

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Alumni/ae News Online

February 2007

About Our Alums

Robert L. Montgomery '53 has recently had a new book published. *The Spread of Religions: A Social Scientific Theory Based on the Spread of Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam*. Long Dash Books, 2007.

Robert S. Dendy '57 is serving as stated supply at the First Presbyterian Church in Maxton, NC. He also acts as Chaplain for Holland America Cruise Lines once or twice a year.

Fred W. McDaniel '58 recently enjoyed a trip with his wife to visit family in Nuremberg, Germany. They are spending the winter at their home in Naples, FL.

Bobby Earl Pettit '62 was confirmed as Pastor Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church, Anderson, SC, by Foothills Presbytery and is presently serving as Stated Supply of the Glenn Springs church in Glenn Springs, SC.

Robert A. Wilson '64 is retired and doing part-time interim work.

Etta Rossman '76 has served 30 years as a Presbyterian minister and pastoral counselor. She is currently chaplain at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women, in Goochland, VA, and pastor of Hawkins Memorial church in Ford, VA.

Michael Winters '76 is pastor of Morton Grove church, Morton Grove, IL, and serving as Moderator of the Presbyterian Hunger Program at the General Assembly level. This year at General Assembly, he worked on behalf of the "Joining Hands Against Hunger" program and made special appeal for justice for the hungry in Cameroon. He is being sent to Cameroon for two weeks in January.

John Thomason '77, minister of Hamilton Old Parish Church in Scotland, has just published his first book, entitled *Can These Bones Live?* It tells the sixteen-year story of the building of a new Reformed Church for the Hungarian-speaking community in Oradea, Romania. John is presently working on a second publication – a concise history of the area known as “Partium” (Eastern Hungary and Western Romania).

Anna Case-Winters '78 is in her 20th year on the faculty at McCormick Seminary in Chicago as Professor of Theology. She is on sabbatical completing her second book, *Down to Earth: A Christian Theology of Nature*.

David Carriker '79 has accepted a call as pastor at Waxhaw church, Waxhaw, NC.

Maake Masango '81 visited Cuba recently, participating in Fidel's 80th Birthday Lectures. He says the churches there are working hard in sharing the Gospel, the Presbyterian Church is alive and well. He also visited seminary students. He asked that we continue to pray for that country as changes are coming and church leaders need encouragement. Maake continues to teach at the University of Pretoria.

Robert '81 and Laurey '82 Murphy have relocated to Houston, TX, where Laurey is pastor of the Spring Branch church.

Mark Jumper '82 recently retired from the U.S. Navy as a commander in the Chaplain Corps, after 24 years of service (21 active duty). His final assignments were the Naval Chaplains School in Newport, RI and the U. S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. He is now senior pastor of Hope Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Libertyville, IL (north of Chicago), and is a Ph.D. candidate at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI. He and his wife Ginger, with their seven children (ages 4-14), live in Waukegan, IL.

Robert McCully '84 (D.Min) is now a full-time drug counselor at the Charlotte Rescue Mission, while serving as a part-time interim and part-time college instructor.

Karen Whelchel-Redwine '87 participated in the University of Georgia Chamber Choir in its June '05 tour of Scotland and England. They were the first UGA choir to tour internationally in over 20 years. The 10-day tour of the United Kingdom was a great success for the 26-voice

choir, which visited English and Scottish cities including London, Oxford, York, Edinburgh, Dornoch, Stirling, Glasgow, and Paisley.

Ramon Hunt '89 (D.Min.) is interim pastor at United Church of Christ in Ladysmith/Conrath, WI.

Sara Burress '91 is serving as an unpaid volunteer for a year at a monastery in Cullman, AL, which has a new experimental program allowing women to experience monastic life, and receive room and board in exchange for work, for up to a year.

Joe Bennett '96 is Chaplain at Hospice of Yancey County in Burnsville, NC.

Chris Carson '96 is now associate pastor of Madison church, Madison, GA.

Laurie Valentine '96 and husband Scott North are very proud parents of twin daughters. Erin Linnon North and Allison Claire North were born Jan. 20, 2006. Laurie is presently Parish Associate at Trinity church in Winston-Salem, NC.

Joe Clifford '97 is now pastor of First church, Dallas, TX.

Beth Grimshaw '97 is now Director of Pastoral Care at Inghamn Regional Medical Center in Lansing, MI and has a grant from the Formation and Education of People of Faith Valparaiso Practices Project to author a book on youth ministry called *12 Baskets-Celebrating Youth Practicing Their Faith*.

Stephen Hannah '99 (D.Min) has accepted a call as pastor at Ridgecrest church in Stanfield, NC.

Sherry Edwards '00 and husband Steve are relocating to Libby, MT, where Sherry is serving in a Tent Maker congregation.

Kazy Blocher Hinds '00 is now serving as interim pastor at Brentwood church, Brentwood, NY. **Joe '99** continues to serve as pastor of Springs Community church in East Hampton, NY. Their son, Pauly, continues to be the joy of their life (3 yrs. old!)

Connie Weaver '00 began in January as associate pastor at First church in Asheboro, NC.

Dorie Griggs '02 has a monthly column in the e-bulletin of the Southern newspaper Publishers Association.

Katie Ricks '02 and her partner Paula welcomed their daughter, Jordan Ellen Ricks, into the world on January 19, 2007.

Elizabeth Goodrich '03 has accepted a call as pastor of Gardendale Presbyterian Church, Gardendale, AL and will be ordained March 11 at South Highland church in Birmingham.

Martin Nabor '03 (D.Min.) has received a new assignment. He now teaches at the Ramsayer Lay Training Center at Abetifi in the Eastern Region of GHANA.

Laurel Nelson '03 is engaged to Rick Castor from Dansville, NY. The wedding is tentatively planned for Sunday, October 7, 2007 at the Wyoming Presbyterian Church.

Pen Peery '03 and wife Lindsey have a baby boy, Wells Campbell Peery born December 18, 2006.

Stacy Welsh Cavanaugh '05 is now pastor of Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Galena, IL. Stacy married David Cavanaugh September 23, 2006 in St. Louis.

Stuart Higginbotham '05 and wife Lisa are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Evelyn Clare, born January 11, 2007.

Francis Njoroge '05 has been appointed the Director of Theological Education by Extension. He was appointed by the General Assembly of Kenya shortly after his return to Kenya in June, 2005.

Teri Peterson '05 was ordained Oct. 29, 2006, and is now associate pastor at Ridgefield-Crystal Lake church in Crystal Lake, IL.

Jeff Ross '05 has been picked up for Active Duty in the US Navy as a chaplain. He and Britt have relocated to Oceanside, CA.

Matt Schlageter '05 was ordained Oct. 22, 2006 at his home church in Daytona Beach, FL and was received as a member of Greater Atlanta Presbytery in November. His call is to Senior Residency through Emory Healthcare Center for Pastoral Services at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston.

Mike '05 and Devon '06 Ducheneau are proud parents of a baby girl. Emma Marie was born January 24, 2007. **Devon** also received her Master of Social Work from the University of Georgia in December.

Joe Evans '06 is Associate Pastor at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Lilburn, GA.

Brandon Hood '06 has accepted a call as Associate Pastor for Young Adults and Families at Valley Presbyterian in Paradise Valley, AZ.

Mindy Serafin '06 accepted a call to be Chaplain at Indian River Medical Center in Vero Beach, FL. She was ordained December 17, 2006.

Tricia '06 and Clay '05 Thomas are proud parents of Fields Katherine Thomas, born December 27, 2006.

Craig Toppie '06 is Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe, NM.

Fred Wise '06 married **Jami Moss**, Director of Annual Giving, December 30, 2006 at Oakhurst Presbyterian Church in Decatur.

In Memoriam

Charles Benz '50	December 8, 2006
Hugh D. Bowers '61	October 26, 2006
J. Gordon Bradford '57	October 7, 2006
Bursell Munro '54	May 20, 2006
Kirk Nesbit '51	February 15, 2007
Michael Anthony Whelchel '64	February 3, 2007

NEW DIRECTOR – FAITH AND THE CITY

Jane Fahey '01 has accepted the invitation to serve as Director of the Faith and the City Program. Jane has served in pastoral ministry in Greater Atlanta Presbytery over the last several years. She has previously assisted us in adjunct teaching and now brings her considerable gifts to leading our Faith and the City efforts.

Make your plans to attend Colloquium 2007

April 16, 17, 18

COLLOQUIUM 2007

Colloquium 2007 focuses on the church's encounter

with the emerging ecological crisis that is gaining increased national and international attention. Through plenary presentations, panels, and workshops, we will explore the broad contours of the crisis, develop biblical perspectives for Christian care of the creation, and offer resources for ministry in times of travail.

SCHEDULE

Monday, April 16

1:00 p.m. Alumni/ae Council Meeting

5:00 p.m. Registration

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Opening Worship) *Barbara Brown Taylor, preaching*

Tuesday, April 17

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:15 a.m. “Creation in Community: Theological Reflections on Old Testament Creation Texts”

Terence Fretheim, Luther Seminary

10:15 a.m. Break/Late Registration

10:45 a.m. “Ecology and Apocalypse: Is this the End of the World?” *Barbara Rossing, Lutheran School of*

Theology at Chicago

12:30 p.m. Lunch

2:15-3:20 p.m. Concurrent Workshops

3:45-5:00 p.m. Concurrent Workshops

5:30 p.m. Reception at President’s Home

Wednesday, April 18

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:20 a.m. Panel Discussion and Closing Worship

Led by Stanley Saunders and William Brown

10:30 a.m. Coffee and Conversation

Alumni/ae Reunions 2007

Each year during Colloquium, Columbia hosts alumni/ae reunions for selected classes. You may register for the traditional Tuesday lunch, even if you do not register for the full Colloquium event.

Five-Year Reunion Classes

1956 and before, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2006. If you graduated one year before or after a 5-year reunion class, come to Colloquium and reconnect with those with whom you shared the seminary experience. For example, if you graduated in 1976 or 1978, please come celebrate with the Class of 1977.

Colloquium Preacher

Barbara Brown Taylor is an Episcopal priest who teaches religion at Piedmont College in northeast Georgia. Before becoming a full-time teacher in 1997, she spent 15 years in parish ministry. Since 2001, she has served Columbia as adjunct professor of Christian spirituality. An editor-at-large for *The Christian Century* and occasional commentator on Georgia Public Radio, she

is the author of ten books, including her most recent, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2006).

Colloquium Speakers

Terence E. Fretheim is the Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, in St. Paul, MN. A prolific writer and scholar, Fretheim's classic work is *The Suffering of God: An Old Testament Perspective* (Fortress, 1984). More recent titles include *In God's Image: A Study of Genesis* (Augsburg, 1999); *A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament* (Abingdon, 1999), with B. Birch, W. Brueggemann, and D. Petersen; *Jeremiah: A Commentary* (Smyth & Helwys, 2002); and *God and World in the Old Testament: A Relational Theology of Creation* (Abingdon, 2005). Fretheim is a graduate of Luther College. He earned the M.Div. degree from Luther Seminary and the Th.D. degree from Princeton Seminary.

Barbara R. Rossing is professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Before joining the faculty in 1994, she served as the pastor of churches in Minnesota and Washington and as chaplain at Harvard Divinity School, where she received her doctor of theology degree. Her publications include articles and book chapters on the Apocalypse and the environment. She is the author of *The Choice*

Between Two Cities: Whore, Bride, and Empire in the Apocalypse (Trinity Press, 1999) and *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation* (Basic Books, 2004), a critique of fundamentalist "Left Behind" theology.

Workshops

The Seven Ways of Creation:

A Field Guide to the Cosmogonies of Scripture

William P. Brown

Professor of Old Testament Language, Literature, and Exegesis

Columbia Theological Seminary

Nature and Culture:

Why We Think the Way We Think About the World

Stanley P. Saunders

Associate Professor of New Testament

Columbia Theological Seminary

Greening Your Congregation:

Making People of Faith People of Action

Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL)

Atlanta, GA

The Wilderness/The Cultivated Land:

Expressing Isaiah's Images Through Art

Mary Logan

Director, Seeds of Light Studio; Pastoral Counselor

Atlanta, GA

Greening of the Church, and We Don't Mean Advent!:

Music and Liturgy for Worship

Michael Morgan, Seminary Musician

Kim Clayton Richter, Interim Director of Lifelong Learning Events

Columbia Theological Seminary

Sustaining Creation: Practices for a Healthier World

Al Masters '76 (D.Min. '91) and Columbia Theological Seminary students

You will be receiving a Colloquium brochure in the mail that includes a registration form. You may also look on the web site under "What's New" www.ctsnet.edu.

Bert's Travels Around The Church

During the last several weeks the seminary display and I have made several trips around the Southeast. Along with the development office folks, I attended a luncheon for alumni/ae and friends of the seminary at the Second church in Nashville. **Dent Davis '89 (D.Min)**, Vice President for Lifelong Learning, presented an excellent program on education in the local church. Among the alums I visited were **Phil Leftwich '69**, Executive Presbyter of Middle Tennessee Presbytery, **Guy Griffith '00 (D.Min)**, Associate Pastor at Westminster church in Nashville, and **Andrew Stephens '06 (D.Min)**, pastor of The Village, a very unique multiracial church and outreach ministry in the city.

Among many presbytery meetings visited recently was a meeting of Greater Atlanta Presbytery at First church in Douglasville, GA. Naturally there were CTS alums everywhere, but a few I chatted with were **Joe Conyers '57**, **Bonneau Dickson '33**, **Becky Burton '97**, **Billy Wade '80 (D.Min)**, **Leon Jeffords '63**, **Bill Carr '74**, **Joanna Adams '79**, **Cader Howard '05**, and **Louly Hay '96**.

It was a quick drive to Sarasota, FL the following day for a meeting of Peace River

Presbytery in the First church, Sarasota. Once again I enjoyed the hospitality of **Bill '66 and Sibyl Hull** at their home in Bradenton. They are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Kirkwood church where Bill remains as the founding pastor. Among several CTS graduates at the presbytery meeting were **Clay Thomas '05**, Associate Pastor, First church, Sarasota, **Tricia Dillon Thomas '06**, **Taylor Hill '67**, **Dennis Reid '99**, **Elizabeth Deibert '99**, **Richard Deibert '89**, **Larry Yerger '94**, and **Ted Land '84 (D.Min)**.

From Sarasota I crossed the state of Florida to a meeting of Tropical Florida Presbytery at the First church in Delray Beach. **Jin Kim '05 (D.Min)**, pastor of The Church of All Nations in Minneapolis, was the keynote speaker, and I was pleased to have the opportunity of visiting with him and hearing more about his ministry. Also there were D.Min graduates **Laurie Kraus '94**, pastor of the Riviera church in Miami and **Sam Rutland '89** pastor of the Miami Shores church.

The following day I worshipped at the Church of the Palms in Jacksonville Beach, FL. Four of our alums there are **Tom Walker '89**, pastor, and **Carol Digiusto '99**, **Andrew Kukla '03** and **Katie Heard Day '06**, associate pastors. After worship I enjoyed good seafood and good company with Tom and **Kevin Day '04**.

It was back to Decatur for a short time and then a U-turn toward Florida again to a meeting of Tampa Bay Presbytery at the Seven Springs church in New Port Richey. **Meg Flannagan**, an '06 graduate proved herself very able as a preacher and was quite impressive as she was examined for ordination. She was ordained by Holston Presbytery in January, and is now the associate pastor of the First church of Dunedin, FL. **Becky Burton '99** had driven down from Atlanta the previous day with the moving van and her good friend and helper, **Julia Wiley '97** to be received into Tampa Bay Presbytery. She is now pastor of Peace Memorial church in Clearwater. Other alums I enjoyed seeing were **Todd Sutton '02**, **Betts Huntley '86 (D.Min)**, **Rebekah Maul '82**, and **Fred Fife '72**.

Five days later, from sunny Florida, I found myself in below freezing temperatures in East Tennessee for a meeting of Holston Presbytery. The sermon at worship was preached by **Harrison Taylor '54**. I had lunch with **Bill Hyers '65** and saw several other CTS alums. Among them were **Brian Wyatt '00** and **Angus Shaw '58**.

In January it was back to Jacksonville, FL again for an informative meeting for COM and CPM members sponsored by the Synod of South Atlantic. **Laura Mendenhall and John White**,

new Dean of Students, were leader-participants. Among several of our alums also participating were **Sandy Hill '97, Mike Williams '69, Dennis Reid '99, Mark Coker '81, Ted Land '84 (D.Min) and Carl Schlich '69.**

A couple of weeks later I was back in Tennessee for a meeting of the Synod of Living Waters at the Rivermont church in Chattanooga. **Dan Sansbury '81 (D.Min)** is the pastor there and preached an excellent sermon for the opening worship service. The church is obviously very mission oriented as evidenced by their many outreach ministries, both local and abroad. They are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. Among CTS alums in attendance were **Lina Hart '89, Rita Cochrane '94, Charles Van Devender '76, Wil Howie '90, Warner Durnell '78, and Jon Faraone '88.**

From Chattanooga it was back south to Tifton, GA for a gathering of Flint River Presbytery. I enjoyed lunch there with **Glenn Gilstrap '91 and Jones Doughton '93.** Among the CTS graduates that day were **John Boyer '68, David Felton '05, Jarred Hammet '85, Paula Hoffman '04 and Hugh Ward '75.**

In the last few days I've had the pleasure of sharing meals and fellowship with several folks you probably know. **Charlie Cousar '58, Davison Philips '43** and I had a delightful time sharing memories. Charlie was once on Davison's staff at the Decatur church, so they go back a few years. I've had lunches with **Joanna Adams '79,** who is thriving at the Morningside church here in Atlanta, **Joe Harvard '66** who is in his 26th year as pastor of First church in Durham, NC, **John Hinkle '94** whose new church development in Dallas, GA has begun a building, **Tricia Senterfitt '93,** who continues her many years of service as Minister of Pastoral Care at First church, Atlanta, and **Phil Noble '45** who is living his retirement years in the CTS neighborhood and continues to be a very good friend and supporter of the seminary community.

On Saturday, March 3 several of us will be going out to Presbyterian Village to share with **Bonneau Dickson '33** his 99th birthday celebration. He proudly claims the title of Columbia Seminary's oldest living alum, and we are all very thankful for what he has meant and continues to mean to this institution. His birthday is actually March 4. If you would like to send him greetings then or any other time, his address is:

2000 East West Connector, #311, Austell, GA 30106.

Bert

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.