

# CHIMES

SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Fall 2012  
Volume 58  
No. 1

## WORSHIP LAB

EXPERIMENTING TODAY  
FOR THE  
CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

ALSO INSIDE **Student Life 10** | **Faculty News 14** | **Alumni News 22**

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Dear Friends,**

**M**y first assignment with Bread for the World back in 1999 was to lead the organization's effort to urge the U.S. Congress to provide deeper, broader and faster debt relief for the world's poorest countries – Bread's contribution to the Jubilee 2000 campaign. A small coalition of church groups — Church World Service, the Episcopal Church, the Methodists, the United Church of Christ, Presbyterians, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services — and Oxfam America came together and focused our efforts on introducing and passing bipartisan legislation that would break the cycle of debt and promote poverty reduction.

It was a tall order. No one thought we could do it, even we ourselves. Poor country debt was an esoteric topic, too hard for most people to understand. The problem seemed so big. The odds were stacked against us.

But there was something of God in this effort and the Holy Spirit was at work. Our efforts succeeded beyond our wildest dreams. We not only passed legislation. We in fact changed U.S. policy, and the policies of other rich countries and international financial institutions. And poor people in some of the poorest countries in the world are reaping the benefits of those efforts, even today.

That assignment showed me the power of faith to change the course of history and improve the world. This is the same opportunity and challenge that San Francisco Theological Seminary has today.

We live in a polarized and partisan world, where differences seem to matter more than the things we hold in common. The church itself suffers from these same divisions, and has a difficult time connecting with people who are seeking deep expressions of faith and life. The church can do better, and seminaries have an opportunity to help the church meet the challenge.

The prophetic ministries of the 21st century are ministries that foster conversation, interaction, com-

mon action and uncommon community among people and groups that do not know each other, do not understand each other, and do not agree with each other. We need church leaders who are capable of bringing people together across the political, ideological and cultural divides, and of bridging those gaps.

We need to design seminary education in a way that provides the intellectual underpinnings for that kind of leadership — the Biblical understandings, the lessons from church history, and the theological and ethical basis for such ministries. We need graduates who have been challenged to develop the emotional intelligence, spiritual formation and practical skills that would enable them to be the kind of religious leaders our polarized, parochial and partisan world so desperately needs.

This fall SFTS is embarking on a season of change. We are beginning to consider how we can transform our educational model and the curriculum that supports it in order to connect with the sea of changes taking place in the world today. SFTS needs to be a place of hope and energy for a transformed church capable of healing a broken world. We should be a place that helps the world and the church move beyond the divisiveness and corrosiveness that are needlessly tearing us apart. Graduates of SFTS should be equipped and empowered to be the kind of religious leaders who can bring people together and motivate them to participate in God's mission as it is now unfolding.

I pray that we will be able to look back on this time of uncertainty and transition for the Church and recognize how God was working in and through SFTS to do a New Thing.

**Grace and peace,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

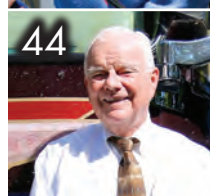
**Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald**  
**President and Professor of Faith and Public Life**



# CHIMES

SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
SAN ANSELMO

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# FROM COMMUNICATIONS



## Reflections...One Year Later

**W**hen I embarked upon my journey at SFTS one year ago, I knew without pause that I had been blessed with a great professional opportunity. And the chance to work in an environment where I could openly express my love for Jesus Christ was deeply profound. It's wonderful to speak the words, God, Christ, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Praise Him, Our Father and more without fear of being "written up" by a human resources staffer for expressing my religion and faith in the workplace. Hallelujah for SFTS, where God is my co-worker, and is loved and praised throughout our community!

As I have become deeply immersed in SFTS culture, knowledgeable of its history and an ardent supporter of the exciting plans for the future, I marvel at the focused commitment of our leadership, faculty, staff and students. And I have unearthed the best kept secret in town; that SFTS is a magical place, with stellar academics and a loving heart for social justice. Now is the time to spread the word, far and wide, about all that SFTS has to offer!

In my role as vice president of communications, I have a job that is creative, meaningful and gives me great joy. I lead a talented team of individuals who love to tell stories ... your stories! Using various mediums including Chimes magazine, marketing and

promotional collateral, website, video, photography, social media including Facebook and Twitter, advertising and radio and television news, we are the folks who are working with passion to tell compelling, interesting and heartwarming stories that will bring heightened visibility to SFTS nationally and abroad.

We are currently engaged in a branding initiative that will inform us if we're on the right path with our messaging and outreach efforts, or if we need to make a course-correction. As with all things, it is important to re-examine our strategies and methodologies to insure that we're not merely keeping pace, but actively leading the way. We have cast a wide net, and we're excited about what the future holds for SFTS.

It is my daily prayer that we hold true to the meaning of the Gospel, and that our hands and hearts continue to be guided by our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

**Dr. Kay Carney**

**Vice President of Communications**

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✦ **CHIMES ONLINE:** SFTS is proud to announce that *Chimes* magazine is online. The online version allows you to also view *Chimes* magazine on your personal handheld device and smart phone.

✦ **DEVOTIONS:** Join the SFTS community in reflection and prayer through Daily Devotions for Advent, written by the SFTS community. Sign up online for daily emails sent directly to your inbox.

✦ **FACEBOOK & TWITTER:** Find out about special events, who's preaching in chapel, where President Jim McDonald is speaking, and alumni and student ministries.





# SFTS NEWS

## Presa calls for “Unity with a Difference”

Rev. Neal D. Presa (M.Div. '02) became the 16th member of the San Francisco Theological Seminary community to be elected moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly in June in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Presa, a Filipino-American, was elected by majority vote over three other candidates, including fellow SFTS alum Rev. Randy Branson (M.Div. '71). Among the other SFTS community members who have been elected moderator of the PC(USA) General Assembly is Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow (M.Div. '95), whose two-year term ran from 2008-10.

Besides serving as pastor of Middlesex (N.J.) Presbyterian Church, Presa is affiliate assistant professor of preaching and worship at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. A noted ecumenist, Presa has provided leadership through the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) and its predecessor, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC). He has also chaired the PC(USA) General Assembly Special Committee on the Heidelberg Catechism, was vice chair of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (formerly the General Assembly Council), and held positions as vice moderator and moderator of the Presbytery of Elizabeth.

Here's what he has to say about his experiences at SFTS and how they have helped him negotiate the challenges facing the PC(USA) and church in the 21st century.

“A key characteristic of theological education that I experienced at SFTS when I was an M.Div. student from 1999-2002 was the community life that welcomed freedom of thought while tethered to the Reformed tradition,” Presa said. “I look at my time at SFTS with great delight as it was a community that lived with the tension of the broadness of the theological spectrum — this is where the Church needs to be.”

Presa's quest for unity and cooperation has become the polestar of his role as moderator. Leading up to the election,



*“I think our focus now has to be on how to develop a community that allows dissenting views but still allows that person or persons to belong to the community.”*

Presa was faced with conflict when it was revealed his vice moderator running mate, Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe of National Capital Presbytery, had signed a marriage certificate for a lesbian couple in Washington, D.C., where same-sex marriage is legal.

Presa said that as a church officer, he holds to the PC(USA) Constitution, which recognizes marriage as between a man and a woman. “But I've known Tara for 10½ years and though we disagree, we live with this tension because of our relationship,” Presa said. Days after their election, McCabe resigned over this divisive issue.

“I think our focus now has to be on how to develop a community that allows dissenting views but still allows that person or persons to belong to the community,” Presa said.

Toward that goal, Presa plans to initiate a new conversation within his church.

“One of the first initiatives will be Unity with a Difference, a gathering of conservative and progressive leaders to catalyze a church-wide conversation on our common Christian faith while dignifying the differences we have,” Presa said.

*The Binghamton Press and Sun-Bulletin contributed to this story.*

# SPECIAL FOCUS WORSHIP LAB



INNOVATION

COLLABORATION

PARTICIPATION

Experimenting today for the Church of the future

BY HOLLY WOOLARD



Rev. Scott Clark, chaplain and associate dean of student life at SFTS, speaks during a Worship Lab service that celebrated National Coming Out Day.

Every Thursday at noon at San Francisco Theological Seminary a new worship experience is explored. The SFTS community gathers for worship four times a week and Thursdays are reserved for what has emerged as weekly “Worship Lab.”

Started in January 2012 to add flexibility and innovation to weekly worship, the Thursday chapel services at SFTS implement experimentation to enrich and complement worship experiences, while honoring the living word of God and the Reformed tradition.

“As we talked about the best way to serve the community, and what the purposes of chapel and chaplain’s assistants were, we decided that in addition to providing a space for worship, the chaplaincy program was for learning,” explains Master of Divinity senior Charles Wei, who was a chaplain’s assistant last year. “This meant that we had to be able to experiment, to see what different kinds of things could work in a worship service, and what things might not. Worship Lab became a showcase of sorts, in which the people that attended chapel could see a variety of things that could be possible in a worship service.”

"Seminaries are laboratories for incubating religious leaders who have been called by God to encourage and challenge communities to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ."

PRESIDENT JAMES MCDONALD



Over the past year, the Worship Lab services have included experiencing the Spirit through percussion instruments and praying to God through motion. Other themes have been timed for days of remembrance such as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, reflecting on how Jesus stood with those who were victims and targets of violence, and National Coming Out Day. During Welcome Week, the Worship Lab service explored a theme of Eat, Pray, Love: As community members prayerfully walked the Geneva Terrace labyrinth, they would eat grapes, pray with someone, and experience God's love by receiving a blessing. Min-Hee Kim is a second-year Master of Divinity student from South

Korea who serves as a chaplain's assistant. She says that differences among this year's four chaplain's assistants — just like differences within churches — open doors to think beyond one's own realities and gifts.

"When I understand something, I tend to visualize that concept with images from my context," Kim said. "For example, the percussion Worship Lab was designed with the purpose of relieving stress of the seminary community since I've felt that all members of SFTS were feeling some stress from their work, including me. What surprises me is that I can concentrate on

SEE WORSHIP LAB  
ON PAGE 29

Above, chaplain's assistant Min-Hee Kim shares grapes as the SFTS community reflects on Eat, Pray, Love. Below, community members pray to God through motion.



# New SFTS director of Advanced Pastoral Studies committed to nurturing “communities of practice”

By Holly Woolard

As a pastor nearing the 10th anniversary with his first congregation after seminary, Rev. Virstan Choy needed more. His ministry had reached a point where he needed a fresh dash of theological stimulation and colleague feedback. He found what he was looking for through the San Francisco Theological Seminary Doctor of Ministry program.

It's been more than 20 years since Choy first began his studies at SFTS and he returns as director of Advanced Pastoral Studies, which includes oversight of the seminary's D.Min. program. For those who find themselves in situations similar to that which Choy encountered while serving as pastor of the Chinese Community Church in Sacramento, Calif., from 1975-86, and then as associate executive presbyter for the Presbytery of San Jose from 1986-91, he is sensitive to your needs for renewal and retooling.

“It came to the point where my approach to ministry skills development just didn't do it anymore,” said Choy, who had sought help through journals and books, lectures and workshops. “What I was looking for was something more disciplined. I needed new wisdom and advanced skills in leading and cultivating leadership in the congregation, not just some new program ideas.”

In his new position at SFTS, Choy's primary roles are twofold: Continue to develop the renowned D.Min. program that for more than 50 years has helped church leaders refresh their calls, update professional skills and stir the wellspring of creative ministry; and provide innovative ways to nurture pastors and others engaged in

the practice of ministry who are hungry for a ministry boost, but may not qualify for admission to the D.Min. degree program or have the interest or time to write a dissertation.

Being an SFTS grad, Choy is especially appreciative of the legacy left by predecessors Henry Adams (1961-69), John Hadsell (1970-81), Walt Davis (1981-2000), Warren Lee (2000-08), Lewis Rambo (2009-10) and Scott Sullender (2010-12). “I want to be a faithful steward of what has been entrusted to me — not just the program, but the people and the partnerships as well,” he said.

*“I want to be a faithful steward of what has been entrusted to me.”*

— Rev. Dr. Virstan Choy

From 1992-2000, Choy served as director of field education and integrative studies at SFTS, which allowed him to work closely with Master of Divinity students. He's still involved in supporting the ministries of several of those

former students, including parish associate work for Rev. Veronica Goines (M.Div. '95) at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Marin City, Calif., and co-teaching in the McCormick Theological Seminary Executive Leadership Program with Sarah Moore-





Nokes (M.Div. '03). He's excited about building similar ministry-long relationships with APS students. Choy is "committed to looking for ways to innovate and enhance the D.Min. program." He is equally cognizant that his duties as director of APS must involve expanding certificate and other non-degree education, especially for those who do not meet current accreditation standards for entry into the D.Min. program. This leads him to approach his new job with "bifocal strategic vision."

During his studies at SFTS, Choy benefited from the stimulation and support from his colleagues in ministry. The "community of practice" he experienced at seminary, being a part of a collegium group, became an ongoing source of discipline, encouragement and accountability. The intentional way the SFTS D.Min. program has been structured, with various emphases and tracks, makes it attentive to diverse "communities of practice" in ministry.

One local "community of practice" is the Racial Ethnic Advanced Pastoral Skills (REAPS) group, a fellowship of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ministers

*See Advanced Pastoral Studies  
on page 28*



*Rev. Dr. Virstan Choy  
preaches at St. Andrew  
Presbyterian Church  
in Marin City, Calif.*

## Tradition of commitment to advanced studies programs

San Francisco Theological Seminary has been committed to post-graduate education since 1928, when 16 active pastors, mostly SFTS alumni, gathered weekly for graduate studies. The seminary's Advanced Pastoral Studies program, designed for working pastors, was launched in 1961 and SFTS began offering the

Doctor of Ministry degree in 1970.

Throughout history, the seminary's advanced studies programs have been marked by the ecumenical and international character of the student body and faculty. The Doctor of Ministry program combines academic excellence and a pragmatic focus in order to develop scholar pastors who

are creative in their ministry contexts.

As a world leader in Christian graduate-level education, SFTS is proud to offer several concentrations in its Doctor of Ministry program. The majority of students enroll in the Multidisciplinary emphasis. Other areas of emphases include Pastoral Care and Coun-

seling and Pastor as a Spiritual Leader.

The SFTS faculty is also deeply committed to International Feminist, African American Theology and Urban Ministry emphases. SFTS plans to offer courses in these areas, although the programs are under review with the hope of continuing these emphases in the next few years.



*The McDonalds with Rev. Dr. Yong Kyu Kang.*



*One of many cultural events enjoyed by the McDonalds.*



*The ceremonial changing of the guard.*

# Cultural Crossings: A Tour of Korea

*An-nyung-ha-se-yo?*  
( "How are you?" )

By Kay Carney

It was the trip of a lifetime. For SFTS president, Rev. Dr. James McDonald and his wife, Rev. Dr. Dean McDonald, the invitation to travel to Korea offered a welcomed opportunity to go where no "McDonald" had ever gone before!

This is not the first time SFTS leadership have traveled to Korea to participate in the annual Hanshin conference, a symposium established for Korean Christian pastors. For four decades, SFTS administrators and faculty have made the trip. But for the McDonalds, this was their maiden voyage.

After a 10-hour plane ride and 16-hour time difference, the McDonalds hit the ground running. Traveling by KTX high-speed rail from YoungSan Station to Hanil University & Presbyterian Theological Seminary in the city of Jeonju, President McDonald preached at the university's morning workshop service — "The Mighty Mustard Seed" based on Luke 17:1-6. That same evening, the McDonalds boarded the train for Seoul.

Fast forward. Their weeklong visit was enriched with a visit to Hanshin Presbyterian Church and a meeting with Rev. Dr. Yong Kyu Kang (D.Min. '96). President McDonald spent quality time at the church and preached



*The McDonalds with Rev. Dr. ChangBok Chung.*



*The McDonalds in front of a historic Korean temple.*



at the 7 a.m., 9:40 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services. Hanshin is a large church with 4,000 members. McDonald was also a featured lecturer at the annual Hanshin-San Francisco Theological Seminary Symposium, where most of the lectures were conducted in Korean. McDonald's sermons and lecture, however, were given in English and translated into Korean.

McDonald's presence and participation in the conference was highly anticipated. His image appeared on banners, posters and other materials. It was a heartfelt welcome. "The graciousness of the Korean people and their hospitality was unparalleled. Dean and I have never experienced anything like it! It's like we were royalty. They couldn't do enough for us. We were very humbled by the warmth and generosity of the Korean people," said McDonald.

McDonald presented a lecture on Faith and Public Life before a capacity crowd of more than 500 conference attendees. He was asked by Rev. Dr. ChangBok Chung, president of Hanil University in Jeonju, to preach the closing worship service before a crowd of nearly 1,000. Chung earned his Doctor of the Science of Theology degree from SFTS in 1978 and was named 2012 Distinguished Alumni.

*"The graciousness  
of the Korean  
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unparalleled."*

— **Rev. Dr. James  
McDonald**

There were grand musical and theatrical performances held at the conference center that would rival Broadway. From musicals to classical string quartets, from a commissioned chamber orchestra choir to Korea's version of Elvis, the entertainment was extraordinary. "The talent was unsurpassed and the quality of the performers was equal to what you would see at the Met or on Broadway," McDonald said. "I especially enjoyed hearing the men's quartet sing, 'There is Nothing Like a Dame' in Korean."

Traveling to see the historic sites of Korea with several of the country's religious leaders and dignitaries was deeply inspiring, as they bore witness to elements of the nation's war-torn past and the amazing progress the country has made, both economically and socially. "The Korean War was devastating, and the country has been rebuilding over the past 60 years. Theirs is a remarkable story, with a remarkable testament to the Korean people," McDonald said.

Among the other sites visited was the Confucian Academy at the UNESCO World Heritage Site; Gyeongbokgung Palace where they viewed the ceremony of the changing of the guard, established in the early 15th century; a visit to the "Tin Can" church, constructed of tin and turned on its side—a large mega

*See Korea on page 29*

# She's Got The Whole World in Her Hands



*Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations director Rev. W. Mark Koenig and Rochelle Rawls-Shaw.*

By Kay Carney

**R**ochelle Rawls-Shaw is taking on the world! The SFTS Master of Divinity student is interning at the United Nations in New York, a position she hoped for but was not sure was going to materialize. Her prayers were answered and the obstacles that appeared in her path that would have thwarted the internship opportunity were overcome.

Rawls-Shaw is interning with the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, whose mission is to share information about how the United Nations addresses humanitarian issues and concerns that affect all of humanity. "This internship is exposing me to a world much larger than the one I read about in the classroom. It is enabling me to see the value of what I have learned about ministry from professors and theologians, and it has taught me the value of theological reflection as well as the value of education," stated Rawls-Shaw.

When Rawls-Shaw arrived in New York, the wonders of the world literally opened up before her. She has been in the same room with national and world leaders and attended conferences where heads of state have spoken. While attending the UN General Assembly, Rawls-Shaw listened to an address by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as leaders from

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Egypt, United Kingdom, Japan, Libya, China and Germany.

Rawls-Shaw also heard speeches by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and President of the Palestinian Authority regarding membership at the United Nations. "I have come to realize how much all human beings are connected, and I have met people and established relationships with people from all over the world," said Rawls-Shaw.

Rawls-Shaw's most memorable experience so far was a front-row seat at a high-level discussion on ending child marriage, featuring Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The opening statement was given by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the moderator was Ann Curry of NBC News. She was especially moved by a young woman who spoke of how her life was changed when her father supported her getting an education and not forcing her to marry at 9 years of age.

"I felt so very different at this event, like I belonged there. I felt like this was a gift from God, that He had chosen me so I could be the hands He's using to help with this issue," she said. "I talked with the moderator, Ann Curry, and thanked her for her compassionate questions, and before we parted, we embraced. God is awesome...and so is my internship!"

Rawls-Shaw's internship has validated her perspective that ministry exists beyond the walls of the church. "God the Creator is the God of all human beings, including those who gather together inside a church to worship, as well as those who worship through other means, outside of the church. God has revealed himself to me once again, through my internship; for which I am humbled and deeply grateful."

*Kay Carney is vice president of communications.*



# “Unconference” allows the Spirit to set theme and invites everyone into the conversation

By Tad Hopp

San Francisco Theological Seminary was blessed to serve as the host site for the third annual “Unconference” (UNCO). More than 30 people traveled from near and far to attend the three-day conference held July 30-August 1 on the SFTS campus. Many of the participants were SFTS alums who were excited to make their way back to campus to participate in the conference. Seminary staff and students also participated.

UNCO is unique because unlike other conferences, it has no set theme. The conference participants decide what they would like to discuss and then break out into small groups to delve into topics they feel are most important to them. Everyone at the conference assumes a leadership role either through suggesting a topic or moderating a discussion. This also insures that everyone is invited into the conversation.

“The conversation at UNCO created space for the Spirit to nudge us in the direction of the church that is yearning to be born,” said Rev. Jim Kitchens, interim pastor at nearby Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. “As one of the older participants in the conversation, I was struck by the deep faithfulness of the Millennials who were at the heart of the gathering. If we can create worshiping communities and ministries that embody some of the ideas we talked about at UNCO, then I’m very hopeful about the future of the church in general, and the PC(USA) in particular.”

UNCO started on Monday afternoon with a brainstorming session where participants were asked to write down the topics they wanted to elevate for further discussion. That was followed by dinner and an opening worship service where participants shared stories of the journey that led them to



the conference and why they were excited to be here.

Participants spoke about needing a break from traditional church and that UNCO represents a different, much-needed conference model. Some expressed the feeling that UNCO feeds something inside them that they aren’t able to get anywhere else. All the participants were thankful that UNCO exists. At the close of the opening worship, participants were encouraged to write down the “yes” and the “no” that they were struggling with in their lives. They were then invited to share their responses with a prayer partner.

The next day, participants were divided into different breakout groups for engaging and stimulating conversations about the topics that seemed to have the most appeal. For this year’s conference, those topics were:

- ✚ Bivocational Ministry
- ✚ How to Do Membership/Church Differently
- ✚ Minister and Artist: Outside Walls
- ✚ Church as Incubator
- ✚ Cooperation Among Churches
- ✚ Progressive Theology and the Church
- ✚ Alternative Christianity & Interfaith Dialogue

These topics were discussed at length in lively sessions all day Tuesday, and were revisited on Wednesday



to discuss what to do with the ideas that were developed around these topics. At the closing worship service on Wednesday, participants were commissioned with pieces of rope to be reminded of the work ahead and how it will be challenging, but necessary.

Sarah Chancellor, an incoming junior at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, said that she left UNCO “with a stronger sense of my own call and a wider view of the church. I know that the church must change and grow but I’ve had a hard time visioning that change. UNCO helped bring some of that into a little bit more focus for me.”

For more information about UNCO, including detailed notes from each of the breakout sessions, visit the UNCO website at [www.unco.us](http://www.unco.us).

*Tad Hopp is a second-year Master of Divinity student who participated in UNCO.*

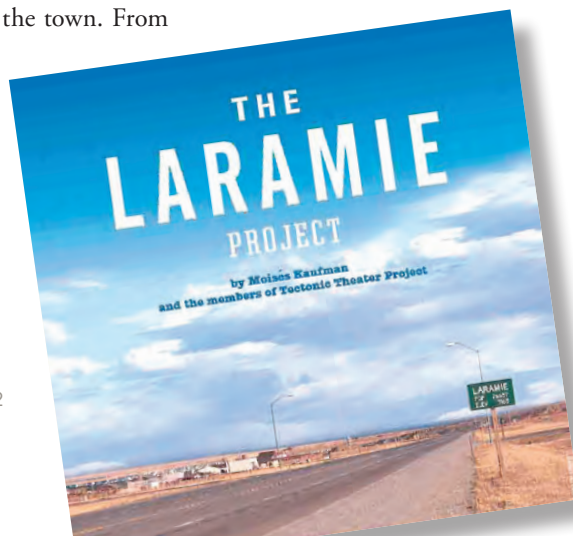
# Campus Life & Beyond



Master of Divinity student Dori Kay Hjalmarson participates in a staged reading of *The Laramie Project* at SFTS.

## The Laramie Project

The student group SFTS Welcome presented a staged reading of *The Laramie Project* in October. One of the most performed plays in America today, *The Laramie Project* serves as a memorial for Matthew Shepard, who was murdered in Laramie, Wyo., 14 years ago. In October 1998, Shepard was kidnapped, severely beaten and left to die, tied to a fence on the outskirts of Laramie. His murder, caused by actions arising from homophobia, was later painted as a “drug deal gone bad.” Five weeks later, Moisés Kaufman and fellow members of the Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie, and over the course of the next year, conducted more than 200 interviews with people of the town. From these interviews they wrote the play *The Laramie Project*, a chronicle of the life of the town of Laramie in the year after the murder.



SFTS students who participated in the local production included Laura Nelson, Susan Pierson, Bentley Stewart, Stephanie Ryder, Denia Segrest, Dori Kay Hjalmarson, Tad Hopp, Min-Hee Kim, Terra Pennington, Chris Schilling and Barbara West. Among the guests in attendance was Rev. Dr. Janie Spahr (M.Div. '70, D.Min. '87), a proponent for same-gender marriage and the ordination of lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgender people. SFTS Welcome is a community group at the seminary that supports the inclusion of LGBT in the church. Other activities of SFTS Welcome have included drafting and proposing a campus inclusivity policy that went into effect in 2011.

GA220  
PITTSBURGH

## PC(USA) General Assembly

Several SFTS students got their first taste of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly last summer in Pittsburgh, where the seminary was well represented with alumni, administrators and President Jim McDonald.

Among the students who attended were Jeff Ferguson, Cameron Highsmith, Tad Hopp and Jamieson Prevznak. Highsmith, who was a Theological Student Advisory Delegate, wrote about his GA experiences in a blog.

Highsmith, who is “Presbyterian through and through,” was perplexed that Southern California presbyteries offered an overture about leaving the denomination and taking church



Jeff Ferguson and Cameron Highsmith were Theological Student Advisory Delegates at GA.

property with them. Highsmith wrote “Our main concern ended up being, ‘Well, what about the people that don’t want to leave? What will they do for their congregation? Should they just be left out in the cold?’” Highsmith used his blog to praise his classmate: “I was really proud of my fellow TSAD from SFTS, Jeff Ferguson, who stood up and gave an impassioned statement for the redefinition of marriage because he’s an evangelical conservative that believes in equality.” Highsmith’s blog posts included several mentions of generational gaps. “It was obvious that we are somewhat of a divided church on these big issues,” he wrote. To read more, go to <http://arkmuse.wordpress.com/>

## Kickball

Picturesque Bouick Field, encircled by towering redwoods on the SFTS



*SFTS President Jim McDonald joins SFTS and GTU students in a game of kickball on Bouick Field.*

campus, has become a popular place for students and their fellow theologians from the Graduate Theological Union to play kickball. For the second time in six months, SFTS students in-

vited their colleagues from the GTU to cross the bay for a game of kickball earlier this fall. Even SFTS President Jim McDonald has joined in the fun.

SFTS community members have always found ways to stay active. There’s the annual Seminary to the Sea hike from San Anselmo to Stinson Beach at the beginning of the academic year, club soccer teams, casual Frisbee and football, and there’s even a gym on campus.

History shows that SFTS moved from San Francisco to San Anselmo in 1892 in part because of Marin’s healthy environment needed to promote the development of mind and body. The SFTS *Bulletin* magazine reported in 1922: “Physical development is not neglected. Athletics are encouraged. Gymnasium is required. The Seminary believes that to reach (ones) efficiency as a minister one must be a virile (person).”



# Graduate Theological Union honors Noel as Distinguished Faculty Lecturer

Rev. Dr. James Noel of San Francisco Theological Seminary was honored as the Graduate Theological Union Distinguished Faculty Lecturer in November in Berkeley, Calif.

The GTU, one of the largest partnerships of seminaries and graduate schools in the United States, celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2012. Each November, the GTU faculty honors a distinguished professor who embodies the scholarly standards, teaching excellence and commitment to ecumenism that define the GTU. Nominations are considered by the Council of Deans, which selects the Distinguished Faculty Lecturer.

Noel is the H. Eugene Farlough, Jr. Chair of African American Christianity and Professor of American Religion at SFTS. His lecture was entitled “Black Religion in the Atlantic World during the Age of Revolution: Excavating the ‘Sublime.’”

“I am very surprised, humbled and excited about receiving this honor,” Noel said. His lecture related several things that are never brought together in most discourses about modernity: revolution, the aesthetic category of ‘the sublime’ and black religion. Noel used the paintings of William Turner’s with Edmund Burke’s *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Sublime and Beautiful* to support his research.

The lecture was held at the Pacific School of Religion chapel. Dr. Naomi Seidman, Koret Professor of Jewish Culture and Director of the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies (GTU), was the respondent. A reception was held at the Badé Museum afterward.



Noel is a widely popular professor at SFTS and the GTU and also graduated from both institutions. He earned his Master of Divinity from SFTS in 1975 and completed his Doctor of Philosophy from the GTU in 2000.

In addition to his responsibilities as a professor at SFTS and the GTU, Noel is director of the GTU’s Black Church/Africana Religious Studies Program. He also serves as interim pastor at New Liberation Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, is an accomplished painter and 7th dan Tae Kwon Do Master.

His published works include *Black Religion & the Imagination of Matter in the Atlantic World* (Palgrave 2009) and *The Passion of the Lord: African American Reflections*. Noel’s play, *The Black Experience in Poetry and Song*,

has been performed nationally and internationally.

“What I notice is that black people and their religions rarely constitute items of theoretical reflection in academic discourses on modernity and post-modernity,” Noel explained. “The nature of the West is never illuminated by what blacks undergo by the West — its cultural identity is self-generated. Blackness remains marginal even when such categories as alterity, hybridity and otherness are invoked. This lecture will offer me the opportunity to extend what I began reflection on in *Black Religion & the Imagination of Matter in the Atlantic World* and clarify the research I will be doing on my sabbatical this Fall semester by sharing my thinking with my distinguished GTU colleagues.”

Noel challenges boundaries whenever they threaten to obscure or resist truth, and students experience this in the classroom. His interdisciplinary method of scholarship aids students in investigating the ways in which culture creates and transforms individual experiences, everyday life, social relations and power.

Among the other SFTS professors who have been named Distinguished Faculty Lecturer are Rev. Dr. Philip Wickeri in 2009 and Rev. Dr. Lewis Mudge in 2003.

To learn more about past Distinguished Lecturers or listen to previous lectures, go to:

<http://www.gtu.edu/news-events/events/lecture-address/df>



## McDonald, Noel contribute to lectionary commentary that reflects on social justice issues

Rev. Dr. Jim McDonald and Rev. Dr. James Noel have contributed to a unique commentary that helps preachers identify and reflect on the social implications of the biblical readings in the Revised Common Lectionary.

*Preaching God's Transforming Justice* is the second of three volumes of a collection of essays that concentrates on the themes of social justice in the weekly texts. It also highlights how those themes can become teachable moments for preaching social justice in the church.

McDonald is president and professor of faith and public life at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Noel is the H. Eugene Farlough, Jr. Professor of African American Christianity at SFTS. McDonald and Noel also contributed to the first volume of *Preaching God's Transforming Justice* last year.

They are among 90 authors who have provided commentary on biblical texts. Their essays are designed to help preachers and congregations develop a deep and broad theological vision out of which to interpret the social world.

In addition to providing commentary for each day in the lectionary calendar, the series features 22 Holy Days for Justice. These days are intended to enlarge the church's awareness of God's call for justice and of the many ways that call comes to the church and world today. The days include Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Earth Day, World AIDS Day, Inter-

national Women's Day, Cesar Chavez Day, Yom HaShoah and Juneteenth.

McDonald, who came to SFTS in 2011 after 13 years with Bread for the World, has written on World Food Day, one of the Holy Days for Justice. McDonald suggests that preachers

can encourage their congregations to engage in comprehensive efforts to end hunger by directly providing food for hungry people, pressing for patterns of growing and using food that benefit local communities, taking action designed to change systems of food production and distribution, and advocating healthy and responsible eating.

"God's presence is assured when we do justice, not because our actions make us better people, but because doing justice changes our relationship with others and transforms the world in accord with God's purposes," McDonald said. "This is why ending hunger is sacred work."

Noel begins his essay by discussing judgment, justice and righteousness. "Justice occurs when God delivers the poor and oppressed from their plight and in so doing renders them justified or righteous," Noel writes. Noel also points to prominent metaphors of slavery and freedom in Paul's letters, cautioning against downplaying their eschatology in favor of individualistic interpretations and applications.

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>

McDonald regularly preaches throughout the West. To see where he is preaching, go to: [http://www.sfts.edu/news/view\\_event.asp?ID=260](http://www.sfts.edu/news/view_event.asp?ID=260)



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



*SFTS faculty members participate in a workshop sponsored by the Pacific Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.*

## Pastoral care and counseling workshop explores applications of spirituality

**S**an Francisco Theological Seminary hosted a workshop entitled “Meeting at the Borders of Spirituality” in October, exploring the role of spirituality in pastoral care and counseling. Attended by 50 people, the workshop was sponsored by the Pacific Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors.

Three SFTS faculty members were featured in the workshop: Dr. Scott Sullender, associate professor of pastoral counseling, Rev. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina, Shaw Family Chair of Clinical Pastoral Education, and Rev. Dr. Sam Hamilton-Poore, director of the Program in Christian Spirituality and assistant professor of Christian spirituality.

Hamilton-Poore noted that while spiritual direction has a long history in the Christian West, it has experienced a resurgence of interest in the last 40 years in the United States. Hamilton-Poore oversees the seminary’s renowned Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction program.

Garrett-Cobbina traced the history of CPE, including the amazing life of Anton Boisen. She noted that spirituality in the CPE world is always “tethered to the other, to the one who is suffering.”

Sullender pointed out that the emergence of certified pastoral counseling, pastoral counseling as a specialized ministry, is a product of the 20th century in the United States, and parallels the rise of psychology as a behavioral science and counseling as a new professional discipline. He said that in the world of pastoral counseling, spirituality



often takes the form of theological reflection, particularly sensitivity to the client’s operational theology, those assumptions and “beliefs” that clients actually live by, rather than those beliefs that they affirm on Sunday mornings. As the audience discussion turned to the subject of theodicy, Sullender said, “People come to pastoral counseling because their theodicy is broken.”

Dr. David Augsburg, retiring senior professor of pastoral counseling at Fuller Theological Seminary, spoke on “Reflections on Spirituality.” He stressed that there are three types of spirituality: unipolar spirituality, bipolar spirituality and tripolar spirituality.

He defined unipolar spirituality as “spirituality from within,” a spirituality that finds its roots in the awakening of the self. Bipolar spirituality is “spirituality from above,” a spirituality that is rooted in the Divine-human encounter. Tripolar spirituality is “spirituality from below,” a spirituality that is experienced among people. Further, he argued that the best or most mature kind of spirituality was the tripolar spirituality because it involved all three dimensions: self, God and other.

“I think the day was helpful, a helpful beginning, to exploring the various expressions or models of spirituality,” Sullender said. “It also highlighted what we, all of us in the caring ministries, have in common, which is a sensitivity to the spiritual needs of persons, and a recognition that spirituality is often not at the edges of the individual’s struggle for wholeness, but at the center of that process.”

## Continuing education event on prayer offered by faculty

San Francisco Theological Seminary faculty members presented “Knocking on Heaven’s Door. Prayers in Old and New Testament Texts and their Reception in History and Praxis” in October at Alexander Hall.

Besides community members and Bay Area pastors, the packed hall included members of the SFTS board of trustees who were in town for their fall meeting.

The lecture provided insight and discussion on the following questions:

- ✚ How have prayers changed over the course of time (Old Testament, New Testament, History of Christianity and the 21st century)?
- ✚ Are prayers something specifically Jewish-Christian?
- ✚ Does addressing God as “Father” go back to Jesus?
- ✚ Can we still pray the Psalms today?

The panelists were Dr. Annette Weissenrieder, associate professor of New Testament, Dr. Annette Schellenberg, associate professor of Old Testament, Dr. Christopher Ocker, professor of history, and Rev. Dr. Sam Hamilton-Poore, director of the Program in Christian Spirituality and assistant professor of Christian spirituality.



**Rev. Dr. Jana Childers**, professor of homiletics and speech communications, is the immediate past president of her profes-

sional association, the Academy of Homiletics, and continues to serve its executive committee. At the group’s annual meeting in Chicago, Ill., in November, she chaired the Nominating Committee and coordinated a Saturday morning seminar on “Embodiment and Creativity in Preaching.” Her seminar presentation was entitled “Body: The Spirit’s Message Board.” Childers is also committed to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This year she is enrolled in an advanced training course as she prepares to serve on a visitation team next spring. This will mark her eighth visit to a sister school as an evaluator. For two of those visits she served as chair of the visitation team. In addition to preaching locally, Childers is working on a book project with Richard Ward of Phillips Theological Seminary. She was honored during the Associate Church Press annual awards banquet, receiving an honorable mention along with Michael Linvale and Ted V. Foote, Jr. for their “Benedictory” column in *The Presbyterian Outlook*. The ACP is the oldest and largest Christian press association and stages yearly judging for its “Best of the Christian Press Awards”.



**Rev. Dr. Virstan Choy**, director of Advanced Pastoral Studies and associate professor of ministry, preached at First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo, as part of

that congregation’s observance of Theological Education Sunday in September. He offered workshops on “Leadership in Times of Transition and Transformation” at the Western National Leadership Training Event in Jackson Hole, Wyo., in October, and enjoyed reunion time with alums, Doug Melius and Tim Mooney. In November, he joined colleagues from other PC(USA) seminaries in a consultation of Doctor of Ministry program directors hosted by McCormick Theological Seminary. He will meet with Asian American Presbyterian Pastors at their annual retreat in Watsonville, Calif., in December. Also participating will be alum, Joseph Lee, executive presbyter for San Jose Presbytery.



**Rev. Dr. Sam Hamilton-Poore**, director of the Program in Christian Spirituality and associate professor of Christian Spirituality,

has traveled to South Sudan the past two summers as part of an ecumenical teaching team that reached out to church leaders from the Presbyterian Church of Sudan (PCOS) and Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS). When he returned, he preached at First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo, in July. He co-led the 2012 Preachers Retreat with Dr. Anne Wire “Studying and Praying the Gospel of Luke” at SFTS July 23-26. In September, Hamilton-Poore began service on the Committee on Ministry of Redwoods Presbytery and performed musically at the Festival of Arts event at Christ Lutheran Church, Fairfax. He made a presentation on the current challenges of the churches of South Sudan at Calvary Presbyterian Church, San

Francisco, and First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo. In January, he will teach during the Diploma in Art of Spiritual Direction program, including a new course on “Contemporary Issues in Spiritual Direction: Culture, Context, and Social Location.” He is also scheduled to serve as plenary speaker for the annual conference of the Intercollegiate Peace Fellowship of Mennonite Colleges and Universities in February at Bluffton University, Ohio. The theme of the conference is “Spirituality and Shalom: Living at the Intersection of Faith and Justice.”



**Dr. Elizabeth Liebert**, dean of the seminary and professor of spiritual life represented SFTS at the Association of Theological Schools

Chief Academic Officers’ Meeting and Biennium held in Minneapolis in June. She also participated in the Hispanic Summer Program’s program for deans and presidents held at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico. In October, she attended a retreat on discernment for the “Spiritual Enrichment for Everyday” series hosted by Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church of Dallas, Texas, and an Adult Sunday School presentation, also for Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church. On October 22, she led a day-long workshop for spiritual directors, introducing them to the Experience Circle, a tool for expanding the ability of spiritual directors and supervisors to attend to the experience of those they assist in spiritual direction.



**Rev. Dr. Gregory Love**, associate professor of systematic theology, led a workshop on Science and Religion for The Zephyr Experience

at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Retreat Center, Lake Tahoe, in July. The conference annually brings together over a hundred participants. In September, he led a conference for pastors on his book *Love, Violence, and the Cross: How the Nonviolent God Saves Us through the Cross of Christ* (2010). Over 20 pastors, certified lay pastors and lay people from Cascades Presbytery spent two days studying together at the Shalom Center at the Benedictine Sister’s Abbey in Mt. Angel, Ore. Love also taught a four-week adult education series on Paul’s Theology in Romans 5-8 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Calif., in September and October. Love presented two series at First Presbyterian Church, Burlingame, Calif., this fall. He taught a three-week adult education series on religion and spirituality in American culture. “Is Being Spiritual Enough? Spirituality, the Church, and the Christian Life” looked at the latest Pew survey on people claiming to be “spiritual but not religious,” the strengths of this trend and the potential problems. In December at First Presbyterian Church, Burlingame, Calif., Love will teach a two-week series on the changes happening in the Presbyterian Church, looking at reasons and consequences of churches leaving the PC(USA). Love led 12 students in the Certified Lay Pastor program of the Presbytery of San Francisco this fall. He provided an in-depth study of Christian systematic theology from the perspective of the Reformed tradition. The program involved reading texts in systematic theology, writing papers and discussions.



**Rev. Dr. Eugene Park**, the Dana and Dave Dornsife Professor of New Testament, participated in the IASACT program at the Chinese

University of Hong Kong in June as a mentor to 15 junior scholars from various Asian countries representing diverse academic disciplines in humanities and social sciences. He gave a series of lectures on the New Perspective on Paul at the First Presbyterian Church, Burlingame, in September and another set of lectures on Paul’s life and theology at the First Presbyterian Church, San Rafael, in October. His article, “Matthew’s Treatment of the Infanticide by Herod” has just been accepted for publication in the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.



**Dr. Annette Schellenberg**, associate professor of Old Testament, taught a class on “Basic Theological Questions in the

Old Testament” in the Advanced Pastoral Studies summer program. In November she gave two papers at the SBL meeting in Chicago: one on the book of Jonah and one on characterization of the sage as king in Wisdom literature.



**Dr. Annette Weissenrieder**, associate professor of New Testament, presented a paper at a conference on Revelation at the

University of Frankfurt, Germany. The paper was entitled “Bilder zum Sehen – Bilder zum Hören? Über die Grenzen von visuellem Bild und Sprache als Ekphrasis in der Offen-

barung des Johannes” (Images to See and Images to Listen to? On the Boundary of Visual Images and Language as Ekphrasis in the Revelation of John). She was also invited to a conference on Septuaginta Deutsch - Septuagint German at the Hochschule Wuppertal. She has worked at the Numismatic Library at the University of Freiburg, analyzing ancient coins, the library on Old History at the University of Freiburg, and worked closely together with Prof. Ferdinand Prostmeier and Dr. Thomas Bauer at the Theology Department in Freiburg. In Estonia, she met a group of New Testament doctoral students who are interested studying in the GTU doctoral program.

**She has written the following papers:**

- ✚ “Stories Just Under the Skin. Leprosy in the Gospel of Luke” for the volume on “Miracles Revisited. New Testament Miracle Stories in Context.” The book was edited by Weissenrieder and Stefan Alkier and will be the first volume in the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* series of de Gryuter, Berlin. The book features papers delivered at an SFTS conference in cooperation with the University of Frankfurt, Germany, in 2011.
- ✚ “Cultural Translation: The Fig Tree and Politics of Representation under Nero in Rome (Mark 11:13-15, 19-20; Matthew 21:18-19; Luke 13:1-9)” in the same volume.
- ✚ “Domestic Household Religion” for the Oxford Handbook of Archaeology and the Bible.
- ✚ “Femininity and Masculinity: Greek for the Oxford Handbook of Sex, Gender and the Bible.
- ✚ Two Lectionaries on Mark 1:40-45 and Mark 2:1-10.

✚ “Hydraulik des Geistes. Emphysao in Genesis 2:7 und Sapientia Salomonis 15:11” (“Hydraulics of the Spirit. Emphysao in Genesis 2:7 and the Wisdom of Salomon 15:11”) for the journal *Septuagint Bulletin* (in review).

✚ “New Testament Pneumatology and Ancient Medicine” for a volume published by John Levison and Jörg Frey on *The Roots of the Holy Spirit*.

**EMERITI**

**Dr. Walt Davis**, professor of sociology of religion emeritus, received the first annual Desmond Tutu Award for courageous leadership at the Northern California Friends of Sabeel gala in October. Friends of Sabeel advocates for a just peace in Palestine/Israel. It honored Davis and First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo, for their dedicated work on behalf of Palestinian rights. The pastor at First Presbyterian Church is Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt, an SFTS board of trustee member who earned her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from the seminary in 1997 and 2007, respectively. Davis was the general editor of *Steadfast Hope: The Palestinian Quest for Just Peace*, a publication of the Israel-Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The document is used in many U.S. congregations and has been adapted for use in the Episcopal Church. Along with David Jones, also a member of the San Anselmo congregation, he wrote a three-week study plan of another IPMN publication, *Kairos Palestine – A Moment of Truth*, to be used in churches. He has inspired and supported the San Anselmo church in its ecumenical project, Keep Hope Alive, a program in partnership with the YMCA of East Jerusalem and the YWCA of Palestine. The project sends two groups to Pal-

estine each year to plant olive trees in February and to harvest olives in October.

**Rev. Dr. Herman Waetjen**, Robert S. Dollar Professor Emeritus of New Testament, authored an essay entitled “A Postmodern Reading of Paul’s Letter to the Romans and Its Disclosure of a New Image of God and a New Understanding of Salvation.” It was published in the July 2012 issue of *Theology Today*. His commentary on Romans, *The Letter to the Romans: Salvation as Justice and the Deconstruction of Law*, was published by Sheffield Phoenix Press in Sheffield, England, in November 2011.

**STAFF**



**Rev. Scott Clark (M.Div. '07)** began 2012-13 as associate dean of student life and chaplain. He previously served for one year in an interim capacity. Clark represents student concerns at all levels of the institution, from administrative cabinet to student services staff to maintenance staff. He has assisted students and student groups to bring their ideas to fruition. He has provided leadership for consistent and rich worship, and pastoral care to the members of the wider seminary community. “May I express my personal appreciation for the competence and grace with which Scott has moved into this new position, began to fill out the plan as it existed on paper with his own personal stamp, and brought all of his gifts and skills to bear in service both to students and to the larger institution,” said Dr. Elizabeth Liebert, dean of the seminary.



*Dr. Polly Coote is stepping away from many duties, but will continue to teach Biblical Greek.*

## DR. POLLY COOTE: The heart of the SFTS community for over 30 years

By Anitra Kitts

On a hot afternoon after graduation last May, San Francisco Theological Seminary students, alumni, teachers and administrators gathered at Baird Hall to celebrate Dr. Polly Coote's retirement. The room was crowded and the tables were overflowing with Western and Korean food and drink. Still, in the middle of the chaotic swirl of graduating, preparing to move, and recovering from final exams and papers, the community gathered to celebrate the woman who had just walked her final class of graduates off the field.

There was perhaps a sense of disbelief in the room that Polly had indeed retired since she had served in the registrar's office, first as an assistant, and then as the registrar for over 30 years. After decades of bocci games, baklava baking parties, unexpected moments of satiric serenade from the Bonhoofers, Christmas carols and cookies parties, and marathon hikes from the campus to the ocean, Polly was

wrapping up many of her numerous duties.

A master of eight languages, Polly is kind of surprised herself that she spent 30 some years as registrar, dean of student life and associate professor of Biblical Greek at SFTS. She earned her MA and PhD degrees at Harvard, and taught two years at Brown University before moving to the University of California, Berkeley, where she taught Yugoslav literature and Slavic folklore. After her family's move to California, her husband, Dr. Robert Coote, joined the faculty at SFTS, where he was an Old Testament professor for 35 years.

Of teaching at UCB, she remarked, "I had a 1-year-old child and there was not a lot of money for childcare," she recalled. "No one said back then that these were your choices. It turns out that an academic career at Berkeley isn't something you can do in your spare time while the kid is napping."

At first, after her family moved to the SFTS campus, Polly worked as an assistant to John Irvine, another legendary

source of hospitality as head of the Office of Student Services. "I made copies of transcripts," she recalled.

Before long Polly was co-teaching the Greek intersession class, and she's been sharing her love of Biblical languages and learning ever since.

"For many students, the idea of learning Greek was a nightmare," said Rev. Chandler Stokes (M.Div. '82). "Polly maintained both appropriate expectations for their learning and deep compassion for their fear. She was both, 'you can do this, it's not that hard,' and at the same time respectful of their fear and anxiety."

Rev. Dr. Neal Presa (M.Div. '02), moderator of the 220th PC(USA) General Assembly, had taken Greek at another seminary, but really appreciated taking it again with Polly. "Her mastery of Greek, her ease and her humor helped me appreciate the language. She was so wise and she knew so many languages."

In 2005, when the bookstore was closed and student morale was low, Audrey Wilkinson (M.Div. '07) ap-



*She always led  
the procession*

*Of stately robes  
and arm strips*

*A swirl of dignified  
colors*

*And at the front*

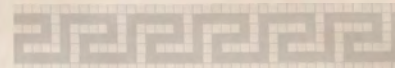
*She walked,  
a brown paper sack*

*Carefully folded  
with the brim rolled*

*Her crown.*

*“It was the first Earth day,”  
she explained*

*“And it was more comfortable.”*



Πάντοτε τὴν παράταξιν ἀνίγειν  
ποίκιλον ὄχλον πρεσβυτέρων  
βύσσων τε καὶ πορφύρων  
βασιλικῶν ἐνδεδυμένων.  
ἔμπροσθεν περιπάτει  
ἐπὶ κεφαλῇ  
σάκκου χαρτίνου κειμένου  
ἀκριβῶς ἐντετυλιγμένου.  
Στέφανος αὐτῆς.  
ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ἡ τῆς γήσυντηρήσεως ἡμέρα  
ἐξηγήσατο  
ἀληθῶς πόσῳ μᾶλλον ἀναπauστήριον!

proached Polly with the idea of refitting the space as a coffee shop and living room for the campus.

“Holy Grounds could not have come about without her cheerleading and support,” said Wilkinson. “She’s always been aware of what students needed. Polly is an amazing woman.”

At the party on graduation day, Temesgen Dabsu, a senior M.Div. student from Ethiopia, testified the support shown to him by Polly.

“She helped me to get over here,” he shared. “I had to come straight from Africa and she explained all the details on the visa requirements, the course requirements and what to do by what time. She is the first person I go to talk to and I have confidence in her advice for me.”

Jacob Li, another current M.Div. student, said, “I found her helpful. Any question you bring to her, she’ll find a satisfying answer. It could be about life, grad school, the seminary structure, policy, anything. The school will take a while to come up with someone to replace her.”

Rev. Scott Clark (M.Div. ’09), chaplain and associate dean of student life, was a student before he joined Polly on the SFTS staff.

“You are in truth the heart of this place,” Clark said during Polly’s party. “In ways many people will never know, your office is probably the place where students learned the most about how to be a pastor.”

“Nor, perhaps should anyone know,” Polly replied in laughter.

“Every time I go through the course again from alpha to omega I learn new things about Greek, about scripture, and about the people in the room,” Polly told the SFTS Board of Trustees. “That, for me, is fun, and as Ben and Jerry say, if it’s not fun, why do it? Could that be how you know it’s a call?”

*Anitra Kitts (M.Div. ’06) is a freelance writer who recently moved to Germany.*

# Class of 1987 stands out

## SFTS alums return every five years

In a way, members of the Class of 1987 are renegades. Sure, a few of these San Francisco Theological Seminary graduates occasionally make their way back to San Anselmo for Alumni Reunion Weekend in the spring. But it's more likely that they mark their calendars for their own private reunion held every five years since they graduated 25 years ago.

For the fifth time, the Class of 1987 gathered at SFTS in August, setting up camp in Suzanna Baird Hall for a little reminiscing, prayer, support and catching up. This year's group of 36 included graduates, spouses and partners, some of whom joined the reunion for a first time and many whom have participated all five times.

"We take over Baird and make it our home away from home as we share meals and participate in programs that we have scheduled, often with former and current SFTS professors joining us with their expertise," shared Deana Reed. "We stay up late reminiscing about our times on campus and sharing the joys and heartaches of life and ministry. The chance for catching up as well as having directed time in study and reflection is important to us all."

Reed notes that seminary is a life-changing time. Students are stretched, pulled and encouraged to open up to a bigger framework for understanding God, life and community than when they first came to SFTS. Those shared experiences provide opportunities for relationships with classmates, faculty and staff to develop touchstones during seminary days and beyond.

"Our lives have intertwined over the years as we have welcomed spouses, partners and the birth and growth of children into our worlds," Reed said. "We just enjoy being together and celebrating life as we worship and play and study together."

SFTS invites all graduates and former community members to return for Alumni Reunion Weekend April 11-13, 2013. Or you could follow the example of the Class of 1987 and coordinate your own special gathering.



**1950 Bob Williams (BD)** and his wife, Betsy, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last summer. They arrived at SFTS in 1947 as newlyweds so Bob could begin studies toward his Bachelor of Divinity degree. Betsy was very active in a campus support group for women, working alongside Susanna Baird, wife of then-president Dr. Jesse Baird. For the past 62 years, Bob has been a Class Steward for SFTS, helping members of his graduating class stay up to date with seminary events and news. “There is a glad satisfaction in keeping my peers informed and unified,” Bob wrote. “It is a joy to nurture those friendships as our lives move on – friendships that become more valuable through time.” In 1988, the Williams became members of the Montgomery Society by including SFTS in their estate plans. They also established the Robert and Elizabeth Helter Williams Scholarship Fund to support SFTS students called to ministry.



**1953 Dick Jennings (BD, D.Min. '77) and Shirley Jennings (MA)** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in August. After meeting as students at SFTS, they were married in Stewart Memorial Chapel in 1952 by Dr. Jesse Baird, the SFTS president at the time. There was some concern that the chapel might not be completed in time for the fall semester, but Baird pushed contractors with the Jennings’ wedding in mind and they were joined in holy matrimony for the first event in Stewart. “It must have worked,”

writes Dick Jennings. “Shirley and I attended chapel services in the new building all through our last year at seminary. And our wedding reception was also the first event ever held at Alexander Hall, which was constructed at the same time as Geneva Hall.” The Jennings’ service to the church stretched 41 years in four states and eight presbyteries. They now live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. “It feels good to remember that Shirley and I met each other at SFTS as well as getting married there,” Dick Jennings wrote. “We just wanted to share our reminiscences with the seminary that has been so important in our lives.”

**1969 Wil Long (DTh)** taught Protestant theology at Kaiserin Friedrich Schule in Germany from 1973-2000. Before moving to Europe, he was pastor at Culver City Presbyterian Church in Southern California from 1969-73. His theological education included Yale Divinity School from 1957-60, Princeton Theological Seminary in 1963 and Eberhard Karls University in Germany. He moved to the Bay Area in the '60s for studies at SFTS and the Graduate Theological Union.



**1969 Tom Rickert (MTh)** says SFTS played an important role in preparing him for 40-plus years of work on social concerns, first as a community organizer and for decades in the field of promoting accessible public transportation for se-

niors and persons with disabilities throughout the world. In 1990, Rickert quit his position as manager of Accessible Services for San Francisco’s public transit agency in order to found Access Exchange International. Back then, there were virtually no transit systems accessible to disabled riders in Asia, Africa, Latin America or Eastern Europe. Access Exchange International (AEI) is a nonprofit agency that has promoted best practices in the field of accessible transit at workshops and conferences for transit planners and disability leaders in 30 countries, including pioneering meetings in China, Thailand, Vietnam, Russia and Malaysia, as well as South Africa, Kenya, and Tanzania. In Latin America, AEI has responded to invitations and led workshops in Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Rickert and his wife, Susan, are active members of the Mission and Justice Committee of Temple United Methodist Church in San Francisco.



**1971 Jerry Van Marter (M.Div.)** received numerous awards both as a writer and director of the Presbyterian News Service during

the Associated Church Press (ACP) annual awards banquet in May. The ACP is the oldest and largest Christian press association and stages yearly judging for its “Best of the Christian Press Awards.” Van Marter earned the Award of Excellence (first place) in the news service category for his story “PC(USA) relaxes constitutional prohibition of gay and lesbian ordination.” He received an Award of Merit (second place) in the Convention or Meeting Coverage

category for “Fellowship of Presbyterians examines options for ‘differentiation’ from PC(USA).” The Presbyterian News Service took third in the news service category.

**1971 Barry Boyer (M.Div.)** has retired after more than 25 years of service at First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls, Wis. His last day in the pulpit was May 20. Prior to moving to the Chippewa Falls church, Boyer served as associate pastor of the Glen Avon Presbyterian Church in Duluth, Minn., for seven years and at the Bayfield Presbyterian Church in Ashland for eight.



**1979 Bradley C. Copeland (M.Div., D.Min. '87)** has been elected moderator of the PC(USA) General Assembly

Permanent Judicial Commission. The judicial commission is the final authority of the church, analogous to U.S. Appellate Courts, deciding appealed issues of remedial cases such as misconduct as well as disciplinary cases which may involve offenses made by individuals. Copeland will act as the moderator for the next two years, when his six-year post on the 16-member commission will expire. He also serves as senior pastor of Magnolia Presbyterian Church, one of most venerable and iconic churches in Riverside, Calif. He believes the art of being a good pastor will be an asset while he serves on the judicial commission. “In the preamble to our Book of Discipline, we speak of our purpose of restoration and reconciliation,” he said. “And while we in the commission have ecclesiastical authority, people and diversity are always heard because issues are not black and white.”

Copeland admits that he finds it troubling in today’s Christian community that many believe there is only one valid viewpoint regarding contemporary issues. “And that is why we acknowledge as a church that people can think and that we should have dialogue on controversial issues.” The judicial commission as a forum provides an opportunity for relevant faith and even contemporary societal issues to be heard, not unlike those that are debated, discussed and argued throughout the country today, according to Copeland.



**1980 Laura Mendenhall (M.Div.)** was the recipient of the 2012 Ernest Trice Thompson Award. She received the award at the

*Presbyterian Outlook* luncheon that was held during the 220th General Assembly (2012) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Mendenhall has served as Christian educator, pastor and, most recently, senior philanthropy advisor for the Texas Presbyterian Foundation. She may be most well known for her tenure as president of Columbia Theological Seminary. Jack Haberer, editor of the *Presbyterian Outlook*, said of Mendenhall, “Laura has been such an extraordinary presence at Columbia Seminary through new faculty appointments, new construction and renewal of the campus. The reputation of that institution for making great pastors was enlarged by her tenure there.”

**1984 C. Dale German (D.Min.)** was been honored by *The Oklahoman* newspaper’s editorial board for his letter that exemplified a timely,

fair, accurate and cogent viewpoint. His “Foundational to faith” letter was published July 20. German, 70, is a retired pastor in the Church of the Nazarene having served in Texas, Arizona, California and Oregon. He also taught at Nazarene Theological College in Brisbane, Australia. Currently he is employed as an Oklahoma City Ambassador. You can find him driving water taxi boats on Bricktown Canal.

**The letter:**

*I’m not a scientist, but as a theologically schooled retired pastor I’d like to broaden “A matter of faith vs. reason” (ScissorTales, July 14). Detection of the Higgs boson is an amazingly intriguing scientific advance. May it yield ever more clues of the origin of matter! My comment has to do with the notion that faith and reason are incompatible. Reason is foundational to faith. Reason gives substance to faith. Faith without reason could become belief in total nonsense. The origin of matter, whatever it is, comes from something else, whatever that is. Intelligent design doesn’t exclude a big bang “theory,” and a big bang theory need not exclude an imponderable intelligent designer. Let the believer in God be excited about glimpsing a “God particle” and not rule out a big bang theory. And let the scientific God particle chasers not rule out the possibility of intelligent design behind the Higgs boson. It need not be “a super-colliding matter of faith vs. reason, the God partisans vs. the God particle chasers.” The dichotomy is not mutually exclusive. No matter how we got here, human life itself is too complex to be random and purposeless. It’s reasonable to believe by faith that only Intelligence could have put all of this together. Humanity’s greater task is to find out not only how, but why.*

## New breakthrough book connects Gospels, Torah and Quran

**D**r. Brian Brown, who earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1972, is contributing editor of the new book *Three Testaments: Torah, Gospel and Quran*.

For the first time, Brown and his colleagues present together the texts of the Torah, Gospels and Quran, inviting readers to examine the interdependence of the Scriptures that are central to Jews, Christians and Muslims. Connecting these three faith traditions, the book is a breakthrough in scholarship and an excellent source for interfaith studies.

The foreword by Amir Hussain, editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, sets the tone by recognizing the value of understanding the differences as well as appreciating the mutual implication of stories that overlap in content and meaning. Ellen Frankel and Marc Zvi Brettler represent the Jewish community, Henry Carrigan and David Bruce speak for Protestants and Catholics, with Lalel Bakhtiar and Nevin Reda presenting traditional and progressive Islamic points of view.

Brown, ordained by the United Church of Canada, adds an international perspective to illustrate the timeless universality of the material under consideration. He credits his wife Jenny Gosine, whose family roots are in India, for helping him develop a world view on faith.

"Brian Brown and his associates offer a deep investigation of the common as well as the distinctive features of the monotheistic world faiths present in the Torah, the Gospel and the Quran, including some possible influence in each by Zoroastrianism," said Dr. Max L. Stackhouse, author of *God and Globalization* and professor emeritus at

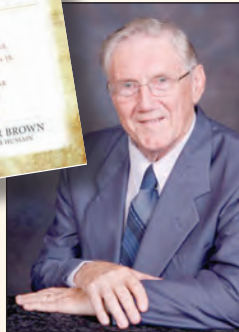
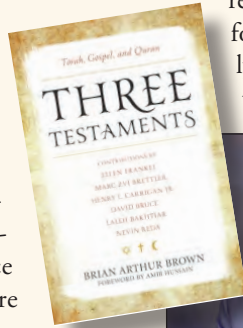
Princeton Theological Seminary. "Well aware that the evidence is not conclusive in many cases, he courageously and suggestively charts out the dots that can become connected as further research dictates, thereby setting forth a possible map of the partially hidden root system that feeds the major branches of the flourishing world religions."

As possibly a definitive landmark of the 21st century, *Three Testaments: Torah, Gospel and Quran* presents the scriptural texts

under license from the Jewish Publication Society, Sheed & Ward and Kazi Publications Inc, preeminent publishing houses of the Jewish, Catholic and Islamic traditions. By word count the material is 70 percent Scripture, 15 percent commentary and 15 percent contextual material relating to recent research showing the Zoroastrian roots of the scriptures of Abraham's family. The particular textual versions are all 21st century publications from the three traditions, another first.

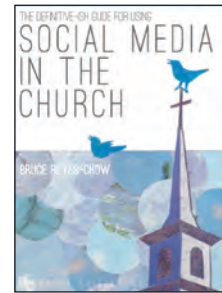
Brown recently retired from ministry to focus on writing after serving three small Niagara Falls congregations for nearly a decade. Each church experienced growth and redevelopment, including one congregation that doubled its membership and another that built a new church sanctuary.

Brown was associated with Rene Levesque who, as premier, persuaded Brown to write *Separatism in 1976*, articulating French Quebec's aspirations to English Canada. Levesque contributed an impressive foreword, regarded by many as the definitive statement on "Sovereignty-Association".



### 1993 Stephen Taber (MA in Values)

is a lawyer and elder at Old First Presbyterian Church, San Francisco. He uses his legal knowledge on behalf of Old First Presbyterian Church and of many nonprofits. He is also legal counsel for both the Presbytery of San Francisco and the Presbytery of Sacramento. Taber and his wife, Sarah, generously host many Old First Presbyterian Church gatherings, from educational forums to holiday open houses. Tabor is the author of the prize-winning history *Pioneer Community of Faith: Old First Presbyterian Church 1849-1999*.



### 1995 Bruce Reyes-Chow (M.Div.)

reveals how social media can benefit the church in his latest book *The Definitive-ish Guide for*

*Using Social Media in the Church*. He weaves practical how-to tips with a convincing rationale for why social media matters for the church. Social media novices will find an accessible introduction and ideas for getting started while more experienced users will discover new ways to use social media in congregations. Readers will learn from Reyes-Chow's experiences managing information overload and navigating social media issues during a pastoral transition. This is a book to pick up for both practical purposes and insightful and inspiring commentary on the ways social media is changing our culture and the church. Learn how social media allows Christians to be in the world in new, powerful and God-honoring ways. *The Definitive-ish Guide for Using Social Media in the Church* can be read on any e-reader, tablet, smartphone or computer and is

available on Amazon.com, BN.com and iBooks. For more information about the book, visit [www.shook-foilbooks.com](http://www.shook-foilbooks.com). Fully utilizing the eBook medium, this book will be updated regularly, so you can have the confidence that when you buy it you are getting up-to-date information. Reyes-Chow was also a featured speaker at Wild Goose West last summer in Oregon.



**1999 Musimbi Kanyoro (D.Min.)** is president and CEO of Global Fund for Women, which has offices in San Francisco and New York City.

Global Fund for Women is a publicly supported grantmaking foundation that invests in women-led organizations to advance human rights. A native of Kenya, Kanyoro is an influential advocate for women and girls worldwide. Prior to joining the Global Fund for Women, Kanyoro served as the director of the Packard Foundation's Population and Reproductive Health program, where she led efforts to expand the foundation's grantmaking to include girls' education and women's leadership. Prior to that, she served as general secretary (CEO) of the World YWCA in Geneva, Switzerland (1998–2007), and as executive secretary for the Women's Program of the Lutheran World Federation (1988–98). She is a founding member of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS—an alliance focused on strengthening AIDS programming for women and girls. A minister by training, Kanyoro has been a visiting scholar at Harvard Divinity School. She has published extensively on gender issues and received many awards throughout her

career including the Kenya Government Presidential Award for leadership and the Women's Funding Network's Changing the Face of Philanthropy Award.

**2001 Timothy Shipe (M.Div.)** is a supervisory candidate in Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash.



**2002 Paul Boles (M.Div.)** has been appointed to the faculty of Azusa Pacific University as assistant professor of church history. He

received his PhD in the history of Christianity from Claremont Graduate University, where he completed his dissertation on the creation of a context for meaning to occur in the preaching of third-century Church father Origen of Alexandria. He continues to pursue his interests in historical preaching and the history of biblical interpretation. Boles is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), has worked as a solo pastor and as a hospice chaplain, and teaches preaching at the seminary level.

**2003 Deborah Matthews (DSFS, M.Div./MA '04)** joins youth-advocacy agency The LeaderShop as marketing manager after volunteering in the office for several months. Her advocacy for young adults began as a youth group leader while a college student and continued through fifteen years of leading youth programming in churches and communities in four states, including as a pastor in two churches. Deborah comments, "While it appears I've changed careers, I'm still using all the tools and formation as a religious

leader to communicate to the community the exciting work The LeaderShop does to build confidence, knowledge and leadership in teens. I'm thrilled to be a part of the team." She is an ordained teaching elder in the PC(USA).



**2004 Will McGarvey (M.Div.)**

has been named interim executive director of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa

County. "The work of the Interfaith Council is so important here in Contra Costa County," McGarvey said. "Our work supporting Winter Nights Shelter, the chaplaincy in the Juvenile Detention Facility and our Social Justice Alliance provide an opportunity for people of faith to work together to make our county a better place. I'm happy to be able to help the executive committee focus on our mission, and organize our committees to help the member congregations work toward greater understanding among our faith groups. This is among the most important pieces of work during this time of increasing religiously motivated violence." McGarvey has served as pastor at Community Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg, Calif., for the last eight years. CPC shares ministry with First Congregational Church of Antioch (UCC). McGarvey has long been active in interfaith circles, including the early meetings that organized interfaith chaplains for the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics.

**2004 Jessica Konig (MA)** earned a degree in philosophical theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif. She also earned an MA in Philosophy and

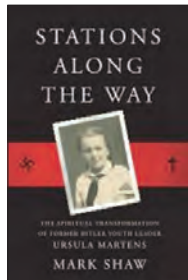
Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies at Duquesne University, and was accepted to the university's PhD program in philosophy this fall. She received the Carlin Book Prize in Philosophy from the University of San Diego in 2001 before attending SFTS. Most recently, she presented a paper, "The Matrilineal Servitude Statute and Miscegenation Laws: An Essay on their Impact on Notions of Motherhood and Female Sexuality," at the Eastern Society for Women in Philosophy Conference on Women in Philosophy: Why Race and Gender Still Matter at Notre Dame of Maryland University. She is interested in feminist philosophy generally, and notions of identity and gendered subjectivity specifically.

#### 2007 Derrick Weston (M.Div.)

has been hired as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Yellow Springs, Ohio, as well as director of Antioch College's Coretta Scott King Center for Cultural and Intellectual Freedom. Weston is interested in using the Coretta Scott King Center as a platform for dialogue on difficult issues such as diversity, tolerance, peacemaking and justice — issues he says people give lip service to but, like self-segregation, often remain the status quo. The movement for change goes back to the philosophies of Martin Luther King, Jr. and his "beloved community," a community of equals. Weston is on the SFTS Alumni Council.

**2007 Rebecca Barnes-Davies (wife of M.Div. grad Peter Barnes-Davies)** was among the representatives of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) environmental programs at the White House in September. She attended a "Greening America's Congregations" event sponsored by

the Environmental Protection Agency's "ENERGY STAR" program and the White House's Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. During the event, Rebecca Barnes-Davies, the PC(USA)'s associate for environmental ministries, participated in a panel in which she described the denomination's Earth Care Congregations program as one model for Christian communities to engage in energy efficiency. As a community member at SFTS, Rebecca was the PC(USA) Hunger Action Enabler on campus.



#### 2008 Mark Shaw (MATS)

wrote a new book entitled *Stations Along the Way*. This true story chronicles the spiritual transformation of

former Hitler youth leader Ursula Martens. Based on Ursula's diary, this compelling biography describes how, consumed with guilt and shame over having been used by the Nazis during WWII when Adolf Hitler swore to control her and other youngsters "cradle to grave," Ursula travels to America, where she experiences prejudice similar to that forced upon the Jews in Nazi Germany. Confused about what lies ahead, she suddenly discovers self-forgiveness in the most unlikely of places—through the love of three Holocaust survivors. One has romantic intentions; the other two accept her despite her past. As God becomes the essence of her life, Ursula turns full circle from worshipping the Swastika to worshipping the cross. Shaw is the author of more than 20 books, including biographies of Thomas Merton, Melvin Belli, Jonathan Pollard and Mike Tyson.



**2011 Natasha Hicks (M.Div.)** is receiving support from a PC(USA) debt assistance program as she answers a call to serve as

part-time solo pastor of Mount View Presbyterian Church, a 50-member church in an unincorporated area of Seattle. Hicks was featured in a Presbyterian News Service article about the debt assistance program and how it has helped her transition from seminary to ministry. Hicks was a recipient of the Presbyterian Study Grant in seminary, which led to connections with the Transformational Leadership Debt Assistance Program (TLDA). The TLDA program is designed to assist seminary graduates who serve in temporary or part-time pastoral positions in churches of 150 members or less or in emerging worshiping communities. The program provides forgivable loans that can be applied to their education debt. After completion of an 18-month period of service, the loan is forgiven. Here's what Hicks had to say about the program: "The school debt keeps you looking in the rearview mirror in some ways, so having the assistance helps me to have a more forward-looking perspective of where God is leading me and also the church. How do we become a light in this community, how do we love our neighbors, how do we invest in the children and youth and families in this community?" she asks. "How are we being a church that nurtures and helps people to grow in their faith?"

#### 2013 Jeffrey V. O'Grady

**(D.Min.)** has been elected to the Princeton Theological Seminary board of trustees. He is pastor and head of staff of San Marino Com-

munity Church in San Marino, Calif. He earned his M.A. from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary and his M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary.

### Ordinations and Calls

**2008 Ki Do Ahn** was ordained on Aug. 11.

**2010 Karen Thistlethwaite** was ordained on July 15 as the minister of education for St. John's Presbyterian Church of Berkeley.

**2010 John Scott** was ordained in October as the pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Jonesville, La.

**2010 Beverly Franco** was ordained at Oceanside Presbyterian Church on Nov. 18. She was ordained to the position of chaplain for Casa de Manana, a retirement community in La Jolla.

**2011 Carol Prichard** was ordained and installed as pastor of the United Methodist Church in Astoria, Ore., on October 21.

**2012 Jefferson Beeker** was ordained on June 16 as the minister of evangelism and membership development for First Christian Church of North Hollywood, Calif.

**2012 Aidan Dongwoo Lee** was ordained in KPCA (Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad) on Sept. 13 at Youngnak Presbyterian Church of Portland, Ore. He wrote: "Please pray for me to be a truthful and faithful good pastor."

**2012 Dorothy Ruby Pollard** was ordained as an itinerate elder by the Right Reverend T. Larry Kirkland in October in the 148 Session of the California Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, thereby completing her ordination process.

## ADVANCED PASTORAL STUDIES

*from page 7*

of color within the Synod of the Pacific. Begun in 1991, REAPS is one of the few continuing education entities within the PC(USA) that is conceived and conducted by pastors and faculty of color. Earlier this year, REAPS representatives and SFTS faculty agreed to partner in nurturing and supporting these pastors through the APS programs.

In his interviews with the SFTS search committee, Choy was urged to bring back and expand on the D.Min. emphasis on Feminist Perspectives. He has already initiated conversations with members of the Justice for Women Working Group of the (U.S.) National Council of Churches, who have responded positively with a number of suggestions for updating the program for a new generation of leaders.

The SFTS search committee also encouraged Choy to enhance the Seminary's course offerings with subjects he has taught at other theological institutions: strategic pastoral leadership, congregational leadership in times of change and transformation, racism and white privilege, and cross-cultural ministry. He plans to offer a "Culturally-Attentive Conflict Management" course during the APS Summer Session in 2013.

Choy believes it's crucial to expand SFTS partnerships beyond current relationships with Seattle University, Marylhurst University and seminaries in Korea. As a visiting professor of ministry at McCormick, he helped develop

### SUMMER SEMINARS

The SFTS Advanced Pastoral Studies Summer Seminars will take place June 10-21, June 24-July 5, July 8-July 19

### COLLEGIUM GROUPS

From September to May, collegium groups meet on the SFTS campus on Mondays. Collegium groups are designed for working pastors who live in the Bay Area.

### CONTACT US

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**Visit:** [http://sfts.edu/academics/dmin\\_introduction.asp](http://sfts.edu/academics/dmin_introduction.asp)

its Executive Leadership Certificate Program, which equips congregational and denominational leaders for the practice of ministry in today's changing landscape. Already this fall, the SFTS faculty has approved his proposal for a cross-registration partnership through which D.Min. students can complete course work for credit at both SFTS and McCormick. The McCormick faculty is voting on this soon. Through his service on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Advisory Group on Theological Education in Asia and the Pacific, he hopes to help SFTS contribute to the ongoing nurture of leaders in partner churches.

"What kind of opportunities might APS offer?" Choy asked. "Being strategically bifocal is about vigilance as well as vision. I hope to vigilantly and diligently pay attention to the needs of colleagues in ministry which SFTS seeks to serve."



*Mariska Lauterboom and Min-Hee Kim dance during Worship Lab, which was centered around praying to God through motion.*

## WORSHIP LAB *from page 5*

my strength by trusting in each team member's differences. This firm conviction that we are different helps us form a strong trust in each other, and our differences require us to listen to each member's feedback about the services we plan."

Creativity plays an important role in developing unique services. Tad Hopp, a second-year Master of Divinity student who serves as a chaplain's assistant, comes from a theatrical background – he once tried out for American Idol. He appreciates the way creativity is nourished and encouraged through Worship Lab.

"I like letting my creative juices flow and Worship Lab allows that to happen," Hopp said. "I think it gives the student body here a chance to explore different styles and methods of worship, which is more and more important as we enter a world where the traditional idea of a worship service is changing. As future leaders in the church, it is important that we are able to come up with meaningful and impactful worship services that don't necessarily fit the traditional worship paradigm."

Rev. Scott Clark (M.Div. '09), chaplain and associate dean of student life at SFTS, points out that Worship Lab connects with what a good number of local congregations are trying to do, too.

"We are all faithfully trying to innovate and come up with new, life-

giving ways to worship that flow out of the traditions of Reformed Worship," Clark said. "This is all part of equipping folks for new, imaginative and faithful ministry for the 21st century. I hope that folks beyond the campus feel welcome to come and worship and experience what we're doing here."

Several SFTS professors and students are using Worship Lab as a component of their academic studies. Rev. Dr. Jana Childers' Reformed Worship class has the option to attend Worship Lab and write a report on each service. First-year M.Div. student Alexander Wendeheart crafted a worship service for All Saints' Day, inspired by his Celtic spirituality and theology class. And last semester, Dr. Annette Schellenberg's Old Testament Exegesis class designed and led a Worship Lab that brought to life a challenging text from the Hebrew Scriptures.

Rev. Dr. James McDonald, the seminary president, believes it is critical that SFTS students are prepared to help fulfill God's purposes in the world. Worship Lab has emerged as a unique tool in this preparation.

"Seminaries are laboratories for incubating religious leaders who have been called by God to encourage and challenge communities to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ," McDonald said. "Seminaries need to be places of hope and energy for a transformed church capable of healing a broken world. This is my vision for SFTS."

*Holly Woolard is SFTS communications manager.*



## KOREA *from page 9*

church that was purposefully made to be common-looking and without fancy or flair; visits to traditional markets, neighborhoods and beautiful parklands and open spaces.

Korea is also known as the Land of the Morning Calm. "That image is exactly what you feel when you walk outside in the morning," McDonald said. "There are lots of mountains and the Han River is a large watershed that runs through Korea and Seoul. The countryside is spectacular and awe inspiring."

The trip to Korea also affirmed the already deep connection between Korean Presbyterian Churches and SFTS. Of the 50 million people in Korea, approximately 30 percent are Christian. The Presbyterian Church has become a strong presence in Korean society. SFTS has a long history of welcoming students from Korea, where an appreciation for strong academic and theological training allows them to stretch their own learning in ministry within their own context.

"I sense a new openness," McDonald said. "Koreans want to be thinking together with non-Koreans about the nature of the changes that we all face together. This is a very exciting prospect for everyone."

At the conclusion of their week-long visit, bows of respect and handshakes marked the end of a well-purposed and deeply meaningful journey. Rev. Kang extended an invitation for SFTS to participate in next year's conference. "Thank you Rev. Kang. We accept."

*Kay Carney is vice president of communications.*

## REV. JACKIE LEONARD: SFTS alum supports seminary through endowed chair

By Kay Carney

Jackie Leonard, a PC(USA) minister, SFTS alumna (M.Div. '88) and seven-year member of the SFTS board of trustees, remembers her call to ministry and the major event that led to her decision to attend seminary.

A graduate of the University of Nevada, she moved to San Francisco for graduate school in theater and returned to Reno in 1977. Three months later Leonard's life would be forever changed after her brother was killed by a drunk driver. "Dealing with my brother's death caused me to reevaluate my own life."

"St John's pastor, Rev. Bill Barrett (BD '55), preached on Romans 8:38-39 the first Sunday after my brother's death. When Bill preached on that pericope, the world shifted for me. I still had a lot of grief work to do but I realized that my world had not ended."

Leonard became very involved in the life of St. John's Church and began to look at new career choices. Through a process of discernment, she realized that she had a call to ministry. "When I told Bill this, he said 'No. You don't go to seminary and go into ministry until it is the last thing on your career list.' And I told him that it was. Then I began my journey to seminary," stated Leonard

"A friend and I made a trip through a blizzard to attend a Fron-

tiers in Ministry conference at SFTS. After this trip through snow and rain, we arrived on campus. The grass was green, the sky was blue, and the tulip trees were blooming. I knew I had come home," said Leonard. She enrolled at SFTS in 1984.

Leonard first got to know the Rices at SFTS where Howard was professor of ministry and chaplain. Rice became a mentor and friend and preached at her ordination in October 1988. "Howard preached on the Samaritan Woman at the Well, and I have no memory of what he said. What I DO remember is the laying on of hands, and his hands on my head and the other ministers and elders laying their hands on my shoulders," added Leonard. Howard Rice passed away in 2010.

Leonard credits the Rices for having a lasting impact on her ministry. In 2002, the Rices were in Reno following a Companions on the Inner Way spiritual retreat at Lake Tahoe. "I was having a bizarre experience with various physical problems. I think Howard and I both knew that it was MS., and I was diagnosed on September 12, 2002, several days after the Rices had returned home. Nancy was a wonderful support to my mother and now, Howard and I had one more thing in common."

In honor of the Rice family, Leonard has endowed the Rice Family Chair of Christian Spirituality at

*"Life is  
endlessly  
diverting."*

**—Rev. Jackie  
Leonard**



SFTS. Doing so will keep their legacies alive for generations to come. "I am more than halfway toward my pledge of \$2 million," she added.

"My time at SFTS was one of the best times of my life. It challenged me intellectually and spiritually. The preaching was the best I've ever heard. I began a love affair with JS Bach; I made lifelong friends." Leonard added, "I hope that all students of SFTS will experience seminary life as rich and life-changing as mine was. To this end, I have served on the Board of Trustees and continue to make a financial investment in the seminary. It is my prayer that we will graduate students with a passion for the proclamation of the Gospel and the willingness to give back to the institution that has formed them."

*Kay Carney is vice president of communications.*



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## Scott Clark

Rev. Scott Clark's connection to SFTS is multifaceted. He earned his Master of Divinity from SFTS in 2009, then served as program manager for the Program in Christian Spirituality. In 2011, he began serving as chaplain and associate dean of student life. Before attending seminary, Clark practiced law, and it is his organizational skills, work ethic and integrity that make him perfectly suited for the dual role in which

he now serves. "When I started giving to the seminary as an alum, it was mainly an expression of gratitude to SFTS," Clark said. "Now, in my current job, I have the added blessing of being able to see firsthand the remarkable ways the Holy Spirit is moving in and through our students."

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## Jillian Robinson

Jillian Robinson, president of the SFTS Auxiliary, grew up Presbyterian, attended Presbyterian-affiliated College of Wooster and has been a member of Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo, Calif., for more than 20 years. She's served on numerous committees for the Presbytery of the Redwoods, but her passion is preparation for ministry. In her role as Auxiliary president, Robinson helps connect the outside world to SFTS students. She's

also an annual donor. "If everyone puts a little in the pot then you get strength in numbers," she said. "I believe in lifelong learning. Since this seminary is in my backyard, I want to support it in all the ways I can."

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Peter van Bever loves to sing. Retired from mortgage banking, he sings in the choir at First Presbyterian Church in Portland, Ore., and is on the Portland Opera board. As an eight-year member of the SFTS Board of Trustees, now serving as chair, van Bever also sings the praises of the only Presbyterian seminary in the West and supports it as a monthly donor. "I believe in and value the theological education SFTS provides its students," van Bever

said. "I chose to donate using the monthly automatic credit card charge because it's easy, automatic and painless. I wish more would choose this option." Among the many ways van Bever continues to support SFTS is serving on the new Strategic Planning Council.

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## Calvary Presbyterian Church

The partnership between Calvary Presbyterian Church and SFTS runs deeply, dating back 141 years when seminary students first began meeting at the church in San Francisco. Dr. William Anderson Scott, Calvary's organizing pastor in 1854, help found SFTS. Former Calvary pastors Rev. Dr. James Emerson and Rev. Dr. Laird Stuart served as interim presidents at SFTS. Current Board of Trustees member Marion Stanton is a Calvary member. In 2012, SFTS was blessed to receive a \$25,000 grant from Calvary to stage a joint lecture with the church on the topic of Faith and Public Life. The lecture will feature a keynote speaker whose life has demonstrated different ways of uniting faith and service to others.

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## Ellie Krivin

Ellie Krivin's intimate involvement with SFTS began in 1976 when she became a member of the board of trustees. She served in that capacity until 1986, and was on the president's council from 1997 to 2000. Ellie was an asset to the leadership of SFTS, and her love for the seminary did not end at the conclusion of her terms of service. Ellie established a Charitable Remainder Trust that benefitted seminary student support upon her death in 2009.

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*We honor these faithful servants who now rest in our Lord Jesus Christ and acknowledge with gratitude the following estate gifts.*

Estate of Arlene F.  
     and Albert A. Coddington  
     (Coddington 1989 Trust)  
 Margaret A. Farrer Trust  
 John and Abby Garwood Bequest  
 Estate of George A. Lagerquist  
 Estate of Rev. Heidi Skidmore  
 Hilda Thompson Trust

## IN MEMORY OF

*SFTS continually thanks God for the wonderful works of faith by community members throughout the world. We are grateful for others who honor their legacies as well.*

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 and Jeannine Anderson**  
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## Arlene Coddington

Arlene Coddington was not a seminary student, nor was she married to one, nor was she the mother of one. Arlene's connection to SFTS was through the Presbyterian Church and her desire to help seminary students. Her mother served on the SFTS auxiliary in 1938 as a representative from Vallejo Presbyterian Church, and years later Arlene continued the tradition of service on the SFTS auxiliary board and was president from 1974-77. Upon her death in 2007, distributions from her estate created the Franke-Coddington Scholarship Fund.



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(Robert E and Betsy Williams  
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## IN HONOR OF

*Esteemed faculty, alumni  
and churches affiliated with  
SFTS help fulfill the seminary's  
mission to shape a future in  
tune with God's purposes  
for the world. The seminary  
thanks those who give in honor  
of these Christian educators  
and institutions.*

**Martha Brooks, DASD '01**

Mr. Richard B. and  
Mrs. Marguerite D. Scott-Johnson

## BROWNE BARR: Pilot & entrepreneur who applauds charitable trusts

By Phil Murphy

**Y**ou can see San Francisco Theological Seminary Trustee Browne Barr's destiny as a private pilot written into the locations of the six truck stops he used to own.

If you start at the Gallup, N. Mex., stop, you have to drive 706 miles to get to the next one in Gordon, Texas. To reach the other four, it's 582 miles northeast to Denver, Colo., 677 miles farther northeast to Des Moines, Iowa, 308 miles due east to Joliet, Ill., and 300 miles from there to Black River Falls, Wis.

Now semi-retired at 80, Barr wanted face-to-face conversations with his employees at his six truck stops, which provided fuel, food, respite and repairs to truckers. On average, his truck stops employed 125 people each, operating 24/7.

Using airlines made no sense to him, so at 30, he got his pilot's license. During the 40 years or so he ran his business, he owned five planes: two Barons and three Bonanzas. "I crashed only once," he deadpanned, adding that a landing gear collapsed at touchdown and penetrated the plane's fuel tank. He slid to a halt, shoved open the jammed cockpit door and escaped uninjured to the runway.

As he approached retirement, he learned of the advantages offered by charitable remainder trusts. A trust specialist showed him how this type of trust could help him and his wife Dorothy, since deceased, add to their retirement income from the sale of the Black River Falls operation in Wisconsin, the last of his truck stops.

Instead of the conventional sale he had used to sell the five others stops, he placed half of the Black River Falls assets—its facilities included a store, a restaurant, diesel and gas stations, and a garage—into a charitable remainder trust for SFTS's benefit. Because the ultimate destination of the trust's assets is the seminary, the Barrs escaped



capital gains tax on the assets placed in the trust. They also received payments from the trust for life, earned an immediate income tax deduction, and had the satisfaction of providing for SFTS, which they believe in strongly and to which they were linked by family ties.

His uncle and namesake Browne Barr was dean of SFTS from 1977-83. His brother Robert was vice president of development and then acting president from 1984-85. Browne became an SFTS trustee in 2006 when his wife Dorothy left the board because of illness.

The plainspoken Barr is enthusiastic about his charitable remainder trust, which he established about 20 years ago. "It's just a great deal," he said. "It helps both the individual who sets it up and the seminary."

The Barrs selected the minimum payment required by law—5 percent—and an option that prevents invasion of principal if the trust earns less than that. This conservative approach allowed the Barrs' charitable trust to hold its value despite the 2008 economic meltdown and other vagaries of the marketplace.

"I think highly of SFTS," he said. "I feel that all churches need to get their acts together, learn to get along, and bring peace to the world. The churches have a long way to go. The seminary is the starting point."

*Phil Murphy is a planned giving consultant.*

# IN MEMORIAM

## Board of Trustees



**L. Wilson Kilgore,  
Board of Trustees  
1978-89**

passed away on May 8 at the age of 95 in Scottsdale, Ariz. Wilson was a well-loved Presbyterian minister, known for his passion for preaching, dedication to the Presbyterian Church, intense desire to share the news of God's love to all, and to live life with an abundance of love and laughter. He graduated from Colgate University in 1939 and from Colgate Rochester Divinity School with a Masters in Divinity in 1942. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Lincoln College in 1955 and from his alma mater in 1964. He began his pastoral calling at First Presbyterian Church, Hartford, Conn., in 1943 and then as pastor at Lakewood Presbyterian Church, Lakewood, Ohio. Wilson was next called in 1964 to serve as senior pastor at Cherry Hill Presbyterian Church, Dearborn, Mich. His last call before retirement was as senior pastor of Valley Presbyterian Church, Paradise Valley, Ariz., in 1972. While serving at Valley, he started Mountain View Presbyterian Church and supported the birth of Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in North Scottsdale. After his retirement in 1986, Valley Presbyterian named the new chapel after him in recognition of his service to God and the congregation. Lakewood Presbyterian recently honored him by dedicating a new addition as the Wilson Kilgore Education Center. He accepted several interim assign-

ments for churches that were searching for fulltime pastors, including: Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, New York; First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, Okla.; Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield, Mich., and two small churches in the Phoenix area. He continued preaching and teaching up until the end of his life. A published author, he wrote the book *When the River Runs Backward* on the grieving process and articles for the *Christian Century Pulpit*, *Church Management*, *Presbyterian Life* and the *Master Sermon Series*. His accomplishments also included the development of television ministries at multiple churches including Valley Presbyterian and appearing on television to discuss family life.



**Eleanor Miller,  
Board of Trustees  
1982-92**

died April 19 in Irvine, Calif. She was a woman of faith, a beloved mother and grandmother, a steadfast and adventurous friend and, for nearly six decades, a leader in the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church community. She will be remembered and honored for her faith, purpose, graciousness and joy.

## Former SFTS Staff

**James M. Phillips, Professor of Church History 1975-82** died on Aug. 2 at the age of 83 in Westborough, Mass., from complications of a fall in June. Phillips was a professor of church history at SFTS before he served as associate director of the

Overseas Ministries Study Center, until his retirement in 1997. His book, *From the Rising of the Sun: Christians and Society in Contemporary Japan* (1981), described the history of Japan's Christian community from 1945-75. He graduated from Princeton University with a degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He taught history, politics and Bible at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea, from 1949-50 until the start of the Korean War, when he worked with Korean refugees fleeing from the communist regime in the North. He then attended Yale Divinity School, graduating in 1955, followed by a return to Princeton where he completed his doctoral studies in Christian Ethics in 1958. He was professor of church history at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary from 1959-75 and also served as a Presbyterian pastor. Phillips was truly a "man of the people" and one of his greatest passions was working with, and trying to help, people of all different cultures and walks of life. At the age of 76, he volunteered for three months as a chaplain in a hospital in Vellore, India.



**Mary Lou Dobbins,  
Wife of Trustee/  
Donor**

passed away peacefully on Aug. 17 at the age of 76 in Portland after battling Alzheimer's disease. She and her husband, Allen Dobbins, have been generous donors to SFTS and Lloyd-Dobbins Hall is co-named in their honor. Allen Dobbins first joined the SFTS Board of Trustees in 1985 and served

two full terms until 1995. He re-joined from 2001-06. Mary Lou Dobbins loved teaching and spent nearly 20 years with the Portland Public schools. A favorite destination was the family home near Lake Tahoe, Calif. She also enjoyed interesting walking holidays, including village-to-village walks in Tuscany, Southern England, the Italian Alps, New Zealand and especially the 14 day walk along the Camino de Campostelo de Santiago pilgrimage in Northern Spain.



**May Gong Lee, Wife of Professor Robert Lee/Auxiliary Member**

died on Aug. 8 at the age of 83 in San Rafael, Calif. Preceding her

in death was her husband, Rev. Dr. Robert Lee, who became the first professor of East Asian background at an American seminary at SFTS in 1961. May Lee ran the SFTS Seek and Find Thrift store, which still provides clothing for students, especially those from foreign countries. She was a renowned chef and entertainer and routinely served multicourse banquets to SFTS students and at many nonprofit fundraisers. She was one of the founding board members of the San Anselmo Co-Op Nursery School and volunteered in each of her children's classes at Wade Thomas, Red Hill and Drake High. For many years she was on the board of Marin Chinese Cultural Association and helped support the restoration of China Camp. She was a firm believer in education and the arts and spent every Monday for the past few years volunteering in classrooms at San Pedro Elementary School and Thursdays working in the Gallery/Store at Youth in Arts.

**Indira Singh, Wife of Professor Surjit Singh** died on May 16 at the age of 92. She was the wife of Surjit Singh, Jesse Hays Baird Professor of Christian Philosophy, who died in May 2006. The Singhs moved from India to San Anselmo in 1951 and they were part of the SFTS community for nearly four decades. The Singhs visited the sick and elderly, sharing joy, laughter and good food. The Singhs' contributions to SFTS and throughout Marin were honored during a memorial service in September at First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo.

## Alumni



**1945 Erwin E. Bollinger (BD)**

died at the age of 92 in May in Napa, Calif. From seminary he was called to pastor the

First Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant, Utah, where he also served as an instructor of Bible at nearby Wasatch Academy and as coach of the tennis team. He was then called to serve as associate minister at the First Presbyterian Church, Salt Lake City, Utah, with a focus on Bible studies preaching in several other Utah Presbyterian churches. In 1957, he was called to the pastorate of First Presbyterian Church, Napa, where he served for 24 years. His name, together with that of Rev. Richard Wylie, is engraved on a historical plaque on the church lawn. He became coordinator of the English department's tutoring program at Vintage High School in Napa and consultant to the school's community service information officer. He was also a member of Kiwanis, offering opening prayers. Copies of

his prayers in print are still offered occasionally at Kiwanis meetings. He was appointed interim minister to Presbyterian churches in Carson City, Nev., Portland, Ore., and Woodland, Sanger and Yountville, Calif. He became volunteer spiritual care chaplain at Queen of the Valley Medical Center and chaplain of Redwood Retirement Home.

**1947 David C. Jacobsen (BD, MTh '62)**

passed away July 4 at the age of 90 in Mill Valley, Calif. He was called to be pastor at Sausalito Presbyterian Church from 1960-69 and then returned to the church from 1972-75. He and his wife of 66 years, Helen, who passed away in March 2011, were deeply loved by the Sausalito Presbyterian Church community. Together they developed and led a Prayer Renewal workshop all over the country and began a healing prayer group here that continues to meet. As a pastor, Jacobsen created the dialogue exchange during worship and opened wide the church doors so that all people might feel welcomed and loved at a time of great social upheaval in this country.



**1948 Conway B. Lanford, Sr. (BD, MA '51)**

died July 2 at the age of 95 in Clovis, Calif. He celebrated his 70th wedding anniversary on June

13 just before he passed. After Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps. In 1951 he was recalled into the Air Force and served as a chaplain until his retirement in 1968. After earning a masters in counseling from University of Nevada, Reno, he became a counselor at Imperial Valley College until



retiring in 1988. During that time he was also a pastor at Calipatria Community Church. In retirement he traveled, served as interim pastor in New Zealand and Las Vegas, and spent summers at his cabin at Lake Tahoe.

**1950 Henry Kent (BD)** passed away peacefully on April 15 at the age of 98 in San Rafael, Calif. Born in Holland, he studied social and economic sciences at Netherlands University at Rotterdam. He escaped to the United States by way of Spain and Cuba after the Nazi invasion in 1941. He joined the U.S. Army a year later and became a linguist for the Counter Intelligence Corps, serving until the end of the war in Europe. When the war was over, he returned to New York City to work in international trade, later moving to the West Coast near his parents who had been there since before the war spread to Holland. Later, he attended SFTS and became a Presbyterian pastor for 25 years. He retired from St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in 1972. During retirement, he enjoyed family, classical music, writing, camping and hiking, travel and charitable activities.

**1952 William George Weiss (BD)** died in Houston, Texas, on June 15 at age 87. He served as pastor of the Brentwood Presbyterian Church from 1974-82. A compassionate man dedicated to lifelong learning, he had a deep interest in cultures and peoples of the world. He lived life to its fullest, always creative and untiring in his openness to new experiences. Born in St. Paul, Minn., Weiss joined the Navy in 1942 and participated in the Okinawa Campaign. After the war, he graduated from Macalaster College, where

he met his wife. While studying at SFTS, Weiss worked with the Bay Area Japanese-American community. In 1953, the couple was commissioned as missionaries to Japan. They spent 10 years in Tokyo. When they returned to the U.S. with their family, Weiss earned a ThM at Princeton Theological Seminary. He served as pastor at churches in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and South Carolina. He developed a widely respected reputation for pastoral care and ecumenicalism. Weiss leaves behind his wife of 62 years, Georgia.



**1953 Devore Craine Smith (BD)**

passed away on June 20 in Santa Rosa, Calif., at the age of 84. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Stanford University and a master's degree in education from USC before attending SFTS. He was the founding pastor of Presbyterian Church of the West Valley in Cupertino, Calif., and served as education minister at United Presbyterian Churches in San Diego, Calif., Eureka, Calif., and Santa Rosa, Calif.. Through his ministry he transformed the lives of countless young people. His ministry focused on Native American outreach, multimedia communications and ecumenism. Post retirement, Smith embraced the environmental movement, serving on the Sierra Club San Diego Chapter Executive Committee, Parks and Forest & Wilderness Committees. He was highly regarded by environmental organizations and the faith community for his work in providing public address (PA) system support for events, meetings, churches and rallies. A founding member of the Santa Rosa Cycling Club,

Smith was a life-long bicycle enthusiast, incorporating cycling into his Christian youth ministry and family life.

**1953 Hal Foster (BD)** died on Jan. 17 in Walnut Creek, Calif., at the age of 86. He had a colorful ministry, including serving as director of the Fresno Area Migrant Ministry for the National Council of Churches and pastor of the Presbyterian Church on Hoopa Indian Reservation. For the last 21 years of his ministry, Foster was an executive with Satellite Senior Homes, which built and operated retirement homes for low income elderly. Under his leadership, the nonprofit built 14 retirement homes, housing hundreds of seniors. Foster enjoyed bike riding and completed three West Coast to East Coast trips and once rode from Canada to Mexico.

**1954 Allen B. Birchler (BD)** died Aug. 14 in La Crosse, Wis., at the age of 86. He was a faculty member in the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse history department from 1965-90. In 1990, Birchler helped establish the Allen B. Birchler Lecture Fund to encourage excellence in the study and promotion of the humanities through a lecture series or panel discussions that explore historical, literary and philosophical topics tied to a historical perspective. In 2008, Birchler and his wife created the Allen and Margaret Birchler Scholarship Fund at SFTS, which provides tuition assistance for a student under care of a presbytery that lies east of the continental divide and west of the Mississippi River, including Wisconsin. Since Birchler's death, SFTS has received several gifts to the scholarship in memory of the generous man who established it.

**1958 Gilbert William Allen (BD)**

passed away on Sept. 7 at the age of 78 in Beaumont, Calif. After earning his degree at SFTS, he became associate pastor at Beverly Vista Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills. He was also a pastor in Pacoima, Calif., and started a Presbyterian church in Huntington Beach, Calif. In the late '60s, Allen moved to San Bernardino, Calif., as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. He entered into the business world in 1982 working for Kimstock Inc, in Santa Ana, Calif.; Clarion Manufacturing in Marble, Penn., and lastly with Lasco Bathware in Anaheim, Calif. He retired from Lasco Bathware in January 2012. His faith always remained a very important part of his life.

**1966 Thomas Walter Elke (BD)**

died at the age of 82 in June in Napa, Calif. In the 1960s, Tom attended SFTS and was one of more than 50 seminary community members who marched from Selma to Montgomery with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., during the Civil Rights movement. He later provided legal services to people who had been arrested or detained. He was an ordained Presbyterian minister three years later in 1968. While practicing law, he was assistant pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church in Oakland and later affiliated with Sojourner Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Calif. Elke was a brilliant, unconventional, lawyer. He established precedent-setting law in the area of securities and antitrust fraud in his representation of the little guy against large corporations. He was willing to take the hard-to-win or non-lucrative cases if there was a legal or moral principle. He had a lifelong internal struggle with accepting and enjoying the rewards

of his own efforts and success in the midst of injustice and inequity in the world around him. In 1945 at the age of 15, he began his undergraduate education on scholarship at Stanford University. He continued at Stanford Law School, completing his Juris Doctor in 1952. In 1962, Elke was a founding partner of the San Francisco law firm Elke, Farella & Braun (now Farella, Braun & Martel). In reflecting on his professional life, he was most proud of the time and money he dedicated to establishing a public interest law curriculum at Stanford Law School. At least once a decade, Elke hurled himself into a new study or endeavor. He believed pursuits outside the legal profession defined him at least as much as his work as a lawyer.

**1972 Lorrin Arthur Kreider (STD)**

died Feb. 29 at the age of 82 in Wooster, Ohio. Born in Istanbul, Turkey, he grew up in Ohio before attending McCormick Theological Seminary and SFTS. Kreider served as a Presbyterian minister for over 40 years with congregations in Illinois (Willow Springs, Mt. Zion and DeKalb) and Ohio (Athens and Worthington). He also served as an interim minister in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and Ithaca, New York.



**1977 Laurence James Huggett (M.Div.)**

passed away in March 2011 in Fair Oaks, Calif., at the age of 88. During his career he led more than a dozen churches in Northern California and Idaho. His writings, lessons and sermons were noted for their scholarship, Biblical insight, humor and poetry, qualities that led

to his election as moderator of the Sacramento Presbytery in 1997. He was an Army Air Force sergeant in Alaska from 1942-45. He served as a Christian education director at Bellflower Presbyterian Church from 1951-65, then at Fair Oaks Presbyterian. After graduating from SFTS, he was ordained in the Fair Oaks church in 1976 and then served as pastor of Walnut Grove Community Presbyterian in 1977. He retired in 1987, but continued to work as interim pastor in Idaho churches. In 1990 he returned to Fair Oaks for interim pastor work in Northern California and as parish associate pastor at Celtic Cross Presbyterian.

**1984 George O. Elgin (D.Min.)**

died on Sept. 10 in Clovis, Calif., at the age of 78 after a long struggle with cancer. Elgin believed in the power of education to complement faith in personal actualization. Education became a cornerstone of his ministry. He attended Wesley Theological Seminary, earning a Master of Divinity. He furthered his education at Long Island University, while also attending chaplains school, earning a master degree in science and education. He taught philosophy, psychology, sociology and religion as an adjunct professor. He also taught classes on a number of theological themes, in addition to personal growth and organizational development. He was a decorated veteran who served over 20 years in the United States Army as a chaplain. His service included tours of duty in Germany and Vietnam. Following his retirement from the military, Elgin continued to serve the church for many years as a Methodist pastor. He focused his ministry on helping people through education and leadership to fulfill

their mission to make the world a better place. At Clovis United Methodist Church in Clovis, Calif., he led many popular seminars and workshops. His passion for justice, particularly for children, led him to work as a mediator for the Madera Family Court Services. In his book, *Rational Christianity*, Elgin extols tolerance and cooperation with the many faiths of the world. He exemplified this by his participation in and promotion of the Clovis Interfaith community.

**1986 Ian S. Williams (D.Min.)** died on July 19 at the age of 76 in Australia after his health declined due to Alzheimer's disease. He was ordained in the Methodist Church in 1964. While serving a church in St. Kilda, he ventured into politics and won a seat on the St. Kilda city council for five years, including two years as mayor. It was always of great significance to him that in his mayoral year (1973-74) the local Jewish rabbi conducted a civic service in the synagogue in his honor, not only recognizing him as the mayor of the city, but also acknowledging him as the minister of the local Methodist Church. Williams saw this as a tangible act of ecumenism. He served as president of the Australian Council of Churches International Affairs Committee. At Queen's College, he was director of field education within the Theological Hall of the (now) Uniting Church of Australia. He worked within the Theological Hall for 14 years, being principal of the hall for his last 10 years there. He was elected president of Queen's College in 1989.

**1992 Julian Philip Park (STD)** passed away April 12 at the age of 78 in Portland, Ore., under hospice care. Before attending SFTS,

Park earned a divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. He served as a missionary in Japan from 1987-2001. During this time he worked with the Korean Christian Church to protest discrimination against the Korean minority in Japan. Later, he taught on the faculty of the Department of Law and Political Science at Kwansai Gakuin University in Nishinomiya, Japan. He also served as pastor of St. Mark's Presbyterian Church prior to his service in Japan.



**1995 Linda Snyder (M.Div.)** died June 12 of complications from necrotizing fasciitis at the age of 62 in Sacramento, Calif. Snyder led a multicultural congregation at Florin United Methodist Church in Sacramento from 2001-11. She was a board member and former president of the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership and volunteered at the group's food pantry. She was appointed pastor of Citrus Heights United Methodist Church last year but stepped down in January after she was diagnosed with necrotizing fasciitis. The bacterial infection, also known as flesh-eating disease, developed in an abscess on her back and led to a coma, pneumonia and other complications. Before seminary, she graduated from UC Berkeley with a master's degree in early childhood education and added a teaching credential from California State University, San Francisco. She taught preschool and after-school programs in Redwood City and oversaw day care and other nonmilitary services at Moffett Field Naval Air Station. In 1995, she started her ministry as a United Methodist pastor in Sebastopol. She served on the board of

Ordained Ministry of the Northern California-Nevada Annual Conference.

## SFTS also prayerfully remembers:

**Ernest Dossett Dimaline (BD '46)** died in March 2009 at the age of 93 in Texas, where he spent his entire ministry. He served Presbyterian churches in Sharp, Stephenville, Richardson, Midland, Webster and Austin. In Webster, he had the privilege of ordaining astronauts John Glenn and Buzz Aldrin as elders in his church.

**John G. Phillips (BD '49)** passed away at the age of 94 in 2011 in Claremont, Calif.

**Charles L. Edwards (BD '52)**

**Nicholas Bosworth (BD '59)** passed away at the age of 79 earlier this year. He served as pastor at Riverside Presbyterian Church in Cocoa Beach, Fla., from 1964-68.

**Jack E. Henshaw (BD '54)** died at the age of 82 in 2010 in Cave City, Ky.

**Edward Peacock (M.Div. '64, D.Min. '74)** passed away on June 22 at the age of 76 in Rohnert Park, Calif., 2012.

**Louis R. Taylor (D.Min. '90)** passed away in Edmonds, Wash.



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