

# COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Alumni/ae News Online

May 2007

### About Our Alums

**Chilton Thorington '56** attended the basketball “old players” event and was introduced at halftime at King College.

**Clayton “Bud” Little '60** recently published a book entitled *Fabrics of Freedom/Ordinary Heroes*. It's a work of fiction based on the life of his ancestor, Robert Liddle, who served in the Revolutionary War, and was a Deacon in the Presbyterian Church of Lamington, NJ.

**Dan McCall '60** retired in 1997 after 22 years at the Reid Memorial church in Augusta and has since served interim ministries in Atlanta and Charlotte. He is now Minister of Pastoral Care at Fairview church in North Augusta, SC. He and Linda have four children and eight grandchildren to keep them busy (and young?)

**Charles Lanier '64** retired as US Army Chaplain and is now parish associate at First church, Wheaton, IL.

**Martha Blount '64** reports that she is blessed with a new granddaughter. She and her husband Dick teach young adults and go on mission trips to Honduras and Kenya.

**Hassell Bullock '64** is in his 34<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at Wheaton, and serves as stated supply at Warren Park church in Cicero, IL.

**David Long '65** recently retired from Richmond Hill church in Richmond Hill, GA.

**Jim Richardson '65** has retired from Ft. Hill church in Clemson, SC.

**Bob '65 & Dottie '63 Smith** spent one year as Volunteers In Mission at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. Bob did marketing and Dottie worked in several areas including fund raising and gardens.

**David Antonson '66** recently retired after 22 years as pastor of Northmont United Presbyterian Church in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. He had forty-one years of ministry.

**Joe Harvard '66** was recognized with the annual Samuel DuBois Cook Award for his work to improve race relations in the greater Durham area. Named for the first African-American faculty member at Duke University, the society was founded in 1997 to recognize and celebrate African-American presence at Duke.

**Lewis Trotter '66** was installed as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Moderator of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy last November.

**Art Jones '68** was recently approved as Certified Professional Chaplain by the Association of Professional Chaplains and works full-time with Hospice of Chattanooga. He retired from New Hope Presbyterian Church.

**Jeff Aiken '69** is retiring effective June 30 as senior pastor of First church, Allentown, PA. He will continue to serve as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network and chair of the Board of Pensions of the PCUSA.

**Charles Clubb '70** recently retired as pastor of Burkeville church, Burkeville, VA.

**David Turner '75** is currently serving as pastor of Barnwell and Boiling Springs churches in Barnwell, SC. He is also Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Air Force Reserve and IMA to the Wing Chaplain, 45<sup>th</sup> Space Wing, Patrick AFB, FL.

**Frank Colladay '78** is serving as Moderator of Northeast Georgia Presbytery for 2007, and started his 23<sup>rd</sup> year serving Dahlonge church, Dahlonge, GA on January 1, 2007.

**Royce Browder '79** is General Presbyter for Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery.

**David Speering '83** has accepted a call as pastor at Troy church in Troy, NC.

**Dedie Kelso '84** is the new senior pastor of Trinity church in Charlotte.

**James Platt '84** is currently serving as stated supply of the historic 254 year old Fishing Creek church in Chester, SC. He also continues to work as a mental health counselor in Union, SC.

**David Bush '85** honorably retired from the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, and is now living in West Virginia. We incorrectly reported in our last newsletter that he retired from West Virginia Presbytery.

**Alan Harvey '86** received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on May 24, 2007. His faculty advisors for his doctoral project were Dr. John P. Burgess, son of former CTS staff member **Betsey Burgess**, and **Dr. C. Benton Kline, Jr.** As a student in the D. Min. Reformed Focus group, Alan had the opportunity to spend a month in study at the University of Aberdeen. His thesis was entitled: *Invisible Communion Tokens- Help for Presbyterian Congregations to Come Prepared to the Lord's Table*. Alan continues to serve as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Winter Haven, Florida, where **Steve Negley '85** serves as Head of Staff.

**David Weitnauer '86** is beginning a new position with the R. Howard Dobbs Jr. Foundation in Atlanta.

**Ed Cooley '88** recently completed 12 years of ministry at First church, Pampa, TX, and is serving as stated supply at First church, Canadian, TX. He and his wife, Lorelee recently sold their 1915 historic home in Pampa, and are currently living in the manse in Canadian.

**Walter Dinkins '88** is the Senior Religious Leader for the Joint United States Military Mission in Africa. He will be working with all the major Humanitarian Outreach agencies in

Africa. He presented a paper on “Religious Leadership engagement and its impact in promoting peace, unity, and stability in religious communities throughout Africa.”

**Jon Faraone '88** graduated this spring from McCormick Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry degree.

**Joy Smith '88** has a call to a new church development in St. Augustine Presbytery, the Providence Community Church in Jacksonville Beach, FL

**Thomas Mueller '89** recently retired from First church, Hinesville, GA.

**Totok Wiryasaputra '90** has just finished three manuscripts for books on terminal illness counseling, family counseling, and counseling with cancer patients which will be published by ICAHS Press soon.

**Mike Fitze '91** has moved to a new church development, the Palmetto church in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

**Keith Riddle '91** is currently serving as a Minister in Other Service via the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, and living in Charleston, SC, where he works in the development of grief support programs and assisting those who have experienced a personal loss. He was recently elected to the national leadership team of the Presbyterian AIDS Network, as part of the PCUSA commitment to health and welfare. Keith is a regular workshop leader in pastoral care of those living with HIV/AIDS.

**Belinda Curry '93** has completed 10 years of service with the General Assembly Council (Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP.)) On June 1, 2007, she will have been ordained 10 years in St. Andrew Presbytery.

**Jones Doughton '93** received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Beeson School of Divinity of Samford University May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Martha Ebel '93 retired** from First church, Aiken, SC as of December 31, 2006, and is now volunteering as a hospital chaplain.

**Jeff '93 and Kerri '93 Peterson-Davis** are keynote speakers for two weeks of the Montreat Youth Conferences this summer. They are serving as Co-Pastors of Pioneer Memorial church in Solon, OH.

**Todd Speed '93** has a new call as pastor of Decatur Presbyterian Church in Decatur, GA.

**Walt Tennyson '93** has a new call as Chaplain at Rhodes College in Memphis. Along with his chaplaincy duties he will be directing the Bonner Scholars program which has recently been endowed to fund sixty students each year who integrate their classroom work with community involvement and a process of vocational discernment.

**Tim Slemmons '95** led a pre-presbytery event (New Brunswick Presbytery) in which he presented: "Year D – A Supplement to the Revised Common Lectionary," features of which include representative readings from all previously excluded psalms, all (unparalleled) gospel episodes, all remaining epistle readings (apart from Acts and Revelation), greater representation of the prophets, and a 20-week "season" of preaching through Jesus' apocalyptic discourse, a prelude to the passion (focusing on Jesus' confrontation with the religious authorities), and the passion narratives themselves, synchronized with World Communion and culminating in Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday. Tim is also currently designing Year E. The aim of these two projects is to ensure that "the people will hear the full message of Scripture" and "the full range of psalms (are) used in worship".

**Beverly Brigman Thompson '96** and her husband, Dr. George Thompson led a seminar this month for the Alban institute, entitled "Alligators in the Swamp-Power, Leadership and Ministry."

**Tom Groome '98** is now pastor of First church, Tupelo, MS.

**Julie Walkup Bird '99** has a baby boy, Nathan Henry Bird, born in December, 2006. Julie lives in Edinburgh, Scotland where she is a pastor and her husband Adrian is working on a Ph.D.

**Mickey Shealy '99** has a new call as pastor at First church, Dalton, GA. He will be installed August 5, 2007.

**Steven Voris '99 (D.Min)** is pleased to announce the release of his book, *Devotions and Prayers for Police Officers* published by Charles C. Thomas. The publisher's web site is [www.ccthomas.com](http://www.ccthomas.com). . He is currently serving as a US Navy Chaplain deployed overseas in the war zone.

**Jeanette Pinkston '00** has moved to the Nashville, TN area to work with the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship.

**Clayton '03 and Kate '03 Rascoe** have new calls to Mo Ranch. Clayton is Program Director for the conferences; Kate is Chaplain for summer staff and summer camps.

**James Wells '03** has a new call as solo pastor of First church of Jacksonville, AL.

**Kevin Day '04** will begin a new position in the fall teaching history and coaching cross country and track at Episcopal High School in Jacksonville, FL.

**Nancy Oehler '04** has been elected to the Board of Advisors of the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation.

**Robert Thomson '05** is now the Acquisitions and Cataloging Assistant in the Technical Services Department of the John Bulow Campbell Library of Columbia Theological Seminary.

**Clay '05 and Tricia '06 Thomas** participated in the Christian Peace Witness event in Washington March 16, along with their children, Mason and Fields.

**Craig Topple '06** was ordained February 12, 2007, at Decatur church. He is pastor of Westminster church in Santa Fe, NM.

**Bonneau Dickson '33** had a fall last week breaking his hip. He had surgery Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and is doing well. He will be looking forward to several weeks of physical therapy. If you would like to send Bonneau a card, the address is: Presbyterian Village, 2000 East West Connector #311, Austell, GA 30106.

#### In Memoriam

Walter Bennett '42	February 9, 2007
Fred Fife '72	May 5, 2007
Jamie Gripton '98 (D.Min)	December 1, 2005
Robert Emerson Jackson '60	April 21, 2007
James A. Mitchell '88	January 19, 2007
Leroy Secrest '50	October 19, 2006
Richard Scoggins '44	December 13, 2006
Tom Stallworth '58	May 14, 2007
Charles C. Talley '63	November 19, 2006

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

Since our last newsletter the seminary display and I have attended presbytery meetings at the Eastminster church in Marietta, GA, (Cherokee) Allison Creek church in York, SC (Providence), Second church in Knoxville, TN (East Tennessee), Ripley church in Ripley, MS (St. Andrew), the Korean church in Nashville (Middle Tennessee), and First church in Pascagoula, MS (joint meeting of Mississippi and South Alabama Presbyteries.) Needless to say, we've covered quite a few miles of the southeast in the last few weeks representing CTS.

In April I had the privilege of participating in the second Presbyterian Heritage Tour sponsored by Lifelong Learning. The tour was led by **Erskine Clarke '66**. In six days we traveled from

CTS to Midway and Savannah, GA, Edisto Island and Johns Islands, Charleston, James Island, Charleston, Columbia, Clinton and Due West, SC. Forty four of us had a great time together, as well as learned a lot of church history from Erskine and various others as we visited many historic churches and cemeteries. We went to the original Columbia Seminary campus where we heard a good bit of the history of our first one hundred years as a seminary. We visited Thornwell Children's Home and Presbyterian College in Clinton and Erskine Seminary in Due West before returning to Decatur on the last day of the trip. CTS alums on the trip were **Karen Whelchel-Redwine '87** and her husband, Morgan, **Clarence Fouse '67 and his wife Margaret, Mac Hart '53, and Cyrus Mallard '54** and his wife Ann. We're all encouraging Erskine to offer the trip again in the future, but as yet we haven't set a date. Stay tuned to the CTS website for information for this and other trips offered by the school.

In my travels I've had the opportunity to visit with many alums at presbytery meetings and other gatherings. I've shared meals with **Harry Barrow '74**, long-time pastor of the Newnan, GA church, **Tom Sizemore '68**, here in Decatur, **Mary Ellen Hittel '06**, recently installed pastor of the Rockmart, GA church and **Tom Malone '71**, pastor of the Belton, SC church. If you're ever near Belton and need a great meal and a unique culinary experience, I recommend "Grits and Groceries." Two New Orleans chefs have turned an old country store into a special restaurant. You get fresh baked bread and desserts, a meat and three and/or fine gourmet cuisine. Your CTS food critic gives it a five star rating.

I represented CTS at the inauguration of Dr. Randy Rubel as the new president of Erskine College and Seminary and participated in the ordination of a recent graduate, **Joe Evans '06** at the Marietta, GA church. Joe is associate pastor at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Lilburn, GA.

In Ripley, MS, **Bill Connolly '89** served as the host pastor to presbytery as the church was celebrating its one hundred and seventh anniversary. **Ann Kelly '92** is serving as its moderator. I enjoyed sharing lunch with her and her husband Danny, and a special visit with **Don Wilson '65** and his wife Mary. Don has served the Byhalia, MS church since he graduated from CTS forty three years ago. That must be close to some kind of record. Let us hear from others of you about lengthy terms of service of our alums.

At Allison Creek We were hosted by the members and their pastor, **Sam McGregor '92**. **Clay Fouse '05** preached an excellent sermon as part of his examination for ordination. Once again it was an experience that made me proud to be associated with CTS to hear one of our young alums on the floor of presbytery. His parents, **Clarence '67** and Margaret were on hand, and I'm sure were even more proud than I of their son. Clay serves as a resident hospital chaplain in Charlotte. I had lunch with a favorite classmate of mine, **Bob Moss '67** and learned of his

retirement and plans. His retirement was official on May 20 and he and Mary will continue to live in Rock Hill, SC.

**Catherine Cavazos '07** was an impressive candidate for ordination as she preached and fielded questions on the floor of Middle Tennessee Presbytery. She has accepted an associate position at the East Brentwood Presbyterian Church in Brentwood, TN. I visited with many alums that day and it was especially good to see **Carson Salyer '81**, who I had not seen in a number of years. He is an associate at the Westminster church in Nashville. We were in the same presbytery many years ago.

Hearing stories, “catching up” and renewing relationships has been such a pleasure and one of the real rewards of this “job.”

From Tennessee it was back south and on to Pascagoula. The preacher at the worship service was our inspiring General Assembly Moderator, **Joan Gray '76**, calling on the church to love and care for one another. **Reggie Weaver '07** a CTS graduate, made for a third impressive ordination examination of CTS alums I have heard recently. Reggie is a member of the Spring Hill church in Mobile, and will be ordained as a resident pastor, serving at the Second church in Indianapolis.

**Erskine '66 and Nan Clarke, John Hinkle '94**, and I drove to Clinton, SC on May 16<sup>th</sup> for the sad occasion of **Tom Stallworth's** funeral. Most of you probably know that he died suddenly after an early morning workout at the “Y”. Tom was a loyal churchman, a wonderful supporter of CTS, a dear friend to MANY and commonly known as Mr. P.C. He taught religion and bible at Presbyterian College for 36 years and served there in many capacities after that. He and Mary had continued to live in Clinton where he was serving as a parish associate and continued until his last day as a minister to many. He will be dearly missed.

You have probably received an email from Richard DuBose that CTS has a new Director of Alumni/ae Relations, **Randy Calvo '81**. I have known and respected Randy as a minister and a friend for many years and feel that we are most fortunate to have him here. I'm looking forward to spending more time with my wife Kaye and less on the road. However, Randy says he'll still “let” me attend a presbytery meeting occasionally. I will miss seeing so many of you as often and enjoying the hospitality I've experienced in your churches, your homes and your presbyteries. Believe it or not, and some of you won't, but when you're a visitor and observer, presbytery meetings can be fun. I've attended 119 by my last count in the past six years. That may be some kind of record surpassed only by synod execs.

I will continue to be grateful for good memories of these six years and to be thankful for your varied ministries. Please remember what I've said so many times about the alumni/ae office – Barbara Poe does all the work. I just smile, shake hands, eat good food, say good things about CTS and enjoy every minute of it.

Peace and blessings.

*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](mailto: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.