

**COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
ALUMNI/AE NEWSLETTER
MAY, 2003**

ABOUT OUR ALUMS

Kathryn Summers-Bean '01 was ordained by Salem Presbytery April 27, 2003. She is serving as stated supply for Red House Presbyterian Church in Semora, North Carolina.

Joe Greer '59 is now Assistant Minister, Christ Community Church, Gainesville, Florida.

Dean Chapman '82 (DMin.) author of *The Orphan Gospel: Mark's Perspective on Jesus and How to Worship as a Presbyterian*, is stepping down as pastor of Westminster church, Casselberry, Florida, to enter medical school at the University of Florida.

Laurie Furr-Vancini '00 and Jeff Vancini are pleased to announce the adoption of Abigail Jian Vancini from the Jianxi province of China. Laurie is Associate Pastor at Hodges Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Mary Katherine Robinson '97 and **Billy Robinson '97** have a new son born March 26, 2003. James Munroe Robinson weighed 8 lbs, 8 oz. **Billy** has accepted a call as Associate Pastor of Swelyn Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Jeff Beebe '94 and wife Cyndy, are proud parents of a new daughter, Erynn Joy who arrived April 15, 2003.

Lucy Youngblood '01 has accepted a call as Pastor at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Hillsboro, West Virginia. She was ordained April 27th.

Mike Capron '98 and **Lynn Rubier-Capron '98** have relocated to Chili, New York, where Mike has accepted a new position as interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Chili.

Lynn Gifford '98 has accepted a call to be Designated Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Donalsonville, Georgia. Her first Sunday there was April 20.

Mark Bradshaw-Miller '02 and wife Karen are proud to announce the birth of Emma Bradshaw Miller born March 24, 2003.

Susan Haynes '02 is currently serving as interim pastor of Hamilton Mill Presbyterian New Church Development, Dacula, Georgia, and as Director of Congregational Life, Ray-Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church in Marietta, Georgia.

Danny Murphy '95 (DMin.) is currently serving as Associate General Presbyter for Mission, Congregational Development and Evangelism for Trinity Presbytery in Lexington, South Carolina. In addition, he serves as one of three general field staff representatives for Congregational Transformation for the Church Redevelopment Office of the General Assembly.

Frank McDonald '02 was ordained into the Christian Church and assumed a position in September as chaplain of the pediatric ICU unit at Children's Health Care of Atlanta at Scottish Rite in Atlanta.

Glenn Gilstrap '91 was elected to serve a one-year term as moderator of Flint River Presbytery in Georgia. He is currently pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Warner Robins, Georgia.

Paul Henschen '86 accepted a call to Corbin Presbyterian Church in Corbin, Kentucky.

Trip '99 and Mary Helen **Jennings** have a new baby girl born February 25, 2003 in Waterbury, Connecticut. Her name is Kathryn Grace.

Gloria Jennings '88 is pastor at Bath Presbyterian Church in Blythe, Georgia.

Tom Lewis '00 (DMin.) is pastor of Commerce Presbyterian, Commerce, Georgia, and has recently published a book on the spiritual dimensions of depression. *Finding God: Praying the Psalm in Times of Depression* was published by Westminster John Knox Press.

Jim Reinarz '97 was in the hospital from December to January 21st with Guillian Barre Syndrome. He is continuing physical therapy and is back to work part-time at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Scott '93 and **Marybeth** '93 **Lawson** are living in Hong Kong. **Scott** is pastoring Community Church, Hong Kong, an international congregation worshipping on the top floor of Hong Kong's tallest building. **Marybeth** also serves the congregation principally in pastoral care and education. Grace, their adopted Chinese daughter is now five years old.

Ron Wilson '87 & '01 (D.Min.) became a development officer for his alma mater, Samford University in August, 2002.

Martin Huggins '89 (D.Min) is the founding pastor of the South Fayette Presbyterian Church, Greater Atlanta Presbytery. The chartering service was March 30, 2003.

Catherine Taylor '92, pastor of the Church of the New Covenant Presbyterian Church in Doraville, Georgia, is the featured speaker three times this spring on "Day 1," a nationally broadcast radio program also accessible via streaming audio at www.Day1.net. The first program featuring Catherine was broadcast

April 27. The other two are June 1 and July 13 and will be broadcast on more than 150 radio stations nationwide and on the American Forces Network to U.S. servicemen and women worldwide. Each program includes a sermon and brief interviews with Catherine.

Karla Fleshman '99, had a chapter included in the book entitled *Understanding and Dealing With Violence: A Multicultural Approach*. The Title of her chapter is "Understanding and Dealing With Spiritual Violence: Preaching, Testifying, and Gandhi's Satyagraha as Tools in the Queer Social Justice Movement."

Michael Chaney '95 is serving as chaplain with Marine Aircraft Group 26 in Yuma, Arizona, preparing for further desert training. He will be deployed upon his return to North Carolina, but doesn't yet know the location.

Jim Miller '86 received a heart transplant in February. Reports from his wife, **Catherine Allsbury '86 & '99** (DMin.) are good. He has tentative plans to resume his duties at Second Presbyterian in Little Rock, Arkansas in June.

Tom Sikes '90 & '00 (D.Min) is pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Meridian, Mississippi. Tom is the founder of PavingYourWay.com, an online magazine that offers interviews of celebrities and sports stars on their faith journey and mission projects (including John Grisham, Sela Ward). Tom also serves with PCA TOUR player and Presbyterian David Frost in golf clinics and outreach events across the country.

Our oldest living alum, **Dr. C. Logan Landrum '34**, will be 103 years old on Friday, May 16. He lives in St. Petersburg, Florida. I had a delightful visit with him last fall and heard many stories of ministry and seminary experiences. Happy Birthday, Dr. Landrum.

This news came to us from **Juliann Pugh Whipple '99**, April 9, 2003. Obviously, I am married, hence the name Whipple. My husband's name is William. I serve as Associate Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, frequent chaplain at the House of Representatives for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and reservist for the Air Force as a chaplain. Things are crazy at the moment for the Speaker of the House died last week and I will be presiding over the memorial service at the Capitol the day before I drive down to the mortuary in Dover where I have been activated to assist in the morale of those working in the military mortuary. Dover is the place all the bodies of those killed in the war will come in order to be identified and prepared for burial. My husband is currently flying over Iraq since he is a reservist as well. He flies C130's – no bombs or anything, they are special operations planes for radio broadcasts. Our life is one of service, but not one of togetherness. We will not be together on our first anniversary. It's odd that two peaceniks like us are on the frontlines. My church is great and very supportive.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas G. Morris '54 died February 17, 2003.

John L. Newton '47 died February 17, 2003.

TRAVELS AROUND THE CHURCH

On March 1st, I, along with the seminary display, attended a mission fair at First church, Lake City, Florida. Among the folks I met that day was **Janice Clark** '99, who is the associate pastor there. A few days later I found myself at the Troy, Kentucky, church near Frankfort for a meeting of Transylvania Presbytery. It may sound strange to say that I had a great time at a presbytery meeting, but I did. I left that presbytery 30 years ago and saw a good many people I had not seen since then. Yes, a few of them in the same pastorates, but quite a number having been in the presbytery for that length of time. It was fun "catching up." I saw **Rob Blumer** '83 who I knew in Marietta a few years ago. He is the pastor of First church in Flemingsburg and a serious writer. I met **John Cole** '98, pastor of the Somerset, Kentucky church, as well as **George Naze** '87, who has been the pastor of the Meadowthorpe church in Lexington for several years.

A few days later I had the pleasure of spending the evening with Martha and **Jim Lowery** '66. They are now living on the farm where Martha grew up outside of Great Falls, South Carolina. We sat and talked on the same front porch in the same rocking chairs where Martha and Jim "courted" in their high school days. Jim is the interim pastor of the Lake Murray church outside of Columbia. The following day I attended a Presbyterian Women's (Trinity Presbytery) meeting at Forest Lake church in Columbia where **Jim St. John** '78 (D.Min) is senior pastor. I had the pleasure of visiting with **Ray White** '63, (retired) and Tom Malone '71, pastor of the Laurens, South Carolina, church.

On other trips in April I've visited with **Andy Walton** '92 in Forsyth, Georgia, **Bill McKinnon** '57 (retired) in Flovilla, Georgia, **Bobby Piephoff** '67 in Hodges, South Carolina, and **Robert (Ro) Moss** '67 in Rock Hill, South Carolina, where he is an associate executive of Providence Presbytery. I visited the Oakland Avenue church there and saw alums **William Pender** '80, **Laura Smith Conrad** '98, and **Susan Denne** '89. I had lunch with **Hunter Coleman** '68, a friend from my seminary days, in Highlands, North Carolina, where he enjoys the pastorate and a serious photography hobby. He and Trudy are doing well.

I made another trip to North Carolina where I represented CTS at the inauguration of the new President of Montreat College, Dr. Jack Lindberg.

Last week I attended a three presbytery meeting (South Alabama, Florida, Mississippi) at First church in Pensacola, along with many CTS alums. Among them, I saw **Amos Hood** '89 (D.Min.), **Al Reese** '51, **Morris Taylor** '63, **Sally-Lodge Teel** '78, **Joe Johnson** '85, **Robert Madsen** '90, (recently has become pastor of First church, Gulf Shores, Alabama), and **Vernon Hunter**, a CTS Board member who has just begun an interim pastorate at First church, Pensacola.

On May 4th I had a great day at the Beersheba church in Summerville, Georgia, celebrating 150 years of its ministry. It's in the beautiful mountains of North

Georgia. There were many pastors there who have served the church over the years. Among them was **Bill Lee '55** (retired) who had written a history of the church along with many moving and humorous moments of his time there. **Roger Martin '63** is the stated supply. The entire day was great, accentuated by an exceptional "dinner on the grounds."

I'm well aware that most of you may not be particularly interested in where I've been, but I do like for you to know who I've seen and where they are now.

As you can imagine, these trips to Florida and the North and South Carolina mountains are "difficult", especially in the spring, but I guess someone has to do it.

Colloquium 03

The week of colloquium was special this year as we celebrated (with joy for them and sadness for us) the retirements of **Walter Brueggemann** and **Charlie Cousar '58**. We had record-breaking crowds, the lectures and discussions were excellent and many good memories were created for the future. There were many special guests. Among them were **Neely '53** (former CTS professor) and **Jean McCarter**, who traveled from San Francisco to be here for the retirement events for their friends as well as Neely's 50th class reunion. **Colloquium 04** is scheduled for April 12, 13, 14. The theme is "Worship and the Contemporary Church." Put the dates on your calendar.

Commencement '03

At 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 17th we will welcome a sizeable number of new members to the CTS Alumni/ae Association. Among them are 49 MDiv, 54 DMin., 9 Th.M, 5 MATS, and one Th.D graduates. We congratulate them and wish them well in their lives and ministry.

We will also celebrate that day the 70th anniversary of **Dr. Bonneau Dickson's '33** graduation from CTS. At age 95 he still comes into the office here every day to help us stay in touch with our alums. He "retired" many years ago as the Executive Presbyter of Atlanta Presbyter, but obviously continues a very active ministry.

About Haruko Nawata Ward, Assistant Professor of Church History

Haruko Nawata Ward began teaching at Columbia Theological Seminary as assistant professor of church history in the Fall of 2002. She received the following degrees: B.F.A. in musicology from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, M.A. in drama from New York University School of Arts and Sciences, M. Div. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Th.M. in women's studies from Princeton Theological Seminary, and Ph.D. in Reformation Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary (2001). Her doctoral

dissertation was entitled *Women and the Jesuits in the Christian Century (1549-1650) in Japan*. Her research interests lie in both the Catholic and Protestant Reformations in Europe and their impact on peoples on other continents. She is an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She is married to Peter Hilton Ward, also an ordained minister of the Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Peter and Haruko relocated last summer from New Jersey (where the family had lived for twelve years) to Decatur. At the same time, their daughter, Rachel, moved to Washington, D.C. to begin college at American University.

STAY IN TOUCH

Please help Barbara and me stay in touch with you by emailing us 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 Barbara or I can be of help to you in any way, please let us know.

Blessings,

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