

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Alumni/ae News Online

November, 2006

About Our Alums

Hoge Smith '42 reports that at age 92 his ministry at Sunnyside Presbyterian Retirement Community in Harrisonburg, VA, is largely confined to personal relationships and writing occasional litanies for special services.

Frank Brown '57 was honored by Minnesota Valley Presbytery and the Retired Ministers Association for his contributions to the Presbytery in retirement. The award was presented at the Association for Retired Ministers annual convention in Pittsburg, PA, in June 2006.

Roland P. Perdue III, '59 is now interim pastor of Fifth Avenue church in New York City.

William D. Russell '63 received the Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education at their meeting in Hawaii in October, 2005.

David Long '65 has retired from Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, Richmond Hill, GA.

Sanders Read '65 was honorably retired February 28, 2006, from Shiloh church in Raeford, NC. He has served several churches in South Carolina and also served with the Board of World Missions (PCUSA).

David Tart '65 retired June 11th, from the pastoral ministry after 41 years. He served the last 16 years in the United Methodist Church and also served 21 years in the PCUSA. He is living in Valdosta, GA.

Joe Harvard '66 preached recently at the Duke Chapel in Durham, NC. *The Durham News* reported on Joe's sermon entitled "Jesus Was No Angel." The assistant dean at Duke said the chapel has a rich tradition of inviting outstanding preachers to its pulpit. The same issue of *The*

Durham News reported that **Erskine Clarke '66** would be discussing his prize-winning book "Dwelling Place: A Plantation Epic at First Presbyterian Church.

John Bacot '68 was honorably retired in May 2005, by Coastal Carolina Presbytery and is "Pastor Emeritus" of Beulaville Presbyterian Church, Beulaville, NC.

Dan A. McRight '72 retired as pastoral counselor, Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee in Nashville.

Bill Lancaster '73 was one of the leaders of the Greenville, SC, area mission work of the PCUSA, and among 14 volunteers who traveled to New Orleans' ninth ward in late August, just in time to salvage a disabled house before bulldozers were scheduled to level it. *The Greenville News* reported on this project with a nice article detailing the work they accomplished.

Joan Gray '76, after being elected Moderator of the 217th General Assembly, has accepted the invitation of the Session of First church, Atlanta, to serve as parish associate.

Joanna Adams '79 was named Georgia Woman of the Year by the bipartisan Georgia Commission on Women. She is the first religious leader to be honored since the award's inception in 1996. The award recognizes women of outstanding personal character and excellence.

Bill Hayes '84 has accepted a call to Hopewell church in Florence, SC, effective September, 2006.

David Bush '85 is to be honorably retired December 1st in West Virginia Presbytery. He plans to remain open to interim, special evangelism services, training in active listening skills, training in revitalization and transformation and church consulting in retirement.

Joe Wendorph '86 is pastor of Markham Woods church in Lake Mary, FL.

Jim Burton '87 has a new call to Hamburg church in Hamburg, NY.

Gail Perkins '87 is now Interim Pastor at Grace church in Little Rock, AR.

Steven Haynes '88, a Holocaust expert, and a member of the Religious Studies Department at Rhodes College, led discussions on "Bonhoeffer and the Jews at Luther Seminary and St. John's University, Collegeville.

Paul Kirbas '88 has accepted a call as Pastor of First church, Wheaton, IL.

George Lashley '88 is now pastor at Faith church, Colorado Springs, CO.

Brad Walker '89 was recently installed as the Designated Pastor at Cottage Hill church in Mobile, AL. Brad is currently a CTS D.Min student.

Miki Vanderbilt '89 ('01 D.Min) is now pastor of West Emory church in Knoxville, TN.

David Pearce '91 is now pastor of Austell church, Austell, GA.

Nan Adams '92 is now associate interim at Trinity church in Pensacola, FL.

Catherine Taylor '92 was recently named interim senior minister at First Congregational Church in Ithaca, NY.

Jeff '93 and Kerri '93 Peterson-Davis have accepted calls as co-pastors of Pioneer Memorial Presbyterian Church in Solon, OH.

Jean Rodenbough '93 (D.Min) has just published a book online, *Gather with the Saints*. It is a collection of stories told by a 12-year-old daughter of a Baptist preacher in the town of Wheeler, NC. She tells of strange funerals and deaths and of the eccentric characters in and around her town, and some of her relatives and friends. These are intended as humorous stories

of human nature, but there are a few theological comments and some social criticism imbedded there as well. These are mostly adapted from her own experiences, or those told to her by colleagues and friends. For some info about the book, you can go to this Web site and there will be a brief description of the book there:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/337579>

Steve Arndt '94 is the new pastor at St. Andrew church in Decatur, AL.

Ellen Anderson '95 was ordained October 22 at Oglethorpe church in Atlanta. She is a chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital.

David Cagle '95 received his Doctor of Ministry in preaching from McCormick Seminary in May.

Stacy Rector '96 is now the Interim Executive Director of the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing. She formerly served at Second Presbyterian in Nashville.

Beverly Brigman Thompson '96 has recently published a new book: *A Spiritual Companion to How to Get Along With Your Church*. When churches are in crisis, pastoral leadership is under attack, and pastors and church officials struggle to find a way of better understanding why things happen or don't happen. Thompson's own pastoral experience led her to look beyond the popular "family systems' model to seek something that helps churches grow strong and pastors to become leaders. She found solutions in George B. Thompson, Jr.'s book *How to Get Along with Your Church: Creating Cultural Capital for Doing Ministry*, and was inspired to develop a spiritual guide that strengthens the usefulness and effectiveness of his book. Specifically keyed to the book, her companion provides 100 days of daily meditation and journaling for pastors who are learning-with a culture model-to lead their churches into a new understanding and rediscovery of their corporate calling.

Becky Burton '97 (D.Min. '05) has a new call as Pastor/Head of Staff at Peace Memorial church in Clearwater, FL.

Marianne McMasters Romanat '97, husband Kyle, and big sister Marisa, are proud to have a new baby boy joining the family. Austin Miller Romanat was born Aug. 17, 2006.

Bear Graham '98 has recently been ordained and is now pastor of Good Hope Presbyterian Church in Iva, SC.

Tom Groome '98 is the new pastor at First church, Tupelo, MS.

Jim Welch '98 (D.Min) is a new board member of the Presbyterian Foundation. He is pastor of Christ church in Largo, FL.

Chan Willis '00 and wife Barrie are excited to be grandparents. Son, Chandler and wife Claire have a baby daughter, Evangeline Grace Willis born Sept. 8, 2006.

David Kwon '01 and his wife Hyo Jin are proud parents of a son, Isaiah O. Kwon born August 21, 2006.

Rick Olson '01 is now pastor of Covenant church in Tuscaloosa, AL.

David "Oats" Dault, '02, released a new CD of his original music last spring, received his second masters degree (this time from Vanderbilt, in religious studies), was the July music leader at the Massanetta Springs Presbyterian Youth Conferences in Harrisonburg, VA, and delivered conference papers at SECSOR in Atlanta and the NEXUS Religion and Nation Conference in Knoxville. He continues his teaching duties at Vanderbilt and American Baptist College, and serves as the supply minister at Central Presbyterian Church in Culleoka, TN.

Lisa Eye '02 has a new call as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation at The Presbyterian Church in Danville, KY.

James Gibbs '02 (D.Min) is now Associate Pastor at Hope United Church in St. Catherine, Jamaica.

Susannah Hendy '02 is now pastor of Burnt Presbyterian Church in Winchester, VA.

Teri Peterson '05 has received a call as associate pastor at Ridgefield-Crystal Lake church in Crystal Lake, IL, and was ordained in October.

Clay Thomas '05 has accepted a call as associate pastor of First church, Sarasota, FL.

Lindsay Wade '05 has accepted a call as associate pastor at First church, Shelbyville, TN.

Meg Flannagan '06 has recently accepted a call as associate pastor at First church, Dunedin, FL.

Jerry Long '06 received a call as pastor of First church, Andalusia, AL effective September 1st.

James Rogers '06 was ordained Oct 22 and installed as Associate Pastor for Youth at First Scots Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC.

In Memoriam

Sanford M. Fitzsimmons '84 August 20, 2006

Steve Floeck '99 August 30, 2006

Roy E. Watkins '58 May 21, 2006

Lee Carroll '68 and his wife, Betty, and my wife Kaye and I recently had the opportunity of visiting with Jean McCarter in San Francisco. She expressed her appreciation and thanks for all the notes, cards, emails, phone calls, and support shown in many ways by the Columbia Seminary community of friends she and Neely have had throughout the years. She is doing well, but of course misses greatly that "huge presence" that was Neely. He will always be a presence for those of us who were fortunate enough to have been taught by him.

Request from the Library

ATLAS Subscriber Survey

Any Alum who participated in the ATLAS FOR ALUMS program in conjunction with the John Bulow Campbell Library is asked to respond to this brief and confidential survey before December 31st. Thank you. <http://alumsurvey.atlaonline.com>

Bert's Travels Around The Church

During the last several months I've had the pleasure of visiting **Gary Bullard '85** at the Mt. Pleasant, SC church where he is the head of staff of a fast growing congregation of 3500 members. I've enjoyed lunches and good conversation with **Ken Terrell '71, Donn Wright '65, Charles Heyward '88, John Hinkle '94, and Libba Fairleigh '74**, among many others. I've visited with **Ray Jones '84** at his "new church development", which continues to grow as it has the last several years. Ray has had such good success he's doing consulting all over the country in the area of new church development.

Steve Rhoads '75 and I had a good visit in Berea, KY as I traveled to Stanton, KY for a meeting of Transylvania Presbytery. Thirty-three years ago I left that presbytery and to my amazement there were still a number of the same ministers there. There are quite a few Columbia alums there now. Among several I talked with were **Harry Daniel '66, Jackie Lindberg '97, Rob Blumer '83, Phillip (PJ) Pogue '88, Lisa Eye '02 and Jerry Utt '02**.

The seminary display and I attended a meeting of Cherokee Presbytery at the Mars Hill Church in Acworth, GA where **Bryant Harris '86** is the pastor. The meeting was well moderated by **Ray Jones '84** and again, I was proud to be associated with CTS when one of our '06 graduates, **Mary Ellen Hittel**, did an excellent job presenting herself for ordination. She has recently been ordained and installed as the pastor of the Rockmart, GA Presbyterian Church.

During October **Shannon Ball '05**, our new seminary chaplain, and I accompanied a mini-bus full of students to Columbus, MS, where we enjoyed dinner with folks from all over St. Andrew Presbytery. After dinner the students were taken to various homes by their hosts where they preached the following morning. Among the group were four international students who were

able to see another area of the southeast and to preach as well. We're always appreciative of **Bill Connolly '89**, pastor of the Ripley Presbyterian Church for arranging these visits. This was our fifth year in what has become an annual tradition.

On to St. Augustine where that presbytery met at Memorial church. **Chris Hooker '07** became a candidate that day, as his proud father, Paul, looked on. Paul is the Executive Presbyter of St. Augustine Presbytery. George Stroup made a presentation to the presbytery and, of course, was well received. There are many CTS alums in that presbytery. Among them are **Tom Walker '89, Katie Heard Day '06, Carol DiGiusto '99 and Andrew Kukla '03**. What do the four of them have in common? They are all ordained staff at The Palms Church in Jacksonville Beach and all CTS graduates. If any of you know of other churches that have that many CTS alums on the staff, please let us know. Among those gathered that day was **Jim Weldon '90**, who reported that his new church development in Jacksonville was going great and they're beginning plans for a building.

A week later I attended a meeting of Savannah Presbytery in Eastman, GA, which was well-run by the moderator, **Lois Stroman**, a faithful member of our Board of Trustees. Many of you will remember Lois as the mother of **Vanessa Knight '95**, a well-loved CTS student who died shortly after her graduation. **Carl Schlich '69** is the Executive Presbyter there, and it was a pleasure having lunch with him and his wife, Carol Ann.

Last week I attended a meeting of Foothills Presbytery in Greenville, SC at the Providence church where **Michael Fitze '91** has been the organizing pastor. They are now celebrating their tenth anniversary. **Dan Youngblood '66** was the moderator. There were many alums there. **Annette (Bear) Graham '98** was examined for ordination before a large contingent of her new congregation in Iva, SC. **Ashley Anne Masters '07 and Catherine Neely '08** also came before presbytery and were approved for candidacy. On the way to that Sunday afternoon meeting I stopped off in Anderson to worship at Central Presbyterian Church where **David Bailey '82** is the long-time pastor. The church was packed almost to the point of SRO. The sermon was one of which David's homiletics professors would be proud. The music and worship were quite impressive, and David made it to the presbytery meeting. What a busy day for preachers that day! That evening I stayed at one of my favorite "inns" in SC, the manse in Hodges where I was hosted by my friend and classmate **Bobby Peiphoff '67**. He will be retiring at year's end after over twenty years in that pastorate, and will continue to live close by in Clinton, where he remains a faithful and loyal P.C. alum.

As we approach the holiday season, once again all of us here at CTS wish for you and your families joy, peace and all the blessings that come with the celebration of

the birth of Jesus. And also we wish for you a good, well deserved rest when the season is over.

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.