

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

ABOUT OUR ALUMS

Chris Crotwell '01 and wife Alice are proud parents of a daughter, Miriam Steele Crotwell, born April 7, 2003.

Roland Perdue '59 is Interim Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Westfield, Westfield, New Jersey.

James Dungan-Seaver '95 and wife Darcy have a new baby boy born July 9, 2003, weighing 5 lbs. 3 oz, 18.5 inches long.

Christine Tiller '00 is pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Eunice Yang '00, is now pastor of Adelphi Presbyterian Church in Adelphia, Maryland.

Timothy Mallard '99 has recently returned from a five-month tour as Division Artillery Chaplain for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Operation Iraqi Freedom, for which he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He is now beginning the Command and General Staff Officers Course at the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Peggy McClure '02 has accepted a call to be Executive Director of the Community Grief Support Service, an Alabama non-denominational, non-profit corporation in Birmingham which provides counseling and support groups for those who have lost loved ones, with a particular focus on grieving widows and widowers, helping them to move on with their lives. Peggy will be ordained August 3 at South Highland Presbyterian Church in Birmingham.

David Bender '01 and wife Edye are proud parents of twins, a son, James Williamson, and a daughter, Jessica Caroline, born July 10, 2003.

Scott White '03 and Miriam are announcing the birth of Anthony James White born June 21, 2003.

Samuel D. Fortson '83 received the Doctor of Philosophy in Historical and Theological Studies June 11, 2003 from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dick Dodds '54 has been called by the First Presbyterian Church of Peachtree City to serve as the Interim Pastor.

W. Maynard Pittendreigh '86 (DMin.) has recently published *The Presbyterian Church Welcomes You*. The book is an introduction to the Presbyterian Church, USA. The book begins with an explanation of how to become a Christian, and ends with the last chapter on how to become Presbyterian.

Carrie Rhoads '02 and **Chris Tuttle '03** were married May 24, 2003, at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta and have moved to Greensboro, North Carolina, where Chris will be Pastor of Faith Presbyterian Church.

Susannah '99 and **John Cook '99** have a baby boy, John Hager Cook born January 24, 2003, in Columbia, South Carolina. Jack weighed 5 lbs., 17 _ inches.

Laurie Valentine '96 will be married September 20, 2003, at West Market Street United Methodist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina and will be living in Kernersville, North Carolina.

David Lindsay '99 and Emily are proud parents of twins born May 25, 2003. Henry Boyd weighed 4 lbs 2 oz. and Elizabeth Hope weighed 2 lbs. 5 oz. David reports they are both doing very well and are now at 9 lbs. and 6 lbs.

Chris Michael '98 has accepted a call to serve as pastor of Cherry Log Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Cherry Log, Georgia beginning August 1, 2003. Chris has served the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Narrows, Virginia, since 1997.

Hyung Howard Kim '98 was ordained June 1, 2003, at Bethany Presbyterian Church in Marietta, Georgia, where he will be Associate Pastor.

John Thomason '77 celebrated his Silver Jubilee of Ordination with a special service with family, friends from his two previous congregations, and a close friend from the Romanian Reformed Church.

Huw Christopher '91 (DMin) and his wife Rachel, began serving a two year term in February as the President-Couple of the North Carolina State Board of the Association of Couples in Marriage Enrichment. Huw serves as pastor of the Little Chapel on the Boardwalk at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina.

Vanessa Potter '93 is Pastor of Trinity church in Manhattan, Kansas. She has founded with her church and other volunteers, "Shepherd's Crossing" a ministry that offers hospitality, assistance with utilities, housing and medical needs. It is a collaborative ministry beginning with 16 churches and now includes 31. Vanessa is president of its board. They just received the Mayor's first Sustainability Award recognizing persons and organizations which strengthen the city today and reassures promise for its future.

Mark Jumper '82 has been accepted in the Ph.D. in Humanities program at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island. Mark is an active duty Navy chaplain serving as Director of CREDO Center of Excellence Northeast region, a retreat ministry program, at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut. He recently completed the Strategy and Policy course at the Naval War College in Newport.

Michael Johnson '00 (D.Min) formerly at Redeemer Moravian Church in Kingston, Jamaica, is taking a new assignment at John Hus Moravian Church in New York.

Bettina Kilburn '01 will be ordained August 17 at Roswell Presbyterian Church. Her call is to "Specialized Ministry in Medical Ethics".

Rebecca (Becky) Burton '97 is now pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Marietta, Georgia.

Patrick J. Willson '71 currently serving as Pastor of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, Williamsburg, Virginia, was the Wells Preacher for the Brite Divinity School/TCU Minister's Week in February, 2003; preacher for the Princeton Theological Seminary Institute of Theology in June; and the preacher for the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary

Foundation's School for Pastors in July. His sermons appear this year in *Biblical Preaching Journal*, *Preaching: Word and Witness*, *Lectionary Homiletics*, and *Preaching Great Texts*. He wrote one of the four 13 week lessons of adult curriculum for Abingdon Press's *The New International Lesson Annual* (Uniform Lesson Series).

John Ragsdale '94 received his Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Seminary in June and was awarded the Hunt Prize for outstanding thesis and overall academic record. John continues to serve as pastor of Geneva Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

Willard Hurlburt '75 has retired from the Lynnville church in Tennessee and moved to Cullman, Alabama.

Sarah Erickson '03 is Associate Director of Continuing Education at CTS. She brings a wealth of experience of 20 years in working in the non-profit sector. Sarah will be ordained at the 11:00 a.m. service of the Spanish Fort, Alabama, church Sunday, August 31.

Correction from our last newsletter: **Lynn Rubier '98** and **Mike Capron '98** relocated to Rochester, New York, and Mike serves in Chili Presbyterian, Chili, New York with a 20 minute commute. Lynn continues to serve at Dewey Avenue Presbyterian Church in Rochester.

It has been good to hear from **John Bryan '67**, who I haven't seen in many years. The following upcoming conference description is an example of the work John is doing in Canada. I'll get an update from him later and forward it to those of you who have an interest in his organization

October 6 – 8, The Diocese of Huron (Anglican has invited me to lead the Bishop's Clergy Conference. Theme is 'Exercising Authority with Integrity'. Toronto School of Theology, U of T, let me teach that course for several years. We explore intersections of one's doctrine of ordination, sense of call, current work demands, and personal faith. It always renews my spirit to hear the pastors' stories of their work and faith journeys.

And this item of interest from **Alan Harvey '86**

"A Lasting Friendship" A Successful Partnership In Ministry

Eighteen years ago **Steve Negley '85** and **Alan Harvey '86** stood outside Columbia Presbyterian Church following Steve's graduation. A photograph records this happy event with Steve, Alan and **Thomas Ulrich '85** and standing with them is Steve's wife, Teresa, who cradled in her arms their infant son, Thomas Alan.

On May 18, 2003, First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Florida, hosted the Baccalaureate Service for Winter Haven High School. Steve, Head of Staff, delivered the Welcome and Charge to the seniors, and Alan, Associate Pastor, gave the Call to Worship, Opening Prayer and the Benediction. Seated in the sanctuary was Thomas Alan Negley, the Salutatorian of the Class of 2003 at Winter Haven High School. Thomas, a National Merit Scholar, will be attending the University of Florida in the fall. Steve has been serving as pastor of First church since May, 1996, and Alan was called to the church as Associate Pastor in September, 1998.

Steve received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia in 1994 and Alan is currently working on his Doctor of Ministry degree (Reformed Focus) at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, which includes four weeks of study at the University of Aberdeen.

For two years my office has been next door to our computer experts at CTS. One of those is a fine young CTS graduate, **David Hyers '01**. After being here several months I learned that he was the son of Bill, who was here as a student in the "old days" with me. Since then it has been my pleasure to see Bill at a Holston Presbytery meeting and again with David here on campus. I started thinking about parent/son-daughter graduates of CTS and have come up with a brief list of some recent ones and some not so recent. We have no official records of these relationships on campus, so please let us know of others and we'll include them in our next newsletter.

Clarence Fouse '67	Clay '04 and Jennifer '02	
Jim Speed '57	Todd '93 and Sarah '88	
Sidney Anderson '44	Ellen Anderson '95	
Mike Williams '02	Jenn Wilson '02	Davison Philips '43 (Father-in law)
Jerry Hammet '57	Jarred Hammet '85	
Martin Harkey '63	Luke Harkey '74	
Fred Powell '59 (deceased)	Fred Powell '02	
Richard Gillespie (grandfather) (Past President of CTS)	Mary Amos '85 & Richard T. Gillespie IV '80	
Jim Richardson '65 (Mary Amos' Brother-in-Law)	John Richardson (current student)	
G. Dana Waters, Jr. '42	G. Dana Waters, III '58	
Ken Boyer '56	Grace Boyer '95	
Bill Hyers '64	David Hyers '01	
Wesley Brock '84 (deceased)	John Brock (current student)	
Jim Newsome '55	Richard '90 and Laura '88	
Carol Seaman '95	Ashley Seaman '01	
Wade Huie '46	Scott Huie '94	
Robert Stamper '43 (deceased)	Meda Stamper '99	
Maxine Edwards '97	Bea Edwards Copeland '01	
Gary Barber '58	Don Barber '97	
Jennifer Horton '99	David Horton '98	
Charles Benz '50	Cindy Benz '03 (Daughter-in-law)	
Joy Pruett '95	Lee Pruett Walker '85, Brad Walker '89 (son-in-law)	

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas William Barker '59 died November 9, 2002

John L. Edwards '45 died December 19, 2002.

Everett H. Phillips '41 died May 7, 2003.

R. McNair Smith '35 died July 22, 2003

TRAVELS AROUND THE CHURCH

I recently attended a meeting of North Alabama Presbytery in Huntsville. The presbytery was hosted by the Fellowship church, where CTS alum **John Herndon** '85 is the pastor. The fellowship was good, the choir was great and the food was excellent.

The meeting was moderated by my classmate, **Henry Pope** '68. **Warner Durnell** '78 was received and will become the Executive Presbyter in October. **Stewart Wilson** '78 was received as the interim of the Guntersville church, **Robin Palmer** '96 has become the interim of Grace church in Madison, Alabama. Her husband, **David** '95 remains as Associate Exec, as well as director of Marantha, the presbytery camp. **Jaina Anderson** '05 is working as a summer intern in the Florence church and gave a good accounting of herself as she was received as a candidate. There is a large number of CTS graduates in North Alabama and it's always a pleasure to visit them and hear about their many and varied ministries. Thanks for two good days in that part of the world!

About Rick Dietrich, Director, Lay Institute of Faith and Life

The past decade has been one of great change for Columbia Seminary. I find myself "suddenly" the elder of the directors of Harrington Center programs. It's not an entirely comfortable position. I miss the wise counsel of Doug Hix, who was director of Advanced Studies—and my mentor—when I arrived to head up the work of the Lay Institute of Faith and Life in 1992. I miss Sarah Juengst, then director of Continuing Education, and Ben Johnson, then professor of Evangelism and later professor of Christian Spirituality. But I have welcomed a fine collection of "new" directors, Julie Johnson in Spirituality, Dent Davis in Continuing Education, and Stan Wood in New Church Development.

The faculty and administration have also been changing. I have gone from being the newest kid on the block to being one of the oldest. (With the retirement this spring of Charlie Cousar and Walter Brueggemann, I find myself having the eighth longest tenure of the thirty-five or so people that attend faculty meetings.) On rainy days like today, it's hard not to look back; and that can make it to look forward. But, it's a joy to remember that God is our future hope as much as our past support and present stay.

Bits and pieces:

- I grew up in Blacksburg, Virginia, but also spent part of my childhood in the village of Eiksmarka, just outside Oslo, Norway. I had both of my parents as Sunday School teachers at Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, where my dad also directed the choir for many years. My family had left Blacksburg, however, by the time my Columbia Seminary colleagues George Telford, former director of Advanced Studies, and then our current Dean of the Faculty, Cam Murchison, came to serve that church.
- I met Robin (our Financial Aid Director) at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.
- When I went to Union Seminary (Virginia) at age 29, I was the second oldest person in my class. I came from "careers" in journalism (newspaper and magazine) and with a master's in English from Tulane.
- Our first son, Christopher, was born in Richmond but spent his first year in Bern, Switzerland, where I was an exchange student at the Evangelisches-Reformiertes Seminar, part of the University of Bern. Christopher is now serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic.
- Our second son, Nathanael, was born in Gainesville, Florida, where I was associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church. I served also as pastor of Huffman Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama, before coming to Columbia. Nat is a rising senior at Queens in Charlotte.

- I've spent much of my spare time the past several years studying creative writing at Georgia State University. Finally (finally), I'll receive a Ph.D. in English this August.
- How many of you know me: For ten years, I have written a regular column for *Presbyterian Voice*, the Synod of Living Waters newspaper. For the past two years, I have been host of Day 1, the regular Sunday broadcast of The Protestant Hour, Inc.

The Lay Institute of Faith and Life offers courses, seminars, retreats, and workshops designed to help Christian lay people become better theologians in both head and heart and so more faithful followers of Christ in all of life—home, work place, church, community, world. The Institute provides opportunities for to learn the practices and disciplines of the Christian faith, to integrate faith into daily life, to become a responsible steward, and to minister in the church and to the world. It is very, very exciting work.

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,

Bert