

Journeying Together

WINTER 2005



Lifelong Learning staff, January 2005. *Top (l to r): Azizi Awolana, administrative assistant; Dent Davis, dean and vice president; Rick Dietrich, director of the Lay Institute of Faith and Life. Middle (l to r): Sarah Erickson, associate director, Continuing Education; Liz Forney, associate director, Spirituality; Chuck Miller, interim director of Spirituality. Bottom (l to r): Linda Morningstar, associate director, Lay Institute of Faith and Life; Pat Roper, registrar; Stan Wood, director of New Church Development.*

Together, Learning to Do Ministry

by DENT DAVIS, Dean and Vice President of Lifelong Learning

During recent months I have been asked often, “What is lifelong learning?” Lifelong learning has a long history, although much of it predates the use of the term itself. The Hebrew people practiced lifelong learning in the exodus, in the wilderness, and in the promised land, attending to God’s guidance, to their leaders, to their own experiences. The followers of Jesus practiced lifelong learning after his death, as they learned how to be disciples. This kind of learning formed the early church.

It is the kind of learning people in ministry have done for a long time—pastors who prepare weekly sermons, lay leaders who solve problems, church members who discern their call to ministry, and congregations who determine their mission in the community. In a sense, lifelong learning has always been, yet the use of the term itself is relatively recent, a part of the renewed attention given to adult learning at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st centuries.

In modern times, the first use of the term “lifelong learning” occurred in Great Britain, when Basil Yeaxlee published his book *Lifelong Education* in 1929. Yeaxlee held a number of posts during his long career, but one of the most important was General Secretary of the National Council of YMCAs in England after WWI. During that time of economic uncertainty, political upheaval, and cultural change, Yeaxlee and others sought to support people as they literally learned a new way of life, by bringing them together to explore issues of faith, politics, economics, and life, learning to apply knowledge and skills in a rapidly changing world.

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COLUMBIA
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LIFELONG LEARNING

*Continuing Education
Lay Institute of Faith & Life
Spirituality
New Church Development*

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Today's world is no less challenging. Consider our increasing global awareness, growing diversity in local communities, religious pluralism, unprecedented technological changes, and the pervasive portrayal of violence and conflict in mass media.

For many pastors and church leaders today, the knowledge they gained through their formal schooling, while a strong foundation, is often inadequate for addressing these challenges. Yet the demands of everyday life and ministry often preclude the possibility of returning to school. Unlike the formal education that prepares people for ministry, lifelong learning is an integral part of ministry because it is ongoing, occurring as individuals sense a need to expand their perspective or gain new skills.

Pastors, educators, theological students, and lay leaders are engaged today in an array of learning experiences that may include formal courses, but also extend far beyond any conventional classroom. The term lifelong learning captures this experience of learning that deepens one's knowledge and skills for the practice of ministry even in the midst of that practice.

Columbia Seminary has a tradition of providing support for lifelong learning through the Lay Institute of Faith and Life and its programs in Christian Spirituality, Continuing Education, and New Church Development. These programs respond to the needs of busy people through a variety of offerings that share

the values of hospitality, creativity, flexibility, and an awareness of the preciousness of time.

But non-credit programs are facing new challenges in many settings. Lifelong Learning at Columbia Seminary was born out of one of these challenges—how to be the best possible steward of precious resources. Re-organizing to use resources more effectively, while not easy, has provided an opportunity to bring together a wealth of experience, commitment, and creativity in new ways that hold promise of being even

...Lifelong learning is an integral part of ministry because it is ongoing, occurring as individuals sense a need to expand their perspective or gain new skills.

more effective in meeting the needs of pastors and laity. Lifelong learning is the process of becoming aware of knowledge and skills we have gained from life experience, from study of scripture and traditions of faith, and from others, and through a process of intentional reflection and activity,

applying that knowledge to the changing contexts of life in order to be more faithful and effective in ministry.

We are not experts in this type of learning. In a world of rapid change, there are no experts. There are only learners. At our best we serve as midwives for learning, helping ourselves and others to be more intentional, to identify additional resources, and to address complex needs collaboratively in creative ways we might not be able to discover on our own.

Join us on this journey. Call, e-mail, visit Columbia. Participate in one of our events. Bring your questions, your ideas, your issues. Join us in a conversation about things that really matter as we learn together what it means to do ministry in the 21st century. ♦

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 today's 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.

LIFELONG LEARNING STAFF

DENT DAVIS, dean and vice president

AZIZI AWOLANA, administrative assistant

PAT ROPER, registrar



Christian Spirituality

CHUCK MILLER, interim director

LIZ FORNEY, associate director



Continuing Education

SARAH ERICKSON, associate director



Lay Institute of Faith and Life

RICK DIETRICH, director

LINDA MORNINGSTAR, associate director



New Church Development

STAN WOOD, director

For more information, call 404-687-4587 or e-mail AwolanaA@CTSnet.edu.

www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/index.asp

Lifelong Learning Events Winter 2005

January 24-25

January Seminars *Ponder Anew . . . What the Almighty Can Do! Sonograms of the Future, featuring Leonard Sweet.* If part of spiritual illiteracy is the inability to read the handwriting on the wall, how can church leaders better read the “signs of the times,” and what these “signs” might reveal about being and doing church in the 21st century? \$240 (includes lunch each day).

January 25

“Forgive Us Our Debts”: Reflecting on the Ethics of Borrowing and Lending. When we are borrowing—or lending—how should our ethics come into play? One-evening seminar led by Cam Murchison and Mark Cole, co-hosted with the Southern Institute for Business and Professional Ethics. Admission is free, but space is limited.

January 27-30

Certificate in Spiritual Formation: Weekend Immersion. *An Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life.* Explore the origins of the Christian Spiritual Tradition. Study the formative elements of biblical, monastic, and Reformed spirituality. Take time for personal reflection, exploring your unique journey with God. This course is the starting place for the Certificate in Spiritual Formation. Occasional students are welcome. Leaders: John Kloepfer, Liz Forney. \$300.

February 7, 14, 21, 28

Winter Evening Lay School. Learn how the Psalms can help move us toward wholeness; read science fiction stories that look at ultimate beginnings and endings; or see how religion and science can talk together about human nature. Leaders: Bill Brown, Mark Douglas, Chris Depree, Graham Walker. (Psalms course meets February 7, 14, 28, March 7) \$55 in advance or \$60 at the door.

February 4-5

Just Peace in the Holy Land: In Word and Deed. Sponsored by Friends of Sabeel North America, which seeks to promote understanding and support for principles of a just peace between Palestinians and Israelis. Leaders: Naim Ateek and Jeff Halper. \$40 (includes Saturday lunch); \$20 (Friday evening only).

February 10-13

Certificate in Spiritual Formation: *Henri Nouwen: Reformation of the Heart.* Course based on the life and writings of Henri J. M. Nouwen, led by his student and friend, Chris Glaser. \$225.

February 13-18

Certificate in Spiritual Formation: *The Church Comes Alive: Missional Spirituality.* Missional Spirituality is moving from an inward way of “doing” church to an outward way of “being” in Christ. Explore joining God in the world where God is already actively freeing people from what binds them. Leader: Betty Meadows. \$300.

February 22

Conversation with John Blake. Blake is an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* religion writer and author of *Children of the Movement*, a new book on the children of the first generation of civil rights leaders. Free.

February 27 - March 3

Contemplative Retreat for Women. Find rest, renewal, and quiet refreshment; spiritual discipline and inspiration; relaxation in a beautiful outdoor setting; the opportunity to restore a sense of inner peace and serenity in a quiet and unhurried atmosphere. At the Benedictine Spirituality and Conference Center, Cullman, AL. Leader: Carol Byrd. \$250 (includes housing and meals).

To register, see form on page 5, or contact Pat Roper, 404-687-4587, email RoperP@CTSnet.edu. ◆



Henri Nouwen: Reformation of the Heart, February 10-13

Writer and retreat leader Chris Glaser comes to Columbia's campus next month to lead a course based on the work of his teacher and friend,



Henri Nouwen. After graduating from Yale Divinity School in 1977, Glaser served as Director of Lazarus Project, a ministry of reconciliation between the church and the lesbian and gay community in

Los Angeles, funded by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Glaser is the author of numerous books including *Henri's Mantle: 100 Meditations on Nouwen's Legacy*. “While many of us want to reform society and the church,” Glaser has written, “we need to note that reformation begins with our own hearts through spiritual formation. We need to hear ‘the inner voice of love’ so that we may be ‘wounded healers’ as ministers, ministry defined as the vocation of every Christian.” ◆



Winter Lay School, February 2005

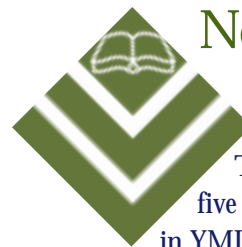
Courses on Psalms, Science and Religion,
Church and Society

The Psalms: A Hymnbook for Wholeness. With Bill Brown, professor of Old Testament at Columbia, take a look at how Scripture can help move us toward both human wholeness and the wholeness of creation. “The Psalms,” says Brown, “give voice to human suffering and pain as well as to human joy and praise of God. We’ll look at how the full range of Psalms—from lament to praise—address the problem of pain and cultivate visions of wholeness. And we’ll explore how the Psalms arise out of particular situations, but—because they speak to our deepest concerns—remain relevant to our contemporary contexts.”

Alphas & Omegas: A Conversation with Science and Religion. Join Mark Douglas, Columbia’s assistant professor of ethics, and Chris DePree, associate professor of physics and astronomy at Agnes Scott College, to read science fiction stories that imagine ultimate origins and endings. Douglas says, “Science and religion often butt heads about how the universe began and how it will end—and why. Reading science fiction, we may see how science and religion can look together at these ideas.”

Human Becoming: Religion & Science Look at Human Nature. Can Genesis and evolution be reconciled? With Graham Walker, associate professor of theology at Mercer University’s McAfee School of Theology, consider questions about religion and science, particularly with regard to the creation story and what it says about us as human beings. Walker says, “Some of the ideas we’ll explore in this course include how the Old and New Testaments differ in their perspectives about how humans are in the image of God, the limitations of both biblical and scientific certainty, and issues of individuality and human community.”

Classes meet 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. on the following Mondays: February 7, 14, 21, and 28 (except the Psalms course, which meets February 7, 14, 28, and March 7). \$55 in advance (\$60 at the door). For more information or to register, contact the Lay Institute of Faith and Life. Phone 404-687-4577. Fax 404-687-4591. E-mail LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu. ◆



New Program Supports Excellence in Youth Ministry

The first weekend in December, ten youth directors from five states came to Columbia’s campus as the first participants in YMLI, the Youth Ministry Leadership Initiative. Designed for laypersons and pastors serving in youth ministry, the YMLI curriculum—eight weekend courses offered over a two-year period—covers topics such as program planning, spirituality, theology, biblical studies, church polity, and youth development.

Rodger Nishioka and Jennifer Williams Wilson led the inaugural retreat, “Discerning Your Call to Youth Ministry.” Nishioka is assistant professor of Christian education at Columbia and a nationally recognized leader in youth and young adult ministry. Wilson, who received her MATS from CTS in 2002, is director of youth ministry for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and an experienced retreat and workshop leader. Leading subsequent courses will be Walter Brueggemann, internationally acclaimed Old Testament scholar and author, and professor emeritus at Columbia; Martha Moore-Keish, assistant professor of theology; and Margaret Aymer, assistant professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. Christian educators and pastors experienced in youth ministry will also serve as facilitators.

Those who complete all eight YMLI sessions will receive a Certificate in Youth Ministry, but enrollment is open to anyone interested in taking one or more of the sessions without completing the certificate. The fee for each weekend session is \$150 and includes two meals. All courses are held on the Columbia Theological Seminary campus in Decatur. Housing is also available on campus for an additional cost.

For more information and downloadable registration forms, see the seminary or presbytery Web sites: www.ctsnet.edu or www.presbyteryofgreateratl.org. Or, call Jennifer Williams Wilson (404-898-0711, ext. 37) or Sarah F. Erickson, associate director for Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary (404-687-4526). ◆

YMLI Course Schedule

Programming with a Plan: Intentional Youth Ministry	March 11-12, 2005
Soul-Tending: Finding Spirituality in Your Ministry	May 6-7, 2005
Because the Bible Tells Me So: Putting the Bible in Bible Study	August 26-27, 2005
Beginning Retreat: Discerning Your Call to Youth Ministry	October 28-30, 2005
How Presbyterians Talk About God: Theology and Polity	December 2-3, 2005

Charles D. Miller

Appointed Interim Director of Spirituality Program

leave the seminary at the end of 2004 for a full-time ministry of congregational consultation, retreat leadership, and spiritual direction.

Announcing the appointment to the seminary community in December, Dent Davis, dean and vice president of Lifelong Learning, said, "Chuck brings a rich variety of talents and leadership skills to this work. His deep commitment to spiritual formation in his own life, extensive experience as a graduate of our Certificate in Spiritual Formation program, and many years of

A Message from Chuck Miller
I am honored to be chosen to follow in the footsteps of my mentors, Ben Johnson and Julie Johnson. Their vision conceived the Spirituality and Certificate in Spiritual Formation programs. Their creative gifts, commitment, and hard work gave birth to and nurtured both programs. To use Paul's imagery, it is my hope and prayer that I can continue to water the seeds they have planted and cultivated in so many of us, seeds which God is able to bring to fruition.
I'm looking forward to working closely with the Lifelong Learning Program staff. There are challenges associated with maintaining what is uniquely special, life-giving, and spiritually satisfying about the Spirituality and Certificate in Spirituality programs as they become a full-fledged partner in the seminary's emphasis on lifelong learning. To that end, I covet your comments, suggestions, your presence at our courses, and, of course, your prayers.

Charles Dudley "Chuck" Miller has been appointed interim director of Columbia's Spirituality Program. He began work on January 3, 2005, succeeding Julie Johnson, who announced last fall that she would

service as a pastor will be tremendous assets as Columbia's Spirituality program moves through this time of transition. Obviously, because of our commitment to the program, we want to have strong, effective leadership during this transition period. We give thanks that God has called Chuck to this role."

The Rev. Dr. Miller is an ordained minister in the PC(USA) and has served for 25 years as a pastor in small and medium-size congregations. Following completion of Columbia's certification program in spirituality, he has maintained close ties to that program, serving as a course facilitator, reader, and member of the Discernment Council.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska, he served for four years as a personnel officer with the U.S. Air Force. After completing military service, he worked as a regional office manager in the insurance industry, then entered Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, where he

earned the M.Div. degree. He also completed the D.Min. degree at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Before coming to Columbia, he was pastor of Suffolk (VA) Presbyterian Church, and had served churches in West Virginia, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Carolina, and as a chaplain in the U.S. Army Reserve. ◆

COLUMBIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIFELONG LEARNING REGISTRATION FORM

Please indicate Lifelong Learning department:

- Continuing Education (404-687-4562)
- Lay Institute (404-687-4577)
- New Church Development (404-687-4585)
- Spirituality Program (404-687-4587)

Preferred Title: Ms. Rev. Dr. Mr.

Name _____

Job Title _____ Home

Address _____ Office

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

E-mail _____

Church Membership _____

Event Title _____ Dates _____

Tuition \$ _____ Location _____

Event Title _____ Dates _____

Tuition \$ _____ Location _____

Make checks payable to **Columbia Theological Seminary.**

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Name (as appears on card) _____

Full billing address _____

Credit card number _____

Expiration date _____ Amount \$ _____

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.

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



The Civil Rights Movement, Its Legacy and Ongoing Influence

Join Atlanta writer John Blake in a conversation about his book *Children of the Movement*, Thursday, February 22, 7:30 – 9:00 P.M. in the Harrington Center, on the seminary campus.



For the book, Blake talked with sons and daughters of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Andrew Young, Julian Bond, Stokely Carmichael, and George Wallace among others. Their stories provide a different look into the civil rights movement, its legacy and ongoing influence.

In the February 22 conversation, Blake will focus on religious issues, and the influence of the church and faith in a more general sense on the movement and its children. For the past several years, he has covered religion for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He is a member of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church, Decatur, GA. *Children of the Movement* is published by Chicago Review Press.

Admission is free, but please register by calling 404-687-4577 or e-mail LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu. ♦

S³ Applications Due April 22

Pastors' Program is Flourishing at CTS

In less than two years, Columbia's S³ project has blossomed to include 100 pastors from 17 states, representing 20 denominations. Funded with a \$1.3 million grant from the Lilly Endowment's Sustaining Pastoral Excellence initiative, Columbia's S³ project offers opportunities for pastors of all denominations, working in peer learning groups, to develop models for sustaining excellence in the practice of ministry.

For the two-year program, participants receive approximately \$1,000 each per year to fund self-directed group work that focuses on aspects of Sabbath, study, and service. In addition participants may receive up to \$300 in need-based aid for travel to the program orientation and subsequent annual meetings, held each August.

For more information, see Columbia Seminary's Web site: www.CTSnet.edu. Click on Lifelong Learning, then Continuing Education programs. Or contact Sarah Erickson, associate director for Lifelong Learning and S³ project coordinator, at 404-687-4526, or EricksonS@CTSnet.edu. ♦

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<http://www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/calendar/index.asp>.