

# COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Alumni/ae News Online July 2008

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.....

For some reason about half way through July William Shakespeare's late 16<sup>th</sup> century play, **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, came to my mind. To re-familiarize myself with the work I "goggled" it and was reminded about such things as fairyland realms, moonlit enchanted forests, and magical love potions.

The three interlocking plots within Shakespeare's play remind me of another brilliant piece of contemporary TV drama with which I am much more well-versed....**Seinfeld**. In each episode of this sitcom actor, comedian, and writer Larry David mingles together a triad of seemingly unrelated vignettes of life presumably about nothing. By the end of the half hour not only have I laughed out loud, but have also witnessed a magical intersecting of all three plots.

Far from including stories about nothing, this and every edition of our CTS **Alumni/ae E-Newsletter** chronicles ministries about a great many people and things. Stories include your retirements and new beginnings, your anniversary celebrations and well-deserved recognitions, your faithful devotion and care, and your new births in this world and for some new life in God's Kingdom. As unique as is each of our narratives, stanza two of William Dunkerley's 1908 **In Christ There is No East or West** reminds.....

"In Him shall true hearts everywhere their high  
communion find; His service the golden cord  
close binding humankind."

By the day's end, I am confident that by God's grace we'll all have laughed out loud and in Christ will have witnessed a magical intersecting of all our stories. For with you I am always delighted to remember that..."He who began a good work in us will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).



**Randy Calvo, Jr. '81**

## About Our Alums

**Lowell Sykes '59** has recently written *Twenty Years with Alzheimer's Disease*, the story of God's faithfulness, as he cares for his wife Barbara.

**Richard Cushman '65** retired June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 after serving 30 years at Dorchester Presbyterian in Summerville, South Carolina.

**Jim Richardson '65** is interim pastor at Oakland Avenue Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

**Joe Harvard '66** recently was awarded the Downtown Durham Rotary Club's annual Community Service Award.

**John Stodghill '70** reports he is having a fruitful ministry in retirement serving as chaplain at Wayne General Hospital and Hospice in Waynesboro, Mississippi.

**Tom Tyndall '70** is part-time parish associate at First Presbyterian in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He and his wife Betty recently celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Tom is also working part-time in pastoral care at Cross Point Community Church in Nashville. For fun, Tom is helping about two dozen other men build a huge H.O. scale model railroad layout.

**Shepp Lawrence '74** has a new position as Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian in Palm Bay, Florida.

**Achim Daffin '81** is now pastor/chaplain at Presbyterian Village, Summerville, South Carolina.

**Sara Juengst '83** was awarded the Committee on Theological Education's Award for Excellence in Theological Education during the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

**Sidney Leak '83** has retired as pastor, First Church, Manchester, Tennessee.

**Robert McCully '84 (D.Min)** is now licensed as a counselor (LPC, LCAS) and now serves as a substance abuse counselor at the Charlotte Rescue Mission full-time and as interim pastor part-time at the Presbyterian Church of Lowell, North Carolina.

**Gray Norsworthy '85** has a new call to serve as senior chaplain of the Chapel at Big Canoe – a multi-denominational congregation with members from a wide range of Christian backgrounds.

**Pat Bailey '87** has a new call as pastor of Christ Presbyterian in Telluride, Colorado. He recently retired from the army after 16 years as a chaplain.

**Philip West '88 (DMin)** recently celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> year of his ordination. His church, Harbor View Church in Charleston, SC held a surprise celebration in his honor on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Totok Wiryasaputra '90** is now teaching pastoral care and counseling courses for two different seminaries in Indonesia. They are Duta Wacana in Yogyakarta and Satya Wacana in Salatiga.

**Lorna Clark '91** recently retired and lives in Statesboro, Georgia.

**Jonathan Wallace '91** is the new pastor of Bethesda Presbyterian in Aberdeen, North Carolina in Coastal Carolina Presbytery.

**Neal Neuenschwander '92** is pastor of First Presbyterian in San Pedro, California.

**Bill Gandy '93** has been appointed to serve as superintendent of the Mountain Lakes District, United Methodist Church, North Alabama.

**Charles Blasdel '94** has a new call as pastor of two churches, Colver Presbyterian and Revloc Presbyterian in Pennsylvania.

**John Hinkle '94** has accepted a call as senior pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**John Knapp '95** is now Mann Family Professor of Ethics and Leadership and Professor of Entrepreneurship, Management & Marketing at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Fran Ruthven '95** has been named to the Board of Trustees of Berkshire Country Day School in Lenox, Massachusetts.

**Richard Shinkle '95 (D.Min)** has retired as pastor, First Church, Heber Springs, Arkansas.

**Calvin Gittner '96** is the new pastor at Port Orange Presbyterian Church, Port Orange, Florida.

**Greg Cruice '97** has a new call as pastor of New Life Presbyterian Church, Fruitland Park, Florida.

**Herman Yoos '97 (D.Min)** was recently elected to a six-year term as Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, South Carolina Synod.

**Ashley Beaty-Perry '98** has returned to her home town of Dothan, Alabama and established a homecare business, ComForcare. After her mother suffered with Alzheimer's she knew that such a service would benefit the area's aging population and their families.

**Pam Leach '98** was recently ordained at First Presbyterian in Tyler, Texas where she is serving as Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care.

**Ed Britt '00 (D.Min.)** has been appointed as pastor of First United Methodist in Savannah, Tennessee.

**Becky Davis '00** is Chaplain at Citizens Baptist Medical Center in Talladega, Alabama.

**Jim Simpson '00 (D.Min)** has a new call as Director of Church Relations at Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina.

**Ashley Seaman '01** is now temporary supply pastor at North Denver Presbyterian, Denver, Colorado.

**Chris Denny '02** and wife Alle have a baby boy. Charles Francis was born April 30, 2008.

**Carol Johnson '03** has a new position as Assistant Chaplain for Jr. Highs at Westminster Schools in Atlanta. She also serves as Director of Community Service and is on the Bible Faculty.

**Samuel Green '03 (D.Min)** has been named the new leader of Arkansas' 150 AME congregations, and will preside over the churches in the denominations' 12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, which encompasses Arkansas and Oklahoma. He was chosen for his new post by delegates at the denomination's quadrennial General Conference in St. Louis.

**Rebecca Lesley '03** has been called to be pastor of Suffolk Presbyterian, Suffolk, Virginia.

**Vanessa Potter '03** is now in a validated ministry in Mission Presbytery and serves as the Human Resource Director and Volunteer Ministry Coordinator of Mo-Ranch Camp and Conference Center in Hunt, Texas.

**Susan Smith '04** has a new call as pastor of Mt. Zion Presbyterian in Sandy Springs, South Carolina.

**Jonathon Ball '04** and **Shannon Edgerton Ball '05** are proud parents of a baby boy. Grainger William was born July 20<sup>th</sup>, weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz.

**Andy '05** and **Cheryl '07 Gans** have relocated to Ocala, Florida, where Andy is pastor of Fort King Presbyterian. Cheryl will be searching for a new position in the area.

**Young Chul Jeon '05** has been ordained and commissioned as a part-time tentmaker minister of Korean Outreach Ministries of Bethany Presbyterian of Marietta, Georgia.

**Meg Flannagan '06** has accepted a call as associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Clarkesville, Tennessee. The senior pastor there is David Forney, Columbia's former Associate Dean of the Faculty.

**Cheryl Lindstrom '06** has accepted a call as Director of Creative Arts at First Presbyterian Church in Weslaco, Texas.

**Kate McGregor-Mosley '06** and husband Larry have a baby daughter. Jane Catherine was born May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Jo Nygard Owens '06** was married May 3, 2008 to the Rev. B. J. Owens. Jo is associate pastor for youth and young adults at Hudson Memorial in Raleigh, NC. B.J. is associate rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cary, North Carolina.

**Lynne Frech '07** received a call as Associate Pastor for Congregational Care at South Mecklenburg Presbyterian in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Leigh Jones '07** has a call as pastor of Presbyterian Church of the Resurrection in Conyers, Georgia.

**Melanie Nogalski '07 (D.Min)** is now Coordinator for Baylor Interdisciplinary Core (BIC) at Baylor University.

**Sara Varnado '07** has a new position working with the Education Team at the Campus for Human Development in Nashville, Tennessee.

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## **In Memoriam**

**Mary Christ Brown '96**  
**David Felton '05**

**May 20, 2008**  
**June 23, 2008**

## **The Columbia Annual Fund**

Thanks for your generous support to the Columbia Annual Fund. For fiscal year 2008, we raised more than \$900,000 from alumni/ae, friends, faculty, staff, congregations and foundations. Your gifts allow us to address the most immediate needs such as scholarship for students, technology, books for the library, etc.

Our new fiscal year began July 1, 2008. We need your support. Whether you give \$25 or \$25,000, your gift is appreciated and will make a difference in the lives of students at Columbia. You can make your contribution today by visiting our website at [www.ctsnet.edu](http://www.ctsnet.edu) or calling the Columbia Annual Fund office at 404-687-4588.

If you have recently moved to a new presbytery and would like to know of other CTS alums in that presbytery or your geographical area, let us know and we'll e-mail a list to you.

If you are interested in having your e-mail address listed in our e-mail directory on our web page and haven't notified us, please email Barbara Poe at [poeb@ctsnet.edu](mailto:poeb@ctsnet.edu). We will not list your e-mail address without your permission.

### **Stay in Touch**

Please help Barbara and Randy stay in touch with you by emailing them any news of interest or changes in your address, life or work that you would like to share with the seminary community and other alums. If we can be of help to you in any way, please let us know.