

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Alumni/ae News Online

August 2007

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL WITH WHOM

I SHARE THE WORK OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

After 26 years of parish life and work, in May, 2007, I began my duties as your Director of Alumni/ae and Church Relations at Columbia Seminary. Inspired and informed by my predecessor, Bert Carmichael's ministry to me when a pastor, my sense of call in this work is to seek to be with and for you in similar ways as you labor in Christ's name. As the seminary's representative, my desire is to continue and expand upon Columbia's good work of building supportive community among all our alums, be it here on campus or in the fields where you minister.

As reminded in the story of I Kings 19, we who seek to do God's work can find ourselves not unlike the prophet, Elijah, feeling isolated, lonely, and about ready to give up the ghost. In such a place, God quietly reassured Elijah with rest, nourishment, and the knowledge that the prophet was not alone. And neither are we. For like Elijah, we are persons called by God into the shared vocation of Christian ministry. Within this kinship of labor, boundless compassion abides and sustains. As assurance of things hoped for and evidence of things unseen, your faith stories, shared in this newsletter, strengthen the ties that bind our hearts together. And so do all your contributions, whatever forms they may take, for which we are grateful.

Thank you for being a part of this Columbia Seminary community and affording me the chance to serve you. I look forward to being with you in Christ's service.

Randy Calvo, Jr. '81

About Our Alums

Richard Carter '63 has retired as pastor of Grace Church, Crystal City, MO.

Bob Moss '67 was honorably retired as of June 1, 2007. He and Mary will continue to live in Rock Hill, SC.

Hunter Coleman '68 retired from First Church, Highlands, NC August 5, 2007.

Alan Elmore '69 retired as General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Charlotte in 2001. Since then, he has served as interim pastor at North Anderson Community Church, First Church Anderson, SC, and presently at Fort Hill Church in Clemson, SC.

James McNaul '72 is now interim pastor of First Church, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Fahed Abu-Akel '74 had two mission groups visiting the Land & the Christians Community. The first trip was with First Church, Douglasville, GA, visiting Israel & Palestine. The second trip was with North Avenue Church to Israel, Palestine & Egypt.

Bill Carr '74 serves the Gainesville-Hall County, GA community as a therapist with the Community Service Center and as Chaplain, Gainesville Fire Department.

Anna Case-Winters '78 was invited to speak at Eastern Nazarene College's first Open Theology & Science Seminar this summer. The Open Theology and Science Seminar brings together the best open theologians to converse with prominent scientists, building a new field in the science and religion discussion to explore the issues of cosmology, biology, and human sciences as they relate to open theology.

She is currently a professor of theology at McCormick Theological Seminary.

Bob Murphy '81 has a new call as pastor at Southminster Church in Missouri City, TX.

Dan Sansbury '81 is moderator of East Tennessee Presbytery for 2007. He has been pastor of Rivermont Church in Chattanooga since 1991.

Robert Gamble '82 is now living and working in Odessa, Ukraine. He is the director of the non-profit "This Child Here (www.thischildhere.org). He raises money from PCUSA churches in the States and designs programs to help kids on the streets of Ukraine; there are thousands. So far, he has been detained by the police and robbed, had two exhibitions of his photography and been interviewed four times by Ukrainian Television. Recently, he introduced one of the more important seminary courses to children who live at the center where he works: frisbee golf.

Laurie Murphy '82 has been called to be pastor at Spring Branch Church in Houston, TX.

Tino Skordallos '82 was elected by the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese as Chief Secretary of the Synod.

Ralph Milligan '86 (D.Min) retired as Executive Director of Presbyterian Samaritan Counseling Center in Charlotte and has just spent six months as interim pastor of Hurunui Presbyterian Parishes on the South Island of New Zealand.

Bob Reno '87 is now pastor of First Church, El Paso, TX.

Lynn Williamson '88 (D.Min) is now serving as pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Church in Casper, WY and would love to know if there are any CTS alums in the vicinity.

James Dant '91 (D.Min) shares stories and sermons in his recently published book *The Truth Is Sensational Enough: Meditations for the Church Year*, by Mercer University Press. Beginning with the season of Advent, he guides us to Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. Added to these prominent holy days are sermons and thoughts for Saint Valentine's Day, All Saints Day, national holidays, and even Stewardship Sunday.

Mike Fitze '91 left Providence Church in Greenville, SC where he had served as organizing pastor for 10 years, to accept a call from Charleston/Atlantic Presbytery as organizing pastor of the East Cooper New Church Development. On Pentecost Sunday, May 27th, Palmetto Presbyterian in Mt. Pleasant held its first service at Laing Middle School to a standing room only crowd of 400+. The new church will build on 14 acres in Carolina Park, a new development in upper Mt. Pleasant.

Joseph Muchemi '91 received his Doctor of Ministry degree May 19, 2007 from San Francisco Theological Seminary

Polly Deppen '92 has accepted a call as Associate Pastor at Christ Church in Ormond Beach, FL.

Sam McGregor '92 sends us the news that his wife Kathryn has become Associate Presbyter for Education and Resourcing in Providence Presbytery.

Denise Hall '93 (D.Min) is pastor of Orange Church, Orange, VA.

Richard Hawks '93 (D.Min) has retired from Eastminster Church, Knoxville, TN.

David Bradley '95 is now doing pastoral counseling in Asheville, NC. He and his wife, Margaret Rada have relocated to Montreat, NC with their new son, Heath Blake, who was born March 29, 2007.

Peg Brinck '95 received her certificate as a "Board Certified Chaplain, last April in San Francisco. There were only three new candidates present from Tennessee and all three were from Peg's presbytery of East Tennessee. She is presently serving as Chaplain and Director of Pastoral Services at Wood (Presbyterian) Village in Sweetwater, TN.

Carol Seaman '95 is now interim pastor of the Community Church of Smoke Rise, NJ.

Louly Hay '96 reports she recently attended with great joy her 50th reunion at Hollins University in Roanoke, VA. She had a fantastic time, led the memorial prayer at the Sunday morning worship service and blessed the food for the official luncheon. She continues to serve as Parish Associate at First Church, Covington, GA.

Sam Henderson '96 (D.Min) is now pastor of First Church, Marietta, GA.

Insook Lee '96 is now Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC.

Libby Rollins '97 has a new call as associate pastor at First Church, Huntsville, AL.

Becca Young '97 has been appointed by the PCUSA as a mission worker to Indonesia. She will teach systematic theology at Jakarta Theological Seminary, Jakarta, Indonesia. Most recently she has been a liaison for tsunami recovery on the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance staff.

Todd Green '98 has defended his dissertation in the History of Christianity at Vanderbilt University and received his Ph.D. August 10th. He will be serving as an adjunct professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School for the spring semester of 2008.

Bill Garrison '99 moved from Hendersonville, NC to Philadelphia, PA to attend Optometry School. After serving a small church in North Carolina he became interested in the medical field and was involved with mission work, and group of orphan boys from Liberia. After being in Liberia he realized what an impact a basic medical education would have on people in situations like in Liberia. That led him to envisioning ways he could use an optometric education in the mission field. He begins the first of his four years of schooling this month.

Joe Hinds '99 and Kazy Blocher Hinds '00 have accepted calls in the Syracuse, NY area. Kazy has accepted a call as Associate Pastor of First Church, Liverpool, NY, and Joe is in a yoked call as pastor of Westminster and Elmwood churches in Syracuse.

Melanie Mitchell '99 serves at the Iglesia de Cristo in Madrid. This report in The Presbyterian Outlook July 9 issue under "Presbyterians *in action*." "Christianity is in decline in Spain compared to the flourishing of faith in the developing world, it has been reported. Melanie Mitchell serves our denomination at the Iglesia de Cristo in Madrid. Immigrants from such places as Haiti, Venezuela, and those who cross the Gibraltar Strait on rafts, have greatly strengthened this congregation.

Wendy Neff '99 and husband Brian Shelby have a baby boy, Isaac Herron, born January 16, 2007. Wendy serves Highland Church in Maryville, TN.

Kathleen Crighton '00 has a new call as designated pastor of the Metairie Ridge Church in Metairie, LA, in suburban New Orleans. She was installed June 10 by the Presbytery of South Louisiana. **Kitty Clark Manson '00** took part in the service. Kathy is also serving as a director of the Board of Pensions, class of 2008.

Cynthia Montgomery '00 and husband, Jim, have welcomed a new baby girl into their family. Melissa Leigh Montgomery was born July 1, 2007.

Wain Wesberry '00 formerly associate pastor at Fourth Church in Greenville, SC, has been called as pastor at First Church in Clinton, SC.

Shelaine Bird '03 and Kyle Segars '99 have accepted calls as Co-Pastors of Saint Andrews Church in Beulah, MI. They and their two-year-old, Sedona Grace left Arizona this summer where they've be serving as Co-Pastors of First Church, Florence, AZ.

Rebecca Close LeMon '03 and husband, Joel, have a baby boy, James Grant Parker LeMon, born April 26, 2007. Rebecca graduated from Emory Law School with a J.D. degree May 14, 2007, and Joel received a Ph.D. in Old Testament Studies from Emory the same day. Rebecca will begin law practice in September with Alston & Bird in Atlanta.

Lloyd Looney '03 (D.Min) passed the Marriage and Family national exam in 2006 and became a licensed marriage and family therapist in the state of GA. Within the past two months he also took the National Counselors Exam (NCE), passed it and became a licensed professional counselor in GA. The National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) approved him for status as a National Certified Counselor (NCC). He wrote to thank Columbia and his professors who invested so much time and effort to assist him, especially men like Dr. John Patton.

Nancy Oehler Love '03 was married to Larry Love August 18th in Crawfordsville, IA.

James Wells '03 is now the solo pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, AL.

John Frye '04 (D.Min) has recently been called as pastor at First Church in Gastonia, NC.

Elizabeth Parker '04 has relocated to Austin, TX and will be seeking a call in the Austin area. Elizabeth also sends news that she is getting married in early October to Derek Pang.

Tina Sweet '04 enjoyed a 2-week study tour in Israel this spring, visiting Nazareth, Galilee and Jerusalem.

Jaina Anderson '05 remains at First Church, Athens, AL, and this summer has moved from "Designated Associate Pastor" to "Associate Pastor." Her son, Colter, is playing football for last year's state champions in 5A, the Athens Golden Eagles!

Jessica Derise-Mendez '05 has a new position as chaplain at John Knox Village/St. Joseph's Baptist Healthcare (Tampa, FL) and is also the Director of Church Relations for Habitat for Humanity/East Polk County (Winter Haven, FL).

Sue Riggle '05 has been called as pastor of First Church of Jonesboro, GA.

Paul Shupe '05 (D.Min) is pastor at Lake Edge United Church of Christ in Madison, WI.

Martha Thorson '05 (D.Min) has accepted the part-time pastor position at the Winchester United Methodist Church in Winchester, CA.

Christine Vogel '05 (D.Min) has been named McCormick Theological Seminary's dean of students and vice president for student affairs. She was currently serving on McCormick's faculty as the Jean and Frank Mohr Professor of Ministry.

Ed Wegele '05 is now pastor at First Church, Seminole, TX.

Brandon Brewer '06 has accepted a position as Director of Youth Programs at Woods Memorial Church in Severna Park, MD.

Jihyun Oh '06 has accepted a call as Associate Pastor for Contemporary Worship and Children and Family Ministry at First Church, Arlington Heights, IL.

Kaye Florence '06 was examined by Holston Presbytery June 2, 2007 and ordained at Jonesborough Church June 17, 2007. She will be a hospice chaplain with Caris Healthcare of Tennessee. **Mindy Serafin '06** participated as a corresponding member of the Ordination Commission.

Leslie Roper '06 has a new call as Associate Pastor of First Church, Batesville, AR. She was ordained July 16th in Fort Smith, AR at her home church.

Meg Flannagan '06, Jerry Long '06, Leslie Bethel-Roper '06 and John Richardson '06 all attended Montreat's Worship and Music week and were able to catch up. They were all members of the Company of New Pastors. Meg says they were real alums doing real things and still enjoying each others' company! Three serve congregations and one (John Richardson) serves Montreat Conference Center.

Kyongkuk Han '07 and his family welcomed a son, Charles Han, June 27, 2007.

In Memoriam

Ira Brown '80	July 29, 2007
Don Collins '61	March 25, 2007
Bonneau Dickson '33	July 13, 2007
Sally Lorey '92	July 18, 2007
Kirk Nesbit '51	Feb. 15, 2007
Paul Smith '47	May 3, 2007
Richard Scoggins '44	December 13, 2006
Tom Stallworth '58	May 14, 2007

Charles C. Talley '63

November 19, 2006

Charles R. Tapp '48

May 20, 2007

Show Your LOVE for Columbia Seminary!

This year's Columbia lunch at the annual **Association of Presbyterian Church Educators** conference will be held on Valentine's Day, February 14 at 12:30 pm.

We are really going to celebrate this year as our own, Rodger Nishioka, is keynote speaker for the conference. Other than spending some time with Rodger you can expect the following from this luncheon:

- A wonderful Mexican Buffet complete with Tostada and Taco Bar, and Chef's Mexican Sweet Table at the Town & Country (home of the conference)
- Reporting on and invitation to our Doctor of Educational Ministries degree program. (This is the year for applications for the next cohort!)
- Invitations to upcoming Lifelong Learning Events, such as our April colloquium and pre-conference, all with a Christian Education theme this year
- Upcoming topics for the online journal and lessons
- Good conversations with alums and friends of Columbia Seminary

The first 30 people who are attending the APCE conference and respond to this invitation will be able to join us for this joyful occasion for the low price of \$10 per person! The school will fund the rest. Contact Kathy Dawson, Assistant Professor of Christian Education: dawsonk@ctsnet.edu to be placed on our luncheon list.

SEND YOUR NOMINATION FOR THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD TO BE PRESENTED APRIL 15, 2008

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HISTORY

In 1988 the Alumni/ae Association Council approved the Recognition Program in order to recognize outstanding service to the church rendered by Columbia Seminary graduates. Please read the information below and give careful thought about whom you would like to nominate.

PURPOSE

Recognition shall be given to alumni/ae who exemplify the ideals expressed in Columbia Seminary's Statement of Mission found in the seminary catalog.

ELIGIBILITY AND NOMINATIONS

A nominee shall have modeled well the Christian life, demonstrating an obedient and faithful ministry and leadership in the service of God, courageous in conviction, having worked in partnership with governing bodies and other agencies of the church.

Ordinarily, selected nominees shall be able to be present at the awards ceremony in which they are honored. Current members of Columbia's faculty, staff, and Alumni/ae Council are not eligible for nomination. All nominations are to be submitted to the seminary's Alumni/ae Office.

PROCEDURES

The Alumni/ae Council shall annually commission an eight-member Selection Committee to receive nominations and make recommendations to the Council. This committee shall include the Immediate Past President, who will be chair, the current President, four at-large members of the Alumni/ae Council, and two members of the seminary faculty.

The Selection Committee shall review all nominations and bring recommendations to the Alumni/ae Council by letter from the President. The Council will vote on the committee's recommendations. Those selected shall be notified that recognition will be made at the Association's Annual Luncheon.

The Alumni/ae Council in all cases will make the final selection of those persons to be recognized or may determine in any given year to award more than one person or may decide that no one is to be awarded in a given year.

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DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Nomination Form

Nominations must be received no later than October 1, 2007

Date:

Name of Nominee:

Address:

Phone numbers

Office:

Home:

Email Address:

Current Position:

Reason/s for nomination: Be as specific as possible. If necessary, add a second page for additional information.

Your Name:

Address:

Phone numbers

Office:

Home:

Email address:

Current Position:

Return to: Respond by email to poeb@ctsnet.edu or print and mail to: Barbara Poe, Columbia Theological Seminary, P. O. Box 520, Decatur, GA 30031

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 Randy 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.