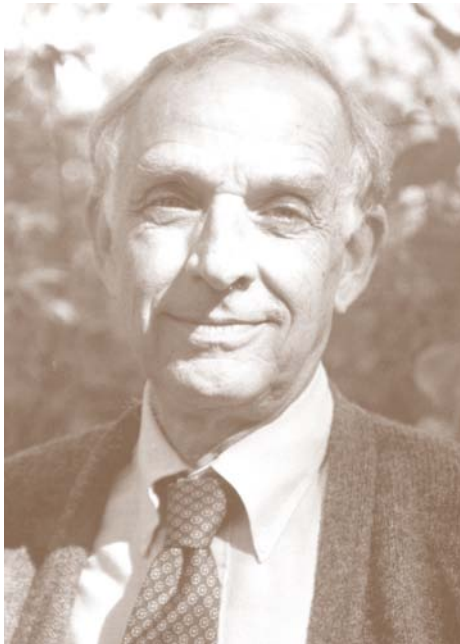


SHIRLEY GUTHRIE

October 9, 1927 – October 23, 2004

“In the early morning of October 23, Shirley Guthrie was received into the arms of God’s mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints of light. Thanks be to God for the life and ministry of Shirley Guthrie and for his resurrection in Jesus Christ. ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord,’ says the Spirit. They rest from their labors and their works follow them.’ Revelation 14:13”



SHIRLEY GUTHRIE, VOICE FOR LOVE, JUSTICE

by John Blake

When the Presbyterian Church (USA) was locked in a ferocious debate over a proposal to ban the church’s blessing of same-sex unions, Atlanta theologian Shirley Guthrie was invited to mediate.

Guthrie stunned supporters and opponents of the proposed ban at a 2001 meeting when he suggested that God was no longer listening to either side.

“You’ve got self-righteous people on all sides arguing with other self-righteous people,” Guthrie said. “Maybe God is saying ‘no’ to what we are and these little trivial debates we’re having in the church while hundreds of thousands of people are starving to death.”

Colleagues said Guthrie always brought questions back to the core of the Christian faith: love and justice.

“The teaching of his faith matched the living of his faith,” said Walter Brueggemann of Decatur, an internationally known Old Testament scholar . . . Guthrie taught theology at Columbia in Decatur from 1958 to 1997. His 1968 book *Christian Doctrine* [revised 1994] has become a seminary standard.

“The brilliance of the book is that he took Christian faith and theology and made it understandable to people who didn’t have theological education,” said George Stroup of Decatur, a colleague at Columbia for 25 years.

Guthrie’s teachings refuted the notion of God as an all-powerful, avenging

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With these words, President Laura Mendenhall sent news of the death of Shirley Guthrie, professor emeritus of systematic theology. John Blake, who writes for the Faith and Values section of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, wrote the obituary for Dr. Guthrie. With the permission of the publisher, the article is reprinted here for *Vantage* readers.

Columbia and Atlanta Presbytery Launch Youth Ministry Certification Program

Columbia Theological Seminary and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta have announced a new certification program in youth ministry, the Youth Ministry Leadership Initiative (YMLI). The YMLI is designed for laypersons and pastors involved in youth ministry, and is intended to support excellence in youth ministry. The

presbytery’s recent capital campaign provided start-up funding for the program, which was developed in partnership with the seminary

The YMLI curriculum includes eight weekend courses offered over a two-year period and covering topics such as programming, spirituality, theology, biblical studies, church polity, and youth

development. Participants who complete all eight sessions will receive a Certificate in Youth Ministry, but enrollment is open to those interested in taking one or more of the sessions but not completing the certificate.

The first course, “Discerning Your Call to Youth Ministry,” is being offered December 3-5, at Columbia Theological Seminary.

This inaugural retreat features Rodger Nishioka and Jennifer Williams Wilson MATS ’02. Nishioka is assistant professor of Christian Education at the seminary and a nationally recognized leader in youth and young adult ministry. Wilson is director of youth ministry for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and

continued on page 5

Living in the Grace of God

Most of you reading this issue of *Vantage* already know that our beloved Shirley Guthrie died last month. And how we miss him—this great teacher, this leader of Christ's church, this wise and witty man. As sick as Shirley was for the past two months, he and Vivian continued to open their home to so many people who wanted to spend a little more time with Shirley. A few weeks ago when I was there for a short visit, Shirley Guthrie gave me a lesson for a lifetime.

We were talking about his approaching death, and I told him that he seemed to be at peace. His eyes twinkled, and with amazement in his voice he said, "Yes, and the peace is bigger than I imagined." He went on to tell me that he had quit worrying about teaching, making presentations, and writing books—about what he OUGHT to do (strong emphasis on *ought*, as Shirley Guthrie would have said it). "Can you imagine that?" he said.

I asked him if he wished now that he had let go of all of these worries sooner, and, looking at Vivian, he said, "Probably, though I didn't." And then, as if he and God had just been in conversation, Shirley said, "It turns out those things are not as important to God as I thought. It's all about forgiveness."

At that point our conversation was over. I left Shirley and Vivian's home convinced that he had entered another level of "knowing" and that he was talking about forgiveness RECEIVED more than forgiveness GIVEN, though that may also have been on his mind. I had the notion that Shirley was saying, again, "We live only in the grace of God, and that is enough."

New Year, Great New Students

At the start of Columbia's 177th academic year, 68 new basic-degree students joined the seminary community with great promise for ministry.

According to Ann Clay Adams, Columbia's veteran director of admissions, "this is a class that has much to offer the church. They come with some of the best academic records ever. Two of our new students have been named Ministry Fellows by the Fund for Theological Education. This is one of the top honors for entering seminarians in all denominations across the country."

These newcomers to the seminary have also impressed the community with their creativity and energy. Many of them were on campus in July and August for Greek School, and neither the parsing of God's Word in a strange and wonderful language nor the legendary summer heat seemed to lessen their enthusiasm for the rigors of theological study.

Entering M.Div. Students Fall 2004

61 students • Median age 27 •

From 18 states (more from Georgia than any other state, but North Carolina and Alabama sent us 8 each) •

Females 52%; males 48% • Single students 61% •

PC(USA) members 98% • Racial/ethnic representation 16%



I can't get this conversation off my mind. It was a gift Shirley gave to me, a lesson, just like all those he gave to so many—in Columbia's classrooms, when he talked and laughed with students and colleagues at favorite hang-outs, when he taught and preached in congregations, when he wrote books that have profoundly affected the entire Protestant church in this century, and when he allowed us to come visit him even when he was so sick.

Shirley Guthrie's life and death remind us all of God's grace. And with this abundance of grace, we can share here in *Vantage* only a little of what God

is doing through the people who are Columbia Seminary. We are blessed with students enthusiastically responding to God's call to ministry; blessed with a gifted faculty who are called to teach and mentor them; blessed with staff who skillfully maintain operations; blessed with alumni/ae who are living testimony to Columbia's mission; and blessed with a Board of Trustees and friends who generously and faithfully support Columbia.

For all of these people, I give thanks to God. All of these people are Columbia Theological Seminary, and so are you. My hope is that you will come to visit us as often as you can, and that you will live in the peace that is ours through the abundance of God's grace. And may you hear Shirley Guthrie saying, as I do, "It's about forgiveness." Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. Pass it on.

LAURA MENDENHALL



The Ten Commandments: The Reciprocity of Faithfulness

Edited by William P. Brown

William P. Brown, professor of Old Testament and new to the faculty this fall, is the editor of *The Ten Commandments: The Reciprocity of Faithfulness*, released this fall by Westminster John Knox Press. Designed as a standard reference

for study of the Ten Commandments, the book offers classic and new essays that explore the biblical background of the commandments and the commandments' ethical implications for today. Following Brown's introduction, the book is organized into three sections: history of interpretation (e.g., Philo, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Riedemann); contemporary reflections on the Decalogue as a whole; and contemporary reflections on individual commandments. Authors include Walter Brueggemann, Nancy Duff, Walter Harrelson, George Lindbeck, Paul Capetz, Abraham Heschel, and Kathryn Greene-McCreight.

Suzy Edwards's (MATS '05) review of Dr. Brown's book is on Columbia's Web site at <http://www.ctsnet.edu/news/multi/index.asp>.

Dr. Brown's book is available from the Columbia bookstore. See the order form on page 11.

Campbell Scholars Seminar 2004

The Church and Religious Violence

What is the mission of the church in an age of religious violence? That was the question under study by this year's Campbell Scholars who gathered on campus for two months this fall. "The seriousness of the question calls for representatives from the global church to struggle together as the seminar seeks to be a faithful part of God's mission in the world," said Erskine Clarke '66, faculty advisor for this year's seminar.

Meeting at Columbia, international scholars from Indonesia, Germany, South Africa, and Nicaragua were joined by two U.S. pastors, both Columbia graduates. Together they examined the role of the mission of the church in the midst of religious passions and intense hatreds that have marked the transition to the twenty-first century. South African scholar and Columbia graduate Maake Masango (ThM '81, ThD '93) remarked, "What has been good for me has been coming back home to touch roots with a place that prepared me for a healing ministry in South Africa. I came from a country where whites maintained oppression through laws and through religion. Columbia helped me to overcome my anger and I was able to integrate and dialogue with white people."

During the seminar, participants met to pray and share their reading and writing, led several chapel services, and made presentations at two campus forums. "To have time to read, study, and write on the subject of the mission of the church in an age of religious violence has been both refreshing and contextual," said Fahed Abu-Akel '74. At the seminar's conclusion, participants presented a paper that reflects their collaborative work.

From this work, several articles and a short book will also be published in the near future.

Created by vote of the Board of Trustees with funds given to the seminary by former trustee John Bulow Campbell, the first Campbell Scholars seminar met on campus in the fall of 2000.



2004 Campbell Scholars
LEFT (FRONT TO BACK):
Eberhard Busch, Catherine Taylor, Maake Masango, Violetta Rocha. MIDDLE (FRONT TO BACK):
Judo Poerwowidagdo, Fahed Abu-Akel, Gabriel Habib; and T. Erskine Clarke.

CATHERINE TAYLOR, '92, DMIN '03

St. Andrew's Presbytery Hosts Columbia Seminarians

In mid-October, 12 Columbia seminarians traveled with Alumni/ae Director Bert Carmichael '66 to St. Andrew's Presbytery, in Mississippi, to preach and speak in churches there. The weekend trip was the third annual visit to the presbytery. Working with Columbia's Alumni/ae and Church Relations Office, Bill Connolly '89, pastor of Ripley church, in Ripley, MS, coordinated the trip, assigning students to churches and finding host families for the Saturday evening stay. Sara Bures '91 and members of Trinity church hosted a dinner for us. Ann Kelly '92 hosted three students at the Tupelo church.

Students and their host churches included Cathy Schreiber '07, Zion church, Tupelo; Scarlette Bostick '06, First church, Tupelo; Jessica Derise '05, Osborn church, Starkville; Elizabeth Gabbard '07, Fairfield church; Sharon Acton '07, Trinity, Starkville; Karen Jolly '06, Louisville church; Catherine Cavazos '07, Okolona church; Chris Hill '07, Pontotoc church; Cader Howard '05, First church, Columbus; Rob McClellan '07, Wren church, Okolona; and international students, Géza Kacsó (Hungary) and Francis Njoroge (Kenya), First church, Tupelo.



The Columbia Friendship Circle Council and presbytery representatives, on campus in October for their fall meeting. Officers for 2004: Rita Lang, president; Jean Starnes, vice president; Joyce Gibbens, immediate past president; Sarah Payne, parliamentarian; Carolyn Bouldin, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta representative; and Mary Bell Streetman, secretary.

Colloquium 2005

From the Crusade to the Coffee Shop

COLLOQUIUM 2005
APRIL 18-20, 2005

Keynote speaker **Leighton Ford '55**
Preacher **Jin S. Kim** DMin Student

Alumni/ae Class Reunions
2004, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1975,
1970, 1965, 1960, 1955 and before

More information at
www.ctsnet.edu.

At the 2004 Founders Dinner in October, the seminary community celebrated the establishment of the Wade P. Huie chair in preaching. Dr. Huie served Columbia as the Peter Marshall Professor of Homiletics from 1957 to 1991. Dr. Huie was joined at the dinner by his family, including all four sons. (L to R) Miriam, Karla, Sarma, and son Wade; Dawn and John Huie; Wade's wife, Emily Williams Huie; Wade, David and Scott. FRONT: Jackson and Madison Huie, Wade's sister, Dorothy Huie Wooten, and Ryan Huie.

You can see a video of Dr. Huie speaking at the Founders Dinner at <http://www.ctsnet.edu/news/multi/index.asp>



The Nestorian Stone Monument, from which this rubbing was made, is housed in the "Forest of Tablets" in the Shensi Provincial Museum in Xian (Sian), China. Discovered in 1623 by workmen digging near this ancient capital of the Tang Dynasty, the monument was erected in 781 C.E. to commemorate the arrival of the Nestorian missionary "Alopen," who came across the mountains and deserts of central

Asia in 635 C.E. to propagate the Christian religion. The text furnishes indisputable evidence of the arrival of Christianity in China at such an early date, and speaks of the creator God, sin, the virgin birth, incarnation, salvation, the 27 scriptures, the Christian life, and the absence of slavery. This rubbing of the monument commemorates the visit of Bishop K. H. Tin, president of the China Christian Council, to the Columbia Seminary campus in October 1994. The rubbing is donated by Bishop Ting and Professor Emeritus G. Thompson Brown. A full translation of the monument is available online at <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/eastasia/781nestorian.html>.



L to R: Laura Mendenhall, G. Thompson (Tommy) and Mardia Brown, Ashley and Mary Brown Bullock.

Guthrie continued from page 1

deity. He constantly stressed the need for human beings to exhibit forgiveness. "God," he often said, "isn't out to get anybody."

As a "reformed theologian," Guthrie didn't believe in a static God. He saw God as a verb — a living deity constantly reforming the world. He publicly supported the ordination of gays and lesbians. He built bridges to people of other faiths, as well as to Latin-American, feminist and African-American theologies, Stroup said. "His understanding of Christian faith is to believe in a God that is always larger than our theology," Stroup said.

In the classroom, he would illustrate points by standing in place and extending his leg like a flamingo. Sometimes he would sit cross-legged on the floor. He was constantly jangling the coins in his pocket.

Stroup said that when Guthrie rose to prominence in the male-dominated field of theology in the 1960s, he got a kick out of other theologians thinking


"Theologians are known for being a little on the arrogant side, but Shirley always taught with enormous humility . . . When students would argue with him, he would say this is only my opinion and you could do with it what you want."

he was a feminist theologian. He got his first name from his father, a Presbyterian minister also named Shirley.

"Theologians are known for being a little on the arrogant side, but Shirley always taught with enormous humility," Stroup said. "When students would argue with him, he would say this is only my opinion and you could do with it what you want."

Guthrie could have invoked some impressive theological credentials if he had wanted. He earned a doctorate from the University of Basel in Switzerland, where he wrote his dissertation under the direction of Karl Barth, one of the 20th century's top theologians.

"He said he was so nervous in front of Barth that he was afraid to speak," Stroup said. "But Barth apparently took a liking to him. When he made his only trip to the United States in 1961, he had Guthrie translate for him."

In a church becoming engulfed by culture wars, Guthrie said it was important to transcend labels. "Sometimes both sides are wrong," he said in the middle of the debate on same-sex unions. Taking a firm stance "doesn't mean I have to hate, despise or have nothing to do" with people of different views, he said . . . 

This article is reprinted with permission of The Atlanta Journal Constitution. John Blake is a staff writer for the Faith and Values section of the paper. He is a member of Oakhurst church, Decatur.


Shirley Guthrie and his family requested that contributions in his memory be made to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515; or to the Shirley Guthrie Memorial Fund, Gift Box 325, Columbia Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 520, Decatur, GA 30031.



Youth Ministry Certification Program continued from page 1

an experienced retreat and workshop leader. Leadership for subsequent courses includes Walter Brueggemann, internationally acclaimed scholar and author, and professor emeritus at Columbia; Gina Yeager, director of youth ministries for the Presbyterian Church (USA); and Margaret Aymer, assistant professor of New Testament and early Christianity at the Inter-denominational Theological Center, in Atlanta. Christian educators and pastors experienced in youth ministry will round out the roster of facilitators.

The program fee for each YMLI session is \$150 and includes two meals. For more information, please visit www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/continuing_education or www.presbyteryofgreateratl.org.

You may download information, including registration forms at each site. Jennifer Williams Wilson (404-898-0711, ext. 37) and Sarah F. Erickson, associate director for Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary (404-687-4526), may also be contacted for additional information. 



Planning team for YMLI: (L to R) Rodger Nishioka, associate professor of Christian Education; Ashley Lamar '05; Jennifer Williams Wilson MATS '02, director of youth ministry for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta; Sarah Erickson '03, associate director, Lifelong Learning.

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The 2004 Columbia Seminary Alumni/ae Council FRONT ROW (L to R): Jeri Parris Perkins, Nancy Graham Ogne, Wanda Neely, Karen Redwine, Cary Speaker, Richard Cushman, Tom Stallworth. MIDDLE ROW: Kim Richter, Alan Elmore, Stacy Rector, John Law, Ron Sabo, Beth Yarborough, Todd Speed, Chip Blankinship, Ted Smith, Steven Negley. BACK ROW: Bill Hull, Andy Walton, Ralph Aker.

Alumni/ae

1950s

Dana Waters '58 will serve as the moderator of the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 217th General Assembly in Birmingham in 2006 and has also agreed to serve as the interim Presbytery Executive for Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery.

1960s

Buddy Hollyfield '62 is chaplain for the Point of Care Medical Clinics, FL.....**Edwin Lewis '63** retired as pastor of First church, Mooresville, NC.....**Joe Harvard '66** was honored by the Durham, NC, branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at their Freedom Fund Banquet. The awards were presented to two ministers recognized as "working together for social change through God's word, through God's will and in God's way." He also received the Keeper of the Dream Award presented by the Martin Luther King, Jr., Steering Committee of Durham.....**Jeff Coker '64** is interim pastor at First church, Covington, TN.....**Robert E. Smith '65** and wife **Dorothy '63** are Volunteers-in-Mission at Ghost Ranch Conference Center.....**John C. Bryan '67** retired and is writing articles on trust management for Organizations & People, the Journal for Association for Management Education and Development in Great Britain.

1970s

Lee Bowling '78 is serving as stated supply of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Blythewood, SC.

1980s

Glenn Bass '82 retired as pastor of Faith church, Tallahassee, FL..... **Preston Shealy '86** is pastor of Trinity church, Surfside Beach, SC..... **Gail Perkins '87** is interim pastor of First church, Morrilton, AR..... **Russell Jonas '82** is area director of AID SUDAN in Dallas, TX..... **Walter Dinkins '88** has been recalled to active duty and serves as a Navy Reserve Chaplain (Commander) in the Marine Corps Anti-Terrorist Command.....**Maetta Snyder '89** is pastor at United church, North Bend, NE.....**Brad Walker '89** is associate pastor at Government Street church, Mobile, AL.

1990s

Allison Moody '92 is pastor of First church, Monroe, LA.....**Kim Olson '93** is campus minister at Thornwell Childrens Home, Clinton, SC.....**Tim Slemmons '95** is interim pastor of First church, Titusville, NJ. In May, he received the Ph.D. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary **Paul Brokaw '98** is pastor of Russell Memorial church, Greenville, SC... . **Anna McArthur '99** is the Presbyterian campus minister for the University of Georgia, Athens..... **Hew Christopher '91 (DMin)** has accepted the call to First church, Marianna, FL.....**Lynn Rubier-Capron '98** won the Scottish fiddling championship at "The Gathering at Grandfather Mountain," Linville, NC. Lynn serves as pastor of the Dewey Avenue church, Rochester, NY, and is on faculty at the Hochstein School of Music as a violin teacher.

2000s

Agnes Norfleet (DMin '01) was the featured speaker on "Day 1" (formerly the Protestant Hour) radio

broadcast..... **Kim LeVert '04** is administrative assistant for International Programs at Columbia seminary..... **Keith Abramowski '01** is stated supply at First church, Alexandria, LA..... **Sandy Monroe '01**, is pastor of the Fort Valley, GA church.....**John Boulware '02** is chaplain intern with the Department of the Navy, Oak Harbor, WA..... **Ashley Seaman '01** was ordained at Wellshire church, Denver, CO, where she is associate pastor for spiritual life.....**Andrew Kukla '03** is associate pastor for nurture and discipleship at The Palms church, Jacksonville Beach, FL..... **Clayton Rascoe '03** and **Kate Richmond '03** were married in September. Clayton is associate executive for outdoor ministries in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina..... **Phil Hagen '04** was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at his home church, Crossroads, Mequon, WI. The ordination sermon was offered by **Barbara Jordan '01**, associate pastor for congregational care. Phil was installed as associate pastor of First church, Palatka, FL, in November..... **Susan Thomas '04** is Communications Specialist for Columbia seminary..... **Matthew Hardin '04** was ordained as the first full-time pastor of the Butner, NC, church in over twenty years..... **Pressley Neal Cox '02** is Director of Youth and Children's Ministries at Providence church, Charlotte, NC..... **Mark Bradshaw-Miller '02** is pastor of Westminster church, St. Louis, MO..... **Bobby Williamson '01** and **Eric Dillenbeck '03** co-wrote the theme song for the Montreat Florida Youth Conference, St. Petersburg, FL. Also **Denny Read '01** and **Sandy Monroe '01** served as small group leaders; **Jennifer Fouse '02**, **Anne Apple '01**, **Kate '01** and **Andrew Foster Connors '01** were keynote speakers; and **Ruth Lovell '01** was pastor at the conference.

Faculty and Staff

Biblical Area

Bill Campbell, adjunct assistant professor of New Testament, led a book study for candidates in Spring Hill College's certificate in spiritual direction program at Ignatius House, Atlanta; and presented two papers at the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) meeting, "Why Did you Abandon Me?": Abandonment

Christology in Mark's Gospel" and "The Gospel according to Mel: Reading Gibson Reading 'The Passion of the Christ.'".....**Beth Johnson**, J. Davison Philips Professor of New Testament, is on sabbatical finishing a commentary on 1 and 2 Thessalonians for the New Testament Library series (Westminster John Knox Press). She taught a church school class and the Faith and Families class at Central church, Atlanta; led a Bible study small-group discussion at the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches, Atlanta. She also participated on a panel for the Pauline Soteriology Group at the SBL meeting, and will deliver the Currie Lectures at Austin Theological Seminary in January..... **Christine Yoder**, associate professor of Old Testament, led a retreat for ministers of St. Andrew Presbytery; participated, with **Mark Douglas**, as a faculty sponsor in the annual gathering of the Company of New Pastors in Louisville, KY; and presented a paper at the AAR/SBL meeting.

Historical Doctrinal Area

Carlos Cardoza-Orlandi, associate professor of world Christianity, preached for the Tampa Bay Presbytery, lectured on "Grace in Chaos: Historical and Biblical Perspectives of a Faith in Movement," and facilitated a small group on "Global Christianity: Challenges and Promises of a New Geography of Faith." He participated in a panel for the World Council of Churches USA Commission Meeting in Atlanta; was a workshop leader for the Sabbath Renewal Project at Princeton Theological Seminary; and participated in "Tertulias: Theological Conversations about the Mission of the Church in the 21st Century," sponsored by the Association of Hispanic Theological Studies **Martha Moore-Keish**, assistant professor of theology, participated in the Sacramental Study Group for the Presbyterian Church (USA), Austin, TX, and the Reformed-Roman Catholic dialogue on the sacraments, Grand Rapids, MI. She led a session on the role of discipline in the Reformed tradition for the American Academy of Religion meeting (AAR), San Antonio, TX, and led a hymn festival and served as a theological respondent at the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) meeting, Louisville, KY. She also was a panelist

and workshop leader at the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship Symposium, Grand Rapids, MI, and will have an essay included in *A More Profound Alleluia: Theology and Worship in Harmony*. . . . **Charles Raynal**, director of Advanced Studies and associate professor of theology, preached at the Aiken, SC, church and First church, Florence, SC. He continues to work on a history of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina, 1925-1984. His book will continue histories of the Synod of South Carolina written by previous Columbia Seminary teachers and graduates: George Howe, *The Presbyterian Church in South Carolina* (to 1850) and F.D. Jones and W.H. Mills, *History of the Presbyterian Church in South Carolina Since 1850* (1926). This history covers the time from 1925, during the move of Columbia to Decatur from Columbia, to the end of the Synod of S.C. in the restructuring of the church, leading to Presbyterian reunion in 1984.

Practical Theology Area

Anna Carter Florence, assistant professor of preaching, served as a member of a Wabash Center Consultation on the "Teaching of Preaching" and wrote the chapter on "Imagination" for the book, *The Practice of Preaching*. She also preached at Camp Dudley, Westport, NY; the television program "30 Good Minutes," Chicago, IL; Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN; and Pilgrim Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN. . . . **Rodger Nishioka**, associate professor of Christian education, was the keynote speaker for the inaugural Montreat Florida Youth Conference held on the campus of Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL, and for the Reformed Church in America conference of leaders in Christian education and youth ministry at Hope College, Holland, MI. He preached at the Ray-Thomas Memorial church, Marietta, GA; the Newnan church, Newnan, GA; and a series of revival services for the Westminster church, Snellville, GA. He also delivered the Pace Warren lectures at Second church, Lexington, KY; was a presenter at a conference for new faculty in theological education hosted by the Association of Theological Schools, Pittsburgh, PA; and led a retreat for youth ministry leaders for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.



Azizi Awolana, administrative assistant for Lifelong Learning, received the 2004 Betsey Burgess Staff Award for faithfulness, dedicated service, and Christian character upholding the seminary's purpose and mission.

Administration and Staff

Laura Mendenhall, president, will preach in December at the Korean Community Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. She led worship for Greater Atlanta, Cherokee, and Northeast Georgia presbyteries; participated in the installation service for Chuck Williamson at Philadelphia church, Mint Hill, NC, and the installation service for Gary Charles, Central church, Atlanta. She led a retreat for First church, Spartanburg, SC, and led a workshop for interns at Second church, Indianapolis, IN. She participated in the Association of Theological Schools seminar for PCUSA seminary presidents and Board chairs. . . . **Ann Clay Adams**, director of admissions, was a vice moderator of the Atlanta Ecumenical Planning Committee for the annual meeting of the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches held in Atlanta; chaired the commission to ordain and install **Cyndy Dixon '99** as pastor of the Norris Lake church, Lithonia, GA. . . . **Tim Browning**, director of the library, traveled to Kikuyu, Kenya, to consult with Presbyterian College on how to set up and maintain an academic library. With the aid of First church, Marietta, GA, he sent approximately 4,000 books to the college's library in Kikuyu. He was elected chairperson of the Commission on Ministry for the Christian Church in GA. . . . **Sarah Erickson**, associate director of Lifelong Learning, preached at Faith church, Canton, GA; North Decatur, GA, church; led the service of installation, including delivering the sermon, at the installation service for **Andrew Meyers '03** at the Mt. Hope church in East Lansing, MI; and serves as leader of the confirmation process for the North Decatur, GA, church. . . . **Maggi Henderson**, dean of students and vice president for student services, preached at First church, Tuscaloosa, FL; Highland church, Winston Salem, NC; and Monticello church, Monticello, GA. . . . **Dent Davis (DMin '89)**, dean

and vice president for Lifelong Learning, taught a workshop on congregational development and learning at the annual fall leadership event of the Presbyteries of Greater Atlanta, Cherokee, and Northeast Georgia; spoke at the meeting of the Presbytery of East Tennessee; participated in the meetings of the Christian Educator Certification Council of the PC (USA) and the Church Relations Council of Eckerd College; presented a paper on male experiences of spiritual growth in midlife at the Joint International Conference of the 45th annual Adult Education Research Conference (AERC) and the 23rd annual Conference of the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (CASAE) at the University of Victoria, Victoria, Canada; and presented a paper on accelerated learning and adult religious education at the annual conference of the Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education (APRRE) and the Religious Education association (REA) in Denver, CO. . . . **Julie Johnson**, director of the spirituality program, hosted the General Assembly Task Force studying "Spiritual Formation and Theological Education" and the Certificate in Spiritual Formation annual partnership meeting, Decatur, GA. She also gave the keynote address, "With Apologies to Martha Stewart: Reclaiming Biblical Hospitality," for the Santa Fe Presbytery nurture event, Albuquerque, NM; led a session consultation on discernment for the St. Andrews church, Jacksonville, FL; co-led a pre-conference retreat on spirituality for the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches; and led a workshop, "The Music and Ministry of the Taizé Community," for the Synod Presbyterian Women's gathering, St. Simons Island, GA. . . . **Michael Morgan**, seminary musician, attended the Executive Board meeting of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) in Louisville, KY; served as the PAM representative to the Music and Worship Conference, Denver, CO; and presented two seminars on sacred music to the Christian Connections event sponsored by the Presbytery of New Covenant, Houston, TX. . . .

Linda Morningstar, associate director of Lifelong Learning, made presentations on "Hannah's Self-Addressing Prayer" and "Martha's Encounter with Jesus" during the annual Fall Women's

Gathering of the Savannah Presbytery; was the program presenter on *Quotable Women in Scripture* for the Fall Gatherings of Presbyterian Women at North West church, Atlanta, and Northminster church, Roswell, GA; and led a women's retreat, "Coming to Our (Biblical) Senses," for the Mountain church and the Faith church at the Hinton Center, Hayesville, NC. . . .

Cam Murchison, dean of faculty and executive vice president, participated in a consultation with representatives of the PC (USA) Committee on Theological Education (COTE) to plan a meeting of selected faculty from the PC (USA) seminaries to share approaches in core courses and engage in conversation about distance education. He preached and led an officers' training session on "Teachings That Guide Us: The Book of Confessions as a Resource for Ministry" at Faith church, Waleska, GA; taught and preached on "Healthy Churches in the 21st Century" at Covenant church, Monroe, LA; and led a session retreat and preached the stewardship sermon for First church, Savannah, GA. . . . **John Knapp (MATS '95)**, president of the Southern Institute for Business and Ethics, conducted ethics orientation seminars for the boards of Georgia state agencies including, Juvenile Justice, Corrections, Public Safety, Human Resources, Economic Development, Transportation, Community Affairs and Natural Resources. He also made presentations at the Travel Industry Association's national conference, Boston, MA; the annual retreat of Leadership DeKalb; the Decatur, GA, church; the Oglethorpe, GA, church; Georgia Business Ethics Awards; the Georgia State University Conference on Corporate Communication; the University of Notre Dame; the Atlanta West End Rotary Club; UPS; AGL Resources; Georgia-Pacific; and ChoicePoint Corporation.

Faculty Emeriti

Sidney Anderson conducted the morning worship service for the 250th anniversary celebration of Cumberland church, Farmville, VA. During the summer of 1954 while on vacation in Virginia, he had written a history of the church and delivered the 200th anniversary message. . . .

Walter Brueggemann taught a graduate course at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN. He lectured at the University of South Florida, Center for Theological Study, Tampa, FL; Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, IN; gave the Beck Lectures to the Massachusetts Bible Society, Boston, MA; presented to the "Emergent Church" gathering in Decatur, GA; and was the visiting professor and lecturer at Knox College in Auckland, NZ. He spoke at the UCC National Evangelism Gathering; Redeemer Lutheran church, Atlanta; participated in the "Faith and Reason" Symposium in Jackson, MS; and he gave the keynote address at Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, TX. He also preached at the Church Health Center, Memphis, TN; Trinity church, Atlanta; and the Timberridge church, McDonough, GA....**Ben Kline** taught two workshop sessions on "Using *Christian Doctrine* in Officer Training" at the annual fall leadership event of the Presbyteries of Greater Atlanta, Cherokee, and Northeast Georgia and serves on the Adult Education Committee at the North Decatur, GA, church....**Robert Ramey** preached at the Brownson Memorial church, Southern Pines, NC; Calabash, NC, church; Jackson Springs, NC, church; McDonalds Chapel church, Aberdeen, NC; and conducted special services at White Plains church, Whiteville, NC, as well as preaching for their Homecoming Service, and he led a seven-week stewardship program at the Community church, Pinehurst, NC. He also taught an Advent preaching course for the Coastal Carolina Leadership School; the polity portion of the officer training course for new officers and Commissioned Lay Pastors for the Coastal Carolina Presbytery; and two sessions on "Understanding the Purpose-Driven Life from a Reformed Perspective" for the St. Andrews-Covenant church, Wilmington, NC.

Students

In this issue, we begin reporting news of Columbia students—their honors, awards, and activities outside the classroom, and, especially, out in the church.

Master of Divinity

Caleb Clarke '07 teaches adult Sunday school at First church, Atlanta, and preaches at Bulloch Chapel, a non-denominational chapel located on Lake



Lanier, in Flowery Branch, GA.... **Andy James '05** was presented with the Paul T. Furhmann Book Prize in Church History. He was

the summer intern at Stony Point, NY, Center and preached in Presbyterian churches in Stony Point, Cold Spring, Katonah, and Croton Falls, NY. He also serves as the Student Coordinating Council treasurer at Columbia....

Emily Zeig '07 is a Fund For Theological Education (FTE) Ministry fellow and serves as a Junior Class representative to the Nominating Committee at Columbia.... **Stuart Higginbotham '05** was presented with the Indiantown Country Church Award....



Caroline Dennis '07 teaches Sunday school, coordinates worship education for children, and the Bible Buddy program for the Monticello, GA, church.... **David Felton '05** serves on



the Basic Degrees committee at Columbia.... **Clay Thomas '05** was presented with the Ludwig Richard Max Dewitz Biblical Studies Award and

the C. Virginia Harrison Memorial Fund Award. Clay and **Tricia Dillon Thomas '06** served as recreation leaders for the Montreat Youth Conference.... **Meg Flannagan '06** was supply preacher to the Deer Creek church, Cumming, GA; First church, Barnesville, GA; and the Atlanta Taiwanese church. She also is the assistant to the campus minister, **John B. Morgan '97**, at Emory University, Atlanta.... **Cheryl Gans '07** is president-elect of the American Camp Association, Southeastern section....

Christopher Henry '07 was elected president of the Junior Class and was the keynote speaker for the New Hope Presbytery Fall Middle School Rally, Cary, NC.... **Andy Gans '05** is the program director for the Outreach and Advocacy Center at Central church, Atlanta.... **Jill Tolbert '07** received the Columbia Merit Scholarship and the J. Randy Taylor Fellowship at Montreat Conference Center which helps to provide rest, retreat, and renewal for pastors and their families at Montreat. She preached at Druid Hills church, Atlanta; Henry Memorial church, Dublin,

GA; Fourth church, Greenville, SC; and the Mt. Hermon church, Ila, GA; and serves on the Basic Degrees committee at Columbia.... **Ashley Lamar '05** designed the logo and brochure for the new Youth Ministry Leadership Initiative (YMLI) program, offered jointly by Columbia seminary and the Greater Atlanta Presbytery.... **LaShonda Yearwood '05** preaches in United Methodist churches in Decatur and Lithonia, GA, and has preached in Canada, Jamaica, and Hungary.... **Jerry Long '06** completed his summer internship at the Newnan, GA, church and is now student pastor at First church, Bremen, GA.... **April Love-Fordham '06** teaches, with her husband, the singles ministry "The Vine" at Peachtree church, Atlanta, and wrote a newsletter article about Columbia's Evangelical Student Association for the Network of Presbyterian Women in Leadership.... **Joel Tolbert '05** is president of the Senior class; was Greek School precept; the Theological School Advisory Delegate at General Assembly for Columbia; and received the Columbia Merit Scholarship. He also was supply preacher for the Midway church, Decatur, GA; Mount Hermon church, Ila, GA; John Knox church, Greenville, SC; Fourth church, Greenville, SC; and Henry Memorial church, Dublin, GA, and taught the Wednesday Night program on the unused Psalms at Druid Hills church, Atlanta.... **Kim Donahue '06** and **Derek Wadlington '06** are student interns at Central church, Atlanta. Derek served as Greek School chaplain this past summer.... **Sarah Walker '07** is a Fund For Theological Education (FTE) Graduate fellow, is working on a ministry project on spirituality and spiritual formation, and serves as a Junior Class representative to the Nominating Committee at Columbia.... **Reggie Weaver '06** participated on the planning team for Triennium.... **Laurie Taylor '05**, **Elizabeth Soileau Acton '05**, and **Andy Acton '05** served as chaperone/leaders for the Montreat Florida Youth Conference.... **Devon Beisser Ducheneau '05** was co-director, with **John Weicher '04**, of the Massanetta Springs Middle School Conference, Harrisonburg, VA. Also **Shelli Latham '05** was Enabler Coordinator, **Dan McCurdy '06** led music, **Laurie Taylor '05** was recre-

ation leader, **Elizabeth Soileau Acton '05**, **Andy Acton '05**, **Amy Summers-Minette '06**, and **Mike Ducheneau '05** were workshop leaders for this conference.

Doctor of Ministry

In each issue, we will share brief information about D.Min. students and what they're doing in ministry today, in addition to their studies in this advanced degree program.

David M. Bender '07 is pastor of the Bethesda church, York, SC.... **Baron E. Eliason '05** (Spirituality) is the associate pastor of First church, Johnson City, TN.... **Valdir Xavier de Franca '06** (NCD) is organizing pastor of the New Life church, Tampa Bay, FL.... **Melanie Greer Nogalski '07** is the Director of the Lilly Ministerial Vocation Program for Youth at Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC. She led a retreat for high school seniors in the program, focusing on spiritual formation, mentoring, and building community in a small group retreat format.... **Jacqueline Rose-Tucker '07** (NCD) is senior pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church, Marietta, GA.... **Holton Siegling '06** (Gospel & Culture) will participate in a pulpit exchange this summer with the Rev. Scott Burton of the Kely Kirk in Scotland.... **Carolyn J. Visser '07** (Spirituality) is pastor »of the Emmanuel church, Marion, SD.

Births

Walter Dinkins '88 and Lhyne:
a son, John Grier, Aug. 18, 2004.
Mike O'Neil '93 and Christine:
a daughter, Grace Elizabeth,
Aug. 20, 2004.
Ralph Hawkins '99 and Elizabeth:
a daughter, Eleanor Temple,
Sept. 15, 2004.
Elizabeth '03 and Mike Goodrich:
a son, Gibson Bew, Sept. 22, 2004.

In Memoriam

Charles T. McKee '49, July 24, 2004.
Virgil Pino '54, Oct. 1, 2003.
John R. Hall '58, Aug. 29, 2004.
Henry D. Pope '68, Sept. 14, 2004.
Vernon Eugene Abshier '73,
Oct. 13, 2004.
Prak Deetanna '73, Oct. 15, 2004.
D. Raye Jones '91, Oct. 16, 2004.

Continuing Education

For information, call 404 687-4562 or e-mail ConEd@CTSnet.edu.

Christian Educator Certification Course: Worship and Sacraments. January 18-22. Columbia campus. Leader: Kim Long. \$250 (does not include room and board).

January Seminars. January 24-25. Columbia campus. "Ponder Anew...What the Almighty Can Do! Sonograms of the Future—The Sounds and Sights of Faith in the 21st Century." Leader: Leonard Sweet. \$240 (includes lunch each day).

Just Peace in the Holy Land: In Word and Deed. February 4-5. Columbia campus. Keynotes speakers: Rev. Canon Naim Ateek and Jeff Halper. Program fee and registration information to be announced.

Contemplative Retreat for Women. February 27-March 3. Benedictine Spirituality and Conference Center, Sacred Heart Monastery, Cullman, AL. Leader: Carol Byrd. \$250 (includes housing and meals).

Learning Together in Ministry. February 28-March 4. Columbia campus. For members of the Class of 2003 in their first call. Leaders: CTS faculty members and experienced pastors. Cost, including room and board, underwritten through the generous support of the Blanche Lipscomb Foundation.

Being Prepared for Ministry: Knowledge, Gifts, Skills and Spiritual Maturity. March 6-8. Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL. For pastors, educators, and lay leaders. Sponsored by Columbia, Candler School of Theology of Emory University, and Eckerd College. Leaders: Roberta Bondi, Beth Cooke, Dent Davis, Duncan Ferguson, Catherine González, Justo González. Cost: \$225 (\$250 after February 1); food for 5 meals \$75 (commuters may pay per meal); lodging: \$109 to \$119 plus tax per night.

Mysticism and Resistance. April 3-8. Columbia campus. Leaders: Julie Johnson and Barbara Brown Taylor. Cost: \$300 (includes dinner the first evening).

Contemplative Retreat for Men. April 10-15. At the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, near Conyers, GA. Leader: David Guthrie. Cost: \$260 (includes room and board).

Guthrie Scholars. May 2-6. Columbia campus. Open to a designated CTS alumni/ae class. Costs for tuition, room, and board are provided for successful applicants. Cost: transportation.

Lay Institute of Faith and Life

For more information, call 404 687-4577 or e-mail LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu.

The Ethics of Indebtedness, Part 1. Tuesday, January 25. Columbia campus. Offered in cooperation with The Southern Institute for Business and Professional Ethics. FREE.

The Ethics of Indebtedness, Part 2. Tuesday, May 3. Part 2. Columbia campus. Offered in cooperation with The Southern Institute for Business and Professional Ethics. FREE.

Theology & Literature. First Tuesdays. 7:30-9:00 P.M. Columbia campus. Leader: Rick Dietrich. FREE.

Faith & Film. Third Tuesdays. 7:30-9:00 P.M. Columbia campus. Leader: Fritz Bogar. FREE.

Spirituality

For more information, call 404 687-4559 or e-mail SptyProg@CTSnet.edu.

The Enneagram for Personal Spiritual Growth and Improved Staff Relationships. January 16-21. Daytona, Florida. Leaders: Roy and Mary Nilsen. Cost: \$300.

Immersion Experience Weekend. January 27-30. Columbia campus. Introductory course for the Certificate in Spiritual Formation. Leaders: Liz Forney and John Kloepfer. Cost: \$300.

Henri Nouwen: Reformation of the Heart. February 10-13. Columbia campus. Leader: Chris Glaser. Cost: \$225.

The Church Comes Alive: Missional Spirituality. February 13-18. Columbia campus. Leader: Betty Meadows. Cost: \$300.

Spirituality of the Psalms. March 13-18. Columbia campus. Leader: Walter Brueggemann. Cost: \$300.

Mysticism and Resistance. April 3-8. Columbia campus. Leaders: Julie Johnson and Barbara Brown Taylor. Cost: \$300 (includes dinner the first evening).

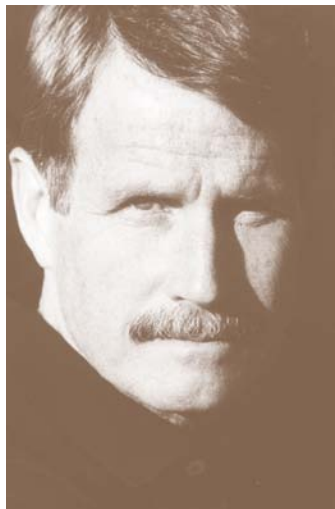


“John,” Judy Kuniarsky's photograph, was the first prize winner at the seminary's sixth annual juried exhibition, "Election." Sponsored by Lifelong Learning's Lay Institute of Faith and Life, the exhibition was at the Harrington Center October 1 – November 15, 2004. Images of works in the exhibition may be viewed online at http://www.ctsnet.edu/lifelong/lay_institute/election_catalog/election.asp

This year's Winter Lay School, offered annually through Lifelong Learning's Lay Institute of Faith and Life, features courses on the book of Psalms, issues in science and religion, and how the church and society have understood and misunderstood the Genesis story of creation and the fall. Winter Lay School meets on the seminary campus Monday evenings, February 7, 14, 21, and 28, from 7:30–9:30 p.m.

This winter's courses will be taught by scholars and teachers from Columbia Seminary, Agnes Scott College, and the McAfee School of Theology of Mercer University. Bill Brown is professor of Old Testament language, literature and exegesis and author of *Seeing the Psalms: A Theology of Metaphor*; Mark Douglas is assistant professor of ethics with a particular interest in issues of science and religion; Chris DePree is associate professor of astronomy at Agnes Scott and co-author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Astronomy*; and Graham Walker is associate professor of theology at the McAfee School.

The cost for each course is \$55. For more information or to register, contact the Lay Institute of Faith and Life at 404-687-4577; fax 404-687-4591; email LayInstitute@CTSnet.edu.



Henri Nouwen: Reformation of the Heart

FEBRUARY 10-13

Chris Glaser, author and retreat leader, will lead the workshop “Henri Nouwen Reformation of the Heart” on the Columbia campus February 10-13. Glaser invites participants to a study of the prolific spiritual writer whom he knew as professor, mentor, and friend.

Glaser, who knew Nouwen as professor, mentor, and friend, says “While many of us want to reform society and the church, we need to note that reformation begins with our own hearts through spiritual formation.” For Glaser ministry is the vocation of every Christian, and in language reminiscent of Nouwen, he adds “We need to hear ‘the inner voice of love’ so that we may be ‘wounded healers’ as ministers.”

Glaser, who graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1977 and lives in Atlanta, was one of the preachers for the 216th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He has published nine books including *Henri’s Mantle: 100 Meditation on Nouwen’s Legacy*, *Communion of Life: Meditations for the New Millennium*, *Unleashed: The Wit and Wisdom of Calvin the Dog*, and his writings have appeared in *Newsweek*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *The Advocate*, *Frontiers*, *Christianity and Crisis*, and *The Christian Century*.

The program fee is \$225. For more information or to register, please call 404-687-4587; e-mail SptyProg@CTSnet.edu or visit the seminary’s Web site at www.ctsnet.edu. 


January Seminars: Ponder Anew What the Almighty Can Do

JANUARY 24-25

The January Seminars workshop “Ponder Anew . . . What the Almighty Can Do! Sonograms of the Future—Sounds and Sights of Faith in the 21st Century” will feature church historian and futurist Leonard Sweet.

According to Sweet, he plans to give special attention to what he calls “a priest/prophet” understanding of leadership. He says that the “emerging church” movement will be a key component of discussions.

Sweet is the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew University, Madison, NJ, and a visiting Distinguished Professor at George Fox University in Portland, OR. He has been called one of the church’s most original and provocative thinkers, and a writer of vast imagination, poise, and charm. Sweet has written or contributed to a number of well-known publications, including *Church in Emerging Culture*, *AquaChurch: Essential Leadership Arts for Piloting Your Church in Today’s Fluid Culture*, and *Post-Modern Pilgrims: First Century Passion for the 21st Century Church*.

The program fee is \$240, which includes lunch each day. For more information, call 404-687-4526; e-mail ConEd@CTSnet.edu, or visit the seminary’s Web site at www.ctsnet.edu. 



Columbia's S³ project now includes 100 pastors from 17 states, representing 20 denominations. Pastors are invited to submit S³ group proposals for the 2005 project year, with completed applications due April 22, 2005. For more information, call 404-687-4587, e-mail ConEd@CTSnet.edu, or visit www.ctsnet.edu.



Pastors of the S³ group “Christians Reaching an Emergent World,” or “CREW,” say that many of the methods and tools of ministry they learned 20 years ago are essentially 50 years old today. (L to R) Brant Baker, Gloria Pulido, John Poling, Malcolm Davis, Bob Simmons, Bruce Johnson, Tom Lineweaver, and Jim Uhley say they hope to be transformed in ministry while developing transferable ideas for spreading Christ’s gospel.



Members of the S³ group “Faith and Reconciliation” (FAR), from Birmingham, AL, plan to develop a model of reconciliation that responds to the core beliefs of their own faith communities, ranging from Reformed Judaism to Presbyterian to Baptist traditions, while building an

inter-religious model among the broader religious community. Members (L to R) Bud Precise, J.R. Finney, Jonathan Miller, and Hughey Reynolds will share sermons and travel together to the Balkans to investigate religious fault lines dividing the area and to meet with people facilitating recovery and reconciliation. Not pictured: Robert Montgomery, Ed Hurley, Steve Jones, Mark Andrus, Ray Dunmyer.



S³’s “Women in Ministry” will explore their thesis that sustaining pastoral excellence is more readily maintained in community with opportunities for acts of mercy and justice, spiritual renewal, transparency of self, and authenticity before God and others. With extensive ministry and work experience before seminary and ordination, (L to R) Gail Doering, Wendy Komori Stager, Debbie Whaley, and Jeannie Kim are all first-call associate pastors serving congregations in California and Colorado.




S³’s “Hokey Pokey Preachers” (L to R) Bob Wiseman, Bob Wallace, George Wilcox, Tom Gibson, Clarice Mitchell, David McGaffic, and Bob Pearcy. Presbyterian, United Methodist, Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, and United Church of Christ clergy, their group name affirms that the flow of ministry, especially between areas of service and Sabbath, involves “putting your whole self in and taking your whole self out.”



Columbia Seniors Participate in “Company of New Pastors”

Eight Columbia seniors, accompanied by Mark Douglas, assistant professor of ethics, and Christine Roy Yoder, associate professor of Old Testament, participated in an October gathering of the Company of New Pastors at the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Louisville, KY. The Company of New Pastors, funded by a Lilly grant, is a covenant-based vocational formation and nurture program designed to foster excellence in new pastors by deepening and sustaining candidates for ministry who intend to go into parish ministry. Faculty leaders, such as Douglas and Yoder, convene their “company” monthly to engage in common prayer and theological study of ordination vows. After graduation, participants join a regional group and continue to meet with students from other seminaries as well as two pastor-mentors for several more years.

With its focus on the critical period of vocational formation, beginning in seminary and continuing into the first years of ministry, the aim of the Company of New Pastors is to promote faithfulness, fruitfulness, and fulfillment in ministry by establishing and nurturing a sustained *habitus* of theological exploration and spiritual formation. The program is sponsored by the PC (USA)’s Office of Theology and Worship and is currently in place in five seminaries including Columbia, Princeton, Austin, Pittsburgh, and Fuller. 

Pictured above, FOREGROUND (BACK TO FRONT): Andy James, Stacy Welsh, Shannon Edgerton. **MIDDLE (BACK TO FRONT):** Christine Roy Yoder, Leah Hrachovec, Lindsey Wade, Ben Acton, Shelli Latham; and Mark Douglas. **NOT PICTURED:** Casey Thompson, Joel Tolbert.

Vantage: Same Mission, New Look

For many years, news and information from the seminary traveled to former students and friends in a publication called *The Columbia Seminary Bulletin*. In 1970, the name was changed to *INFORM*, and in 1975 to *Vantage*. Now, with a 30th anniversary approaching, *Vantage* is getting a bit of a makeover. But the name is perfect and here’s why, in the words of Ben Kline, Columbia’s president from 1971 to 1976, who announced *Vantage* in the fall of 1975.

[W]e have at the Seminary a particular vantage point and from it we offer a vantage on the church and the world. There are many elements in our vantage. One is the education and experience of the faculty . . . Another is the rich variety of our students. . . Yet another is our current contacts with the churches . . . Alumnnae, recent and of longer experience, help to form our vantage as well by their visits, letters, phone calls about what their ministry involves . . . Our [Trustees] bring also a perspective on the church . . . And above all, though, our vantage is that of the authority of Scripture which informs our teaching and learning and of our fidelity to the [Constitution] of the church. Through them we seek the mind of Christ for the service of the mission of the church in the world of today and tomorrow.

Corrections

In the spring issue of *Vantage*, we reported that Harold Prince ’60 is a regionally ranked tennis player. We should have noted that not only is he an alumnus, but also that he served the seminary for 31 years, as the seminary librarian and professor of bibliography. He retired in 1982. In this same issue, we intended to report that Bill Phipps ’68 (not Bill Phillips) is retired from Highland church, Clearwater, FL.

In the Annual Report issue we reported on the whereabouts of Kate and Andrew Foster-Connors, who had just moved to Baltimore. Andrew is pastor of Brown Memorial Park Avenue church, not its co-pastor with Kate. In the lists recognizing those who support the seminary, we intended to acknowledge a gift honoring the **Rev. Bradley K. Walker**, given by his wife, **Lee Pruett Walker**. In error, we noted the gift being given by the Rev. and Mrs. Bradley K. Walker.

From the Bookstore

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<i>*Prices subject to change as determined by publishers.</i>		
New titles by Columbia faculty members		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Ten Commandments: The Reciprocity of Faithfulness edited by William P. Brown	35.00	29.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Book that Breathes New Life by Walter Brueggemann	35.00	29.75
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Good News About The Columbia Annual Fund

Columbia Seminary saw a dramatic rise in annual giving revenue in 2004. The trend looks promising for the future as the seminary looks to increase M.Div. classes to 75 students by 2008—part of Columbia’s effort to fulfill its partnership with the church by providing much-needed pastors for congregations in need of leadership.

Several factors account for the trend, according to Jami Moss, director of annual giving. For one thing, charitable giving in the U.S. overall is up as the stock market and the economy in general rise above the low points of two years ago. But a better economy alone doesn’t account for the 45% increase Columbia saw in fiscal year 2004 (July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004).

“There really isn’t a magic formula here,” Moss says. “We are simply working harder to explain how important Columbia Seminary is to the church—how important it is to have strong pastors and leaders. Once people see what bright students we have, what great teachers are here, they are usually willing to make a gift.”

Getting out the “message” of Columbia involves several strategies—periodic letters to alumni/ae and supporters explaining why their gift matters to the students at Columbia Seminary and to the church; a student phonathon in the fall and spring to reconnect current seminarians with those who have already graduated; and an increase in visits to churches, pastors, and individuals by Columbia faculty and staff. But a key factor is the Partners in Ministry initiative,

“There really isn’t a magic formula here. . . . We are simply working harder to explain how important Columbia Seminary is to the church—how important it is to have strong pastors and leaders.”

which encourages multi-year gifts to the Columbia Annual Fund. In 2004 Columbia hosted two events, one in Atlanta and another in Birmingham, to continue publicizing the initiative and to increase awareness of Columbia Seminary in other parts of the Southeast. Gifts from the initiative accounted for 33% of the overall total for the Columbia Annual Fund in 2004.

Richard DuBose, Columbia’s vice president for development and seminary relations, attributes the

success of Partners in Ministry to the ways the initiative connects to donors’ passionate interests—to the hope they see in gifted men and women entering the ministry of Christ’s church. “These events have allowed us to build community and enthusiasm for Columbia,” he says. “We now know that Presbyterians will give, and give generously, when they connect their own faith community to Columbia’s mission and the future of the Presbyterian Church.”

VANTAGE

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