



San Francisco
Theological Seminary

CHIMES

Spring 2017



From Conflict to Communion

*Prof. Ocker Presents
at the Vatican, 500 Years
After the Reformation* **Page 4**

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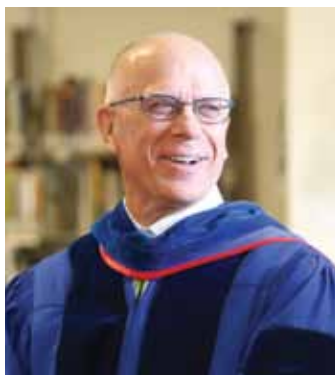
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WRITERS Patricia Corrigan, Eric Elnes,
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PHOTOS Greg Brekke/Presbyterian News
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Dear Friends,

“You will know them by their fruits,” said Jesus when instructing the crowd on the mountain about how they can tell the difference between true and false prophets. (Matt 7:20)

It was a lesson in spiritual discernment. Don't just listen to what someone says; watch what they do. But Jesus plainly meant for us to apply this yardstick to ourselves as well, as the next few verses make abundantly clear.

Christian faith is primarily a way of living that is grounded in God's great love for the world. It takes its cues from God's grace, mercy, and generosity toward the world and all that dwells therein. This is the focus of what we teach here at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Our faculty and the courses we offer emphasize the importance of discernment, whether it's learning a spiritual exercise or how to think critically about texts and contexts. As one person put it, “we don't tell people to stop thinking. We ask them to stop and think.” Added another person, “We're not trying to mold people. We're try to stretch them.” The SFTS experience is an expansive one, one that opens the heart and mind to new possibilities for aligning our lives with the purposes of God.

But an SFTS education is not simply about discernment; it's also about action and character. “Faith without works is dead,” warned James. “The fruit of the Spirit,” said the Apostle Paul, “is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.” (Gal 5:22)



So, SFTS students are encouraged to flesh out the implications of their thinking. “How then shall we live?” “What then should we do?” These become the follow-on questions with any discernment process. These questions are at the heart of a person's sense of vocation, of her or his calling. They lead SFTS graduates to do lots of amazing things in myriad ways and many diverse locations. They move them to fight for justice, comfort those who mourn, welcome the stranger, work for peace, feed and empower poor and hungry people, heal broken spirits and broken lives, create better communities, encourage the faint-hearted and support the weak. These are the fruits of a living faith in the risen Christ.

The stories in this issue of *Chimes* demonstrate the authenticity of this characterization of the impact of an SFTS education. The Spirit is alive and well—in the world at large and here at SFTS. Praise be to God!

Grace and peace,

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

105 Seminary Road,
 San Anselmo, CA 94960
 415.451.2800

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 @sanfranseminary
 info@sfts.edu
 sfts.edu

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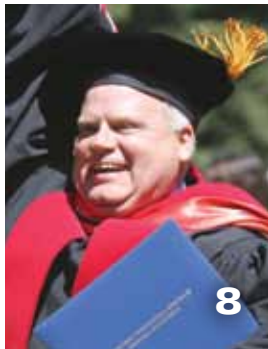
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Moved by God's love in Jesus Christ, San Francisco Theological Seminary prepares women and men for transformational ministries of justice, peace and healing, which advance the church's hopeful, loving engagement with the world.





SFTS The Only U.S. Academic Institution Invited to Vatican Conference

By Eva Stimson

As one of 15 panelists invited to address an international conference at the Vatican in March, Dr. Christopher Ocker, Professor of Church History at San Francisco Theological Seminary, contributed to a reassessment of the Reformation.

The theme of the event was “Luther 500 years later: A rereading of the Lutheran Reformation in its historical and ecclesial context.” The event was organized by the Pontifical Committee of Historical Sciences to mark this year’s 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Ocker was the only panelist invited from the United States. He presented a paper titled “Financial Interests and the Secularization of Church Property,” based largely on his book, *Church Robbers and Reformers in Germany*. Confiscation of church property—for example, the appropriation of monasteries for use as Protestant schools—“was absolutely essential in shaping the Protestant movement,” he explains. His paper also examined the political role that Protestant theologians played in developing a rationale for confiscating property.

Other speakers addressed such topics as the development of Martin Luther’s theology and its relationship to late medieval thought, the relationship of church and

state during the Reformation, and Catholic reform movements.

Ocker and other participants in the three-day event were surprised to receive a private audience with Pope Francis. In his comments to them, His Holiness applauded “careful and rigorous study, free of prejudice and polemical ideology,” which allows the Catholic Church to recognize and embrace what was positive in the reforms.

He continued, “I confess to you that the first feeling that I had when confronted with this initiative . . . was a feeling of gratitude to God, accompanied by a certain amazement at the thought that not long ago a conference of this kind was completely unthinkable.”

Ocker notes what he calls a major “historical shift” in Catholic scholarship in recent decades. “It used to be common for Catholic historians to dismiss Luther as a heretic,” he explains. “Since the 1950s, it became more common for Catholic scholars to view him as a kind of Catholic reformer,” while other historians increasingly stressed the variety and similarities of Catholic and Protestant reform movements. This trend in historical scholarship contributed to Catholic-Protestant ecumenism before and during Vatican II. While the trend continued among



Prof. Ocker stands with S.E.R. Bishop Sergio Pagano, Prefect of the Vatican Secret Archive, Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences. Bishop Pagano was the chair of Prof. Ocker’s session on “Financial Interests and the Secularization of Church Property.”

scholars, it may not have been so openly embraced by the Vatican since the council, until now.

Ocker says he came away from the conference convinced of the need “to rethink the role of Christianity in a culturally and religiously pluralistic world.”

Protestants and Catholics should continue to “work together, find points of agreement,” rather than wait to “achieve formal institutional unity,” Ocker says.

“The bottom line for both Catholics and Protestants should be to follow the teachings of Jesus.”✠

Three Renowned Writers Engage SFTS Community During Spring Author Series

By Pat Corrigan

Earth-honoring Celtic spirituality, the rich history of the Black church in the Bay Area, and how to heal from wounds inflicted by the church were topics explored in the three books featured in the 2017 Spring Author Series at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Rev. Scott Clark, Chaplain and Associate Dean of Student Life, hosted the series. “Though each author was different, the common thread through the three events was how each author described how people of faith can engage the world and tap into deeper spirituality,” he says.

John Philip Newell’s January 20–22 presentation on Celtic spirituality coincided with the presidential inauguration. “People came feeling overwhelmed by national news and events,” Clark recalls. “Newell offered Celtic spirituality as a holistic spirituality that supports a fully engaged life of faith. Afterward,

many who attended expressed gratitude for this time to pray and think about ways we can connect to each other, to creation, and to God.”

Martha C. Taylor, a DMin alum and former adjunct faculty member at SFTS, spoke February 23. “Dr. Taylor’s book not only tells the history of the Black church in the Bay Area but also relates the histories of individual Black churches and then weaves all that into the bigger tapestry of what was going on in the world at the time, stories of struggles and activism,” Clark says.

Like Taylor, Carol Howard Merritt is a familiar face on campus. She has offered previous book events and is one of the hosts of the annual UNCO West gathering, an “un-conference” that considers questions in the church that no one else is talking about. “The evening with Carol on March 2 was a very personal conversation about the way people

have been hurt by the church, with thoughts about how we can find healing through community and spiritual practices,” Clark says.

“It was also interesting for our seminary students—who all are writers in one way or another—to hear about the authors’ writing process and about their passion for their work.”

“We will definitely consider keeping the series as a regular program,” Clark says. “We like the idea of getting the SFTS community used to looking forward to hearing from writers.” ✚

STAY INFORMED

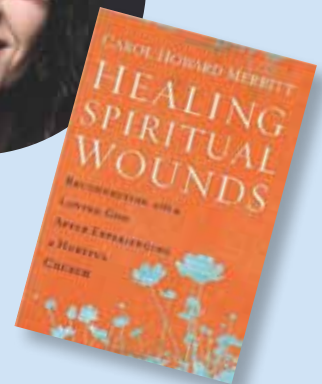
To keep up to date on events at SFTS, please visit sfts.edu/events



Rev. Dr. John Philip Newell
author of *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality*



Rev. Dr. Martha C. Taylor
author of *From Labor to Reward: Black Church Beginnings in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and Richmond, 1849–1972*



Rev. Carol Howard Merritt
author of *Healing Spiritual Wounds: Reconnecting with a Loving God After Experiencing a Hurtful Church*

WHAT'S NEW AT SFTS

Center for Innovation in Ministry Combines Academics with Activism

By Pat Corrigan

Expanding the landscape of faith in communities across the U.S.—the Center’s provocative lectures and collaborative seminars strive to do just that. Following is a brief overview of the exciting inroads we’ve been making.

SHIFTS HAPPEN LECTURES

“Shifts Happen,” the Center’s free lecture series, features intriguing panel discussions in the Bay Area led by ministry and local community leaders. The panels, all experienced in person or live-streamed, consider how faith communities can respond and provide value to cultural and spiritual shifts.

1. “The Growing Edge: Teaching and Preaching the Bible Past, Present, Future,”

February 27, at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. The speakers were Rev. Dr. Herman Waetjen, an SFTS Emeritus Professor; Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes, author of *Gifts of the Dark Wood: Seven Blessings for Soulful Skeptics (and Other Wanderers)*; and Rev. Yolanda Norton, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at SFTS.

2. “Interconnectivity: Where Do We Go from Here?”

March 20, at First Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto. Speakers were SFTS alum Rev. Dr. Jane Spahr, a pioneer for LGBTQ inclusion in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith Jr., Senior Pastor of Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland; and Rev. Annanda Barclay, co-Moderator of More Light Presbyterians.

3. Coming Soon! “Restoring Justice: Creative Leadership in Addressing Policing,”

at Grace Tabernacle Church in San Francisco. Speakers include Rev. Byron Bland, an SFTS Distinguished Alumnus and former Associate Director of the Stanford Center on Conflict and Negotiation, and Dr. Christopher Ocker, Professor of Church History at SFTS. Thompkins notes that because the church is where activists, police, victims, and the parents of victims all sit together, the church has a role in addressing the breakdown of the relationship between the police and the community.



“Theology is not a one-way engagement, not something that happens just at the seminary, but the central wisdom of God among us. Theology is collaborative exploration.”

— Rev. Floyd Thompkins

SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLABORATIVE SEMINARS

For a deeper academic and active experience, the Center also provides six-week Social Justice Collaborative Seminars in an interactive online format. The goal is to help participants “foster justice, peace, and thriving community in a local context.” The seminars combine academic coursework with on-the-ground community activism, and establish a cohort of leaders of faith communities all working to advance specific issues in their respective geographic areas.

1. “Police and Community: Reducing Violence Together,”

March 2–April 24. Leading the seminar were Rev. Byron Bland; Reggie Lyles, retired police captain from Novato, CA; Dr. Christopher Ocker; and Rev. Floyd Thompkins. The goal of the seminar was “to create real dialogue that brings about real change in cities across the country.”

2. “The Work of Inclusion and Interconnectivity in Creating Community,”

May 10-31. Participants in the seminar, which is just underway, are exploring “the intersec-

tion of peace, justice, LGBTQ issues, and environmentalism with the gospel and witness of the church.” Content curators and facilitators are SFTS alum Rev. Dr. Bear Ride, Director of the Ride Family Foundation, interfaith and queer activist; SFTS distinguished alum Rev. Dr. Jane Spahr; Rev. Scott Clark, Chaplain at SFTS; Rev. Annanda Barclay; and Brandon Robertson, contemplative activist and spiritual teacher.

And we’re just getting started! The Shifts Happen lectures and the Social Justice Collaborative Seminars are part of “on-going conversations,” Thompkins says, and plans for future lectures and seminars are in the works.

“Theology is not a one-way engagement, not something that happens just at the seminary, but the central wisdom of God among us,” Thompkins says. “Theology is collaborative exploration.” ✚

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GET INVOLVED

To find out more and get involved, please visit innovation.sfts.edu

A New Approach to a Timeless Resource

By Eric Elnes and Liz Huntington

Over the past eight months, SFTS has been working with Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes to bring his inspirational work on the *Phoenix Affirmations* into a living network of worldwide collaboration at LivingLectionary.org.

What is the Living Lectionary (LL)?

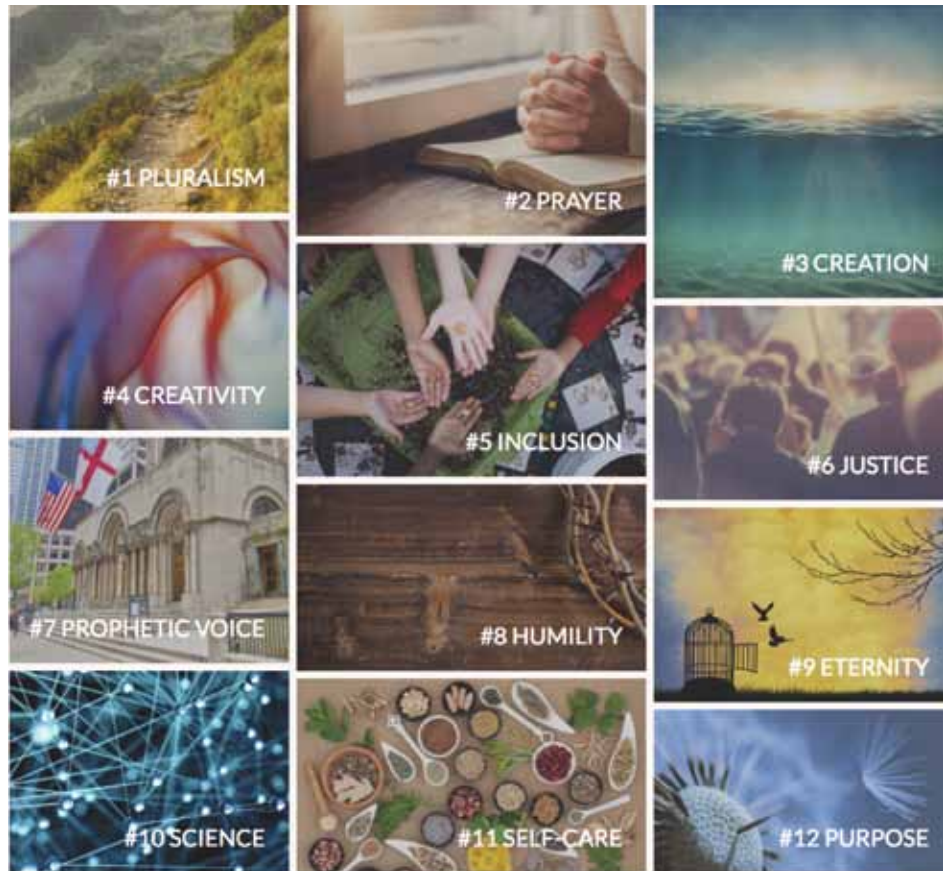
The Living Lectionary is a new, theme-based online lectionary providing crowd-sourced worship resources. It's a network of creativity and connectivity drawing on the Phoenix Affirmations, a set of twelve ecumenically-developed affirmations concerning Jesus' great commandment: love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self (Matthew 22:34-40//Mark 12:28-31). Developed originally by Christian clergy, laity, and biblical scholars across denominational lines, the affirmations' purpose is to articulate the values of Jesus and how they may be lived with integrity in today's world.

From the affirmations come the twelve 6-week themes used in the Living Lectionary: pluralism, prayer, creation, creativity, inclusion, justice, prophetic voice, humility, eternity, science, self-care, purpose.

Using these themes, churches can delve more deeply into some of the most compelling issues of our day drawing on wisdom from the entire Bible rather than a limited number of passages that were selected by a committee decades ago, as found in the Revised Common Lectionary. Worship leaders will have significant opportunities to engage parishioners not only in worship, but in small group study as well, allowing groups to go deeper, creating a context that nurtures the growth of a congregation's ministry. This often results in more regular worship attendance and fuller engagement in the church overall.

The Living Lectionary website describes it as a place "where creative ministry meets crowd-sourced collaboration." Why is this significant?

We often hear that pastors wish they could connect to each other and share resources. The Living Lectionary has been designed so that anyone can post material—sermon videos or manuscripts, music, video clips, exegetical



The twelve Phoenix Affirmation themes, as shown on LivingLectionary.org

material, artwork, and more to the website under each of the twelve themes. This will allow the Living Lectionary to offer diverse perspectives that move a faith community to be less insular and more appreciative of the many ways God is moving people of faith in our world.

Could you give us a real-world example of a challenge where the Living Lectionary resources could help?

One that is nearest to my heart currently concerns the relationship between Christianity and other faiths. One of the Living Lectionary's six-week themes is Pluralism: "Christian love of God includes walking fully in the path of Jesus without denying the legitimacy of other paths God may provide for humanity." My church, Countryside Community Church in Omaha, Nebraska, had a chance

to explore this Affirmation a few years ago and eventually voted to become the Christian partner in Omaha's Tri-Faith Initiative—where a synagogue, a church, and a mosque will be sharing a 37-acre campus with a large community center and separate worship facilities in Omaha in order to live out a vision of harmony between our faiths.

While not every church may take such a bold step, it is definitely possible to change people's minds and hearts in a significant way, and their lives along with it. ✚

JOIN US

We encourage you to check out the resources and become a Contributor! Please visit us at livinglectionary.org



Jamie Lee Sprague-Ballou, MDiv 2017

“My time here at SFTS represents the completion of two full life circles. The first, which occurred during this academic school year, is my call into becoming my authentic self after a 40-year struggle in accepting myself for who I truly am. Upon graduation, I will be the first openly transgender graduate of a master’s program at SFTS.

The second life circle to be completed is my call to ministry. At the end of May, I will come before an Ecclesiastical Council of the United Church of Christ in preparation for my ordination and installation as senior pastor of Mary Magdalene Friends in Las Vegas. It’s been a profound experience being here at SFTS. It will always be something I carry with me. It’s given me so much to take home and equip myself for my new role in ministry.”

Patrick Kiptum, MDiv 2017

“I have been transformed by my experience at San Francisco Theological Seminary. As a Kenyan-American student, I have been exposed to many diverse cultures in the world. Yet, when I arrived at seminary, my horizons broadened even more both culturally and intellectually. I have met new people, learned new ways of being, and have learned more about social justice. I have fed my craving to learn as much as I can about the Scriptures, as well as the ancient languages of Greek and Hebrew.

I am so thankful for this opportunity to study here at SFTS. It has been four years full of hard work, a little bit of pain and so many joys. The pain came from writing papers and 300 pages of reading a week while holding a fulltime job to support my family. The joy came in gaining knowledge, growing as a person and in my faith and in sharing these years with so many wonderful people. Thank you, my SFTS family.”



CONGRATULATIONS

CERTIFICATE IN TRAUMA & SPIRITUAL CARE (CTSC)

Ruth Takiko West, San Francisco, CA

DIPLOMA IN ADVANCED PASTORAL STUDIES (DAPS)

Roland Gordon, Gary, IN

Mark Alan Vickstrom, Evergreen, CO

DIPLOMA IN THE ART OF SPIRITUAL DIRECTION (DASD)

Jennifer Irene Bell, Santa Rosa, CA

Lora East, The Woodlands, TX

Adam Loveridge, Los Osos, CA

Diane Marcia Pate, Salinas, CA

DIPLOMA IN EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP (DELP)

L. Stephen Smith, Jr., Amity, PA

GTU MASTERS OF ARTS (GTU MA)

Lora East, The Woodlands, TX

Concentration: Interreligious Studies

MASTERS OF DIVINITY (MDIV)

Adam Jonathan Bradley, Martinez, CA

Peter Loi Chang, Castro Valley, CA

Jamie Lee Sprague-Ballou, Las Vegas, NV

Concentration: Theology

Nicholas David Mastin, Turlock, CA

Anthony Charles Youlton, Pittsburgh, PA

Jhanderys Dotel, Dominican Republic

Concentration: Christian Spirituality

Manho Hwang, South Korea

Sarah Chivington-Buck, Albuquerque, NM

Rachel Krista Dorothy Dykzeul, Fremont, CA

Concentration: Christian Spirituality

Brooklynn Jeanette Smith, Lexington, SC

Patrick Kipkogel Kiptum, Kenya

Tae Eun Kim, Seoul, South Korea

Baccalaureate Service

Friday, May 19, 2017 • 4:00 p.m.

Stewart Memorial Chapel

San Anselmo, California

Reception to follow in Alexander Hall

CLASS OF 2017

DOCTOR IN MINISTRY (DMIN)

Jorge William de Castro Abdala, São Paolo, Brazil

*Keys to Developing a Thriving Portuguese-speaking Presbyterian Ministry:
Harvesting Wisdom from Brazilian Presbyterian Congregational Leaders*

Alana Aldag Ackerson, San Francisco, CA

*A Faithful Technoculture: Establishing an Integrated Relationship
Between Technology and the Divine in the Digital Age*

Reverend Fernando Álvarez Lara, SJ, El Paso,

TX / Camargo, Chihuahua, Mexico

*Household Churches and Home Altarcitos: Building Culturally
Appropriate Adult Faith Formation For Immigrants in a New Land*

Christopher Todd Copeland, Winston-Salem, NC

*Exploring Effects of the Intersection of the Enneagram and Spiritual
Practices upon the Spiritual Lives of Divinity Students*

LaVerne C. Williams Hall, Bellevue, WA

*Sojourner Truth, Reflections on Certain Aspects of Truth:
A 19th Century Preacher's Message to the 21st Century
African American Baptist Woman Preacher*

Dobok Lee, South Korea

*"Connectable" Sermons: A New Approach to
Sermons in the Social Networking Era*

Inniah Christy Thambusamy Arockiaraj, Menlo Park, CA

*Building Resilience in Catholic Seminarians to Cope
with Burnout Issues as New Priests*

Joel Nissan Zeff, Israel

*Think Good and it Will Be Good: A Resource
for Jewish Pastoral Counseling*

*Note: this list does not constitute a certification that
all those whose names appear here have completed
the requirements for their degrees and diplomas.*

Commencement Exercises

Saturday, May 20, 2017 • 9:30 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
San Anselmo, California



Distinguished Alumna

**SARAH STEPHENS,
MDiv 1985**

Rev. Sarah Stephens' career in human rights advocacy—with an emphasis on combatting human trafficking—has taken her from the United States to Geneva, Kosovo, Albania, and Bangladesh.

Rev. Stephens is now living in France, and is working to support the development of new counter-trafficking programs in Nepal, Central America and South Asia. "I am humbled, grateful, and honored," she responded when asked how she feels about receiving the honor of Distinguished Alumna from SFTS. "Having lived and worked outside the U.S. for over 25 years, it means so much to be recognized by my home community."

*"Dare to follow your calling;
respect and support others' callings.
Stay connected to people who are
different from you and remember that
we are all part of the body of Christ."*

— Rev. Sarah Stephens' advice
to this year's graduating classes.



**Adam Bradley,
MDiv 2017**

Adam will be Ordained June 3rd by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Northern California. He continues to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Disciples Seminary Foundation (DSF), a ministry partner with SFTS. Adam is currently in conversations with multiple congregations for a Senior Pastor position in a nationwide search process. "I am so honored to embody the fruitful partnership between SFTS and DSF—we certainly are stronger together."

STUDENT STORIES

Veteran Musician Shares Gifts with Seminary Community



“I always wait on God to open up doors,”

— Carolyn Anderson

By Eva Stimson

Carolyn Anderson has toured with Lyle Lovett and opened a Joan Baez concert. She has worked side-by-side with Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart on a project at San Quentin State Prison that resulted in three Grammy nominations in the mid-1990s.

Now Anderson is sharing her musical gifts with San Francisco Theological Seminary by resurrecting a long-dormant group called the Seminary Singers.

“I always wait on God to open up doors,” says Anderson, who moved to campus this year with her two grandchildren to enter the MDiv program.

After only two rehearsals, the Seminary Singers made its debut to rave reviews at a March chapel service. By April, the Singers had

grown to as many as 16 people and had caught the interest of faculty and staff—including SFTS President Rev. Dr. James McDonald and his wife, Dean—as well as students.

“I know that as we grow, there will be others partnering with this ministry,” Anderson says, noting that a bass player and a flutist were offering to provide accompaniment.

Anderson comes from a long line of pastors and musicians. Her parents were pastors in the Church of God (Anderson, IN) and ministered with the parents of Christian music superstar Sandi Patty. By age 5, Anderson was enrolled in a music conservatory in Toledo, OH. At 12, she directed her first choir.

Anderson became a minister of music

in the Church of God, training choirs in five states. She brought a team of musicians to one of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s Montreat (NC) youth conferences, and was invited back to lead music for two more years.

Some 350 young people participated in the conference choir under her leadership—the largest choir in the history of Montreat, according to conference director Rev. Bob Tuttle.

Anderson believes seminaries should prepare church pastors and musicians to appreciate each other’s roles. “The most important relationship for a congregation is the one between the pastor and music director,” she says. “It is very much like a marriage.”

SFTS student Sharika Gregory,

who had been in the choir when Anderson was minister of music at Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church in Richmond, CA, encouraged Anderson to check out the seminary at Inquirers Weekend. Then Gregory invited her newly enrolled friend to play the piano at a chapel service. This led to planning a program for Black History Month, which led to revival of the Seminary Singers.

The Singers’ repertoire ranges from gospel music to liturgical dance to traditional hymns such as “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (Anderson’s version).

“I try not to arrange the vocal part the way it is written,” she explains. “That’s one thing that excites people about our music—it’s never what you expect.” ✚



OROMO STUDENT **ASEFA WAKJIRA**

Acting with Justice

by Marissa J. Miller



*Thus says the Lord:
“Act with justice
and righteousness,
and deliver from
the hand of the
oppressor anyone
who has been
robbed. And do no
wrong or violence
to the alien, the
orphan, and the
widow, or shed
innocent blood in
this place.”*

—Jeremiah 22:3

As a member of the politically persecuted ethnic group Oromo, Ethiopian MDiv student Asefa Wakjira deeply understands the Christian responsibility to stand with the marginalized, and greatly appreciates the SFTS commitment to do so. Calling it a double burden of being a Christian and being Oromo, Wakjira brought awareness of his people’s struggle to the SFTS community upon his arrival to the Seminary in 2014. And in turn, the SFTS community has been glad to share that burden with Wakjira.

The Oromo people are the single largest ethnic group both in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa, and yet have been fighting for political freedom and a fair share of governance and representation for decades. Huge waves of protests broke out in October 2015 across Oromia against a proposed ‘Integrated Master Plan’ to expand the capital, Addis Ababa, into Oromia regional territory. The protests were primarily led by students, though many other groups participated. Federal police and

military special forces responded with unnecessary and excessive force by firing live ammunition and beating hundreds of peaceful protesters and bystanders, resulting in hundreds of deaths and scores of injuries. To date, the Ethiopian government estimates more than 11,000 Oromo are imprisoned due to the protests, and known dissenters have wrongfully been placed on an Ethiopian terrorist watch list—many fearing for their lives.

Since arriving at SFTS, Wakjira has rallied the community to stand with the Oromo: he created a worship service to honor the thousands of his people killed for their peaceful protest, and to show solidarity with those still fighting for their rights in Ethiopia. Wakjira is described by SFTS Chaplain and Associate Dean of Student Life, Rev. Scott Clark as “a gifted leader, whose activism is grounded in faithfulness to Scripture and comes with a passion for justice.”

During this worship service last year, speakers from local Ethiopian churches came to explain the plight of the Oromo to those gathered. The service concluded with the group standing in the protest pose of crossed arms overhead, brought

to the world’s attention this past August by Ethiopian Olympic distance runner and silver medalist, Feyisa Lilesa. In describing how the worship experience then reached out beyond the walls of the chapel, Rev. Clark added, “We were then encouraged to tweet with the hashtag #OromoProtest, to publicly stand in solidarity, and we were invited to contact our Senators about a resolution pending in Congress in support of the human rights of the Oromo people. It was powerful.”

“I am grateful to my seminary for standing in solidarity with my people, because it is not possible for churches to do so in Ethiopia... they fear for their lives, for their families.” Wakjira observed. “I am also grateful that people still ask me about it and are following what’s happening back home. [Here at SFTS] you feel like you are in your family, that you have someone who cares for you.” ✝

Asefa Wakjira is a second year MDiv student, an SFTS Presidential Scholarship recipient, and has his Masters in Childhood Studies from University of Trondheim.



Members of the SFTS community, including students, faculty, and staff stand with their arms crossed in protest pose in support of fellow student, Asefa Wakjira (center), and the Oromo people.

ON CAMPUS

Seminary Library is a Treasure Trove of History

By Eva Stimson

Books are only part of what draws visitors to the library at the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Rare documents from the Protestant Reformation, oil lamps from the Holy Land dating back to before the time of Christ, newly recovered mementos of a beloved music professor—all these and more can be found in library archives and special exhibits.

“The archives contain a wealth of primary source documents spanning Presbyterian history in California,” says SFTS librarian Stephanie Miller. “Some of the more stunning collections include 16th-century Bibles, religious pamphlets on slavery from the Civil War era, and reports of the Women’s Occidental Board of Foreign Missions from the early 1900s.”

Also in the archives are the papers of 19th-century pioneer missionary Rev. Timothy Dwight Hunt, as well as papers of Rev. William Anderson Scott, founder of SFTS. Researchers may make an appointment with the librarian to view any of these materials.

Miller is excited about a recent donation to the library of items that had belonged to Dr. John Milton Kelly, a longtime music professor at SFTS. She says these artifacts “from the heyday of the music department, when the seminary had its own radio station,” were recovered by a renter cleaning out the basement of a house formerly owned by the Kelly family.

Kelly was hired in 1937 by SFTS President Rev. Jesse Hays Baird to revitalize the seminary’s department of sacred music. By the time Baird retired in 1957, the music program boasted two full-time professors, plus several part-time faculty—including Kelly’s wife, Edna—offering instruction in organ, piano, choral conducting, voice, and speech.

The Kelly collection includes scrapbooks, personal photos, and six boxes of reel-to-reel recordings. The recordings feature music from Kelly’s travels across Africa with the Westminster Singers choir as part of the U.S. Department of State International Cultural Presentations Program.

Special exhibits allow Miller to display the wealth of material hidden away in library archives. An exhibit this spring featured oil lamps from Palestine, the oldest dating to about 1,000 B.C. and the most recent from the 7th century.

Coming this fall is an exhibit marking the worldwide observance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Among the items to be displayed: Martin Luther’s translation of the Bible from 1535, and Colloquia (Table Talk) from 1568 containing conversations of Luther with his dinner guests.

Miller welcomes donations to the seminary’s library archive project. Each dollar goes toward shelving, acid-free containers, and other materials to protect valuable collections from decay.

“Preserving, describing, and organizing these treasures is one of the most important things I do,” Miller says. “These objects come with stories from alumni and relatives. They strengthen bonds between the seminary and its purpose and community.”✚



The frontspiece of the Beza New Testament, circa 1580



“Songs of Faith, Album 2” was recorded at San Francisco Theological Seminary under the direction of Dr. John Milton Kelly.



This Bible, containing hand painted artwork and ancient typesetting, dates back to the 15th century.



One of the many Palestinian oil lamps currently on display in the library, dating back to 1,000 B.C.

CONTRIBUTE

Please note “Library Archives” with your mailed check payable to San Francisco Theological Seminary
105 Seminary Road
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Prayer for Peace at Standing Rock



“Prayer is a beautiful thing and it’s what we need to begin with, but it’s not the thing we should end with. My parents taught me many things, but the most important thing is to be brave. Be brave.”

— SFTS Alum, Rev. Alison Harrington (MDiv 2006) after her November 2016 arrest for peacefully protesting on North Dakota Governor Doug Bergum’s lawn.



By SFTS Staff and Rachel Howard

At SFTS, we do not separate social justice and spirituality. We believe social action starts in prayer. That’s a hallmark of not only our educational program but of the life of our community. We see this commitment every day in the lives of our students and alums. We are inspired to recount some stories of courage and compassion from the benevolent actions of our SFTS community members.

In December, SFTS graduate and UCSF chaplain Rev. Bentley Stewart (MDiv 2015) braved the freezing temperatures of North Dakota to provide prayer and ministry to U.S. veterans protesting the pipeline. And while each supported the struggle in different ways, they returned with the same understanding: there is much work to be done. The healing of divides was ever more important for all sides.

Stewart had answered a widespread call for Chaplains. It wasn’t a call to join in protest, to defend environmental rights, or to protect indigenous tribes from government oppression. Instead, it was a call to provide compassionate spiritual services to U.S. veterans in the camp as they moved through their grief in the face of any potential violence.

As soon as Stewart walked up the flag-lined road to the Standing Rock camp, he knew he was entering a space unlike any he’d ever been in before. “People had made and prayed over these flags that represented other tribal nations, countries, and institutions—including the military,” said Stewart. “It was beautiful.”

He shared the story of one of the many veterans he encountered. As this man gazed



across Backwater Bridge, one of the main access points to the camp, he saw the uniformed soldiers in Humvees and was immediately carried back to his time as a soldier in Iraq. “If violence had broken out in the camp similarly to the way it had in the weeks prior, this could have triggered extremely painful memories for him.”

SFTS student Jamie Lee Sprague-Ballou (MDiv 2017) had responded to another widespread call. Sioux Chief Arvol Looking Horse held an Interfaith Day of Prayer, and Sprague-Ballou braved the the freezing temperatures and distress, along with other students from the Graduate Theological Union.

“At San Francisco Theological Seminary, we stand with those who stand for justice,” said Rev. Dr. James McDonald, President and Professor of Faith & Public Life at SFTS. “The path of the Dakota Access Oil Pipeline threatened the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe’s access to clean water and infringed on their sacred burial grounds. We stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux in their determination to seek justice.” ✚

SFTS Alumna Represents PC(USA) at United Nations

By Cynthia Ahart Wood

Bundled up against the lingering cold of a particularly brutal winter, Min-Hee Kim (MDiv 2015) experienced New York City for the first time in March as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) delegate to the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

It was a dramatic introduction to New York. "The second day of the conference, the whole city was shut down because of snow," she recalls. "All the U.N. buildings were closed and all of the delegates were stuck in hotels." Kim, who arrived from Seoul during a break in the weather, sought a sampling of the city between meetings.

As a delegate to CSW, an event swarming with more than 3,900 attendees from every corner of the globe, Kim had a chance to network with a diverse set of new contacts and to gather inspiration for her ministry. It was a busy week.

"Every night, the PC(USA) delegates had a debriefing," she says, referring to the group of 12 young women sponsored by the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, Presbyterian Women, the Women's Leadership Development and Young Women's Ministries office, and the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns. "We shared what we learned and what challenged us. We felt a strong bond connecting in faith for gender justice."

While the primary theme of this year's CSW was women's economic empowerment, the agenda covered many other topics.

"Faith and Feminism" may one day heal Korea's history of Comfort Women

publish a book about the life of a "comfort woman"—one of thousands of females used as sex slaves by Japanese soldiers during World War II. This is a seminal issue in Kim's life, and she was very pleased to find a session at CSW that addressed human trafficking.

Kim recalls PC(USA) staff person Jewel McRae's comment to her that she would be a "different person" after CSW. "Even though I am still processing this intense and transforming event, I see how that is true," Kim says. "I definitely brought a different me back to Korea." Blessings to Min-Hee on her path of healing! ✚



"An NGO forum on North Korean refugees expanded my perspective on the world's most vulnerable people, who happen to be—shockingly—my people," she says. "Hearing the heartbreaking voices in person at CSW made me aware that my worldview and my understanding of gender-justice activism needs to be constantly redefined."

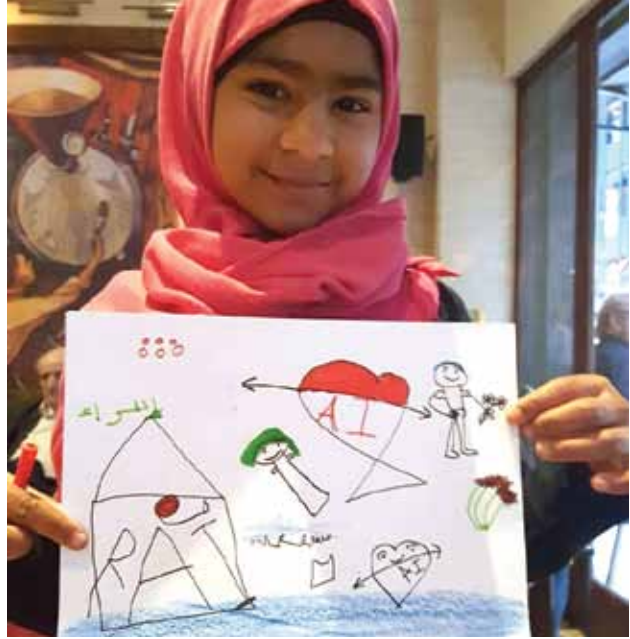
In a moving session called "Sacred Activism," panelists representing diverse continents shared "how they create sacred spaces in their communities and within themselves," Kim says. Feeling truly inspired, she adds, "I would like to create a 'faith and feminism' working group in Seoul like the one I saw at the U.N."

Kim is working with a Korean women's group to



Min-Hee Kim was one of 12 delegates representing the PC(USA) at the United Nations (top) at the Commission on the Status of Women (above).

Healing Through PLAY



How an SFTS Alum is Working With the Children of Syria



“Out of the Palestinian camp Saida, [the kids] use art to inspire their brighter future. May...dreams of peace and prosperity be our shared reality now and always.”

—SFTS alum Rev. Howard Dotson

By Marissa J. Miller

Calling the laughter of Syrian refugee children “Balm in Gilead” for his soul, SFTS alum Rev. Howard Dotson (M.Div. 2003) recently completed his second trip to Lebanon to provide art therapy to help heal trauma suffered by the children living in refugee camps in Beirut.

Dotson has an extensive background as a substance-abuse counselor and has worked with refugee families in his hometown of Denver, Colorado. Drawing on this distinct combination of experience, he was concerned that Syrian children in refugee camps would turn to substance abuse to deal with their untreated trauma of growing up in their war-ravaged country.

He’s using what kids know well—play and art therapy—to help them process their trauma. “Kids heal through play. What they can’t say in words, they can put on paper. I call them my little Picassos. Their playful spirits are better than a double espresso!”

The U.N. says that there are more than 5 million registered refugees, and around half of them are under 17. Of these, the Colorado Department of Health and Human Services says that over the last 18 months, 227 people from Syria initially resettled in Colorado, representing about 50 families. Last March, Dotson hosted what he called a respite weekend for Syrian families at the Denver metro YMCA, with 27 kids from the age of 2 to 17 participating.

Dotson has kept in contact with families in refugee camps in Lebanon, and has traveled twice to the region to work in the Hamra section of Beirut, the Kalitha PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) camp, and the UNHCR compound in Saida (Sidon). Soon, American medical students through the University of Colorado will join him and his team in Syria to do a rotation in pediatric psychiatry with a clinical focus on trauma-informed care for refugee children.

Long-term, his plans are to set up a medical school practicum between American medical schools and the American University of Beirut medical school. “These future doctors will be better clinicians with the Syrian refugee families because they participated in this clinical rotation as part of their training.”

Until that program gets off the ground, however, hundreds of “little Picassos” are reaping the benefits of Dotson’s enthusiasm and passion for healing through art. In photos he’s posted on Facebook, it’s clear that it’s working. Images of joy, peace, and love—hearts, flowers, butterflies, nature—combined with big smiles and sparkling eyes give one hope for their future.

“We take care of them so they can go home and rebuild Syria,” says Dotson. ✚





SFTS Launches New Alumni Outreach Program

By Cynthia Ahart Wood

With fresh energy toward strengthening alumni relations, leaders of the San Francisco Theological Seminary hope to tap into the passion and experience of graduates to identify new applicants and create mentor-support networks for students.

In February, the seminary launched its Alumni-Admissions Liaison Volunteer (AALV) program, a grassroots recruitment effort. The seminary is also hiring its first full-time Director of Alumni Relations, with the departure of Rev. Jerry Van Marter (MDiv 1971). Van Marter worked part-time in alumni relations for SFTS, and has now become Interim Communications Director in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Office of the General Assembly.

Dr. David G. Behrs, Vice President of Enrollment Management, and Rev. Ellen Baxter (MDiv 2006), Director of Admissions, presented the AALV program to 40 former students at alumni luncheons in Portland, OR and Pasadena, CA. Alumni Recruiters Rich Poole (MDiv 2006) and Linda Stewart Kalen (MDiv 1997) provided much needed boots on the ground and outreach in those cities. Behrs and Baxter also have plans to visit Seattle, San Francisco, and San Diego in coming months.

"Alumni-Admissions Liaison Volunteers play a unique role in the recruitment process," Behrs says. "Having been students at SFTS, they are able to

convey the essence of SFTS: the place, the education, and the people. They have anecdotes about the seminary that bring the experience to life."

Volunteer alumni can help their alma mater by recruiting potential students, by interviewing applicants in their region, and by sending congratulatory letters to those admitted. Volunteers are also needed to represent the seminary at college fairs and to host receptions for prospective and accepted students. Members of the AALV will serve as resources for prospective students and as mentors once students are accepted.

And alums benefit, too. Members of the AALV program will be able to connect to SFTS in new and meaningful ways—some will find an opportunity to serve the alumni body in a leadership roles, while others will enjoy the occasions to connect and networking with fellow graduates. AALV representatives are invited to gather at SFTS for two days of recruitment training this summer.

"Admissions is all about cultivating relationships," Behrs says. "Alums are the lifeblood of any institution, and we have 4,700 in the world, with about 4,000 in the U.S. and 700 internationally. We are inviting them to stay connected, work in concert with fellow alums, and help recruit prospective students where they live and worship." ✚

SFTS alumna, Rev. Linda Stewart-Kalen (MDiv 1997) makes a presentation at the first Alumni-Admissions Liaison Volunteer program recruiting event in Portland, OR.

TRANSFORM A LIFE

Join the SFTS Alumni-Admissions Liaison Volunteer (AALV) program, and transform a life through the ministry of Christ.

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Alumni Tell SFTS Story Best

Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, MT, is more than 1,100 miles from SFTS. But its pastor, Rev. Timothy C. Lanham (MDiv 1998), stays close to the seminary by working as a volunteer recruiter, mentor, and trustee.

Lanham was drawn back into the SFTS circle when a member of his congregation felt the call to ministry.

“Ryan Schlimgen came to me to talk about his call and where he should go to seminary,” Lanham says. “I also have a degree from Princeton Seminary, so I encouraged him to look at both of those options. After he visited San Anselmo for an Inquirers Weekend, he made his decision.”

About the time Schlimgen, now a Navy chaplain, began his divinity studies, Lanham

had joined the SFTS Board of Trustees. Schlimgen’s graduation with an MDiv in 2013 coincided with the 25th anniversary of Lanham’s graduation. “I made a special trip back for his graduation,” Lanham says.

Another of Lanham’s recruits, Katie Brendler, is currently enrolled in the master’s program at SFTS.

“Alumni have experience with the seminary, personal connections with admissions people, and first-hand knowledge of programs like the Inquirers Weekend,” Lanham says. “I really like being a resource for seminary students. Whenever they have any questions, they come to me, because I stay current with what’s going on, not only at SFTS but in seminary education in general.” ✚



SFTS Trustee, Tim Lanham (MDiv 1998) congratulates friend and recruit Ryan Schlimgen at Schlimgen’s graduation from the MDiv program in 2013. Schlimgen is now a Navy chaplain.

Rev. Dr. In Myung-Jin (PhD), serves as a Chairman of the ruling Saenuri Party’s Emergency Reform Committee, formed after 30 members bolted to create a new conservative party. In the past, Myung-Jin saved the then-Grand National Party, a predecessor of Saenuri, from sinking and helped the party win the general elections. At that time, he led the party as its Ethics Committee Chairman and introduced a “much bolstered” code of conduct. Myung-Jin, who was reluctant to serve as the emergency leader, just now finally agreed. He also is a senior pastor at Galilee Presbyterian Church in Guro-dong, in Seoul’s Guro-gu area, and he serves as a Chair Professor at Soongsil University in Seoul. He attended Hanshin University for undergraduate seminary study, earned a master’s in theology from Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary in Seoul and received his PhD in theology from SFTS.



Rev. Jerry Van Marter (1971 MDiv) has been invited by the Reverend J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, to serve as part-time, Interim Communications Director in the PC (USA)’s Office of the General Assembly. He succeeds Rev. Toya Richards, who has accepted a new position as Senior Communications Associate for The Night Ministry, a faith-based, social service agency in Chicago. Marter is the former coordinator for the Presbyterian News Service, PC (USA). He retired in December 2014. “Retirement is great, but this opportunity is better,” he said. “I am grateful to J. Herbert Nelson II, for this opportunity to serve the church I love. I believe that any job at this level is



about the relationships between people—people who are all seeking to serve Jesus Christ the best they can in whatever position they occupy in the denomination.” As the acting Director of Alumni Relations for SFTS over the past couple of years, Jerry will be missed and we wish him the best!

Linda Compton (1987 MDiv) recently published *Broken Ground of the Soul: The Healing Power of the Psalms* (Outskirts Press), a book she describes as “a kind of multidimensional treasure map drawing on biblical texts, the latest neuroscience and Rumi, among others.” The book, which began as entries in Compton’s journal after her niece was murdered, “illustrates how to find sustained joy despite all of our losses and betrayals in life.” One reviewer called the book “inspired, compassionate and wise.” Compton, an ordained Presbyterian clergy, has served as Executive Director of the Marin Interfaith Council, Religion Program Officer for the Marin Community Foundation and as Executive Director of Whistlestop, a senior center in San Rafael, CA. She has been honored with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from the Marin County Human Rights Commission and the Heart of Marin Award for Excellence in Leadership. Compton lives in New Mexico.

Brother Augustine Nicoletti, FSC (1998 DMin) serves as President of the Ethiopian Catholic University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools handles administrative responsibilities. Most recently, he served as Associate Professor of Education at Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y. He also has served in ministries in Jamaica, Kenya and Namibia. “Given the quality of his experiences, his intellectual



ALUMNI STORIES

and administrative abilities and his deep commitment to his vocation as a Brother of the Christian Schools, I am confident that Brother Augustine will lead and develop the Ethiopian Catholic University as it becomes a sign of Christian hope and a center of human and Christian tertiary education for the people of Africa," said Brother Superior General Robert Schieler, FSC. Brother Augustine holds doctorates in ministry and adolescent spirituality from SFTS and in educational leadership from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

Rev. Scott Hill (1990 MDiv) is Pastor at Aspinwall Presbyterian Church in Aspinwall, PA. He plans to help grow the parish by engaging the broader community beyond those who fill the pews in the modern church, which was rebuilt after a fire destroyed much of it in 1999. Arts programs, a film series and church-school partnerships are all under consideration. "I want to bring together arts and spirituality and to help people see their daily life as a ministry," he said. Hill has served the church in Egypt and Morocco and continues connections with the Middle East through PC (USA) World Mission and Hands Along the Nile Development Services in Washington, D.C., where he has served on the National Advisory Board and as a fellow for Egyptian-American dialogue. He also served as Pastor at Corydon Presbyterian Church in Indiana for 10 years, and has worked in Illinois and New York.



Gwendolyn Morgan (1992 MDiv)'s book *Snowy Owls, Egrets, & Unexpected Graces* (Hieraeth Press, 2016), has been named a finalist in the 19th annual Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Awards. The book of poetry has been described as one that "invokes hope and gratitude in the midst of sorrow and grief, an invitation to take a breath in the midst of the turning of the wheel of the year, to pause and recalibrate to the music of the cosmos." Morgan, who says she learned the names of birds and wildflowers and also inherited paint brushes and boxes from her grandmothers, holds an M.F.A. in creative writing. Morgan's first book, *Crow Feathers, Red Ochre, Green Tea*, was a winner of the Wild Earth Poetry Prize. She has received numerous residencies for artists and writers and her poetry has appeared in anthologies, blogs and literary journals.



Rev. Dan Fowler (1994 MDiv) was installed March 25 as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Ashland, OR, complete with live music and a bagpiper. An official at the church noted

that Fowler "serves a God who loves all people, and is proud to serve a congregation which is fully open and inclusive."

Fowler has been in the ministry since 1980 and was ordained in 1994. Before coming to Ashland, Fowler served at a church in Fort Bragg, CA, for 14 years. A music major at San Francisco State University, Fowler still uses music in his ministry. He sings and plays piano and guitar. While living on the Mendocino Coast, Fowler performed with several chamber operas and he plans to participate in the music scene in Ashland as well. He also has been an active Rotarian, and was involved in Rotary Youth Exchange.



Rev. Yvette Flunder (2001 DMin), Senior Pastor of the City of Refuge United Church of Christ in Oakland, CA, and Presiding Bishop for The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, is portrayed by actor Phylicia Rashad in Dustin Lance Black's "When We Rise." The eight-hour miniseries, which first aired on ABC-TV in February, documents the history of the post-Stonewall LGBTQ Rights Movement, and much of the show focuses on activists in San Francisco. Flunder is known for her work serving the African-American, LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS communities. In 2015, she was the keynote speaker for the White House observation of the 26th Anniversary of World AIDS Day. A gospel recording artist, renowned speaker and published author, Flunder is also an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ with masters and doctorate degrees in ministry from the Pacific School of Religion and SFTS.



Rev. Elizabeth Campbell Maleke (2011 MDiv) pastors two Presbyterian churches that meet in three different buildings over the course of a year. That takes some doing! For six years, she has served at First Presbyterian Church in Williamstown, WV, and Waverly Presbyterian Church in Waverly, about 12 miles from Williamstown. In summer, Waverly Presbyterian moves services to Bethel Presbyterian, which also is in Waverly. "The Waverly church seems to hold the heat better," she said, "while the Bethel church stays cooler in the summer. It's weird, but it works." And Campbell Maleke brings something extra to her work—costumes. Some Sundays, she dresses like biblical characters and delivers the sermon as a monologue. She earned a B.A. in religion at Davidson College in Davidson, N.C. In Toronto, Canada, she worked with L'Arche Daybreak, helping people with developmental disabilities. She spent time in Watsonville, CA, working as youth pastor, before enrolling at SFTS.



SFTS Alumnus Honored on Coronado's 'Avenue of Heroes'

Ron Pickett, *Coronado Eagle & Journal*

In the photo of Lieutenant Colonel Richard Hayward in uniform, just above his ribbons are a Combat Infantryman Badge and the cross of a chaplain.

Christmas Eve 1944 was the day that changed his life forever. Two-thirds of his unit had been killed or wounded in the past two weeks, and his buddy was talking about going home because of a badly mangled hand. In a shell hole in the Pacific, Hayward felt hopeless and helpless. As he trembled and cried, one word echoed in his mind, "God, God, God." He prayed, "I can't take it anymore. You take over. I'm your man." In his mind he heard, "It's going to be all right."

Hayward survived many more months of combat, always feeling the protection of God. Four times during the 220 days he was on the front lines, he came close to being killed or wounded. A sniper's bullet struck a tree where he had been standing moments before. A bullet tore off the heel of his boot. An artillery shell and a land mine landed within 20 feet of him, but neither exploded.

After the war, Hayward sensed God's call to the ministry. He graduated from the University of Southern California and San Francisco Theological Seminary, and was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in 1953. Recalling his positive experience with military



chaplains, he took a commission as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force.

His first overseas assignment was at an isolated radar station in Germany. The station's 300 soldiers would go to town on Saturday night and return to the base early Sunday morning. Attendance at Sunday services was understandably scant. Undaunted, Hayward changed the time of the services to afternoon and attendance increased by 500 percent. He also organized a bowling league for the troops. The resulting increase in morale won Hayward the praise of the base commander.

While stationed in the Netherlands, Hayward established the American Protestant Church of The Hague. In 2006, on the 50th anniversary of the church, Hayward was honored as Founding Pastor.

Back in the United States, Hayward created 30-minute taped radio broadcasts for personnel assigned to bases in New Mexico and other residents of the state. While stationed on Okinawa, he produced taped radio programs of popular music and inspirational talk segments intended to encourage U.S. military personnel to attend Sunday services.

During the Vietnam War, Hayward was stationed in northern Thailand. His final assignment was as senior Protestant chaplain at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. He retired from active duty in 1973.

In retirement, Hayward was public relations director for YMCAs in San Diego County, CA and served as pastor of several congregations.

He and his wife of 65 years, Betty, live in Coronado, CA, where Hayward has been honored with a banner on the city's 'Avenue of Heroes' (Third and Fourth Streets between Orange Avenue and Alameda Boulevard). ✚

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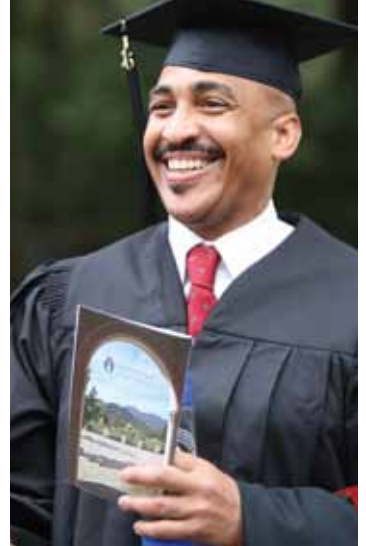
To read a longer version of this article, visit sfts.edu.



Do you know someone who is being called to ministry? Encourage them to attend one of our Inquirers Weekend events this year!

INQUIRERS WEEKEND

June 21-23, 2017
 September 28-30, 2017
 November 9-11, 2017
 February 22-24, 2018
 April 19-21, 2018



Embracing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

By Eva Stimson

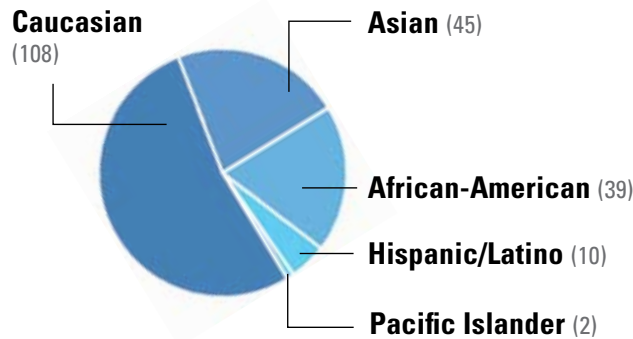
Rev. Dr. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina views her recent appointment to the post of Chief Diversity Officer at San Francisco Theological Seminary as a unique opportunity. It's a call to take learning beyond the classroom and to challenge the seminary as well as the church.

She has already coined a fitting acronym for the diversity program at SFTS: **Imago DEI** (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion). The Latin phrase, meaning "image of God," gives theological grounding to an increasingly urgent mission: creating an environment where everyone is respected and diversity is not feared but celebrated.

"We live in dangerous times, where forces of fear and hatred have become rampant, ripping the social fabric," wrote SFTS President Rev. Dr. James L. McDonald in a document outlining the new initiative. "Overt racism has re-emerged from the shadows of U.S. society and its institutions with a startling vehemence and ferocity."

Imago DEI builds on the work of a Working Group on Race,

2015-16 SFTS STUDENT MAKEUP



Ethnicity, and Culture appointed by McDonald in spring 2016. The group gathered information from students about their experiences of welcome, inclusion, and respect at the seminary. The group's final report included recommendations on courses and curriculum, faculty training, anti-racism training, and more communication between students and administration.

McDonald said the faculty has begun wrestling with the issues raised by the group. He announced two initial decisions: the appointment of Garrett-Cobbina as Chief Diversity Officer and

the establishment of the Guiding Coalition for Community Care to raise awareness of racism issues and hold the seminary accountable for its commitments.

These decisions, McDonald said, "lay the foundation for a serious, long-term, institution-wide response to the important issues raised by the Working Group and the current divisive and corrosive social climate in the United States and globally."

As she takes on her new assignment, Garrett-Cobbina, Garrett-Cobbina, Shaw Family Chair for Clinical Pastoral Education and Assistant Professor

of Pastoral Care and Education, will continue teaching her regular classes and leading the Clinical Pastoral Education program.

She says her goal as Chief Diversity Officer will be to "create and share strategies that challenge seminary faculty and administration, as well as the church, to continue their diversity and inclusion efforts from an interfaith and ecumenical perspective."

She hopes to "offer an interactive space where students of all backgrounds and identifications can develop a sense of well-being and belonging, learn from and with each other, respect each other's individualities, and celebrate the diversity that each community member brings to the fabric of SFTS."

McDonald said the success of the diversity program depends on "community-wide engagement and commitment, coupled with a willingness on the part of everyone—students, administration, faculty, and trustees—to listen, learn, admit faults, take responsibility, seek forgiveness, and be open to changing." ✚

Practicing What We Preach: Transformation from the Inside

By Rachel Howard

Students who have earned a Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction (DASD) at San Francisco Theological Seminary will undoubtedly tell you the program has changed their lives.

"I have been so blessed by the community and leadership of the program," says a recent DASD graduate. "I can genuinely say that the DASD program helped save my faith. It's been a community of grace, generosity, and encouragement, as well as a welcomed challenge in the academic sense."

In the spirit of transformation, the seminary is shaking up the study of spiritual direction to make this program more flexible and accessible to students from around the country. Approaches to learning have changed over the years, and many working professionals and pastors are unable to take time away from family and work to complete their studies. What's more, not everyone seeking training in spiritual direction will pursue a vocation as a Spiritual Director.

SFTS has made changes that address these realities while keeping the basic tenets that make the DASD such a beloved program.

"The DASD is an amazing, well thought out, and profound area of study," says Dr. Wendy Farley, Director of the Program in Christian Spirituality. "But it can be difficult for students to get away from their lives for three weeks in a row. Our changes will maintain the heart and integrity of the program while providing some new options that make this study more accessible."

Beginning in early 2018, students will be able to participate in a single five-day retreat that combines study, spiritual practice, meditation, and community or pursue a Certificate in compassionate world engagement (compassion and justice) or spiritual direction. Students can deepen their study by continuing on to earn a Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction.

Instead of enrolling in the traditional three-week January intensive sessions, students will now be able to complete their studies in a series of five-week sessions—taken either back-to-back or over a period of years. Though each retreat

will be shaped by its leaders, a typical retreat would combine study, spiritual practice, quiet, and community.

"Now more than ever, people really need spiritual grounding and resources to face this historical moment—to engage the world in compassionate and courageous ways and use spiritual formation for the world," Farley says. "For people who are thinking about the intersection of spirituality and social justice, for people who want to re-ground themselves in practices of compassion and contemplation and listening to others, it's really important that we continue this work." ✝

Changes make our popular DASD program more accessible

"Now more than ever, people really need spiritual grounding and resources to face this historical moment—to engage the world in compassionate and courageous ways and use spiritual formation for the world. For people who are thinking about the intersection of spirituality and social justice, for people who want to re-ground themselves in practices of compassion and contemplation and listening to others, it's really important that we continue this work."

— Dr. Wendy Farley, Director of the Program in Christian Spirituality



GET MORE INFO

For more information about these exciting changes to the DASD program, visit our Program in Christian Spirituality at www.sfts.edu/academics



Upon her retirement, Dr. Liebert visited her fellow Sisters of Holy Names of Jesus and Mary at their facility in Lesotho, South Africa in April. While there, she visited several of their ministries, including one of the many orphanages that have been become necessary since the AIDS crisis exploded in southern Africa.

Leaving a Legacy of Spirituality

By Cynthia Ahart Wood

After 30 years with San Francisco Theological Seminary, Dr. Elizabeth Liebert SNJM, one of the authors of the seminary's signature Christian Spirituality program, departs officially this spring. But for a Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, retirement doesn't mean leisure. She's already planning a return engagement as adjunct faculty this summer—as well as a full schedule of writing, consulting, speaking engagements, congregation leadership assignments, and travel.

Liebert arrived at SFTS in 1987 with more than a decade of experience in teaching and academic leadership on her résumé, as well as three graduate degrees: a Master and Doctorate in Religion and Personality from Vanderbilt University plus a Masters in Religious Studies from Gonzaga University.

"SFTS was one of the first Protestant seminaries to do a program in spirituality," said Dean of the Seminary, Rev. Dr. Jana Childers. "By the '80s, we were ready to do our own program. We needed somebody who had a body of literature and knowledge to teach, so naturally, that comes from the Roman

SFTS celebrates Beth Liebert as she embarks on a new path

Catholic world and Beth turned out to be just the right person to build the program for us."

But it wasn't easy at first.

"Everybody was always polite, but they didn't understand what I was doing, and didn't necessarily give it much academic credibility for quite some time," Liebert remembers.

"Because of her patience and her graciousness—and her ability to stay at the table, Beth built trust over a period of years," Childers said. "And the result is the seminary now has required courses in spirituality. It was a genius-level thing that she was able to translate what she knew about Ignatian spirituality, and all of her training from the

Roman Catholic church, into a reformed theology perspective."

Liebert started as an Associate Professor and Director of the Program in Christian Spirituality; she was made a full Professor in 1993. She served as Dean of the Seminary and Vice President for Academic Affairs from 2009 to 2013. Liebert was the first Roman Catholic sister to be named as Dean of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seminary.

"I love the students. I love the teaching. I love my colleagues," she said. "I got into seminary because I knew I could work one-to-one with people. And if I could work with people who then teach other people, I can multiply the impact."

Liebert's advice for those following in her footsteps is to "do anything you can to keep folks connected with the Spirit and help them to learn how to connect other people to the Spirit."

"Beth's legacy will always be honored at SFTS," Childers said. "She came to us at a very important time in our history and she built the program that we needed. She set a standard for something that was very needed for our generation and that legacy will last a long, long time." ✚

A Note from the Dean

It's more than handsome, this group. The photo shows eleven of the twelve scholars who make up the SFTS faculty. And while they are lovely folks in every sense of the word they are more than that, too. About half women, half senior professors, and half Presbyterian, they are also mostly North American. But can you guess which person was born in Alaska? Find the German? Tell which folks are fluent in another language besides English? Actually, fully half of the SFTS teaching faculty (one-third of the total group) are from under-represented racial-ethnic groups, two were born outside the United States and all are proficient in at least one other language.

It's hard to tell from a photo how diverse or august a group of theologians is. So let me tell you just a bit more: in the opinion of the red-headed administrator in the yellow blouse, they are brilliant. To a person, brilliant. And they

apply their substantial firing power to questions about ancient Persia and the Old Testament, white privilege and education, the problem of human suffering, the Gospel writer Matthew's theology and evangelism for the SBNR (Spiritual, But Not Religious) generation. One of these professors is writing a major work on Martin Luther, another is translating ancient Latin manuscripts of the Bible, and still another is leading retreats on contemplative practices that sustain compassion. More than a handsome faculty, this is a pride of scholars, a brigade of activists, a clowder of gentle spirits who have dedicated their lives to learning, teaching and the furtherance of the Gospel. It is a great privilege to stand with them.

Signed, the red-headed administrator
Jana Childers

The Faculty of San Francisco Theological Seminary, from left to right: Rev. Dr. Teresa Chávez Saucedá, Rev. Dr. James McDonald, Dr. Annette Weissenreider, Rev. Yolanda Norton, Dr. Wendy Farley, Dr. Greg Love, Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, Rev. Dr. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina, Dr. David Ezekiel, Dr. Christopher Ocker, Rev. Dr. Eugene Eung-Chun Park. Not pictured: Dr. Elizabeth Liebert SNJM



FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Wendy Farley

*Director of Program
in Christian Spirituality,
Professor of Christian
Studies*



This spring, Dr. Farley was invited to be a keynote speaker for the Society of Phenomenology and Theology conference at Furman University, titled *Divine Darkness and Dark Times: Marguerite Porete and the Deaths of Reason*.

Alongside Brooke D. Lavelle, the founder of Courage of Care, Dr. Farley will be leading a retreat, *Awakening the Heart to Others: Practices of Beauty and Compassion* at SFTS this summer. They will explore Buddhist and Christian forms of compassion meditation and also do contemplative practice with beauty—with time for walks, rest, and peace in the beautiful campus surrounds.

Meanwhile back on campus, Wendy has been building on a much loved Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction to make elements of it more accessible to a wide range of people and interests. It will be built on a Certificate in the Art of Spiritual Direction with a focus in compassionate world engagement and contemplative listening. Check out the website for more details!

Dr. Elizabeth Liebert, SNJM

Professor of Spiritual Life



Dr. Liebert returned on April 5 from six weeks in Lesotho, South Africa where she worked with the Sisters of the Holy Names Basotho sisters, offering conferences

on Spirituality and Charism of the Sisters of the Holy Names, the religious vows, spiritual direction, contemplation and contemplative listening, and reconciliation.

While in Australia in May, she worked through the Campion Centre for Spirituality to present two sessions for the general public, *Ignatian Spirituality for the 21st Century* and *Choosing Wisely: Being Christian in the Church and in the World*, and a workshop for spiritual directors on Election as applied on one's personal life.

Travelling next to Tasmania, she presented five sessions on Social Discernment for the Australian Network of Spiritual Directors' annual conference and a retreat based on the Psalms.

Rev. Yolanda Norton

*Assistant Professor
of Old Testament*



This summer, Professor Norton is looking forward to her fourth journey to Israel to lead a group of students and guests in the Jezreel archaeological expedition—a site featuring over 7,000 years of history, and more recently, rich biblical history including Naboth's vineyard, the gruesome death of Queen Jezebel, ritual sacrifices at a Canaanite high place and epic battles from ancient times to the modern era. This trip will be a course for credit for the students and is vital to the work that Norton does in her area of study, the Old Testament. "In each moment I find myself trying to cultivate a larger picture that fuses together biblical literature, historical data, and the tangible material world that surrounds me each day. My time digging at Jezreel

brings new meaning to the work that I do. While participating in the dig, I get to see history unfold before my eyes. It is a new way of learning and being; to peel back the layers and try to piece together the world of people that existed long ago."

Dr. Chris Ocker

Professor of Church History



This spring, Dr. Ocker served on the planning committee for the joint meeting of the American Society of Church History and the Catholic Historical Association, in Berkeley, CA, serving as chair and commentator in sessions including *Toward Dialogue and Tolerance in the Post-Reformation Era*, *Afterlives of Reformation*, and *The English Reformation*. Later in the spring, Ocker shared a paper called "A Reconsideration of Sin, Grace, and the Reformation" with the annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Theological Society in Berkeley.

Upcoming events for Dr. Ocker include giving a paper on Luther's view of biblical reading and spiritual inspiration to the *Sola scriptura* conference at the University of Frankfurt at the end of May and three lectures on "A Different Reformation" to the Hanshin Symposium in June.

Additionally, Ocker made guest presentations at several seminars: the Medieval Studies seminar at the University of California at Berkeley on the development and literature of medieval theology, Arthur Holder's departmental seminar in historical and cultural studies at the GTU on the history of biblical hermeneutics, and Rebecca Esterson's seminar on the history of biblical interpretation at the GTU. †

Explore Our DMin
Summer Seminars
for Continuing
Education

2017 Advanced Pastoral Studies Summer Seminars

Teaching as Leadership

Dr. Rodger Nishioka June 5 – 9, 2017

Biblical Images for Reimagining Church

Dr. Jon Berquist June 12 – 16, 2017

Gospel and Global Media Culture

Dr. Mary Hess June 19 – 23, 2017

Peacemaking in the City:

Churches Responding to Gun Violence

Dr. David Daniels June 19 – 30, 2017

Leadership for Communities of Just Practice

Deborah Mullen July 3 – 7, 2017

For more information, please visit sfts.edu/dmin

In Celebration of Dr. Richard Gray, Distinguished Alum & Trustee

Richard M. Gray, former SFTS Trustee of 16 years and Distinguished Alum (1988), passed away on March 17, 2017. Born in Washington, D.C. on January 25, 1924, he grew up there and in Mystic, CT. before entering Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA, from which he graduated Phi Beta Kappa at the age of 18 in 1942 with majors in English and History. After serving as an officer with the U.S. Navy in World War II, Dr. Gray worked for one of the largest advertising agencies in the country at the time, N.W. Ayer.

After 16 years with N.W. Ayer, he came to the west coast to study for his Master of Divinity at SFTS, which he received summa cum laude in 1961. He then served as a university pastor for seven years at Portland State University in Oregon, where he helped develop an ecumenical ministry of eight denominations and build a jointly conducted program and campus center known as Koinonia House. In 1972, he earned a PhD in Higher Education at the University of California at Berkeley.

Gray was also moved by a strong concern for the individual development of students, and concluded that his calling in life was to create collaborative learning communities. In 1973, he founded the innovative World College West in Marin County, integrating business ethics and finance with social and environmental values. Evolving into the Presidio Graduate School in San Francisco, they paved the way for students to obtain a “Green MBA” and popularized the business values of “people, planet and profit.”

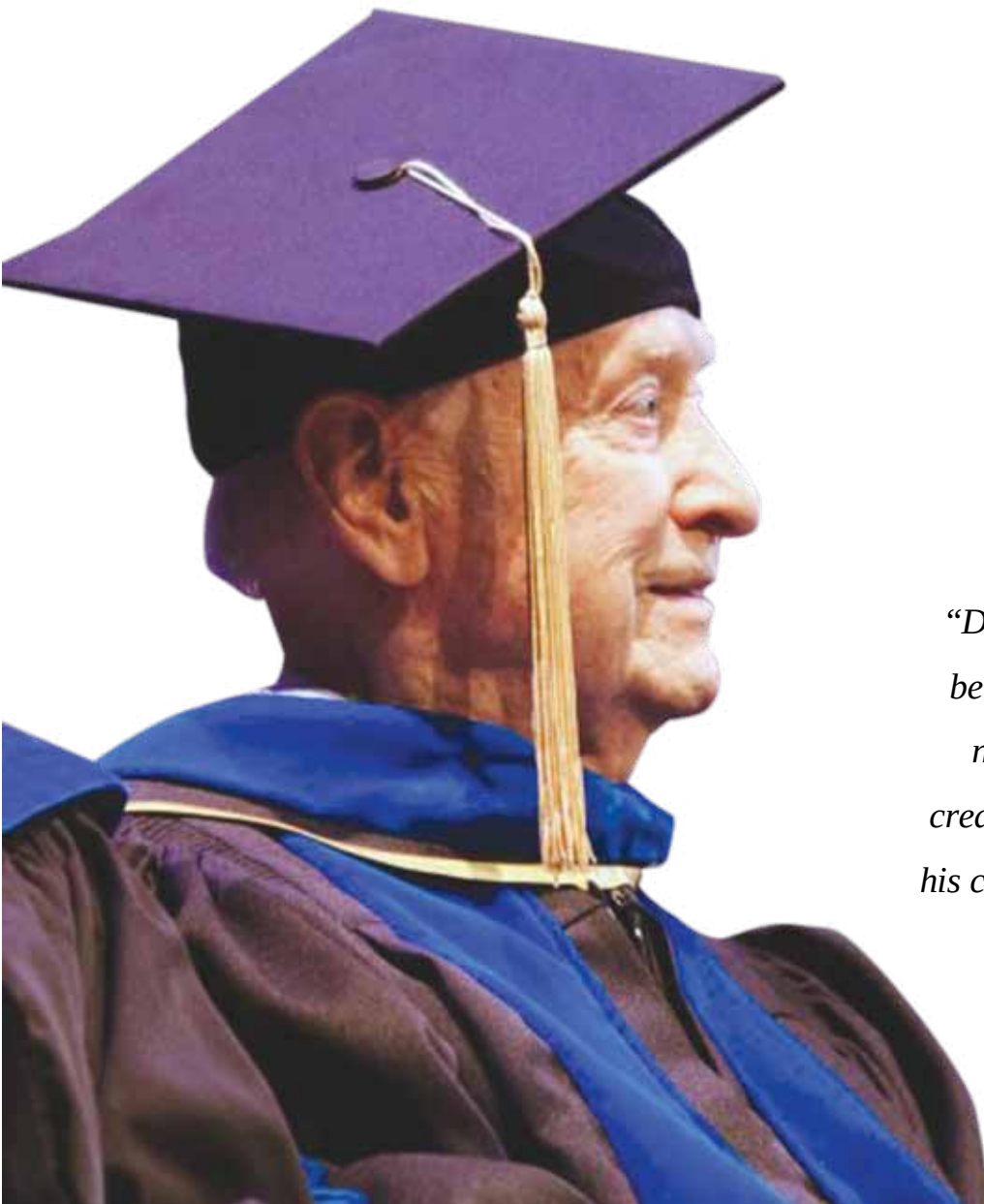
His avocation was writing, including two books, one entitled *Not by Bread Alone*, and the other *Passion Before Prudence: Commitment is the Mother of Meaning*, as well as secular and sacred music and lyrics, including the score for a musical entitled “Star of Nantucket.”

Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jana Childers reflected, “Dick Gray was the kind of human being who gives education a good name. Dapper and personable, creative and far-thinking, he devoted his charm and talents to personalizing education’s institutions. His warmth will live on in the memories of those who knew him for a long, long time.”

Predeceased by his beloved wife of 70 years, Catherine Hammond Gray, he is survived by two daughters and three grandchildren. †

“Dick Gray was the kind of human being who gives education a good name. Dapper and personable, creative and far-thinking, he devoted his charm and talents to personalizing education’s institutions.”

— **Dr. Jana Childers,**
Dean and Vice President
for Academic Affairs



IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Al J. Opdyke (BDiv/MARts/MDiv 1964) died Feb. 12, 2017. He was born Aug. 18, 1934, in Sacramento,



CA, and moved with his family to San Francisco at age 10. Opdyke served Presbyterian churches in Utah, Washington and at several locations in California. His favorite place was the Sierra Nevada mountains. He loved dogs as well as classic swing and big band music.

After retiring in 1998, Opdyke worked with the Turlock Police Department as a volunteer and served as a guest preacher in numerous churches. He is survived by Karen, his wife of 57 years; three children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Rev. Richard Stephen Jenks (BDiv/MDiv 1960) died Jan. 22, 2017. He and his twin brother, James Siebert Jenks,



were born Jan. 17, 1935, in Chico, CA. Jenks served as pastor at Presbyterian churches in several cities in California and in Denver, CO. He was an executive in the Presbyteries of Inland Northwest and San Diego and the synod of Southern California and Hawaii and the Pacific. He retired in 2001. He enjoyed

reading, all things electronic and playing cards with his children and their friends. He is survived by Jane Odell, his wife of 30 years; two children, two stepchildren, five grandchildren and six step-grandchildren.

Dr. William Doty (BDiv/MA 1963) died Jan. 2, 2017. He grew up in northeastern New Mexico. Before retiring



in 2001 as Professor of Religious Studies and the Humanities at the University of Alabama, Doty taught at Rutgers University, the Garrett Theological Seminary, Douglass College for Women at Rutgers, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Hampshire College, also in Amherst. From 1997-1998,

he served as Goodwin-Philpott Eminent Scholar in History at Auburn University. He was the author of 14 books and more than 70 scholarly articles, writing about mythology, anthropology, psychology and literature. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Joan Mallonee.

Rev. Dr. Lynn C. Freele (DMin/PhD 1999) died Jan. 4, 2017. Born October 29, 1939, Freele served as pastor of Galilee Lutheran Church in Kelseyville, CA, from 1989 to 2009, and she

served on the Ethics Committee at Sutter-Lakeside Hospital in Lakeport, CA, for 12 years. Freele also taught classes in philosophy, ethics and world religions part-time for 20 years at Yuba Community College in Clear Lake, CA. Before earning her PhD, she received her MS in educational psychology/community counseling from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and her MDiv



from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. Freele is survived by four children and four grandchildren.

Rev. Douglas Alexander Wilson (MDiv 1966) died Dec. 19, 2016. He was born March 23, 1941, in Jackson, MI. Wilson

served as a minister at churches in Michigan and Ohio.

In 1980, Wilson had a three-month pastoral exchange at Old Wishaw Parish Church in Scotland, his father's childhood parish. In 1985, he became the Associate Executive Presbyter for the East Iowa Presbytery in Iowa City. In 1995, Wilson joined the national staff of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as the Associate for

Evangelism. He retired in 2006, and was an honorably retired member of the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery of Louisville. Wilson is survived by his wife, Anne Meredith Wilson; four children, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Rev. Harold Armstrong (MDiv 2006) died Dec. 2, 2016. He was born June 8, 1970, in Lancaster, CA, and grew up



in Spokane, WA. He first served churches in Oregon and New Mexico through youth ministry and later served as pastor for Presbyterian churches in Yuma, CO; Hobbs, NM; and Wilkes-Barre, PA. At SFTS, he was known for his passionate preaching, boisterous

laugh and love of Presbyterian policy. Armstrong also loved the Pittsburgh Steelers, cooking with his wife, supporting his sons at their events, preaching, teaching and being in fellowship with friends, family and parishioners. He is survived by Megan, his wife of 20 years; three sons, three brothers and a sister.

Reverend Dr. Joseph Whitner Kennedy (Doctor of the Science of Theology STD/PhD 1979) died Dec. 16,



2016. He was born March 16, 1928, in Spartanburg, SC.

After high school, Kennedy served in the Navy. Later he served at Presbyterian churches in Bishopville, SC, Natchez, MS, Hickory, NC, and Waynesboro, VA. Over the years, Kennedy was Chair of every major Shenandoah Presbytery Committee and served on many Synod committees. He was a member of the

General Council of the former PCUS and the Social Witness Policy Committee of the PC(USA). He served on several college boards and was an avid golfer, tennis player and fisherman. Kennedy is survived by Aileen Kabrich Kennedy, his wife of 63 years; three sons, four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Rev. Dr. Paul Duaine Eppinger (DMin 1974) died Nov. 10, 2016.



He was born May 7, 1933, in Norton, Kansas. During his career as an American Baptist Churches USA (ABUSA) pastor, he served as a missionary to Japan and held pastorates in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Kansas and Arizona. After his pastoral service, Eppinger served as Executive Director of the Victory

IN MEMORIAM

Together campaign to create the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in Arizona. During his lifetime, Eppinger initiated ministries for divorced individuals, people living with AIDS, developmentally disabled adults, troubled teens and the homeless. In 2015, the Parliament of the World's Religions presented him with the Golden Rule Award. He is survived by Sybil, his wife of 58 years; four daughters, two grandsons and a sister.

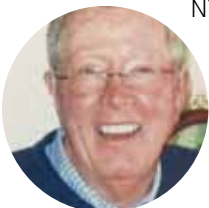
Rev. Jack Albert Jennings (BDiv/MDiv 1957) died Nov. 18, 2016. He was born in 1931, in Portland, Or. Jennings served as pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Wendell, Idaho, and then as campus pastor for the Presbyterian Church at Montana State University. Later Jennings served Mission Avenue Presbyterian Church in Spokane, Wash., as a part-time pastor and worked as an adjunct instructor in Religious Studies at Gonzaga University. In retirement, he accepted interim pastor assignments in the Inland Northwest. He is survived by Gail, his wife of 33 years; three children, two stepchildren, two grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.



Rev. William Forrest Dittler (MDiv 1960) died Oct. 29, 2016. He was born April 23, 1932, in Jersey City, N.J. He served in the Navy. After completing his education, Dittler was pastor at churches in California in Nipomo, Pismo Beach, Ventura and Riverside. In 1980, he became the deputy executive of the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii. In 1995, Dittler became a member of the Presbytery of the Cascades and served as interim pastor of Mill City Presbyterian Church. Over the years, he also served on many presbytery, synod and General Assembly committees. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; four children, four grandchildren, three great-grandsons, two sisters and a brother.



Rev. Vernon Alexander (MDiv 1957/DMin 1988) died September 28, 2016. He was born March 6, 1929, in Buffalo, NY. He served as a pastor for 20 years in three California cities: Concord, Pacifica and El Cerrito. After leaving the ministry in 1977, Alexander started his own business, providing vocational counseling to injured workers. After retirement, he served on the Education Committee and the Children and Youth Committee at the Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland. A storyteller with a great sense of humor, Alexander also enjoyed the outdoors, reading and sports. He



is survived by Gloria, his wife of 63 years; three children, 12 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a brother.

Rev. Dr. Marwood E. Rettig (ThD 1992) died July 18, 2016. He was born Feb. 24, 1935. Rettig spent 52 years in the ministry, serving churches in Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin. While in Indiana, he started a medical mission program in Honduras and in Black River Falls, WI. He also wrote weekly editorials for the local newspaper and orchestrated a volunteer probation officer program to serve at-risk youth. Rettig also was the Conference Minister in North Dakota and Michigan. Later in his career, he wrote religious plays. He is survived by Maxine, his wife of 56 years; three children, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister and a brother.

Rev. Dr. Henry Littlejohn (BDiv/MA 1952) died Jan. 8, 2017. He was born Jan. 20, 1924, in Seattle, WA. Littlejohn served in the Merchant Marine during World War II. He served as a missionary (UPUSA) to the National Synod of Syria and Lebanon from 1953-1969 and later served as Pastor at churches in Dupont and Tillicum, WA, Parkdale, OR, and Craig, AL. After retirement, Littlejohn served as the Stated Supply Pastor of the Duwamish Presbyterian Church in Seattle, WA. A lifelong scholar, he was an adjunct professor at William Carey International University and Seattle Pacific University, lecturing on Islamic Civilization and Theology of Mission. He is survived by three daughters and two grandsons.

FRIENDS OF THE SEMINARY

Richard Ellis Freeman died Nov. 29, 2016. He was born Dec. 20, 1918, in Downey, CA. Freeman served in the Navy during World War II and worked in building materials for over 40 years until he retired in mid-1980. He enjoyed traveling and viewed life as a joy, living each moment with grace, integrity, respect and laughter. Freeman was a loyal member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Westchester, CA, and later the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Barbara, CA. Freeman is survived by a daughter, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

To inform the seminary of the passing of a loved one, please call 415.451.2800 or send an email to info@sfts.edu. You may also mail a notice to: San Francisco Theological Seminary, 105 Seminary Road, San Anselmo, CA 94960

CREATE A LEGACY

We would be honored if you considered a planned gift and joined a memorable list of the seminary's most loyal friends who have provided for a legacy of significant support for SFTS in the future. These gifts help assure the continuing expansion and achievement of the seminary's mission and vision. Please accept our invitation to connect with Walter Collins, Vice President of Advancement, at 415.451.2822 or wcollins@sfts.edu.



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UPCOMING EVENTS @ SFTS

Visit sfts.edu/events to stay up to date!

MAY 19, 2017, 4:00 PM **Baccalaureate Service**

Stewart Chapel, San Anselmo

Join the family and friends of the Class of 2017 for a special worship service to honor this year's graduates.

MAY 20, 2017, 9:30 AM **Commencement Exercises**

First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo

sfts.edu/commencement-2017

JUNE 5 - JULY 14, 2017 **DMin & Continuing Education Summer Seminars**

San Francisco Theological Seminary San Anselmo Campus

Weeklong seminars featuring a broad range of topics to develop new ways to serve individuals and institutions both within and outside of the Church. See full course descriptions at sfts.edu/summer-seminars-2017

JUNE 2017 **Restoring Justice: Creative Leadership in Addressing Policing**

Grace Tabernacle, San Francisco

Pastors, activists and police will discuss and suggest ways to witness, work and engage the conversation around making policing better for everyone —addressing notions of community building and restorative justice. Date to be determined. Please visit innovation.sfts.edu to receive updates.

JULY 16-20, 2017 **Awakening the Heart to the Other: A Spiritual Retreat**

San Francisco Theological Seminary San Anselmo Campus

This retreat will explore heart-centered practices that nourish our ability to dwell in beauty and to sustain radical compassion with greater peacefulness and creativity using practices from both Christian and Buddhist models. Please visit sfts.edu/awakening-the-heart-retreat to learn more.



SFTS community of students, faculty, and staff dressed in red and gathered on the Geneva Terrace labyrinth to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8.