

# CHIMES

Fall 2013  
Volume 59  
No. 1

SAN FRANCISCO  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

CHAPTER 1:

## DESIGNING A MOSAIC FOR MINISTRY

*Artfully  
assembling  
the unique  
parts of  
our SFTS  
community*

ALSO INSIDE Students 8 Faculty 11 Alumni 18





# FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Dear SFTS Alumni and Friends,**

**W**e are designing a mosaic for ministry. I invite you to be a part of it.

The Spring 2013 issue of *Chimes* had an article about Charles Wei (M.Div., 2013) and his three-year project to create a stunning mosaic mural in Holy Grounds, the student lounge and coffee house on campus. In this mosaic, Charles took thousands of shards and crafted a colorful, awesome mural of biblical images. With ordinary, broken pieces of glass, Charles created something beautiful, something unexpected, something fresh.

Charles' artistic endeavor has spawned a new spirit here at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Every part of the seminary community was involved in its making—faculty, staff, auxiliary, trustees, and students. The Alumni Council even held a special worship service in which they dedicated and placed the pieces of broken SFTS coffee mugs in the mosaic. In the end, he says, “the mural just emerged from the community.”

The mural encouraged an effort to spruce up the entire space, with new floors, a fresh coat of paint, and some new furniture. This fall students are now gathering there for a community meal every Monday. “It’s become a hub,” says Charles, “where students can experience community and enjoy one another’s fellowship.” One of Charles’ deepest hopes is “that the mural will continually inspire an experience of the divine that people might not otherwise normally have.”

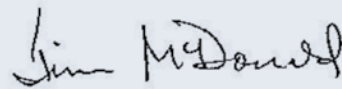
In early October, the Board of Trustees seemed to be inspired along the lines that Charles had hoped. They approved an initiative to raise \$6 million over the next 20 months. The theme of the initiative: “Chapter 1: Designing a Mosaic for Ministry.” Moreover, they agreed to take responsibility for \$1.5 million of that total. The Alumni Council has also pledged to support this goal by taking responsibility for an additional \$1 million.

Why? Six million dollars will help us fully launch the Center for Innovation in Ministry. It will provide the technology to put more of our courses online and expand the reach of the seminary. It will support the solid, sophisticated approach to theological education, spiritual formation, and the practice of ministry that distinguishes SFTS alumni and makes them valuable contributors to the work of Jesus Christ in the world.

Six million dollars is an investment in the future, not only of the seminary but also of the Church.

With this initiative, we are mirroring Charles’ handiwork. We are setting out to create a thing of beauty and the imagination: a work of art, a work of God, something to inspire others. It will take all of us—together. Our mosaic for ministry will emerge from our love of SFTS. As we sing nearly every week in chapel, gathered around the table: “For we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.” (John B. Foley)

**Grace and Peace,**



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





# CHIMES

SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
SAN ANSELMO

## INSIDE

*Chimes* is a biannual publication of San Francisco Theological Seminary (105 Seminary Road, San Anselmo, California, 94960, 415.451.2800), a nonprofit corporation conducting a theological seminary solely consecrated to educating suitable persons for the offices and work of Christian service. *Chimes* is distributed without charge to alumni/ae, pastors, friends, and constituents of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Total circulation is 5,000 and we also offer *Chimes* online.

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04 Special Focus: A Bold New Initiative



08 Students



11 Faculty



18 Alumni

29 Honor Roll of Donors



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Rochelle Rawls-Shaw and Rev. Kaci Clark-Porter at a discussion forum.



Tad Hopp, Rev. Elizabeth McCord, Jeffery Ferguson, Cameron Highsmith, Bryan Symonds, Rev. Scott Clark, and Rochelle Rawls-Shaw.



Jonathan Evans, Adlai Amor, Scott Clark

# BIG TENT

## SFTS delegation all *atwitter* with the spirit of renewing & expanding community

By Scott Clark, Elizabeth McCord, and Rachel Howard

This summer, a delegation of San Francisco Theological Seminary students, faculty, staff, trustees, and alumni attended the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s Big Tent gathering. In this off year between General Assemblies, 10 Partner Conferences came together in Louisville, Kentucky to form one larger conference with shared worship, meals, and speakers.

Throughout the conference, the SFTS delegation was busy live-tweeting and sharing photos on Facebook to connect the SFTS community with the educational workshops and conversation forums offered at Big Tent.

SFTS was well represented at all levels of the conference. Rev. Dr. Virstan Choy, Director of SFTS Advanced Pastoral Studies, co-led a panel discussion on the importance of the Doctor of Ministry programs to the broader church. Choy urged the audience to “think of Doctor of Ministry programs as the research and development laboratory of the church.” Choy said that as SFTS prepares to launch its Center for Innovation in Ministry in April, the seminary has begun to think of students in the D. Min. program as “incubators for new ministry.”

Choy’s presentation at Big Tent was subsequently the subject of an op-ed in the September issue of the *Presbyterian Outlook*. Written by editor Jack Haberer, the piece was titled “Incubators for Innovation.”

*See Big Tent, page 25*



The Twitter feed of Rev. Scott Clark, who live-tweeted Rev. Dr. Virstan Choy’s presentation on the Doctor of Ministry program.



## Rev. Sherri Hausser Appointed Head for New Center for Innovation in Ministry

By Rachel Howard

San Francisco Theological Seminary has appointed Rev. Sherri A. Hausser, an experienced pastor and interfaith leader, to spearhead the Seminary's new Center for Innovation in Ministry. Hausser will help establish the center, which will be a hub for the generation of ideas and encouragement for those who are engaged in developing new forms of ministry.

Hausser brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this new position. She has taken on leadership roles within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), served congregations of more than 3500, developed and led innovative and interfaith adult education classes, and served on the boards of several academic institutions. Hausser is a founding and current Board member of the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, which develops leaders for the interfaith movement, creates accessible models for interfaith work, and educates and inspires people of different faiths to create cohesive communities.

As an Associate Pastor at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church for 13 years, she helped develop both local and international partnerships with alternative church communities, including Broad Street Ministries, and has made multiple appearances on the Today Show with Matt Lauer



*Rev. Hausser preaching at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia.*

*The Center for Innovation in Ministry represents SFTS' commitment to forward-looking, effective, relevant, and responsive ministry that is vital for the church of the 21st century.*

and Rabbi Irwin Kula. She holds a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from American University.

"Sherri's combination of impressive experience and education, and her deep commitment and passion for innovation in ministry provides a huge boost for the launch of this exciting new enterprise," said Rev. Dr. James McDonald, President and Professor of Faith & Public Life at SFTS. "Sherri will help connect SFTS to a broad network of innovators in the church, in the nonprofit world, in business and government, and in education."

Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, Dean of the Seminary and Professor of Homiletics & Speech Communication, shares the President's enthusiasm. "Sherri's pastoral and international experience, energy, and passion make her an excellent partner for the faculty at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and will greatly further our preparation of students for today's Church."

The Center for Innovation in Ministry represents SFTS' commitment to forward-looking, effective, relevant, and responsive ministry that is vital for the church of the 21st century. Hausser will work closely with McDonald and Childers to launch the center's first public event in 2014.

*Rachel Howard is the Director of Communications.*



# FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE SFTS MOSAIC





*“We are confronted  
with the fierce urgency  
of now...We are now  
faced with the fact that  
tomorrow is today.”*

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
New York City's Riverside Church,  
April 4, 1967**

By Jack Kirkman and Judy Carr



As we begin a new chapter in the 150-year history of San Francisco Theological Seminary, these words deliver a piercing challenge that resonates throughout our community during an exciting period of change. This year, the SFTS Advancement theme - Chapter 1: Designing a Mosaic for Ministry - carries a resounding message accompanied by a warm invitation to support the mission of the seminary.

A mosaic is the art of creating images with an assemblage of small pieces of colored glass, stone, or other materials. Each piece in the mosaic has beauty, even as a broken piece of something that was originally larger, or as a piece of shell that seems out of place on land so far from its origin in the sea. When joined together with glue or grout, all the pieces — broken, perfect, out of place and unusual — together become a new, brilliant image with a powerful existence.

In our case, we are artfully assembling the many unique parts of our community to equip leaders for the new Church that Christ is building in the world. Visually, we draw the inspiration for the theme of our





Chapter 1 fundraising initiative from a commanding mosaic, 34 feet in length, created by 2013 M.Div. alumnus Charles Wei in Holy Grounds.

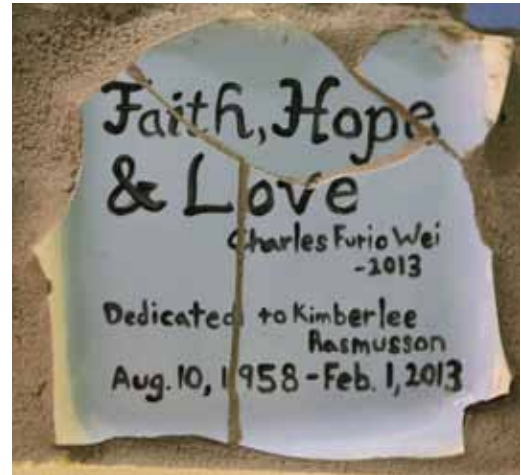
## SEE THE VIDEO

Artist Charles Wei explains the mosaic and his spiritual journey in creating it on our website at <http://tinyurl.com/weimosaic>

Located in the Bay Area, SFTS is a piece of a striking cultural mosaic, literally, amidst a hotbed of innovation and experimentation. Being at the crossroads of new ideas and amidst so much cultural diver-

sity puts us in a remarkable position to make connections and start conversations from which paradigms for the future of the Church will emerge.

We believe SFTS is remarkably positioned to provide leadership for the Church at this time and place. We are committed to the future and willing to take the path together. And we proceed



*Charles Wei dedicated the mosaic in Holy Grounds to classmate Kimberlee Rasmusson, who died just before earning her Masters in Divinity.*

## In changing times, SFTS must change as well. The seminary has already launched a number of strategic initiatives, which include:

# 1

**Recalibrating the M.Div. curriculum to serve the future Church.**

The last time we did this was 10 years ago, and it took two years. Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, who is back at the helm as the SFTS Dean of the Seminary, says this time we will finish in under one year, by May 2014.

# 2

**Designing new certificate programs that reach out to new constituencies.**

We already have several ideas in the hopper, including one that is rolling out in January of 2014: a Certificate in Trauma and Spiritual Care. Read more about this and another new program on page 12.

# 3

**Placing at least eight of our courses online over the next three years.**

This coming spring term, Professors Dr. Christopher Ocker and Dr. Annette Weissenrieder will continue their traditions of teaching courses online. Both courses are open to students and graduates alike, so be sure to read more about these offerings on page 17.



in a time when the “fierce urgency of now” is upon us. SFTS has much to do as it moves forward in innovative ways to equip those entering a wide range of forms of ministry – from tall steeples to street peoples.

There are some facts about our seminary that are worth noting. Throughout its history, SFTS has challenged the status quo and been at the leading edge of theological education. Our Program in Christian Spirituality is among the first of its kind. We have always encouraged scholarship focused on new theological perspectives, such as the Feminist Perspectives track in our Doctor of Ministry program and the inclusion of LGBT people in ministry. And we have always attracted iconoclastic faculty and students.

We are continually blessed with students who do not avoid challenge or wilt under pressure. We provide them with theological, biblical, relational, and coping skills that will serve the Church of today with all of its complexity and diversity. We have turned out tall steeple pastors, commu-

nity activists, social service executives, and corporate advisors who are actively making a difference in Christ’s name.

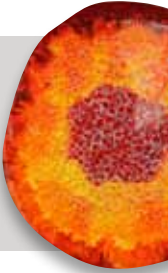
In the following pages, you will learn more about the pieces that make up this incredible mosaic: the stories of our resilient and talented students; the important relationship-building work of our accomplished faculty; and the inspiring work of our wonderful alumni who have dedicated their lives to service.

Thank you for your support, and for being a part of the mosaic that is SFTS.

*Jack Kirkman is the Vice President of Advancement & External Relations.  
Judy Carr, PhD is the Special Advisor to Advancement & External Relations.*

## HELP US REACH OUR 20-MONTH GOAL

Make a donation online at  
[www.sfts.edu/donate](http://www.sfts.edu/donate)



# 4

## Creating a Center for Innovation in Ministry.

This center serves as a catalyst, incubator, and resource for the 21st century Church. It will be a place that brings together scholars who are researching and reflecting on the changing nature of the Church, and practitioners who are experimenting with new ways to create, organize, and engage congregations in ministry and mission. In October, we appointed Rev. Sherri Hausser to lead this new center.

# 5

## Recapitalizing the fixed asset base of the seminary.

This includes reviewing and repositioning the endowment, and implementing the Campus Program Plan. The Board of Trustees have authorized the bulk sale of all remaining off-campus properties and the construction of new student and faculty housing, subject to the final approval of closing documents. These actions are the culmination of more than four years of careful, thoughtful planning and constitute a major component of a plan that secures the long-term financial position of the seminary.

# 6

## Beginning a 20-month, \$6 million fundraising initiative called Chapter 1: Designing a Mosaic for Ministry.

This endeavor is representative of a bold new direction for SFTS. Kicking off this effort are commitments from the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Council to raise \$1.5 million and \$1.0 million, respectively. Ten other SFTS constituencies are being invited to join us, including you!

*“The spiritual practice  
of cold, open-water swimming  
is indescribable.”*

— Robert Drake

photo by  
Susanne  
Friedrich

# Swimming, God, and the San Francisco Bay

By Rachel Howard

On any given day, you can find Robert Drake swimming through the cold Bay waters off the shores of San Francisco in nothing more than goggles, a swim cap, and a swimsuit. His first experience with cold-water swimming was 31 years ago, when he came across a sign at San Francisco’s Dolphin Club that marked a jump-in point for swimmers.

“I just dropped in. I was living in the East Bay, working in San Francisco, and I came across a sign... so I swam half a mile in the 48 degree mid-winter water. It was wild, choppy, cold, and exhilarating.”

When asked why he subjects himself to such extremes, Drake’s

answer is simple: it brings him closer to God.

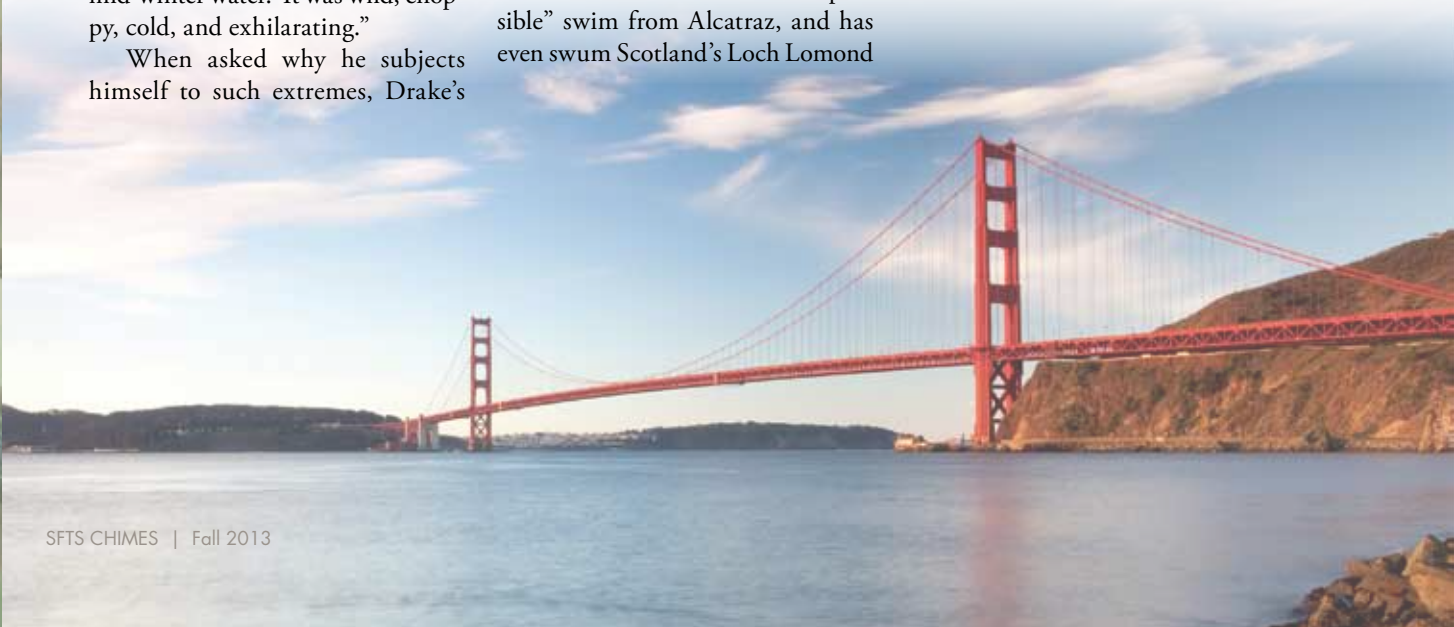
“The spiritual practice [of cold, open-water swimming] is indescribable. It’s such an intense contact with reality, with nothing buffering the interface between you and nature: no wetsuit, no protection...not even civilization. It’s incredible.”

The shock his body experiences each time he wades into the cold waters never goes away. “It always hurts,” says Drake. But over time, he has accustomed his body to the pain of entering and staying in the cold waters for up to an hour at a time. Drake has made the “impossible” swim from Alcatraz, and has even swum Scotland’s Loch Lomond

in temperatures just 6 degrees above freezing.

Drake is the first to acknowledge the extreme nature of his sport. He describes his co-swimmers as “amazing and unusually interesting people,” especially in light of the sport’s daily struggles which, in addition to the cold, include wild waves, tides, currents, and sometimes even propellers from huge shipping boats. But his love for the sport and what he calls “My Bay” keeps him coming back for more.

*See Swimming, page 26*





# Transforming Space, Transforming Lives

By Christopher Schilling, Bentley Stewart,  
and Rachel Howard

The strong sense of community at San Francisco Theological Seminary is one of its most well-known and well-loved qualities. There is no better example of this community spirit than the outpouring of support for the recent renovation of Holy Grounds, the main student common area on campus.

Spurred by the completion of the “Hope, Faith & Love” mural by Charles Wei earlier this year, the seminary authorized funding for the renovation project. This sparked additional fundraising efforts by the Auxiliary, and soon droves of student and staff volunteers descended upon the space attached to Alex-



ander Hall to make a transformation possible.

The immediate result of this effort is a more beautiful and peaceful space in which SFTS students can study, build relationships, and relax between seminary classes. Holy Grounds boasts new laminate flooring, leather furniture, and fresh paint in new colors. The kitchen has updated cabinets, counters, and appliances. The addition of computer workstations for students, an updated entertainment system, and expanded study space on the second floor makes the facility even more inviting.

“I am grateful to the seminary for the resources that went into renovating Holy Grounds. It is so nice to have a bright, clean, and cheery space to just relax,” said Master of Divinity student Susan Pierson, one of the current Holy Grounds managers along with Jhanderys Dotel. “I love walking in and seeing students watching TV, studying, and spending time together. The space really is a blessing to the SFTS community.”

There has not always been a clear purpose for the space now occupied by Holy Grounds. For many years, it was home to a community bookstore, which succumbed to internet competition in 2005. The resulting empty space seemed likely to stay that way—that is, until the vision for

a donation-based coffee house was born on a van ride over to the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

According to a history written by Audrey Wilkinson, an SFTS alumna and first manager of Holy Grounds, the coffee house was to be “a Christ-centered campus ministry designed to foster a healthy and whole community by providing a place for relationship building and spiritual nurture.” The SFTS community continues to benefit from this vision.

The renovation of this space has welcomed another celebration of community: weekly dinners for the seminary community. St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Marin City, where SFTS M.Div. student Min-Hee Kim currently serves as an intern and elder, sends a donation of fresh produce each week. A recent SFTS graduate organizes the dinner, setting a menu based on the food donated by the church. All that is asked for in return for eating is a small donation and help cleaning up after the feast.

It is hard to imagine that this now vibrant space was once a shuttered bookstore. But it serves as a reminder that changing times often demand new ideas—and maybe a fresh coat of paint.

*Christopher Schilling is a 2013 M.Div. graduate.  
Bentley Stewart is a third-year M.Div. student.  
Rachel Howard is the Director of Communications*



STUDENTS

# What a Difference a Year Makes

Third-year Master of Divinity student Jenna Meyers splits internship year between church and non-profit worlds

By Rachel Howard

For Master of Divinity students at San Francisco Theological Seminary, embarking on a year-long internship at the beginning of their third year of study is a welcome opportunity to apply all they have learned in the classroom to a ministry setting. When students return from their internships, their experiences are integrated into their fourth year of study. Students may choose a variety of settings—from churches to hospitals to nonprofit organizations—in which to grow and learn during this pivotal year.

Jenna Meyers, a third-year M.Div. student from Colorado, knew she wanted to do something unique with her internship experience. While in Colorado, she was accepted into a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program immediately

after graduating from college. Part of her CPE training included an internship as a hospital chaplain, during which Meyers encountered many people at their most vulnerable.

“One day in the hospital, a woman told me she was afraid of her partner and asked me for help, asked me what to do,” Meyers recalls. “And I didn’t know how to help her.” Meyers had similar experiences while working in a parish ministry. She found that she was not alone in feeling ill-equipped to help women who were seeking refuge from an abusive partner.



Jenna Meyers

“I realized that helping women escape abuse was a huge need in hospital and church settings, and that if I was going to be a prepared chaplain or church leader, I needed to do more learning,” she says.

This is what led Meyers to the Center for Domestic Peace ([www.maws.org](http://www.maws.org), formerly Marin Abused Women’s Services), where she devotes half of her internship time to being an advocate primarily for women, young adults, and teens who have been victims of domestic violence. The center provides a variety of services to domestic violence victims: guidance and advocacy through the legal system,

*See Meyers, page 25*

## Facts about Domestic Violence

- ✚ It is the number one violent crime in Marin County.
- ✚ It affects people from all walks of life, regardless of race, age, education, or economic status.
- ✚ People in the 16–24 age group are the most vulnerable to domestic violence.

## Thank You to Our Internship Partners!

SFTS would like to thank the following partners currently training our M.Div. students during their critical internship year:

- ✚ Center for Domestic Peace, San Rafael, California
- ✚ Christ Presbyterian Church, San Rafael, California
- ✚ First Presbyterian Church, San Jose, California
- ✚ Korean Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, California
- ✚ Marin General Hospital, Greenbrae, California
- ✚ North Bay Korean American Presbyterian Church, Petaluma, California
- ✚ North Marin Methodist Parish, Marin County, California
- ✚ Old First Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, California
- ✚ Raynor Park Christian Church, Sunnyvale, California
- ✚ Redwoods Presbyterian Church, Larkspur, California
- ✚ Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, California
- ✚ St Andrew’s Divine Savior, El Paso, Texas
- ✚ St. John’s Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, California
- ✚ The Presbyterian Church in Needham, Massachusetts
- ✚ UCSF Medical Center, San Francisco, California





## GROWING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE GLOBAL CHURCH

# SFTS & Ghana

By Bentley Stewart

In early October, San Francisco Theological Seminary hosted two special guests from the Roman Catholic Spiritan University College (SUC) in Ghana: the Very Rev. Fr. Peter Laast, Provincial Superior of the Province of Ghana, Congregation of the Holy Spirit; and Fr. Anthony Anomah, rector of SUC. Laast led the SFTS community in prayer one morning during his visit, and in reflecting on the Gospel story of Peter getting out of a boat to walk on the water toward Jesus, he challenged Christians everywhere to step out of their comfort zones.

“Our courage or lack of courage is related to the size of our God,” Laast said. “With a small God, we can’t risk and we can’t be generous; the opposite is true with faith in a large God.”

The SFTS and SUC communities have demonstrated their faith in a large

God by boldly stepping into a new relationship to cultivate an ecumenical, international educational partnership across the Atlantic. To begin the journey of stepping out in faith, Laast and Anomah joined SFTS for planning meetings to develop a Clinical Pastoral Education exchange program, which included Rev. Dr. James McDonald, President of SFTS; Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, Dean of the Seminary; and Rev. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina, the seminary’s Shaw Family Chair of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

Beginning in the summer of 2015, three to five SFTS students will accompany Garrett-Cobbina to Ghana, where they will join three to five SUC students as participants in a CPE program. In true partnership, SFTS and SUC are sharing

*See Ghana, page 27*

*“Our courage or lack of courage is related to the size of our God. With a small God, we can’t risk and we can’t be generous; the opposite is true with faith in a large God.”*

— The Very Rev. Fr. Peter Laast

*During the Very Rev. Fr. Peter Laast’s visit to SFTS, Rev. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina and Rev. Scott Clark led the partner congregations in prayer.*



## New Educational Offerings Approved by SFTS Faculty

On Wednesday afternoon, November 13, the San Francisco Theological Seminary faculty approved two new educational offerings: a Certificate in Trauma and Spiritual Care and a Diploma in Executive Leadership. Both offerings represent fulfillment of some of the goals adopted under the Strategic Plan in early 2013. The course schedules for both programs are tailored to accommodate working professionals from all walks of life.

*For more information about these exciting new programs, please visit our website at [www.sfts.edu](http://www.sfts.edu).*

### Certificate in Trauma and Spiritual Care

This graduate-level certificate seeks to build a foundation in trauma recovery that both addresses the basic causes of trauma and helps students apply resources in spirituality to create a holistic understanding of spiritual care for trauma survivors. Its theological orientation is Christian, yet its focus is to prepare those who serve people of

a wide variety of religious expressions, and is tailored for both ordained and lay individuals.

### Diploma in Executive Leadership

A joint program with McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, this diploma will prepare both ordained and lay individuals for leadership in a variety of settings. Students will gain

deeper self-awareness to identify areas for on-going self-work in emotional and spiritual intelligence; broaden theological perspectives and organizational development understandings for the wise practice of leadership; learn the tools necessary for effective organizational communication and collaborative leadership; and build new relationships with colleagues in ministerial leadership.

## Fact or Fiction?

SFTS professors contribute to book on New Testament miracle stories

New Testament (NT) miracle stories occupy an important place in the life of the church. They are the subject of countless sermons, and are frequently referenced in pastoral care and Bible study. Yet inevitably they are greeted with skepticism by Christians today. Are these “miracles” fact or fiction? And is this distinction integral to the text or an invention of modernity?

*Miracles Revisited*, a new book edited by Dr. Annette Weissenrieder, associate professor of New Testament at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and Stefan Alkier, professor of New Testament at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, focuses on the question of reality in NT miracle stories and their reception, from antiquity to current times. The book examines this topic in light of ancient narratives, pilgrimages, medical texts, and visual images, particularly images from the catacombs.

Most of the studies published in the book date back to discussions at a 2011 conference on “Healing Stories and

Concepts of Reality from Antiquity to the Middle Ages” at SFTS. The conference was designed jointly by Weissenrieder and Alkier and made possible through the cooperation of SFTS and the faculty of Protestant theology at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main.

The book addresses how ancient concepts of reality, always complex, came to expression in stories of miraculous healings and their reception in medicine, art, literature, theology, and philosophy, from classical antiquity to current times. Examining healing stories in light of their historical contexts gives plausibility to contemporary interpretations of ancient healings.

The book includes articles written by several SFTS professors: the Rev. Dr. James Noel, “Miracle and Eschatology in Two African American Slave Narratives and the Spirituals”; Dr. Christopher Ocker, “The

Physiology of Spirit in the Reformation”; and Dr. Annette Weissenrieder, “Stories Just Under the Skin: Leprosy in the Gospel of Luke” and “Cultural Translation: The Fig Tree and Politics of Representation Under Nero in Rome.”



To purchase the book, visit the website of the publisher, De Gruyter: [www.degruyter.com](http://www.degruyter.com)

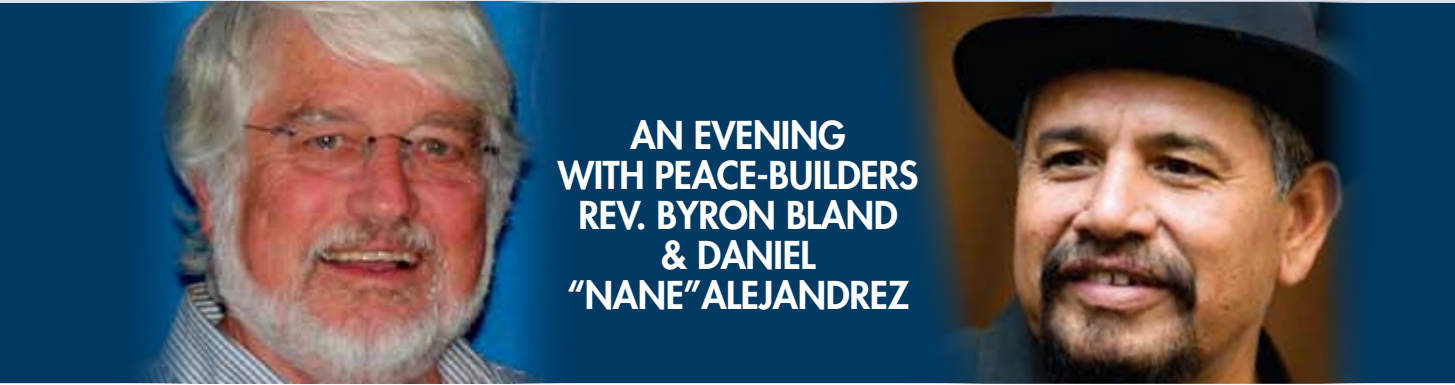


*“To build peace, you have to take people’s interests into account and determine if there are any overlapping interests.”*

— Rev. Byron Bland

*“You can’t mediate with a group of people without showing you care about them.”*

— Daniel “Nane” Alejandrez



AN EVENING  
WITH PEACE-BUILDERS  
REV. BYRON BLAND  
& DANIEL  
“NANE” ALEJANDREZ

## SFTS Helps Find Common Ground in Conflicts Worlds Apart

By Rachel Howard

On a warm evening this past July, more than 60 people packed into San Francisco Theological Seminary’s Scott Hall Lounge for a conversation with two prominent peace-builders: Rev. Byron Bland and Daniel “Nane” Alejandrez. Those in attendance included students from the Latin American School of Theological Studies in El Cerrito (Escuela Latino Americana de Estudios Teologicos - ELET); congregational leaders from the African American community in the Bayview-Hunters Point area of San Francisco; and students in the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry programs at SFTS.

The event, “An Evening with Byron Bland and ‘Nane’ Alejandrez,” was the first of what is hoped to be many Advanced Pastoral Studies Innovation in Ministry events, designed to enhance the educational experience of SFTS D.Min. students. This particu-

lar event supplemented the “Culturally Attentive Conflicts Ministry” seminar, taught by Rev. Dr. Virstan Choy, Associate Professor of Ministry.

“The purpose of the seminar is not to just identify conflict management techniques, but rather to engage students in exploring contextually-attentive and culturally-appropriate approaches to understanding and addressing conflicts, especially those of a cross-cultural nature,” explained Choy.

Bland, a 1974 MA and 1975 M.Div. SFTS graduate and 2013 SFTS Distinguished Alumnus, has been working for the past 20 years to stop religious violence between Protestant and Catholic groups in Northern Ireland. Because of his effective efforts in Belfast, he has also been asked to help with peacemaking efforts between Israel and Palestine. Bland is Senior Consultant for the Stanford University Center for International Conflict and

Negotiation, and was instrumental in the founding of Stanford’s first peace studies program in the 1980s.

Alejandrez is the founder and Executive Director of Barrios Unidos, a nation-wide coalition based in Santa Cruz, California, that works to stop gang violence and promote peace among some of the most impoverished and disenfranchised sectors of society. He is known in the gang and prison community as a trusted advocate and ally for peace building. Alejandrez has been honored by Harry Belafonte and was the subject of an episode of the A&E channel series “Uncommon Americans,” narrated by Bill Bradley, former U.S. Senator from New Jersey.

Both Bland and Alejandrez shared insights from their extensive work in conflict mediation, gang mediation, and advocacy for the incarcerated. In addition to responding to questions raised by attendees, they also

*See Peace, page 27*

# Sabbatical Gives Schellenberg New View of Song of Songs

Research suggests Biblical text was intended to be performed

By Charles Wei

Sitting down for a chat with Dr. Annette Schellenberg, Associate Professor of Old Testament at San Francisco Theological Seminary, I was reminded of the first time I stepped into her office. It was during my first semester at seminary, when I was having a difficult time reconciling what we were learning in the classroom with what I believed. Schellenberg is a demanding professor, but she is pastoral when it comes to the faith concerns of her students. As I began this interview, I saw looking back at me the same open and caring face that welcomed me when I needed help more than four years ago.

Schellenberg, who is currently on sabbatical, talked about her recent trip to Europe, where she gave lectures in Germany and Switzerland. She spent three weeks as a visiting professor at Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen, Germany, at the invitation of Professor Jürgen van Oorschot. In Switzerland, she gave a guest lecture at Zurich University, her alma mater.

Schellenberg's lectures dealt with the Old Testament book the Song of Songs, the subject of a commentary she

began writing last summer for the series *Illuminations*. Schellenberg explained that one of her lectures, "Senses and Sensuality in the Song of Songs," deals with "how the different senses— hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, touching—are used or described in the Song of Songs and how these descriptions contribute to the erotic nature of the text," she said. "These descriptions of sense perception are interesting for Old Testament anthropology because they give us clues to the ideas that the ancient Israelites might have had about what it means to be a human being. Old Testament scholarship hasn't paid a lot of attention to this topic yet."



**Dr. Annette Schellenberg**

Schellenberg participated in three conferences in Erlangen. At a conference on bodies and boundaries, organized by Friedrich-Alexander University's Anthropology of Religions department, Schellenberg lectured on "Boundary Crossings In and Through the Song of Songs." In this lecture, she posed the theory that the Song of Songs may have been a performed text. "It may have enabled ancient Israelites to explore freedoms they otherwise would not have had," she said. "The Song of Songs speaks so openly about sexuality and premarital sexuality, which doesn't conform with ancient Israelite norms."

*See Song of Songs, page 26*



# Restoring Relationships with Native Americans

By Rachel Howard

If you ask a certain San Francisco Theological Seminary professor a question that piques her curiosity, she just might dedicate some coursework and a sabbatical to come up with an answer. At least that's what inspired Dr. Carol Robb to start her research on the topic of land rights for Native Americans.

"Four years ago, in the process of discussing a book about distributive justice, a student asked how this theory of justice surrounding land rights could be applied to the Native American peoples," explained Robb, the SFTS Margaret Dollar Professor of Christian Social Ethics. "For Native Americans, land is a part of the community and important for their identities. For many if not most Anglos, land is a commodity."

Shortly after this question was raised, Robb made a deal with PhD student Chaitanya Motupalli, who had expressed interest in studying the land rights of the Dalit people, the lowest members of the caste system of India. If Motupalli would study the Dalit's struggles for land rights, Robb would study the issue of Native American land rights. Not only did both keep their word, they ended up teaching a course together in environmental ethics with a focus on indigenous land rights. This was made possible through Motupalli's receipt of the Newhall Fellowship, a competitive award for doctoral students at the Graduate Theological Union. The fellowship allows students to engage in collaborative research or teaching with a faculty member.

Robb's interest in studying Native American land rights ultimately blossomed into a much broader study: how to restore relationships between Native Americans and Anglos in the United States despite the history of government attempts to erase Native American cultures.



"What does a nation think about itself when it knows that it has stolen land from the people who were there before they got there?" asks Robb. "What kind of restored relationship could we even imagine with Native Americans given this history?"

This is exactly what Robb is hoping to study during her sabbatical, which will begin in early January. She has already conducted research while visiting her home state of Kansas, which in the past was home to the Osage, a Native American tribe. She is also gingerly reaching out to the Marin Native American Alliance, realizing that building a relationship with the Alliance will take time, given the history of broken treaties between the United States and Native Americans.

However, Robb is not deterred by these historical barriers because confronting them is simply part of the restoration process. "Before you can restore a relationship, you must first remember the history. The next steps are to repent, to make a genuine effort to repair, and finally, to restore the relationship."

*Rachel Howard is the Director of Communications.*

## FACULTY UPDATES



**Rev. Dr. Jana Childers**

traveled to Southern California this fall to partici-

partate in the Western Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation review of a sister institution. She later went to Charlotte, North Carolina, to represent SFTS President Rev. Dr. James McDonald at a meeting of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Committee on Theological Education. She participated in the inauguration of the new president of Fuller Theological Seminary and in the installation of Dr. Jennifer Lord as a full professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Childers made her third trip to Canada this year, where she delivered a keynote address at this summer's worship festival in Saskatchewan, did a brief teaching stint at Vancouver School of Theology, and preached and lectured at the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship in Toronto. She made a return trip to San Diego as well, offering Taiwanese pastors from the Chinese Church Pastors' Fellowship a continuing education course in preaching for the second time this year. In January, Childers will go to Florida to speak at Stetson University's Winter Pastors' School.

# FACULTY UPDATES



**Dr. Christopher Ocker** did archival research this summer in Lyons, France, and Munich, Germany, for a book on the early Reformation, tentatively titled *In the Matter of Martin Luther*.

Ocker has been invited to join the editorial board of the *Journal of the Bible and Its Reception*, which is dedicated to scholarship on the history of biblical interpretation in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

His article “Typology” has been published in the *Oxford Guide to the Historical Reception of Augustine*, edited by Karla Pollmann (Oxford University Press, 2013), and his article “The Physiology of Spirit in the Reformation: Medical Consensus and Protestant Theologians” has been published in *Miracle Stories Revisited*, edited by our own Dr. Annette Weissenrieder, with Stefan Alkier (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013, pages 115–156). (Please see “Fact or Fiction” on page 12).

In April, he moderated the session “Emperors and Fathers” at a conference on “The New Patristics” at the University of California at Berkeley. He was also a respondent to Deena Aranoff’s paper “Conversas and Continuity” at a conference on “Varieties of Medieval Jewish Literature” at the Graduate Theological Union. Also in April, he taught a four-class series at Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland on “The Reformed Tradition in an Interfaith World,” and he addressed the Renaissance Breakfast Club, organized by Mark Rubinstein, a professor at the University of California’s Haas School of Business. The topic was “Models of Secularization.”

In October, Ocker taught a four-course series on “The Reformed Tradition in an Interfaith Age: Presbyterians and Other Protestants in a World of Religious Change” at Montclair Presbyterian Church to complement the series he offered there in April. In

November, he taught a four-course series called “See, Pray, Read, and Live Like a Mystic” at First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael, California.

In the current semester, Ocker has been teaching an online course, History 1. He will be offering the online section of the Muilenburg-Koenig History of Religion Seminar in the 2014 spring semester (please see next page).



**Rev. Dr. Eugene Eung-Chun Park** wrote exegetical articles on Matthew 26:57–68 and Matthew 26:69–75 in *Feasting on the Gospels: Matthew, Vol. 2* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2013), edited by Cynthia Jarvis and Elizabeth Johnson. Park presented a paper, “The Cynic Itinerant Philosophers and the Galilean Wandering Missionaries,” at the 68th annual conference of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas (SNTS) in Perth, Australia, in July. He gave a series of lectures on “The Quest for the Historical Jesus” at First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame, California, in October and November. Park also preached at Sungan Presbyterian Church in Kwangju, Korea, in July and at the Korean Presbyterian Church of San Rafael, California, in August.



**Dr. Carol Robb** participated in the Social Ethics Network (SEN) annual meeting in September. SEN links professors of ethics at

Presbyterian-related colleges and seminaries to advise and consult with the PC(USA)’s Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy. In her presentation at the meeting, Robb reviewed current public opinion on climate change. Her findings were similar to the results of a May 2009 Presbyterian Panel survey on the envi-

ronment. Robb found that Presbyterians and other religious people tend to understand responsibility for the environment as a matter of stewardship, and in this sense a matter appropriate for Christian theology and worship. A smaller proportion of people see climate change as a matter relevant to spirituality. Robb’s research points to a need for leaders of worshiping communities to be more proactive in connecting climate change to spiritual life.



**Dr. Annette Schellenberg** gave a Bible study at First Presbyterian Church in Oakland, California, and wrote a commentary on the

book of Ecclesiastes for the German series Zurich Bible Commentaries, due for release in November. Schellenberg spent three weeks in September with the theological department of the University of Erlangen, Germany, where she gave two lectures on the Song of Songs: “Senses and Sensuality in the Song of Songs” and “Bodies, Boundaries, and Boundary Crossings in the Song of Songs.” She also participated in three conferences and gave a lecture on Adam and Eve. Later that month, Schellenberg presented a lecture on the Song of Songs to the theological faculty of the University of Zurich, Switzerland. (Please see full story on page 14).



**Dr. Scott Sullender**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Counseling, received a Distinguished Contribution Award from the

Pacific Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors at its annual meeting in Berkeley in October. This award recognized Sullender for nearly 40 years of service to the association and for his contributions to the ministry of pastoral counseling.





# SPRING 2014 ONLINE COURSES

In line with San Francisco Theological Seminary's strategic planning goal to leverage technology to make classes accessible to even more students, the following classes will be available online this spring.

**OPEN TO:** SFTS and GTU students, and the public.  
**CREDIT:** The classes may either be audited or taken for credit.  
**ENROLL:** [www.sfts.edu](http://www.sfts.edu)

## The Muilenburg-Koenig History of Religion Seminar

**Taught by Dr. Christopher Ocker**  
*Professor of Church History*

This seminar, which is being offered online for the first time in its five-year history, investigates a theme from various historical periods from the perspectives of the many disciplines relevant to theological study. The theme for the spring semester is "spirit." The course will involve a broad, cross-disciplinary study of spirit—divine, human, and everything in between—from a variety of cultural, historical, and theological perspectives. Included is a required two-day workshop on the SFTS campus that will bring 10-20 scholars from around the world to share their research on spirit.

## Gospels: In-carnation into the World

**Taught by Dr. Annette Weissenrieder**  
*Associate Professor of New Testament*

The Gospels emerged in the complex political and social context of the Roman Empire. This course examines the Gospels and contemporaneous texts within their first-century Greco-Roman contexts (especially Jewish contexts), pays attention to archaeological and inscriptional materials of the time, and demonstrates contemporary hermeneutical strategies, including feminist and postcolonial strategies. Students will also consider the controversial contemporary contexts in which they and others interpret the New Testament.



**Dr. Annette Weissenrieder** was invited by the Archaeological Team of the Universities of Halle and Bonn, Germany, to work on

building inscriptions found at the Apollo Temple in Didyma. Weissenrieder's work this past July primarily focused on the building inscriptions

and the so-called "labyrinth" in a part of the sanctuary closed to the public.

Weissenrieder participated in several conferences on anthropology at the University of Freiburg, Germany, and presented papers in England on "The Body Matters!" and "New Testament Theology after Holocaust." She also presented two papers at the University of South Africa, Pretoria. In October, she was invited to the Hengstberger Prizesholder meeting at

the International Research Institute in Heidelberg, Germany.

Weissenrieder will participate in a workshop in January on "Embodiment as Paradigm of Theological Anthropology." She is working with Professor Dr. Gregor Etzelmüller and Professor Emeritus Dr. Michael Welker of the University of Heidelberg in cooperation with the Marselius Institute to organize the workshop.

# Greetings Alumni!

By now, I hope that many of you have heard from me as the new Director of Alumni & Church Relations. It has been a pleasure receiving your updates, some of which will appear in the coming pages. In fact, we heard from so many of you that we can't fit all of your updates in this issue! I assure you that if you don't see your updates here today, you will see them in a future issue of *Chimes*.

Now, I would like to tell you more about the Alumni & Church Relations Office, which is part of Advancement & External Relations. Over the past few months, we at San Francisco Theological Seminary have been developing a strategic plan for Alumni Relations in order to better serve you. Some important points of that plan includes:

- ✦ Creating alumni chapters and affinity groups that will not only serve you, the alumni, but also SFTS and the wider community;
- ✦ Creating an alumni website so that all of you will be able to access job postings, webinars, online courses, and continuing education resources;
- ✦ Hosting alumni-related events at SFTS and in other regional areas; and
- ✦ Providing the opportunity for you to share your thoughts and opinions via an Alumni Survey. You should expect to receive, or may even have already received, this survey asking for your thoughts and ideas on some of the seminary's new endeavors.

I invite all of you to contact me by phone at 415.451.2835 or by e-mail at [fmcclellan@sfts.edu](mailto:fmcclellan@sfts.edu). As a fellow alumna, I look forward to working with all of you in the time to come.



**Many Blessings,  
Faith McClellan**  
*Director of  
Alumni & Church  
Relations*



# HOPE

## in San Francisco's Tenderloin

By Rachel Howard

The first thing you may notice about Rev. Glenda Hope, a Master of Divinity graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary, is her size. The 77-year-old minister with a shock of white hair stands barely five feet tall. But while Hope's height may be what people notice first, it is her other qualities that leave a lasting impression—qualities such as power, wit, compassion, sense of humor, determination, conviction, and intelligence.

Hope has spent the last 41 years serving the people of San Francisco's Tenderloin district, one of the most impoverished communities in Northern California. After she and her husband Charles graduated from SFTS in 1969, they founded a variety of ministries in San Francisco known collectively as the San Francisco Network Ministries. These include SafeHouse, a place of rehabilitation for women seeking to escape prostitution, and Tenderloin Technology Lab, a center for computer training. Hope also began leading funerals for impoverished and homeless people who otherwise would not be granted the dignity of a memorial service.

Hope retired this October, four decades after the ministries began. Following a career that included recognition by the Dalai Lama as an Unsung Hero of Compassion, accolades from recently retired U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, and an honorary degree from the University of San Francisco, her decision to retire did not go unnoticed.

In September, Hope's work was celebrated at an event in San Francisco's Patron Hall of St. Mary's Cathedral that raised more



than \$160,000 for SafeHouse. With almost 1,000 people in attendance, there was standing room only for most of the evening.

Hope's trademark intelligence and wit came through in her opening remarks about the occasion: "The first thing I noticed tonight was the wonderful job everyone did in putting this together," she said. "The second thing I noticed was that I couldn't see over the microphone." The room erupted with laughter. But it didn't take long for her to segue to a more serious topic: her decision so many years ago to begin serving the Tenderloin.

"When people ask me, 'Why have you done all these things?' I tell them it's because I know God loves me," she said. "It's that conviction that has been the source of Network Ministries. 'Love' is an active verb—it empowers us and frees us to take the action to stop violence and promote healing in this beautiful population."

Hope offered a wealth of advice about how best to serve those in need. "These people [in the Tenderloin] don't need to be saved; they need compassion, kindness, someone to listen," she said. "But we need to get outside of the building—we need to go to where there are people who need to know that God loves them."

Even in her newfound retirement, Hope plans to remain actively involved with SafeHouse, continue her participation in the Older Women's League, and lead Community Giving Campaigns.

To close the evening, she left listeners with a final charge: "Continue what you are doing: proclaiming God's relentless love in word and in deed, stopping violence, and creating peace."

*Rachel Howard is the Director of Communications.*



Hope has spent the last 41 years serving the people of San Francisco's Tenderloin district, one of the most impoverished communities in Northern California.

## A CHURCH REVITALIZED

# SFTS Alumnus Brings Thriving Congregation to Once Diminishing Church

By Rachel Howard

When Rev. Dr. Ken Shigematsu accepted a call to be pastor of Tenth Avenue Church of Vancouver in 1996, he knew he was in for a challenge. The congregation, which was very different from him in both age and culture, had cycled through 20 pastors in 20 years and had shrunk from more than a thousand to a few hundred members.

Today, 17 years later, the church has re-emerged as a vibrant, multi-ethnic church with more than 2,000 members. The congregation gained national attention earlier this year when Canada's government awarded Shigematsu the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal for the work he and his church are doing to help the homeless and to combat sex trafficking.

The transformation of Tenth Avenue Church was not easy, nor was his call to serve there. After five days of fasting and prayer, Shigematsu felt called to apply for the position of pastor. Eight months later, he was invited to join Tenth Avenue as its head of staff.

During Shigematsu's first weeks at the church, he faced opposition from some congregants because of his age, race, and lack of experience, even as he shouldered the burden of pulling the church out of its precipitous decline. A mentor helped Shigematsu brave these challenges and find a vision for the church's future, offering these encouraging words: "Remember that God is an artist; he will not lead you to copy anyone else. Seek God for his unique vision

for this place."

Shigematsu took these words to heart. Through prayer, he felt God's call again,

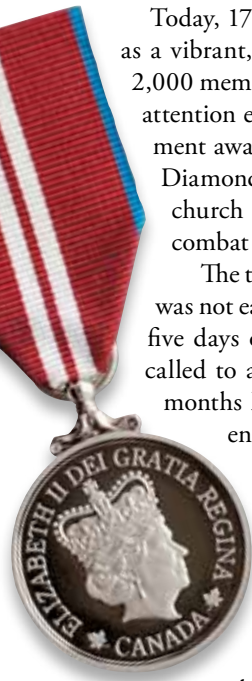


*Rev. Dr. Ken Shigematsu, a 2008 DASD and 2013 D.Min. graduate of SFTS.*

this time for Tenth Avenue Church to be a place of welcome for all. "As we sought to welcome all people, we saw a whole stream of people from different backgrounds coming to Tenth—university students, internationals, people of different ethnic backgrounds, professionals, athletes, the urban poor, the homeless, and even sex trade workers."

But he was at a loss as to how to help the most disadvantaged of these new members—that is, until he en-

***See Shigematsu, page 28***



*Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal*

*Tenth Avenue Church of Vancouver*



Photos by Ray Shum



# ALUMNI UPDATES

**1959 (M.Div.), 1975 (D.Min.)**

**Rev. Dr. Garner Odell** spent the last 20 years serving as an Intentional Interim Pastor in cities throughout California, which include Porterville, Orange Cove, Pasadena, Palmdale, Lemoore, and Fresno. He also intermittently served as a Protestant Chaplain for two cruise companies, during which time he traveled over one million sea miles and visited 176 different countries. He also earned a Master of Arts from the Pacific School of Religion and a Doctor of Divinity from Lindewood University in addition to the two degrees he earned at SFTS. He is now a retired member of the First Congregational Church (UCC) of Fresno, California, and has published two novels with two more on the way. He and his wife, Grace, have five children, seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

**1981 (M.Div.)**

**Rev. David C. Emery** completed his service as chaplain with Bridge Disability Ministries in Bellevue,

Washington, December 31, 2012, and is currently looking for a new ministry. He has been volunteering with the National Alliance on Mental Illness, South King County, as their treasurer and Family-to-Family educator.

**1981 (M.Div.)**

**Rev. Joyce M. Emery** served as Presbyterian of the Synod of Alaska Northwest through December 31, 2012, before serving as an interim pastor for five months at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Chehalis, Washington. Currently, she is the Senior Charge Pastor at Salmon Creek United Methodist Church in Vancouver, Washington. She earned a D.Min. from Princeton Theological Seminary in May 2010.

**1981 (M.Div.)**

**Rev. Rebecca Hazen (formerly Rebecca Steen)** has spent more than 24 years in parish ministry,

serving seven churches: two regular calls and five interims, most in Cascades Presbytery. In every church she served, she was the first woman to serve in that particular role. Hazen retired eight years ago but is still involved with Westminster Presbyterian Church in Eugene, Oregon, where she sings in the choir, plays hand-bells, and moderates the session.

**1982 (M.Div.), 1996 (DASD)**

**Rev. E. Lorraine Stuart** was ordained October 2, 1982, as Associate Chaplain at Whitworth University. Following her marriage in May 1984, she moved to Bend, Oregon, where she has served in First Presbyterian Church as Parish Associate, Interim Associate, and Spiritual Director. Now retired from active ministry, Stuart continues to be involved in the areas of spiritual formation

*Continued on page 23*

## Banding Together in Bend, Oregon

They could open their own SFTS alumni chapter! How do eight graduates of San Francisco Theological Seminary end up in one church? Bend, Oregon has become a retirement Mecca and seven SFTS graduates are now affiliated with Bend's First Presbyterian Church. Even the Associate Pastor is an SFTS alumna: Jenny Warner, SFTS M.Div. class of 2010. Is there any church in the country with more than eight graduates? Let us hear from you at [alumni@sfts.edu](mailto:alumni@sfts.edu).



*Pictured from left to right, front row: Bill Dittler, 1960 M.Div.; Don Krug, 1954 M.Div., 1955 STM, 1963 ThD; Brad Kent, 1966 M.Div., 1996 CSF; back row: Lorraine Stuart, 1982 M.Div., 1996 ASD; Jenny Warner, 2010 M.Div.; Jay Dee Conrad, 1963 M.Div., 1977 D.Min.; Barry Heath, 1971 M.Div. (Not pictured: John Smart, 1956 M.Div.)*

ALUMNI



# PASTORAL TOOLBOX

## Alumni spoke, and we listened!

Welcome to the newest section of Chimes. In response to requests from alumni for resources that apply in both traditional and non-traditional church settings, we created a place where pastors and nonprofit professionals alike will find tips, tricks, and advice from experts in a variety of fields. In this and the coming issues, stay tuned for advice on everything from how to enhance relationships with your congregants through the use of social media, to how to successfully transition a traditionally one-on-one practice to a congregational setting. You will find the latter from San Francisco Theological Seminary Alumnus Francis Geddes in the article below.

Help us help your fellow alumni! Share your expertise with us for a future issue of Chimes by sending an email to [alumni@sfts.edu](mailto:alumni@sfts.edu).

## Healing Congregations

Recovering Jesus' emphasis on healing could transform the church, says Francis Geddes

By Eva Stimson

**H**ealing is not a hot topic in mainline churches today. But it should be, says Francis Geddes (D.Min., 1962), author of *Contemplative Healing: The Congregation as Healing Community* (iUniverse, 2011).

"What I'm trying to do is recover a ministry that was a very significant part of the Church for its first 200 years," says Geddes, a 90-year-old minister in the United Church of Christ who lives in Santa Rosa, California. "Followers of Jesus practiced healing as a continuation of the ministry he demonstrated."

Geddes says that writing his dissertation on the topic of healing while at San Francisco Theological Seminary gave him "a good intellectual grounding for what later became my book."

To bolster his case, Geddes maintains that 60 percent of the content of the Synoptic Gospels has to do with healing. He defines healing as "the recovery of wholeness," adding that "healing has to do not just with physical illness but with emotional burdens as well."

Geddes believes healing is not just a one-on-one activity. "My assumption is that the congregation is a healing instrument of God," he says. "Everyone in the congregation is a latent healer; they just don't realize it."

*Eva Stimson is a freelance writer and editor.*

How can pastors help their congregations become healing communities? Geddes offers a number of suggestions:

1

### Read about the ministry of healing.

Besides the many passages on healing in the Gospels, Geddes recommends three books:

- *Stretch Out Your Hand: Exploring Healing Prayer*, by Tilda Norberg and Robert D. Webber
- *Psychology, Medicine, and Christian Healing*, by Morton T. Kelsey
- *Healing Words: The Power of Prayer and the Practice of Medicine*, by Larry Dossey, M.D.

2

### Teach church members about healing by preaching about it and leading study groups.

Geddes, whose mother was a medical doctor as well as an active church member, believes healing prayer and medical science can work together to promote wholeness. But today's culture is steeped in a scientific worldview that leaves no room for divine activity.

Some may also believe that Jesus calls only certain gifted individuals to engage in healing ministry. On the contrary, says Geddes. "Jesus picked out a group of fishermen and taught them healing," he says. "It's a matter of training and practice."

3

### Visit healing services offered by other congregations.

Episcopal and Lutheran churches tend to be the most involved in healing ministry, Geddes says.



4

**Plan a healing service using the liturgy in the Book of Common Prayer,** which also

includes instructions about the New Testament practice of anointing with oil. Or incorporate healing prayer into Sunday worship. Once a month, people in Geddes' congregation are invited to meet with him in a chapel next to the sanctuary during worship for prayer and anointing with oil for healing.

5

**Invite church members who feel called to healing ministry to meet regularly for prayer.** Geddes describes how a small group of people in a Lutheran church in California began meeting regularly to pray for healing for themselves and others.

Before long, says Geddes, "healing spread out into a variety of ministries," including pastoral care, hospital visitation—even resolution of conflicts. The pastor began calling on members of the healing group to lead dialogue around contentious issues.

Each Sunday, a member of the healing group sits in the back of the sanctuary and prays throughout the worship service for the church's healing. "Becoming a healing congregation," says Geddes, "has made the church a praying congregation as well."

and spiritual direction. She has taken Reiki training, levels 1 and 2, and is part of a team related to the deacons that offers Reiki to the congregation on a regular basis. Stuart serves as facilitator for a centering prayer group and as a presenter of centering prayer with the Contemplative Outreach network. Stuart and her husband, David, have traveled extensively, and they spent a number of years teaching conversational English in Nanjing and Changchun, China, and in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

**1987 (M.Div.)**

**Dr. Steve Johnson** was recently promoted to Professor of Religion at Lycoming College, a small Methodist-affiliated liberal arts college in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He has been teaching New Testament, Greek, and Hellenistic-Roman culture and singing in the bass section of his wife's Methodist choirs for 14 years. One of Johnson's most recent publications was a revision of *New Testament Greek: A Beginning-Intermediate Grammar, Revised Edition*, a Greek grammar that San Francisco Theological Seminary professor Polly Coote uses in her Greek classes. (The first edition, by James Hewett, was revised by Mike Robbins and Steve Johnson.) Johnson has also served as Department Chair for most of the past 10 years.

**1987 (STD)**

**Dr. Bruce Campbell Moyer** was Professor of World Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, part of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, until retiring in 2004. Moyer has continued to be active, traveling and working among Muslims in Asia and Africa. He currently mentors doctoral students at Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, speaks at various functions, and has started a chess club at the local high school.

**1987 (D.Min.)**

**Rev. John "Richard" Randerson** has helped lead the Anglican Church in New Zealand in matters of social justice, public ethics, and contemporary theology. Randerson has served the Anglican Church as Social Justice Commissioner, Assistant Bishop in Canberra, and Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland. He has written two books: *A Word in Season*, a compilation of sermons and public media articles; and *Engagement 21*, a theology of the Church in mission with on-the-ground project outlines. Now retired in Wellington, he is writing a memoir on changes in church and society over the past 50 years. Randerson was honored in 2003 as a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

**1988 (M.Div.)**

**Rev. Georgiana "Jan" Williams** served her first pastorate in North Lincoln Westminster Parish in Lincoln County, Missouri. She later moved to Gerald, Missouri, where she served Boeuff Presbyterian Church until the end of 1997, when she

*Continued on page 24*

# ALUMNI UPDATES

accepted the Associate Pastor position at First Presbyterian Church of Edwardsville, Illinois. A few years later, she moved to Huntington, West Virginia, to serve Spring Valley Presbyterian Church. Williams completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in the Pastoral Care Residency at Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia. She has served as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Ironton, Ohio, since May 2007. Williams serves on the boards of Hospice of Huntington in Ohio and Faith in Action of the River Cities. She is Chaplain of Church Women United in Ironton and visits the Federal Correctional Institution in Ashland, Kentucky, once a month. Williams has been part of Gateway Paseo con Cristo, the Cursillo Community in St. Louis, since 1991.

## 1992 (D.Min.)

**Rev. Paul Lundborg** retired July 1, 2006, as Senior Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Olympia, Washington. Lundborg recently published *Death of a Dream*, the story of his Swedish ancestors killed in Minnesota's 1862 United States/Dakota War.

## 1994 (D.Min.)

**Rev. Kizzie Jones, BCC** is an ordained United Church of Christ minister and works as Director of Spiritual Care at Horizon House Retirement Community in Seattle, Washington. Jones published her first children's book, *How Dachshunds Came to Be: A Tall Tale About a Short Long Dog*, in October 2012. The book received four national awards and is a first-place winner (Fiction: Tall Tale category) in the Readers' Favorite international competition. She has also been published in *Chaplaincy Today*, *Primetime Northwest*, and *CHHSM Diakone*.

She was a 2005 Edmonds Write on the Sound first-place winner for a non-fiction work, "Waters of Compassion."

## 1996 (M.Div.)

**Rev. Marilyn Allen** retired June 1, 2013 as Pastor of Plymouth Presbyterian Church in St. Helens, Oregon, after serving there for 17 years. Allen entered the ministry late in life, after two previous careers, and Plymouth was her only pastorate. She continues to be active in the Presbytery of the Cascades. She is enjoying spending time with her new grandson in Salem, Oregon, and occasionally with his three-year-old brother, and she looks forward to some road trips next year.

## 1998 (M.Div.)

**Rev. Dr. Cornelia Cyss Crocker (formerly Cornelia Cyss Wittenstein)** was ordained in April 2002 and went on to complete her PhD in New Testament Biblical Studies at the Graduate Theological Union later that year. She became Coordinator of Older Adult Ministries at First Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo in 1999 and became Interim Associate Pastor of Community Presbyterian Church in Vallejo, California, in 2004. From 2002 to 2005, Crocker taught courses in New Testament, Greek, Hebrew, and Spirituality at SFTS, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology. Since 2006, she has been pastor of Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church and Tomales Presbyterian Church. Located near Petaluma, California, the two congregations just celebrated 60 years of being yoked in ministry and service.

## 2002 (M.Div.)

**Rev. Stephen Eunsang Moon** received a D.Min. May 18, 2013 from

the American Baptist Seminary of the West. His dissertation was titled "SPR Reading of Luke-Acts: Transformational Stewardship Study for Local Churches" and is available from Amazon.com. Moon is working as a next-generation church planter in the Sacramento Presbytery.

## 2004 (M.Div.)

**Rev. Ashton "Skip" Roberts, BCC** completed two years of Clinical Pastoral Education at Portland (Oregon) Veterans Affairs Hospital under Rev. Dr. Horace Duke. He was ordained to the ministry February 2007 at First Presbyterian Church in Newport, Oregon, and is currently employed as Staff Chaplain at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center in Portland. He has been married to Tina Roberts for 26 years, and they have five children and 16 grandchildren.

## 2010 (M.Div.)

**Rev. Beverly Franco** began seminary at the age of 50. Franco graduated from the SFTS Southern California campus, receiving the Surjit Singh Essay Award. She was certified ready for a call in June 2010. When she was diagnosed with breast cancer a few months later, Franco's career plans were put on hold for a year. After several surgeries, she is now cancer free. In August 2012, she completed three units of CPE with Vitas Hospice in San Diego to supplement the unit she had completed while in seminary. Vitas assigned her to Casa de Mañana, a retirement community in La Jolla, California. She was called to be Casa de Mañana's first Chaplain in September. Franco was ordained in November 2012 at First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside, where she occasionally volunteers her time to teach and preach at First Presbyterian Church of Oceanside.



# Big Tent

*From page 2*

In a panel discussion hosted by the Seminary Support Network, which raises funds for PC(USA) seminaries through the Theological Education Fund, SFTS senior Rochelle Rawls-Shaw shared thoughts on theological education from her perspective as a student. Rochelle spoke of her experience on the SFTS campus, her time interning with the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, and her substantial involvement as an SFTS student representative at denominational gatherings.

Both Rawls-Shaw and third-year M.Div. student Tad Hopp attended a workshop offered by the Presbyterian Hunger Program as part of the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Conference at Big Tent. Shaw cited the workshop as a resource that strengthened her call to pursue social justice.

“The workshop confirmed what I discerned my call to be—which is to advocate for justice and human rights for people who do not get proper food or nutrition because of corporate greed and injustice,” Rawls-Shaw explained.

Hopp said the workshop opened his eyes to the many complex issues surrounding hunger. “I ended up learning just how complex the issue of food justice is, and how much it is tied



*Rochelle Rawls-Shaw, Cameron Highsmith, Rev. Elizabeth McCord, Jeffery Ferguson, and Rev. Scott Clark.*

with issues of race, class, gender, sexual orientation and economic status.”

Rawls-Shaw also attended the National Black Presbyterian Caucus dinner. She says the dinner gave her “the opportunity to get reacquainted with many of my African American friends as well as meet new friends. I met a lot of SFTS alumni there, and they shared with me their ministry experiences after graduation.”

Third-year M.Div. student Jeffery Ferguson attended the Evangelism and Church Growth Conference, which focused on the PC(USA)’s 1001 Worshiping Communities ini-

tiative. Because of this experience, he has new ties to the Presbyterian Mission Agency and will be starting a new worshipping community in Boston next February.

Big Tent provided a rich opportunity for members of the SFTS community to reconnect with old friends, build new relationships, and learn from experts in a variety of fields. Those who attended say they can’t wait to see what the General Assembly will bring in 2014.

*Scott Clark is the Associate Dean of Student Life and Chaplain; Elizabeth McCord is the Associate Dean for Vocations; Rachel Howard is the Director of Communications.*

# Meyers

*From page 10*

counselors for one-on-one and group therapy sessions, shelter for women whose lives are in imminent danger, and transitional housing. It also offers programs for perpetrators—men, women, and youth—who want to stop their abuse.

As part of her work, Meyers has spent 112 hours answering calls on the center’s 24-hour hotline, when she frequently finds herself depending on

the chaplaincy training she received while in Colorado.

“On these calls, I have to really hear the person I am talking to: listen to where they are, validate what they are saying, and offer them a place to come back to who they are,” she says. “And this is the work of ministry—whether you are in a hospital or in a parish, it’s to help people be who they really are.”

Meyers is completing the other half of her internship at Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church in San Francisco to gain more experience in parish

work. There, she has the opportunity to preach once a month, lead the Women’s Spirituality Group, co-lead retreats, participate in leading weekly liturgies, and conduct Taizé services.

“I’m both a learner and a teacher, offering a fresh perspective for the congregation,” she says. “I’m granted a certain amount of authority and also treated very graciously, because the people surrounding me know that I’m learning.” Meyers is grateful for her internship experiences and for being in this unique place in her life.

*Rachel Howard is the Director of Communications.*

# Swimming

*From page 8*

“I have always found a connection to Spirit through nature. And that’s really what it is – when you’re out there, you’re with the elements and you’re with other creatures, with Creation. I’ve even had seals swim between my legs...and for me, the more physical something is, the more spiritual it becomes.”

Drake is a third-year Master of Divinity student at San Francisco Theological Seminary, currently completing his internship as a Chaplain Resident Intern at the University of California at San Francisco Medical Center. Drake also holds a Master’s degree in Conflict Resolution, and volunteers at San Quentin Prison in the Restorative Justice program. After graduating from SFTS, Drake hopes to become a hospital chaplain.

“I want to be there for people during the most critical and challenging times in their lives,” Drake explained.

In addition to studying at SFTS, he is also a member of the San Francisco Dolphin Club, a public-access athletic club with more than 1100 members who swim and row classic wooden boats on the Bay waters. It’s through this membership that he found out about a fundraiser called “Swim for the Bay,” which benefits the nonprofit San Francisco Baykeeper. Baykeeper is the only pollution watchdog in the San Francisco Bay Area that keeps a boat on the Bay to monitor pollution levels.

On October 20, low visibility kept him and his teammates from making the swim. As Drake described it, “Remember the beginning of Jack London’s *Sea Wolf*? That’s what today was like on the bay — pea soup fog and zero visibility.” To keep swimmers safe, the Coast Guard and BayKeeper decided to boat the swimmers towards Emeryville until visibility improved, which didn’t happen until they were about 100 yards from shore. But this is just the nature of the unpredictable Bay.

Swimmers did relish in the ability to swim the cold waters, even though it was for less time than they had wanted. Drake and his team were still wildly successful at fundraising: individually, Drake raised \$1,600, his team raised \$7,000, and the whole event brought in \$25,000 for BayKeeper.

Drake fondly recalls his experience as a support person in the relay last year, which happened to take place right before a Biblical Greek exam at SFTS. Throughout the day, in between helping relay swimmers in and out of the water, he shuffled his flash cards, memorizing Greek vocabulary. “It was such a beautiful experience, just being there for the team, and I knew I had to swim it myself,” Drake recalled.

Through all of these experiences, the Bay has come to have special meaning to Drake. “I just really love this Bay. It’s beautiful. It’s magnificent. And when you swim in it, you’re immersed in it, you really come to love it — it represents life and it becomes a part of you.”

*Rachel Howard is the Director of Communications.*

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# Song of Songs

*From page 14*

With the exception of the first line, there is no narrator in the Song of Songs—something that is not true of most other books in the Bible. “All of the text is spoken by the characters in the text,” Schellenberg explains. “It’s often not clear who is speaking, but if the text is being performed, it becomes clear, because you see whether it is the woman or the man who is speaking, or somebody else.” Schellenberg notes that the Song of Songs resembles similar texts from ancient Egypt that are regarded as love songs meant to be performed.

Schellenberg suspects that the Song of Songs might have been performed during festivals, because “at festivals you had more freedom. A festival is something that is different from daily life.” She speculates that the performance might have been interactive, with riddles for the audience or portions that involved call and response. Reading the Hebrew text takes about half an hour, she says, but it is hard to say with certainty how long a performance might have been, given all the variables involved and the fact that the text was most likely sung.

Schellenberg also believes that the text was very much in flux, and that the performances may have been different from time to time. The version we have now is a snapshot, frozen in time, of what was once a living oral

tradition. Documents from Qumran, an ancient archaeological site in Israel, contain a shorter version of the Song of Songs, which seems to confirm that the text did indeed change over time.

With a wistful look on her face, Schellenberg continues, “As much as I love teaching, and also really miss it a bit right now, I have gained so much from being on sabbatical. Sabbaticals are extremely important because they provide professors the time they need to conduct serious research and to exchange thoughts and ideas with other scholars.” Schellenberg’s research will allow her to bring a new perspective to the classroom when she returns to teach in spring 2015.

*Charles Wei is a 2013 M.Div. graduate of SFTS.*



# Ghana

*From page 11*

the cost of providing this transformative educational experience to their students. Garrett-Cobbina is applying for grants to support project expenses, including student travel costs, an adjunct teaching assistant, and CPE program fees. She plans to travel to Ghana in 2014 to interview SUC students to be participant-learners in the initial CPE unit.

SFTS will serve as host for the next phase of the partnership, perhaps as early as 2016, when SUC students come for a CPE unit in the United States. Garrett-Cobbina's long-term hope is that an SUC student will discern a call to ministry as a CPE supervisor, enroll in supervisory education with her at SFTS, and then return to Ghana to establish an accredited CPE program through SUC.

The administrative cabinet of SFTS has enthusiastically endorsed this innovative ministry project, hailing it as an example of one of the seminary's

*“Competence in religious and spiritual care calls for educational experience relevant to the entire interdependent global community.”*

**— Rev. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina**



priorities: establishing partnerships with the global church. This priority was emphasized in the strategic plan approved by the Board of Trustees in May 2013. The new Ghana partnership is one of many global partnerships initiated by SFTS.

The CPE program is made possible by a generous gift from SFTS alumnus John F. Shaw (B.D. 1954) and his wife, Julia Shaw. The Shaw Family Chair of Clinical Pastoral Education is the first fully endowed chair in the discipline of CPE at a theological education institution. Garrett-Cobbina, who is certified as a CPE supervisor by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, was appointed the first Shaw Family Chair in July 2006.

“Competence in religious and spiritual care calls for educational experience relevant to the entire interdependent global community,” Garrett-Cobbina says, explaining her vision for the CPE project in Ghana. “My hope is to explore the reality and the potential of diverse and contextual theological education de-centered from North American, Western, and European frameworks.”

The SFTS community looks forward to continuing, strengthening, and building such international partnerships within the global church.

*Bentley Stewart is a third-year M.Div. student.*

# Peace

*From page 13*

addressed the questions frequently raised in communities experiencing conflict: How do you break the cycles of violence? How do you help people who are poles apart from each other and engaged in a violent relationship come to discover the possibility of a shared future?

As Bland explained, “To build peace, you have to take people's interests into account and determine if there are any overlapping interests. It is these shared interests that will allow you to show people in conflict that they have a shared future.”

Alejandre addressed the importance of building relationships with warring communities. “You can't me-

diatate with a group of people without showing you care about them,” he explained, adding that this is why he makes frequent visits to San Quentin.

While the conflicts Bland and Alejandre focus their energies on may seem to be worlds apart, their conversation that night showed how transferable their relationship-oriented, peace-building strategies are from one community to another.

A few months after this event, Bland accompanied SFTS D.Min. student and Pastor Ernest Jackson to his Bayview-Hunters Point neighborhood, where he was struck by how similar the physical and psychological barriers were there to what he witnessed in Belfast. The two are now seeking to work together on a project in this Bay Area community.

Alejandre has agreed to work with Oakland-based ELET, who meet under the leadership of SFTS Alumnus Rev. Pablo Morataya, to help Morataya's congregations develop a variety of ministries that will serve incarcerated community members and their families.

Those who attended the panel discussion called it a unique opportunity to hear from experienced and innovative practitioners in peace-building that could lead to future projects. SFTS will continue providing the spiritual as well as physical space that fosters such transformative relationships, cultivates new efforts in social justice, and sustains those continuing to work for peace locally and globally.

*Rachel Howard is the Director of Communications.*

# Shigematsu

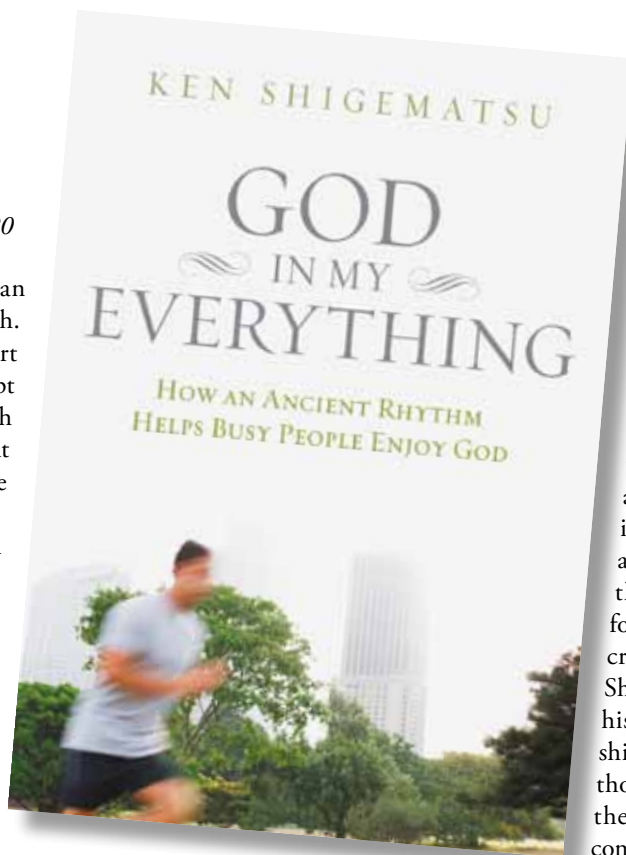
*From page 20*

countered Robert, a homeless man sleeping on the steps of the church. A church elder had offered Robert a place to sleep, but something kept pulling him back to the church steps. One cold night, Robert went to sleep in the silhouette of the church and never woke up.

This tragic occurrence pushed Shigematsu to act. “I sensed that we had to do something—that this was our moment,” he says. With the help of colleagues, he started an overnight shelter ministry for the homeless called “Out of the Cold,” which provides shelter from October to April, as well as a weekly meal. He didn’t want those without a home to suffer the way Robert had.

The additional influx of sex workers into the congregation spurred Shigematsu and his congregants to become involved in the fight against sex trafficking, both in Canada and abroad. To combat the explosion of the sex trade during the 2010 Winter Olympics hosted in Vancouver, Tenth Avenue Church promoted the grassroots movement “Buying Sex Is Not a Sport” to raise awareness and to pressure the government to pass laws against sex trafficking. That year, due in part to the work of Shigematsu and his congregation, the Canadian government passed a law mandating a minimum of five years in jail for those involved in the sex trafficking of children under 18.

Tenth Avenue Church began providing so many services to the poor and homeless that when the church submitted a building permit to the city, inspectors told Shigematsu that they would have to obtain a social services permit. Shigematsu argued that obtaining the resources to apply for



*“We don’t believe serving the poor is an extracurricular ministry of the Church. It has been part of our historic mission for more than 2,000 years.”*

**— Rev. Dr. Ken Shigematsu**

such a permit would place an undue burden on his congregation and on faith communities as a whole.

“We don’t believe serving the poor is an extracurricular ministry of the Church,” Shigematsu said. “It has been part of our historic mission for more than 2,000 years.” The city

council ultimately agreed with him and lifted the requirement to obtain the additional permit.

Thanks to the leadership of Shigematsu, under which Tenth Avenue Church sought a unique vision, opened the sanctuary doors to all people, helped those in need, and took a stand against sex trafficking, the church has thrived for the last 17 years. The creative ways in which Shigematsu interacts with his congregation in worship has also ensured that those who walk through the church doors keep coming back. According to his bio, “On any given Sun-

day, congregants are often surprised by the props Ken uses, whether it’s a hamburger under a napkin or a music stand as a javelin. Tenth regulars dare not doze during Ken’s sermons, as they never know when their pastor will flop down flat on his back in a dramatic antic to emphasize his point.”

In August of this year, Shigematsu published his book *God in My Everything*, which he describes as “the fruit of my studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary, which enriched my life with God and empowered my ministry in Vancouver.” The book, which has hit the bestseller list on Amazon, offers guidance on how even the busiest people can ensure God’s presence in their lives.

For more information about Shigematsu and the Tenth Avenue Church of Vancouver, please visit the church’s website at [www.tenth.ca](http://www.tenth.ca). Shigematsu’s book may be purchased online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

*Rachel Howard is the Director of Communications.*



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Barbara Brenner Buder joined San Francisco Theological Seminary almost eight years ago to serve as the Vice President of Finance & Administration. She holds an MBA from Yale, and prior to coming to SFTS, worked for the Bank of America as an Executive Vice President. But once she left the private sector to come to SFTS, she never looked back. "I was drawn to and

stayed with SFTS because of the important role the institution plays in our society: influencing the evolution of the Church and of our culture. I was also struck with how warm and welcoming the SFTS community was and remains!"

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## Scott Symes

“Let’s get to it!” was the enthusiastic response of Trustee Scott Symes. The Board had just received the proposal from the Institutional Advancement Committee to proceed with a 20-month \$6 million fundraising initiative. Scott, along with the rest of the Board, will be actively engaged in helping with the initiative because he feels strongly about the potential at SFTS to fundamentally affect the future of ministry. What does Scott think about when

he reflects on SFTS? “Caring” is his response. “SFTS is a place where community has deep meaning for all who are related to the seminary.”

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**Dr. Kwan Joong Kim**

Dr. Kwan Joong Kim, M.Div. class of 2004, is not your typical SFTS graduate. While in seminary, Kim realized he no longer wanted to be a pastor, and withdrew from SFTS. However, after receiving encouragement from his mother, he ultimately returned to earn his degree.

Years later, while helping a friend study acupuncture, Kim's love for the art his mother practiced for 30 years was rekindled. After returning to school to earn his Master's and

PhD in acupuncture, he owns Kim's Yin & Yang Acupuncture in Bluffton, South Carolina. In this spiritual setting of healing, Kim says, "It's not only pastors who do God's work; God needs all kinds of approaches for different people and needs in the world." To SFTS he says, "God bless you and our school!"

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## Wayne & Margaret Blake

“Wayne, SFTS is on the phone ...” is how the conversation started with Wayne and Margaret Blake from Astoria, Oregon. Reading about the Center for Innovation in Ministry in the last issue of *Chimes*, they wanted to be in on the ground floor. Actually, they already are the ground floor, for the Blake family is a treasure-trove of pastors and spiritual activists. Eleven members of their family are graduates of SFTS. Wayne received his M.Div. in 1964, and Margaret received her Master of Values degree in 1993, 50 years after the graduation of her mother in 1943. About their gift, Margaret said “Our intent is to honor all family SFTS graduates who are innovators in ministry.” We think they have!



*Margaret's 1993 SFTS graduation with other family SFTS graduates: Back, l-r, Larry Irons, Dick Wichman, John Wichman, Larry Roumpf, Wayne Blake. Front, l-r, Ann Irons, Lois Wichman, Betty Roumpf, and Margaret Blake.*

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\* Presbyterian Church of Novato, Novato  
Presbyterian Church of Novato, Presbyterian Women, Novato  
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Presbyterian Church of the Roses, Women's Association, Santa Rosa  
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*The Montgomery Society recognizes friends and alumni who have named SFTS within a planned gift. A donor qualifies for membership through a bequest, a trust or annuity, and/or lifetime gifts to the seminary of \$10,000 or more. We honor the faithful support these special friends have contributed to the ministry of SFTS.*

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## Allen Birchler

Allen Birchler received a B.Div. degree from SFTS in 1954, and served congregations in Kansas, Nebraska and Wisconsin. Earning advanced degrees in history from the University of Nebraska, he taught at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse campus. Between 2008 and 2012, Allen and Margaret Birchler established the "Allen B. and Margaret Birchler Scholarship Fund" at SFTS. When Allen died in 2012, they had far surpassed their original fundraising goal of \$15,000 with \$30,000. We remember Allen and thank Margaret for their incredible stewardship, and thank the many friends who donated gifts to this fund and SFTS in his memory.

## 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.*

### Ruth I. Anderson

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### Jesse Hays Baird and Susanna Baird

Mr. Michael Vining and Mrs. Koren Vining

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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.*

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George and Mary Lagerquist Bequest  
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Hilda Thompson Trust

## IN HONOR

*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.*

**Margaret Baird**

Mr. Michael Vining and  
Mrs. Koren Vining

**Rev. Elaine Besthorn**

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Mrs. Betty Worrell

**Martha Brooks, DASD '01**

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**Robert and Betsy Williams 65th Anniversary (Robert and Betsy Williams Scholarship Fund)**

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Goodall  
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## GIFTS HONORING MINISTRY

*New with this issue is a section which honors gifts which have been made honoring the ministry of others. You are encouraged to honor those, living or deceased, whose ministry has especially touched you. This section was encouraged by the gift from Wayne David Blake, B.Div. 1964, and Margaret McDaniel Blake, MAV 1993, from Astoria, Oregon, which honored the ministry done or still in progress by their family members who are graduates of SFTS. It is an amazing testimony to their service, commitment, and faith.*

**Honoring the Ministry of:**

Lois Chadsey Wichman, MA '38  
[deceased]  
Franz "Dick" Wichman, B.Div. '40  
[deceased]  
Betty Chadsey Roumpf, MA '43  
[deceased]  
The Rev. Lawrence Roumpf, B.Div. '44  
[deceased]  
Rev. Orville (Chad) Chadsey, B.Div. '51  
[deceased]  
The Rev. Larry Irons, M.Div. '62  
[deceased]  
The Rev. Dr. R. Keith Roumpf,  
M.Div. '64, D.Min. '93  
The Rev. John Fay Wichman,  
M.Div. '76  
Ann Wichman Irons,  
M.Div. '87



# IN MEMORIAM

*San Francisco Theological Seminary prayerfully remembers those from the SFTS community who have died. To inform the seminary of the death of a loved one, please send a note to James Sharpe at [jsharpe@sfts.edu](mailto:jsharpe@sfts.edu).*



**Mary Louisa Baird Carlsen**, daughter of Rev. Jesse Hayes Baird, a former president of San Francisco Theological Seminary, died peacefully at Wheatland Village in Walla Walla, Washington, July 4, 2013. She was 84.

Baird was born August 31, 1928, the fourth child of Jesse and Susanna Baird. She was followed minutes later by her sister, Margaret. In the 1930s, the family moved to the Bay Area, where her father served as president of SFTS for 20 years.

Marybaird, as she liked to be called later in life, studied piano and organ and sang in the choir at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, before transferring to Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington. It was there that she met her husband, James, who had just returned from World War II. They were married 18 months later, in May 1949. Over the next several years, Marybaird gave birth to four children. She worked as a professional pianist and organist, often accompanying church choirs conducted by her husband, and she earned a master's degree in pipe organ from the University of Connecticut in 1967.

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Marybaird earned a PhD from the University of Washington in 1973. She opened a private clinical psychology practice in Seattle, which she maintained for nearly 20 years. During this

time, she lectured extensively on adult and career development and wrote two foundational books: *Meaning-Making* (Norton, 1988) and *Creative Aging* (Norton, 1991).

After moving with James to Walla Walla in 1995, she devoted herself to local arts and artists; helped to found Quest, an education program for seniors at Walla Walla Community College; and delved deeper into her writing, painting, and music. Throughout it all, she inspired beauty and curiosity and love.

Dr. Marybaird Carlsen is survived by her husband, James; sister, Margaret; children, Philip, Douglas and his wife, Mary; Susan; and Kris Frost and her husband, Chuck; grandchildren, Koren Vining and her husband, Michael; Darrel Frost, Melsen Carlsen, and Eric Carlsen; and a great-grandson, Max Vining.



**1950 (MCE)  
Irene Loucks**

**Crider** died September 17, 2013, in Portland, Oregon. Crider gained an early start serving God in church leadership as moderator of the California Youth Synod in 1947.

After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1948, Crider continued her education at San Francisco Theological Seminary, studying under Dr. D.G. Stewart and graduating in 1950 with a degree in

Christian Education. Her husband, Gordon, graduated with the class of 1952. Both Crider and her husband served Brownsville (Oregon) Presbyterian Church in the Willamette Presbytery. Later, Crider served for two years as moderator of Riverside Presbytery in Ridgecrest, California.

Crider is survived by her husband, Rev. E. Gordon Crider, and three children, Lynn-Marie, Cathleen, and James.



**1954 (B.Div.)  
Allen B. Birchler**

of La Crosse, Wisconsin, died August 14, 2012, at the age of 86 at Gundersen Lutheran Medical

Center. Birchler was born February 6, 1926, near Bristol, Colorado, to Blanche Musick and William Birchler. He was the seventh of 13 children. He married Margaret Granstrom August 15, 1950.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Army in 1947, Birchler attended Modesto Junior College in California for one year and then spent three years at Hastings (Nebraska) College. After graduating in 1951, he enrolled in San Francisco Theological Seminary and received a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1954.

Allen received a call to the Presbyterian Church of Roxbury, Kansas, and was ordained by the Presbytery of Wichita July 28, 1954. After his pas-

torate in Kansas, he decided to pursue another dream of going to graduate school and preparing for college teaching. He received his MA and PhD in history from the University of Nebraska in 1965. His research field was Scottish Presbyterian Church history, 1585–1638. He served as part-time pastor of two Presbyterian churches near Lincoln during his years of graduate school.

The family moved to La Crosse in 1965, when Birchler accepted a position in the history department at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse. He taught Tudor and Stuart English history, European survey, world history, church history, military history and some specialized courses in European history. He retired from the university in 1990 and from the active ministry in 1992.

Between 2008 and 2012, he and his wife established the Allen B. and Margaret Birchler Scholarship Fund at SFTS, and raised more than \$30,000 for the fund.

Birchler is survived by his wife of 62 years, Margaret; four children, Mary Ann Polewski, Mark, David, and Steven; four grandchildren; three brothers, Wilbur, Floyd, and Jimmie; one sister, Verla; and many nieces and nephews.



**1960 (B.Div.)  
Terrence E. Cole**

of Fort Bragg, California, died July 10, 2013, at Oceanside Living after a short illness. He was 77.

Cole was born December 25, 1935, in San Luis Obispo, California, to Ellsworth David and Margaret Patterson Cole.

Cole grew up in Santa Maria, California, and graduated from Occidental College. He earned his Bachelor of

Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1960. Later that year, he began his career in ministry as Associate Pastor of Lincoln Presbyterian Church in Stockton, California. In May 1964, he became Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Fort Bragg, where he served for almost 37 years, retiring in December 2000. Cole served as stated clerk of the Presbytery of the Redwoods for 30 years.

An avid hunter of deer, chukar, and pheasant, Cole hunted in Mendocino National Forest, above Covelo, as well as out of state. He enjoyed fishing with his son Eric on the Rogue River in Oregon. Cole was an Oakland Raiders fan, and he loved Springer Spaniels and reading mysteries.

Cole is survived by his wife of 38 years, Lorelei; children from a previous marriage, Mark, Eric, Cheryl, and Bruce; stepchildren, Lynn Orsi and Andrew Brown; 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, plus two due this summer; brother, Don; and several nieces and nephews.



**1961  
James Elyn  
Kenney**

died September 30, 2013, at home with family. Kenney was born in

May 1929 in Aurora, Nebraska, to Charles Walter and Halga Schonover Kenney and grew up in North Platt, Nebraska.

He attended college at Colorado A&M in Fort Collins from 1948 to 1950, majoring in forestry. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1951 to 1954 and was stationed in Italy and French Morocco. Having found a personal relationship with Jesus Christ during his military service, Kenney later went to Fuller Theological Seminary, graduating with a Master of Divinity in 1960. It was while attending Fuller that Kenney met and fell in love with

his wife, Ann. They were married June 24, 1960.

Continuing his spiritual development, Kenney attended San Francisco Theological Seminary from 1960 to 1961. In September 1961, he was ordained to the ministry at Community Presbyterian Church in Gustine, California, where he was pastor until 1969. He then served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Lindsay, California, from 1969-1974; as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Canoga Park, California, from 1974 to 1981; and as pastor of Knox Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles from 1981 to 1991. Though Kenney retired from active ministry in 1991, he served as interim pastor of Nipomo Presbyterian Church, in Arroyo Grande, California, from 1992 to 1995.

Kenney is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Ann; daughters, Deborah and Valerie; son, Daniel; granddaughter, Ashley, and many nieces and nephews.



**1967 (B.Div.)  
Andrea Hagen-  
Arndt**

died peacefully in her sleep June 6, 2013, at the age of 71, at Chesapeake Hospice

House in Linthicum, Maryland.

Hagen-Arndt earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at Pacific Lutheran University in 1964. She continued her education at San Francisco Theological Seminary, earning a Bachelor of Divinity in 1967. She then did graduate work at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

When Hagen-Arndt graduated from SFTS, the Lutheran Church was not yet ordaining women, so she served for eight years as a lay professional Lutheran campus minister before becoming the fifth woman



ordained in the American Lutheran Church. She was ordained April 12, 1975, to serve as campus pastor for the Lutheran University Ministry in the Greater Baltimore Area.

In 1988, she was called to serve as assistant to Rev. Morris Zumburum, bishop of the newly formed Delaware-Maryland Synod, a position she held until 2000.

Hagen-Arndt served as interim pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Baltimore, Maryland from 2001 to 2003 and remained close to the congregation until her death.

Hagen-Arndt is survived by her husband, Rev. Dr. Otfried O. Arndt, and her son, Christopher Hagen Diegel.



**1978 (D.Min.)  
Robert J.  
Hawthorne**

of San Jose, California, died December 22, 2012, after a short illness. The son of Harold L. and Alice F. Hawthorne, he was born in Des Moines, Iowa, June 22, 1923. He graduated from Cornell College in Iowa, and was stationed at Moffett Field with the U.S. Navy during World War II. Hawthorne earned a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Yale Divinity School in 1952, along with prizes in preaching. He earned a Doctor of Ministry at San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1978.

In 1949, Hawthorne married Gene Anna Hanzlik. After seminary, they settled in California, where Hawthorne served United Methodist churches in Stockton, Palo Alto, Tracy, Redding, San Mateo, and San Jose and served as District Superintendent for five years. Hawthorne was active in ecumenical affairs as well as in peace and justice causes, including PFLAG.

Hawthorne is survived by his wife; four daughters, Christine Chase, Alison Hawthorne, Joy Burton, and Nancy Beyrouiti; and four grandchildren.



**1983 (D.Min.)  
John V. Moore**

died October 9, 2013, at Solace Center in Asheville, North Carolina, after a yearlong battle with lung cancer.

Moore was born October 21, 1926, in Charleston, West Virginia, to Dr. John William and Laura Dyer Moore.

After graduating from high school in Charleston, Moore attended the Coast Guard Academy and Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, where he received a bachelor's degree. He did graduate work at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, where he earned his Master of Divinity; at Boston University School of Theology, and at San Francisco Theological Seminary, where he earned his Doctor of Ministry.

While attending graduate school in Richmond, he met his wife, Katherine Ellen Boyer. They married December 15, 1951. The couple moved back to West Virginia, where Moore served two rural churches and taught at Davis and Elkins College. After the birth of their first two children in 1953 and 1955, Moore and his wife were commissioned as missionaries to South Korea.

Moore served on the mission field for 36 years in teaching, preaching, and administrative roles in several locations. He has said that some of his most meaningful work on the mission field was during the early years of Daejeon Presbyterian College (now Hannam University). His third son was born in 1957 while the Moores were serving overseas.

In addition to his wife, who lives

in Highland Farms, North Carolina, Moore is survived by his sons, David, William, and Frederick; grandchildren, John Cho Moore, Catherine Venable Moore, Ginny McNeill Roper, Paul Boyer Moore, Sarah Helen

Moore, Laura Allison Moore, and Hannah Ruth Moore; sisters-in-law, Betty A. Boyer and Sylvia H. Boyer; brothers-in-law, Kenneth E. Boyer, Dan D. Dickenson, and Don P. Bennett; as well as multiple nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

**2003 (M.Div.)**

**Deog Ju Lee** died July 28, 2013, at the Catholic University of Korea St. Mary's Hospital in Seoul, Korea, after battling an illness for three years. He is survived by his wife, Raehyun Min; son, Albert, and daughter, Jennifer.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**December 14**

## Children's Advent

Come join us for an Advent celebration with cookies, crafts & carols for children.



**February 27 – March 1**

## Inquirers' Weekend for Prospective Students

Part academic seminar, part spiritual retreat, the SFTS Inquirers' Weekend will introduce you to the robust theological education and reflective community environment offered by San Francisco Theological Seminary.

**March 28-30**

## Chewing the Bread of the Word: Jesus as Teacher

This retreat focuses on nurturing our spiritual life so that integration of everyday experiences occurs as we open ourselves to the Word of God in the midst of life events. The event is sponsored by the Program in Christian Spirituality, and will take place on campus. Meals, room and board included in total cost.

**April 3-5**

## Alumni Reunion Weekend

All SFTS alumni are cordially invited to attend this year's Alumni Reunion Weekend. Enjoy community worship, fellowship with friends and insightful lectures.

**April 3**

## Faith & The Common Good

Featured speaker will be Dr. David Batstone, Ethics Professor at the University of San Francisco and the author of *Not For Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade – and How We Can Fight It*.

**April 4**

## T.V. Moore Lectures

Featured speaker will be Dr. Ellen Davis, Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School.

**May 23**

## Baccalaureate Ceremony

The Baccalaureate Ceremony for the class of 2014 will be held in Stuart Chapel, located in Geneva Hall.



**May 24**

## Graduation

The Commencement Exercise for the class of 2014 will take place on Bouick Field in front of the Playhouse.

## STAY CONNECTED

For more information about any of these or other events, please email us or visit our website. Also be sure to follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook.



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# Greetings SFTSers, from your intrepid Alumni Council!

By Jerry Van Marter  
Coordinator, Presbyterian  
News Service

**W**e are a mostly hardy group of 15 who gather twice a year with the expressed intent of representing the commitment, passion, and interest of alumni/ae to the faculty, staff, and administration of our most beloved seminary.

The Alumni Council held its fall meeting on campus November 3–5 in the lovely Shaw Guest House. Below are the highlights of that meeting:

## NEW OFFICERS WERE ELECTED:

- ✓ **PRESIDENT:** John Harris (M.Div., 1971) of Santa Barbara, California
- ✓ **VICE PRESIDENT:** Cheryl Finch (M.Div., 2006) of Glenpool, Oklahoma
- ✓ **SECRETARY:** Jerry Van Marter (M.Div., 1971) of Louisville, Kentucky
- ✓ **ALUMNI COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Sam Roberts (M.Div., 2006) of Highland, California

**CHAPTER 1: DESIGNING A MOSAIC FOR MINISTRY** is a 20-month, \$6 million Advancement initiative to meet “the fierce urgency of now.” The Alumni Council UNANIMOUSLY endorsed the initiative, which is designed to provide funds to transform campus buildings to meet 21st-century needs, to enable the creation of



several new certificate programs for lay and clergy leaders in the church, and to launch the new Center for Innovation in Ministry, which will provide new leaders for the emerging church. Not only did the Alumni Council endorse the initiative, we passed the hat and collected \$400 on the spot as a visible symbol of our commitment. Between now and the end of the year, the council will be creating an initiative committee to raise at least \$1 million from alumni toward the success of the initiative. **FAIR WARNING:** You will be hearing from us in the coming months.

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS:** The council enjoyed a wonderful evening of fine dining at the San Francisco restaurant of Alumni Council member Jeannie Kim and equally wonderful conversation with the Rev. Byron Bland, the Distinguished Alumnus for 2013, who shared his lifetime of work in international nonviolent conflict resolution in Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Israel-Palestine. The council also selected the 2014 Distinguished Alum—but mum’s

the word for right now. **WATCH** for a thrilling announcement in the very near future.

## ALUMNI/AE RE-UNIONS:

The council heard about and made plans for three reunions next spring, gathering the Classes of 1954 (their 60th reunion!!), 1964 (the Golden Oldies—50 years), and 1989 (the Suave Silvers—25 years). More information will be coming about those sterling events.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO!

✓ **The SFTS Alumni Council wants to hear from you.** Let us know how we can help keep you updated on all things SFTS by contacting President John Harris at [coventryjohnh@aol.com](mailto:coventryjohnh@aol.com) or 248.789.9692.

✓ **There are FOUR vacancies on the Alumni Council** as we speak. To volunteer or suggest someone, contact Nominating Committee Chair Jack Hodges at [jhodges@bcdemail.com](mailto:jhodges@bcdemail.com) or 503.635.8625.

✓ **Give thanks for Faith McClellan**, our new Director of Alumni & Church Relations. You may reach Faith at [fmcclellan@sfts.edu](mailto:fmcclellan@sfts.edu) or 415.451.2835.

✓ **PRAY fervently for SFTS** and her faculty, students, staff, and administration. Pray for the Alumni Council as it seeks to represent you, and for the present and future health of theological education in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



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**Help build the Church and San Francisco Theological Seminary**

by referring future students to SFTS. Prospective students can email us at [admissions@sfts.edu](mailto:admissions@sfts.edu) or call us at 415.451.2800 ext. 831. Inquirers' Weekend for prospective students is February 27—March 1, 2014.

**ALUMNI REUNION  
WEEKEND** April 3—5, 2014



**Faith & the Common Good  
Thursday, April 3**

Featured speaker is Dr. David Batstone, Professor at the University of San Francisco School of Management, and President & Co-founder of the nonprofit organization Not for Sale.



**T.V. Moore Lectures  
Friday, April 4**

Featured speaker is Dr. Ellen Davis, the Amos Ragan Kearns Distinguished Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School.

