

Journeying Together

WINTER 2006

Consider

PILGRIMAGE *on* YOUR JOURNEY *of* FAITH



by DENT DAVIS
Dean and Vice President
Lifelong Learning

What separates a *pilgrimage* from a *vacation*? Part of the answer is the intention of the journey. A pilgrim is a person who makes an intentional journey to a site of religious or spiritual significance, with a particular openness to experiencing the sacred dimensions of the site and possible applications to life. A *tourist*, on the other hand, goes just to see places and take pictures.

But many a tourist has become a pilgrim while traveling to places with seemingly little spiritual significance. And many a pilgrim has become a tourist, even at the most sacred of sites. In that sense, any journey—no matter how great or small—has the potential of pilgrimage.

Habits of daily routines can limit what we see. During a pilgrimage, we move beyond the self and our routines into a different space. On pilgrimage we temporarily leave behind things that, in their familiarity, have blocked us from seeing—and we see life afresh.

A journey of depth, pilgrimage is a search for something—perhaps something the pilgrim may not be able to name or even be consciously aware of. Pilgrimage is a journey into the mystery of our own callings—a way to seek answers to some of life's enduring questions of purpose and meaning: Who am I? What matters? What is my gift? What do I need to hear? What on earth am I doing?

In January and May, through a generous grant from the Holy Land

Institute of the CF Foundation, Columbia Theological Seminary will take two groups of 20 mid-career pastors on 12-day pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Called *Journey of Faith*, this pilgrimage project is a wonderful way to learn, by journeying with colleagues to experience historic sites of faith—and by connecting the sites of the Holy Land with the practice and

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PILGRIMAGE
*is an intentional journey of faith.
It involves questions and reflection,
pondered in the midst of
activity and conversation.*

COLUMBIA
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*Continuing Education
Lay Institute of Faith & Life
Christian Spirituality*

Journeying Together

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Journeying Together is a publication of Columbia Theological Seminary's Lifelong Learning Program.

In the world of the twenty-first century, extraordinary demands and challenges face pastors and the church's lay leaders, and their needs are changing rapidly. Committed to providing learning opportunities for all those who minister, Columbia offers its Lifelong Learning Program—a variety of challenging, supportive, and timely experiences intended to strengthen faith, skills, and knowledge over a lifetime of ministry.

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www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/index.asp

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calling of ministry in today's complex world.

In his book *The Art of Pilgrimage*, Phil Cousineau reflects that "pilgrimage is the kind of journeying. . . from mindless to mindful, soulless to soulful travel." One way to make a pilgrimage mindful is to document the experience intentionally, using a journal and a camera, and to reflect on one's observations—individually and in conversation with fellow pilgrims. Times of silence and opportunities for worship and prayer also help one to understand the deeper meanings of the pilgrimage experience.

Journey has long been an important aspect of pilgrimage. Think of Abram's call by God to journey to a new land (Genesis 12); the epic pilgrimage of faith by Moses and the Hebrews during the Exodus; the travels of the three Magi, whom we could view as the first Christian pilgrims; in the second century, pilgrims traveling to Rome, where Peter and Paul were said to have been martyred. In 326, the Emperor Constantine's mother Helena made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Egeria's *Diary of a Pilgrimage* records the pilgrimage of a Spanish woman to the lands of the Bible in the early fifth century.

Pilgrimage need not be confined to faraway places or even sacred sites. Sometimes travel to a sacred site can make the learning more dramatic and memorable, but opportunities to be a pilgrim can happen every day. As author Martin Palmer puts it, "True pilgrimage changes lives, whether they go halfway around the world or out to our own backyards."

The two texts mentioned in this article are being used by *Journey of Faith* participants:

The Art of Pilgrimage by Phil Cousineau (Boston: Conari Press, 1998). A wonderful reflection on the pilgrimage experience from a broad cultural perspective, with many practical suggestions for meaningful travel and learning.

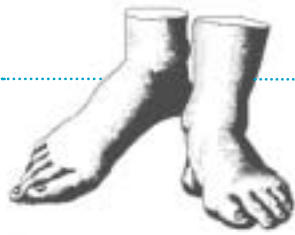
Egeria: Diary of a Pilgrimage edited and translated by George Gingras (New York: The Newman Press, 1970). The diary of a fifth-century Spanish woman who made extensive pilgrimages to the lands of the Bible. Includes her description of the sites and her travel experiences, including worship in the Jerusalem church. It is a remarkable window into the faith of an early Christian pilgrim.

Intentional journeys of faith can happen anywhere and at any time. Potentially every life experience can be a journey of faith. Intention is the key—and the challenge.

For details about the pilgrimage *Journey of Faith*, see the Columbia Seminary Web site: http://www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/continuing_education/pilgrimage.asp

For a list of other Lifelong Learning opportunities at Columbia Seminary, see page 5 or go to <http://www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/calendar/index.asp>

Call for entries: “blessed feet” art



ARTISTS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT WORK to be considered for the juried exhibition “Blessed Feet,” at Columbia Theological Seminary’s Harrington Center, March 13–May 26.

“‘Blessed feet’ is a theme that fits well into this liturgical season of Lent, as we recall Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, in John 13,” says Kim Clayton Richter, interim director of the Lay Institute. “The other scriptural reference that inspires this theme is Isaiah 52:7: ‘How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news...’ Together, these two scriptures beautifully depict the mission of Columbia Theological Seminary, as we prepare men and women to bring the good news of Jesus Christ as they serve God in the world.”

Exhibition judges are seeking works that have visual impact and are spiritually engaging. Entries will be selected based on their artistic integrity and relevance to the theme. “Artists can help us see these passages and this theme of ‘blessed feet’ in compelling ways,” says Richter. “We’re looking for expressions in various media—painting, sculpture, textiles, photography, videography, wood carving, or any other creative, artistic expression reflecting on these passages.”

Entry deadline is March 1. Judges’ decisions will be made by March 15. Final judging may involve looking at original work.

Entries may be submitted electronically or by mail. To submit by mail, send three slides and an artist’s statement to Kim Clayton Richter, Lay Institute, Columbia Theological Seminary, Box 520, Decatur, GA 30031. (Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, if you want your slides to be returned.)

To submit an entry electronically, send the artist’s statement and three images (pdf, jpeg, or tif) to richterk@ctsnet.edu.

Members of the Columbia class of 2004 who are engaged in first-call ministry—chaplains, pastors, associate pastors, campus ministers, validated ministry workers, and those serving in other capacities—are invited to come back to campus March 7-10 for “Learning Together in Ministry.”

“Come gather with your classmates, engage in conversation with faculty, and reflect on issues that arise in those early months after seminary,” says Sarah Erickson, associate director in Lifelong Learning. “And, because of a generous gift from the Blanche Lipscomb Foundation and the ongoing financial support of the Columbia President’s Advisory Council, the only cost to you is your transportation and any activities on your own in the evenings.”

This is the third return gathering of alumni/ae in first-call ministry. Leaders are Dent Davis, Sarah Erickson, and other Columbia faculty and staff.

To apply, send an e-mail with the following information to ericksons@ctsnet.edu.

Your name, church, address, daytime phone, e-mail address, and a brief answer to two questions:

- 1) ***What are some of the most important ministry concerns and needs you have discovered in the time since you graduated from Columbia Seminary?***
- 2) ***Why would you like to participate in this event?***



In March 2005, these members of the classes of 2003 and 2004 were “Learning Together in Ministry”: Barnabas Sprinkle, Eric Dillenbeck, Andy Meyers, Chris Ham, Sarah Erickson, Ken Sikes, Kally Elliott, Jody Moore, Shannon O’Leary, Carol Wade, Jeff Kackley, Wes Brandon.

LEARNING TOGETHER IN MINISTRY

| March 7-10 | CTS Campus

Saints Gather and Find Encouragement to Know and Be Before God



MORE THAN 60 PEOPLE ATTENDED *A Gathering of the Saints*, the tenth anniversary celebration of the Certificate in Spiritual Formation Program, held in the Harrington Center Chapel on All Saints' Day, November 1, 2005. During

the event, keynote speaker Ben Campbell Johnson challenged mainline seminaries to “intentionally design a curriculum so that pastors are encouraged to know God.” Johnson said, “You cannot know yourself in depth without coming to know God . . . We live in a world that’s starving for the experience of God. When we do not offer the authentic, people will find the spurious, the marginal.”

Johnson, who is professor emeritus of Christian spirituality, said that seminaries need to help pastors “focus on being called by God and equipped by God to give our lives if we have to. It’s not about career; it’s about calling. Spirituality is about ‘God in us.’ Ministry is about that God consciousness. We’re bearers of a Presence. We’re discerners of a Presence. We’re living in a world that’s inhabited by God—everything!”

Some of the Certificate program’s 90 graduates were among those who attended the event. Encouraging them, Johnson said, “What’s happened to you is this: You’ve uncovered a thirst you cannot quench, and a hunger you cannot fill. You have been ‘spoiled’ for ordinary religion . . . spoiled for the superficial, the ritualistic that had nothing to do with knowing and being before God, which is what the faith is all about. It’s about God and people, in community in God’s world.”

A Gathering of the Saints included a worship service and the honoring of past and present staff members. In addition, Joanne Astalos, the program’s first graduate, was recognized and Flagg Taylor, the most recent graduate, received his certificate.

“Having Ben Johnson and his wife, Nan, here was a special blessing,” says Chuck Miller, interim director of the program. “The Certificate program is the fruit of Ben’s vision, design, and implementation.”

During a buffet lunch, Columbia Seminary President Laura Mendenhall told the participants, “We give thanks for the new thing God did through Ben Johnson ten years ago with the establishment of a spirituality program at Columbia. We pray that God will continue to do a new thing at Columbia for the spiritual development of God’s saints.”

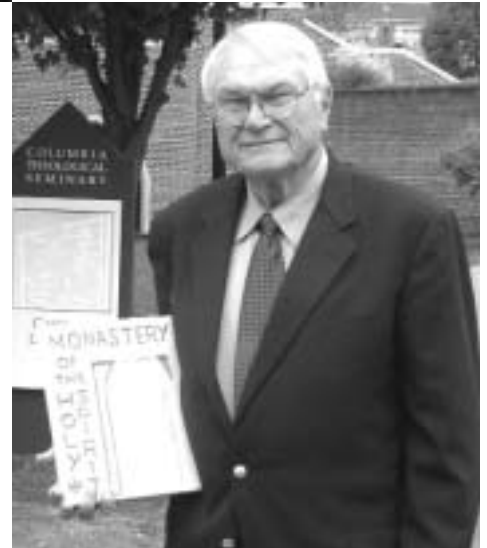
In his closing comments, Johnson addressed the church as a whole: “The agenda of the Christian church in the 21st century has got to be how we connect with Islam. If we don’t get to that, we’ll be failing in our mission. I think the way that happens, can happen, and will happen is through the spirituality of Islam and the depth of Christian spirituality. When we come to that level of experience, we’re not all that different . . . At the deep levels of both, there is a place for unity, there is a place for connectedness.”



Chuck Miller, interim director of the Spirituality Program, with Joanne Astalos, the first recipient of the certification in spiritual formation, and Flagg Taylor, the most recent to earn this distinction.



“A Gathering of the Saints” on November 1 celebrated the tenth anniversary of Columbia’s program for certification in spiritual formation. Keynote speaker Ben Johnson, emeritus professor and program founder, was honored during the celebration.



Lifelong Learning Events Winter – Spring 2006

Most Lifelong Learning programs require or request a \$50 deposit when you register. Ask us about on-campus lodging and meals, generally available at an additional cost (unless otherwise noted). For CTS staff, students, faculty, and spouses, tuition is free for most Lifelong Learning courses (space permitting).

To register events, use the form on page 7.

Or, download a registration form at

www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/calendar/index.asp

For some courses, you may register online. Go to

www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/calendar/index.asp.

Then click on the date of the event.

January 30 – February 1

January Seminars: The Strange New World of the Bible. The Bible is full of things that don't make sense: for example, Jerusalem is destroyed, and Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God in Mark's Gospel; sacred texts that we count on to affirm our own religious identity call us to meet God in the stranger. Explore how we might learn from the Bible and respond as 21st century disciples. Leaders: Walter Brueggemann, Barbara Brown Taylor, David Bartlett. \$240 (includes two lunches)

February 4

Bonhoeffer Birthday Celebration. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Bonhoeffer's birth and share favorite Bonhoeffer stories and writings; hear about current studies about the German Lutheran theologian and martyr. Leader: Kathy Dawson. Free admission, but advance registration required.

February 6, 13, 20, 27

Jeremiah: A Book of Communal Healing (Winter Evening Lay School). How does a community heal from an event of trauma and disaster? The book of Jeremiah provides language to

speak about the unspeakable, leads people through tears, and promises a future of wholeness and new life. Come study passages from Jeremiah and discuss present-day disasters, as we seek our own language and hope for the future. Leader: Kathleen O'Connor. \$60 if paid in advance or \$65 at the door (10% discount when three or more persons from same church enroll together)

February 7 and 9

Prepare/Enrich Program. Training for leaders of the Prepare/Enrich program for premarital and married couples. Topics include communication, conflict resolution, family-of-origin, finances, sexuality, and spiritual beliefs. Six feedback exercises have been created to assist clergy working with couples on improving their relationship. Leader: David Forney. Meets 6:45 P.M. – 9:30 P.M. \$150 (\$75 for CTS students)

February 19 – 24

History of Western Christian Spirituality (Certificate in Spiritual Formation). This course deals with practices of understandings that provided the center of faith and renewal in the life of Christians throughout the centuries. After the early period, we will concentrate on the Western church (Protestant and Roman Catholic). The cultural context of each period and our own present setting will be considered. Leader: Catherine González. Tuition: \$350

March 5-7

The Ministries of Compassion. Co-sponsored by Columbia, Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and Eckerd College. Lay persons and clergy

are invited to deepen their understanding of love and compassion as the foundation of ministry. Held at Eckerd College's Continuing Education Center, in St. Petersburg, FL. Leaders: Barbara Brown Taylor, Thomas G. Long, Beth Luton Cook, Dent C. Davis, Kimberly Long. Program fee: \$300; lodging additional. For information and to register, contact Eckerd College's Center for Spiritual Life at 727-864-7522.

March 7 – 10

Learning Together in Ministry (First/Early Call event for CTS Class of 2004). See the article on page 3 for details.

March 9, 16, 23, 30

The Passion of the Creator: The Seven Wonders of the Cosmos in Scripture (Spring Morning Lay School). Current debates waged by creationists and proponents of intelligent design, against the theory of evolution, miss by a wide mark what the Bible says about creation. Sacrificed in the present melee is the biblical sense of wonder about our world. This course will explore the ways the Old Testament accounts for the origins of the universe and conveys to us how we are to live in God's creation. Leader: Bill Brown. \$60 if paid in advance; \$65 if paid at the door (10% discount when three or more persons from same church enroll together)

March 10-11

Know Where to Turn When the Youth Turn to You. Offered in conjunction with the Youth Leadership Ministry Initiative. Our focus will be on practical pastoral care with youth and families. Leaders: Bill Harkins, Jennifer Williams Wilson, and CTS faculty. \$150 (includes two meals)

March 12 – 17

Introduction to Spiritual Guidance (Certificate in Spiritual Formation). The ancient art of spiritual friendship has been a means of grace for Christians through the centuries. Through lecture, book discussion, and small group sessions this course offers a basic introduction to the many forms of this art. Opportunities to experience one-on-one spiritual guidance will also be provided. Explore the differences between spiritual direction, psychotherapy, and pastoral counseling, along with the practical aspects of individual and small group guidance. We will also examine the place of spiritual friendship/guidance in the life of the church and in pastoral practice. Leader: Joan Gray. Tuition: \$350

March 28 – 29

Leadership in Ministry: Ethical Issues in Congregational Leadership. Why aren't there easier answers to the ethical issues faced by congregational leaders? Are leaders willing to confront especially difficult problems? Are congregations willing? Might spending less time on issues and more time on moral development change the way leaders lead and congregations congregate? Leaders: Mark Douglas, a panel of experienced church leaders, and others. \$165 (includes two lunches)

March 26 – 30

Contemplative Retreat for Women. This week offers what many women long for: rest, renewal, and quiet refreshment; spiritual discipline and inspiration; relaxation in a beautiful outdoor setting; and the opportunity to restore a sense of inner peace

and serenity in a quiet and unhurried atmosphere. At Benedictine Spirituality and Conference Center, Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, AL. Leader: Carol Byrd. \$250 (includes housing and meals)

April 2 – 7

God's Time, Our Time: The Kingdom of God in the Worshiping Community (Certificate in Spiritual Formation). Scripture gives us a vision of the world as God meant it to be: where love and justice and peace reign, and all creation is made complete. When Christians gather to worship, we act out this vision of the Kingdom of heaven. In Word, water, bread and wine—and in prayer and song—we remember the vision and anticipate its fulfillment, even while Christ himself is made present in our midst. When we sing and pray, splash the water and break the bread, we discover who we are as the church and where God is leading us to act out the Kingdom in the world. In this course, held at the Calvin Center, Hampton, GA, participants will consider the witness of scripture and the church's practices of baptism, Eucharist, and prayer, exploring what it means to lean into the coming realm of God. Leader: Kim Long. Tuition: \$350

April 3 – 8

Presbyterian Heritage Tour. This tour will focus on Presbyterianism in the lowcountry and upcountry areas of Georgia and South Carolina. Erskine Clarke, professor of American religious history, will provide background and stories along the way. Tour package: \$895 per person (double occupancy); \$1,194 (single occupancy). Call 404-687-4587 to see if space is available.

April 17 – 19

Always Being Reformed: Faith for a Fragmented World (Colloquium 2006) Commemorating Shirley C. Guthrie, late CTS professor emeritus of systematic theology. Participants are encouraged to read the book *Always Being Reformed: Faith for a Fragmented World* prior to the event. This event is inspired by Shirley Guthrie's teaching ministry, which he devoted to making Reformed theology accessible to all. Keynote speakers: George Stroup, Daniel Migliore, Amy Plantinga Pauw. Seminar leaders: Martha Moore Keish, Erskine Clarke, Charlie Raynal, Cam Murchison. \$75 (includes Monday dinner and Tuesday lunch)

April 23 – 28

Contemplative Retreat For Men. At the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, near Conyers, GA. Leader: David Guthrie, director of the Southern Province Board of Evangelism and Home Mission, Winston-Salem, NC. \$330 (includes meals and housing)

April 23 – 28

Immersion Experience: An Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life (Certificate in Spiritual Formation). During this feast for the soul, explore the origins of the Christian spiritual tradition. Study the formative elements of Old Testament, New Testament, Monastic, and Reformed spirituality. Engage in times of personal reflection through guided meditative journaling, and exploring one's own unique journey with the living God. There are also communal, small group, and practical dimensions. This course is the starting point for the Certificate in Spiritual Formation. Occasional students are welcome. Leaders: CTS faculty. Tuition: \$400

May 1 – 5

Guthrie Scholars Program. For members of CTS Class of 1984. This is a learning opportunity offered twice a year on an application basis. Guthrie Scholars are invited to the campus to pursue a topic of their choice that engages a pressing issue of the church from a Reformed perspective. The seminary covers all costs except travel. For more information, visit http://www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/continuing_education/guthrie_scholars.asp



S³ Program Welcomes New Groups

“Stories from A Trout Stream,” “Baptism and Transformation,” “Equipping the Saints,” and “the12women” are a few of the project names for pastors involved in a peer-group program designed to sustain pastoral excellence. Called “Sabbath, Study and Service” (informally, “S³”), this project is funded by the Lilly Endowment as part of its Sustaining Pastoral Excellence initiative.

“Self-directed peer group learning is obviously attractive to many pastors who want to find ways to learn in ways that work for them,” says Dent Davis, dean and vice president of Lifelong Learning and S³ Project Director. “In three years we’ve grown from eight groups totaling 50 people to 25 groups with 170 people.

May 5 – 6

The Big Three: Worship, Mission, and Fellowship. Offered in conjunction with the Youth Leadership Ministry Initiative. Leaders: Allison Per-Lee, Troy Bronsink, Dianne Wright, Jennifer Williams Wilson. \$150 (includes two meals)

We’re now in the third cycle of our project and have accepted nine new groups. They range in size from four to twelve persons and are scattered from the Southeast to the Pacific Northwest and Canada.” (For names of new participants in S³, see the current issue of the seminary’s quarterly publication, *Vantage*, available online at <http://www.ctsnet.edu/news/vantage/index.asp>.)

The S³ project will continue through at least one more project cycle, with applications for the 2006 cohort being accepted through April 21, 2006. For more information, contact Project Coordinator/Associate Director of Lifelong Learning Sarah Erickson. E-mail ericksons@ctsnet.edu, or call 404-687-4526.

Program details and an application are also available on Columbia’s Web site at http://www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/continuing_education/s3.asp.

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIFELONG LEARNING REGISTRATION FORM

Please indicate Lifelong Learning department:

- Continuing Education Lay Institute Christian Spirituality Program

Preferred Title: Ms. Rev. Dr. Mr.

Name _____

Job Title _____

Address _____ Home Office

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

E-mail _____

Church Membership _____

Event Title _____ Dates _____

Tuition \$ _____ Location _____

Event Title _____ Dates _____

Tuition \$ _____ Location _____

Optional meal costs (if applicable) \$ _____

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Seminary Housing*

\$26 per person, per night double occupancy. Single room, \$40 per night.

____ Person(s) Arrival date _____ Departure date _____

- Double room Single room (if available) M F

Roommate Preference _____

Special Needs _____

Meals in the seminary refectory are charged per item. Costs average \$16 per day for three meals. Cancellation Policy: If you must cancel your housing reservation, please notify Miguel Chavez at 404-687-4510 at least 48 hours before your scheduled arrival to avoid a one-night penalty charge.

* Off-campus housing information: 404-687-4587.

Return to: Columbia Theological Seminary
Lifelong Learning
P.O. Box 520, Decatur, GA 30031
Fax: 404-687-4591

ALWAYS BEING REFORMED: FAITH FOR A FRAGMENTED WORLD

“ALWAYS BEING REFORMED: FAITH FOR A FRAGMENTED WORLD” is the theme of COLLOQUIUM 2006, April 17-19. This event will celebrate the life and ministry of Shirley C. Guthrie, Columbia’s professor emeritus of systematic theology, who died in October 2004. COLLOQUIUM will be shaped around the five chapters of one of Guthrie’s books, *Always Being Reformed: Faith for a Fragmented World*. Participants are encouraged to read the book in advance.

The conference features three prominent Reformed theologians: Daniel Migliore, Charles Hodge Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary; Amy Plantinga Pauw, Henry P. Mobley Professor of Doctrinal

Theology at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and George W. Stroup, J. B. Green Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary. Afternoon seminars will be led by Columbia faculty members Martha Moore-Keish, Erskine Clarke, Charles Raynal, and Cam Murchison.

On Monday evening, there will be an opening devotional and plenary session. Tuesday will feature a plenary session, panel discussion, afternoon seminars and morning worship service that will pay tribute to Shirley Guthrie. Wednesday morning will be a final plenary session and closing worship led by Scott Black Johnston, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian

Church, in Atlanta. Johnston, who was Guthrie’s pastor, formerly served as Jean Brown Associate Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.



Guthrie served on the faculty from 1958 to 1997 and remained actively engaged in teaching at the seminary and in the church until his death. Much of Guthrie’s ministry was devoted to making Reformed theology accessible to everyone in the church.

The \$75 program fee includes Monday dinner and Tuesday lunch. For details and to register, go to www.ctsnet.edu and see **What’s New**.

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