

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Alumni/ae News Online November 2008

Dear colleagues in ministry and fellow CTS alums.....

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

From the looks of things at my house, it's not easy to tell whether we're preparing for Thanksgiving or Christmas. On the kitchen counter there's a printed menu of turkey, cornbread dressing, cranberry sauce and trimmings which will guide the cooking of the upcoming annual harvest meal. And yet already scattered around the house like coming attractions are twigs of fragrant greenery, red ribbon, and tiny twinkling lights announcing the season's forthcoming "feature presentation."

Given the timing of this e-newsletter I couldn't figure out whether to wish for you a Happy Thanksgiving or a Merry Christmas. So I decided to wish you both...the deeply felt satisfaction of a heart filled with gratitude and the love, joy, hope, and peace of the Christ born anew therein. Perhaps it's not altogether heretical to suggest that the mixing and mingling of national and sacred holidays can be by God's grace not all bad after all!

Throughout my years of parish ministry I was bound and determined to lead the congregation in a holiday celebration that was done decently and especially "in order"...there will be no singing of favorite Christmas carols until we spend some quality time with John the Baptist! At the same time and without apology or calendar my wife, Dyann, has always filled our family's house with wonderful signs of her love for and excitement about this season. With many of you I still believe in the discipline of waiting. It is my hope and prayer for you and me that some of Dyann's "can't wait" spirit will be ours as well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Calvo, Jr.", located below the main text.

Randy Calvo, Jr. '81

About Our Alums

Bill Lee '55 recently completed his seventh interim since retirement, and is now serving as a short term supply pastor.

Susan Hunt '64 had a new book recently published, entitled *Sammy and His Shepherd*. Susan is the author of twelve books, including four other children's titles. She is currently writing a discipleship curriculum on biblical womanhood for teen girls.

Bill Phipps '68 has relocated to Roanoke, VA after his retirement, transferring his membership from Tampa Bay Presbytery to Presbytery of the Peaks.

Harry Daniel '66 is now interim pastor at Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, VA.

Michael Williams '69 has retired as associate executive of St. Augustine Presbytery.

Steve Rhodes '75 has a new book, *The Time I Didn't Know What To Do Next*.

Tom Richie '86 (D.Min) has retired from the pulpit after 28 years at Young Memorial Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Anderson SC.

Walter Dinkins '88 is now Force Chaplain for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. One of his duties is working through the Cultural Affairs Directorate at US Embassies of Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Dubai and all the ships and personnel within the Coalition and US Forces throughout the Arabian Gulf.

Joy Smith '88 was recently installed as pastor of Presbyterian Church of the Apostles in Burnsville, MN.

Scott Ellington '90 was just appointed Associate Professor of Christian Ministry at Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, GA.

Gloria Jennings '90 taught the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, *Jubilee! Luke's Gospel For The Poor*, at the Fall Leadership Event, a ministry of Greater Atlanta, Northeast Georgia and Cherokee Presbyteries held at Trinity church, Atlanta in August.

Diane Shoaf '91 has been appointed associate dean at the Florida Center for Theological Studies. She will serve at the Miami campus.

Vanessa Potter '93 is now serving as the Director of Human Resources and Volunteer Ministries of Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly in Hunt, TX.

John Ragsdale '94 is now temporary associate executive presbyter of St. Augustine Presbytery.

Margaret Brinck '95 has retired as chaplain of Wood Presbyterian Home in Sweetwater, TN.

Tim Slemmons '95 has a new position as Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at the University of Dubuque.

Insick Jang '96 was recently installed as Moderator of Flint River Presbytery. He is the pastor of the Columbus, GA Korean Presbyterian Church and the first Korean moderator installed in the presbytery.

Brad Ableson '99 (D.Min) was honored for his work and life as an inductee to the USAO Alumni Hall of Fame during Alumni Homecoming at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma this month. He is known as a pioneer in global religious reconciliation and an architect of the modern model for military chaplains. He was also honored by Yale Divinity School with the distinguished alumni award in October. He is a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky and priest-in-residence at Trinity Cathedral in Omaha.

Erin Sharp '99 left her church in Alexandria, VA, to return to school for a Masters Degree of Marriage and Family Therapy through Virginia Tech's extension center in the DC area. She and husband David Bailey are expecting a baby girl sometime this month.

Joe Hinds '99 and **Kazy Blocher Hinds '00** have moved to Sidney, OH, where Joe is pastor at First Presbyterian Church. Kazy has been called as pastor at Westminster Church in Piqua, OH.

Robert Alexander '00 recently completed the Chicago Marathon where he ran with Team World Vision and raised funds to support their good work in Africa. He will also be a part of the worship band for Faith in 3D, a youth event in Orlando, FL in January 2009.

Elizabeth Walker '00 is now serving as associate pastor for pastoral care at First Church, Wheaton, IL.

Sandra Monroe '01 has retired as pastor of Fort Valley Church, Fort Valley, GA.

Chris '03 and **Carrie '02 Tuttle** have moved to Durham, NC, where Chris will be pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Carrie is enjoying being a stay-at-home Mom with Ella Brooks and Heath after being an associate pastor in Burlington, NC.

Carrie and Chris Tuttle's infant son, Heath, has been recently diagnosed with serious health concerns. Your prayers offered with and for the Tuttle family are requested and appreciated. For further information please visit their blog at <http://babyheathupdates.blogspot.com>

Cindy Benz '03 has accepted a call as the new interim pastor at Puckety Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell, PA. She and husband Steve have relocated to Greensburg, PA. Steve is currently serving as the interim Presbytery Executive for the Presbytery of Redstone.

Kate Richmond Rascoe '03 and **Clayton Rascoe '03** announce the birth of a baby girl, Ruth Richmond Rascoe, born February 6, 2008.

Tricia Dillon Thomas '06 was ordained October 12 at Seven Oaks Church in Irmo, SC. **Anna Carter Florence, Franklin Fant '04, Elizabeth Deibert '90, and Clay Thomas '05** participated in the service. Tricia has accepted a call as Evangelist to Youth and Family at Peace Presbyterian Church, a new church development, in Lakewood Ranch, FL. Elizabeth Deibert is the organizing pastor.

Everaldo Rego '06 (D.Min) has recently accepted a call to a new church development, Islands Christian Church in Savannah, GA.

Mike Woods '06 has been selected by the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a participant in the denomination's Pastor-Theological Consultation to be held in the spring of 2009 in Louisville, KY. This consultation brings together 10-15 pastors to discuss issues of theological and pastoral significance. The spring consultation will consider the question: "Is heresy possible?"

Jo Anderson '07 was ordained and installed May 18th as associate pastor for music and care at Roswell Presbyterian Church, Roswell, GA.

Lynne Frech '07 recently accepted a call as associate pastor for congregational care for South Mecklenburg Church in Charlotte, NC.

Chris Hill '07 is now a chaplain at Sharon Towers, the Presbyterian Home in Charlotte, NC.

Lynne McNaughton '07 (D.Min) has begun an interim ministry as priest-in-charge at St. Clement's Anglican Church, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Dan Schrock '07 (D.Min) announces the publication of his book, *The Dark Night: A Gift of God*.

Scott Tucker '07 has been called as chaplain at the Summer's Landing Assisted Living Residence in Atlanta.

Luke Ellis '08, wife Rachel and big-brother Noah, welcomed Rosalie Mae Ellis to the family October 29th. Rosie weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20 inches long.

In Memoriam

Peter Blair '88

April 17, 2008

CTS Facebook Group – This is a longstanding group of more than 350 members. Here is the link if you would like to join.

<http://www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2220306566>

The Columbia Annual Fund

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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. 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.

