

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Alumni/ae News Online

November, 2005

About Our Alums

Charles Tapp '48 is living at Presbyterian Home of South Carolina in Summerville, SC. He retired several years ago as President of Presbyterian Home.

Ernest Mellor '55 recently retired 50 years after his ordination as a Presbyterian minister. Germantown Presbyterian Church, Germantown, TN, honored him during the worship service July 17 and at a reception afterward. He is currently serving as parish associate.

George Fitzgerald '57 is serving as stated supply pastor of Providence Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, VA.

G. Dan McCall '60 is now in his eighth year after retiring as Minister-Emeritus of Reid Memorial church in Augusta, GA. He has done interim ministries in Atlanta and Marietta, GA, and Charlotte NC. He is now serving as Associate Minister of Pastoral Care at Fairview church in N. Augusta, SC.

Ray Howe '62 has just started a part-time interim at Hopewell Presbyterian in Florence, SC.

Robert Lewis '62 is serving as the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Hood Theological Seminary. He recently retired from a 24-year pastorate at First church, Salisbury, NC.

Jim Bowden '64 retired after 34 years as pastor of Covenant church in Athens, GA. A Service of Recognition & Celebration of Honorable Retirement from the Ministry of Word and Sacrament was held by Northeast Georgia Presbytery October 25, 2005.

Bob Smith '65 and his wife **Dottie '63** are back in Clinton, SC after working a year at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico.

John Bacot '68 has retired from Beulaville Presbyterian Church in Beulaville, NC.

Eugene Witherspoon '70 has retired, and now supplying Saluda Presbyterian Church, Saluda, NC.

Murphy Davis '74 was awarded the Human Rights Award from the Southern Center for Human Rights in Washington, DC, on Nov. 3.

Joyce Tucker '75 retired from her position as Dean of Continuing Education at Princeton Theological Seminary and has returned to Louisville.

George Mahida '77 is Director of Counseling at PWI in Clinton, SC and also stated supply at Third church in Greenville, SC.

Dan Nail '80 is Executive Director of United Hospice Foundation and Director of Camp Cocoon, UHF's grief camp for children. He also serves as Director of Music Ministries at Mountain View United Methodist Church in Marietta.

Don Frampton '82 (D.Min.)

Writes from New Orleans 10/28/05 that he is back in his house, and his church, St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church, has resumed its work. They are reaching out to the community through a program called RHINO, Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans, and are in the process of scheduling work teams who will be staying at their facility. See more alumni/ae reports from hurricane areas at www.ctsnet.edu/news/Katrina.asp.

John Herndon '85 was honored by the Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, AL, for his 20 years of service to them and the community.

Chris Curvin '86 is now pastor of Northwood church in Clearwater, FL.

Perky Daniel '86 has begun a new ministry called Genesis Community Congregation. It is a paradigm congregation, a needs-based (not program-based) ministry that focuses on worship, care, and outreach. They have provided sandwiches for the homeless, provided scholarships to nature camps for 57 inner city youth, given three Heifer project worldwide arks of animals, and have begun their third Habitat for Humanity house in an interfaith partnership.

Gail Perkins '87 is now Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian, Harrison, AR.

Chris Zorn '87 (DMin.) '94 (Th.M)

has become disabled with ALS/Lou Gehrig's Disease. He is living in Knoxville, TN and would enjoy hearing from classmates. You can contact Chris at 800 View Harbour Rd. in Knoxville, 37934. 865-671 2103 drpreacher@tds.net .

Jung Ho Chin '88 has accepted a call as pastor of Hanbit Presbyterian Church in Duluth, GA and was installed September 25th.

Walter Dinkins '88 is a minister member of the Coastal Carolina Presbytery, who is also a Commander in the United States Naval Reserves Chaplain Corps. He has authored a small, innovative book, The U.S. Navy Hospital Corps School's *Arabic-English Emergency Medical Phrase Booklet*.

It's a first responder booklet for English speaking enlisted Medical Corpsmen who are deploying to Arabic speaking countries. Walter says he hopes it will be a great blessing to all that utilize it.

It is already in use throughout the Middle East and in Egypt. He graduated from the Defense Foreign Language Institute's Arabic Speaker Course while assigned to 4th Marine Expeditionary Command as a Chaplain to the USMC "Anti-Terrorism Battalion."

Laura Dorsey '88 & '93 (D.Min) is the current President of the Georgia Society of Hospital Chaplains.

Howard Gregory '88 was conferred with a Doctor in Divinity, honoris causa, at the annual academic convocation of the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA on October 4 and 5.

Tim Kiser '90 has a new position at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, MO. He is now the Director of the Office for Spiritual Life.

Lori Knight-Whitehouse '90 is the new pastor of New Hempstead Presbyterian Church in New City, NY.

Jones Doughton '93 and wife, Mary Lee are proud parents of a son, Bennett Jones Doughton, born Oct. 15, weighing 8 lbs. and was 21 ½ inches long.

Jim Cook '97 married Fiona Stewart September 17th in his church in Turriff, Scotland.

Billy Robinson '97 has recently accepted a new call to the Mt. Jefferson church in West Jefferson, NC.

Kevin Campbell '98 is now Executive Presbyter, Abingdon Presbytery in Wytheville, VA.

Kathleen Hall '99 (D.Min.) has published a book entitled *Alter Your Life: Overbooked? Overworked? Overwhelmed?* She is a leading stress management and work-life balance authority and founder of The Stress Institute and Fellow of the American Institute of Stress.

Noelle '99 and Denny '02 Read

announce the birth of Ethan Magruder Read September 22, 2005, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz.

Michael Bailey '00 has a new call as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Morganton, NC.

Janelle Tibbetts '00 married Peter John Vaughan in Encino, CA, August 13, 2005.

Joan Martin '00 is now pastor of Union Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, NC. She is also working on a Doctor of Ministry degree at CTS.

Andy '01 and Brandi '00 Casto-Waters now have two daughters. Ella is 3 and Lucy is 20 months. Andy is currently serving at Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville,

SC, and Brandi is serving part-time as Associate Director of Celtic Cross at Presbyterian College.

Agnes Norfleet '01 (DMin.) was installed as Pastor of Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, Oct. 9.

Maggie Beamguard '02 and husband David welcomed a new daughter, Charlotte Sinclair Beamguard on July 5, 2005. Maggie still serves as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, TN.

Blair Beaver '02 has a new call as associate pastor of First Presbyterian in Laurens, SC.

Doris Griggs '02 of the Centre for Faith and Journalism, participated in the National Conference on Workplace Chaplaincy: Hot Issues and Best Practices at Yale Divinity School, in New Haven, CT. She led one of the elective sessions that sought to underscore the need for chaplains in the newsroom, citing the fact that journalists who cover tragic events suffer from post-traumatic stress disorders at the same rate as firefighters, police officer, and disaster relief workers.

Jerry Utt '02 has a new church. He is now pastor of Graham Memorial Presbyterian in Whitesburg, KY.

Patrick Vaughn '02 (D.Min) has relocated to Paoli, PA as pastor of Paoli Presbyterian Church.

Chris '03 and Carrie '02 Tuttle are proud parents of a baby girl, Ella Brooks Tuttle born Oct. 25, 2005, weighing 7 lb. 3 oz.

Patrick Vaughn '02 (D.Min) was recently installed as senior pastor of Paoli Presbyterian Church in Paoli, PA.

Chris Ham '03 and Jennifer Slocum were married September 3, 2005, at Roswell Presbyterian in Roswell, GA. **Jeff Kackley '03, Andrew Kukla '03, Wes Brandon '03, and Lyndsay Lee '04** were all in the wedding party.

Hope Lee '03 and husband Sung Lee '01 have relocated from Fernandina Beach, FL, to Pennsylvania where Hope is pastor at Valley Forge church in King of Prussia, and Sung is Associate Pastor at Lower Providence church in Norristown.

Barnabas Sprinkle '03 is pastor of Oak Mountain Presbyterian Church in Carrollton, GA. His church was awarded the Small Church of the Year Award for one or more of the following: 1) a willingness to honor tradition, but not be bound by it, 2) an openness to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and 3) a commitment to grow in Christian discipleship.

Dan Stephens '04 was ordained and installed July 18, 2005, as associate pastor at Shades Valley Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL.

Elizabeth Soileau Acton '05 is now part-time interim youth director at Rockville Presbyterian Church in Rockville, MD.

David Felton '05 has accepted a call as pastor of Dawson Presbyterian Church, Dawson, GA. He will be ordained November 20th.

Kyong-Sook (Esther) Seo '05 and husband Jun Yang, have a daughter, Kathleen Yun-Su. She is named after Kathleen O'Connor, our Professor of Old Testament.

This delightful piece from Maetta Snyder '89

Summer of 2005

By Rev. Maetta Murdock Snyder

These are the reflections of a pastor who slept around during the summer of 2005. Now, don't get too uptight! I have done nothing in conflict with G-6.0106b, but it has been an interesting summer.

May found me sleeping with my husband, Sam, in a wonderful ski lodge amid the Wasatch Mountains surrounding Salt Lake City, Utah. The Pastor's Sabbath, sponsored by the denomination, seemed just the ticket after a year in a new church—a year of sermons, programs, teaching and parish ministry. The queen-size bed had been made neatly each day, and we felt like we were living in the lap of luxury. This respite, however, was short-lived, and we returned to our lovely air-conditioned manse in North Bend, Nebraska.

The end of June found me in quite different circumstances. Accompanying six male youth between the ages of 12 and 15, I found myself in a sleeping bag on the floor of a church in Aurora, Mo., where my friend, Melana Scruggs '87, serves as pastor. What little sleep I got came after the six boys finally wore out and went to sleep. This 57-year-old body is no longer meant to stay up past 10 p.m. or to sleep on floors.

Rising early the next morning, we proceeded to the Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Ark., for three days of learning about the problems of world hunger and the work of Heifer International, as well as some great team building on the challenge courses. Accommodations at Heifer Ranch are adequate, but far from luxurious. Bunk beds were the order of the day in the Heifer Hilton—a barn/bunkhouse with a variety of animals sleeping directly underneath the slatted floor. The rooster began to crow “in my ear” way too early, and I rolled over to see my watch read 4:45 a.m. Despite having always professed to be a non-violent person, I was sorely tempted to take a side trip into Little Rock to buy some sort of gun which would put that rooster out of my misery.

Three days and nights in 99-degree temperatures with 300-percent humidity can really do an old lady in. More stalwart than I, the six boys and male sponsor spent one of those nights in the Global Village slum, sleeping on the ground with stones poking their backsides and raindrops dousing their fronts. I, due to a little heat exhaustion, remained in the Heifer Hilton in the deluxe bunk with the fan six feet overhead, only to be awakened at 5 a.m. when the boys returned to find goats and a pig investigating their accommodations on the “bulls” side of the Hilton. (The female side is referred to as the

heifer side.) After listening to them laugh, holler and shout for ten minutes, one of them asked me if I was awake. Now, with a three-foot space at the top of the wall dividing the two areas, just what do *you* think?

The 14-hour drive home found me crawling into my comfy queen bed at home, alone, because Sam was on his own trip. A scant three days in the comfort of my own bed, and I set off to direct a session of camp at Homestead Presbytery's camping facility, Camp Calvin Crest. The good news was that the camp was only three days long. I can handle that, right? Three days with 30 third and fourth graders? Actually, the counselors had everything well in tow, and the camp went smoothly. My bed was another thing! I had insisted I must have air-conditioning—a wise decision with the temps in the 90s that week. But, a window air conditioner in one of the older lodges left my sinuses draining and my allergies flaring, along with my nose. As I said, only three days, and I returned once more to the security of my own bed, sheets and covers. But, not for long.

Less than five days later found me headed for New York City and the PC (USA) Transformational Conference. The trip began with a night in a lovely Comfort Inn in Omaha—four women, one bathroom and a 6 a.m. flight to be caught. Columbia University provided quite a different ambience from the Comfort Inn. It has been some years (35?) since I've inhabited a dorm room, but Columbia University provided a return to that past. Despite cinder block walls and a total lack of décor, the air-conditioning was a delightful respite from the free-time, which consisted of walking the New York City streets miles on end in search of bargains or fine dining in Little Italy or Chinatown. No complaints from this camper as she hit that well-used bed in the evening and gave thanks to God for a roommate who liked the room kept as cold as she did. Ah, but after all this continuing education and work trips, its time for a vacation.

Where to? Of course to Memphis, Tenn., to care for our twin two-year-old grandsons while their mother makes a business trip. Did you know two-year-olds can wake up at 5:30a.m.? This is vacation? Oh, but who can resist the smiles and kisses and a night-long diaper sitting right next to your face in the morning?

From there, it was on to Milwaukee to visit with my sister and father-in-law for one night. Then on to Minneapolis, Minn., to visit our son and daughter-in-law and our brand-new, 6-pound granddog. Three mornings of being licked to death while waking up and it was time to return home.

In case you lost count of how many beds I slept in—not counting my own—it was nine. Is that all? It seems like I was gone all summer or that there was no summer. And now, at the end of these adventures, where do I put my head these days? At 320 W. Ninth Street in North Bend, Neb., incredibly thankful for safe travels and a summer of wonderful, rewarding experiences.

Let us hear your stories.

In Memoriam

Herbert Archer '74	8/17/05
Gordon M. Bean '63	8/17/05
Elias S. Hardge '87	8/26/05
George McMaster '53	9/1/05
Clyde Mitchum '62	10/07/05
Stanford Parnell '33	9/16/05

Upon Stanford Parnell's death in Louisiana, Bonneau Dickson '33 became Columbia Seminary's oldest alumnus. The two of them lived across the hall from one another on the top floor of Campbell Hall during their seminary years. They graduated in 1933. At the age of 97 Bonneau enjoys good health and an active life at Presbyterian Village in Austell, GA and stays in close touch with his many friends and the CTS community.

ATLAS for Alumni/ae

The research database ATLAS used in the John Bulow Campbell Library of Columbia Seminary will soon be available off-campus to Alumni/ae. The database provides article citations and fulltext online journal access to hundreds of peer-reviewed periodicals. To date access has been restricted to faculty and students and on-campus visitors. Opening the database to alumni/ae provides top-ranked articles for personal use and professional study in the comfort of the church office or from home. The program will be activated January 1, 2006. Access information (login/passwords) and more details will be forthcoming. Briefly, CTS was accepted for this program in exchange for alumni/ae providing feedback on how ATLAS can be of use in their congregations and ministries. ATLA (the American Theological Library Association) received a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., to promote this program which will run for two years in the test phase, but can continue beyond that time if Columbia alumni/ae wish to make use of the resource.

Bert's Travels Around The Church

Laura Mendenhall, Martha Moore-Keish and I recently traveled to Durham, NC to a luncheon and gathering of approximately 25 alums and friends of CTS. We were hosted by the First church by **Joe Harvard '66** and **Marilyn Hedgpeth '91**, the associate pastor. Assisting in planning and making the arrangements was **Wanda Neely '85 (D.Min)**, a very active member of our Alumni/ae Council and co-pastor of the First church, Greenville, NC. Martha made a presentation on "Theology and Worship" and Laura gave an update on the state of Columbia Seminary.

The first weekend in October **Lee Carroll '68**, Director of Supervised Ministries, Dorrell Addison, Seminary Chaplain, and I, along with thirteen students motored on a mini-bus to Batesville, MS, where we were treated to a wonderful meal and good fellowship by the deacons and the pastor, Jon Burnham, of the Batesville Presbyterian

Church. We were joined by members and pastors of several churches in the area who provided transportation and lodging to the students who preached in their churches the following day. By all reports and by my first-hand worship experience at the Batesville Church, we indeed had brought an excellent group of student preachers on the trip. The good Presbyterians of Mississippi were certainly impressed with the students and CTS. New friendships were established and a good time was had by all!

I remained behind as they headed back to Decatur and visited several CTS alums in the north Mississippi area for a couple of days. Among those were **Scottie Hargrove '65**, who for many years has chaired the psychology department at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, and remains an active member of the presbytery where he serves in various capacities. We had lunch there on campus and found that two hours was not enough time to completely “catch-up” since it had been almost forty years since our time here at CTS. That was an enjoyable “reunion.” From there I went to the presbytery camp (Camp Hopewell,) and enjoyed visiting with **Ann Kelly '92**, a friend since her seminary days when she was a student intern at our church here in Atlanta. She recently left the Tupelo church where she had served as an associate for a number of years. Ann is now camp director at Camp Hopewell, and has fond memories of the time spent there as a camper in her childhood.

On Tuesday I attended the meeting of St. Andrew Presbytery in Hernando, MS, where **Chip Hatcher '88** is the pastor. It is a growing area as Memphis spreads out, and the church is growing and doing well. It was good to be with Chip and experience the hospitality of his people. Among many alums I saw that day were **Bill Connolly '89**, who for several years has done a great job of organizing our student visits to the churches out there. He remains in Ripley where he is very involved with local churches and ministries to the community. It was also good to visit with **Don Wilson '65**, a seminary contemporary of mine, who has served the Byhalia, MS, church for over forty years.

Tom Bryson, one of our middler students, presented himself to the presbytery for candidacy. He did an outstanding job in front of his “home folks” and once again made me proud to be associated with CTS.

A couple of weeks later, the seminary display and I made our way to a meeting of North Alabama Presbytery at its camp. We were hosted by **David Palmer '95**, the camp director, who also preached, and with his staff who participated in the worship, shared communion with us. **Robin Palmer '96** is the designated pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Madison, AL.

I had the pleasure of sitting with **David '97 and Libby Rollins '97**. He continues his pastorate at the Westminster church in Decatur, AL where she is the interim at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. It was good to see those folks. **Warner Durnell '78** is the Executive Presbyter there and it was a pleasure visiting with him and seeing him “in

action.” **Jaina Anderson '05**, our most recent graduate in North Alabama, was there and reported thoroughly enjoying herself as the associate pastor in the First church, Athens, AL.

Last week I attended a meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery in Gainesville, GA. We have 67 alums who are members there, and I saw and visited with quite a few of them, too many to mention here. **Jim Bowden '64** was honored upon his retirement after serving 34 years at the Covenant church in Athens. **Holly Shoaf-O’Kula** moderated the meeting and preached an excellent sermon.

This week **Lee Carroll** and I had lunch with **Charlie Landreth '66**, a contemporary of ours whom I had not seen in quite some time. He has retired after serving as the pastor of the Jonesboro, GA church and is presently the interim at Emory Presbyterian Church here in Decatur. He has spent the better part of the last years waiting for and recovering from a liver transplant. He is thankful as he reports he’s “feeling better than he ever has.” And we’re all thankful too, Charlie.

Bert

I share these travels with you to make you aware of where some of our fellow alumni/ae are and what they’re doing these days. Also, we’d be interested in knowing if any of you would like to host, with our help, a gathering of Columbia folks in your area. Please call 404-687-4668, 404-687-4566 or e-mail me at Carmichaelb@ctsnet.edu.

Staying Connected

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 Bert 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.