

VANTAGE

WINTER 2006

PREPARING LEADERS

with

RESILIENCE AND IMAGINATION

FOR CHRIST'S CHURCH

FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

COLUMBIA
THEOLOGICAL
Seminary



President Laura Mendenhall and convocation preacher William C. Pender '80 greet new students after the September 8 service at Columbia Presbyterian Church.

Pender's sermon title was "Outside Words . . . Inside Words," based on Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees and is senior pastor of Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC.

The Word is Very Near

DEAR FRIENDS,

Have you ever thought about where pastors come from? Where do these men and women come from who baptize us in Christ's name, preach God's Word to us, marry us, pray to God with us when we're afraid and when we're sick, help us find God's comfort when we suffer unspeakable loss? When we die, where do these people come from who help those who love us to know life beyond death? Where do we get these people who start new churches and breathe new life into those that are failing? Where do we get pastors whose wisdom and faith informs public policy, who prick our consciences, calling us to be better people than we might be otherwise? Where do these people come from who lead Christ's church?

In Acts 9, we read the story of Paul, one of the primary leaders in the early church. You remember that Paul's ministry was his second career: as the chapter opens, he is still Saul and definitely *not* a leader of Christians. Instead, he is a leading contender for "best persecutor of Christians."

Then Saul has the original road-to-Damascus experience. On that dusty road, *the word was very near to him* (Deuteronomy 30:11-14), yet the immediate result of God's call to Saul is that he goes blind and loses his appetite. It is not until the disciple Ananias comes to him that Saul's eyes are opened and he is filled with the Holy Spirit. Only then does he understand God's Word and become a leader of Christ's church.

I have wondered, what if Ananias had not gone to Saul? What if Ananias let his own fears and concerns about Saul keep him from believing that God could ever use someone like this? I imagine that blind Saul would have spent the rest of his life stumbling around Damascus, raving about the great light he'd seen on the road and the voice calling to him. Saul never would have

understood the call to become a *leader* of the disciples of Jesus the Christ, and never would have stepped out to start new churches among Gentiles as well as Jews. Without Ananias to help Saul discern his call, we would not have Paul's New Testament letters that continue to point us to Jesus Christ, the head of the church.

The church has always looked to people like Ananias to help others hear God's Word to them. In fact, our faith ancestors in the Reformed tradition, among them John Calvin, placed emphasis on the public rather than the private, inward call. They knew, as we know, that none of us can see well enough to imagine God's call to us on our own: sometimes it takes a voice from outside to call attention to and then trust the *word that is very near*.

In identifying God's call for another, we extend the invitation to consider life as an offering to God. And just as we present one another for baptism, so we lift up one another through despair and hope, faith and love until each one of us finds our place on the path unwinding.

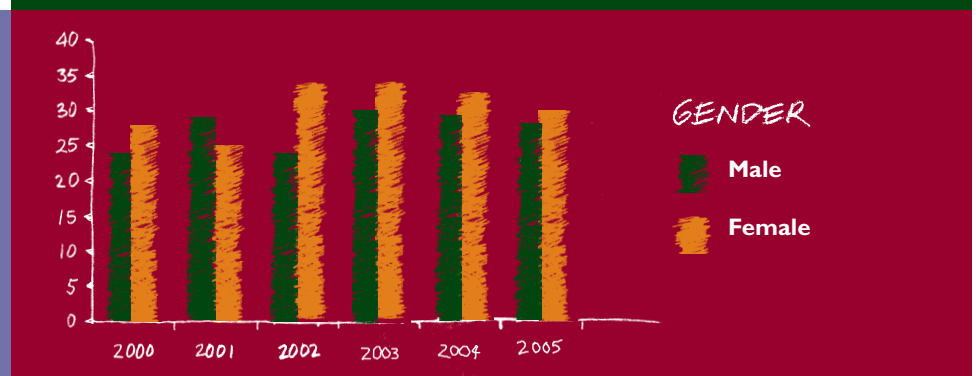
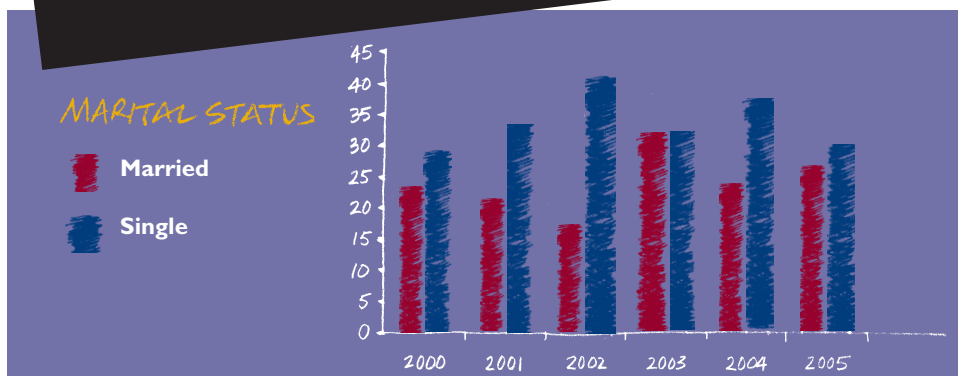
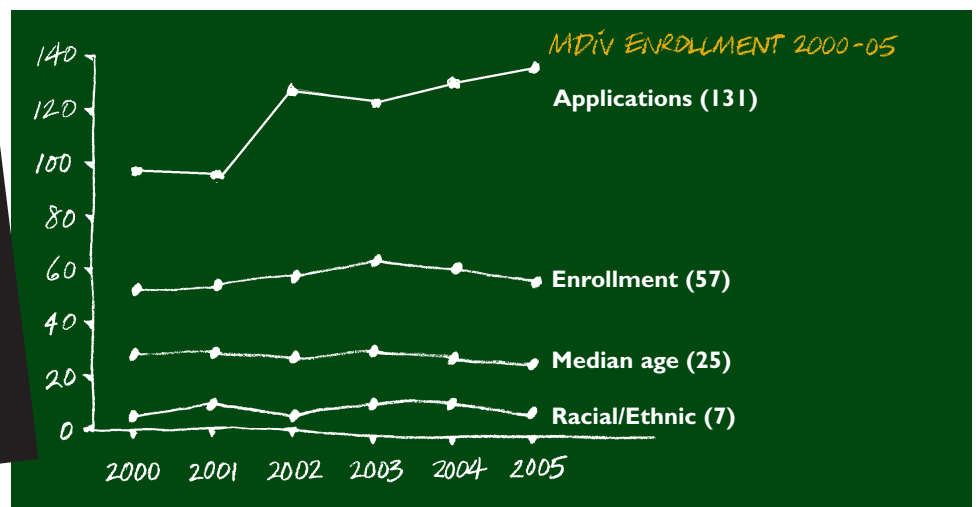
Many who are pastors now, including myself, know they would not be serving Christ's ministry as a pastor were it not for the support of those who help identify their gifts for leadership and who encourage them along the way. I pray that God will use *you* to call forth gifts from one another that Christ's Kingdom may come on earth as it is in Heaven.

In identifying God's call for another, we extend the invitation to consider life as an offering to God.

Sincerely,
LAURA MENDENHALL

Each September, the Office of Admissions releases a five-year enrollment report comparing data on entering students. For the Master of Divinity program, here's the picture at the start of Columbia's 178th year. What does it mean?

- **Applications** A steady climb in numbers has been attributed to several initiatives working throughout the church to identify candidates for seminary—and to enthusiastic word-of-mouth recruiting by current students.
- **Enrollment** This year, enrollment was capped to balance faculty teaching loads, availability of classroom space, student housing, and the financial aid budget.
- **Median age** A slightly lower median age continues a trend seen for several years throughout PC(USA) seminaries.
- **Racial/ethnic diversity** Creating a diverse student body continues to be a challenge.
- **Gender** The trend appears to be toward a balanced mix of women and men in the MDiv program.
- **Marital status** Single students continue to outnumber those who are married.





John E. White Named Dean of Students, VP for Student Services

John E. White has been named dean of students and vice president of student services at Columbia Theological Seminary. His appointment was approved by the Board of Trustees on October 4. He will begin work on January 2, 2006, overseeing Columbia's student services, admissions, and financial aid programs.

White is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and comes to Columbia from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he has been dean of students for the past five years. He also served as Pittsburgh's director of admissions from 1980 to 1988. From 1988 to 1992, he was pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, in St. Petersburg, FL. From 1992 until he became dean at Pittsburgh, he was pastor of Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church, in Princeton, NJ. During this time, he was an instructor in ministerial studies and served as a field education supervisor for Princeton Theological Seminary.

White has long been involved in the larger church. During his time as a pastor in Florida, he was elected Moderator of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, where he also served on the Committee on Ministry. He served on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry in two presbyteries, and on three occasions was a commissioner to the General Assembly. Additionally, for three years he served as president of the ecumenical and interfaith ministry of the Princeton Clergy Association.

White is a graduate of Geneva College, in Beaver Falls, PA, and received the Master of Divinity degree from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he is now a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry degree. His wife, Alicia, is a Presbyterian elder and is employed by Bank of America.

Columbia's president, Laura Mendenhall, says, "We are grateful that John White has accepted a call to continue his ministry in theological education at Columbia. His years of experience as an administrator in our sister seminary and as a pastor in congregations will strengthen our ability to fulfill the mission of Columbia Theological Seminary, preparing pastors and leaders for Christ's ministry today and tomorrow. We are thankful for the particular gifts John and Alicia bring to our community at this time. May God bless their leadership among us." ▣

5 GREAT LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

no. 1

JANUARY 26 — 29, 2006

A FEAST FOR THE SOUL

Certificate in Spiritual Formation

Immersion Experience

with John Kloepfer and Chuck Miller

— more information on page 14 —



Shaping Policy and Following First

by John A. Clark

Harvey Newman is director of Columbia's Faith And The City (FATC) program. He says, "At Columbia, the cultivation of public leadership is a process distributed throughout courses and extracurricular activities available to students, faculty, and staff. The task isn't compartmentalized within a single course or field within the seminary, but is presented in an array of mutually reinforcing activities." In one particular course, *Pastor as Public Leader*, students explore a variety of approaches to public leadership in relation to their roles as ministers. The final course project requires students to apply



some of the leadership strategies learned in the classroom to real public issues in communities where the students are serving churches.

Newman is a contributor to a new book, *Alligators in the Swamp: Power, Ministry and Leadership*. In his chapter, "Alligators in the Regime," he attempts to help pastors understand decision-making within the local community and how as congregational leaders they can have an effect on the making of public policy.

He begins with the assumption that "each Christian should be involved in political action with the objective of bettering social life through legal and institutional means." But beyond this, he says, "churches and individuals should encourage civil discourse for reconciliation and learning among disparate interest groups."

Alligators in the Swamp is available through the seminary's bookstore. See the order form on page 15.

Marcia Riggs is the J. Erskine Love Professor of Christian Ethics. In a recent conversation about her seminar course, *Ethical Leadership*, she mentions two traditional concepts of leadership theory. "Trait theory," she says, "posits that leaders are born with certain character traits that make them effective leaders. Then there is the 'skills' approach, which says that you can nurture and instruct a person to become competent in a variety of leadership skills."



But then Riggs adds a question to the mix: "When we talk about ethical leadership in particular, do we speak in terms of what principles guide a good leader—or do we look more at the character of a good leader?"

She continues, mentioning other leadership paradigms, "In the field of leadership studies, the term 'servant leadership' originated with Robert Greenleaf, who developed it during his years with AT&T. But he often refers to his Quaker origins in talking about the theory. As Christians, we quite naturally bring our biblical understanding of servant leadership to that discussion. Jesus washing the disciples' feet is an image that might come to mind.

"Transformational leadership theory was created by James Macgregor Burns, a political sociologist who insisted there had to be a better way to talk about leadership. Again this intersects with our conversation in the seminary setting especially where we talk about charisma in leadership. Then our conversations stress how leadership is a gift and a call from God.

continued on page 4

IN MARCH 2006, COLUMBIA'S FACULTY WILL BEGIN PUBLISHING A JOURNAL intended primarily for church members. To be published twice a year and only online, @ this point will be available subscription-free at www.atthispoint.net. Each issue will focus on a particular topic seen through the lenses of a variety of theological disciplines. Lead articles, responses, and replies, as well as discussion-starters and an annotated list of resources for further research and reflection will be written by leading scholars whose concern for the church is that it continue to "be transformed by the renewing of your minds" (Romans 12:2). Founding editors are Mark Douglas, professor of Christian ethics, and Kathy Dawson, assistant professor of Christian education.

Columbia's new online journal is for church members

@ this point

**THEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
IN CHURCH AND CULTURE**

Mark Douglas, who led the initial effort to establish the journal, says, "The Presbyterian Church (USA) provides outstanding training for ministers and excellent programs for children and youth. Its educational materials for adult laity, however, are sparse—especially in the area of cultural analysis. As a result, the very people the church sees as the heart of its mission have the least opportunity to continue their intellectual and spiritual growth. Time and time again, we hear from adult laity that they're hungry for thoughtful and provocative resources to stimulate their growth in Christ."

With the new journal, Columbia's faculty seeks to fill this desire by publishing broadly accessible articles directed toward church members in adult Sunday school classes, small groups, and regular conversations with their pastors. Douglas says, "Although we imagine that ministers—especially Columbia alumni/ae—will be our most likely initial subscribers, they can easily pass on the journal to their members, who are our primary audience . . . those in the pews whose faith continually seeks understanding and social relevance. We are concerned with the quality of conversation in the church, so our journal intentionally models the type of charitable disagreements through which the church and its members have always grown in wisdom and toward God."

The journal @ this point will be published on the Web at www.atthispoint.net. Other members of the editorial board include Kimberly Richter '84, interim director of the Lay Institute of Faith and Life; Charles D. Campbell, Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching and Homiletics; William P. Brown, professor of Old Testament; Christine Roy Yoder, associate professor of Old Testament and biblical languages; and George Stroup, J. B. Green Professor of Theology. ▣

"Time and time again, we hear from adult laity that they're hungry for thoughtful and provocative resources to stimulate their growth in Christ."

Board of Trustees Accepts COGA Proposal for Montreat Historical Collection

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAS RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY to a proposal from the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) regarding the collection of the Montreat branch of the Presbyterian Historical Society. During a called meeting at Columbia on December 5, the Board authorized President Laura Mendenhall and a committee appointed by her to engage with COGA to create a program for the study of Presbyterian and Reformed history and theology pending final agreement on the materials to be transferred and full ecclesiastical resolution of all matters associated with the transfer.

The Montreat facility houses an extraordinary collection of archival, library, and museum materials of Presbyterian history and the worldwide Reformed tradition. The collection includes a large manuscript division, a library of

bound books, and a museum that contains material artifacts of 500 years of Reformed history.

COGA's proposal, received by the seminary in September, anticipates the facility's closing in December 2006. According to the proposal, a sizeable portion of the collection would be moved to Columbia's John Bulow Campbell Library.

In making its decision, the Board reviewed a faculty report on the collection's educational value and assessed the financial effect on the seminary. The Board concluded that up to \$1.7 million would be needed over the next five years to receive and catalog the collection and to make capital improvements to the library.

Board members also considered the theological implications of their decision. As Trustee James S. Lowry '66 said following the meeting, "When this Board faces a major decision, someone usually poses the question, 'Is God asking us to do this?' For this opportunity, we believe the answer is 'yes.'" ▣

Marcia Riggs continued from page 3

"I'm trying to get students to see what the emerging field of leadership studies has to add to our conversation about leadership in the church—thus the questions we explore in the course intersect with those in the broader context of ethics for church and society.

"So in this class, we talk a lot about the leader-follower relationship, perhaps more so than a leadership class in a secular university. For example, when we discuss Jesus as a model for servant leadership, we read an essay on 'exemplary followership.' Focusing attention on the follower leads us to something very different about being a leader. When the question is, 'can you be an exemplary follower first?' we're also asking 'how is your understanding of leadership related to your understanding of discipleship?'" ▣

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Editor: Genie Addleton
Design: Lucy Ke
Cover art: Fred Wise '06 (see page 16)

Contributors: John A. Clark, Sarah Cooper '06, Richard DuBose, Sarah Erickson '03, Jewel Kirkus, Jane Gleim, Jami Moss, Barbara Poe, Susan Thomas '04

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Columbia Extends Hospitality to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

THIS FALL, COLUMBIA HAS SHARED RESOURCES with faculty and students of New Orleans Baptist Seminary, displaced in September by Hurricane Katrina. The New Orleans seminarians and faculty have relocated to their branch campus in Atlanta until repairs can be made to their New Orleans buildings. Meanwhile, some of them are staying in Columbia housing, with furnishings and kitchen supplies gathered by faculty, staff, and students. Mission Haven Clothes Closet was opened for our guests, and the library is welcoming them for study and research. As President Laura Mendenhall has said, "Who knows what God may be doing to put Presbyterians and Baptists together on this campus?"

Note: Several people on campus have received information from friends and former students affected by Hurricane Katrina. Much of this information is second- and third-hand. If you wish to contact someone in an area affected by Katrina, please contact Barbara Poe in the Office of Alumni and Church Relations at 404-687-4566 or poeb@ctsnet.edu. We may be able to help you communicate. ▾

5 GREAT LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

no. 2

JANUARY 30 — FEBRUARY 1, 2006

THE STRANGE NEW WORLD OF THE BIBLE

with **Walter Brueggemann, Barbara Brown Taylor, David Bartlett**
— more information on page 14 —



Students in D'Iberville (formerly part of Biloxi), MS, at a hurricane relief distribution center: (L to R) Steven Hernandez '08, Katy Cuthill '08; Jean Sparks '08; Whitney Wilkinson '08; Elizabeth Thonney '08; Brandon Hood 05; Erin Kobs '08.

COLUMBIA'S STUDENTS

LEARNING LEADERSHIP

Buying the Pearl and Trying on Gifts

by John A. Clark

Karen Jolly '06, a second-career MDiv student, explains her call to Columbia and to ministry by saying "God uses us in unexpected ways, calling us from places of comfort and security into places of action and transformation." Her family had been well established for ten years on the "Space Coast" of Florida, where she and her husband had good jobs and a house on the water. "At the time, as a nursing supervisor, I was earning the highest wage of my career, but God's call became irresistible. I was accepted at Columbia, and we pulled up roots to move north. Our secular friends told us we had lost our minds. But this was my take: we had sold the field and bought the pearl. Our children, Matthew and Daniel, are still bewildered by what's happened. But as you



know, God is in the business of transforming all of us in ways we don't understand."

For Jolly, preparation for leadership in ministry began with teaching and serving at Rockledge Presbyterian, in Florida. Not surprisingly, she serves on committees and teaches elementary grade Sunday school at North Decatur Presbyterian, and she has participated for two years in Columbia's preaching caravan trip to Mississippi. When she graduates, she hopes to serve in a small parish as a solo pastor. She says, "I understand my gifts to be in the areas of teaching, preaching and pastoral care; but I would most enjoy a 'generalist' position. I guess the real answer to this question is 'God only knows.' I'm trying not to engineer a call for myself but to become a traveler on a journey which leads me to the right place...the place God intends."

Chris Henry '07 grew up the son of a Presbyterian minister in Greensboro, NC, and had gained considerable leadership experience at Vandalia Presbyterian by the time he had graduated from high school. As Chris describes it, he was able to "try on different gifts, including church programming and leading worship and even preaching." Although Henry's passion for leadership initially led him in the direction of politics and law, his heavy involvement in the



Westminster campus ministry at Duke University steered him back to ministerial preparation. Henry says that during his college years God kindled his desire for full-time Christian work through a life-changing trip to an orphanage in poverty-stricken Haiti and the rigors of his pastoral responsibilities at a small church in Warrenton, NC.

In his first year at Columbia, Henry was president of his class, and he was also blessed with significant leadership experience this past summer in his supervised ministry at Atlanta's Morningside Presbyterian Church. Under the tutelage of Joanna Adams '79, he learned many valuable lessons. Henry says that he came away from that church convinced that one of the real challenges of congregational leadership is showing people that "they need the church as much as the church needs them." He muses, "For so many years, pastors have said, 'Please come to us because we need you to teach, to administrate, and give to this organization financially and in other ways.' But Christians were not meant to live in spiritual isolation. The New Testament points out in many

continued on page 6

COLLOQUIUM 2006
APRIL 17-19

Always Being Reformed

featuring
DANIEL MIGLIORE
AMY PLANTINGA PAUW
GEORGE STROUP

Workshop and seminar leaders
ERSKINE CLARKE
MARTHA MOORE-KEISH
CAM MURCHISON
CHARLES RAYNAL

Faith for a Fragmented World



ALUMNI/AE Reunion Classes

1955 and before
1956
1961
1966
1971
1976
1981
1986
1991
1996
2001
2005

celebrating the ministry of
Shirley Guthrie (1927-2004)

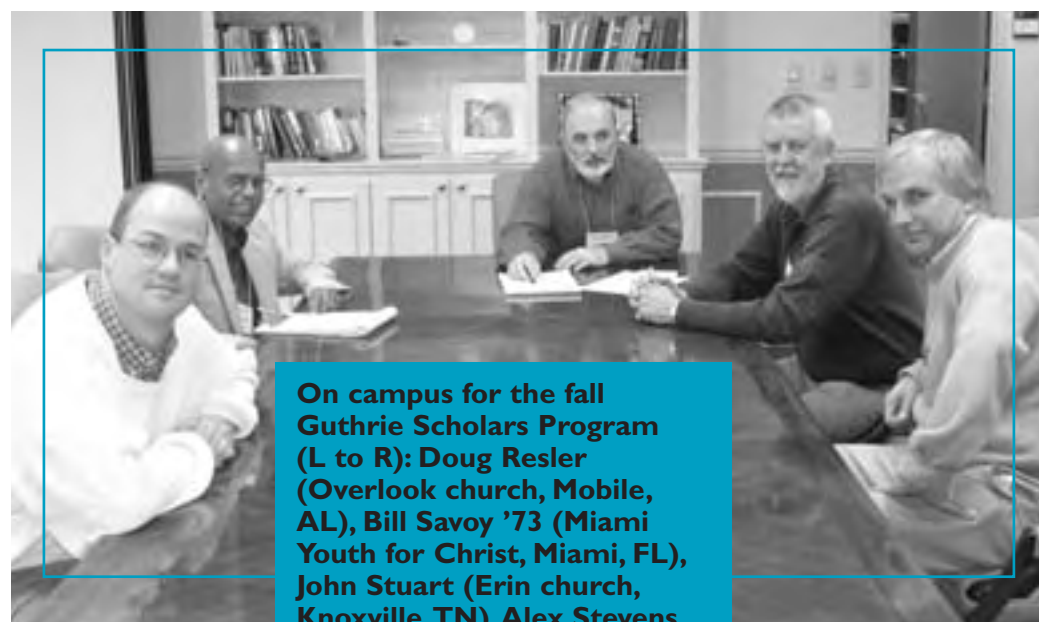
This year's event focuses on Reformed theology and ministry and is based on Dr. Guthrie's book, *Always Being Reformed: Faith for a Fragmented World*.

More information available soon at www.ctsnet.edu
Alumni/ae contact: poeb@ctsnet.edu

Chris Henry continued from page 5

places that the spiritual health of the individual and the life of the body are inextricably bound together. Somehow people need to see that they need the church . . . that they need each other."

Reflecting on his seminary education, Henry cites several courses that have been especially important to him. In one preaching course, he learned to employ the idea of "letting the biblical text move and change you and then find your own style and voice in communicating that truth to the congregation." In another he learned how to discern and preach effectively to a congregation's particular context. In another course, he was impressed that the teacher, Beth Johnson, J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament, allowed each student, with minimal supervision, to lead the class in a discussion of a chapter of the book of Romans. "By extending that much trust and giving that much responsibility to students, Dr. Johnson gave us a leadership growth experience that I think will serve us all well." ▣



On campus for the fall Guthrie Scholars Program (L to R): Doug Resler (Overlook church, Mobile, AL), Bill Savoy '73 (Miami Youth for Christ, Miami, FL), John Stuart (Erin church, Knoxville, TN), Alex Stevens (Gum Creek church, Oxford, GA), Stephen Mitchell (Riverchase church, Birmingham, AL). Not pictured: George Waters '87 (First United church, Knoxville, TN), and the group's facilitator, Kathy Dawson, assistant professor of Christian education.

For the Class of 2004

Learning Together in Ministry, March 7-10

This event is designed for any member of the Class of 2004 engaged in a first or early call ministry—chaplains, pastors, associate pastors, campus ministers, validated ministry workers, and those serving in other capacities. Gather with classmates, spend time in conversation with CTS faculty while reflecting on issues that relate to your concerns and celebrations as experienced in your first months in post-seminary ministry. The only cost for participants is transportation and any activities you do on your own in the evenings.

Leaders are Dent Davis, Sarah Erickson, and other CTS faculty and staff.

Applications are due **February 1, 2006**. To apply, send an e-mail with the following information to Sarah Erickson at ericksons@ctsnet.edu: your name, church, address, phone, e-mail, and a brief answer to two questions.

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

This event is made possible by a generous gift of the Blanche Lipscomb Foundation and the ongoing financial support of the President's Advisory Council.

5 GREAT LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

no. 3

FEBRUARY 4, 2006

BONHOEFFER
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

with Kathy Dawson

— more information on page 14 —

Walter Brueggemann's New Book

Solomon: Israel's Ironic Icon of Human Achievement

WALTER BRUEGGEMANN, Old Testament professor emeritus, is the author of *Solomon: Israel's Ironic Icon of Human Achievement*. Recently released by University of South Carolina Press, this is the latest book in their Studies of Personalities of the Old Testament series. The book explores various ways in which King Solomon is presented in the Old Testament historical and wisdom literature as well as his place in the New Testament. It also considers traditions that are derivative from the Solomon text, even the modern movement of the Masons.

Brueggemann says, "My study made me freshly aware of two things—how complex is the biblical text that does not admit of our simplistic treatment, and how incredibly contemporary the text turns out to be. I came to see that while Solomon is remembered as wise, powerful, and wealthy, there are subtle hints all through the text that he was in fact a fool who knew no limits to his own ambitions. It takes little imagination to see that the foolishness of limitless power and wealth is as pertinent in contemporary time as in ancient time."

Solomon is available through the seminary bookstore, bookstore@ctsnet.edu or 404-687-4550.



COLUMBIA'S GRADUATES PRACTICING LEADERSHIP

Finding a Voice and Riding the Wave

by John A. Clark

Fresh out of seminary, **Michael Fitze '91 (DMin '95)** took a call to the small fishing village of McClellanville, SC, to do redevelopment following Hurricane



Hugo. Four years later he planted a church in a rented school building in Greenville, SC. Within a year Providence Presbyterian was chartered with 104 members, and six months later they moved into their sanctuary and first Christian education building. Today Providence is a lively congregation of more than 500 members who conduct seminars and training for other churches in the PC (USA). Providence recently received the Walton Award for Outstanding New Church Development for the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Fitze has high praise for several of his professors at Columbia. "Stan Wood [former director of the Center for New Church Development, now on the faculty of San Francisco Theological Seminary] was a mentor and a strong encourager. He recognized my leadership abilities and gave me many opportunities to lead, including writing and speaking at national New Church Development conferences. Lucy Rose [professor of preaching and homiletics who died in 1997] taught me what it means to 'find my own voice' as a preacher. And I can't say enough about the Spirituality Program. I am a person who is much more comfortable with the 'doing' part of my faith. This program really helped me to be more contemplative and to focus equally on the 'being' aspect of my spiritual life. It's one of the best things I ever did to enhance my ministry and retain my sanity!"

For most of 2002, **Barnabas Sprinkle '03** served as student pastor in a small church, Oak Mountain Presbyterian, just outside Carrollton, GA. When he graduated from Columbia, he became the full-time pastor. Over the next two years, Oak Mountain grew from 25 to 44 members and maintained an average worship attendance of 48. During that time of expansion, Sprinkle and members of his congregation teamed with four other small congregations to build a Habitat for Humanity house, pulled together a church league baseball team and started a movie discussion night for the church's young adults. The Synod of South Atlantic voted them the Outstanding Small Church for 2004.

The church continues to add adult and children's Sunday school classes, has set up a Web site (www.oakmtchurch.org), and has become a Safe Haven church, where foster care children have supervised meetings with their biological parents. The congregation is also planning a mission trip for 2006. In human terms, Sprinkle attributes the rapid growth of Oak Mountain church largely to energetic, motivated lay leaders. Speaking of the divine impetus behind it, he says, "When I moved here and became full-time, I sensed a groundswell movement of the Spirit among this small but committed group. I feel like I've just sort of surfed right in the middle of that wave, at times directing it and other times trying to keep up with it."



More profiles in leadership continued on page 9

New MDiv Courses Expand Students' Leadership Capacity

THE 57 NEW STUDENTS who began studies this fall in the MDiv program will be the first to experience the seminary's two new required courses. Titled *Intersections and Integrations*, the courses have been strategically placed at key points in the first and third years of the three-year program. Bill Harkins, assistant professor of pastoral theology and care and one of the designers of the new courses says, "Taken together, these courses offer a process that intersects with the calling of the



Columbia's aim, says Bill Harkins, is to "nurture resilient, imaginative leadership...to expand the student's leadership capacity so that they can grow as leaders in multiple contexts."

Image above: Students in the summer 2005 Greek School

student, the academic work of theological education and God's mission in the world today."

David Forney, associate dean of faculty, says, "The faculty developed these courses based on the results of our two-year review of the MDiv curriculum. These two courses (in combination with *Explorations*, the retitled *Alternative Contexts*) have been designed to help students develop integrative practices that we believe are vital to good ministerial leadership."

Intersections, offered in the spring semester of the first year of study, will provide opportunities for students to reflect on their personal spiritual backgrounds, especially their church traditions and experiences and their calls to ministry. Steve Hayner, who will be part of the team that will teach the inaugural offering

of the course says, "As a foundational course, *Intersections* introduces students to the mission and sacramental life of the church—and to methods of analyzing unfamiliar cultural contexts where ministry takes place."

In their second year of study, during Columbia's short January term, students will complete *Explorations*. This course allows students to apply principles and use skills they developed in the introductory course. David Forney explains: "Here the students will witness God's mission in cultural contexts radically different from their own." This familiar course includes visits to schools, hospitals, refugee camps, squatter villages and rural churches. Students will conduct worship services with their hosts in these locales to develop new

understandings and applications of the ministry and life of the church.

During the January term of their third year, students will take *Integrations*, which will require them to investigate contemporary human situations of conflict, transition, and change (such as geographical moves, stages of life, loss, crisis) in the life of the church and its members. This course works through a collaborative learning style where the students take ownership of the identified problems or difficult circumstances and work toward a satisfactory solution.

Columbia's aim, says Bill Harkins, is to "nurture resilient, imaginative leadership...to expand the student's leadership capacity so that they can grow as leaders in multiple contexts." **V**



ON CAMPUS IN OCTOBER, the Columbia Friendship Circle Council and moderators of Presbyterian Women from the synods of Living Waters and South Atlantic. This academic year these good friends of the seminary are supporting five scholarships and one graduate fellowship for students with families.

On the leadership team for Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference, July 2005: (Front) Andy Acton '05, John Weicher '04, Amy Summers-Minette '05, Lindsey Wade '05, Lyndsay Lee Slocum '04, Shelli Latham '05. (Back) Emese Asztalos, Brad Clayton '04, Patrick Laney '06, Elizabeth Soileau Acton '05, Tracie Topple (husband Craig is class of '06). Thanks to Lyndsay for rounding up the gang!




Columbia Students Awarded Fellowships by Fund for Theological Education

SEVEN NEW COLUMBIA STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED prestigious fellowships by the Fund for Theological Education.

Receiving Ministry Fellowships are **Adam Copeland, Sara Hayden, Emily Martin, and Margaret Rivera**. They are among 40 students entering Master of Divinity degree programs across the country who will receive \$5,000 for self-designed ministry projects, expenses to attend the FTE Summer Conference on Excellence in Ministry, and other vocational enrichment opportunities.

Named as Congregational Fellows are **Sarah Chamberlain, Katherine Giguere, and John Lattimore**. They are among 23 young church members across the country whose awards provide matching funds toward tuition and living expenses for the first year of seminary.

The Fund for Theological Education is a leading national advocate for excellence and diversity in Christian ministry. It supports the next generation of leaders among pastors and scholars, providing fellowships and a network of support for gifted young people from all denominations and racial/ethnic backgrounds.

The Fund is also a resource for educational and faith communities, offering programs that encourage high-quality candidates to explore vocations in ministry and teaching. Since 1954, the Atlanta-based Fund has awarded more than 5,600 fellowships in partnership with others committed to the future of quality leadership for the church. Information about FTE fellowships is available on the Web at www.thefund.org. 

Columbia Seminary's
**CONFERENCE on MINISTRY
for PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

Feb 24-26, 2006 & Nov 3-5, 2006

Decatur, GA
www.ctsnet.edu
404-687-4517 • 877-548-2817 (toll-free)

Casting Visions and Continuing Threads

by John A. Clark

Not quite two years ago, **Bobby Austell** retired after serving many years as president and CEO of Regions Bank, in Greenville, SC. At his retirement party, he asked 30 of his closest church friends to pray with him for God to reveal ways that he might be used in ministry. Since that time, God has been working, and so has Austell. He is a director of a real estate development company, the profits from which will be used to set up a charitable foundation; serves on the National Committee of Young Life's Capernaum ministry to the disabled; and is co-chair of Greenville's Salvation Army's Capital Fund campaign. He has even written a workbook on evangelism in the workplace.




Austell was on campus in October to share stories of his post-retirement ministry with the President's Advisory Council. That group's membership includes church lay leaders from across the Southeast. Austell shared his own testimony, but he also had a call to action for the other council members.

He asked, "Of the retirees in your church, how many would you guess are actively engaged in a significant way in serving the Lord?" Austell suggested that church Sessions have a standing committee of three to five members, whose sole focus is to systematically confer with every adult church member six to twelve months before they retire. "Cast a vision," he said, "of how the Lord can use them!"

"That experience of 'faith of our fathers living still' began for me in the home and in the small congregation I grew up in," said **Lucie Barron Eggleston**, of Columbia, SC. As another member of the President's Advisory Council speaking at the October gathering, Eggleston spoke about the importance of leading by example. The story of her Christian upbringing was populated with lay leaders who had perhaps unwittingly mentored and inspired her for many years. "Sunday school teachers, Bible school teachers, youth leaders, the organist/choir director introduced me to a faith that sustains, nourishes, and guides me still. I am deeply grateful to all of them," she said.

Eggleston finds the continuing thread of leadership embodied in teaching. She said, "As a member of a large church today, I would cite the Bethel Bible teacher's course as one of my most meaningful experiences." Eggleston is certified to teach in the program after two years of intense training, one in Old Testament and one in the New. "I am grateful to John Frye (DMin '04), the pastor who equipped me to do this," she said. She also praised her church's Stephen Ministry, where she sees ordinary people trained to be supportive, empathetic servants to their brothers and sisters troubled by the pain of divorce, health problems, death and other crises.



She said, "I see this pattern of ongoing relational instruction and discipleship captured succinctly in Paul's letter to Timothy . . . 'What you have heard from me . . . entrust to faithful ones who will be able to teach others also.'" 

Alumni/ae

1940s

Charles Tapp '48 lives at Presbyterian Home of South Carolina in Summerville. He retired several years ago as president of Presbyterian Home.

1950s

Ernest Mellor '55 has retired, 50 years after his ordination, from the Germantown, PA, church. **George Fitzgerald '57** is stated supply pastor of Providence church, Virginia Beach, VA.

1960s

G. Dan McCall '60 is associate minister of pastoral care at Fairview church, North Augusta, SC. **Ray Howe '62** is part-time interim pastor of the Hopewell church, Florence, SC. **Robert Lewis '62** is director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, NY. **Jim Bowden '64** has retired after 34 years as pastor of Covenant church, Athens, GA. **John Bacot '68** has retired from the Beulaville, NC, church.

1970s

Eugene Witherspoon '70 has retired and is supply pastor of the Saluda, NC, church. **Murphy Davis '74** received the Human Rights Award from the Southern Center for Human Rights in Washington, DC. **Joyce Tucker '75** has retired as dean of continuing education at Princeton Theological Seminary. **George Mahida '77** is director of counseling at Piedmont Wilderness Institute, Clinton, SC, and stated supply for Third church, Greenville, SC.

1980s

Dan Nail '80 is executive director of United Hospice Foundation and director of Camp Cocoon. He also serves as director of Music Ministries for Mountain View United Methodist Church, Marietta, GA. **Don Frampton (DMin '82)** writes that he is back in his house and that his church, St. Charles Avenue church in New Orleans, has resumed work. They are reaching out to the community through RHINO, Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans, and are scheduling work teams who will stay at their facility. **John H. "Jack" Haberer, Jr. (DMin '89)** has been named editor-in-chief of *The Presbyterian Outlook* magazine.

John Herndon '85 was honored by Fellowship church, Huntsville, AL, for 20 years of service. **Chris Curvin '86** is pastor of Northwood church, Clearwater, FL. **Perky Daniel '86** began Genesis Community Congregation, a needs-based ministry focusing on worship, care, and outreach. **Gail Perkins '87** is interim pastor of First church, Harrison, AR. **Chris Zorn (DMin '87; ThM '94)** has ALS/Lou Gehrig's disease and would enjoy hearing from classmates: 800 View Harbour Rd., Knoxville, TN 37934; 865-671-2103; or drpreacher@tds.net. **Jung Ho Chin '88** is pastor of Hanbit church, Duluth, GA. **Walter Dinkins '88** is a commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves Chaplain Corps and the author of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps School's Arabic-English Emergency Medical Phrase booklet. **Laura Dorsey '88 (DMin '93)** is president of the Georgia Society of Hospital Chaplains. **Howard Gregory '88** was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree by Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA.

1990s

Tim Kiser '90 is director of the office for spiritual life at Missouri Valley College, Marshall, MO. **Lori Knight-Whitehouse '90** is pastor of New Hempstead church, New City, NY. **Jim Cook '97** married Fiona Stewart at his church in Turriff, Scotland. **Billy Robinson '97** is pastor of Mt. Jefferson church, West Jefferson, NC. **Kevin Campbell '98** is executive presbyter of Abingdon Presbytery. **Kathleen Hall (DMin '99)** is the author of *Alter Your Life: Overbooked? Overworked? Overwhelmed?*

2000s

Michael Bailey '00 is pastor of First church, Morganton, NC. **Janelle Tibbetts '00** married Peter John Vaughan in Encino, CA. **Joan Martin '00** is pastor of Union church, Gastonia, NC. **Agnes Norfleet (DMin '01)** is pastor of Shandon church, Columbia, SC. **Blair Beaver '02** is associate pastor of First church, Laurens, SC. **Dorie Griggs '02** led a session on the need for chaplains in the newsroom at the National Conference on Workplace Chaplaincy: Hot Issues and Best Practices at Yale Divinity School. **Jodi Bond Martin '08** was ordained Nov. 20 at the Northside Church, Chattanooga, TN, and has accepted a call as its associate pastor. Her husband, Joseph B. Martin IV, is pastor there. **Jerry Utt '02** is pastor of Graham Memorial church, Whitesburg, KY. **Patrick Vaughn (DMin '02)** is pastor of the Paoli, PA, church. **Chris Ham '03** and Jennifer Slocum were married at the Roswell, GA, church. **Sung Lee '01** is associate pastor at Lower Providence church, Norristown, PA. **Hope Lee '03** is pastor at Valley Forge church, King of Prussia, PA. **Dan Stephens '04** was ordained and installed as associate pastor of Shades Valley church, Birmingham, AL. **Elizabeth Soileau Acton '05** is part-time interim youth director of the Rockville, MD, church. **Kevin Day '04** and **Katie Heard '06** are engaged to be married. This is sweet consolation for his never being able to beat her at Scrabble. **David Felton '05** is pastor of the Dawson, GA, church. **Géza Kacsó (ThM '05)** serves as assistant pastor for four churches in Ukraine, next to the Hungarian border. He was married this summer, and now he and Dora are expecting their first child. You may contact Géza at kacsog@tvn.hu.

Faculty and Staff

Biblical Area

Beth Johnson, J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament, taught an adult education series on Families in the New Testament for the Alpharetta, GA, church and taught "Introducing Youth to the Synoptic Gospels" for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta youth ministry certificate program. She preached for the Presbytery of West Virginia's celebration of women's ordination service; at the ordination services for **Susan Smith ('04)** at the Easley, SC, church, and for **Joel Tolbert ('05)** at the Rehoboth church, Decatur, GA; at the installation service for David Milam at the St. Andrew church, Purcellville, VA; and she gave the charge to the minister at the installation service for **Cader Howard ('05)** at Druid Hills church, Atlanta, GA. She also gave the keynote address and taught a class on the lectionary texts for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany at Abingdon Presbytery's Mountain Top Experience, a leadership training event for pastors, lay pastors and church members, and will serve as the theological resource person for the Ministry of Mission at Central church, Atlanta, GA. **William P. Brown**, professor of Old Testament, presented "Joy and the Art of Cosmic Maintenance: The Playful God in Psalm 104" at Harvard University for the Colloquium for Biblical Research and "Discipline without Destruction: The Ever-Shifting Profile of the Child in Proverbs," for "The Child in Religion and Ethics" Valparaiso project, Chicago, IL. He served as resource theologian for the pastor-theologian West group, sponsored by the Center of Theological Inquiry; presented on biblical creation and the "intelligent design vs. evolution" debate

5 GREAT LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

no. 4

MARCH 7—10, 2006

CTS CLASS OF 2004

Learning Together in Ministry

with Dent Davis, Sarah Erickson, and others

— more information on page 14 —

for the Covington, GA, church; and taught church school on Isaiah at the North Decatur, GA, church.**Christine Roy Yoder**, associate professor of Old Testament, received a grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion to co-direct a two year consultation "Teaching Biblical Exegesis in Theological Schools"; taught a course on Spirituality and the Old Testament, Montreat, NC; convened a session at the annual AAR/SBL meeting, Philadelphia, PA; and had an article published in *Seeking out the Wisdom of the Ancients*.**David Bartlett**, professor of New Testament, gave the keynote address and led a workshop for the Presbytery of the Foothills, Greenville, SC; led two discussions of scriptural authority at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Birmingham, AL; taught church school at Oakhurst church, Decatur, GA; and is the Advent preacher for the Bryn Mawr, PA, church.

Historical Doctrinal Area

Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, associate professor of world Christianity, taught the Reformed Understanding of the Sacraments and Christian Mission course for the Presbyterian Spanish Speaking Lay Commission Ministry Theological Formation, Decatur, GA; at the continuing education event, "Christianity's Demographic Transformations and Challenges for Mission and Ministry," for Brite Divinity School's Borderlands Program; and the "Evangelization and Social Justice" course for Presbyterian Lay Leaders, Orlando, FL. He also attended the Hispanic Summer Program board meeting at Brite Divinity School and is vice-chair of the Hispanic Summer Program Board of Trustees; was a panel presenter and small group leader for the Fund for Theological Education Recruitment Conference, Atlanta, GA; and presented at the Practice Colloquium for the Graduate Religion Department of Emory University, Atlanta, GA.**Erskine Clarke '66**, professor of American religious history and director of international programs, was a visiting fellow for the fall term at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, England, researching the work of John Leighton Wilson, a member of Columbia Seminary's first graduating class and pioneer missionary to West Africa. Clarke also lectured at the University of London.**Mark Douglas**, associate professor of Christian ethics, preached at Rock Spring church, Atlanta, GA, and preached and taught "Judaism from a Christian Perspective" at Clairmont church, Atlanta; led (with **Martha Moore-Keish**) a group of seniors participating in the "Company of New Pastors" program, in Louisville, KY; was a respondent to a series of papers on "Political Formation(s) and the New Testament" at the AAR/SBL meeting, Philadelphia, PA; and served as consultant for the Presbyterian Church (USA) task group revising the study paper "The Nature and Value of Human Life".**Martha Moore-Keish**, assistant professor of theology, preached at Central church, Atlanta, GA, and at First church, Tallahassee, FL; spoke to a group of Columbia Seminary's alumni/ae and friends at First church, Durham, NC; led an officer training and preached at Dorchester church, Charleston, SC; taught church school and preached at the Brownson Memorial church, Southern Pines, NC; and chaired a session of the Reformed Theology and History Group at the AAR/SBL meeting, Philadelphia, PA.**Steve Hayner**, Peachtree Associate Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth, presented "Evangelism in the Small Church" to the "Barnabas" New Pastor Gathering, Montreat, NC; "Career and Calling" to the InterVarsity chapter of Emory University, Atlanta; "Mission: The Crimson Thread of the Bible" to the Outreach Foundation's New Global Mission Conference, Atlanta; and spoke at a luncheon for Columbia Seminary's alumni/ae in Columbia, SC. He gave the keynote address, "Toto, We're Not in Kansas Anymore," at the Wee Kirk Conference, Montreat, NC, and "Finding Your Place in the World" at the PLSE Youth Event for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. He also taught "Kingdom Living" to the Seekers class, "Advent Dreams and Christmas Realities" to the Apostles class, and was a small group leader for "40 Days of Purpose" at Peachtree church, Atlanta, GA.

Practical Theology

Brian Wren, the John and Miriam Conant Professor of Worship, led a workshop for First church, Atlanta, GA; led a workshop and worship for the Centennial Year Celebration at First church, Mason City, IA, and for the Musicians' Network, Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ, Beaverton, OR. He completed a hymn, "Like a Whispered Breath," for the North Decatur, GA, church's fiftieth anniversary, participated in the reflective commentary for the Hymn Festival at the "Worship Comes to Life" conference at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and spoke at the banquet honoring Don Saliers.**Chuck Campbell**,

Peter Marshall Professor of Homiletics, preached at the Selwyn Avenue church, Charlotte, NC; preached and lectured at Presbyterian College and Theological Seminary, Seoul, South Korea; preached and lectured at Hanil University and Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Junjoo, South Korea; and preached for three churches in South Korea.**Kathy Dawson '94**, assistant professor of Christian education, attended the Public Leadership and Theological Education conference, Santa Fe, NM; taught the youth teacher training at Trinity church, Atlanta, GA; presented "Multiple Intelligences Theory and Spiritual Gifts" at Shallowford church, Atlanta, GA; participated in the lunch discussion on children's theology at Emory University's Candler School of Theology; and attended the Atlanta Interfaith Children's Movement Breakfast.**Rodger Nishioka**, associate professor of Christian education, preached at Westminster church, Waterloo, IA, and the Northumberland Presbytery meeting, Williamsport, PA; preached and delivered the keynote address at the Alaska Presbytery meeting, Juneau, AK; lectured at the Center for Church Life at Muskingum College, New Concord, OH; and delivered the Enniss Lectures for Central and Trinity churches, Atlanta.

Administration and Staff


Bob Craigmile, systems librarian, published a book review of *Gilead* in the October issue of *Presbyterians Today*.**Cam Murchison**, dean of faculty and executive vice president, participated in the resolution group of the Advisory Council on Social Witness Policy of the General Assembly working on a resolution for the 2006 General Assembly on the topic of usury; the COTE Consultation of PC (USA) seminaries regarding ordination exams, core curricular concerns, and distance education, Chicago, IL; and presented on faith and money at a retirement seminar sponsored by the Board of Pensions of the PC (USA), Decatur, GA.**Charles Raynal**, director of Advanced Studies and associate professor of theology, taught the fall introductory Doctor of Ministry seminar, "Church and Ministry," in partnership with the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) at the Atlanta Theological Association; preached at the Fondren church, Jackson, MS, two weeks after hurricane Katrina; and taught a course on the *Chronicles of Narnia* at the Decatur, GA, church.**Harvey K. Newman**, director of Faith and the City Project, spoke on "Race and Atlanta History" to the Senior Committee of Trinity church, Atlanta, GA, and spoke at the initial session of a twelve-month conversation on the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot at First Congregational Church, UCC, for members of three churches: First Congregational; Central Congregational, UCC; and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA.**Laura Mendenhall**, president, preached at the Preston Hollow church, Dallas, TX; Bryn Mawr, PA, church; First church, Huntsville, SC; Beulah Heights Bible College, Atlanta, GA; for the Pueblo Presbytery's "Interfaith Prayers for Peace," Colorado Springs, CO; and led worship at the Greater Metropolitan Restoration Center, Greensboro, NC. She spoke at the Sardis church, Charlotte, NC; First church, Pensacola, FL; and to church leaders in Birmingham, AL, New Hope Presbytery, and Spartanburg, Greenville, and Anderson, SC; and led a workshop for the Presbyteries of Greater Atlanta and Northeast Georgia. She also participated in the Committee On Theological Education, Austin, TX, and in an Association of Theological Schools meeting, "Tethered Together: Church and Seminary," Austin, TX.**Richard Blake**, associate library director, gave a presentation at the Arizona Library Association Conference on "Internationals at a Seminary Reference Desk," Tempe, AZ.**Sarah Erickson '03**, associate director of Lifelong Learning, led a confirmation retreat for the North Decatur, GA, church.

Faculty Emeriti

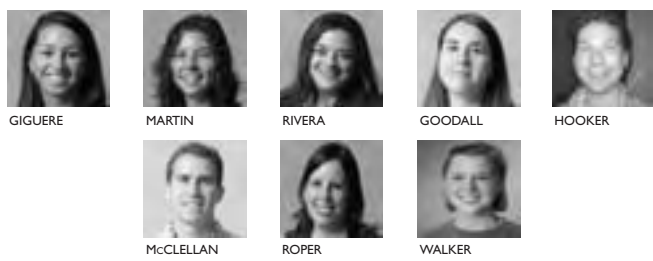
Walter Brueggemann taught at Lutheran Redeemer Church, Atlanta, GA; participated in the Luce Consultation of the Association of Theological Schools; and preached and lectured at the Palms church, Jacksonville, FL. He also published articles in the *Christian Century* and an article on Sabbath in *Liguorian*; and edited the Old Testament portion of *The Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible* (NRSV). His *Theology of the Old Testament* has been translated into Korean and *Prophetic Imagination* has been translated into Italian.**Robert Ramey** preached at Priest Hill church, Carthage, NC; First church, Rockingham, NC; and the Raeford, NC, church. He also taught a polity workshop for new officers in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. Ramey's new book of children's sermons, *Rocky Bear Meets Jesus*, was scheduled for release in November.

Students

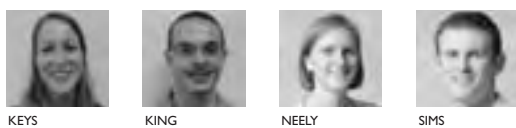
Master of Divinity

 **John Schuler '06** was awarded the *C. Virginia Harrison Award* which is presented to a graduating senior who is "conscientious, responsible, hardworking and in need of financial assistance".....**Adam Copeland '08** toured Norway this summer as a member of the St. Olaf Choir, which recorded a Christmas special airing nationally December 21 on PBS**Cheryl Gans '06** served as a summer student intern at the Woodstock, GA, church.....**Chris Henry '07** was awarded the *Samuel A. Cartledge Biblical Studies Award* which is presented to the student who prepared the best New Testament exegesis during the academic year.....**Hiram Perez '07** served on the planning team for the Montreat Youth Conference and works as the advisor for Youth Ministries with the North Chapter of the Hispanic Council of the South Atlantic Synod**Karen Jolly '06** preached at the Batesville, MS, church as part of Columbia's preaching tour in St. Andrew's Presbytery; she also preached to the Rockledge, FL, church this fall.....**Karen Miller '06** received a theological grant from the 50th Anniversary Theological Education Fund of the St. John's church, Reno, NV**Ryan Baer '07** served as a summer intern at the Conyers, GA, church and continues to serve there part-time. He was elected president of the Middler class for the 2005-2006 school year. He also preached at the Hollandale, MS, church and Leland, MS, church as part of Columbia's preaching tour in St. Andrew's Presbytery**Sarah Cooper '06** and **Bill Searight '06** were married at Central church, Atlanta, GA, on June 18.....Along with three other Columbia students, **Sheena Mayrant '07** participated in the Middle East Travel Seminar this summer. The group visited Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, and Greece.....**Jerry Long '06** received the *Indiantown Country Church Award* established by the family of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Stuckey and awarded to the student who has done "outstanding work in the summer in a rural ministry."

COLUMBIA SCHOLARSHIPS are awarded to up to six first-year Master of Divinity students who have exhibited exceptional academic and leadership abilities during their undergraduate studies and in community involvement and church commitments. Recipients for the 2008 class include the following: **Adam Copeland, Kate Giguere, Sara Hayden, Emily Martin, Margaret Rivera, and Buz Wilcoxon.** Scholarships are renewable and were awarded to these returning students: **Catherine Cavazos '07, Laura Goodall '07, Chris Henry '07, Chris Hooker '07, Robert McClellan '07, Leslie Roper '06, and Sarah Walker '07.**



HONOR SCHOLARSHIPS are awarded annually to first-year Master of Divinity students on the basis of academic achievement, leadership in the church and on campus, and demonstration of outstanding promise for the ordained ministry. Recipients for the 2008 class include **Karen Ware Jackson, Erin Keys, Shaun King, Marissa Myers, Catherine Neely, and Greg Sims.**



Scholarships are renewable and were awarded to these returning students: **Russ Blackwelder '06, Luke Ellis '07, Morgan Hay '07, Brandon Hood '06, Hana Johnson '07, Leigh Jones '06, Kate Malarney '07, Sheena Mayrant '07, Jihyun Oh '06, Cory Stott '07, Catherine Walsh '07, and Emily Zeig '07.**



MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS are awarded to full-time Master of Divinity students on the basis of academic achievement, leadership ability, and potential for ministry. Recipients for the 2008 class include **Marci Glass, David Hawkins, Elizabeth Thonney, Lucy Webb, and Daniel Webb.**

Returning students awarded Merit Scholarships include the following: **Sharon Acton '07, Jo Anderson '07, Ryan Baer '07, Caroline Dennis '07, Ashley DeVore '07, Karen Dukes '06, April Love-Fordham '06, Lynne Frech '07, Elizabeth Gabbard '07, Ani Goodenberger '06, James Goodlet '07, Katie Heard '06, Maryellen Hittel '06, Keith Jones '07, Sandra Lacey '07, Sarah Leer '07, Gerald Long '06, Bethany McKinney '06, Karen Miller '06, Jo Nygard '06, James Rogers '06, Jane Rose '07, Kyle Schmidt '07, Catherine Schreiber '07, Jill Tolbert '07, Tricia Dillon Thomas '06, Scott Tucker '07, Monica Wedlock '07, and Michael Woods '06.**



COLUMBIA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE SCHOLARSHIPS are funded annually by the Columbia Friendship Circle and are awarded to Presbyterian Church (USA) Master of Divinity students. The student "must be in the second or third year; have demonstrated a strong commitment to God's call and diligence in studies; and be a parent with family responsibilities and financial need." This year's recipients are **John Brock '06, Chris Erde '07, Larry Gamble '06, Karen Jolly '06, and Sylvia Moon '07.**



This year's **COLUMBIA FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP** recipient is **Young Jeon '05.** He is pursuing a Master of Theology in Christian education at Princeton Theological Seminary.



Transitions

Welcome!



Dorrell Addison is serving the Office of Student Services in an interim appointment as seminary chaplain. He is a graduate of the College of Charleston and received the MDiv degree from Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse School of Religion, in Atlanta. He completed residency CPE training at the Care and Counseling Center of Georgia.



Megan Swett joined the seminary in October as Director of Development Information and Prospect Research. She is a graduate of Warren Wilson College and recently moved to Decatur from Orlando, FL, where she had been director of communications and donor and grantee services with the Community Foundation of Central Florida.

Godspeed!



Ruth Marley, administrative assistant for Student Services, resigned in October. She had been with the seminary since 2002, serving previously in the office of New Church Development.

Thanks!



Diane Thorne, gift records supervisor, received the 2005 Betsy Burgess Staff Award for faithfulness, dedicated service, and Christian character upholding the seminary's purpose and mission.

Births

Jones Doughton '93 and Mary Lee, a son, Bennett Jones, Oct. 15, 2005.
Monnie '95 and **Stephen '96 Crane**, a daughter, Elliott Eakin, July 26, 2005.
Noelle '99 and **Denny '02 Read**, a son, Ethan Magruder, Sept. 22, 2005.
Maggie Beamguard '02 and David, a daughter, Charlotte Sinclair, July 5, 2005.
Carrie '02 and **Chris '03 Tuttle**, a daughter, Ella Brooks, Oct. 25, 2005.
Kyong-Sook (Esther) Seo '05 and Jun Yang, a daughter, Kathleen Yun-Su, Sept. 27, 2005. She is named for seminary professor Kathleen O'Connor.

In Memoriam

Stanford Parnell '33, Sept. 16, 2005.
George McMaster '53, Sept. 1, 2005.
Clyde Mitchum '62, Oct. 7, 2005.
Gordon M. Bean '63, Aug. 17, 2005.
Herbert Archer '74, Aug. 17, 2005.
Elias S. Hardge '87, Aug. 26, 2005.

Note: Upon Stanford Parnell's death in Louisiana, **Bonneau H. Dickson '33** became Columbia's oldest alumnus. During their seminary years, the two lived across the hall from one another on the top floor of Campbell Hall.

(S³ Program Welcomes Nine New Groups)

THE POPULARITY OF COLUMBIA'S S³ PROGRAM confirms that self-directed peer learning is attractive to pastors. With the recent selection of nine new groups, the program has grown in three years from eight groups and 50 individuals to 26 groups and 126 individuals.

S³ is one of 67 programs funded with grants provided through the Lilly Endowments Fund for Sustaining Pastoral Excellence. The S³ project will continue through at least one more project cycle.

For more information and to download application materials, go to http://www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/continuing_education/s3.asp. Applications will be accepted through **April 21**. Selected groups will be notified by May 12 and must attend the S³ Annual Orientation Retreat August 21-25 on the seminary campus. For more information, contact Sarah Erickson at ericksons@ctsnet.edu, or call 404-687-4526.

S³ 2005

Baptism and Transformation (upper Midwest). Tim Gerarden, George Portice, Blake Richter, Bryan Franzen, Steve Blackstock

Columbia Common Ground (primarily Southeast and Southwest). Thomas Daniel '03, Louis Imsande '04, Jeff Kackley '03, MaryAnn McKibben Dana '03, Jody Moore '03, Pen Peery '03, Ben Seller '03, Lyndsay Lee Slocum '04, Todd Sutton '02, Chris Tuttle '03

Equipping the Saints (Canada). Teresa Moysey, Dexter Van Dyke, Rod Sykes, Megumi Matsuo Saunders and Allan Saunders, David Giuliano

Seeing All the Rest(s) in our Sabbath Songs (Macon, GA, area). Deb Bibbler, James Bumpus, Janetta Cravens, Glenn Gilstrap '91, Jared Hammet '85, Andrew Permenter (DMin '01)

IHS: I with Heart, Head and Hands, Commit myself to Sabbath, Study, and Service (Anderson, SC, area). Courtney Krueger '03,



Marcia Stow, Marcia Mynatt, Paul Moore, Ellen Sechrest, Beverly Greer, Jack Couch, Mary Frances Thompson

Really Stinkin' Cool Youth Pastors (Southeast and Midwest). Chuck Hardy, Donna Hoppestad, Adrian Martin, Emily Nelson, Kevin Thurmond, Shannon Whitford

Stories from a Trout Stream (Southwest Georgia). Edwin Chase, Rick Lanford, Craig Rickard, Derek McAleer, Wayne Racz, Robert Beckum, Jay Harris, Steve Waldorf

Tennessee Wesleyans (Tennessee and North Georgia). Braxton Cotton, Brian Davis, Mike Feely, Billy Kurtz

the 12women (Midwest, Southwest, Northeast). Diana Nishita Cheifetz, Suzanne D'Spain, Janet Ewart, Holly Hallman, Jean Hurst, Maggie Jorgensen, Sarah Moore-Nokes, Katherine Rieder, Lisa Robecheck, Amy Seymour Haney, Marylee Sheffer, Terry Tallent



Members of S³'s "Finding the Rest(s) in our Sabbath Songs" gather around the piano in Harrington Center Chapel to sing the 16th century Moravian Easter hymn of Michael Weiss. (Back, L-R) Andrew

Permenter (DMin '01), Glenn Gilstrap '91, Janetta Cravens, Deb Bibbler, James Bumpus. (Seated) Professor Elsie McKee of Princeton Theological Seminary and Jared Hammet '85. The group is exploring and comparing the events of 16th century Strasburg and modern day Taizé. They plan to be involved in hands-on ministry to the poor in our community, and also hope to sponsor a music/worship symposium for innovative forms of expression in the church.

For more information about the courses listed below and to download a registration form, go to www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/calendar/index.asp. You may also contact Pat Roper, registrar, at 404-687-4587, or roperp@ctsnet.edu. Unless indicated otherwise, all events are on the seminary campus in Decatur, GA.

January 22 - 27

Certificate in Spiritual Formation - Thomas Merton: An Inclusive and Engaged Spirituality. Examine Merton's spirituality of the true self and our Christ-centered call to witness to peacemaking and justice. At Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, St. Petersburg, FL (in conjunction with Eckerd College). Leader: George Kilcourse. Tuition: \$350

January 26 - 29

Certificate in Spiritual Formation - Immersion Experience: An Invitation to a Deeper Spiritual Life. The starting place for the Certificate in Spiritual Formation, but occasional students are welcome. Study formative elements of Old and New Testament, Monastic and Reformed spirituality. Leaders: John Kloepfer and Chuck Miller. Tuition: \$300.

January 30 – February 1

January Seminars: The Strange New World of the Bible. Leaders: David Bartlett, Walter Brueggemann, Barbara Brown Taylor. \$240 (includes two lunches).

February 7 and 9

Prepare/Enrich Program. Learn to use this program with premarital and married couples. Evening class. Leader: David Forney. \$150 (includes all materials).

February 4

Bonhoeffer Birthday Celebration. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's birth by sharing his stories and writings and learning about current studies of the German Lutheran theologian and martyr. Leader: Kathy Dawson. Free (advance registration required).

February 6, 13, 20, 27

Winter Evening Lay School. With Old Testament scholar Kathleen O'Connor, come study passages from Jeremiah and discuss present-day disasters, as we seek our own language and hope for a new future. \$60 if paid in advance, \$65 at the door, 10% discount for group registration of three or more from the same church.

February 19 - 24

Certificate in Spiritual Formation - History of Western Christian Spirituality. Survey of the historical understandings that have provided the center of faith and renewal in the life of Christians throughout the centuries. Leader: Catherine González. Tuition: \$350.

March 5 - 7

Ministries of Compassion. For laypersons and clergy to deepen their understanding of love and compassion as the foundation of ministry. Sponsored by Columbia, Candler School of Theology of Emory University, and Eckerd College. At Eckerd's Continuing Education Center. Leaders: Barbara Brown Taylor, Thomas G. Long, Beth Luton Cook, Dent C. Davis, Kimberly Long. \$300 (plus materials and lodging costs). For information, contact Eckerd's Center for Spiritual Life, 727-864-7522.

March 7 - 10

Learning Together in Ministry: First/Early Call event for CTS Class of 2004. See article on page 7.

March 9, 16, 23, 30

Spring Morning Lay School - The Passion of the Creator: The Seven Wonders of the Cosmos in Scripture. Explore the variety of 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 at the door, 10% discount for group registration of three or more from the same church.

March 10 - 11

Know Where to Turn When the Youth Turn to You. Offered in conjunction with the Youth Ministry Leadership Initiative Certificate. This course focuses on practical pastoral care with youth and families. Leaders: Jennifer Williams Wilson and CTS faculty. \$150 (includes two meals).

March 12 - 17

Certificate in Spiritual Formation - Introduction to Spiritual Guidance. Introduction to the ancient art of spiritual friendship. Explore differences between spiritual direction, psychotherapy, and pastoral counseling, as well as practical aspects of individual and small group guidance. One-on-one spiritual guidance will be provided. Leader: Joan Gray. Tuition: \$350.

March 26 - 30

Contemplative Retreat for Women. Held at the Benedictine Spirituality and Conference Center, Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, AL. Leader: Carol Byrd. \$250 (includes housing and meals).

March 28 - 29

Leadership in Ministry: Ethical Issues in Congregational Leadership. Can spending less time on the issues and more on moral development change the way leaders lead and congregations congregate? Leaders: Mark Douglas, experienced church leaders, and others. \$165 (includes 2 lunches).



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.



“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 Discussion Groups

THEOLOGY, LITERATURE, FAITH, FILM

THROUGH THE LAY INSTITUTE OF FAITH AND LIFE, the Lifelong Learning program sponsors two monthly discussion groups: Theology and Literature and Faith and Film. Participants read novels or view films; then, in guided discussion, consider how the creators of the works think theologically, though in ways often far different from those of systematic theologians.

THEOLOGY AND LITERATURE

Richard Blake, associate director for educational services at the John Bulow Campbell Library, facilitates the Theology and Literature discussion every first Tuesday of the month. This group focuses on 20th century fiction, asking questions about the presence or absence of God in the worlds the authors have created and what that may say about how we meet God in our own world. Participants from a variety of traditions engage in lively discussions about how well a book reflects or stimulates a life of faith in the abstract and the everyday. Says Blake, "Ours is not just another 'good book' club. The group experiments with reading on multiple levels, sharpening



interpretive skills and listening for metaphor and symbols, name-play or literary and biblical echoes. On occasion, we draw on personal experience when a writer hits close to home or, just as often, misses the mark to convince and draw us into a story." Critical theological reading, then, is the learning goal of this group, especially if the religious angle of a book is not overtly evident.

FAITH AND FILM

For 12 years Fritz Bogar, pastor of John Knox Presbyterian Church, in Marietta, GA, has been the facilitator for the Faith and Film discussion group, which meets every third Tuesday of the month. Participants are expected to view the film beforehand, but specific clips are shown in the course of the discussion. About his objectives for Faith and Film, Bogar says, "I want to help 21st century Christians reflect on this powerful art form, in a way that goes beyond a simple emotional or preferential response 'loved it/hated it.' We usually start this process by trying to 'read' the film on its own terms and understand how this particular story is told visually. The artist creates a world. But to enter the world, we must watch and listen carefully with at least a basic understanding of film's story-telling methods and conventions. Then we need to respond to what is being said by articulating what inspires, encourages, and even offends us. Yet we shouldn't go to a movie just to extract a moral lesson from it."



interpretive skills and listening for metaphor and symbols, name-play or literary and biblical echoes. On occasion, we draw on personal experience when a writer hits close to home or, just as often, misses the mark to convince and draw us into a story." Critical theological reading, then, is the learning goal of this group, especially if the religious angle of a book is not overtly evident.

RESOURCES

Visit the CTS web site at www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/lay_institute and click on Literature and Film Discussion Groups to learn about sessions meeting on campus. For your use in planning film nights and reading clubs in your church or home, an archive of films and books discussed over the past few years and related discussion papers is now available on the Web site.

From the Bookstore

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_____ <i>Always Being Reformed: Faith for a Fragmented World</i> by Shirley Guthrie	\$20.00	<i>(discount not available)</i>
_____ <i>Dwelling Place: A Plantation Epic</i> by Erskine Clarke	\$35.00	\$29.75
_____ <i>Solomon: Israel's Ironic Icon of Human Achievement</i> by Walter Brueggemann	\$45.00	<i>(discount not available)</i>

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CONSIDERING NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS, why not add Columbia Seminary to your list? Your support of the Columbia Annual Fund helps provide scholarships for the men and women who will serve our community of faith as pastors, chaplains, and leaders. Your gift will also help pay the salaries of our faculty, buy books for our library, maintain our computer equipment, and keep the seminary up and running.

There are some great reasons to make a gift to Columbia in the new year. Here are just a few:

- **Reduce your mail!** Our fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30, so if you make a gift now you won't receive any more Columbia Annual Fund appeals until next fall.
- **Maximize your tax benefit.** Most of us give because we care about the mission of Columbia and not because we get a tax break — but making a gift to Columbia allows you to receive a tax deduction when April 15 rolls around.
- **Make a gift that matters.** Whether you give \$5 or \$5,000, you join hundreds of other individuals who are working together to make Columbia one of the best places to prepare pastors. Each gift — *your gift* — makes a difference!



OUT OF CHAOS

Fred Wise. 2005
Acrylic on canvas
48" x 60"

Fred Wise '06 painted "Out of Chaos" during a weeklong series of chapel worship services held at Columbia this fall. Fred is from Covington, Georgia, and is under the care of the Greater Atlanta

Presbytery. He attended Brevard College and is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where he earned the B.F.A. and M.F.A. in painting. He also holds the Master of Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Fred plans to enter pastoral ministry when he graduates in May. He says, "I approach painting as prayer, so being able to incorporate painting into a week's chapel services was a deeply spiritual experience for me. After graduation, I plan on entering pastoral ministry. I look forward to ministering and to creating art among the community of believers. All I've done and studied leads to this."



See the painting at
<http://www.ctsnet.edu/news/multi/index.asp>

5 GREAT LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

no. 5

MARCH 28 — 29, 2006

LEADERSHIP IN MINISTRY

Ethical Issues in Congregational Leadership

with Mark Douglas, church leaders, and others

— more information on page 14 —

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