

CHIMES

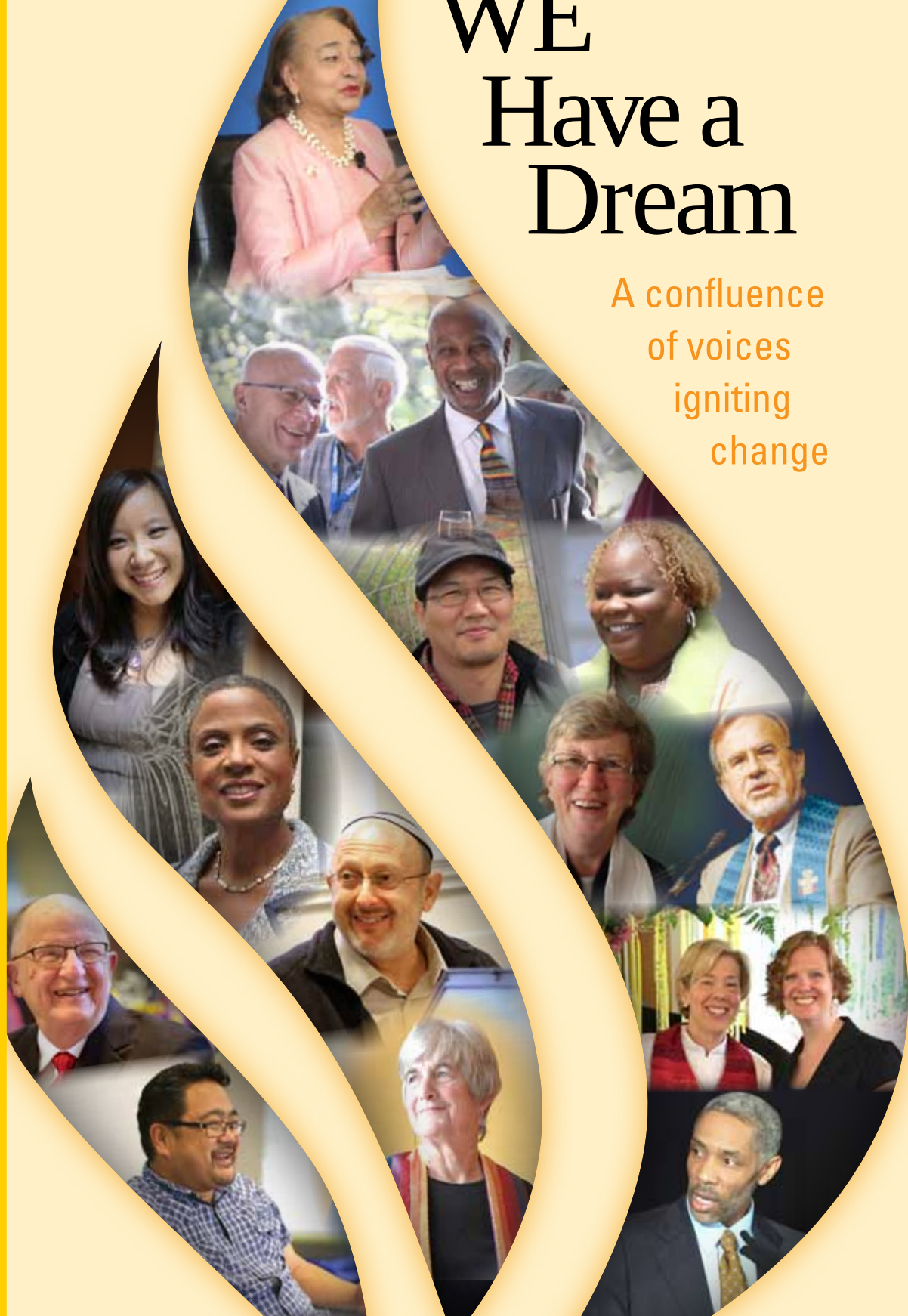
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San Francisco
Theological Seminary

WE Have a Dream

A confluence
of voices
igniting
change



*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.*



IN CHRIST. A NEW CREATION.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

“**T**he world’s favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May.” So wrote Edwin Way Teale, Pulitzer Prize-winning American naturalist, photographer, and writer. And now it is May and graduation at San Francisco Theological Seminary is upon us—a moment for family and friends to gather and celebrate the achievements and accomplishment of newly minted graduates. It is a moment when once again all things seem possible.



SFTS graduates believe that all things are possible, but not necessarily because it’s the month of May with its warming soil, bursting blossoms, and excited birdsong. They do not base their hopes on nature’s seasons. They are aware of the structures and systems of oppression, injustice, and violence that continue to mar human life and cry out for justice. They know that human beings are vulnerable and fragile, that everyone carries hidden wounds and scars from life’s vicissitudes, that every human being craves depth of understanding and relationship and seeks healing for loss and brokenness. They know that the Church of the 21st century holds no guarantees of employment, no promises of easy solutions, no cushy, high status, high reward positions in lush surroundings and well-appointed offices.

SFTS graduates know that the value of their education is greater than the sum of their experiences inside the classroom and out. Yes, SFTS professors set high standards of intellectual rigor and academic performance that sometimes lead to late nights and bouts of anxiety. But SFTS graduates also experienced the transformational power of a supportive and challenging Christian community of faculty, staff, and students, where differences of culture, life experience, and theological perspective were honored, and deep, lasting friendships across those differences were forged.

No, SFTS graduates believe all things are possible because they have come to know the power of God’s love in Jesus Christ, have experienced what it means to be part of the Body of Christ, have discovered resources of faith that equip and empower them for ministries of justice, healing, and peace in every kind of community in every corner of the world. This is the ultimate value of an SFTS education.

We celebrate our 2015 SFTS graduates! We are proud of their growth and achievements. We wish them lifelong joy and the deep satisfaction that comes from serving a “God who is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine.”

In hope,

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



FALL 2014:

An aerial view shows the beginning of construction as foundations were being laid and frames going up.

SFTS NEWS

Construction Update

Last October, San Francisco Theological Seminary celebrated the breaking of ground on construction of a re-imagined campus. The consolidation and modernization of housing will support our communal, dynamic, and family-oriented institution.

STUDENT VILLAGE

New housing will feature a modern, flexible, and eco-friendly student village in the heart of campus.

The transition into new housing is on target to happen this summer so that students will be moved in by the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

See next page for more photos.



EARLY WINTER:

The frames were completed, exterior walls and windows were installed, and roofs placed.



SPRING 2015:

Exterior walls were papered and the roofs were shingled. Shingling of the exterior walls is near completion.



Construction Update

FACULTY ROW

As part of the new campus plan, a “Faculty Row” is rising in the form of two multi-unit structures that will house two town homes and two 3-bedroom single-level homes. The appearance and architectural features of these homes will be complementary with the brown shingle faculty homes already on campus.



Located near Montgomery Chapel, this building on Bolinas Avenue will have an entry on Seminary Road.



FLEXIBLE HOUSING

The new property plan also creates five new 3-bedroom townhouses in two structures, designed for flexible use by students, faculty, or visiting scholars. Faculty may also use the green spaces that will surround these buildings for tutorial-style teaching.



MARCH 20, 2015



APRIL 6, 2015



This structure on Bolinas Avenue near the Shaw Guest House will boast two new 3-bedroom single-level homes. By mid-May, the exterior walls were papered in preparation for shingles and all windows were installed.



Between the new student village and existing faculty homes, where tennis courts used to exist, two new structures have taken shape. In just the past two months, foundations were laid and walls are rising.



Branching Out, Bearing Fruit

Interdisciplinary Lectures provide unique, collaborative learning environment

By Laura Langston

San Francisco Theological Seminary is a new kind of seminary for the 21st century. This is more than a hope or a dream—it is a goal, a promise, a daily mantra that buoys us up as we move into the future with renewed ambition and energy.

In fact, newness is all around: new logo, new tagline, new website, new construction, new Mosaic Tribute program, new Center for Innovation in Ministry. Perhaps the best evidence of the benefit of trying something new is the success of the Interdisciplinary Lectures in Scott Hall each Wednesday, 10:30am–12:00pm. These lectures, along with several modifica-

tions to the Master of Divinity curriculum, aim to increase student access to the Seminary's most popular program.

Changes in the M.Div. curriculum began to be implemented in the 2014–15 school year, after extensive development by SFTS faculty. The Interdisciplinary Lectures, presented by a different professor each week using a common theme each semester, were designed to provide valuable context and an opportunity for dialogue. Differing from the more traditional graduate-school model, the lectures are unique in calling all SFTS professors into one room for a single academic purpose.

Though the lectures were expected to bring faculty and students together, it might be surprising to learn that they also are open to—and regularly attended by—other members of the STFS community, including staff. Graduating senior Tad Hopp says he really likes the idea of having one class every week in which the entire campus participates, and he finds the ideas intriguing. First-year student Rebecca Rhodes

Differing from the more traditional graduate-school model, the lectures are unique in calling all SFTS professors into one room for a single academic purpose.

says she finds the diversity among students to be one of the most fun aspects of the lectures, adding that the concept is effective in “branching us out into deeper, wider areas of thought.”

In fall 2014, the lecture series theme was “Spirituality.” Spring term brought the apropos theme of “A New Creation,” with each instructor



Professor Rev. Dr. Gregory Love presented the Interdisciplinary Lecture on Wednesday, May 13, 2015.



Students, faculty, staff and other members of the SFTS community gather in Scott Hall each Wednesday at 10:30am. The lectures, presented by a different instructor each week, are followed by a time for open discussion.

lecturing on his or her personal interpretation of the theme. Rhodes says, "It's nice to look back at the end of the semester and pick out the theme that has run through like a thread, even though the topics are sometimes unique to the professor. Every week we come in and we really don't know what we're going to find." Presenters have included core SFTS faculty; visiting professors, such as Rev. Dr. John Bell; and SFTS President Rev. Dr. Jim McDonald and Dean Rev. Dr. Jana Childers.

Rich dialogue often follows the lectures. Although no bona fide arguments have broken out, according to Rhodes, "There's definitely been some nitty-gritty hashing out of historical details from Dr. Ocker's angle to theological questions from Dr. Love's angle to more the intuitive, experiential-type conversations that Dr. Noel likes to have." One such dynamic interchange occurred after Dr. Annette Weissenrieder's lecture, "Highway to Heaven: New Creation in 2 Corinthians." Dean Childers concluded the session by characterizing it as "the day we envisioned—when people would



want to stay past noon." Though some lectures inspire more conversation among faculty members, the students pose good questions and enjoy the passionate dialogue that follows. Students seem to respond particularly well if the lecturer includes something creative, such as a poem, song, or YouTube clip. Rhodes explains that interweaving the personal with the academic, "really connects with students."

The past year has been one of newness at SFTS. Though some ventures take a bit more time to develop, the Interdisciplinary Lectures already have proved a resounding accomplishment. As Hopp puts it, they "are an example of something new the seminary is trying that will bear good fruit." ✚

"There's definitely been some nitty-gritty hashing out of historical details from Dr. Ocker's angle to theological questions from Dr. Love's angle to more the intuitive, experiential-type conversations that Dr. Noel likes to have."

— First-year student Rebecca Rhodes

VIEW THE LECTURES

Check sfts.edu in early summer to view videos of selected lectures from academic year 2014-2015.



Honoring the Life and Work of Rev. Dr. Jim Emerson

Calvary Presbyterian Church and SFTS join together to honor Emerson through the Mosaic Tribute Program

By Dean McDonald and Marion Stanton

On Sunday, April 19, after morning worship, Calvin Hall at Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco filled with some 150 friends and family of Rev. Dr. James “Jim” Emerson for a luncheon honoring Emerson’s years of service to the community.

Calvary and San Francisco Theological Seminary joined forces to honor Emerson through the Seminary’s Mosaic

Tribute Program, a collective giving endeavor that honors and remembers those whose ministries have deeply touched the lives of others.

Emerson’s 66 years of ordained ministry began with service in several churches on the East Coast. Then he and his family moved west in 1973,



where he became pastor of Central Presbyterian Church in Denver. Emerson and his wife, Migs, continued moving westward when he accepted the call to serve at Calvary in 1979.

Emerson’s leadership at Calvary had a profound impact on the congregation and beyond. His preaching, teaching, and care showcased a wonderful balance of intellect and heart. In 1988, at the request of Mayor Art Agnos, Emerson helped

More than 150 of Emerson’s friends and family gathered at Calvary Presbyterian on April 19 to honor his years of service to the community.

See Emerson on page 35



Rev. Dr. James “Jim” Emerson

HONORING LIVES OF SERVICE

Join us in acknowledging the contributions of SFTS honorees in the Mosaic Tribute Program. Visit sfts.edu, or contact Kaaren Van Dyke at 415.451.2821 or kvandyke@sfts.edu.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. THEODORE GILL



Another memorable and moving tribute well underway honors the legacy of Rev. Dr. Theodore Gill, President of San Francisco Theological Seminary from 1958 to 1965. Gill guided the Seminary during a particularly tumultuous time in the nation’s history, which included leading

the community in the March on Selma in 1965.

Faculty Emeritus Dr. Herman Waetjen wrote the following words in a letter mailed to graduates who were students at SFTS during Gill’s tenure:

“So I must assume that you and I, like so many others, were dazzled by his astonishing gift of speech and his remarkable skill in articulating his penetrating insights and provocative

ideas. He voiced them boldly and even shockingly, conveying them with original illustrations and metaphors, and they were compelling and coerced us into entering into a silent personal dialogue with him. Ted was always engaged in and with what was going on in our world, and he communicated that to us in challenging ways: the Honest To God debate, his experience of the Selma-Montgomery march with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the New Quest of the Historical Jesus, and others. We were inspired by him, and what we experienced through him affected us and our theologizing, adding significantly to what we subsequently became, each of us in our own particular ministry.”

Please read more about Rev. Dr. Theodore Gill at sfts.edu/theodregill.

Digital Ministry and Faith



The Center for Innovation in Ministry sponsors a workshop to help pastors and laypeople get the most out of digital communications

W | By Laura Langston

we have a total of seven seconds to tell you our whole story. If only you were a goldfish; then we could tell you our story in eight.

That's right—the average human being now has a shorter attention span than that of a goldfish. This is a startling statistic for those of us who are tasked with using digital media to get the word out about our churches and organizations.

In light of such challenges, we all could probably use a little help getting started on or improving our digital communications and outreach.

This is why San Francisco Theological Seminary's Center for Innovation in Ministry sponsored a Digital Media and Faith Boot Camp on the SFTS campus. The event was led by Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow (M.Div., 1995), who is a pastor, blogger, public speaker, consultant, and author of the ebook *The Definitive-ish Guide for Using Social Media in the Church*.

The workshop began with an overview of the current digital and technological trends for online communication, which included the unfortunate statistic about attention spans. According to Reyes-Chow, in order to reach our audiences, "we can no longer use only one way to communicate."

The presentation provided many useful tips, tricks, and recommendations for employing technology to communicate effectively through social media, websites, and blogs. Reyes-Chow also shared his favorite productivity and scheduling tools to help manage the multiple platforms available.

In a presentation on his recently released book, *Craptastic: A Manifesto on Family, Faith and The Facebook*, Reyes-Chow shared awkward, painful, and transformative stories from his life related to faith, technology, race, and parenting.

While the prospect of mastering social media and other forms of online communication may seem overwhelming at times, Reyes-Chow observed: "Social media is just another way to share the gospel. It is nothing greater or lesser than that."

And the best way to start is to dive right in. ☩



Faith communicators from around the Bay Area and within the SFTS community attended Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow's presentation and workshop on Digital Ministry and Faith.

QUICK TIPS FOR CHURCHES AND NONPROFITS

1. Spend more time developing the **biography sections of your church website**. Website analytics show that this is where website visitors spend the most time.
2. Only put a Twitter feed on the home page of your website if someone is frequently monitoring your account. **Featuring out-of-date Tweets won't reflect well on your organization.**
3. Your church website should accurately reflect the congregation and not misrepresent its demographics. For this reason, **it is best to avoid using stock photos.**
4. When developing online content, think about these six lenses: **connection, contemplation, communication, coordination, curation, and creativity.**
5. **There is no longer an excuse for using clip art!** Free online tools are now available to help you design classy marketing materials with modern photos and illustrations. Check out canva.com —it could be your game changer.

VIEW THE PRESENTATION

Online at slideshare.net/breyeschow

EMBODIED SCHOLARSHIP

and the Three Rs

Reconceiving



Reconceiving, Relationship Building, and Researching in the Advanced Pastoral Studies Program at SFTS

| By Rachel Howard

At opening worship for entering Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) students, Advanced Pastoral Studies (APS) Director Rev. Dr. Virstan Choy hands each person a brightly colored sticky note and asks a question that will frame his or her learning experience at SFTS over the next five years.

“Why are you here?”

Choy then asks the students to write down the names of two individuals, congregations, or organizations that will benefit as a direct result of their doctoral studies.

But this is not one of those first-day exercises to be tucked away and forgotten. The students are asked to carry their notes and reflect on them every day to remind themselves why they’re at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

“This isn’t just a program for individuals’ self-enhancement,” says Choy. “It’s a program for those passionate about the ministry in their community of faith, passionate about improving the ways that ministry is practiced, and passionate enough to commit to researching and developing new resources and tools that will enhance their ministry and the ministries of fellow practitioners around the world.”

APS Program Manager Gail Priestley describes the spirit of the program: “It’s about community—we are a community of learning for ministry.”

From their first day on campus, D.Min. students find themselves in an innovative, ecumenical, increasingly interfaith, and emphatically collaborative program. Over the last few years, the continual transformations and advancements written into the DNA of the APS



MORE INFO

Visit the Degrees & Programs section of sfts.edu for more details on the D.Min. and other doctoral programs.

program have reached record pace in the areas that Choy calls “the three Rs”: reconceiving, relationship building, and researching.

Reconceiving

Choy considers the Seminary’s APS program to be a “Research & Development” laboratory for ministry. The products that result from the D.Min. dissertation/project requirement are available as tools for the wider church community. These tools include published books, journals, and articles as well as things like innovative pastoral care, leadership development programs, and spiritual retreats.

The D.Min. program has adapted to the rapidly changing landscape of ministry—which has been greatly influenced by advances in technology—by expanding the format in which dissertations/projects can be demonstrated and presented.

Added flexibility in the types of projects that can be proposed by students has opened the door for the development of truly creative and innovative resources. These include CDs of new music blending hip hop and traditional black gospel hymns; DVDs demonstrating the use of dance in pastoral care of parishioners with Alzheimer’s; and video games that engage players in developing collaborative responses to domestic violence. All of these tools are available for use by others practicing ministry.

Choy began noticing that a growing number of students, particularly those from the Silicon Valley, wanted the practical knowledge offered by the D.Min. program but were not interested in writing a dissertation. To provide space for such students in the APS program, the Seminary now offers a Diploma in Advanced Pastoral Studies and a Diploma in Executive Leadership. These students study alongside D.Min student and, upon completion of their coursework, return to

their fields of ministry to make immediate use of their learning.

“We now have a helpful approach to serving students that doesn’t lead to a degree, or even to writing a thesis,” Choy says. This new approach, he explains “helps those seeking new ideas and skills to learn new ways of thinking and serving, and it turns them loose to innovate back in their fields of practice as quickly as possible.”

Relationship Building

In order to provide D.Min. students with the most diverse and flexible learning experience possible, the Seminary has entered into a number of partnerships over the last several years with other theological education institutions around the country. The partnership strategy builds upon the Seminary’s relationships with Seattle University and Marylhurst University.

The most recent partnership involves five other Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seminaries: McCormick (begun in 2013) and Austin, Columbia, Louisville, and Pittsburgh, all beginning in 2015. D.Min. students at any of these seminaries may complete coursework at any of the Seminary partners in the agreement.

“Such a partnership increases the diversity of the student body and provides students with opportunities and learning partners they otherwise would never encounter,” says Choy. “This expanded community of learning greatly benefits all D.Min. students.”

Relationship building has also increased the number of faculty affiliated with the APS program. Rather than inviting colleagues from

See D.Min. on next page

Relationship
Building



The D.Min. Program provides an experience for students that is innovative, ecumenical, interfaith, and collaborative.

D.Min.

From previous page

other institutions to teach as one-time adjunct professors, the SFTS faculty has supplemented its ranks by inviting scholar-practitioners—such as Rev. Dr. John Bell from the Iona Community in Scotland and Dr. Mary Hess from Luther Seminary in Minneapolis—to serve as affiliated faculty over a period of years.

The SFTS D.Min. program has also opened its doors to transfer students from other D.Min. programs. The added flexibility means students who need to relocate in the middle of their doctoral studies can more readily enroll in the SFTS program to continue their studies.

And finally, the new Diploma in Executive Leadership, which will make its debut this fall, is a partnership in joint programming with McCormick Theological Seminary. The new diploma program is designed to provide a second year of studies for students who have completed the executive leadership coursework offered at McCormick. Students who have begun studies in adaptive leadership, organizational systems, and conflict management at other institutions are also welcome in the program.

Researching

While a D.Min. student at SFTS, Choy studied under APS Director Rev. Dr. Walter Davis. Choy was forever changed by this experience—particularly by Davis’s words about embodied

scholarship: “We don’t encourage scholars who study topics only in the abstract. The things we study we embody—we live it out.”

Such embodied scholarship is expected not only of students at SFTS but of the Seminary as a whole. This is why SFTS was one of only seven seminaries in the nation awarded a grant by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. Grant applicants were asked to respond to the following question: In the changing landscape of theological education, how is your theological institution changing to meet the changes in the kinds of students coming into your programs?

“We are committed to teaching students from new generations and from other faith traditions, so we’re researching how to improve,” says Choy. “Just as we are encouraging our students to research for innovation, how are we as a Seminary researching innovative ways to teach and learn?”

Rabbi Joel Zeff, who became a D.Min. student at SFTS in fall 2014, says of the program, “I love it! I am so invigorated, because for the past 30 years of my career, I’ve been operating more or less in a Jewish universe, parallel to the rest of the world. Now people ask me how, as a Jew, I view issues, and we compare and contrast that view with other traditions. It’s so refreshing!” Students of additional faiths testify to having similar experiences as they are presented with new conversation partners and ways of thinking.

In research begun in December 2014 after receipt the Wabash grant, SFTS is exploring

the changing learning needs of 21st-century students. Over the next three years, in partnership with innovative educator Dr. Mary Hess, the Seminary will experiment with alternative learning and teaching approaches, analyze the effectiveness of these approaches, and encourage the APS faculty to incorporate these approaches in their teaching.

SFTS has invited other PC(USA) seminary partners to join in this Wabash-sponsored research so that multiple experimental models can be developed around the country.

Looking Ahead

The multiple advancements in the APS Program have not gone unnoticed. Jack Haberer, editor of the *Presbyterian Outlook*, wrote an editorial titled “Incubators for Innovation,” in which he shared details and expressed support for the first “R”—reconceiving—of the D.Min. program.

The fact that the SFTS program has attracted students from different faiths has been an unexpected development, but Choy welcomes the challenge and opportunity. He says “new creation” at SFTS is just as much about responding as it is about initiating. The Seminary is responding to what God is bringing into being.

“As part of the new creation at SFTS, it’s important for us to remember that it’s about God the Creator, rather than us as creators. Therefore, the key for us is to be vigilant rather than just visionary: vigilant in noticing what God is doing, rather than visionary in just seeing what we would like to be,” says Choy.

“And look who God is bringing to us and asking us to serve—and not because we were trying to attract people of different faiths. They have come to us and said, ‘We noticed you, and we think we can learn from you.’ I have thanked them for letting us work for them. I hope we live up to the learning and teaching they have entrusted to us.” ✚

Researching

Out In the Field

Current M.Div.
student joins
SFTS alumnae
to make
internship
experience
a success

NOTE: Students who enrolled before the 2014 academic year spent the entire third year of study in internships. As a result of the new M.Div. curriculum, those students who enrolled in 2014 and those who enroll in subsequent academic years will conduct internships concurrently with their classroom studies.

For Master of Divinity students, the field education (internship) component provides valuable hands-on experience in a variety of settings that complement intensive classroom learning.

Of the myriad ways in which SFTS alumni support students, one of the most vital is through the important role they play as internship site supervisors. Current M.Div. student Lora East worked with the SFTS Office of Vocations and two SFTS alumnae to design internships in both the non-profit and parish ministry settings. The experience has provided her with a clearer picture of where life after seminary will take her.

**MEET LORA AND HER MENTORING ALUMNAE
ON THE FOLLOWING TWO PAGES.**

SFTS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

THE LIFE OF AN INTERNSHIP STUDENT

By Patricia Corrigan

Lora East has a primary goal: "To serve people in a way that serves God and that acknowledges and honors how we live our lives." She also wants to learn to navigate the differences between work in the nonprofit sector and work in a parish ministry. East, 31, is a third-year San Francisco Theological Seminary student juggling three academic programs and two internships, all of which are designed to help her meet both goals.

At SFTS, East is enrolled in both the Master of Divinity and Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction programs. She also is enrolled at the Graduate Theological Union to earn a Master of Arts in Interreligious Studies.

East's current internships are at Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo with Rev. Beverly Bruster, and at the Marin Interfaith Council (MIC) with Carol Hovis, both of whom are SFTS alumnae. She hopes these experiences will help her achieve a third aim. "One of my goals while working with MIC and Sleepy Hollow is to better articulate my personal theology—with the acknowledgement and full understanding that it's going to change," she says.

At Sleepy Hollow, East is a pastoral intern. "I help with workshop planning, worship leadership, Advent planning, youth group, and I also sing in the choir," she says. "Plus, I am learning what challenges the congregants are facing, what they are talking about, and their concerns."

At MIC, East is becoming acquainted with various organizations in Marin County and learning what those organizations are doing to address social justice issues. "I sit in on meetings so I can learn what people are talking about, what they are worried about," she says. She notes that the contrast between working at a church and working at a nonprofit organization is particularly interesting.

"I am a part of people's lives in different ways at both places," East says. "I am getting more insight into the pain people experience, peeling back the surface layers and seeing social justice issues around housing and food plus individual pain and suffering. I am exploring all that and also the question about where God is and fits with that."

In the spring of 2017, East will have completed all three graduate programs. What path will she follow then?

"I'm on an ordination track in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), but I am not sure what sort of job I will be led to," she says. "I could work at a nonprofit organization, at a school or university, as a chaplain or interfaith chaplain—or I may find a church that's a good fit and be a parish minister." East adds that she has been interested in interfaith work since high school and hopes to be involved in that realm professionally.

A native of Houston, East holds undergraduate degrees in sociology and anthropology from Lake Forest (Illinois) College, where she minored in religion and history. In 2012, she moved to the Bay Area from Chicago, where she had worked in a synagogue as a clergy assistant, directing the Bar and Bat Mitzvah program.

"By 2017, all three of these graduate programs will be tools in my tool box," East says. "I will be equipped to help people, to serve in such a way that my ministry can be adaptable, meet people where they are. I know I will find the place where the spirit has led me, where I belong." ✚



THE LIFE OF AN INTERNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church

By Patricia Corrigan

In the four years that Rev. Beverly Brewster has served as pastor at Sleepy Hollow Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo, she has helped the church grow from attendance of fewer than 20 to more than 80, and the church now serves a community of more than 120 people.

"It's been a huge job. This has been deliberate on my part and that of the church leaders, but I also believe the Holy Spirit has been at work in the church, that God has really been with us every step of the way," Brewster says.

Additional help has come from student interns from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

"Though I have been here just a short time, the church has a long history of interns," Brewster says. "Each one brings different gifts and interests to play a unique role here, and each one figures out where those gifts and interests fit in with the life of the church."

Determining the best use for an intern's skills, what might be needed, and how to fill those needs is a "co-creative process" between Brewster and the intern, she says. Brewster worked with her first intern last year. Her current intern, Lora East, spends 15 hours a week at Sleepy Hollow. (See related article.)



“Lora and I have an informal relationship, checking in with one another on the fly when we can, grabbing time to share impressions and figure out what needs doing next,” Brewster says. Under Brewster’s direction, East primarily has been involved in daily life pastoral care.

“Lora loves people, and she has brought a lot of energy to interacting with folks, bringing visitors into the group, and making them feel welcome,” Brewster says. “That is so valuable for the life of the parish, to get to know people when they are not in a crisis situation and develop those relationships.”

East also sings in the choir at Sleepy Hollow. “Lora is a burst of fresh energy for the choir and is helping us move toward *Glory to God*, the new Presbyterian hymnal. We’re not quite there yet,” Brewster says, laughing. She adds, “Lora also has brought her seminary music to Sleepy Hollow.”

Brewster graduated from SFTS in 2008 after serving as pastoral intern at Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco and Knox Presbyterian Church in Santa Rosa. She worked at SFTS as Director of Admissions for two years and then took on the role of temporary pastor at Sleepy Hollow. In October 2012, Brewster was installed as permanent pastor.

A native of Virginia, Brewster moved to San Anselmo with her children in 1987. As a youngster, she attended a Presbyterian church with her grandfather, a doctor, and then accompanied him on house calls. She studied at Duke University and the University of Virginia School of Law and practiced trial law in New York City, San Francisco, and San Rafael.

Reflecting on her past life as a lawyer, Brewster laughs and says, “That was fun too!” ☩

THE LIFE OF AN INTERNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Marin Interfaith Council

A | By Eva Stimson

fter growing up, attending seminary, and working as a pastor on the East Coast, Rev. Carol Hovis decided it was time for a change.

“I was 35, single, and ready for something different,” she says. “In January 1998, I drove my car cross-country and began an adventure.”

Sixteen years later, the adventure continues. As Executive Director of Marin Interfaith Council (MIC), Hovis builds relationships connecting what she describes as “a rich tapestry” of faith groups in the area just north of San Francisco. She also supervises Lora East, a dual-degree student at San Francisco Theological Seminary and part-time intern with the council (see related article).

What drew Hovis to California was the Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction (DASD) program at SFTS. She has sensed a call to the contemplative life since childhood. As a pastor, she found that getting away for silent retreats was critical for her spiritual health. “That was my lifeline in the parish.”

Hovis received her DASD in 2000. Membership on the board of Marin Interfaith Council led to her becoming Executive Director of the council in 2004.

Poverty and affordable housing issues in Marin County are major focuses of MIC’s work. “It’s very expensive to live here,” Hovis explains. “Because of the mild climate, we have a lot of homeless people. There’s deep concern in the religious community around the gap between rich and poor.”

The council has also tried to reach out to African Americans and Latinos struggling to find their place in a community that is 80 percent white. The council has advocated for more just treatment of undocumented workers, organizing a vigil to show solidarity with people who are being deported.

Christian and Jewish groups have long been active in interfaith efforts, but now they are joined by Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, and others. Hovis would like to make space at the table for even more people, such as the growing number of atheists and agnostics. She is also cultivating relationships with evangelical congregations.

Using skills learned at SFTS, Hovis begins every MIC meeting with silent reflection and what she calls “checking in”—inviting participants to share feelings, burdens, or distractions they bring with them. “If we want to have a productive meeting,” she explains, “we have to acknowledge where we are.”

Meanwhile, SFTS student Lora East is accompanying Hovis to meetings and learning about the council’s work. East’s internship also includes part-time service in a Presbyterian congregation. The work “gets her out of the seminary bubble,” Hovis says. “It’s helping her see the blessings and challenges of both congregations and nonprofits.”

MIC has a small staff, so everyone pitches in to help, no matter how mundane the task. East is learning to be a servant, Hovis believes. “It’s not unlike running a small church. Often the pastor will be the one changing toilet paper rolls.” ☩



Where Artistry and Spirituality Meet

How a career in film and television led student Naisa Wong to the DASD program

By Patricia Corrigan

One of the few students in the Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction (DASD) program who is not an ordained minister or pastor, Naisa Wong freely admits that her presence at San Francisco Theological Seminary has resulted from something of an unexpected journey.

Wong, 37, spent 14 years working as a director, producer, production manager, and dramaturge for film, TV, and theater, most often in Los Angeles. She came to that field with degrees in music theory and composition and English literature from Azusa Pacific University. Wong managed major network television shows, helped guide theater performances headed for Broadway, and showed marginalized kids how to use theater to tell their stories.

Now a second-year student at SFTS, Wong embraces her new direction. "Spiritual centering has been present throughout my life, with a lot of pain, suffering, and trauma weaving itself into the journey," she says.

"Recovery and reconstruction, restoration and restitution, healing—all these have been woven into my life as a storyteller and as a cultivator of others' stories." To further investigate what constitutes spiritual health care, Wong also is working toward a Certificate in Trauma and Spiritual Care.

A three-year program, the DASD requires that students spend three weeks on campus each January, with supervisory education offered year-round. SFTS is the first Protestant seminary to offer such a program. "The three weeks on campus is intensive," Wong says. "The first week in the program really rocked me, because for the first time, I felt I had found my people, felt a kinship of spirit and character."

Wong has high praise for the SFTS faculty, noting that her professors are "clearly leaders in the field who come to the table with different skill sets." She also praises classroom supervisors.

"There is a rigor to the program, which is especially apparent in the second year, when the subject matter is more complex, more emotionally difficult," Wong says.



"I believe that creativity and spirituality are part of the same process, and now they are my center, the furnace from which I operate as a person. Even if I go back to work in a studio or a regional theater, my identity as a spiritual director will ground me."

— Naisa Wong

"This year, we considered discerning systems of nature and also contemporary issues within social justice and how that would affect us as spiritual directors. It's fascinating, though very heavy."

Wong's first year of fieldwork was not ideal, she says. "It was a difficult challenge to find people who would follow through, as I didn't have a ready field of parishioners to call and we had just moved from Southern California. This year has been completely the opposite. I meet with four people, and it's about being with them in whatever story they present—of struggle or joy or one of attention, or lack of it, to the Spirit of God in their lives."

Wong says she is introducing contemplative art into some of her conversations. "In that space, art can be useful," she says. "Sometimes people need a transition space to enter and exit, and other times language pales in comparison to a piece of music."

An actor, a devout Christian, first told Wong that as a director, her processes of characterization and story analysis were very like that of a spiritual director. "That was when I first realized there was some missing component, a missing thread in my vocational calling," Wong says. Subsequently, she met with a spiritual director in Pasadena.

"During the work we did, two things happened," Wong recalls. "Suddenly I had an opportunity to deepen my knowledge and gratitude for the movement of God in my life. Also, the spiritual director suggested I consider training in the field."

That was in 2011. Two years later, Wong moved from Southern California to the Bay Area with her husband, Trip Gould, a former film editor who now works as a software programmer and developer for educational media. Wong looked at two graduate programs in spiritual direction before choosing SFTS for the strength of the academic program.

What's next for Wong?

"There is such a disparity between my two fields on paper, but I have seen the intersection where artistry and creativity meet spirituality," she says. "I believe that creativity and spirituality are part of the same process, and now they are my center, the furnace from which I operate as a person. Even if I go back to work in a studio or a regional theater, my identity as a spiritual director will ground me." ✝



San Francisco
Theological Seminary

Center for Innovation in Ministry

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*Scoring a Worship
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The Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Current SFTS student instrumental to one of the Bay Area's largest MLK Day celebrations

| By Rachel Howard

In the shadows of seemingly endless tragedies faced by the African American community in 2014, the Northern California Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Foundation (NorcalMLK) was determined to develop a 2015 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration that would spark excitement and hope.

The January 16 March to Freedom event celebrated King's legacy and also commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the March on Selma.

"The excitement that was in the air—the good will and the good feeling—was just exuding from the Yerba Buena Center," said event speaker Rev. Dr. James Noel, H. Eugene Farlough, Jr. Chair of African American Christianity and Professor of American Religion at San Francisco Theological Seminary.

"Because King is the 20th century's most important Christian leader and thinker, everyone engaged in seminary education should become thoroughly acquainted with his life and legacy," Noel continued. "[This is] especially [true] in light of the stubborn persistence of racism, poverty, and violence in both the national and international arenas."

Nearly 25,000 people from throughout the Bay Area attended the celebration. Aaron Grizzell, a current SFTS student earning both a Master of Arts in Theological Studies and a PhD, led the planning of the event as Executive Director of NorcalMLK.

"The mission of the foundation is to carry on Dr. King's vision by connecting people to service," Grizzell explained. The organization's areas of focus include promoting health and sustainability in underserved communities, strengthening learning communities by providing educational opportunities such as internships in science and technology, and celebrating community through events such as the March to Freedom.

NorcalMLK worked with its counterpart in San Jose, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Santa Clara Valley, to charter the last MLK Freedom Train in the United States, which transported nearly 3,000 people to the

"The mission of the foundation is to carry on Dr. King's vision by connecting people to service."

— Aaron Grizzell,
current SFTS student



“Because King is the twentieth century’s most important Christian leader and thinker, everyone engaged in seminary education should become thoroughly acquainted with his life and legacy. [This is] especially [true] in light of the stubborn persistence of racism, poverty, and violence in both the national and international arenas.”

— Rev. Dr. James Noel



The SFTS table at the March to Freedom event.

celebration. NorcalMLK also worked with transit organizations to provide free transportation to the event. Coretta Scott King launched the Freedom Trains 30 years ago to commemorate the March from Selma to Montgomery.

This year’s program included a Labor and Community Breakfast, a march from the San Francisco Caltrain Station to the Yerba Buena Center, and multiple afternoon celebrations.

Noel spoke at the Labor and Community Breakfast, along with San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, and others. He honored those who marched and died in Selma and addressed the unsettling question: “Why am I still here when those who fought for freedom beside me are not?”

“The answer should not and must not be that any of us refused to heed destiny’s call to engage in the protest marches and other acts

of civil disobedience directed toward battering down the systems and forces that still obstruct access for all God’s children to basic and decent necessities,” said Noel.

“While there are definite signs that bear evidence of the realization of King’s vision,” he continued, “...we are also confronted in our daily and national life by tragic reminders that blackness is still a perilous predicament in a society where it is necessary to state that black life matters.”

Both Grizzell and Noel say the biggest challenge facing the African American community today is the pervasive feeling of hopelessness.

“Hopelessness, apathy, and despair—if we can address this, we can continue the impetus of the struggle,” Noel said. “There is no struggle if people don’t have hope.”

Grizzell agrees. “To establish a reign of justice and a rule of love in every community—this

is what the struggle is about,” he said, adding that many today are too hopeless to join the struggle.

What he finds most concerning is that, “Hopelessness is not in ignorance, but in full lucidity of where we are. Many people feel that the system is rigged. People are choosing not to participate anymore.”

Noel believes it is essential to work with both individuals and structures to address racism and inequities.

“My model for my ministry and my teaching is two-pronged,” he said. “I see the opportunities there are to bring people out of poverty and degradation... through individual efforts. But there are larger structural issues that have to do with the global economy, corporate wealth, and privatization that we also have to fight.”

In a 2009 speech, Noel declared that if King’s nonviolent, justice-oriented, humanitarian message does not apply to such current realities as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the killing of unarmed black men, “then let us go quietly to our homes declaring this as the last King celebration—not because his dream has been realized, but because it is dead...”

“Indeed, let us acknowledge and confess that it was killed by our own inaction.” ☩



FACULTY

Rethinking the Origins of the Gospels: The *Vetus Latina*

| By Annette Weissenrieder

Interest in New Testament textual criticism has grown in recent years. But while Greek and Coptic manuscripts are seen as increasingly relevant in exegesis, pre-Vulgate Latin manuscripts (called the *Vetus Latina* or *Vetus Itala*, or “Old Latin”) continue to lie in the shadows.

To shine a light on these neglected manuscripts, scholars from Germany, Vatican City, and Great Britain are working together to collect Old Latin translations of the New Testament. This ecumenical project of the *Vetus Latina* Institute is directed by Thomas Bauer of the University of Erfurt, Germany. The scholars envision an annotated edition of the Old Latin texts of the Gospels of Luke and Matthew. As one of those working on the project, I am proud to involve Presbyterians in this important research.

Latin vs. Greek

From the second century on, as Christianity spread in the Roman Empire and Latin replaced Greek as the common language of the Church, an array of Latin Bible translations emerged. Usually uncontrolled by any church authority and frequently inaccurate, these Old Latin manuscripts reflected the early struggle for a proper understanding of the biblical texts. The unauthorized versions that make up the Old Latin Bible predate the Vulgate as well as many Greek manuscripts.

The Vulgate revised and standardized different forms of the Old Latin and was promulgated under Pope Damasus

See *Vetus Latina* on page 35



FACULTY UPDATES



Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, Dean of the Seminary, preached and lectured to the Tri-Synodical Theological Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in January. The event

took place in New Braunfels, Texas, just outside San Antonio. Childers enjoyed sharing the platform with the colorful and widely known preacher Leonard Sweet, who introduced her sermon—even as she was preaching it—to his many followers in the Twitterverse. Childers estimates that she preached that day to 18 times the number of people who were actually in the room. Childers has also preached for a number of California congregations, including Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church and Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco, Vallejo Presbyterian Church, and First Presbyterian Church in San Anselmo, but she has no information on whether tweeting was involved in any of those. She also preached at the SFTS Inquirers Weekend. Childers is looking forward to a busy summer that will include preaching at Riverside Church in New York City, giving the opening address at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Big Tent conference in Knoxville, Tennessee, and preaching at Pinnacle Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale, Arizona.



Dr. Christopher Ocker, Professor of Church History, has co-authored an article with Kevin Madigan of Harvard Divinity School. The article, "After Beryl Smalley: Thirty Years of Medieval

Exegesis, 1984–2013," appears in the *Journal of the Bible and Its Reception*, volume 2 (2015), pages 87–130. At a meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in Berlin, Germany, in March, Ocker chaired the session "Women and Cultural Translation." He also presented a paper titled "Biblical Poetics Before, In, and After the *Ratio Veræ Theologiae*," in the session "Erasmus on Interpretation: Contexts of the *Ratio Veræ Theologiae*."



Rev. Dr. Virstan Choy, Director of Advanced Pastoral Studies and Associate Professor of Ministry, was invited to serve as one of the consultants for the May 28–29 National Racial Ethnic Consultation convened by the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General



SFTS faculty and staff gathered April 13 to celebrate Professor Liebert's Golden Jubilee.

Congratulations, Elizabeth Liebert, Celebrating 50 Years as an SNJM

This year, Dr. Elizabeth Liebert celebrates her Golden Jubilee, marking 50 years from her First Profession as a Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. For SNJMs, Jubilee time is for thanksgiving, remembering, reflecting, celebrating, and giving thanks to God for life, love, people, service, and faithfulness. Faculty and staff of San Francisco Theological Seminary gathered April 13 to celebrate this important milestone. A Eucharistic celebration for Liebert and other SNJM Golden Jubilarians took place May 17 at Holy Names Academy in Seattle.

Liebert has taught at SFTS and the Graduate Theological Union for 28 years. She served as Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs at SFTS and is currently Professor of Spiritual Life and Director of the Program in Christian Spirituality. She is the author, co-author, or co-editor of five books. Her sixth book, *The Soul of Discernment: A Spiritual Practice for Communities and Other Institutions*, will be released in August.

Please join the SFTS community in wishing Beth joy during this special time.

Assembly to develop strategies for racial ethnic ministries at the regional levels of the PC(USA).



Dr. Annette Weissenrieder, Associate Professor of New Testament, spent her sabbatical as a visiting scholar at the University of Freiburg, Germany, and as an associated fellow at

the Max Weber Center for Advanced Studies in Erfurt, Germany, where she worked on a joint project with Dr. Thomas Bauer on a new edition of the Old Latin version of the Gospel of Luke. At various events in July 2014, she presented papers on "Karl Barth on Miracle Stories," "Miracles and Demons in the New Testament," and "Embodiment in Job." Last fall, she pre-

sented papers on the "Vetus Latina and the Our Father" and "The Temple Image in the Letter to the Ephesians." In December, she was invited by the Marselius Institute of the University of Heidelberg to lecture on "Embodiment in Paul" at an international conference on anthropology and cognitive science. She also has delivered lectures at Humboldt University in Berlin and at the Max Weber Center in Erfurt. In June, she will lecture on Ephesians and co-lead a workshop at Humboldt University on "Disability and Demons in Antiquity and Late Antiquity." She has co-edited two books with Gregor Eitzmüller of the University of Heidelberg and is about to finish editing a volume on *Border: Terms, Ideologies, and Performances*.

ALUMNI



Alumni Reunion 2015

Fifty years after the Selma march, the community gathered to reflect on the past and current state of race in America

By Laura Langston

In March 1965, more than 25,000 civil rights activists marched in support of voting rights for African Americans. San Francisco Theological Seminary closed for two weeks so that a busload of students and faculty could travel to Alabama. For many, this was a life-changing experience.

SFTS alumni gathered in April to share memories and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Seminary's participation in the march from Selma to Montgomery. Alumni reconnected, shared experiences at SFTS and beyond, and celebrated justice while enjoying a rich program centered on civil rights.

President Rev. Dr. Jim McDonald and Dean Rev. Dr. Jana Childers updated attendants on SFTS news and initiatives, including information on the Center for Innovation in Ministry, the Mosaic Tribute program, campus housing progress, and new academics including online coursework, certificate and diploma programs, and extended learning opportunities.

Trustee Rev. Mary Lynn Tobin ('85) responded via Facebook post: "If you haven't checked out SFTS for a while, it is time, friends. God is doing a new thing with the Church, and SFTS is on the cutting edge, re-thinking and re-fashioning seminary education."

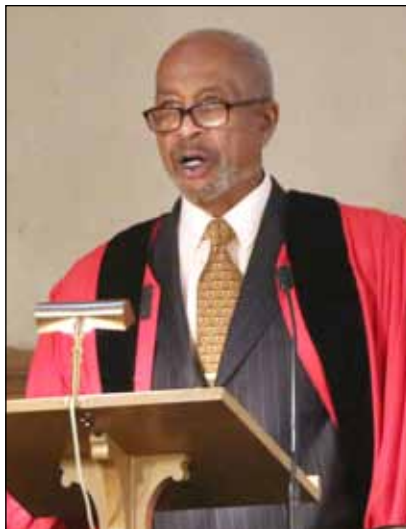
In the Faith and the Common Good Lecture, Paul Cobb, publisher of the Post News Group in Oakland, California, reflected on how his experi-

ence in Selma shaped his lifelong activism. He began by thanking white folks for participating in the struggle for equal rights. He challenged the audience by asking, "Has this institution changed since Selma? Did it have an impact on your curriculum, outreach, partners, efforts to make it a better place? Did Selma change you?" Cobb charged those who had participated in the march 50 years ago to keep the struggle for social justice alive today.

After the lecture, the group enjoyed listening and dancing to live jazz by the Michael Aragon Quartet, and President McDonald joined the band on flute.

On Friday morning, SFTS Professor Rev. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina spoke on race in education and the Church. She shared a story of a formative experience during her final year of seminary when she encountered anger and resentment from peers by unwittingly participating in an act of civil disobedience. She continued with examples of the intertwined nature of race, education and religion and suggested theology students learn to think clearly and strategize to mobilize social change.

During the break, Professor Emeritus Dr. Herman Waetjen signed copies of his latest book, *Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Last Will and Testament*. He had earlier addressed a smaller group to talk about his hermeneutic.



Dr. Jewelle Taylor Gibbs and Rev. Dr. James Noel.



Participants in the 1965 March on Selma posed for a group photo with Paul Cobb (center) after his Faith and the Common Good Lecture.

This was closely followed by a lecture given by SFTS Professor Dr. Annette Weissenrieder, "The Heart of the Stranger." She related Bible stories which ask "Who is becoming my neighbor?" and suggested the stories reveal that by getting along with each other and celebrating worship anywhere, "otherness" can be overcome.

A worship service in Stewart Chapel included a tribute to alumni who died in the last year, solos by Rev. Ineda Adesanya ('14), and a stirring sermon by Rev. Dr. James Noel, H. Eugene Farlough, Jr. Chair of African American Christianity. Pointing to the devaluation of human life in the struggle for racial equality, Noel stated, "If black lives don't matter, no lives matter." Noel also shared the interesting fact that before he became a public figure, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made a stop at SFTS and spoke in Baird Hall.

Dr. Jewelle Taylor Gibbs kicked off the afternoon's events with the story of her friendship with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Gibbs spoke of her time as a member of the faculty at UC Berkeley in the late 70s and early 80s, and about learning to use nonviolence to negotiate for increased diversity in the faculty.

Childers moderated a panel discussion about gender justice with Rev. Mary Gillespie, former SFTS professor; Rev. Ruth T. West ('13), currently on staff; and Dr. Kathryn Poethig, activist for gender equality in the Church. Gillespie spoke of having to decide whether, as a woman, she should become ordained. She said during her time at SFTS there were advances made to support feminism. West spoke about Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon, the first

SFTS Alum shares his experience as a participant in the March on Selma

Richard Macguire ('68) rode the bus to Selma with other San Francisco Theological Seminary students in 1965. While in Alabama, he was among the group of SFTS students given camp duties to support the marchers. This entailed setting up tents during the day while marchers progressed along the protest route, followed by breaking down camp in the morning, after the protesters departed. Macguire and others would then pile into a truck with all the supplies, drive past the marchers, and set up camp again to welcome weary protesters that evening. "I was incredibly impressed with the planning of the whole thing," said Macguire.

Macguire was interested in social justice before attending SFTS. He came to seminary to learn how to help people change internally, which he still sees as the most important way to stop the perpetuation of hatred. "It's not enough to address unjust systems and laws," he said.

Macguire currently lives in Sydney, Australia with his wife Maria, who he met at seminary, and works on issues of affordable housing. ✚



See Alumni Reunion on next page

Reunion

From previous page

African American woman ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). West said God designed diversity, and trying to assimilate into a white culture can lead people of other races to lose a sense of home and self. Poethig talked about her experience as an activist and as an openly lesbian woman in the PC(USA). She said she finally became certified for ordination in 2013.

The panel discussion spurred a very passionate and engaging conversation among audience members about the fact that SFTS women were not permitted on the bus to Selma. One alumna said some of the women were angry but if it had been five or six years later, they would have climbed on the bus anyway. Therese Stawowy, a Catholic nun who attended the reunion as a guest of Donald Register ('63), recalled that, as a young Catholic nun, she heard about Selma and knew she needed to go—not as a woman, but as a person. After obtaining the necessary permission from her male Pastor and male Cardinal, she realized she had forgotten to ask permission from the president of her order. Upon receiving her request, her female superior wondered why she was asking permission and said she “should do what her conscience told her.” Childers observed, “These stories must be told and are perhaps the most important thing happening here.” Many gathered afterward into small groups to continue this meaningful dialogue.

After a reception and dinner, Rev. Theodore “Theo” Gill, Jr. and his sister, Laurie Gill Keeran, shared original drafts of writings by their father, Rev. Dr. Theodore “Ted” Gill, who was president of SFTS at the time of the Selma march, and who marched with protesters. Rev. Dwain Epps ('67) reflected on how his life was changed by being at SFTS during such an important time, and Rev. Richard Pyke ('66) led songs and talked of the importance of music in the struggle for equal rights.

As the reunion concluded, Rev. Dr. Dean McDonald, lead organizer of the event, said, “We were blessed to be in the presence of our alumni, and blessed to be joined to their legacy.” ✚

The Cost of Freedom in the Fight for Peace



Photo from singwithhaiti.org

SFTS D.Min. grad
brings success
to struggling
communities in
Oakland and beyond

“**T** | By Rachel Howard

rying to establish a relationship with a God that barely tolerates you but cannot truly accept and certainly will never celebrate you can do incredible damage to one's self esteem. The tortured historical and theological view that suggests that some people are just flawed or born to be the underclass...has been the convenient method used to hold women, immigrants, the poor and LGBT people in chains of self-depreciation.”

These are some of the words you will find on the website of City of Refuge United Church of Christ in Oakland, California. Next to these words is a photo of Bishop Rev. Dr. Yvette A. Flunder.

Flunder earned a Master of Arts in Ethics from Pacific School of Religion, and later, in 2001, a Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary. In 1991, almost exactly 10 years before earning her D.Min., Flunder founded the City of Refuge Church in what she describes as a “risky experiment.” Her D.Min. studies gave Flunder the tools to create and plant similar ministries in San Francisco.

What was so risky about the founding of her church?

“What we were trying to do was honor the culture of the African American church experience while simultaneously trying to free ourselves from oppressive and oppressing theology,” says Flunder. “What we found is that it was very difficult to find churches that honored that culture but at the same time had a liberating theology—you had to give up one for the other.”

To address this, Flunder says, “We had to be a hybrid; we had to be the change we wanted to see.”

Today, City of Refuge has more than 1200 members and is part of a larger organization called Refuge Ministries, an umbrella for all groups that have grown out of the Oakland church. These groups include the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and the Y.A. Flunder Foundation.

The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries is composed of 100 partner congregations of a variety of denominations and faiths from around the world. Flunder stresses that “there is no doctrinal statement. We mind the same

things without needing to have the same minds.” All of the members support a theology of radical inclusivity that extends to radical social ministry.

The Y.A. Flunder Foundation is the nonprofit arm of Refuge Ministries and is responsible for securing grants that support the many community services Refuge Ministries provides. These include HIV education and prevention, housing, primary care services, counseling and referrals, and case management. Through a partnership with the Gates Foundation, Refuge Ministries also supports an orphanage in Zimbabwe and a mission in Tijuana, Mexico.

The accomplishments that Refuge has achieved over the last two decades rightfully leads Flunder to view the experiment that began in 1991 as a success, which is not to say she didn't face a huge share of challenges.

“Freedom is not free,” says Flunder. “In every conceivable way—emotionally, financially, theologically—there's a price to pay when you break away.”

Flunder has experienced this first hand. She proudly claims three identities: a woman, an African American, and a same gender-loving-woman. This has led some people to find Flunder's mere existence, and subsequent success, a threat.

See Flunder on page 35





Rev. David Dong Wong Kim near Kaesong in North Korea.

Harvesting Elements, Quenching Thirst

SFTS alumnus
helps bring
clean water to
North Korea

R | By Rachel Howard

ev. David Dong Wong Kim, a 2002 Master of Divinity graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary, has been within the borders of a country many of us will likely never have the opportunity to visit: North Korea.

"I tried to get a North Korean visa six times before I was finally given one by accident!" says Kim.

In early 2015, Kim moved from Australia to Sichuan Province in China, so that he could more easily perform the volunteer work he began in 2008 with the group Christian Friends of Korea (CFK). As a technical team member and translator with CFK, he has visited several cities and villages throughout North Korea.

Kim's primary role with the group is to help install solar-powered water systems in hospitals and clinic centers.

"So far, I have installed 11 water systems for local hospitals and clinic centers. Once a water system is built, we normally install enough hydrants for greenhouses as well," says Kim. This is particularly important, as North Koreans generally do not have much access to vegetables.

The water systems also provide access to clean water for people located in particularly remote parts of the country, saving inhabitants from having to make multiple trips, sometimes many miles in length, for clean water.

CFK also provides mobile water purifiers so that local doctors and nurses working for mobile clinics can provide clean water to patients.

He describes the living conditions in North Korea as "very basic." Food is distributed in accordance with rations set by the government and consists mostly of rice and corn





“We don’t talk about our religion with any individuals when we are there. Punishment for such an act includes imprisonment in a camp, or even execution.”

— Rev. David Dong Wong Kim

and occasionally meat. The absence of sewer systems leads to water contamination, which facilitates the spread of disease.

His trips to North Korea—and even telling his story—do not come without significant risk.

“We don’t talk about our religion with any individuals when we are there,” says Kim. Punishment for such an act includes imprisonment in a camp, or even execution. In conversations via phone and email from China, Kim has to be extremely cautious with the language he uses and the photos and information he shares.

Despite the high stakes, he felt called to service in North Korea after an encounter with a teacher at South Korea’s Hanshin University, where he earned a Bachelor of Theology.

“The biggest influence on my life, ministry, and mission has been Rev. Moon Ik-Hwan,” Kim says. “Ever since I met him briefly in 1990, I have been longing to do North Korea-related volunteer work.”

Ik-Hwan, a Presbyterian minister and leader of the pro-democracy movement in South Korea in the 1970s and 1980s, spent 10 years in jail for dissident activities. In the spring of 1993, he was released early from a five-year sentence due to failing health, and he died in 1994.

In addition to his degrees from Hanshin University and SFTS, Kim also earned a master’s in Communication and Journalism from the University of Queensland and a Diploma in Education in English as a Second Language from Inspire Education College.

Kim has another trip planned to North Korea later this year, his third trip to the country. He hopes that these visits will lead to better relationships between North and South Korea.

“We want to keep working to build relationships, based on trust and mutual interest, to improve the lives of the North Korean people.” ✝



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Rev. Dr. Jane Spahr

R | By Patricia Corrigan

ev. Dr. Jane Spahr, a longtime activist known for her ministry with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, has been named a 2015 Distinguished Alumna



of San Francisco Theological Seminary. Spahr earned a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry at SFTS and served on the Seminary's Board of Trustees until her position was not renewed after she came out as a lesbian in 1978.

"I am stunned by this award because of my history with SFTS but will accept on behalf of all LGBT people and their gifts," says Spahr, 72. "I am grateful to SFTS for the great strides they have made in recognizing that all people's sexual orientation is a gift and what truly matters most in choosing a leader in a church is their faith lived out loud as well as their character and service to and with others."

Retired now, Spahr has encountered controversy throughout her career. She was tried by a judicial commission of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2010 for performing marriage ceremonies for same-gender couples in California. Such marriages are now recognized not only by the State of California, but also by the PC(USA). Earlier, because of her sexual orientation, Spahr was forced to resign as Executive Director of the Oakland Council of Presbyterian Churches.

"For nearly 40 years, Jane Spahr has been a prophetic voice at the forefront of the effort

to include all Presbyterians fully in the life of the church. Her courageous advocacy has often come at great risk to her life and career," says Rev. Jerry Van Marter, a distinguished SFTS alumnus and the Seminary's interim Director of Alumni & Church Relations.

"After all these years," he continues, "it turns out Jane Spahr was right all along. I am proud and honored to call her a friend."

After every setback, Spahr forged ahead. She served the Metropolitan Community Church—San Francisco during the early years of the AIDS Crisis, and she served Spectrum Center in Marin County at the height of the crisis.

When the highest court of the PC(USA) said she could not serve as one of four co-pastors of Downtown United Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York, she helped create the ministry That All May Freely Serve to advocate for LGBT rights within the Presbyterian Church.

"I served as their evangelist, traveling the country from 1992 to 2007, when I retired," Spahr says. Today, she lives in San Francisco near her grown sons and their families, including two treasured grandchildren.

"We have to be ourselves on this wonderful path God gives us," she says, "because when we become who we are, we have a chance to serve even more fully, with integrity and authenticity." ✚

Rev. Dr. Deana Reed

R | By Patricia Corrigan

ev. Dr. Deana Reed, pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Napa, California, and Director of Field Education at San Francisco Theological Seminary, has been named a 2015 Distinguished Alumna. She earned both a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry at SFTS and has served as an adjunct faculty member. She has mentored multiple interns and presently serves on the SFTS Alumni Council.

"I am so honored and also surprised," says Reed, 62. "From the earliest moments, I've

known God to be a creative presence in our lives, and the ministries I've been a part of over the years have been simply the work I have sensed God calling me to, years that have been filled with joy and commitment and hope."

Since the 1980s, Reed has worked for social justice, and particularly for inclusion of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community in the church. She also has served as Moderator of the Presbytery of the Redwoods and is a member of the Board of Directors of Covenant Network of Presbyterians.

Her upbringing on the Oregon Coast instilled in Reed a lifelong interest in the natural world, which has led to service on the Board of Directors of Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center in South Lake Tahoe. She earned a bachelor's degree from the School of Forestry at Oregon State University and did graduate work in deaf education at Western Oregon University. She lives in Napa with her spouse, Jan Hartman.

"As a pastor, educator, spiritual guide, and practical counselor to SFTS students, Deana Reed fully embodies the holistic gospel that

Rev. Dr. Herbert D. Valentine

| By Rachel Howard

In the 55 years since Rev. Dr. Herbert D. Valentine graduated from San Francisco Theological Seminary, he served as an inner-city pastor, executive, and strong advocate for social justice. For this lifetime of service, Valentine is one of the recipients of this year's Distinguished Alumni awards.

During his 23 years as Executive Presbyter of Baltimore Presbytery, he led the financing of housing for persons with AIDS, senior citizens, and the homeless; rescued a retirement community from bankruptcy; and reinvigorated numerous congregations. Several New Church Developments were also started, and have thrived since their founding. Valentine was honored by two Governors of Maryland for his work developing affordable housing, and also received the Rev. Bryce W. Shoemaker Ecumenical Leadership Award from the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council. He was also the founding President of The Interfaith Alliance in Washington, D.C.

Under his leadership, the presbytery employed a "lobbyist" to represent its concerns at the seat of government. He also began a partnership of mutual mission in Central America

with the indigenous Mayan Presbytery of Kechichel in Guatemala, where they helped establish a medical clinic and village outreach program.

Valentine served as a strong advocate for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community before, during, and after his tenure as Moderator of the 203rd General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a position he was elected to in 1991.

"From his election as Moderator of the PC(USA) General Assembly in 1991 through a distinguished career as Executive Presbyter for Baltimore Presbytery and now as director of the Alumni Mosaic Campaign for SFTS, Herb Valentine has been an innovator," says Rev. Jerry Van Marter, Interim Director of Alumni & Church Relations and Secretary for the Alumni Council.

"A social justice champion, he has consistently been a committed advocate for human and civil rights for all people. He epitomizes SFTS's historic commitment to the justice values of the gospel."

Upon receiving the honor, Valentine said, "My first reaction was: 'What?' and then 'Why



me?' I was surprised and a bit embarrassed by the nomination. It's wonderful when individuals are recognized; there are so many other alumni who have accomplished so much and are not publicly visible and yet are deserving of such recognition for their ministries." Valentine continued, "It pleases me that not just one but three nominees have been selected this year representing something of the breadth of service and engagement that SFTS alumni/ae have with the world."

Herb now lives near Philadelphia with his wife, Rev. Barbara Chaapel. He also enjoys time on the Chesapeake Bay at his condo in Havre de Grace, MD. ✚



SFTS has always preached," says Rev. Jerry Van Marter, a distinguished SFTS alumnus and the Seminary's interim director of Alumni & Church Relations. "As a valued colleague and as a co-worker, Deana is one of my unsung heroes, an alumna without whom SFTS would not be the loving, caring place that it is and that we all treasure."

Reed is now benefiting from the presence of her own unsung heroes. Members of her congregation and presbytery and colleagues throughout the country have supported her since she was

diagnosed last July with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord.

"This is now my life," Reed says. "For me, ALS began in my voice, which of course creates challenges for a pastor. Yet each day I'm touched and sustained by the collaboration and support of so many."

She adds, "As the disease progresses, I know I will continue to rest in God's presence because of people and prayers, and for that I am grateful." ✚

ALUMNI UPDATES



1965 (B.Div.)

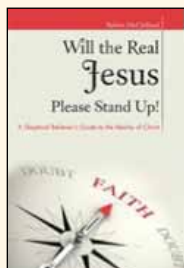
Dr. Norm Nelson, president and on-air host of Compassion Radio, heard daily on more than 1,000 outlets across the United States, was so outraged by the actions of ISIS in northern Iraq that last August he offered to fight with the Kurdish Peshmerga military against the advances of the ISIS terrorists threatening the Kurdish capital city of Erbil. He made the offer in a letter published by Asharq al-Aswat (the Kurdish online newspaper). "I have a hatred of war, but I am not a pacifist," the letter said, "and I believe the outrageous and sub-human behavior of ISIS requires the use of force to stop its cowardly advances throughout northern Iraq." Nelson has met with church leaders throughout Iraq and has worked with ministry partners in Syrian border refugee camps in both Lebanon and Jordan. Recently, he traveled around Kurdistan with a young former Peshmerga warrior, who impressed him with his courage and commitment to the Christian gospel. "I saw a strength of character in this young man that clearly reflected his devotion to Jesus as well as his patriotism and love of his Kurdish heritage," Nelson says. Last year, Nelson did a monthlong stint as a professor at China's Peking University. To date, his travels have taken him to more than 90 countries.



1968 (B.Div.), 1970 (MA)

Rev. Dale Whitney retired January 1 as manager of the Harbor Area Farmers Markets in Long Beach, California. He has been a central figure in Long Beach's peace, justice, and interfaith movements since the 1970s. Centro Shalom, a Long Beach social services organization, honored Whitney for 40 years of community service in 2013. He has also received honors from the U.S. House of Representatives, the California State Assembly, the County of Los Angeles, and the City of Long Beach. Whitney was pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Long Beach from 1971 until 1989. An active theologian, he reached out into the community to establish a major social services center for the Latino community as well the Long Beach Food Bank. He was coordinator of the Long Beach Area Church

World Service/CROP Hunger Walk, which raised thousands of dollars for local homeless shelters and food banks as well as for worldwide disaster relief, agricultural development, and refugee resettlement. Whitney has been a long-time leader in local interfaith and campus ministries and was a volunteer chaplain at Long Beach Community Hospital for more than five years. He currently serves as parish associate at First Congregational Church of Long Beach.



1971 (STD)

Rev. Dr. Robert McClelland is an ordained Presbyterian minister and author of more than 20 books pertaining to faith. His new book, *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up! A Skeptical Believer's Guide to the Reality of Christ* (Trafford Publishing) examines the New Testament for a fresh take on Jesus. McClelland believes that Jesus died not only for the sins of human beings but also for those of God. He says the sin of humans is disobedience, whereas God's sin is ignorance. McClelland hopes that readers of his book will grasp Paul's message that Jesus' death reconciled the world with God. He brings to his writing his experience as a former television talk show host, weather forecaster, and award-winning watercolorist with a membership in the Missouri National Watercolor Society. His careers have been in college and seminary teaching as well as pastoral ministry. He was invited to be a Merrill Fellow at Harvard University. McClelland and his wife have three children and nine grandchildren.

1973 (D. Min.)
Rev. John C. Bush has been elected to the board of trustees of Miles College, a historically black college in Birmingham, Alabama. He has also published his first historical novel, *Patriots and Rebels*. Set during the closing years of the Civil War, the book deals with the plight of those from the deep South who fought for the Union. Dr. William Ferris, director of the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina, says the book is "an impressive work that combines both engaging storytelling and historical fact and context." Ferris goes on to describe the book as "a standout in Civil War literature." Bush, a retired Presbyterian minister, lives with his wife, Sara, in Decatur, Alabama, near where much of his novel's action takes place.

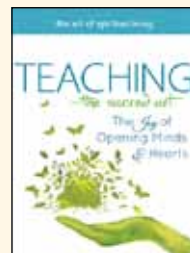


1977 (D.Min.)
Dr. Ronald Lee Cobb has been an ordained minister for 46 years and treasures his studies at SFTS under Dr. Surgit Singh and Dr. Aaron Ungersma. He retired from the United States Army with the rank of Colonel after 30 years in the Chaplain Corps. He has written three books: *Memories of Bosnia: The 35th Division's SFOR 13 NATO Peacekeeping Mission* (2004); *Islam: What You Need to Know in the Twenty-First Century, A Primer for Peace* (2011); and *Spiritual Journeys: Life, Miracles, Power, and Love* (2014). He has served as Clinical Director of Hope, Help, Health in Holton, Kansas, for the past 11 years and is also part-time pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Horton, Kansas. He has published numerous articles on substance abuse recovery, religion, and history and is working on his fourth book, *St. Paul Was Not Virgin Born: A Study Intended to Humanize Paul of Tarsus and to Glorify Jesus of Nazareth*.



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1987 (M.Div.)

Rev. Jane E. Vennard has published a new book, *Teaching—The Sacred Art: The Joy of Opening Minds & Hearts* (SkyLight Paths). "I have added the word sacred to the art of teaching not to view it as a religious calling but rather to bring to the profession a sense of reverence and respect," Vennard says. "When something is sacred, it is set apart and deemed to be important and highly valued. I believe that teaching deserves such admiration." The book explores the hopes and fears, joys and frustrations, gifts and limitations that influence teachers of all kinds every day.

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Vennard is ordained to a ministry of teaching and spiritual direction in the United Church of Christ. Formerly a senior adjunct professor at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, she lectures and leads retreats in ecumenical settings in the United States, Canada, and Australia. She is the author of several other books and a member of Spiritual Directors International.



1991 (MA)

Dr. Richard Morrison, an attorney specializing in water law, environmental law, and issues facing special districts and agriculture, has been elected to the

board of directors of the Arizona Community Foundation, a statewide family of charitable funds. He is an adviser to the Arizona Water Resources Research Center at the University of Arizona and is cofounder and chair of the board of the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University. He has been honored for his participation in the successful negotiation and implementation of four water rights settlements with Native American communities in Arizona. He also serves on the staff of the bishop for the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, where he is canon for ecumenical and community relations. Morrison and his wife, Elaine, were among four leaders awarded honorary degrees by Northern Arizona University this spring for their commitment to education and to serving the Arizona community.



1994 (M.Div.)

Rev. Mary Ellen Azada has been appointed to the new position of executive director of call discernment at Fuller Theological Seminary. Azada,

who has served in pastoral and administrative ministry roles for the past 21 years, most recently served at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, where she was associate pastor of missional engagement for ten years. Her experience includes founding and directing a nonprofit organization for children of incarcerated parents and serving as a school counselor while leading call and ministry development for a church plant in Hawaii. As a Japanese/Filipina woman who grew up making frequent moves between Japan

and the United States for her father's military service, Azada brings a distinct multicultural perspective to her new role. She will oversee a team collaborating to provide students with programs, experiences, and events to help them discern and fulfill their calls, including the expansion of apprenticeships, career placement, and alumni networking opportunities.



1997 (M.Div.)

Susan Page, a best-selling relationship author, has been counseling both singles and couples on their romantic lives since 1980. Her book *If I'm So Wonderful, Why Am I Still Single?*

has been translated into 22 different languages and this year celebrates the 25th anniversary of its debut. It offers practical guidance to singles looking to improve their romantic relationships and helps them get to know their own past patterns and relationship needs. Early in her career, Page worked as Director of Women's Programs at the University of California at Berkeley, establishing the first university-based human sexuality program in the country. An in-demand speaker, Page has traveled to more than 26 states as well as to Canada, Korea, Mexico, and Australia to speak on relationship topics. She has appeared on *Good Morning America*, CNN, NPR, the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, and dozens of other television and radio outlets. Her work has been showcased in *People*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Redbook*, and other publications.



1999 (M.Div.)

Rev. Beth Hessel has been named the new executive director of the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) and director for church records and history for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She will be responsible for all operations and programs of the Historical Society, which is based in Philadelphia and tasked with collecting, preserving, interpreting, and sharing the story of American Presbyterianism with mid-councils, congregations, and individuals. A member of Grace Presbytery, Hessel has served in pas-

toral positions in Texas, Virginia, Kansas, and California. She is currently a doctoral candidate in history at Texas Christian University. She says one of her goals in her new post is "to increase the awareness—from the General Assembly level to local congregations—of the richness of our history that is preserved at PHS. Having worked in the archives of PHS as part of my doctoral dissertation research on religious issues in the World War II Japanese American incarceration camps and the Protestant missionaries who fought for justice for Japanese Americans, I know firsthand the value of the ecumenical and denominational history PHS works to preserve and share."



2001 (D.Min.)

Rev. Dr. Rick Barger became the fourth president of Trinity Lutheran Seminary in September 2013. A 1989 graduate of Trinity, which is located in

Columbus, Ohio, Barger has also been the pastor of three congregations—in Georgia, Colorado, and Florida—and the leader of a nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to eradicating poverty in Haiti. Two of his congregations saw worship attendance triple as a result of his leadership. Barger has been recognized for excellence in outreach, indigenous liturgical worship, and asset development in children and adolescents. He is the author of *A New and Right Spirit: Creating an Authentic Church in a Consumer Culture* and has a passion for developing "authentically transformational leaders." He also serves as a consultant with congregations and other groups and speaks at conferences across the country. Barger and his wife, Harriet, have two grown children, Robert and Elizabeth, and five grandchildren.



2001 (D.Min.)

Rev. Toby Nelson works as a "disaster pastor," a vocation that began when he was about a thousand feet from the World Trade Center on 9/11, serving as a chaplain with the Red Cross. He spent time

ALUMNI UPDATES

walking Ground Zero and listening to the workers' stories of heartbreak. Nelson also was in the Super Dome during Hurricane Katrina and in Haiti the day after the earthquake. He is chaplain to Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, a federal group that responds to public health emergencies. Nelson is a frequent trainer on disaster issues and recently finished writing a book on ethics during disaster situations called *The Human Cry: Confessions of a Disaster Pastor*. As a law-enforcement chaplain for a local police department, he accompanies officers into violent situations and gives death notifications to families. He regularly uses debriefing skills and is learning skills as a hostage negotiator. An ordained Presbyterian minister for 39 years, Nelson is currently interim pastor of Auburn (California) Presbyterian Church.



2002 (M.Div.)

The Rev. Peter Choi has been named the pastor of Chinese Presbyterian Church in Kenner, Louisiana, in the greater New Orleans area. He describes the congregation as multicultural and multigenerational. Choi was born in Korea and immigrated to the United States with his family, learning to live with two cultures and two languages. His father and grandfather were both pastors in the Presbyterian Church in Korea. Living in various regions of the United States, including 17 years in the San Francisco Bay Area, has exposed him to many different cultures. He received clinical pastoral education at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley

and taught Sunday school at Allen Temple in Oakland, which has a predominately African American congregation. Choi has visited China a few times and wants to continue to support missionary efforts not only in China and Korea but wherever there are needs.



2003 (D.Min.)

Dr. Paula Trimble-Familetti published her first book, *Prostitutes, Virgins and Mothers: Questioning Teachings About Biblical Women*, in June 2014.

The book won the gold medal in Bible study from Illumination Book Awards, which has the motto "Shining a Light on Exemplary Christian Books." She is currently a member of the Mid-Valley Interfaith Council in the Coachella Valley (Southern California) and volunteers with the Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.



2012 (DASD), 2013 (MA)

Sally Thomas is Minister to Children and Youth at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Denver, Colorado. Her ministry focuses on "welcoming the child" as a primary stance of the Christian faith, following the example of Jesus, who welcomes and blesses children in every time and place. Sally is responsible for the development and maintenance of all St. Andrew's programs relating to the faith formation of children and teenagers, for ensuring a safe environment for

all children and their families, and for fostering within the church an awareness of the gifts that children bring to communities of faith. A former oncology nurse practitioner, Sally was accredited as a Godly Play Trainer in 2001 and as a spiritual director in 2012. Sally and her husband, Bill, are the parents of two college-age daughters.



(D.Min.)

Rev. Dr. Robin "Rob" Hagan

has joined the Presbyterian Foundation as the Ministry Relations Officer serving in the Northwest. Hagan will work

with pastors and church leaders to cultivate generosity and promote stewardship within their congregations. In addition to working with finance, stewardship, and endowment committees, he will also meet with donors to help them make gifts to support their church and other ministries. "I wish to listen to goals and aspirations which individuals and churches have for leaving a legacy to the next generation," Hagan says. "I look forward to partnering with churches to accomplish the vision of expanding the Kingdom of God." Before joining the Foundation, Hagan served since 1990 as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Kennewick, Washington. He has also served congregations in California and Oregon. He has been the moderator of Central Washington Presbytery and served on the presbytery's Committee on Ministry for more than 16 years. He was a commissioner to the General Assembly in 2006.

Moving? Have new contact information?

To submit your alumni update to SFTS, please send an email to info@sfts.edu.

Emerson

From page 10

form a working group of religious leaders to take on the task of sheltering homeless people. That group became the still dynamic San Francisco Interfaith Council.

After Emerson's retirement from Calvary in 1989, he and Migs continued serving the church—in India, Taiwan, China, Korea, Thailand, and Indonesia. When they returned to the States, he served as a member of the SFTS Board, as Interim President, and later as a scholar-in-residence at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

Once the Emersons moved to the Sequoias, a retirement community in San Francisco, they

returned to be part of Calvary's congregation. Migs served as a deacon, and Jim served for a few months as acting Head of Staff in 2010, after Rev. Dr. Laird Stuart, the church's pastor, accepted a call to serve as Interim President of SFTS.

At the luncheon honoring Emerson, Marion Stanton, Chair of the SFTS Board, mentioned additional ties between SFTS and Calvary: the two share a founder in Dr. William Anderson Scott, and there were a multitude of pastors, professors, and supporters with ties to both the church and the Seminary. Rev. Dr. John Weems, current Head of Staff at Calvary, is an alumnus of SFTS.

SFTS President Rev. Dr. James McDonald hailed Emerson as a "pastor's pastor, author, educator's educator, and man of compassion and

deep faith in Jesus Christ" whose "non-anxious presence" leadership style was appreciated and respected by all.

In her Sunday morning sermon, guest preacher Rev. Dr. Jana Childers, Dean of SFTS, spoke on the theme of "Joy." Describing how Emerson brought calm and hope to the Seminary during a time of tumult, she remarked on the great love for Emerson shared by people far and wide.

Emerson's love for Migs, for his extended family, and for those gathered was evident in the huge smile on his face. He clearly was moved by the outpouring of affection in the room. The tribute event included time for those who attended to speak with Emerson and to share moving stories and words of praise and affection. ✚

Vetus Latina

From page 22

and the theologian Jerome as the official Bible of the Catholic Church. But Augustine, Jerome's contemporary, contended that the *Vetus Latina* was "more faithful in its renderings and more intelligible in its sense."

The oldest of the 49 known Old Latin manuscripts come from North Africa. In an early reference, Tertullian of Carthage mentioned the "collected letters of Paul in Latin." Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, made a Latin translation of the Greek text that was never standardized and was therefore subject to numerous modifications. It is thus possible to distinguish two groups of Old Latin manuscripts: an African text, more closely related to Cyprian, and a European text.

Our Father—Holy Father?

The African tradition turns out to be indispensable for the reconstruction of such New Testament texts as the infancy and passion narratives, the Lord's Prayer, and Luke's account of the Eucharist.

For example, Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer begins with a simple "Father," followed by "hallowed be your name." Matthew's version

begins with "Our Father." Four important Old Latin manuscripts of Luke's Gospel, however, read "holy father" (*pater sancte*), using the Latin word reserved for God or deity.

Why was the appellation "father" or "our father" changed to "holy father" in the Latin versions of Luke? A possible clue can be found in John 17:11b, where Jesus prays for his disciples: "Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Another parallel can be found in prayers to Roman emperors. In the *Argonautica*, Valerius Flaccus offers a prayer to the emperor Vespasian. Addressing the emperor as *pater sancte*, Valerius uses a phrase reserved for the gods and transfers it to a living person. He uses it at the time of the military successes of Vespasian and his son, Titus, who destroyed Jerusalem in 70 CE. Valerius's use of *sanctus* suggests that power can only be achieved through military superiority.

It is too early to tell whether examination of the term "holy father" will lead to a new understanding of the Lord's Prayer in Luke. It is already clear, however, that these ancient Latin manuscripts can yield important insights into the early interpretation of the New Testament. ✚

Flunder

From page 27

Her family has been victimized on multiple occasions. The back window of her car and her bedroom have been shot out. For a recent preaching engagement in Tennessee, she required the protection of six police officers. This is in addition to the hateful comments directed at her in face-to-face encounters, e-mails, and social media.

"[Some] people go on these rants, and they just go on and on," says Flunder. "But the beauty of it is, they put [these words] in places where the people who need our ministries most can read it...so whenever they have these rants, I get scores of e-mails and Facebook messages from their sons, their daughters...asking for help."

Flunder's work has not gone unnoticed. She has been invited to the White House multiple times, most recently in December of 2014 to

give a keynote address on World AIDS Day. Other speakers included President Barak Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry.

Reflecting upon the struggles she and countless others have faced, Flunder finds hope.

"I'm not using my energy for useless fights," said Flunder in a sermon delivered last month in Tennessee, the sermon that required police protection by her side. "I'm using my energy to find peace. Let there be peace on earth." ✚



THE MOSAIC TRIBUTE PROGRAM IS ON THE MOVE!

Articles in the last two issues of *Chimes* described the launch of this program. Honoring and remembering those who have profoundly touched and influenced our lives. Collective giving.

It is an innovative approach that enables the Seminary to pay tribute and render thanks as an institution and a community of believers. Such are the attributes of the SFTS Mosaic Tribute program.

The impact of the San Francisco Theological Seminary community has been immense over the 145-year history of the Seminary. Whether through biblical scholarship, insightful theology or new understandings of spiritual practice, SFTS

has been at the forefront of preparing new graduates for ministries of many expressions.

SFTS alumni have served in churches large and small, at bedsides, on battlefields, in street ministries, in nonprofit organizations and schools. They have served locally and across the globe. They have a heart for sharing the message of Christ’s presence with each individual’s journey through life.

As we continue to build the Seminary for the 21st century and beyond, we honor and remember those who have inspired, comforted, enlightened, and challenged us. Those who have so deeply touched us or those we love.

HOW DOES THE TRIBUTE PROGRAM PROCEED?

This is seen as an ongoing program to continue over a period of years. Given the expansive nature of the process, we will be initiating groups of tributes in waves.

As of the week of May 18, 14 tributes are in active stages:

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| Byron Bland | Tim Lanham | Jerry Van Marter |
| Arvin Chaney | Jackie Leonard | Herman Waetjen |
| Bob Coote | Ben Reist | Antoinette Wire |
| Jim Emerson | Howard Rice | Steve Wirth |
| Ted Gill | Herb Valentine | |



PARTNER WITH US!

With this in mind we invite you to join us in creating a “mosaic for ministry” by honoring or remembering those special fellow seekers on the path — alumni, faculty emeriti/ae, or any other member of the greater SFTS community.

YOU CAN DO THAT BY:

1. Nominating someone who has touched you deeply;
 2. Pledging a gift to SFTS that honors or remembers this person;
 3. Challenging 50 other people you know to join you in honoring the person you have nominated; and/or
 4. Pledging to the ongoing tribute of a person already nominated who is particularly special to you.
- (Visit sfts.edu for a current list of nominees.)

The goal for each tribute is \$50,000. Through collective giving, that means that if 50 individuals each give \$1,000, pledged monthly over two years, then the goal is achieved. Honorees will be recognized on an Honor Court on the SFTS campus.

Through this simple act of recognition, we can collectively share, with thanksgiving, the essence of our faith, our commitment, and our ministry. The mosaic that results affirms the purpose of our work and encourages others.

At the same time, we have received several other nominations that will be pursued in the near future.

We thank you for your active engagement in the Tribute Program, and remind you to submit pledges and/or nominations that may be found at tinyurl.com/TributePledge and tinyurl.com/TributeNomination.



IN MEMORIAM

In this issue of Chimes we mourn with you the loss of those faithful servants of God's call who have roots at SFTS — faculty, trustees, alumni, and other friends of the Seminary. We give thanks for their service not only as members of the Seminary community, but also in churches and ministries that they have blessed with their life's work. As you read the names below, I invite you to prayerfully give thanks to God, bring to mind and heart those whom we have known, pray for their families, and lean into the great truth of our shared faith in Jesus Christ.

In Christ,



Rev. Scott Clark, Chaplain, San Francisco Theological Seminary



1950s

(Christian Education)

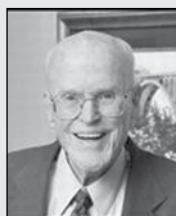
Mary Cochrane Brown

died December 2, 2014, of a heart condition in Portland, Oregon, where she was living in a retirement community. She was born in 1931 in Trivoli, Illinois, to John and Edna Cochrane. She graduated from the University of Oregon in 1953 and began her career as a speech language pathologist in Portland. While studying for a master's degree in Christian education at San Francisco Theological Seminary, she met her husband, James M. Brown. They were married in 1956 and served Presbyterian churches in Washington and Oregon. She resumed her career in the Portland public schools, retiring in 1994. Brown is survived by her husband, Jim; her sons, Ken (Sharon) and Scott; and her grandsons, Paul and Connor.

1951 (B.Div.)

Rev. Dr. Chester L. Tolson died February 14 in San Diego after a prolonged illness. He was 91. Born in Los Angeles, he earned a degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of three congregations and as executive of the former Presbytery of Los Angeles.

Tolson taught religion at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and was Assistant to the President at Trinity University in San Antonio. A published author, Tolson also worked in fundraising for organizations and churches across the country, including the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Crystal Cathedral Ministries. He is survived by his wife, Carol; his son, Steve; his daughters, Kathy, Kim, and Pam; and his granddaughters, Felicia, Harley, and Alyssa.



1953 (B.Div.)

Rev. J. Graley Taylor died

June 25, 2014. A graduate of Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, and San Francisco Theological Seminary, Graley most recently served as parish associate at Inglewood Presbyterian Church in Kirkland, Washington. Whitworth honored Graley with the Mind and Heart Award for distinguished alumni/ae in 2014. Graley served as pastor of churches in California and Washington and was the organizing pastor of two new congregations, fostering family ministry and working closely with presbytery youth. These experiences led him to a career in media ministry. He helped develop the Religious Broadcasting Commission, an

ecumenical media ministry that transformed religious programming in the Northwest. His work as a writer-producer for the documentary *Right On! Superstar* garnered four Emmys. His TV special "Celebrating Tomorrow's Hope" won a Gabriel Award. Another TV special, "Out of the Night," recounted the spiritual journey of Vietnam veterans. In the last year of his life, he was working on a film with Maori Presbyterians in New Zealand.



1958 (B.Div.), 1976 (STD)

Dr. Carl Lacey Nissen

died January 18 following a 20-year struggle with Parkinson's disease. He was born April 17, 1931, in Seattle. He graduated from

Seattle Pacific College and then served for two years in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. After receiving a Bachelor of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary, he served as pastor of congregations in Washington and Virginia for a total of 38 years. While earning his doctorate at SFTS, Nissen wrote his dissertation on the responsibility of the church in meeting the hunger crisis. He initiated the first feeding programs in the greater Seattle area. Committed to understanding and cooperation among religions,

he was leader of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., in the 1990s. He also was a trained counselor. Nissen is survived by his wife, Cathy; his daughter, Rebecca Caron (David); his two sons, Timothy and Peter (Carolyn); and his grandson, Jens Carl.



**1959 (B.Div.),
1964 (MA),
1990 (D.Min.)**

Rev. Dr. Arthur "Ted" Crouch died April 8, after a six-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was born

September 12, 1934, in Gardner, Massachusetts, to Ruth Burrell and Arthur Edward Crouch. He enrolled in Occidental College in Los Angeles in 1952. During his first year at San Francisco Theological Seminary, he married his best friend, Alice Lindquist. The Crouches were appointed by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as mission workers in Thailand. Crouch learned to speak and write Thai prior to serving a parish in Petburi with Thai and Chinese co-pastors. He also served Presbyterian churches in Oregon and California, and was Associate Director of the Oregon and Michigan Councils of Churches, where his ministry focused on serving migrant farmworkers and low-income single mothers. He became Director of Refugee Resettlement for Northern California and Nevada in 1981 and helped assess refugee camps and services in Southeast Asia and Europe. His last position was manager of the Berkeley Presbyterian Mission Homes, bringing him into close contact with pastors from around the world. During retirement in Santa Rosa, California, Crouch was active in the Presbyterian Church of the Roses, the Presbytery of the Redwoods, and the Oakmont Kiwanis Club, which he served as chaplain and president. He is survived by his wife, Alice; his sons, Bob (Suzanne Marie) and Peter (Mary Suzanne); his brother-in-law, Ted Lindquist; his three grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.



1959 (B.Div.)

Rev. Sidney D. Skirvin, former Dean of Seminary Life at Union Theological Seminary in New York, died February 16 after a long illness. He was 84. He was born June 27, 1930, in Alamosa, Colorado. A

graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary, Skirvin came to Union as Placement Officer in 1966 after serving in several Presbyterian pastorates. In the turbulent sixties, Skirvin's office door was always open, as was his heart and mind. "At a time when many students were troubled by vocational indecision, he was very helpful to those who came to him for an assessment of their strengths and limitations and for guidance to suitable positions," wrote Robert T. Handy in a history of the seminary. Skirvin was appointed Assistant Professor of Practical Theology in 1969, Dean of Students in 1972, and Dean of Seminary Life in 1980. He left the Seminary in 1982 to become pastor of Church of the Pilgrims in Washington, DC. He and his wife retired in Colorado, where Skirvin served as interim executive of Pueblo Presbytery 1994–96. Skirvin is survived by his wife, Shirley; his son, Stephen; and his daughter, Stephanie.



1960s (ThD Student)

Rev. John E. Toppins

died February 11 at home in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, at age 91. Toppins was born September 13, 1923, in San Antonio, Texas. He

served as a Naval officer in the South Pacific, then earned a degree in business administration from the University of Texas (1946) and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (1950). He took classes in the ThD program at San Francisco Theological Seminary in the 1960s. His first pastorate was in Lake Village, Arkansas, where he met and married Anne Davis. He also served three congregations in Texas and was Minister of Education for his presbytery. He served as Assistant Director of Development at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa and as Business Administrator of the West Alabama Public Health Department, where he developed new programs (neonatal care, dental services, rat control), brought the Department into the computer age, and oversaw the construction of new offices. Toppins retired in 1988. He continued to fill in for absent clergy at churches in Alabama and Mississippi and was active at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, where he taught Sunday school for years. He is survived by his wife, Anne; his three children, Sarah Toppins, John Davis Toppins (Pam), and Paul

Toppins (Melissa Kent); his sister, Nancy Mauk; his brother-in-law, Dave Williamson (Netsy); and by three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

1961 (B.Div.)

Rev. Wilbur Leonard "Bill" Sloat died February 5 at age 85. He was born March 25, 1929, to Ava Wilbur and Hazel Josephine Sloat in Santa Rosa, California. He attended a one-room school and was the sole member of his eighth-grade class. He attended Santa Rosa Junior College for a year and then served for four years in the U.S. Navy. On September 7, 1952, Sloat married Esther Dorothy (Dolly) Meeker. He earned a degree in agriculture from Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo (1955) and a Master of Arts in soil science from Utah State. A change in career plans sent Sloat to San Francisco Theological Seminary. He then served ten years as pastor of Orenco (Oregon) Presbyterian Church. While in Orenco, he received a PhD from Portland University and worked as a psychologist. In 1979, Sloat and his wife started Alpine Valley Gardens, a day lily nursery, in Santa Rosa. In 1995 they retired to Brookings, Oregon, where they were active in Brookings Presbyterian Church. Sloat is survived by his wife, Dolly; his daughters, Kathleen Sue Daniels, Julie Ann Holderith (Mark), and Cheryl Lynn Dutton (Richard); his brother, Robert Frank Sloat (Virginia); five grandsons; one great-granddaughter; and nieces and nephews.



1971 (STM), 1976 (STD)

Harold Mayo Daniels died

February 5 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was 87. Daniels was born April 10, 1927, in Walla Walla, Washington, to Ralph

Lionel Daniels and Lillie Maude (Smith) Daniels. He received degrees from Northwest Nazarene College (1948), Nazarene Theological Seminary (1951), and San Francisco Theological Seminary (1971 and 1976). Ordained in the Church of the Nazarene in 1953, Daniels served congregations in Oregon and Washington before being received as a minister in the Presbyterian Church in 1958. He served congregations in Montana and New Mexico for two decades before being appointed as director of the Joint Office of Worship for the northern (UPCUSA) and southern (PCUS) branches of the Presbyterian Church in 1978. Upon reunion of the northern and southern

churches, Harold staffed the Office of Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) until his retirement in 1993. He was project director and editor of the *Book of Common Worship* (1993), acclaimed as a monumental work of ecumenical liturgical renewal. His passion for ecumenism informed his service through the National Council of Churches Commission on Worship and the Arts, the Association for Reformed and Liturgical Worship, and other groups. Daniels wrote two books, edited many others, and continued to publish articles until his death. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Josephine Marie; their children, Stephen Daniels (Leora), Mark Daniels (Kari), Randy Daniels (Carmen), Beth Price (Bill); and by four grandchildren and one great-grandson.



1977 (D.Min.)
Rev. Anthony "Wayne" Myers died December 18, 2013. He was born June 15, 1922, the son of adoptive parents Anthony Wayne and Katherine Walsh Myers.

He was educated at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon; the University of Chicago; and Manchester College in the United Kingdom. Ordained in 1948 by Grandview Congregational Church in Denver, Colorado, he served as associate pastor of Country Club Congregational Church of Kansas City, followed by posts in Peoria and Naperville, Illinois. He married Brigitte "Brix" Steindamm, an immigrant from Germany, in 1956. While serving in California at the Congregational Church of Campbell, UCC, he received his Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Myers was especially invested in children's participation in church life. He enjoyed writing short stories, many of which were published. He is survived by his wife, Brix; his daughter, Katherine McBride (Art); his son, Peter (Kathy); and his granddaughter, Kellye Marin Byal.



1979 (D.Min.)
Rev. Dr. Robert M.C. Ward died January 31 at Florida Presbyterian Homes in Lakeland, Florida, as a result of multiple strokes over the last

three years. Ward was born September 21, 1934, in Newburgh, New York, the son of a

Presbyterian minister and school teacher. He earned degrees from the College of Wooster, McCormick Theological Seminary, and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He married Grace Ossentjuk, who was also the daughter of a Presbyterian minister, in 1960. The Wards served churches in the Midwest and the Southeast for 50 years. A dynamic preacher, Ward captivated young and old with his children's sermons. He excelled at congregational leadership and church business administration but found his real niche in ministry serving congregations in conflict as a transitional pastor (interim specialist). He is survived by his wife, Grace; his three children, Kathryn A. Neff (Michael Neff), Rev. Dr. Robert D. Ward (Rev. Dr. Victoria Isaacs), and Rev. Dr. William J. Ward (Dr. Rachel Ward); his brother, Rev. Thomas S. Ward; and by nine grandchildren and three great-granddaughters.



1980 (STD)
Rev. Malcolm Ernest Nygren died January 30 in Urbana, Illinois, at age 89. He was born September 12, 1925, in Portsmouth, Ohio, to Gustav Henning

and Alma Viberg Nygren. He grew up in Kokomo, Indiana, and received the U.S. Army Combat Infantry Badge while serving in World War II. Nygren received degrees from Hanover (Indiana) College, McCormick Theological Seminary, and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He married the late Betty Sue Perry (Susie) in 1950. She shared in his ministry as he served First Presbyterian Church of Champaign, Illinois, for 39 years. Nygren was a syndicated weekly columnist for the Champaign *News-Gazette* for more than 50 years. He authored two books and was a columnist for *Christianity Today*. In 1967, he served on a special school board committee and presented the strategy that was implemented for the desegregation of Champaign schools. He served on the boards of institutions including Kemmerer Village children's home, Clark-Lindsey Retirement Village, the Christie Foundation, and the University of Illinois. His wife, Susie, died in 1996, and he married Mimi Cozad in 1999. Two daughters, Debra Louise and Nancy Susan, also preceded him in death. Nygren is survived by his wife Mimi; his daughter Melinda Pierce (Robert); two grandsons; a

stepson, Greg Cozad (Kristie); a stepdaughter, Cindy Norris (John); and four step-grandchildren.



1982 (D.Min.)
Rev. Dr. Richard H. "Dick" Leon died November 7, 2014, in a bicycle accident in Tucson, Arizona. He was 79. A Seattle native, Leon was born March 9,

1935, to Douglas and Helen Leon. He earned degrees from the University of Washington, Benares Hindu University in India, Princeton Theological Seminary, and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He married Carolyn Vandiver in 1961. Leon served as pastor of Hamburg (New York) Presbyterian Church; Union Church of Manila, Philippines; First Presbyterian Church in Spokane, Washington; and Bellevue (Washington) Presbyterian Church. After retiring in 2001, he was parish associate at Sammamish (Washington) Presbyterian Church. He served on the boards of Whitworth University and Kairos USA. Leon is survived by his wife, Carolyn; his three children, Jay (Lindsey), Catherine, and Wynne; his sister, Marjorie (Russ); his two granddaughters, and numerous nieces and nephews.



1987 (STD)
Dr. Anne J. Brennan died February 20 at age 79 at her residence in Brick, New Jersey, after a long struggle with pulmonary hypertension. Brennan spent her

early ministry years teaching children and later began teaching and training adult catechists. The response to her ministry of theology and spirituality for adults inspired her to pursue a degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary, specializing in the spiritual and psychological development of adults in the second half of life. She and Dr. Janice Brewi (STD, 1987) founded Midlife Directions. These two members of the Roman Catholic Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, New York, took their ministry to England, Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, and other locations. They published four books and numerous articles. They also organized the Midlife Directions Consultants' Training Program, creating a worldwide community of women and men dedicated to ministry with adults in midlife and later life.



1988 (M.Div.)

Rev. Merla A. Marsh died January 15 at age 85. She was born February 19, 1929, in Highland Park, Michigan. She and her husband, Robert E. Marsh,

met in high school and were married shortly after he entered the U.S. Navy. At age 51, Marsh was called to the ministry and she enrolled in Chaminade University in Honolulu. She then earned a degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Ordained in 1989, she served for ten years as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Dunedin, Florida. She retired at age 70. She is survived by her husband, Bob; her children, Michael, Steven, Laura, and Brenda; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



1990 (D.Min.)

Rev. Stan Tate died November 3, 2014, after a long illness. Tate grew up in Boise, Idaho, and met his wife, Lynn Campbell, at the University of Idaho.

While attending Princeton Theological Seminary, he worked at the maximum security prison in Trenton, New Jersey, where he helped free two falsely convicted young men, and he ran a gym for street kids in Newark. He was ordained to the ministry in both the Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church. While serving a pastorate in eastern Montana, he was asked to be a juvenile probation officer. This led to his two-term election as a probate judge in Idaho, which allowed him to continue his focus on youth and justice. He also served as chaplain in the USAF 124th Fighter Receptor Group of the Idaho National Guard. He served campus ministries in Idaho and Oregon and worked as a bioethicist for a hospital, consulting with nursing homes for a number of years before retiring. Tate is survived by his wife, Lynn; his daughter, Teri (Dan McColly); his sons Scott (Lauren) and Phil (Angie); his foster daughter, Karen Dellgard; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

1991 (STD)

Rev. Carroll Leroy Wessinger died October 27, 2014, in Wytheville, Virginia. He was 83. The son of Benjamin Leroy and Zola Stuck

Wessinger, he was an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wytheville. Wessinger is survived by his wife, Gloria Smith Wessinger; his son, Mark (Melisa Caddell); his daughter, Beth (Keith Cochran); his sister, Christine (Murray Shull); his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Norman and Carole Smith; and four grandchildren.



1999 (M.Div.)

Rev. Edward Dean Lee died March 9 at his home in Morgan Hill, California. Lee was born August 18, 1948, in Artesia, New Mexico, the son of Ruffus

E. and Imogene (Rowin) Lee. He earned degrees from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas; the University of New Mexico School of Law; and San Francisco Theological Seminary. Lee worked for 20 years as an attorney in the title insurance industry in New Mexico before responding to the call to ordained ministry. He served as pastor of Gonzales (California) Community Church in San Jose Presbytery for 14 years until retiring for health reasons. After retiring, he became parish associate at Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church in San Jose. Lee is survived by his wife, Myrna Joy; his mother, Imogene Lee; his sister, Janie Hammons (Gene); his step-daughters, June and Jennifer; and by four grandchildren and three nephews.



1988 (M.Div.)

Rev. Kurt Kiesling died February 18 in Chico, California, at age 53. He was born May 10, 1961, in Denver and grew up in Greeley, Colorado. He

earned a Bachelor of Arts in communications from the University of Northern Colorado and a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He lived in many interesting places all over the globe, including Hawaii, Ukraine, and Russia. He is survived by his mother, Mary Kiesling; his father, Marvin Kiesling; his children, Kai and Kory; and his sister, Kris Ritter.



2008 (DASD)

Rev. Jeannette Ford

Baggs died January 9 after a nearly decade-long battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was 77. Born in Oxford, North

Carolina, Baggs earned degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Tennessee, and Union Presbyterian Seminary. She earned a Diploma in the Art of Spiritual Direction from San Francisco Theological Seminary. Her teaching career spanned two decades in the Virginia, Alabama, and Arizona school systems. She served as pastor of Fairfield (Virginia) Presbyterian Church and as a spiritual counselor in Fairfield and in Williamsburg, Virginia, where she retired. Baggs is survived by her husband, Dr. Gary Allen Baggs; her son, David Hale Baggs (Leigh Anne); her grandson Nathan Alexander Baggs; her sisters, Judith Ford Skillin and Joyce Ford Keyser (Dutch); her brother, Alfred Sterling Thomas (Loretta); her brother-in-law, Nelson Leroy Baggs; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her grandson Joshua Christopher Baggs.

Post-Graduate Student

Rev. Philip Eldon Henderson died January 29. Henderson was born September 21, 1935, in Holyoke, Massachusetts, to Philip and Myrtle Henderson. He married Carolyn Harshbarger August 22, 1958. He earned degrees from Ohio University and Princeton Theological Seminary and did post-graduate work at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Henderson served three Presbyterian churches in Ohio and was pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lansing, Michigan, for 17 years. He was instrumental in establishing Advent House Ministries, serving the homeless and others in need. He was a leader in ecumenical HIV/AIDS ministries and served as a volunteer chaplain at St. Lawrence Hospital and Hospice House. Henderson is survived by his wife, Carolyn; his daughter, Katherine R. Stanka (Michael); his sons, Philip G. Henderson (Nancy), Kenneth S. Henderson (Wendy), and Stephen A. Henderson (Michelle); his half-sister, Lillian Mae Miller; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Cynthia M. Smith (Jeremy).

IN MEMORIAM

SFTS Arizona Extension

Deanna (Dee) Marlene Van Dyke died March 1 of Alzheimer's disease in Phoenix, Arizona. She was born May 27, 1939, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to Andrew and Margaret Van Dyke. She married Robert (Bob) Hershberger March 25, 1961. After graduating from Idaho State University, Van Dyke taught elementary school. In 1969, the couple moved to Tempe, Arizona where Van Dyke served as director of the American Baptist Campus Foundation, earned a master's degree in higher and adult education at Arizona State University, taught English as a second language at the Cook Christian Training School, and served as director of the Arizona Extension of San Francisco Theological Seminary. She became an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church and then served as Director of Children's Ministries at Christ Church United Methodist in Tucson and as

Religious Life Director for Tucson Metropolitan Ministries. After retiring to Payson, Arizona, in 2002, Van Dyke was active in the Payson United Methodist Church, the Democratic Women's Club, and Amnesty International. She is survived by her husband, Bob; her two sons, their wives, and six grandchildren; her younger sister; and several nieces and nephews.

Former Faculty

Rev. Dr. Edward David Willis died November 23, 2014, in Alexandria, Virginia, from Parkinson's disease. He was 82. Willis leaves a legacy as a scholar, a Presbyterian minister, and a teacher. In working with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, he traveled to Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe building support for congregations. He was awarded an honorary degree from the Reformed University of Budapest, Hungary. Fluent in several languages, Willis' greatest pas-

sion was the work of John Calvin, on whom he was an international authority. A native of Longmont, Colorado, Willis earned degrees from Northwestern University, Princeton Theological Seminary, and Harvard Divinity School. He taught church history at San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and then returned to Princeton as the Charles Hodge Professor of Systematic Theology, where he remained until his retirement in 1998. Willis is survived by his wife, Ann Chandler Willis, and three children from his first marriage to Irene Siebens: Elizabeth Freemantle, Catherine Willis Cleveland, and Matthew Willis. (He was predeceased by his son Benjamin Willis.) He is also survived by two children from his second marriage to Sally Watkins: Rebecca Willis-Watkins and Spencer Willis-Watkins. Other survivors include three stepchildren and ten grandchildren.

SFTS prayerfully remembers those from our community who have died.

To inform the Seminary of the death of a loved one,

please contact Joanne Larson at jl Larson@sfts.edu or 415.451.2846.

LOOKING AHEAD... AN INVESTMENT FOR A LIFETIME

Forward thinking, designing your legacy, gift planning and a permanent impact—these are a few of the guiding principles underlying a new partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation. As we secure the future of SFTS, accept our invitation to be in touch with Rev. Dr. Steve Wirth, the Foundation's Ministry Relations Officer who will serve with our Advancement Team as the Seminary's Planned Giving Officer.

Contact Steve at swirth@sfts.edu or at his Foundation office: steve.wirth@presbyterianfoundation.org | 562.304.3410.

- ✚ Fulfill your philanthropic goals, and discover more ways to give than you ever thought possible.
- ✚ Make investments that "give back" to you.
- ✚ Add meaning to your gift by honoring someone special.

Join us as we explore, discover—even transform—the world and share the rewards, through a return on investment measured in innovative ministry for generations to come.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 6

Spoken Word in Worship

Join us for this day-long workshop led by Dean of the Seminary Rev. Dr. Jana Childers. Explore the dynamics of perceiving and evoking the written word, oral interpretation skills, and how the actor's values and habits are applied to the act of worship leadership. This is the second course in the Certificate in Worship Leadership program. Register at sfts.edu.



JULY 20-23

Prophetic Spirituality Retreat

Rev. Dr. Luther E. Smith, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Helen Bruch Pearson will lead this three-day retreat offered by the Program in Christian Spirituality. Explore empowering spiritual practices for the transformation of self and community through presentations, worship, readings, and exercises. Register by July 1 at tinyurl.com/PropheticSpiritualityRetreat.

AUGUST 9-14

Being Called by Name – the Lure of Homecoming

Companions on the Inner Way is a five-day guided retreat grounded in the Christian Tradition. By honoring body, mind, and soul, companions are invited to the inner journey with the Spirit. This year's retreat will be located at Zephyr Point in Nevada and is co-sponsored by SFTS. For information visit zephyrpoint.org.

AUGUST 23-24

Furniture Fair Donations

Please donate gently used furniture for incoming SFTS students on August 23 and 24 in Lower Alexander Hall. For additional information on how and what to donate, please contact Stephanie LaMonaca at slamonaca@sfts.edu.

SEPTEMBER 12

Crafting Worship and Liturgy

Join us for a daylong workshop led by Rev. Scott Clark, SFTS Chaplain and Associate Dean of Student Life. Explore the central role of prayer in worship by crafting a worship service that can be implemented in participants' home congregations. This is the third course in the Certificate in Worship Leadership program. Register by September 1 at sfts.edu.

SEPTEMBER 18

Collective Trauma, Collective Memory: Systemic Issues of Trauma

This four-weekend course (September 18-19, October 16-17, November 13-14, and December 4-5) will examine the traumatic reality of racism, sexism, and classism in social systems. This course counts towards the the Certificate in Trauma and Spiritual Care program. For information, please visit sfts.edu.

SEPTEMBER 19

Horizons Bible Study

This year's Bible Study theme is "Come to the Waters" and will feature *Bible Study* author Judy Record Fletcher. Registration will open June 1 at sfts.edu.

OCTOBER 4

Dedication of New Student and Faculty Housing

Celebrate with us the dedication of the newly constructed Student Village and Faculty Complex. The sense of community among SFTS scholars and their families will be sustained and enriched by the completion of this significant project. Join us in rejoicing!

OCTOBER 15

Ritual Artistry in Worship Lab

Sponsored by the Center for Innovation in Ministry, the most sought-after ritual artists will gather for the first time ever in one location to offer a variety of workshops. Leaders include Dr. Marcia McFee, Alexandra Childs, Ted Lyddon Hatten, Chuck Bell, Phil Porter, Dr. G. Penny Nixon, and Mark Burrows. Registration opens June 1. More information is available at sfts.edu/ritualartistry.

OCTOBER 26-28

UNCO

UNCO is an unconference for church leaders, pastors, families, and seminarians hosted on the SFTS campus. Attend three days of worship and open discussion surrounding the Church and its future. More information and registration is available at unco.us.



NOVEMBER 5-7

Inquirers Weekend

Do you know anyone who may be discerning the next steps in their life? Please encourage them to attend the fall Inquirers Weekend. Part academic seminar, part spiritual retreat, this event introduces the robust theological education and reflective community environment offered to prospective students.



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Program in Christian Spirituality Continuing Education Retreat

Prophetic Spirituality: Transforming Self, Transforming Community

**Poverty, violence, race relations
and mass incarceration are crucibles
for understanding how faith sustains
and transforms us to live fearless
and abundant lives.**

Monday-Thursday, July 20-23, 2015

**Explore empowering spiritual practices for the
transformation of self and community through presentations,
worship, readings, and exercises in this retreat.**

Rev. Dr. Luther E. Smith, Jr. is Professor Emeritus of Church and Community at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University. Dr. Smith has written and spoken extensively on issues of church and society, Christian spirituality, and congregational renewal.



Rev. Helen Bruch Pearson is Professor Emerita of Theology, Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Rev. Pearson is a retreat and seminar leader, spiritual director, worship designer, and the author of *Do What You Have the Power To Do*.



For more information, visit sfts.edu/event/propheticspiritualityretreat
or contact Rev. Ruth T. West, 415.451.2838, rwest@sfts.edu

Register by July 1: tinyurl.com/PropheticSpiritualityRetreat