminary, the major seminary for black pastors.



Seeking JUSTICE

For the Children of Uganda

By Talitha Given Phillips

I first heard my call to seminary in Uganda. I had just graduated from college, and had been living for several months in a small guestroom next to the boys' dormitory in an orphanage run by Children of Uganda. I was sick one week, and lay in bed reading Henri Nouwen during the quiet hours when children were at school and the afternoon hours when their playful noise ricocheted off the cement walls. Nouwen spoke of service and simplicity - these things I was trying to do - and I just knew I had no idea how to put my ideals into practice.

Passion is not something you can choose — not a value add-on to your otherwise lovely life.

Passion is something that gets inflicted on you.

My sister and I went to Uganda hoping for some personal, spiritual benefits. We'd abandoned the numbing American culture of consumption, and we hoped for a pure experience of important and passionate service. Instead we found a bewildering maze of questions: Why do poor people spend so much money on clothing and hairstyle? A lesson about priorities. Why do we feel like we're in England every day at tea time? A lesson about postcolonial culture. Why are there no jobs for talented young graduates? A lesson about global economics.

SFTS helped me sort through many of the big questions. Later I ran a summer program for volunteers in Uganda, guided by Dr. Philip Wickeri's mission class. I also participated in the Muihlenburg-Koenig History of Religion Seminar run by Dr. Chris Ocker on the topic of poverty. I was able to learn more about historical approaches to poverty relief, some of which we will try to use in Children of Uganda. (I now serve on the Board of Directors.)

Children of Uganda (COU) has cared for thousands of children since 1995. All have been affected in some way by the dual scourges of AIDS and poverty. The adult generation has virtually disappeared; today, half of Uganda's population is under the age of 15. There are 8 million children identified as "orphans and vulnerable children," and only 11 percent receive outside aid. About 500 are currently in the care of COU. It's a fragment of the total need, but every tiny bit counts.

COU's public face is our dancers. From kindergarten on, all COU children receive training in the Ugandan traditions of music and dance. With the adult generation decimated, many of these traditions were nearly lost. But we know and value the power of music to transform suffering, to encourage and uplift, and to maintain a sense of



SFTS student Talitha Given Phillips raises awareness for Children of Uganda.

cultural pride. Every few years COU brings the most talented dancers to the United States as ambassadors for Uganda's orphan population. I saw the Tour of Light as a teenager, and the children's infectious joy was life-changing. I look forward to assisting with the next tour in January 2012. I lie awake at night dreaming of this tour and the lives it may change.

I often am told "you're so passionate." I am quick to repeat the lesson I learned: Passion is not something you can choose - not a value add-on to your otherwise lovely life. Passion is something that gets inflicted on you. An orphan child asks "can I call you mum?" Suddenly you no longer have the privilege of ignoring global injustice. And so you find yourself setting up a table somewhere, holding out your hands, saying "can I tell you about Uganda?" and asking otherwise comfortable people to sponsor children in need. No matter what else I may do in my life, I can never leave this work behind.

Talitha Phillips earned a Master of Divinity from SFTS in 2011 and expects to complete her Master of Arts in 2012.

Caring for God's creation

By Interfaith Power & Light Staff

On opposite sides of the country, San Francisco Theological Seminary graduates Rachel Medema and Alexis (Meyers) Chase are trying to save the planet one congregation at a time.

Medema is the Northern California outreach director for California Interfaith Power & Light. She earned a Master of Divinity at SFTS and Master of Arts in Social Theory and Ethics from the Graduate Theological Union in 2010.

Chase is the executive director of Georgia Interfaith Power & Light. She received her Master of Divinity degree from SFTS in 2006.

Interfaith Power & Light is a national network of 38 state affiliates all committed to caring for God's creation, protecting natural resources and providing a religious response to global warming. Each Interfaith Power & Light affiliate shares energy efficiency and renewable energy resources with faith communities and engages congregational members in advocacy around energy and climate.

Medema credits her education at SFTS and the GTU with helping connect her passions for environmental and social justice with a variety of faith communities.

"I truly believe that environmental issues are the critical justice issues of our time," Medema said. "I attended SFTS and GTU specifically to gain a more thoughtful and theologically grounded perspective on Christian ethics relating to social and environmental concerns."

In her work with California Interfaith Power & Light, Medema stages workshops and educational events, preaches at various congregations, meets with clergy and congregation members throughout Northern California, and also attends hearings and coordinates a state lobby day in Sacramento.

The largest program supported by Georgia Interfaith Power & Light is called Power Wise, which provides low-

cost, professional energy audits to congregations across Georgia.

"It's a no-brainer," said Chase, who believes in talking about caring for the environment. "We all live downstream from somebody – the things we do affect our brothers and sisters. But it's not only a moral obligation to care for God's creation; there isn't a congregation in the state that isn't spending too much money on their gas and electricity bills. This is money that could be feeding someone or caring for someone other than your electricity provider."

Chase points out that Interfaith Power & Light is not an environmental organization. "We are a faith organization that helps all communities of faith be responsible stewards for our shared natural resources."

Medema also works with Carbon Covenant – a national Interfaith Power & Light program that links faith communities in the Global North and South in a common commitment to curb global warming and help mitigate its impacts on vulnerable people.

Faith communities in Ghana, Cameroon and Tanzania are directly addressing the number one source of carbon emissions in the developing world: deforestation. They are responding by reforesting degraded lands and promoting sustainable use of forest resources.

Through all of these efforts, Interfaith Power &

Light has a deep concern to preserve and protect the integrity, health and beauty of God's creation including the natural world and human communities. Interfaith Power & Light affiliates advocate for green jobs and a green economy, programs and policies that provide energy efficiency resources to low-income communities and for equitable and just policies relating to energy and climate.

There are many ways for faith communities to get involved. Go to www.interfaithpowerandlight.org to learn more and find out if there's an Interfaith Power & Light affiliate in your state. California pastors and lay persons can learn more at www.interfaithpower.org. To find out what's happening in Georgia, go to www.gipl.org.



Medema



Chase

"I truly believe that environmental issues are the critical justice issues of our time. I attended SFTS and GTU specifically to gain a more thoughtful and theologically grounded perspective on Christian ethics relating to social and environmental concerns."

— Rachel Medema

President's career marked by faithful engagement

By Jerry L. Van Marter
Presbyterian News Service

His upbringing in Webster Groves, Mo., hinted that Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald might one day serve as a seminary president.

His subsequent career — from small urban church pastor to active involvement in the sanctuary movement with Central American political refugees to public policy work on behalf of the world's poor at Bread for the World — almost made it inevitable that San Francisco Theological Seminary, with its longstanding reputation for social and political activism, would be the seminary.

Webster Groves is the home of Eden Theological Seminary, one of seven seminaries of the United Church of Christ, “so I actually experienced the way seminaries can serve local churches,” says the lifelong Presbyterian and since July the president of SFTS. “I grew up appreciating that connection and how important churches and seminaries are to each other.”

McDonald says his social conscience was first pricked at age 14 while he was in the South Webster Presbyterian Church-sponsored Boy Scout troop. “We were asked to read Alan Paton’s *Cry the Beloved Country* for our God and Country Award and it opened me up to issues outside

my own community and country,” McDonald says.

About that same time, his mother — “a woman of deep faith” who was rendered paraplegic by an illness when McDonald was a child — persuaded a local minister’s group to back a coffeehouse ministry in St. Louis’s Gaslight Square. “This was the mid-60s and she named the coffeehouse ‘The Exit’ as a rejoinder to Sartre’s existential novel *No Exit*,” McDonald says. “She was determined to show young people that life has meaning and Christianity provides it. The relationships forged there stayed strong.”

More importantly, McDonald says, “The coffeehouse was a powerful example of the church moving into the world rather than simply inviting people into the church. Since those days I’ve lived my life trying as the church to engage with the world.”

McDonald enrolled at Princeton University, thinking he’d become an economist or a lawyer, but in 1968-69, midway through his four years there, he decided to take a year off to do volunteer work for VISTA. Wanting to do something during the month off before starting with

Continued on page 16

President Jim McDonald speaks to M.Div. junior David Altsbuler during Welcome Week at the Shaw Family Guest House.





Jim McDonald and Eric Muñoz, former policy analyst at Bread for the World Institute, traveled to the West African nations of Burkina Faso and Ghana.

Bread for the World works to change the politics of hunger

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging lawmakers to end hunger in the United States and abroad. The organization believes that people are hungry not because the world lacks food, but because people lack access to quality nutrition.

While the work of charities and religious organizations is critical, they provide only about 6 percent of the assistance government nutrition programs provide nationwide. For this reason, Bread for the World takes an advocacy approach to fighting hunger and poverty, urging members of Congress to take specific actions to help vulnerable people.

In 2000, Bread for the World asked Congress to help reduce the debt burden of the poorest countries in a way that would benefit the most vulnerable



people in those countries. “Proclaim Jubilee: Break the Chains of Debt” was the first major campaign Rev. Dr. Jim McDonald, president of San Francisco Theological Seminary, led after joining Bread in 1999. The campaign was extremely successful.

In 1999, the United States pledged \$920 million in global debt relief over

four years—a commitment that Bread for the World and coalition partners worked to get passed in Congress throughout 2000 and 2001. By October 2001, 23 countries had qualified for debt relief—19 of which were in sub-Saharan Africa—and another 12 countries were being considered, with the purpose of developing poverty-reduction strategies based on the money they would have saved.

Now in 2011, Bread for the World members are urging Congress not to reduce the national deficit by cutting international food aid and domestic safety net programs. In 2012, the organization will continue urging Congress to expand the circle of protection around international and domestic programs that protect hungry and poor people.

Visit www.bread.org for more info.



Dean McDonald is an ordained pastor who attended Union Seminary.

Seminary life suits Dean McDonald

By Holly Woolard

Rev. Dr. Dean McDonald really does seem at home since moving to San Francisco Theological Seminary in July.

Dean, wife of President Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald, has already joined the Seminary Singers, hosted numerous events at their home, volunteered to tutor students and plans to work part-time at the Interfaith Counseling Center (formerly the Lloyd Counseling Center). She has even completed the annual Seminary to Sea Hike, which, of course, is a rite of passage at SFTS.

“Moving across country has been a glorious adventure,” Dean said. “We are thankful for the opportunity to be at the seminary and here in beautiful Northern California. A big bonus is that our three children and their families love to visit us here in this terrific locale.”

In their 39-year marriage, the McDonalds’ ministries have complemented each other’s gifts and faith. They bring rich experiences to SFTS, collectively and individually.

“Jim and I were never co-pastors, though we have co-led confirmation classes and retreats,” Dean said. “We’ve actively participated as much as possible in each other’s churches and work places. That’s been a lot of fun.”

Dean began seminary at Princeton before transferring to Union

Seminary in New York, where her favorite courses were Bible and theology. She received a Doctor of Ministry in Marriage and the Family from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

“Seminary was a broadening and deepening personal experience for me,” Dean said. “I was exposed to so many new, exciting ideas and people all the while my faith was being nurtured. I believe God has great things in store for SFTS and its graduates.”

After ordination, Dean’s ministry focused on pastoral counseling and therapy. She has in-depth training in Family Systems Therapy, which has strong ties to the Judeo-Christian faith understanding of human nature, and the hope God gives persons to change from deadening to life-giving behaviors. She has taught Family Systems Theory for pastors and seminarians at both McCormick and Wesley seminaries.

For over 10 years, Dean was associate pastor for congregational care at Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. She led countless spiritual retreats and small groups on topics like marriage enrichment, parenting, grief, suicide prevention, aging and caring for parents. Dean also directed the College of Preachers at Washington National Cathedral for five years and was a frequent preacher and worship leader in the Cathedral’s services.

VISTA, he — at his mother’s urging — called on the late Rev. Carl Dudley at Berea Presbyterian Church in inner-city St. Louis.

“Berea, at that time, was the heart of that community, which was basically a mixed-housing development,” he says. Dudley immediately put him to work helping run the church’s day camp. “It was powerful,” McDonald says, “and sent me on the road to ministry in congregations. From that point on Carl Dudley was my mentor, formative in how I think about ministry.”

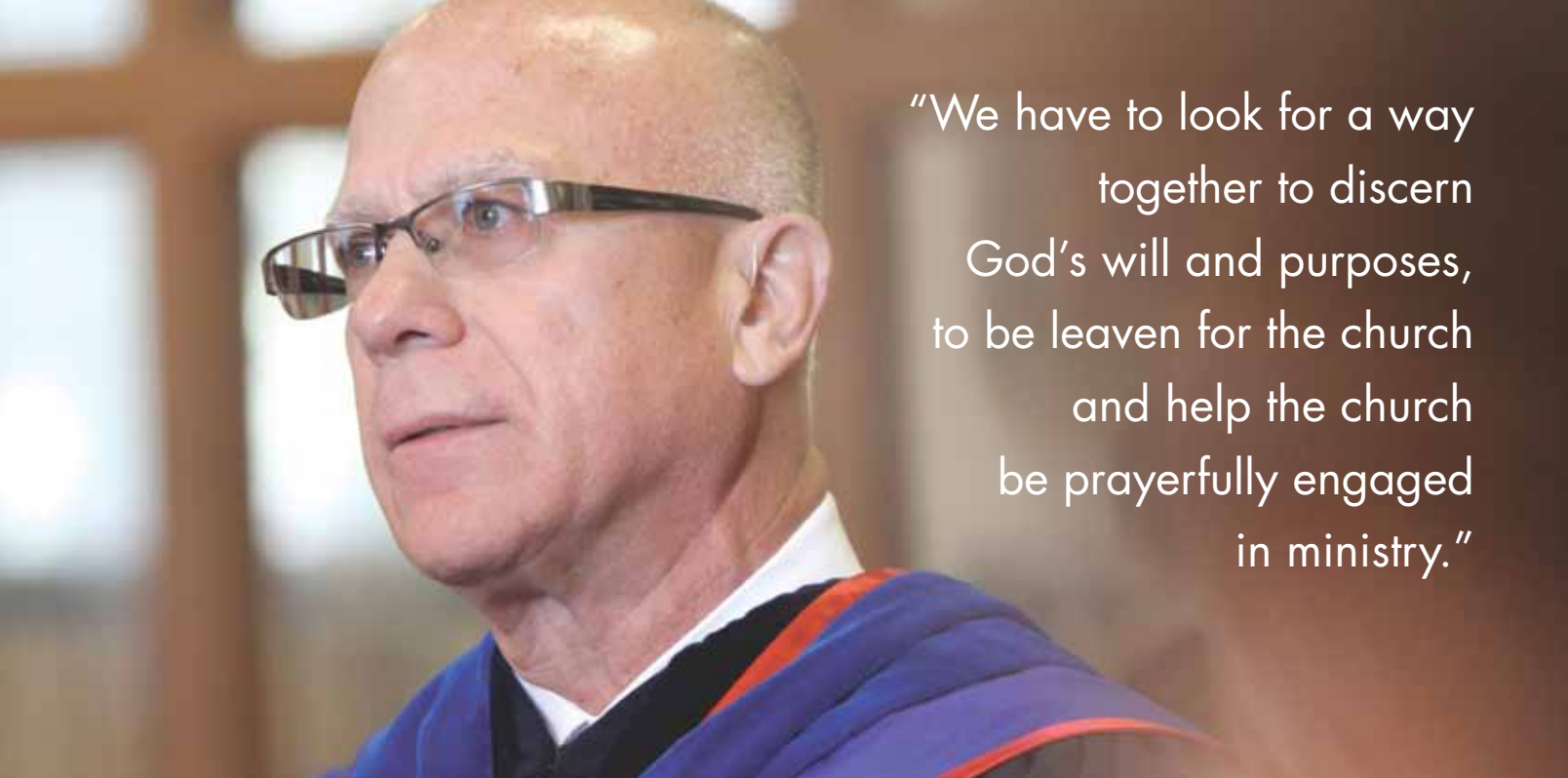
Berea and then VISTA fueled McDonald’s interest in the public policy aspects of the church’s ministry and when he returned to Princeton, he completed his undergraduate study at the school’s Woodrow Wilson School of public policy. From there he went to Union Theological Seminary in New York “because of its reputation for raising up religious leaders in a variety of contexts.” He later completed his PhD in international relations from American University in 1997.

At Union, McDonald met his wife, Dean, who was also from Webster Groves (they didn’t know each other “back home”) and was studying at Princeton Theological Seminary. They married after a year and she joined him at Union. Always looking for new church-world intersections, the McDonalds took one year off from Union to travel to California, where they worked with the National Farmworkers Ministry.

McDonald spent 15 years in pastoral ministry — five years at First Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, Ind., and 10 years at Tabernacle United Church in Philadelphia.

In March 1980, around the time McDonald arrived at Tabernacle Church, Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated in El Salvador. “It was my first involvement in Central America,” he says of the discernment process the congregation launched in response to the killing before declaring Tabernacle a sanctuary church in January 1984. “It set me off on another new path to discern ministry and the place of the church in the world.”

McDonald traveled twice to Central America, first in 1986 with former SFTS Dean Ron White and again in 1988 on sabbatical, when he took his entire family to Guatemala.



“We have to look for a way together to discern God’s will and purposes, to be leaven for the church and help the church be prayerfully engaged in ministry.”

His Central America involvement reignited McDonald’s interest in public policy. After completing his doctorate, “on a whim and with some reluctance” he accepted a position with Bread for the World. “Bread didn’t pay very well, and I had a growing family and, frankly, I really wondered how a small nonprofit could be effective in big-money Washington, D.C.,” he admits.

McDonald says he “learned quickly that Bread was effective, making a huge difference for poor and hungry people.”

In fact, Bread was about to be dramatically world-changing. At the turn of the millennium, it launched the “Jubilee 2000” debt relief campaign. “It really captured the world,” he says, “actually changing policy in the U.S. and therefore at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. For the first time, U.S. policy promoted debt forgiveness for poverty relief in developing countries rather than for debt reduction.

“It was an extraordinary example of God at work in the world,” McDonald says. “Something really profound happened there that changed the U.S. government.”

Despite the success of Jubilee 2000 and other efforts, McDonald says, “I kept thinking back to my time in Webster Groves and how important seminaries had always been in my faith journey.” His friends “were incredulous when I talked about the opportunity at SFTS,” he recalls. “But I’d been reading about how the economy has affected both seminaries and churches ... and I felt a strong sense of call.”

McDonald is undaunted by the challenges he — and SFTS — face. “These are challenging times but challenges we all need to work on,” he says. “I see the seminary as a crossroads where people can meet and engage around the gospel, the call of God and what they should be as reli-

gious leaders to align ministry in all its forms with God’s purposes.”

He says he’s “been blown away by how deeply many pastors and other Presbyterians care about SFTS and what they want the seminary to do — to be a strong resource and engage deeply with congregations.”

Those expectations can be daunting, as well, “but these are fervent hopes and I believe the seminary can be more creative,” McDonald insists. “It’s a matter of dialogue, not just meeting needs,” he adds. “We have to look for a way together to discern God’s will and purposes, to be leaven for the church and help the church be prayerfully engaged in ministry.”

That effort must include the entire SFTS and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) family, he says, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Presbyterians. He fully supports the seminary’s Inclusive Community Statement adopted last spring. “I applaud it and celebrate it,” he says. “I know parts of the PC(USA) find it anathema, but the seminary’s statement went through a deeply reflective process, and I find it a wonderful expression of the Gospel.”

On February 11, McDonald will be formally installed as SFTS’s 11th president. “First of all, I hope the occasion will be festive and fun,” McDonald says. “This is not a coronation or an extravaganza, but a time when I hope people will come and feel renewed, refreshed, engaged and looking forward in theological education. I feel a great sense of humility — whatever comes out of my tenure will be what the Holy Spirit teases out of me.”

And, as a jazz-lover, McDonald promises a free pre-inaugural concert on February 10.

Rev. Jerry L. Van Marter is director of the Presbyterian News Service. He earned a Master of Divinity from SFTS in 1971 and was the SFTS Distinguished Alumnus Award winner in 2004.



Seminary hosts think tank on peacemaking in the 21st century

By Anitra Kitts

Academics, social activists and members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Peace Discernment Study Team gathered at San Francisco Theological Seminary in October to discuss what peacemaking looks like 30 years after the groundbreaking document, “Peacemaking, a Believer’s Calling.” The Social Ethics Network, a group of Presbyterian-related theological educators, meets annually to provide the PC(USA) with current academic thinking on issues facing the church. Dr. Carol Robb, SFTS Margaret Dollar Professor of Christian Social Ethics, was one of the key organizers of this year’s conference.

In a content-rich process, 25 professors and activists presented papers and experiences on topics such as how peacemaking can be taught in more colleges and seminaries, and the successes and challenges of current peacemaking and justice initiatives. Other discussions centered on the role of justice in the U.S. criminal systems, advocacy or the failure of advocacy in non-governmental organizations, and peacemaking within the military, including Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans.

Mark Davidson, chair of the Peace Discernment Study Team, found himself a bit overwhelmed by the depth and breadth of the presentations. “We have just been fed an incredibly rich feast with so many aspects of peacemaking and realizing how interrelated they all are,” Davidson said.

The SFTS faculty was well represented on the panels.

Here’s a look at the topics they addressed:

- ✚ How climate change creates refugees (Robb)
- ✚ How being a theologically thoughtful outsider can start to soften rigid positions of conflict in Sudan (Rev. Dr. Hamilton-Poore)
- ✚ How steady and focused advocacy can get things done in the polarized political process known as the U.S. Congress (Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald)
- ✚ How advocacy can impact the contentious public arena around Israel and Palestine (Rev. Dr. Walt Davis, emeritus).

SFTS Professors Rev. Dr. Greg Love and Rev. Dr. James Noel participated with other panelists in a debate on how atonement theology, especially the glorification of Christ’s suf-

fering, contributes to Christians’ acceptance or repudiation of violence. Love, associate professor of Systemic Theology, presented on his recent book, *Love, Violence, and the Cross: How the Nonviolent God Saves Us through the Cross of Christ*. Noel, professor of African American Christianity, strongly proclaimed the consoling power of a suffering God for African Americans locked into centuries of oppression.

Another panel took up the practices of “just peacemaking” with presentations on Ecumenical and Evangelical Collaboration (Glen Stassen, Fuller Seminary); Peacemaking and Forgiveness/Reconciliation (Don Shriver, Union Seminary NY, ret.); Soul Repair (Gabriella Lettini, Starr King School of Ministry); Restorative Justice (Bill O’Neill, SJ, Jesuit School of Theology); Shifts in Military Paradigm after 9/11 and Teaching Ethics to Military Personnel (Fred Bonkovsky, UC San Diego Medical School). Lettini’s paper outlined how veterans are suffering a “moral wound” that requires a specifically religious context to help sort out and heal. In a war where innocents are killed, soldiers must find a way to reconcile their moral self-understanding with their actions committed in a chaotic war zone.

“One of our tasks is to update the church’s thinking on peacemaking,” Davidson explained. “We’ve had several documents since the 1980s but we live in a different world now. Globalization is a new reality. Climate change is a new reality. We’re also paying attention to the mass frustration over economic inequity that we see in the occupy movements and how the Arab Spring is changing the way life happens in the Middle East.”

The Peace Discernment Study Team will deliver an interim report to the 220th General Assembly next summer in Pittsburgh. Davidson believes there’s a hunger among Presbyterians for inspiration and hope for positive change.

“There is so much that can lead us to despair and withdrawal but as the pastor in Bethlehem Mitri Raheb has put it, ‘I am a Christian, despair is not an option for me. I am a prisoner of hope.’ We hope to be part of a movement of the Spirit in the PC(USA) to renew our vocation to be peacemakers in our time.”

Anitra Kitts (M.Div. ’06) is a freelance writer living in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Reflecting on the Bible's social implications

Two San Francisco Theological Seminary faculty members have contributed to a new resource designed to help preachers reflect theologically and ethically on the social implications of the biblical readings in the Revised Common Lectionary.

Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald, SFTS President and Professor of Faith and Public Life, and Rev. Dr. James Noel, the H. Eugene Farlough, Jr. Professor of African American Christianity, are among the 90 authors who contributed to *Preaching God's Transforming Justice*.

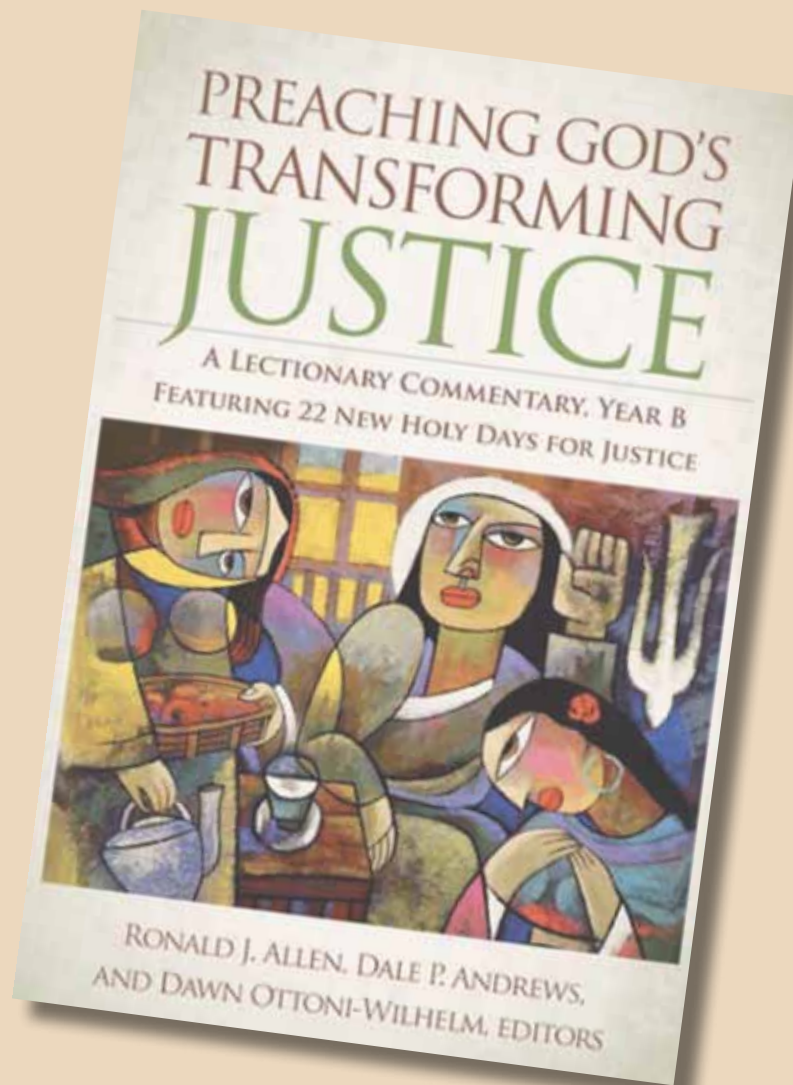
The new book provides commentary for each day in the lectionary calendar and introduces 22 Holy Days for Justice. These 22 days are intended to enlarge the church's awareness of God's call for justice in today's world.

"These brand new Holy Days for Justice could be a major addition to the church's life," said Ronald J. Allen, an editor of the new commentary. "While the book shows how biblical texts expose injustice in many arenas of life today, the major emphasis is on how conversation with these texts can strengthen congregations in witness and mission."

The new days include Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Earth Day, World AIDS Day, International Women's Day and Cesar Chavez Day.

McDonald, who comes to SFTS after 13 years with Bread for the World, wrote on World Food Day, one of the new Holy Days for Justice. McDonald calls attention to the extent of world hunger and to the fact that ending hunger is sacred work. He identifies both the causes and solutions to world hunger in broader social-systemic contexts.

Noel draws on his signature work in the arts, especially from the African American community, to illumine texts through visual images and musical expressions. He focuses especially on themes from the Babylonian exile, the experience of crying and lamentation, and on Jesus' role as prophet and priest. Noel suggests a provocative theme for



Preaching God's Transforming Justice is 544 pages and retails for \$50. It was published by Westminster John Knox Press.

the sermon: "Someone's Crying Lord. When Are You Coming?"

Noel preaches at New Liberation Presbyterian Church in San Francisco and regularly includes social justice issues in his sermons. To hear Noel preach, go to <http://www.sfts.edu/faculty/noel/sermons/index.asp>.

For each of the lectionary days and Holy Days for Justice in the commentary, there is an essay that helps preachers integrate a variety of social justice concerns (on issues of race, class, gender, violence and the environment) into their preaching. The contributors are a diverse group of preachers, pastors, biblical scholars, theologians and social activists.

Allen, Professor of Preaching and New Testament at Christian Theological Seminary, said *Preaching God's Transforming Justice* has potential to empower congregations to witness for justice. Allen hopes that preachers and congregations will use the new commentary to change their communities and the world.

FACULTY NEWS



Jana Childers, professor of homiletics and speech communications, was one of two keynote speakers for the Western National Leadership Confer-

ence in Jackson Hole, Wyo., in October. The theme was “Building Bridges.” Rev. Craig Barnes, pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian Church and professor of pastoral care at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, was the other speaker. Childers also presented two workshops on the preacher’s creative process at the leadership conference. She was in Korea for two weeks for the annual lecture series in preaching at Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary in Seoul. While in Korea, Childers spoke and preached at Hanil University, Seoul Theological University and Methodist Theological University, plus Seoul churches. She is currently president of the Academy of Homiletics, which holds its annual meeting in December. The theme is “Preaching and the Future.”



Sam Hamilton-Poore, director of the Program in Christian Spirituality and assistant professor of Christian spirituality, presented his paper, “The John Coltrane Quartet’s A Love Supreme as a Contemporary Spiritual Classic” to the Music and Religion Consultation of the American Academy of Religion in November. He is working on a new text on Reformed spirituality for Westminster John Knox Press and is plan-

ning to return to South Sudan in June as a visiting teacher in Renk and Malakal (see story on page 8).



Elizabeth Liebert, dean, vice president for academic affairs and professor of spiritual life, attended the Association of Theological Schools Women in Leader-

ship Seminar: Advancing Leadership Development Institute in Pittsburgh in October. She was a panelist in the panel “Spiritual Formation: Rigorous, Transformative, Integrated: What Does it Look Like and How Do we Get There?” for the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality annual meeting associated with the American Academy of Religion in November. She also completed a three-year term as one of two conveners for the Christian Spirituality Group for the American Academy of Religion with this meeting. Her latest book, *The Way of Discernment*, has been translated into Korean by Kang Hak Lee and published by Good Seeds. It was released in October.



Gregory Love, professor of systematic theology, taught on “God and Human Suffering” at the Zephyr Experience retreat at Zephyr Point, Lake Tahoe.

The annual family camp in July brought together 115 people from various churches in Redwoods, San Francisco, San Jose and Sacramento Presbyteries. He also led an SFTS con-

tinuing education and reunion for the classes of 2000 to 2010 at Zephyr Point last summer (see story on page 36). Love taught a five-week adult education series on the afterlife at First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame, Calif., this fall. The course looked at the genesis, key traits, and evidence for hell, purgatory and heaven. Starting in February, Love will teach a six-week series on atonement at First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo, Calif. The series is at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays, and will go through his book *Love, Violence, and the Cross*, which is now available on Kindle.



James Noel, professor of American religion, is teaching two foundational courses in the Graduate Theological Union’s Black Church/Africana

Studies certificate program. He is convener of “The History, Religions & Cultures of the African Diaspora” and “African American Social, Political and Religious Thought.” He also preaches weekly at New Liberation Presbyterian Church in San Francisco and conducts Bible study. In September, he presented a paper at an ecumenical gathering of community organizers in Oakland titled “Toward a Theology of Debt” that was timely in light of the Occupy Wall Street movement. A version of this presentation will be printed in the Presbyterian Church’s online journal. Noel attended a joint meeting of the World Communion of Reformed Churches’ Caribbean and North American Area Council (CA-NAAC) and the Caribbean and North American Council on Mission (CA-



Ocker



Schellenberg



Weissenrieder

Christopher Ocker, Annette Schellenberg & Annette Weissenrieder

have been named as affiliated faculty for the Program in Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union and the University of California, Berkeley. The joint doctoral program is among the premier Jewish studies programs in the world.

The three San Francisco Theological Seminary professors will help expand Jewish studies resources, including serving on committees, advising doctoral candidates and teaching courses. Ocker, for example, is presently co-teaching a course on historical methodology with Professor Deena Aranoff of the GTU Center for Jewish Studies.

"It's an honor for three people from the same school to be invited as affiliated faculty members in this program," said Schellenberg, SFTS associate professor of Old Testament.

SFTS hosted an international conference on "Healing Stories and Concepts of Reality from Antiquity to the Middle Ages" Nov. 17-18.

The conference was led by SFTS Associate Professor of New Testament Annette Weissenrieder. Stefan Alkier, professor of New Testament at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, was the co-convener.

New Testament miracle stories are important for the everyday

life of the church. They are endlessly preached on and referred to in pastoral care or Bible study. At the same time skepticism lies inevitably at hand. Are these "miracles" a matter of fact or fiction? And is this distinction integral to the text or an invention of modernity?

This conference focused on the question of reality in New Testament miracle stories and their reception, from antiquity to the Middle Ages. The esteemed panel pursued this question in the light of ancient narratives, pilgrimages, medical texts and visual images, the latter especially from the Catacombs.

Among the presenters, Weissenrieder spoke on "Medicine and Religion in New Testament and Ancient Medicine." Christopher Ocker presented a paper entitled "Crying about the Reformation" that dealt with the connection of the Holy Spirit to medical concepts of bodily spirit during the Reformation. James Noel addressed "An Interpretation of Miracle in an African American Slave Narrative: From Orality to Text."

Christopher Ocker, Annette Schellenberg, Annette Weissenrieder and James Noel held a workshop at SFTS entitled "The Virgin Birth: Truths and Myths." The November workshop was designed for pastors and lay leaders. It explored exegetical, historical and theological perspectives on what is true and false about the virgin birth.

NACOM) in the Dominican Republic. The theme of this joint conference was "Who Is My Neighbor?" He hopes to help recruit students from the Caribbean area to the SFTS M.Div. and MATS programs. Noel preached at the closing service of McGee Avenue Baptist Church's three-day revival in Berkeley. He hosted and moderated a mini-symposium celebrating the 24-year anniversary of Charles H. Long's *Significations: Signs, Symbols & Images in the Interpretation of Religion* where Long was the speaker. (Long is considered the father of Black Religious Studies.) Noel was the featured lecturer at the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco. His lecture title was "Significations of Blackness in Westerns Art." On behalf of the H. Eugene Farrow Program he and Adjunct Professor Rev. Dr. Martha C. Taylor are planning an African American Clergy Women's Leadership Conference in January 2012 to be held at the McGee Avenue Baptist Church in Berkeley.

Christopher Ocker, professor of Church History, taught a course at the School of Jewish Studies in Heidelberg, Germany, entitled "Making Space for Jerusalem in Europe and Beyond" last summer. He introduced a group of students from various departments of the university and from the School of Jewish Studies to the Christian concept of Jerusalem in Europe and New Spain just before and just after the discovery of the New World. Ocker also gave a public lecture on "Desperately Seeking Jerusalem, circa

1500” that explored the experience of pilgrimage and the peculiar notion of urban space communicated by the Christian idea of Jerusalem. Then in September, Ocker joined scholars from Germany, the United States, Spain, Ireland, France and Israel for a conference on the interpretation of the Bible in Hebrew and Latin during the formative period of western intellectual life, 800-1200. Ocker’s paper looked at “Hebrew Idiom, Figurative Reading, and Mystical Meaning between Theodulphe of Orleans and the Victorines.” It studies the early medieval background to one of the most contested aspects of biblical interpretation after the Reformation, namely the nature of biblical language, Hebrew in particular. Ocker will travel to Switzerland and Lake Maggiore to participate in a conference organized by the University of Constance and supported by the German Research Society on the general problem of the “Differentiation of Religion” in European history. His paper is called “The Trouble with Allegory.” It deals with how the ways people imagined the language of the Bible changed before and after the Reformation.



Eugene Eung-Chun Park, Dana and Dave Dornsife Professor of New Testament, presented a paper, “Covenantal Nomism and the Gospel of Matthew” at the 66th General Meeting of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (SNTS) held at Bard College in August. He gave a series of lectures on “Ideas of Plato and their Relevance to Contemporary Religious Thoughts” at the First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame in September. He published the following articles: “A Soteriological Reading of the Great Commandment Pericope in Matthew” in *Biblical Research* 54 (2011), which is a revised version of the paper he presented at the SNTS meeting held at the University of Lund, Sweden in 2008; “An Unintended Reader’s Response to Matthew 22:34-40” in *Sacra Scripta* 9 (2011): 7-25; Book review on M. A. Powell, ed. *Methods for Matthew*, in *Interpretation* 65 (2011): 427; Exegetical articles, “Matthew 10:24-39,” “Matthew 10:40-42,” and “Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30” in D. Bartlett and B. Taylor, eds., *Feasting on the Word*, Year A, Volume 3. WJK, 2011, 164-69, 188-93, & 212-17; “Matthew 5:38-48” and “Matthew 6:24-34” in *Lectionary Homiletics* 22 (2011): 22-23 & 30-31.

Annette Schellenberg, associate professor of Old Testament, finished her habilitations-process at the theological faculty of Zurich University in May, and Zurich University awarded her the *venia legendi* (permission to lecture) for the field of Old Testament and ancient Near Eastern religions (Habilitation is the second degree after the dissertation in some European countries). Schellenberg published

her second book *Der Mensch, das Bild Gottes? Zum Gedanken einer Sonderstellung des Menschen im Alten Testament und in weiteren altorientalischen Quellen* (AThANT 101), Zuerich: TVZ 2011 (English translation: *Human Beings, the Image of God? On the Idea of a Privileged Position of Humans in the Old Testament and Other Ancient Near Eastern Sources*). She published an article: “From Wise King to Royal Wise: the Royalization of the Sage in Old Testament Wisdom Literature” in the *South African Baptist Journal of Theology* 20 (2011). In September, she led an adult education series on Ecclesiastes at First Presbyterian Church, San Rafael. She led a series on the Five Scrolls (Ruth, Song of Songs, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther) at Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland.

Annette Weissenrieder, associate professor of New Testament, was honored when her recent book *Religion and Illness* (co-edited with Gregor Etzelmüller) was named one of the best books of 2010 by the *Theologische Literaturzeitung*. She also finished her book *Contested Spaces: Houses and Temples in Roman Antiquity and New Testament* with David Balch. The book includes two articles by Weissenrieder: “Contested Spaces in 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 and 14:30: Sitting or Reclining in Ancient Houses, in Associations and in the Space of *ekklesia*”; and “‘Do you not know that you are God’s temple?’ Toward a New Perspective on Paul’s Temple Image in 1 Corinthians 3:16.” She expects to complete *Temples, *ekklesia* and Social Society in 1 Corinthians: Insights of Ancient Iconography, Numismatics, and Architectural Theories* in the spring as part of her postdoctoral habilitation. She visited Corinth twice for research.

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“When I first started seminary, I had a passion for educational ministry, which later changed to a passion for small church ministry,” said Rev. Rex Parker, a retired Presbyterian minister. “I was one of the fortunate ones. When I graduated, I was almost debt free because of scholarships I received from SFTS, and money I received from my home church in Fresno, Calif.”

Rex served as a small church pastor at Waldport Presbyterian Church in Waldport, Ore. He also served larger churches in Portland, Ore., and Wenatchee, Wash. “I worked with both youth and adults in the large churches. In the small church, the pastor has to be a jack-of-all-trades.”

Rex is sensitive to the challenges facing first-call pastors today. While at SFTS, Rex worked for two years as an audio assistant to former Professor Vaughn Chamness. “I was older when I entered seminary, so I already had some debt. My goal is to help current students so they don’t graduate with a huge burden of debt. It’s difficult to pay off your debts while trying to live.”

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“SFTS is the place where I was transformed, supported and touched by God,” said Sinhyang Lee Park. “I choose to give to SFTS because I have seen and experienced God through the Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction program and the SFTS community. The DASD program, the faculty, staff, and students helped me to see God and myself in a new way. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to grow and find myself as well to now have an opportunity to serve others.”



Sinhyang was a spiritual director with the Interfaith Counseling Center before moving to her new home in Buena Park in Southern California. Now, she is waiting for God’s leading before making her next move.

“Many people want to find God in their situations. They’re looking for hope, meaning, a solution to their problems. I walk with them in their struggle until they find the energy to move on.”

Sinhyang credits SFTS for finding her voice.

“The DASD program allowed me to listen to my inner voice, to what’s real and truthful for me. It was God’s grace for me to find SFTS. Through this community, I became more of myself.”

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“Ministering to and with youth and young adults gives me the greatest joy and energy,” said Rev. Molly Dowell Baum. “It is an important, yet often poorly understood, under-supported and even neglected area of the Church’s ministry. This has been reaffirmed for me this year in Zambia.” Molly recently spent 12 months working with the Theological Education by Extension in Zambia (TEEZ) after earning her Master of Divinity degree.



“I benefitted greatly from scholarships, grants and subsidized housing while at SFTS, and want to give back what I can for future students. I also have a dream some day of creating an Arts in Ministry prize for a graduating senior who has pursued and used drama, dance, music, and/or visual arts in their study and ministry while at SFTS. It would be a few years before I’m able to do much toward this idea, but I would of course welcome any like-minded alumni to join with me!”

“SFTS has a lot to offer students, including ecumenical engagement at the GTU, unique and diverse ministry contexts in the Bay Area, and excellent biblical, theological, and practical coursework in a vibrant campus community.”

“It is important to me to give to SFTS because many have given before me, which enabled me to study and grow there.”

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“Stewardship of the material bounty I have been given is a source of great joy in my life. For me, giving to the seminary is a way for me to express gratitude for my material blessing and give back to the work of the kingdom of heaven,” said Rev. Tim Lanham.

Tim is pastor of Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, Mont. He joined the SFTS Board of Trustees in 2010.

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” It was that voice – however unclearly and indistinctly I heard it so long ago – that summoned me to ministry. And it was the great people at SFTS – professors and administrators like John Irvine, Bob and Polly Coote, Ann Wire and Jorge Lara-Braud – who helped me hear that voice and understand its call in my life and in my faith.”

Tim, the pastor of SFTS intern Ryan Schlimgen, deeply understands the influence seminaries have in preparing students for ministry.

“I support SFTS in its educational enterprise because it continues to do what it did for me: engage future church leaders in the art of inquiry – not providing all the answers but teaching them about the questions they need to be able to ask as they follow after the God who calls them.”



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The Baldwin Family

Ken Baldwin, BD 1961/Legacy Donor

Ken Baldwin arrived in San Anselmo in the late 1950s with his wife, Nita, and two small children in tow. He was attending seminary in order to enter into ministry, but he and his family found so much more beyond a theological education. "It was a wonderful time for us," Nita recalls. "We lived in seminary housing, simple but lovely. The friends we made were like family. I will always cherish the sense of community they brought to our lives."

After graduating in 1961, the Baldwins, along with a few fellow classmates, made their home in Oregon. After years of serving in parish ministry, Ken found his calling in marriage counseling and served the Presbyterian Counseling in Washington.

Ken has passed away, but the Baldwins' love for San Francisco Theological Seminary remains strong. "SFTS was a highlight of our lives," Nita reflects. "If Ken were still alive I know that he would want to support students who would like to attend seminary. Even though my estate might not be very large, the little bit that I have will go to SFTS."



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—Stephen J. Rhoades
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SEMINARY BY THE LAKE

Continuing education and soul-refreshing reunion

By Anitra Kitts

San Francisco Theological Seminary alumni and family members, faculty and staff gathered at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center on the shores of scenic Lake Tahoe in July for a revival of an old SFTS tradition: Seminary By the Lake.

The five-day event could be called the third term of Rev. Dr. Greg Love's Systematic Theology Class series: an 11-hour presentation on atonement theology based on his book, *Love, Violence, and the Cross: How the Nonviolent God Saves Us through the Cross of Christ*.

Then again, it will probably be remembered best as a sun-filled, soul-refreshing reunion of SFTS graduates from 2000-10 with a continuing education component every morning.

No matter the name, SFTS alumni, staff, new administration and professors came together for a time of study and relaxation, where new friendships were forged and old relationships restored all while considering the question, "What do we mean when we say 'Jesus Saves'?"

In addition to a three-hour morning lecture by Love, the five-day seminar also included generous free time for hiking in the surrounding forests, swimming and kayaking in the famously clear lake waters, as well as worship and board games most evenings with nary a term paper or final exam in sight.

"It's been wonderful to get back with colleagues, to be back in a classroom experience again as well as extremely refreshing in the surrounding beauty," said Jonathan Evans (M.Div. '07). "I needed to get out of my church environment and go back to the source of what really helped me get through the beginning of my ministry."

Inspiration for the retreat came from Love's former theology students, many of whom were actually SFTS students while Love was developing and writing his book. And the timing was perfect to use *Love, Violence, and the Cross* as text for the retreat since Love's first book was named the 2011 Angell Award winner by the Presbyterian Writers Guild (PWG) months earlier.



*Professor Greg Love (top) discusses his book *Love, Violence, and the Cross: How the Nonviolent God Saves Us through the Cross of Christ*.*



Rev. Dean McDonald and Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald attended Seminary By The Lake during the president's first week on the job.



Mornings were filled with theological discussions, leaving lots of free time in the afternoon to enjoy the natural wonders of Lake Tahoe.

“Over the last five years I have had students who have graduated and gone on to churches and ask me if we have any continuing education events,” Love said. “We have some lectures, some alumni reunions, but they are mostly attended by alums who are retired. Former students said that even when they find continuing education events, they don’t meet their needs, it wasn’t satisfying. So I suggested to a few of them that we do something on this book I just wrote on atonement, and the response was very positive.”

The combination of structured theological discussion in the mornings and free time to rest and recharge on the docks proved to be very popular with all participants. Conversation was thoughtful and occasionally challenging, which at one point caused Love to exclaim, “Oh, how I have missed you!”

Later, Love explained, “For a teacher, when your students are in the classroom, you invest a lot of yourself in them. Then they graduate and they leave, and for the most part you have little contact with them. To have former students back and to hear them asking questions and engaging in theology simply transports you back to when they were in the classroom five, six years ago.”

Mike Wilson (M.Div. ’01) felt much the same way, “I think it was amazing to be nine or 10 years removed from being with Greg and some of our friends and how quickly it became so familiar. We were right back there, it was remarkably easy to just fall back into the rhythms of being in class.”

Several alumni brought their families and took advantage of childcare provided during most of the events. “Our kid is sitting over there almost in tears because he doesn’t want to leave,” said Colleen Weems (John Weems M.Div. ’06) during breakfast on the last morning. “They’ve had a blast. Seminary is an interesting place to grow up as a kid so they have this shared experience. Even though they have friends at home, this is a special group of friends who are also Preacher Kids.”

Rev. Dr. James McDonald, SFTS president, and his wife, Dean, participated in the event on their way to San Anselmo. Scott Sheldon, interim vice president of institutional advancement, was also present along with other new SFTS staff members, which allowed alumni plenty of time for leisurely conversations about SFTS’s future, strengths and opportunities.

“It’s nice to reconnect with the seminary and remember what that experience was like,” said Aimee Moiso (M.Div. ’06). “It reconnected me in a way that I haven’t been feeling lately. It was nice to have the new staff and administration with us and that helped with the reconnection in a personal way.”

Love hopes to sponsor another Seminary By The Lake on his book in 2012, this time open to anyone. “The idea is that SFTS can give people something positive for their ministry,” he said.

Anitra Kitts (M.Div. ’06) is a freelance writer living in Santa Rosa, Calif.

ALUMNI NEWS

Branson, Presa endorsed as moderator candidates

Rev. Randy Branson and Rev. Neal Presa are among the four candidates for moderator of 220th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The assembly will be held June 30-July 7, 2012, in Pittsburgh.

Branson, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Graham, Texas, earned a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1971. Presa, pastor of Middlesex (N.J.) Presbyterian Church, received his M.Div. from SFTS in 2002.

If Branson or Presa is voted as moderator, it will be the 16th time a person associated with SFTS assumes the highest leadership role in the denomination. The most recent was Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, who became the 218th General Assembly Moderator in 2008. Other PC(USA) modera-



Branson



Presa

tors have included SFTS faculty, staff and trustees.

Branson currently serves as Palo Duro Presbytery moderator and has also chaired the presbytery's Committee on Ministry, as well as other leadership roles. "I'm going to challenge GA commissioners to focus on strengthening congregations for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ," Branson said.

Presa is a Filipino-American who also studied at Princeton Theological Seminary (ThM) and Drew University (MPhil and PhD). Presa has served the PC(USA) at all levels and has also been heavily engaged in global ecumenical relations. He is moderator of Elizabeth Presbytery and serves as chair of the General Assembly Special Committee on the Heidelberg Catechism.

Wirth elected to Board of Trustees, Harris new alumni rep

Alumni representation on the San Francisco Theological Seminary Board of Trustees continues to be an important source of support and engagement as evident during the recent meetings Oct. 3-4 in San Anselmo, Calif.

Rev. Dr. Steve Wirth (D.Min. '94) assumed an elected position on the board after four years as the Alumni Council Representative. Rev. R. John Harris (M.Div. '71) takes over as the new Alumni Council Representative.

Wirth preached at chapel on Monday, Oct. 3, to help usher in the new chapter in SFTS history, which included the first Board of Trustees meeting for Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald, SFTS President. Wirth reported that there were many hopeful signs during the Board meeting, adding that the



Wirth



Harris

hard decisions SFTS has faced recently seem to be working out as hoped for.

"It was an honor and privilege to preach at chapel," Wirth said. "Having a son in seminary makes me conscious of our need as pastors and churches to support our seminaries and seminarians. They need role models, good examples and encouragement for what we all know will be a challenging education and career."

Wirth is pastor at Grace First Presbyterian Church in Long Beach, Calif.

He is serving on the Board of Trustees Student Recruitment & Development Committee and the Committee on Representation.

Harris, now retired after serving congregations in Ohio, Florida and Michigan, will soon be moving back to Santa Barbara, Calif., where he was ordained in 1971. Harris is part of the SFTS Institutional Advancement Committee. He also holds board positions with Columbia Theological Seminary and Miami Country Day School.

Other SFTS alums on the Board are: Rev. Timothy C. Lanham (M.Div. '88); Rev. Jackie L. Leonard (M.Div. '88); Rev. Dr. Paul S. Nazarian (M.Div. '84); Rev. Juan Sarmiento (MATS '01); Rev. Dr. Eric J. Snyder (M.Div./MA '74, D.Min. '79); Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt (M.Div. '97, D.Min. '07).

Recent graduates appointed to key staff positions

Scott Clark (M.Div. '09)

is interim associate dean of student life and chaplain. Clark worked with the SFTS Program in Christian Spirituality for two years and preaches regularly in Bay Area churches. Before attending seminary, he practiced law in Birmingham, Ala., working primarily on cases involving constitutional law and employment discrimination. Clark's new position at SFTS combines the chaplain's duties with administrative responsibilities related to student services and community life.

Elizabeth E. P. McCord (M.Div. '06)

is director of enrollment. She is a 2002 graduate of Davis & Elkins College, a Presbyterian-affiliated school in West Virginia. She was a leader in her campus ministry program and served as a circuit preacher in rural West Virginia. She was named the Purdum-Goddin Distinguished Graduate when she earned a BA. McCord will be ordained for her seminary position on January 8 at Fairfax Community Church, a United Church of Christ congregation.

Donald P. Hammond (M.Div. '11)

is interim assistant to the director of enrollment. Before coming to SFTS, Hammond served as a missionary in Kenya and Tanzania. He has also ministered and preached in various regions around the United States as well as Finland, Turkey and Mexico. He is a candidate for ordination in the PC(USA) and expects to complete a Master of Arts in Systematic and Philosophical Theology granted jointly by SFTS and the GTU. He plans to return to Africa to begin PhD studies at University of Kwazulu Natal in January 2013.

Barbara England (M.Div. '11)

is interim program manager for the Program in Christian Spirituality. Before arriving at seminary, England raised three sons while working full-time for the phone company in Minnesota. Her undergraduate work was in business management and her passions in ministry are for social justice and mission projects. After mission trips to Mexico, Cuba, Palestine and Iona, she hopes to harvest olive trees in the Holy Land as her next international destination.

1982

Sylvia M. Casberg (M.Div.) (D.Min. '89)

has recently published two books, including *Praying the Seasons* (Sunny Fields Publishing) that came out in March. The retired minister who lives in Solvang, Calif., calls the book a "treasury of prayers for the many seasons of our lives: summer, sadness, winter, celebration and commitment." She is a featured speaker at churches and other religious organizations on the topic of "New Ways to Pray." The former associate pastor at Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver frequently prayed at social activist rallies in Colorado. She started collecting her prayers, which she considers modern psalms. Casberg left Denver

to become a chaplain in Moscow, Russia. In 1998, she traveled the Middle East to research a book for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Returning to the United States she was a chaplain at the University of Colorado Hospital, retiring in 2009 to begin her writing career at 74 years old.

1985

Richard Randerson (D.Min.)

has written several books to promote church growth among Anglicans in New Zealand and Australia. His book entitled *A Word in Season: Reflections on Spirituality, Faith and Ethics* is an anthology of 30 reflections on key topics facing church and society in terms of spirituality, faith and corporate and personal

ethics. *Engagement 21: A Wake-up Call to the 21st Century Church in Mission* challenges the church to radically review its mission strategy to gain traction in today's world.

1990

Arlene Gordon (M.Div.)

was elected president of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus at the Big Tent event in Indianapolis last summer. She had just retired as executive presbyter for the Tropical Florida Presbytery. In her first letter to NBPC members as president, Gordon wrote: "There is much challenging work ahead."



I believe this organization is more vital now than ever before as we continue to faithfully serve our beloved church." Prior to her work in Tropical Florida Presbytery, Gordon served as interim executive for Detroit Presbytery, on the General Assembly Council staff in Louisville and as associate pastor of Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Calif.

2008

Mark Shaw (MATS)

has published his new book, *Road to a Miracle* (People's Press). He chronicles what led to the firing of Indiana University basketball coach Bobby Knight and how Shaw's confrontation with the legendary coach was a defining moment in his spiritual journey.



Following his war of words with Knight and the subsequent unraveling of his family, Shaw turned to the mountains of Aspen for spiritual direction. He soon decided to enter SFTS, where he learned the teachings of famous Catholic monk Thomas Merton. Heeding the gifted wordsmith's call to "empty himself," of the garbage that had infiltrated his very being through his status as a noted author, radio and television host, Shaw was able to fall in love again, and discover peace in his life. The "new Mark Shaw" was then ready for the surprise of a lifetime. This miraculous event occurred in March 2010 when Shaw was contacted by a stranger living in Minnesota. After conversations, many e-mails and a DNA test, he discovered that the stranger was actually his daughter, Marni, who was put up for adoption as an infant.

Ordinations and Calls

1995

Craig Roberts (M.Div.)

was installed as pastor of El Estero Presbyterian Church in Monterey, Calif., in October. The church serves a multicultural community, including many Japanese-American residents. Roberts previously served Bethany Presbyterian Church in Portland and the Kumamoto International Church in Japan.

2000

Teresa Blythe (M.Div., DASD)

was ordained as a minister of the United Church of Christ in September at Casas Adobes Congregational Church in Tucson, Ariz. Blythe will serve a specialized ministry of spiritual direction in the UCC's Southwest Conference.

2005

Kathleen Mahoney (M.Div.)

took over as pastor at Church of the Mountains Methodist Church in Truckee, Calif., in July. She previously worked at UMC churches in Kernville, Windsor and Petaluma.

Christine Francisco (M.Div.)

was ordained into validated ministry working with elders at the Alma Via assisted living facility in San Rafael, Calif. Her service of ordination was in November at First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo.

2008

Beverly Brewster (M.Div.)

has been called to serve as pastor at Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo, Calif. She previously served as director of enrollment at SFTS.

Peter Mukuccia Mairukii (D.Min.)

is a professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Kenya Methodist University.

2009

Scott Clark (M.Div.)

was ordained to his position at SFTS as Interim Associate Dean for Student Life and Chaplain. His service took place at First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo.

2010

Jan Reynolds (M.Div.)

was ordained as the Associate Pastor for First Presbyterian Church, San Rafael, in September.

Joseph Nghia Dai Nguyen (M.Div.)

is working as Chaplain Resident at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, a teaching hospital affiliate with Emory University and Morehouse School of Medicine. He provides spiritual and emotional support to patients, families and staff.

2011

Evans Presley-McGowan (M.Div.)

was ordained as Pastoral Resident for First Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, Mich. The ordination took place at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Del.

Elizabeth Campbell (M.Div.)

has been ordained as a teaching elder at First Presbyterian Church of Williamstown & Waverly-Bethel Presbyterian Church in West Virginia. The ordination service took place in Owego, N.Y., at First Presbyterian Union Church in September.

IN MEMORIAM

Lifetime Trustee

Jane Newhall



Jane Newhall, a generous benefactor to San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, Calif., the Graduate Theological Union and Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, among other church-related institutions, died July 27 in Martha's Vineyard, Mass. She was 97. A memorial was held at Calvary Presbyterian Church in November. SFTS honored Newhall during its Board of Trustees meeting Oct. 3-4. The Newhall family held a private service on Martha's Vineyard Aug. 27.

Newhall, who spent summers on the island off of Cape Cod, suffered a stroke in early July and then contracted pneumonia. The lifelong resident of San Francisco was the great-granddaughter of Henry Mayo Newhall, founder of the town of Newhall, Calif., in 1876.

Newhall joined the SFTS Board of Trustees in 1968 and became a Life Trustee in 1993. Her devotion to SFTS over many years included support for its Annual Giving Program, Scholarship Endowment Fund, and "A Time to Lead" Campaign to restore and retrofit the historic Montgomery Hall and Montgomery Chapel.

Dedicated to theological education and the need for scholarly recognition and advancement, Newhall established the Newhall Endowment for Faculty Support Fund, which provided travel funds to allow SFTS professors to attend national academic conferences. She established the Almer

Mayo Newhall Chair in honor of her uncle who served as an SFTS Trustee from 1917-33.

"Jane was a woman of deep Christian faith," said Dr. Laird Stuart, who completed a 16-month appointment as SFTS interim president in July. "She was very humble and wonderfully unpretentious. She did not draw attention to herself or her remarkably generous giving."

Stuart had a special connection with Newhall as her pastor at Calvary Presbyterian Church for nearly two decades and throughout his various associations with SFTS. Stuart served with Newhall on the SFTS Board of Trustees from 1997-2006; he was chair the final two years.

Newhall was born in San Francisco in 1913 and began attending Calvary Presbyterian Church as a 6-year-old. She was active in the church choir, was an ordained elder who served on the church Session multiple times, regularly participated in senior women's Bible study groups and was a prayer group leader.

"She gave generously to the church," Stuart said. "She never expected special treatment – she just went about being Jane."

In addition to her support of SFTS and Calvary, Newhall was Trustee Emerita at the GTU. In 1987, she established an endowment for GTU doctoral students to engage in collaborative teaching or research with faculty mentors. Each year, the GTU recognizes a new group of Newhall Scholars, providing them the opportunity to develop and teach new courses, lead research and expand the boundaries of innovative scholarship. The GTU is the largest consortium of seminaries in North America.

Former SFTS Staff & Alumni

Thomas Bradley Robb

Both a staff member and graduate of SFTS, Thomas Bradley Robb died March 25 at the age of 78. He helped pioneer advanced pastoral studies programs and ministries with the aging during a career that spanned more than 50 years. A Chicago native, Robb graduated from Arizona State University before earning a Bachelor of Divinity in 1957 and a Master of Theology in 1965 from SFTS. He remained at SFTS from 1966-70 as the interim director of Pastoral Studies. The program evolved into the highly-regarded Advanced Pastoral Studies program, a forerunner of the Doctor of Ministry program. He completed a Doctor of Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in 1970.

"SFTS was an important part of my husband's life, a community of faith he carried with him throughout his adult life and career," said his wife, Beth.

Robb's growing interest and expertise in ministries with aging took him to Washington, D.C., where he served as program director for the National Council on the Aging from 1976-80. He then served for eight years as the director of the PC(USA)'s Office on Aging, and then for two more years as executive director of the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging, based in Athens, GA. Two of his books on aging, *The Bonus Years* (1968) and *Growing Up: Pastoral Nurture for the Later Years* (1991) are still widely used.

Former SFTS Faculty

C. Ellis Nelson

A pioneer in research and writing about forming Christian disciples through the life of a congregation, C. Ellis Nelson died June 9 at the age of 95. Nelson most recently served as research professor of Christian education at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, but over his 60-year career he taught, lectured or led at most PC(USA) theological institutions, including SFTS from 1981-84. Prior to SFTS, Nelson was president at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary from 1974-81.

With a dozen books and monographs, including *How Faith Matures, Don't Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide* and *Helping Teenagers Grow Morally*, and almost 90 articles, chapters, and reviews, Nelson's work explored themes of conscience, socialization, and the crisis of the church in an increasingly secular culture. He was instrumental in developing the "Covenant Life" church school curriculum, considered by many to be the PC(USA)'s finest. His counsel was frequently sought in the area of religious education and his influence can be seen in several contemporary initiatives such as the PC(USA)'s Theological Education (1%) Fund and the "Entry into Ministry" program of the Lilly Endowment Inc.

Alumni

1942

Edward J. Machle (BD) (1944 MA in Music)

died on August 4 at the age of 92. Pastor, educator and philosopher, Machle was born in China, the son of Presbyterian missionary parents. He earned a Master of Arts from SFTS in 1944, and then received a PhD from Columbia University before joining the faculty at the University of Colorado, where he retired as professor emeritus in the Philosophy department. During his tenure at CU he was instrumental in the formation of the Religious Studies Department in 1970. In addition to teaching, Machle served as pastor for churches in Washington, California and New York, and wrote *Nature and Heaven in the Xunzi* and *A Philosopher Looks at Jesus*. He is survived by his wife and faithful caretaker, Mary Lou, seven children, 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Per his request, friends and colleagues were asked that in lieu of flowers, memorial gifts be made to support SFTS.

1951

George H. Walker (BD)

passed into a better world in June after a long illness. He was 92. Born in Texas, Walker was drafted and served in the U.S. Army from 1942-45. Upon graduation from seminary, he married Lou Helen Bennett of Yuma, Ariz., where they settled after his retirement from ministry. He is survived by his wife, one son and daughter, four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

1953

Clifford E. Baker (BD)

passed away in July 2010 from a heart attack. Born in Vancouver, Wash. Baker served in WWI as a Frogman and is also a WWII veteran. Fondly remembered by his SFTS classmates as a rough-and-tumble sort of man, Baker chronicled his life in a self-published autobiography *From a Speakeasy to the Cross*. Following seminary, Baker served as a "sawdust evangelist" in Northern California's sawmill towns and lumber camps and had various pastoral assignments through the Presbyterian Board of National Missions.

1986

Lois A. Olson (M.Div.)

died on July 6 after a brief illness at the age of 58. Born in Syracuse, N.Y., and a graduate of Ithaca College, she moved to the Bay Area in 1982 to attend seminary and never left. A lifelong lay leader, Olson served as an elder at St. Andrew in Marin City and First Church of Oakland. She is survived by her mother, Edith Baird Olson, one brother and two sisters.

John H. Hastings (D. Min.)

passed away December 2009. He received a heart transplant in 1998 and enjoyed years of good health until his new heart began to fail. Hastings served United Methodist Churches throughout Kansas and preached his final sermon just three days before his entry into the church triumphant. As an organ transplant recipient, he believed strongly in donating what he could, so his eyes were donated, making vision possible for two people.

Gerald D. Lyman (D.Min.)

died on Aug. 11 in Hemet, Calif., at the age of 80. He earned his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1955 and was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of Los Angeles. He spent a year studying with renowned Reformed theologians at the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey in Geneva, Switzerland. He and his wife, Jacquelin, organized two new Presbyterian (U.S.A.) churches in Riverside Presbytery. In Yucca Valley, Calif., they organized Desert Hills Presbyterian Church (1965-79), founded an ecumenical Ministerial Association, and were active in the Morongo Valley Mental Health Association. The family moved to Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., to organize Northkirk Presbyterian Church (1979-86). After earning a D.Min. from SFTS, he began a new ministry among older adults as Associate Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Hemet, Calif. He trained Stephen Ministers, led Presbyterian Women's Bible study classes, planned monthly worship services for convalescent homes and called on members of the congregation who were homebound or hospitalized. He retired from full-time active ministry in 1995, later serving as pastor of visitation and receiving the honorary title of pastor emeritus. He supported Valley Restart, the Community Pantry and other community service organizations in Hemet-San Jacinto Valley. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, son and five grandchildren.

2002**Richard F. Mullins, Jr. (DASD)**

died peacefully at home in July 2010. Born in Chicago and raised in Wichita, he received his PhD

in psychology from Stanford University and taught at the university level before entering private practice in San Francisco. He moved to Napa in 1986 and was heavily involved in the community, devoting his time to Leadership Napa Valley, the Child or Parent Emergency Program, Napa Valley Hospice and the Kid's Turn Program. An elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Mullins is survived by his wife Janet and four children.

2004**Jiden Beverly Ewing (M.Div.)**

died in August at the age of 39. A lifelong scholar, she was working on her dissertation for a PhD from the GTU and had recently relocated back to Dallas to be near her family. Ewing leaves behind two sisters, nieces and nephews, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and countless friends from all over the world.

2008**Heidi Skidmore (M.Div.)**

died on Sept. 2 in Chattanooga, Tenn., where she had gone for treatment of colorectal cancer. She was 60 years old. She earned a degree in music therapy from the University of the Pacific. After seminary, she was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament at Church of the Eternal Hills, Tabernash, Colo., in August 2010. Heidi was the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Wray, Colo. Heidi will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her. She had a calm way that instantly put people at ease, and her hugs and smiles were infectious. To know Heidi was to experience the loving grace of God present with you. She is survived by three children and two grandchildren.

SFTS also prayerfully remembers

**Clair H. Denman
(BD 1952, MA 1965)**

died at the age of 88 in September 2010 in Duarte, Calif.

Penney Anne Fujii (M.Div. 1974)

died at the age of 61 in December 2008 in Conneaut Lake, Pa.

Donald L. Gray (BD 1956)

died in June 2010 at the age of 79 in Rapid City, S.D.

Gerald E. Housh (D.Min. 1977)

passed away at the age of 77 earlier this year in Shawnee, Kan.

Paul G. Nance (D.Min. 1978)

passed away at the age of 91 in Ceritos, Calif.

Roy R. Ross (BD 1953)

died on Aug. 31 at the age of 88 in Willits, Calif.

Robert L. Thomas (M.Div. 1957)

passed away in November 2009 in Newman, Calif.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

2-3

37th annual Lessons & Carols

The theme of this year's annual Advent services is "Joy of Every Longing Heart." It comes from the beloved Advent hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" written by Charles Wesley. 7 p.m. at Stewart Memorial Chapel.

10

Children's Advent Celebration

The Auxiliary Board hosts its annual gathering for the children of the Seminary. Children enjoy food, crafts, singing and gift sharing. Funding for this event is generously provided by the SFTS Auxiliary, local congregations, Presbyterian Women groups and individual donations. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Scott Hall.

FEBRUARY

10-11

Inauguration Weekend

All are invited to celebrate the presidential inauguration of Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald. Service Saturday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.-noon. at First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo. Information: 415-451-2823; www.sfts.edu.

MARCH

18-23

Companions on the Inner Way

Retreat sponsored by Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church and SFTS. The speaker will be Susan S. Phillips, a spiritual director who teaches in the SFTS Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction program. Event at Serra Retreat Center in Malibu, Calif. Information: 415-235-1027; companions@seventhavenuechurch.org.

APRIL

19-21

Alumni Reunion Weekend

All SFTS alumni are cordially invited to attend this year's Alumni Reunion Weekend. Special plans are scheduled for the classes of 1962 and 1987, which will be celebrating their 50th and 25th reunions, respectively. Information: Sarah Campbell, 415-451-2830; scampbell@sfts.edu

19-20

T.V. Moore Lectures

The Seminary is continuing a treasured tradition by scheduling distinguished lectures during reunion weekend. Information: Sarah Campbell, 415-451-2830; scampbell@sfts.edu

19

Faith & the Common Good Lecture

This is an opportunity for alumni/ae, students, friends of the seminary and wider community to be inspired by people of faith who serve others in their vocations. David Chiu will be the keynote speaker. Before entering San Francisco politics, Chiu founded an online communications technology company. He has also worked as a criminal prosecutor and civil rights attorney. Information: Sarah Campbell, 415-451-2830; scampbell@sfts.edu

MAY

11

Seminary for a Day

Experience seminary, including worship, two lectures by SFTS professors and lunch with our community. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Montgomery Chapel. Information: Sarah Campbell, 415-451-2830; scampbell@sfts.edu

19

Commencement Service

SFTS honors the Class of 2012. Time TBD, site is Bouick Field.

JULY

23-27

Before the Cradle and Beyond the Cross Retreat for Preachers

Study and pray the 2011-12 lectionary year on the beautiful SFTS campus. This unique event, which blends sermon preparation with spiritual formation, will be led by Rev. Dr. Sam Hamilton-Poore, director of the Program in Christian Spirituality, and Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, professor of homiletics and speech communication. Information: 415-451-2838; dasd@sfts.edu.

20-22

Supervisor Training for Spiritual Directors

Dr. Rebecca Langer and Dr. Maria Bowen, both adjunct faculty in the SFTS Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction (DASD) program, provide supervisor training for spiritual directors. There is a seminar on the SFTS campus followed by a year of distance learning and a closing weekend seminar. Information: maria@togetherinthemystery.org.

*Prospective Student Visits

Campus visits are available by appointment for prospective students and their families. SFTS also hosts an Inquirers' Weekend for prospective students each fall and spring semester. For more information, please contact the SFTS Enrollment Team at 800-447-8820 ext. 831 or via e-mail at admissions@sfts.edu.

Weddings & Receptions

San Francisco Theological Seminary is an extraordinary setting for your wedding

A wide variety of spaces that can accommodate up to 200 people.



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INAUGURATION OF Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald

11TH PRESIDENT *of* SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



February 10-11, 2012