

## COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# Alumni/ae News Online

November 2004

### **Great Lifelong Learning Opportunities at CTS!**

As you plan ahead for continuing education events in 2005, we invite you to consider these events.

#### **Christian Educator Certification Course: Worship and Sacraments.**

**January 18-22.** Columbia campus.

Begins on Tuesday and concludes early Saturday afternoon. Leader: Kim Long, an adjunct faculty member at CTS and part of the teaching team for Eucharist and the Church's Mission, Baptism and Evangelical Calling, and Preaching and Worship. Cost: \$250 (does not include room and board).

#### **January Seminars. January 24-25.**

Columbia campus. "Ponder Anew...What the Almighty Can Do! Sonograms of the Future – Sounds and Sights of Faith in the 21st Century" will be led by Leonard Sweet. Sweet is a church historian, futurist, best-selling author, and the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew Theological School. He has written or contributed to a number of well-known publications *including Church in Emerging Culture, AquaChurch: Essential Leadership Arts for Piloting Your Church in Today's Fluid Culture, and Post-Modern Pilgrims: First Century Passion for the 21st Century Church.* Cost: \$240 (includes lunch each day).

#### **Just Peace in the Holy Land: In Word and Deed. February 4-5.**

Columbia campus. Sponsored by Friends of Sabeel North America, which seeks to promote understanding and support for principles of a just peace between Palestinians and Israelis. Keynote speakers include Rev. Canon Naim Ateek, Palestinian Anglican priest and director of The Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem, and Jeff Halper, Jewish Israeli-American peace activist and professor at Ben Gurion University in Jerusalem. Begins Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. and concludes Saturday afternoon. Program fee and registration information to be announced.

#### **Contemplative Retreat for Women. February 27-March 3.**

Benedictine Spirituality and Conference Center, Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, AL. Rest, renewal, and quiet refreshment. Spiritual discipline and inspiration. Relaxation in a beautiful outdoor setting. Regaining inner peace and serenity in a quiet and unhurried atmosphere. Leader: Carol Byrd. Cost: \$250 (includes housing and meals).

#### **Bodybuilding for Ministry.**

**February 28-March 4.** Columbia campus. For members of the Class of 2003 in their first call. Leaders: Columbia faculty members and experienced pastors. Cost, including room and board, is underwritten through the generous support of the Blanche Lipscomb Foundation.

## **Kathy Dawson Joins the Columbia Faculty as Assistant Professor of Christian Education**

Kathy has been a learner and a teacher all her life. She remembers, as a child growing up in California, teaching her dolls and stuffed animals things that she was learning in school. (She says that they were not too receptive.) As she grew the teaching opportunities increased. In high school she served as assistant teacher to the kindergarten Sunday school class. The children nicknamed her “the climbing girl” as they were forever climbing all over her as if she were a jungle gym.

She worked her way through college at California State University, Long Beach, giving music lessons on the accordion and serving as a teacher aide in child development programs. Following graduation she served as music and computer teacher for Los Alamitos Elementary School for two years and then continued teaching in both those capacities as well as being an upper elementary teacher for Cathedral City Elementary School near Palm Springs. Her church teaching continued during this time as she made the move from the United Methodist Church to the Presbyterian Church (USA).

After her mother’s death during this time, Kathy’s teaching would take another direction as well. Having already grieved for her father and grandparents, and with the help of some wonderful “adopted” family, Kathy became attuned to children who were also going through multiple losses. This would eventually lead to two children’s books and more teaching opportunities.

Her mother’s death also prompted another turning point in her teaching life with a decision to follow God’s call to a religious vocation. As one who saw herself as a learner and a teacher, Kathy’s first move was to the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, in Richmond, Virginia. From there she sensed God’s intention for ordained ministry in her life. This is when she first came to Columbia Seminary as a learner. After serving Spring Hill Presbyterian Church, in Mobile, Alabama, Kathy returned to her love of learning at Princeton Theological Seminary where she obtained her doctoral degree and did some adjunct teaching. With her appointment to Columbia Seminary, Kathy will have taught at all three of the schools where she has also been a learner.

Kathy enjoys teaching so much, because she learns so much from every learner she’s encountered. “We are all learners; we are all teachers,” she asserts. “What we have in common is that Jesus, whom the disciples called ‘rabbi’ continues to be the Great Teacher, continually challenging and calling us to new educational ministries.”

## **About Our Alums**

**Bill Iverson ’52** became pastor of Newark, NJ, historic Trinity Reformed Church in 2002. Since then, the once-dying congregation has experienced new life and outreach, ministering to three different language groups. Look for an interview with Bill regarding the historic church later in the newsletter.

**Dana Waters ’58** and his wife, Bette, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary October 16 with friends and

family in Montreat. Dana has committed to serve as the Moderator of the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Birmingham in 2006. He has also agreed to serve as the interim Presbytery Executive for Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery.

**Robert Armistead '63**, retired missionary, is working with Living Waters for the World, a mission project of the Synod of Living Waters that provides safe drinking water for third world communities.

**S. Edwin Lewis '63** retired October 3, 2004, as pastor of First church in Mooresville, NC. He and his wife, Martha, are retiring in Salisbury, NC.

**Jeff Coker '64** has left retirement to serve as interim pastor at First church, Covington, TN.

**Robert E. Smith '65** and wife **Dorothy '63** became Volunteers-in-Mission at Ghost Ranch Conference Center. They will be there for a year, but will return home for Christmas.

**Joe Harvard '66** was honored by the Durham Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at their Freedom Fund Banquet October 23, 2004. Awards were presented to two ministers recognized as "ministers working together for social change through God's word, through God's will and in God's way." He also has received the Keeper of the Dream Award presented by the Martin Luther King, Jr., Steering Committee of Durham.

**John C. Bryan '67** retired and is writing articles on trustee management for *Organizations & People*, the journal for Association for Management Education and Development in Great Britain.

**Robert Allen '73** recently retired as Director of Hopewell Camp and Conference Center in Oxford, MS.

**ChangBok Chung '74** sent the following letter to **Erskine Clarke '66**. *We share it here with Erskine's permission.*

Dear Erskine,

It has been a long time since the last time we communicated. At this time I write to inform you of a very important transition in my life.

As you know, I have spent 25 years as Professor of Preaching and Worship at the Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary since 1980. I have truly enjoyed my teaching ministry for the seminary students and authored and translated over 60 books in the field of preaching and worship over the years. It has been a marvelous experience. Heartfully I wanted to continue to work at this seminary until my retirement which is due only in few years.

However, our heavenly God had a different plan for His mission in using me as His instrument. On October 1<sup>st</sup> this year, Hanil University & Presbyterian Theological Seminary called me as its new President. This institute founded by missionaries from Southern Presbyterian Church, USA 81 years ago. Now we have 1,200 enrolled students.

Interestingly enough, 35 years ago, I started my teaching work at this seminary, and now God called me to conclude my last work at this institute. I found that there is no way to escape from this call for the seminary which is in a crisis, in terms of financial situation, reconstruction of system, and student recruitment.

After praying sincerely for wisdom and faith, my wife ChoonHee and I finally decided to take the call and serve the seminary without salary for a

year. The situation is so tough that it seems almost impossible to raise fund for the seminary without painful discipleship and sacrifice from President's desk. However, despite all the obstacles and challenges, I strongly believe that God who established this seminary will continue to look after for the sake of His mission in Korea.

Please keep the seminary and my work in your daily prayers for I really need your concern and love and prayer. I will do my best in God who strengthens me.

May God richly bless you and your work.

Yours in Christ,  
ChangBok Chung

**Lee Bowling '78** is serving as stated supply of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Blythewood, SC. He continues to be an active member of Trinity Presbytery and serves on the Division of Education and Nurture. Wife Judy is stated supply of Little River-Dominick church in Kinards, SC.

**A. Glenn Bass '82** has retired as pastor of Faith church, Tallahassee, FL.

**Russell Jonas '82** is area director of AID SUDAN in Dallas, TX, after serving at Highland Park church in Dallas.

**Preston Shealy '86** has accepted a call to become pastor of Trinity church in Surfside Beach, SC. Preston, his wife, Debbie, and children Dustin and Paige will live in the Murrell's Inlet area.

**Gail Perkins '87** is full-time interim pastor of First church, Morrilton, AR.

**Walter Dinkins '88** has a new baby boy, born August 18, 2004. He is John Grier Dinkins IV. Walter is back in school, studying to be an Arabic speaker at the Defense Foreign Language School program in NC. He has been recalled to active duty and is serving as a Navy Reserve Chaplain (Commander) in the

Marine Corps Anti-Terrorist Command. He is a member of Coastal Carolina Presbytery. He and Marilyn have three children.

**Maetta Snyder '89** leaves Westminster church in Emporia, Kansas, to be pastor at United church in North Bend, NE.

**Brad Walker '89** accepted a call to become associate pastor at Government Street church in Mobile, AL.

**Hew Christopher '91 (D.Min)** has accepted the call to First church, Marianna, FL, after serving for the past 18 years as pastor of the Little Chapel on the Boardwalk in Wrightsville Beach, NC.

**Allison Moody '92** has accepted a new call as pastor of First church in Monroe, LA after leaving Trinity church in Columbia, SC.

**Kim Olson '93** is campus minister at Thornwell Home & School for Children after serving as supply pastor of Batesburg-Leesville church.

**Mike O'Neil '93** and wife Christine have a baby girl, Grace Elizabeth, born August 20, 2004.

**Tim Slemmons '95** is interim pastor of First church, Titusville, NJ.

**Paul Brokaw '98** is the new pastor of Russell Memorial church, Greenville, SC.

**Lynn Rubier-Capron '98** won the Scottish fiddling championship at "The Gathering at Grandfather Mountain." This championship came at just the

right time, something fun to confirm her return to the music business this fall. Lynn will continue to serve as pastor of Dewey Avenue church half time and take a position on the faculty at the Hochstein School of Music as a violin teacher. Lynn is enjoying venues in the Rochester area, specializing in Scottish fiddle music, both traditional and contemporary. As a faculty member at Hochstein, she will also have to make time for performance opportunities in the classical genre, as faculty are expected to play regularly in the Rochester area to promote the school.

**Ralph Hawkins '99** and wife Elizabeth are thrilled to announce the birth of baby Ella (Eleanor Temple Hawkins), born Wednesday, September 15, in Lynchburg, VA. She weighed 8 pounds and was 21 inches long.

**Guy "Trip" Jennings '99** covered the Democratic and Republican conventions as a reporter for the Waterbury American, CT, newspaper.

**Anna McArthur '99** has just started as the Presbyterian Campus Minister at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA, where she was already living with her husband and two children.

**Keith Abramowski '01** is stated supply at First church, Alexandria, LA.

**Sandy Monroe '01**, has just moved to Fort Valley, GA. She says she is excited to be closer to her grandchildren and pastoring one church instead of two.

**Andrew Foster Connors '01** is pastor of Brown Memorial Park Avenue church in Baltimore, MD.

**Ashley Seaman '01** was ordained April 18, 2004, at Wellshire church in Denver, CO. She is now Associate Pastor for Spiritual Life serving virtually the same role she has had at the church since September 2001.

**John Boulware '02** is Chaplain Intern with the Department of the Navy in Oak Harbor, WA. He and wife Catherine have a 4-year-old daughter, Martha.

**Pressley Neal Cox '02** has a new position as Director of Youth and Children's Ministries at Providence church in Charlotte, NC.

**Mark Bradshaw-Miller '02** and wife Karen have relocated from Chattanooga to St. Louis, MO. Mark is pastor of Westminster church in St. Louis.

**Eric Dillenbeck '03** and wife Amy have a new baby boy, Samuel Hall Dillenbeck, born August 3, 2004.

**Elizabeth Goodrich '03** and husband Mike have a new baby boy, Gibson, born September 22, 2004.

**Samuel L. Green '03 (DMin)** was elected Bishop in the AME Church July 6, 2004. He has been assigned to the 15<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District (South Africa, Angola and Namibia)

**Andrew Kukla '03** is Associate Pastor for Nurture and Discipleship at The Palms church in Jacksonville Beach, FL.

**Clayton Rascoe '03 and Kate Richmond '03** were married in September 2004. Clayton is Associate Executive for Outdoor Ministries in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.

**Ralph Graves '04 (DMin)** celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and his graduation with a formal banquet organized by his congregation.

**Phil Hagen '04** was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, October 3, 2004, at his home church, Crossroads church in Mequon, WI. The ordination sermon was offered by the Rev. **Barbara Jordan '01**, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care. Phil was installed as Associate Pastor of First church in Palatka, FL, on November 14, 2004.

**Matthew Hardin '04** was ordained September 12, 2004, as the first full-time pastor in more than 20 years at Butner church, Butner, NC.

This news was shared with us by **Mary Ann McKibben Dana '03**.

Several CTS students and recent grads served as leaders in this year's Montreat Youth Conferences. **Rodger Nishioka, associate professor of Christian education**, was keynoter and **Bobby Williamson '01** was music leader. **David Lindsay '99** was keynoter, **Jo Nygard and Patrick Laney** (current students) were rec leaders, and Mary Ann was preacher for weeks 1 & 2. **Anne Apple '01, Kate '01 and Andrew '01 Foster Connors and Jennifer Fouse '02** were keynoters, **Clay and Tricia Dillon Thomas** (current students) were rec leaders for weeks 3 & 4. Mary Ann says it is clear that CTS is playing a significant role in shaping the minds and faith of young Presbyterians across the nation.

**Betsey Burgess**, retired staff associate, sends greetings from

Pasadena, CA, where she lives in a Presbyterian Retirement Center. She never ceases to be grateful for 22 years at CTS.

## **In Memoriam**

**Vernon E. Abshier '73**, Oct. 13, 2004  
**Prak Deetanna '73**, October 15, 2004  
**John Rhea Hall '58**, August 29, 2004  
**D. Raye Jones '91**, October 16, 2004  
**Charles T. McKee '49**, July 24, 2004  
**Virgil Pino '54**, October 1, 2003  
**Henry Pope '68**, September 14, 2004

### **Shirley Guthrie, October 23, 2004**

We've all been saddened by and grieve together Shirley Guthrie's death. You received information regarding the circumstances. A very fitting and moving memorial service honored his life at Trinity church, Atlanta, on Wednesday, October 27. The music and hymns were chosen by Shirley. His long-time friend Buddy Enniss presented a eulogy that kept us in tears and laughter with Shirley stories and fond memories. Scott Black Johnston, Trinity's pastor, presented a homily. There was a reception following and the stories continued among alums, friends and Shirley's family. Many of you were able to attend and many more e-mailed from distant places that you were there in spirit. We thank God for Shirley's life and ministry.

Do you have any letters, pictures, or papers from Shirley Guthrie that you would be willing to add to Columbia's archives? We are trying to collect materials written by or to him. We can imagine such materials being important for future students and scholars studying Professor Guthrie's contributions to theology and

theological education in the U.S. If so, please contact Professor George Stroup (stroups@ctsnet.edu) or Professor Erskine Clarke (clarkee@ctsnet.edu). Many thanks for checking on this.

Our special friend and faithful alum **Phil Noble '45** recently penned this poem while enjoying a beautiful fall day on campus. Thanks for sharing it with us, Phil.

### **Thoughts From a Quadrangle Bench**

Seminary is a special place,  
A very special place.

Who goes there?

Seekers and comers.  
The hungry and the thirsty.  
The inquirers and yearners.

Who is there?

Theologians and scholars.  
Teachers and interpreters.  
Preachers, pastors and prophets.

What happens there?

Who really knows,  
When humans seek the divine,  
And when the divine  
touches the human?

Who goes out from there?

Servants.  
Who carry the gifts of God.  
Who stand behind the sacred desk.  
Who offer a crust of bread and a cup of water.  
Who tell of forgiveness and a second chance.  
Who enter where tragedy has come.  
Who shine a ray of hope in the darkness.  
Who stoop to help pick up the pieces,  
Of a broken home or shattered life.  
Who share faith that penetrates,  
The curtain of death.

What reward do they have?

To hear the words of their Master,  
"Well done, good and faithful servant."  
That is enough.

J. Phillips Noble (Class of 1945)

September 21, 2004

"Interstate 75, Southbound," a poem by **Steve Rhodes '75**, has just been accepted for a forthcoming issue of *JAMA* (Journal of the American Medical Association). Congratulations!

### **Interview with Bill Iverson- Trinity Reformed Church, Newark, NJ**

#### **Give us a brief background on Trinity Reformed Church.**

Trinity Church began in a foundry in 1850, and had a significant influence until around 1965 when the last real outreach to youth took place. The last pastor also served another denomination and had divided duties for 22 years. She emphasized social issues, was faithful and much beloved. But there was no growth by new birth. At the same time, Newark was in decline. During 40 years, the city lost 175,000 persons. Newark became a national leader in crime, drugs, infant and maternal mortality and unemployment. Over the last century, Newark has lost over 400 churches.

When I did pulpit supply work here in August of 2002, there were only four members at worship. There were four tons of debris in the church building, many cats, lots of smells and fleas. We started going to the church each Saturday to clean it and felt hopeless.

#### **When did you come to pastor the church, and why?**

In October of 2002 I was asked to be pastor of the Trinity Reformed Church in order to replant it. I challenged two churches to lend us members for three months and we had 30 wonderful youth and adults whose presence made it easier to develop the worship service. Some stayed on to teach Sunday school. When the "scaffolding" of the helping groups fell off, there remained a neighborhood group of 30 or so in attendance. We have re-established the Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings, which have been an asset to our ministry.

Why did I do it at 74 years of age? Because I love a challenge. No one else wanted to do it, and the situation was a dishonor to the Lord Jesus (above all). I also had confidence that if I showed

up on the streets with the gospel, the power of evil would be rolled back and the reign of Christ would be manifested.

### **How does it work to have English, Spanish & Portuguese congregations all in one building? Where's growth happening?**

Being a small church, Trinity Reformed has more building than we can use. We invited a Spanish church to join us. And through a fine Brazilian pastor, we started a Portuguese language service. We have been able to add members to the Spanish church through the ESL program, and reached adults from all cultures through the Sunday school. The key to unity is a weekly staff meeting: eating, sharing, studying and praying.

The oldest corporation in America was formed in 1696 under King William as the Collegiate Reformed Church of New Amsterdam. We think this kind of relationship with mutual strategies and a common treasury for evangelism and mission ministry is a good thing. The sharing of the building means the sharing of the labor in its care. We believe that in time we should have a collegiate church: our three language groups, one other church from the heart of Newark, and a strong suburban church that has supported the replanting of the church and renovation of its building.

### **What encourages you most about the church's ministry?**

It's been encouraging to receive 10 teams from Reformed Churches from Canada to Georgia who have come to renovate the church and do outreach. Each person brings a \$125 gift for materials and other needs. Our Sunday school room, unused for 15-20 years, was renovated and dedicated in memory of a former pastor. I am encouraged with the fact that kids in the city are reachable, love to worship and enjoy being in the house of God. We have received about 25 new members, most by profession of faith. We also see that men are interested in getting together for honesty, and for fellowship. We minister in a depressed area, but Newark has many encouraging resources. We see the urgency of addressing social issues. If we face the problems, we get some answers.

### **Give us a brief vision for future ministry in your Newark community?**

Our vision is to grow in the love of God - heart, soul, mind and strength as individuals and as a church family. That same love will transform the community. We seek to be a teaching church for our community - sharing learnings with other small churches. We hope to address this with seminars in the near future for those who have found ways to re-grow small churches.

*Contact: Rev. Bill Iverson, Trinity Reformed Church, 483 Ferry Street, Newark, New Jersey 07105. (973) 344-8228, [billiverson@earthlink.net](mailto:billiverson@earthlink.net)*

### **News from Faculty Emeritus Harold Prince '60**

Harold, the first professional librarian at Columbia, was featured in an extensive article in *The Clinton* (South Carolina) *Chronicle*. He was called the Prince of court and the article told of his love of tennis since he was a child. His many tournament appearances helped him earn a No. 6 ranking in the Southern region's 85 and over singles division.

### **Update from Admissions Ann Clay Adams, director of admissions, speaking at Convocation '04**

It is my delight each year to tell you about the entering class of 2004.

First, I am pleased to tell you about the seven students who make up the Masters of Arts in Theological Studies program. These seven students, while all coming from the north Georgia area, represent a most diverse class. This year males predominate with five students to two females. More of the students are married than single (4:3). It is a very ecumenical group with 71% of the class coming from a denomination other than the PC(USA). 43% of the class is either African-American or Asian-American. The median age is 49 and the average age is 43. Strangely their last names begin with letters A-E, with the rest of the alphabet not being represented.

In contrast, the M.Div. class (61 persons) has students with last names from A to Z. A whopping 67% are in their 20s. The median age is 27 and the average age 32. The most frequent age is 23 representing 21% of the class. Instead of coming from one state, they come from 18 states. Georgia is always the most represented state, (though we know that those folks are not all native Georgians); however 23% of the class come from either AL or NC which both have seven students each. In this class the females have a slight edge at 52% and single students predominate at 61%. 90% of the entering M.Div. class are members of the PC(USA). The remaining 10% represent five traditions, with Christian Church, Disciples of Christ being the most represented. 16% of the class has a racial ethnic heritage that is not purely Euro-descended. Over half of the students earned their undergraduate degrees at state universities and just over one third at church related institutions. 20% just graduated with their undergraduate degree in 2004. 18% have some form of graduate degree. Now, last year you may remember that we had a blob of students from one school – Presbyterian College. As I looked at colleges attended by our students, I notice that this year there are four higher education institutions vying for the most represented: Well, PC is still among them with three students, but there is also Florida State University, the University of Alabama and Wake Forest! I guess I have to give the edge to the Crimson Tide, because counting graduate degrees – there are five Bama degrees held by three entering students. The other interesting tidbit about this class is that there are six churches who sent us two students this year. Two of them you might expect – Peachtree Presbyterian, and First Presbyterian, Atlanta. But also – Ray of Hope Christian Church, Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving, TX; First Presbyterian, Bloomington, IN; and First Presbyterian Church, Fort Smith, AR. None of these students are married to each other!

Some of our entering students have interesting family connections. There is at least one child of an alum, and the spouses of an alum and a student. One student grew up in the same household as the first African-American woman to be ordained by our Presbyterian denomination. Another entering student gave birth to two of our present seniors and has embraced another as daughter-in-law. And finally one entering student may be a long lost

cousin of Derek Wadlington, who is a senior this year.

Our entering students in both degree programs have some very interesting work experience. They have worked for notable businesses – Yahoo, LL.Bean, Bell South, and the Big Green Egg. We have a former golf pro and a former appellate judge. One student was a parking valet, and another an actress on an ABC soap opera. They have done mission work in Chile, the Philippines and Hollywood, CA, and have served in variety of church positions, from chapel intern and youth minister to church educator and church administrator.

This summer, during Greek School, we met about three-fourths of them. Early on they distinguished themselves by their gung ho spirit, their academic competency, their capacity for creative play and their genuine graciousness, prompting a middler to remark, “Wow, they are so nice, so much nicer than my class was in Greek school.” Are they smarter than the middler class as well? Well, I have been crunching GPAs for those who have 4.0 scales calculated on their transcripts. One class has more GPAs above 3.5; the other actually has a higher average by 15 thousandths of a point. I am not telling which is which.

## **Alumni/ae Increase Annual Fund Support**

### **by Jami Moss, director of The Columbia Annual Fund**

It may come as no surprise to learn that Columbia graduates increased their support of the Columbia Annual Fund in 2004. But it may come as a surprise to learn how much *recent* graduates pitched in to help their classmates who are still in seminary.

The classes of 2001, 2002 and 2003 have all contributed more than \$1,000 each to the Columbia Annual Fund, with the class of 2001 giving nearly \$3000. Even the class of 2004 joined in, with 4% making a gift before they received their degrees.

That may not sound like a lot of money—but those new graduates gave more than 32 of the graduating classes that preceded them. And overall Columbia graduates contributed an

impressive 20% of the overall Annual Fund total of \$689,000—a figure which represents a 45% increase over 2003.

Class participation rates were also high among the most recent graduates, with the classes of 2001-2003 achieving participation rates above the average. Overall, class participation among Columbia graduates was 21% during 2004—below the goal of 25% but up 4% over the last 2 years.

### **Bert's Travels Around The Church**

As I've said, I'll go to any lengths to meet an alum. My wife, Kaye, and I and Charlie and Betty Cousar were staying in a wonderful B & B in Vancouver, B.C., in August and one morning **Ken '03 and Erin Sikes** appeared on the porch to check in. They had driven up from Washington State to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary.

We enjoyed a good visit over breakfast, and I asked Ken to share with you some of what's going on in their lives. Here it is:

Erin and I just finished one year at Manitou Park Presbyterian Church. It has been a wonderful experience with a lot of learning. Our daughter, Jane Elizabeth, is 15 months old and all over the place. She frequently comes down the aisle during the Prayers of the People. This could be some holdover from the Altar Calls of my Baptist days. Last November we purchased a little house a mile and a half from the church and we are enjoying getting to know the neighborhood. Erin's family is in Seattle so it is really nice to spend time with them. Of course, my parents in Tennessee are a bit jealous, but are making frequent visits. Keep us in your prayers and keep sending CTS grads to minister in the great Northwest.  
Grace and Peace,  
Ken, Erin, and Janie

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In recent weeks I've eaten lots of lunches with lots of alums in lots of places. In Birmingham I had the pleasure of dining with **Cary Speaker '76, Sid Burgess '90**, and CTS student **Fred Wise '06**. In Powder Springs, GA, I was joined at lunch with **Ray Jones '84** and CTS student **Maryellen Hittle '06**; in Austell, GA, **Hal Lyon '61**; and in Cartersville, **Jim Speed '57**.

In Spartanburg, SC, I had lunch with **G. Wardlaw '68**, interim pastor at First church there. I also had visits with **Tom Malone '71** and **Susan Moorefield Newton '92** in Spartanburg. In Anderson, SC, I checked in with **David Bailey '82** (whose father **Don '41** is dealing with a cancer diagnosis and living at Presbyterian Village in Austell) and **Rick Baggett '84**. **Bobby Piephoff '67** opened his home to me for the night in Hodges, SC and took me to a great Italian restaurant in Greenwood.

In Clemson, SC, I was hosted at lunch by **Jim Richardson '65**, long-time pastor of the Fort Hill church there and also had brief visits with **Rodney Norris '01** and **Mary Cunningham Gause '02**, both on the staff of that church.

I visited with **Mark Verdery '71**, the new Exec. of Providence Presbytery, and dined with him, **Jim Watkins '71** and CTS student **Russ Blackwelder '06** in Rock Hill, SC. While there I stopped by the Oakland Ave. church and had a nice chat with **William Pender '80**. I checked in with **Bob Moss '67** at the meeting. He is doing great following a trip to Montana with his family.

The **Lowrys, Jim '66** (now interim pastor at the Shandon church in Columbia) and Martha, hosted me for two nights in their Great Falls country home in SC. While there I visited with **Clarence Fouse '67** at the church in Great Falls. He was retiring at the end of September, and he and his wife, Margaret, have just moved to their new home in Black Mountain, NC.

I've recently had the opportunity of sharing several meals with **Patrick Willson '71**, pastor of the Williamsburg, VA, church, when he's been in town visiting Shirley Guthrie, his first cousin. Last week I shared Mexican food at a restaurant in Gainesville, GA, with pastors of the First church there: Bill Arthur, (interim), **Paul Evans '92** and **Matt McGowan '52**. I also met and visited with **Cliff Rigby '63** who is on the staff there.

**Tom Sizemore '68** took me to lunch recently in Decatur and I've had the pleasure of visiting with him several times recently here on campus and at various functions.

On October 16, I drove a bus with 14 CTS students to Starkville, MS, where we had dinner at the Trinity church, hosted by pastor **Sara Buress '91**, and various members of her church. The students then went home with members of various churches in St. Andrew Presbytery where they preached the next morning. It was a good experience and all the reports I've received indicated that they were quite impressed with our students. **Ann Kelly '92** hosted three students at the church in Tupelo, one of them from Hungary and another from Kenya. The weekend was planned and

coordinated by **Bill Connolly '89**, pastor of the Ripley, MS church.

Last weekend Kaye and I, along with **Donn '65 and Sherry Wright** were guests of **Joe '85 and Sandra Brice** in Blackshear, GA, where he is pastor of the Blackshear church. As I've mentioned before, a visit to their restored Victorian home is like a visit to a fine inn. Sandra is a professional caterer and Joe is a great cook, so needless to say none of us came home hungry. (I'm still trying to figure out when Kaye put me on a diet Monday morning.)

The Alumni/ae Council met on campus for a couple of days during the Smyth lectures in October. The council is an enthusiastic group bringing many ideas and suggestions to the campus. The members are asked to be liaisons between the seminary and the church. Our nominating committee is working toward having a council member from each of the 28 presbyteries in our two supporting synods to be our representatives in their presbytery. **Beth Yarborough '99** is the current president of the council.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.