

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Alumni/ae News Online

August, 2006

About Our Alums

Phil Noble '45 has written a new book *Getting Beyond Tragedy-A Minister's Search for Answers to the 'Why, God?' Question Which Torments Grieving Families*.

"It is a straightforward, transparent story of how one family (the Nobles) endured and continues moving beyond a tragedy. In this case, the tragedy was the death of the youngest of three children." Dr. Jasper N. Keith, Jr. '79

Phil and his wife, Betty Pope, live just around the corner from CTS in their retirement, and the community is blessed by their presence. The book is available through the CTS Bookstore.

Robert S. Busey '54 is retired and living in Asheville, NC. He has just had a book published, *Jesus and Jerusalem*, a study in Luke dealing with Jesus' conflict with authorities and his crucifixion which surveys and draws from current Historical Jesus writings.

Jey Deifell '66 celebrated ten years as Senior Pastor of First Church of Christ, Wethersfield, CT, May 1, 2006. He also celebrated 40 years since ordination June 19, 1966, in the PCUSA.

Joe Harvard '66 was the featured speaker at the Baccalaureate Ceremony at St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Laurinburg, NC, May 12, 2006, and was awarded an honorary doctorate degree.

J. Doug Blair '68 has retired as pastor, Henderson church, Henderson, KY.

Art Jones '68 has retired as pastor of New Hope church in Chattanooga, TN.

Jeff Aiken '69 has been elected to serve as Chair of the Board of Pensions of the PCUSA.

Tom Malone '71 became pastor of Belton Presbyterian Church, Belton, SC, in January, after completing a 23-month interim pastorate at Nazareth church in Spartanburg.

Jap Keith '79 retired in February as pastor of Decatur Presbyterian Church. He and his wife Betty are enjoying retirement in Dahlonega, GA

Lawrence Peebles '83 is now pastor at Little River Dominick church in Kinards, SC.

Mark Montfort '84 has accepted a call as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Oneonta, NY.

Sherron George '86 (D.Min), longtime missionary to Brazil, attended the recent General Assembly of the Waldensian Church of the River Plate with its interaction among the Synods of Argentina, Uruguay, and Italy. She met with the coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean along with the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil to evaluate their work in northeast Brazil and their plans for the Manaus area.

Daniel Graham '87 retired from All Saints Church in Midland, GA, near Columbus.

David Keister '88, along with his Associate Pastor and the pastor of the Vietnamese Fellowship that meets in their building, have received, as a pastoral team the Pastor of the Year Award from the Association of Smaller Membership Churches, Synod of South Atlantic.

Brent Bissette '89 is the new pastor of the Congregational Church of Pinehurst, NC UCC.

Steve Bryant '90 is now pastor of Grace Chapel church in Madison, MS.

Tim Kiser '90 as Chaplain and Director of Office for Spiritual Life at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, MO, is inviting those interested to their Second Annual Day of Peace. The Rev. Benjamin Weir, Professor Emeritus of San Francisco Theological Seminary and former Moderator of the General Assembly of the PCUSA will be the keynote speaker for a day of "Christian-Muslim Conversation." You will hear the personal experience of Dr. Weir, who was kidnapped by Lebanese students in 1984. You'll recall that he was held for 16 months, 15 of those in solitary confinement, at the same time Mr. Terry Anderson, an AP reporter, was held. Email Tim at chaplaintim@moval.edu for more information.

Eric Myers '91 graduated in May with the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. He also has the MA (in liturgical studies) degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Mary D'Alessio '92 has recently begun service as pastor of Union Presbyterian Church in Brownwood, TX. **David '92** is currently on a sabbatical.

Kyle Fedler '92 was recently promoted to chair of the department of religion at Ashland University where he teaches courses in ethics and theology. He recently had his first book published by Westminster/John Knox Press. *Exploring Christian Ethics: Biblical Foundations for Morality* introduces readers to the core ethical and Biblical foundations for Christian morality and is intended for classroom use and adult Sunday schools. The book is dedicated to the memory of Shirley Guthrie. In his free time, he continues to mountain bike race and compete in adventure racing.

Lori Pistor '92 has just begun serving as an interim at Pilgrim UCC in Durham, NC, after completing 19 months at Roanoke Island church on the Outer Banks.

Lisa Majoros '93 has moved to Cape Town, South Africa with her family. The children are at a Waldorf school, her husband works at the Waldorf teacher training institution and Lisa is working on a Masters in Social Anthropology at the University of Cape Town, occasionally preaching, teaching and leading services at the local Presbyterian/UCC church.

Michelle Thomas Bush '94, Associate Pastor at Riverside church in Jacksonville, FL, appears in an article of this month's *Ladies Home Journal* regarding a Katrina affected family who received help and care through efforts at the church. The article is entitled "Katrina Was a Tragedy – And a Blessing." This family of nine saw their lives ripped apart by the hurricane. One year later, Habitat put a roof over their heads a second time.

We continue to welcome stories of you and/or your church's ministry to those whose lives have suffered the effects of Katrina to share in this newsletter.

David Cagle '95 is now pastor of First church in Kingsport, TN, and received his Doctor of Ministry degree in June from McCormick Theological Seminary.

Jim Cazin '95 was recently installed as senior pastor of Tims Memorial church in Lutz, FL.

Beth Duttera Newman '95 is now serving as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Swannanoa, NC.

Lisa Fulford Graves '96 is pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Clarkesville, GA. The church recently received the "Outstanding Small Church of the Year" Award from the Synod of South Atlantic. The small church adopted three Katrina/Rita Hurricane families (6 adults, 8 children) for 6 months, housing them, finding jobs and enrolling the children in schools.

Mark Gray '96 delivered the Sin Lau Lectures of Tainan Theological Seminary, an institution of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, last year. The overall title of the 5-

lecture series was “Word and World: The Book of Isaiah as a Pastoral—Missiological Resource in the Search for Justice.” In the spring of 2006, T & T Clarke/Continuum, New York, published his book “Rhetoric and Social Justice in Isaiah” in their Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies series.

Mark has received a call to Cooke Centenary Presbyterian Church in Belfast. He and his family will be moving in August and his installation service is scheduled for September 15th.

Stephanie '96 and Chris '96 Hankey are proud parents of Rachel Joy, who was born February 7, 2006.

Laura Cunningham '98 has been called as pastor of Naurausaun Presbyterian Church in Pearl River, NY. She will begin her new position August 1st.

Steve Lindsley '97 received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in May. The title of his doctoral paper is “Preaching in the Missional Church.”

Sarah Diehl '98 will begin serving August 21st as a Chaplain Resident in CPE with Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

Tom Groome '98 has been called as pastor of First church, Tupelo, MS.

Jonathan Carroll '00 and his wife Kendra have a baby daughter, Zoe Fiona, born April 24, 2006. They live in Owensboro, KY, where Jonathan is pastor of First church, and is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Louisville Seminary.

Becky Davis '00 is now serving as Chaplain at Citizens Baptist Medical Center in Talladega, AL

Guy Griffith '00 (D.Min.) is the new associate pastor for adult education and spiritual nurture at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN.

Chan Willis '00 was the '05 recipient of the Louisiana Moral & Civic Foundation Preaching Award. He was elected South Louisiana Presbytery's Minister Commissioner to this year's General Assembly and serves on the planning team for PFR's Christian Life Conference at Montreat.

Wade Halva '01 and Laurie Fields '01 have relocated to Salt Lake City, UT, where Wade is the new pastor of Cottonwood church.

David Kwon '01 has accepted a call to the Korean Presbyterian Church of Miami, North Miami, FL. He leaves First church in Elmira, NY, to work as pastor for an English speaking multi-cultural congregation in North Miami.

David Dault '02 released a new CD of his songs, called "Here is the Post Card." He also presented papers at the AAR Regional Meeting in Atlanta and the Nexus: Faith and the Nation Conference in Knoxville.

Dorie Griggs '02 was asked to write an article for Plain Views, A Publication of The HealthCare Chaplaincy in New York City. The article is entitled *Chaplains and Journalists*, helping journalists cope with traumatic stress. Check the following link to read Dorie's article.

<http://www.plainviews.org/v3n12/er.html>

Peggy McClure '02 is now pastor of First church, Trussville, AL. The church is a small congregation which allows her the time to continue being the Executive Director of Community Grief Support Service in Birmingham.

Thomas '03 and Beth '04 Daniel have been called as Co-Pastors of Membership Development and Evangelism at First church, Evanston, IL.

Samuel L. Green '03 (D.Min) was elected and consecrated the 125th Bishop in the history of the AME Church in July of 2004 and assigned to the 15th Episcopal District (South Africa, Namibia and Angola). Prior to becoming the Bishop, he had been pastor of St. Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church in Orlando, FL for 16 years.

Kevin Day '04 and Katie Heard '06 were married August 5th and will be living in Jacksonville, FL, where Katie is Associate Pastor at The Palms church.

Young Jeon '05 received the Master of Theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary May 13, 2006.

In Memoriam

James S. Dunovant '76 April 5, 2006

Neely McCarter '53 May 10, 1006

Catherine Gonzalez, Professor Emeritus, was presented the Award for Excellence in Theological Education by the Committee on Theological Education June 16 in Birmingham at the General Assembly.

A BIG THANK YOU to Nan and Erskine Clarke who hosted approximately 60 alums at their Montreat home for a great time during the "Hope of the Church: Celebrating Common Ground" Conference.

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.