

Seminary

# Views

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AT GETTYSBURG

WINTER 2011



## Reconciliation in Stuttgart

Proposed museum receives grant, p. 3 | Virginia Price is chosen as new Director of Admissions, p. 2 | From Gettysburg to Stuttgart: LWF Assembly, p. 5 | The wide reach of the pastor and public affairs, p. 10 | Seminary Explores celebrates 40 years, p. 13 | Faith and science meet in Gettysburg, p. 15 | Alumni news, p. 16-17

## SEMINARY NOTEBOOK

President Michael L. Cooper-White

### Seedtime and Harvest



*It has been 75 years since he completed his degree and received his diploma. But as Pastor William Karns reflected back upon his education here on Seminary Ridge, he not only recalled his professors' names, but could cite their teachings on biblical studies, theology and other areas of the curriculum. As a handful of colleagues and I sat at Pastor Karn's feet in our Library's remodeled "Pioneer Room" (see photo, p. 19) on an early October afternoon, we were stunned by the sharpness of mind and vigorous engagement on the part of our oldest living alumnus. Responding to our questions, Pastor Karns also looked ahead, expressing the hope that this Seminary would continue sending forth faithful public theologians who recognize that Church unity does not require or may not even be advanced by uniformity.*

*In the days since that fascinating conversation with our 101-year-old esteemed alumnus, I have shared with others the sense of privilege and responsibility engendered by his recollection of what transpired in classroom and chapel back in the early 1930's. On days when we may wonder if our labors have lasting impact, Pastor Karn's testimony and tribute to his professors offers encouragement. As those who steward a "seedbed" (the literal meaning of "seminary"), we may never see some of the fruits that result from seeds planted in a lecture, hallway conversation, chapel sermon or note on a paper or exam handed back to a student.*

*This issue of Seminary Views includes several articles that connect the Seminary's past to present emphases and projects, as well as to future possibilities. My classmate Don Wilcox invited all known alumni who participated in a course offered in Washington to share memories about "The Pastor and Public Affairs" and how it has influenced our ministries for more than three decades. (See article, p. 10)*

*As we celebrated the strong representation by our Seminary at the Eleventh General Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation, held in August at Stuttgart, Germany, (see p. 5) it was inspiring to be reminded of the leadership provided by Gettysburg graduates like Abdel Ross Wentz, Stewart Herman, Kenneth Senft and others when the LWF was founded mid-20th century.*

*By the time this issue of Views lands in mailboxes throughout the land and abroad, we will have completed the Seminary's comprehensive self-study in preparation for our once-a-decade visit by a team that will assess how well we meet standards set by our accrediting agencies. As do all such endeavors, our study looks backward to assess accomplishments, and simultaneously strains to see what challenges and opportunities lie up ahead in our future. In my mind's eye, I imagine a successor 75 years down the road looking back at this self-study, together with a newly-adopted planning document entitled Gettysburg Seminary 20/20 (also available upon request), and making some connections: "Oh, my, I can see how seeds planted at the Seminary back in 2010 are only now coming to full fruition here in 2085!"*

*After the great flood story recounted near the beginning of the Bible, the divine promise was issued: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." (Genesis 8:22) Most especially in times like the present, when so many engaged in ministries of preaching, teaching, service and working for justice see scant evidence that our work has enduring import, recognizing the fruits among us borne from seeds planted decades or generations ago offers encouragement and issues a mandate: "Keep on sowing!"*

Michael L. Cooper White

## NEWS

### Welcome!

**The Seminary named the Rev. Virginia K. Price of Jefferson, Md., as its new Director of Admissions and Coordinator of Spiritual Formation.** Price, known as "Ginny," will oversee the process in which persons interested in ministry, and in theological education generally, apply for enrollment in the Seminary's programs. "I am delighted to serve Christ and the church through this new ministry of vocation" said Price, who received her theological education at Gettysburg Seminary (M.Div. 1988). Before coming to the Seminary, Price served on the staff of the Delaware Maryland Synod, specializing in leadership development, campus ministries, candidacy for ministry processes and stewardship. From 1997-2006, she served as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jefferson, Md. and before that Evangelical Lutheran Church, Frederick. Before seminary, Price graduated from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa.

"We are very excited for the gifts that Pastor Price will bring to Gettysburg" said Robin Steinke, Dean of the Seminary. "She is a keen listener, an engaging and thoughtful conversation partner, a strategic thinker with wonderful vision and a pastor's heart." Price began in November, succeeding Mark Olsen, who returned to parish ministry in the spring.



## Proposed Seminary Ridge museum receives major grant

**A joint venture between the Adams County Historical Society (ACHS) and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg to rehabilitate the iconic Schmucker Hall received critical lead support thanks to Governor Edward Rendell's authorization to release \$4 million in funds from the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.** The support, announced publicly October 12 by State Senator Rich Alloway, represents the concerted efforts of the senator, Governor Rendell and local stakeholders. In the release of the funding, the Governor noted, "[this project] will be a valuable asset to the community of Gettysburg, the Commonwealth of Pa., and in no small measure, a gift to our Nation."

The sole focus of the joint venture is the \$11.7 million preservation of the 1832 building, said to be the most important surviving Civil War building not owned by a public entity. The goal of the rehabilitation project is to create a state of the art museum interpreting the first day of the Battle of Gettys-



The joint venture focus is the Seminary's Schmucker Hall, or "Old Dorm."

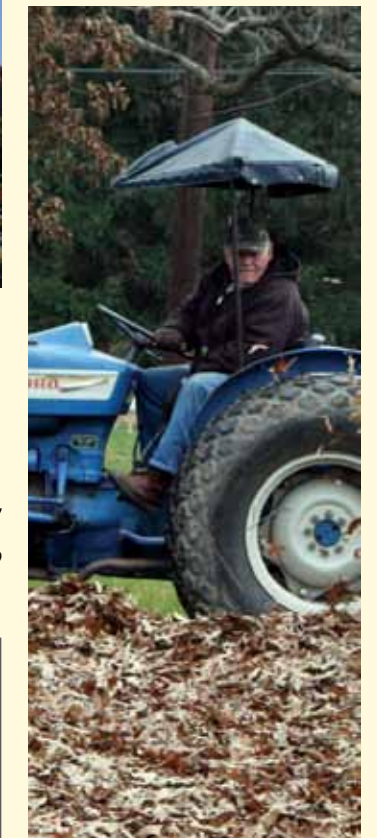
burg, Schmucker Hall's role as one of the largest fixed field hospitals in the battle, and its role in the African American experience, Underground Railroad, the art museum interpreting the first day of the Battle of Gettys-

burg, Schmucker Hall's role as one of the largest fixed field hospitals in the battle, and its role in the African American experience, Underground Railroad,

*Continued on page 19*

## Sanders retires after four decades of service

William "Bill" Sanders, the chief steward of building and grounds for more than four decades, announced his retirement in September of this year. Sanders, known to all affectionately as "Bill" retired after more than 43 years of uninterrupted service to Gettysburg Seminary.



Sanders began work on the grounds crew in 1967, and became the Superintendent of Building and Grounds in 1975. Tireless in his efforts to keep the 52 acre campus attractive and well-maintained, Bill's pride in caring for the seminary's grounds and its people remains the stuff of legend. No student, faculty or staff member has spent time on this campus without seeing the fruits of that dedication. "Bill Sanders is among those on a short list who have served at the Seminary for more than four decades," said Seminary President Michael Cooper-White. "We are thankful for his stewardship of our campus over these many years."

### Forty years of the study of Luther and the Reformation at Gettysburg Seminary

*(A longer version of the Institute's history by Gerald Christianson will be published in the spring 2011 issue of Seminary Ridge Review)*

INSTITUTE FOR LUTHER STUDIES

LUTHER ON FAITH, PRAYER, AND ORDER



THE 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LUTHER COLLOQUY  
OCTOBER 27, 2010

Every generation since Samuel Simon Schmucker's controversial "Americanism" has made its contribution to the intra-Lutheran debate about the Confessions, and the Luther Colloquy, which turned 40 this year, can trace its origins to that extended conversation.

Part of the support for the colloquy runs deep into the 19th century and is found in an endowed named lectureship, the Holman Lectures, on the Augsburg Confession which was initiated in 1855 by Schmucker's successor, J. A. Brown.

The Colloquy was born in the turbulent 1960s and early 1970s when Gettysburg and Mount Airy seminaries were locked in talks of merger. A new generation of scholars recruited by then president Donald R. Heiges determined to make their mark in scholarship, would make this new Colloquium part of a visible commitment to both the Confessions and ecumenicity. Joining Herman Stuempfle, Lawrence Folkemer, and Eric Gritsch were, among others, Leigh Jordahl, Lorenz Nieting, Lloyd

Sheneman, Roger Gobel, Bengt Hoffman, Gerald Christianson and Robert Jenson.

The idea for an "Institute of Luther Studies at Gettysburg Seminary" arose naturally from

*Continued on page 9*

## Reecher named campus superintendent

The Seminary named David Reecher as its new Superintendent of Building and Grounds following the September retirement of Bill Sanders. Reecher, a native of the Gettysburg area, began work at the Seminary part-time in May of 1998 and then full-time maintenance responsibilities for seminary student housing in 2000. He has been known for his timely responsiveness to the housing repair issues faced by resident students and their families.



Previous to his Seminary employment, Reecher worked for Inland Container Corporation, Biglerville, Pa. for more than 20 years.

Carol Troyer, Assistant to the President, said that the Seminary "is delighted to welcome Dave into this new role. Over the years, he has emerged as an excellent leader who enjoys good rapport with students and staff alike." Reecher will oversee the day to day maintenance of the 52 acre campus, the largest and most historically involved of the ELCA's eight graduate theological schools.

## NEWS

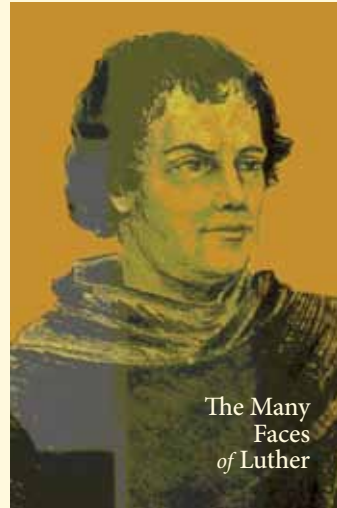
### Luther artifacts displayed for fall exhibit

Honoring the 40th Luther Colloquy, the Seminary Fine Arts Council and the Luther Institute jointly sponsored "The Many Faces of Luther," an exhibit of Luther art and artifacts from the Seminary's collection.

The exhibit included paint-

ings, prints, sculpture, books and artifacts related to the 16th century reformer, the exhibit is also the first such observance of the Luther decade, a time leading up to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017.

Among the artifacts the Seminary is displaying for the first time in public is a Bible inscribed by Luther's and Melancthon's own hands. Prints included a series of sketched scenes from the Reformer's life by Lovis Corinth, calligraphy, a poster from a 1921 celebration, and other items.



## Scott to lead Intersections

**The Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries named James H. Scott of Chester Springs, Pa. Director of the Intersections Institute, currently a joint educational program of two Lutheran seminaries in Gettysburg and Philadelphia.**

Launched two years ago, the Institute offers degree and professional certificate courses for professional staff of faith-based social ministry organizations, and for students who aspire to serve in a wide range of arenas at the intersection of church and world. This enterprising new program provides a combination of practical nonprofit managerial and leadership skills with graduate theological training and orientation to the unique mission and culture of faith-based organizations. The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP) offers a Master's in Public Leadership degree, and a professional Certificate in Leadership of Faith-Based Organizations course of studies is conducted by the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (LTSG).

James Scott brings a rich professional background and extensive experience in service, educational and entrepreneurial enterprises to the Institute's directorship. Holding degrees from Villanova University (Bachelor of Electrical Engineering and Master of Arts), and Washington University (MBA), Scott was the Executive Director of Portfolio Strategies with Morgan Stanley Investment prior to his retirement from that post in 2007. Previously, he served with the U.S. Peace Corps, was Treasurer of Amherst College, Vice President, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer for Texas Utilities Company in Dallas, and was a corporate banking officer. In the late 1970's, Scott was granted a leave of absence from his financial executive position to serve as a White House Fellow and a member of the staff of President Jimmy Carter. Currently, he serves as a trustee for Gettysburg College and the University of Texas at Austin, and is a member of the board of directors and chair of the investment committee for Thrivent Financial, a Fortune-500 financial service organization. In recent years, he has engaged in graduate school teaching at Villanova and the University of Delaware in the areas of corporate strategy and political and economic analysis.



Visit [www.intersectionsinstitute.org](http://www.intersectionsinstitute.org)

Scott succeeds Dr. Christy Lohr, who directed the Institute through its first year until accepting a position at Duke University in June. Presidents Philip Krey of Philadelphia and Michael Cooper-White of Gettysburg shared their enthusiasm for the new director in a joint statement: "In James Scott we found that rare combination of a superb leader – in business, education, the Church and the public arena as well – and a genuine servant whose faith permeates every aspect of his life. We are confident that under his leadership, the Institute will flourish as it provides quality educational programs to current and future leaders in a wide variety of faith-based organizations."



## The Lutheran World Federation's Eleventh Assembly

# From Gettysburg to Stuttgart, and back

As ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson opened the Eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Stuttgart, Germany, Gettysburg Seminary seemed ever-present. As the gavel fell in the seven day event in July, Gettysburg's Modern Church Historian Maria Erling was seated in row five, one of five delegates elected by the ELCA as voting members of the Assembly. In the visitors' gallery was Dean Robin Steinke, awaiting her election later in the week to serve on

the 48 member LWF Council that directs the federation's work between assemblies. John Spangler, the Seminary's executive for communication, had already begun managing social media for English speakers while on loan to the LWF communication staff for the event.

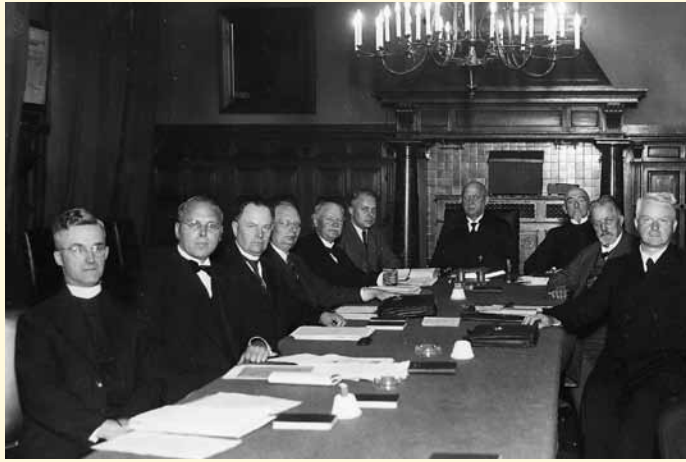
It was difficult not to think of the deeply woven threads of the Gettysburg Seminary in the LWF fabric. But the threads ran deeper than the faculty and staff members on hand in Stuttgart. Fifty five years before,



Abdel Ross Wentz had written his first historical chapter, cap-

turing the formation of the LWF, and its progress through its first three assemblies, including the last assembly to take place on German soil (Hanover, 1952). Wentz described the post assembly state of global Lutheranism with phrases such as "new degree of solidarity" and

*Continued on page 6*



Continued from page 5

being more closely connected globally than at any other time in its four centuries. He wrote that American Lutherans “had a leading part” in making this happen. But he had not written about his own role in drafting the constituting documents for the global communion, and serving as the American chair of the group that designed the new global organization.

Solidarity among Lutherans would not have been the first words chosen to describe the LWF at its Stuttgart Assembly, mostly due to the rumblings of disagreements around churches that had taken new positions on the status of homosexual persons and ordained ministry. But predictions of protests and division were overstated, and by the end of the seven day assembly, the theme “Give us Today Our Daily Bread” had led the assembly toward issues related to food, hunger and justice, as well as environmental and political causes of food shortages. Stunningly visual worship experiences had played out the biblical narratives behind the Lord’s Prayer. And a major act of repentance and reconciliation with the Anabaptist traditions would emerge as the high point of the week-long event.

If A.R. Wentz could still speak, he might ask us to compare the tensions over sexuality with intra-Lutheran issues in

the late ‘40’s and early ‘50’s, when post-war Lutherans were trying to rebuild trust between Germans and the rest of Europe and America. If Lutherans could maintain and build new levels of solidarity in 1952, Wentz might see the present efforts to maintain the unity of the LWF as thoroughly achievable.

The LWF did more than maintain its unity this assembly. It achieved a reconciliation with Mennonite Christians over persecutions of Anabaptists that go back to the 16th and 17th centuries.

### The legacy of the Eleventh LWF Assembly

Anabaptist Christians emerged to the left of Lutherans in the 16th century Reformation and are identifiable today among groups known as Amish, Brethren, Hutterites, and Mennonites. Their practice of “believers’ baptism” and the 16th century rejection of oaths, participation in government, and other defining patterns placed them at odds with Magisterial Reformers and Roman Catholics. Persecutions were dramatic and brutal. There is a much retold case in which an escaping Anabaptist individual turned and saved his drowning pursuer, only to be jailed and later executed.

The action, which Hanson described as the “most important legacy” of the Eleventh Assembly, was taken by the

adoption of the statement titled, “Action on the Legacy of Lutheran Persecution of Anabaptists.” But Bishop Hanson invited LWF assembly participants to repent for the violent persecution of Anabaptists and for the ways in which Lutheran reformers supported persecutions with theological arguments. The statement asked for forgiveness “from God and from our Mennonite sisters and brothers” for past wrongdoings and the ways in which Lutherans subsequently forgot or ignored this persecution and have continued to describe Anabaptists in misleading and damaging ways. Underlying the action taken by Lutherans was a Lutheran-Mennonite International Study Commission, 2005-2009, guided in part by the Rev. Donald McCoid, former Bishop of the SW Pennsylvania Synod and Gettysburg Seminary’s past board chair. The result was “Healing of Memories: Reconciling in Christ,” which was approved by the LWF Council in 2009.

### Mennonite leaders respond

“Today, in this place, we together – Lutherans and Anabaptist Mennonites – are fulfilling the rule of Christ,” said Rev. Dr. Danisa Ndlovu, President of the Mennonite World Conference, in an emotion-filled address to the Assembly.

He confessed that Mennonites were painfully aware of their own inadequacy. “We cannot bring ourselves to this table with heads held high. We can only come bowed down in great humility and in the fear of the Lord. We cannot come to this point and fail to see our own sinfulness. We cannot come to this point without recognizing our own need for God’s grace and forgiveness.” In a symbolic act of reconciliation and shared servanthood, Ndlovu presented Hanson with a wooden foot-washing tub, saying that it represented the Mennonites’ commitment to a

future “when the distinguishing mark of Lutheran and Anabaptist-Mennonite relationships is boundless love and unfailing service.” Ndlovu described how, in some Anabaptist and Mennonite churches, the practice of foot-washing has long been maintained. “It is in our vulnerability to one another that God’s miraculous, transforming and reconciling presence is made visible in the world.” North American Lutherans became aware of the powerful and moving account of the origin of the tub. The foot-washing vessel was crafted by members of the Old Order Amish community near Nickel Mines in the Lancaster, Pa. area. This same community showed the world the power of reconciliation when, following the tragic, violent shooting of school girls in October 2006, the victims’ family members met with the widow of the shooter to convey their forgiveness. Sojourners reported the next day that an unnamed Amish neighbor embraced

the father of the shooter and said “We will forgive you.” And an Amish midwife who had helped birth several of the victims said that they were planning to take food over to the shooter’s family’s house. She was quoted saying “This is possible if you have Christ in your heart.”

Accepting the gift, Hanson said, “In this and so many other ways, we will continue to follow [the Mennonite] example, and in this most significant day in our life there may be no more public example of reconciliation.”

### Reconciliation marked by worship

Following the official actions, the full assembly processed a quarter mile into worship to mark the forgiveness, which included testimonies by Mennonites about the persecution and its legacies, including the impact on small communities, and the ways in which Lutheran leaders – sometimes against



their own best insights – gave theological support to civil authorities who persecuted Anabaptists.

Also providing a testimony was the Rev. Dr. Larry Miller, General Secretary of the Mennonite World Conference and

Co-Secretary of the Lutheran-Mennonite International Study Commission. He spoke of the power and burdens of the martyrs’ stories within the Mennonite context as they continue to live in contemporary communities. “From the beginning of

the movement, Anabaptists interpreted their persecution as a confirmation of faithful Christian discipleship,” said Miller. “Over the centuries and around the world, stories of faithful suffering became a vital shaper of Anabaptist-Mennonite identity.”

Miller confessed that Anabaptist-Mennonite communities are also “in need of healing and forgiveness. In this action between us there is, for Anabaptist-Mennonites also, the promise of release and renewal.”

Steinke, who sang in the assembly choir, was a part of the procession and chant of “Veni Sanctus Spiritus.” With the room packed with worshippers, the Very Rev. Protobishop Constantin Miron (which means oil), Ecumenical Patriarch of Germany was crowded into a seat right next to her at the choir’s edge. He did not have the green assembly worship book so Steinke stood next to him and said, “When you are sitting this close to the choir-you are in the choir so please join the choir and sing with us.” At an appointed time in the worship service worshippers were invited to dip their fingers in the small bowl of oil and turn to the person next to them and mark the sign of the cross on the top of their



Above left, Abdel Ross Wentz, (front left) at work in 1937 with the executive committee of the Lutheran World Convention as it paved the way for the formation of the Lutheran World Federation; Upper right, LWF President Mark Hanson, holding a foot washing vessel, and Rev. Dr. Danisa Ndlovu, president of the Mennonite World Conference, addresses the assembly acting on repentance and reconciliation proposals between Lutherans and Mennonites, July 22. At right, preparations underway for closing worship at the Stiftkirche, with the Rev. Martin Junge, newly installed General Secretary of the LWF, presiding.

Continued on page 8

hand and say "God gives you a new heart and a new spirit" with "Thanks be to God" in response, taken from the Ezekiel lesson. As Steinke told it, "several of us were to start this with the choir. I went to begin



this rite with the [nearby] Mennonite choir and gave and received the sign of the cross with oil. When I returned to my place in the choir, Bishop Miron reached for my hand and took his own oil crossed hand and placed the top of his oil marked hand on the top of my hand and said "with this I seal it" – an act of blessing from this Orthodox Bishop." Stunned at his public respect and gift of blessing, Steinke concluded "It may be that the public act of confession and forgiveness with the Mennonites bore witness to God's reconciling and redeeming project for the world in a way that this Orthodox brother in Christ extended to me an ecumenical blessing."

### Bringing it home

Implications of this action appeared this fall in the way the Seminary taught Lutheran Confessions. Erling, who was teaching the confessions course with systematic theolo-



Bishop Miron, left, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Germany, follows the LWF Assembly from the ecumenical visitors section, later to encounter Dean Steinke at the edge of the assembly and choir area (see story). Above: Pamela and Michael Cooper-White inspect the classic cars in the Packard Concourse, also July 22, the day they met Mark and Vicki Smucker, active Mennonite Christians, who were aware of the reconciliation proposals that LWF Assembly Lutherans were acting upon at the same hour.

## NEWS

gian, Rev. Dr. Kristin Largen, said that the LWF actions enabled the class to "look carefully not only at the theological arguments, but also at the historical conditions that shaped the political environment in which the Lutheran Confessions were articulated. This gives new insight into the way that condemnations were shaped, sometimes without real understanding of the people and communities they targeted. The condemnations created tragic outcomes, and brings us to a new posture of deep regret for the suffering they caused."

The story also impressed the Rev. Dr. Warren Eshbach, an adjunct member of the Gettysburg Seminary faculty and leader in the Church of the Brethren, who often provides background on the Radical Reformation for classes in Reformation history. "As a member of the Church of the Brethren, whose historical roots are also in Anabaptism and radical pietism," he said, "I feel a sense of humility at this juncture in history when two groups of faith can find reconciliation through forgiveness and understanding." Eshbach added that the Seminary's openness and honesty in establishing relationships across ecumenical boundaries "has been particularly true and valu-



able in my experience."

In the hours spanning the LWF action, the Seminary Ridge campus was hosting several hundred visitors for a grand display of Packard automobiles. Among them were Mark and Vicki Smucker, deeply committed Mennonites, who while strolling the Ridge met Michael and Pamela Cooper-White. They ended up touring the Seminary's Lewars House and viewing Samuel Schmucker's desk and artifacts in the very hour that the services of reconciliation was taking place in Stuttgart. The couple was not only aware of the reconciliation process, but they were present at the 2009 Mennonite World Conference meet-

ing at which Dr. Miller reported on the proposal. Smucker also reported that their worship on the following Sunday was focused on "the unity in Christ's body and ecumenism," at which the two of them shared their discoveries and interconnectedness on Seminary Ridge, just three days before.

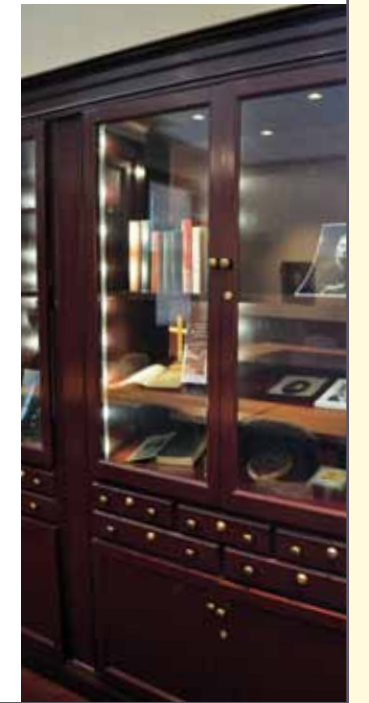
From Gettysburg to Stuttgart and back, members of the Gettysburg Seminary community found roots that ran deep into the 20th century (Wentz), deeper into the 19th (Schmucker), and discovered one day in late July, how the Lutheran World Federation, and its 70 million members around the globe, can be as intimate as a small village.



## Tilberg gift enables Pioneer Room makeover

A special gift by Jane Tilberg, in memory of her husband Cedric (Distinguished Alumnus, 2002), was made to the Seminary for the purpose of enhancing a room in the A.R. Wentz Library and providing the first space on the campus for display of larger artworks and three dimensional artifacts. The room, anchoring the north end of the library's first floor, was named for the "pioneer spirit" of Gettysburg Seminary's leading-edge contributors to theological education. The multipurpose room is also used for conference and meeting space for larger groups.

Above, right: Jane and Cedric, right: display cabinets lit by state-of-the-art LED lamps, above: reception for exhibit featuring works by painter and printmaker Edward Knippers.



## Luther Colloquy *Continued from page 3*

informal faculty conversations and was proposed to the faculty by Gerald Christianson in early 1970. The Board of Directors approved a more detailed resolution for the Institute in April, approved its linkage to elective credit in the M.Div. curriculum and specialization in the S.T.M. program, and named Eric Gritsch its first director.

While, with little fanfare, courses in Luther studies became rooted in the curriculum, the Colloquium premiered in October, 1971, on the theme, "Luther and Violence," reflecting the Vietnam era of student protests and peace marches. The Colloquium – shortened to "Colloquy" in recent years – became the undisputed star of the Institute and caught the immediate attention of alumni as

an informal homecoming for graduates and an opportunity to expose their confirmation classes to a festive evening Eucharist.

A parade of internationally-known speakers and extensive publication of the lectures followed, with many appearing in the *Bulletin* and its successor the *Seminary Ridge Review*, and some collected into separate volumes, entitled *Encounters with Luther*.

In keeping with the homecoming atmosphere, students adopted the habit of decorating the Luther statue, usually in honor of one of their professors, with the Rev. Dr. Maria Erling receiving the honors in this anniversary year.

In 1995 The Colloquy celebrated both the installation of



President Donald Heiges, center, and professor Eric Gritsch, welcome Luther scholar and Luther's Works editor Jaroslav Pelikan to the 1971 Luther Colloquy.

Scott Hendrix as professor of Reformation history and as the Institute's second director upon Gritsch's retirement. When Hendrix was called to Princeton

University, he was succeeded in 2000 by Kirsi Stjerna, who studied under Tuomo Mannermaa, founder of the "Finnish school" of Luther studies.

# The wide reach of “the pastor and public affairs”



Formative educational moments come from many angles and occur in all possible times and places in a seminary education. Looking back at the beginnings of the Seminary's Lutheran House of Studies, we are grateful to hear of the valuable ways the Washington, D.C. presence has played out in developing pastoral leadership. We hope that this set of reflections will spur others to share their own memorably formative experiences in their preparation for ministry. – Editor

By Donald Wilcox (M.Div. 1976)

It was Tuesday, October 20, 1973. Our class was scheduled to meet with Lawrence Baskin, chief of staff for the Constitutional Rights subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary committee. Mr. Baskin was late, but when he did arrive, he spoke to us for only a few minutes. He then invited us to come to his office so we could all hear the press conference of Elliott Richardson. This was the first working day following a long weekend, a weekend that was to become known for its historic “Saturday night Massacre.” Attorney General Richardson, and then William Ruckelshaus refused to fire Archibald Cox as special prosecutor investigating the Watergate controversy. Robert Bork carried out the firing. On this Tuesday, Mr. Richardson was to tell of his rationale for resigning rather than following an order from the President of the United States. And there we were, a group of Lutheran seminarians, in the Senate Office Building, seeing history unfold before our very eyes.

We were there as part of a new course in the Seminary curriculum, “The Pastor and Public Affairs” coordinated by Dr. Robert Van Deusen, long-time head of governmental affairs at Lutheran Council in the USA (LCUSA). In 1970, the Seminary had located its Lutheran House of Studies in Washington, D.C. The hope was that this program would afford students access to the rich ecumenical, urban, university and congregational life of the nation's capital. In particular, a central purpose was “to study issues of national and international concern relating to the church's ministry,” according to the first report on House of Studies to the seminary's board. “The national capital would provide an almost limitless national laboratory” not only in course work and seminars, but in extra classroom involvement. One of the first steps in fulfilling these expectations was the creation of the course “The Pastor and Public Affairs.” Dr. Van Deusen was chosen to lead this class, since for many years he had overseen seminars for governmental officials on a variety of topics such as “Christian Love and Public Policy” or “The Problem of Poverty.” The participants

were seen to bring a special insight to the consideration of church-state relations. And Van Deusen writes, “At a deeper level, seminar participants grapple with the ethical dilemmas which a Christian faces when he takes part in making decisions involving moral ambiguity. The trust in one another developed over a number of years has made possible the sharing of feelings and convictions which helped to clarify the role of the Christian in governmental service.” Dr. Van Deusen would draw on that trust to invite many of these government officials to come into our classroom to help us enter into the grappling, and sharing with us their stories of service to their Lord and to the U.S. Government.

### Using Washington as our laboratory

There were books to be read, as well, but the bulk of the homework was to use Washington as our laboratory. Participants were to interview their congress persons, go to subcommittee meetings on Capitol Hill, and find creative ways to see what was happening, and analyze and appraise



Top: Dr. Robert Van Deusen stands on the east side of the capitol building, photo by Del Ankers; above, Leopold Bernhard (left) with then member of the House of Representatives Paul Simon of Illinois, during one of the poignant up-close opportunities for faith's intersection with the public square. Simon, who went on to serve in the Senate (1985-1997) was the son of a Lutheran pastor and a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Page 10: The Rev. Dr. Robert Van Deusen.

the public issues addressed, and evaluate the role of the church.

The course in general, and that special day in Mr. Baskin's office, opened my eyes and ears and mind to the need to be aware of the issues of public and political life, and to reflect on what the gospel might say to the issues and to the people making decisions about them. I began to wonder about the memories and reactions of others from the course, so I have been contacting as many as I could to hear who and what they remembered, and the impact it has had on them as pastors and church leaders.

Phil Krey responded this way: “In many ways this was a definitive course for my future ministry. In my first parish in Baltimore, I developed a ministry of public witness that was rooted in what I learned in that course! A tremendous respect for the vocation of publicly elected leaders and the role of minister to listen to them, encourage them in their baptismal callings, and to critique them when they do not serve the public good. In that course I began to discover public officials as colleagues in developing the common good with religious leaders.”

Michael Cooper-White noted, similarly, the helpful insight into political tensions. He writes, “while on internship in Chile, during the height of the repressive Pinochet regime, themes from our discussions with U.S. public officials kept echoing in my ears. As I engaged in bi-lingual ministry in the heart of Los Angeles, all that we learned about advocating for the voiceless served as a kind of moral compass.”

Tom Peterson also remembered the course as “foundational on how he views the church and the world.” He remembers grappling with

themes addressed in the course while in a five year pastorate in Germany. He recalled Dorothea Soelle's call that it is a “mandate for pastors to monitor politics and be a voice of the Gospel shedding light in political decisions”. For Tom, the gospel can't be separated from the political arena. “We can't compartmentalize or separate our personal piety so as to forget an advocacy for the disenfranchised.”

“What I learned in the course is that the government is us.”

– Dwane Michael

For Tom, this perspective came not just from the course, but in his work as an intern with Dr. Arnold Keller. For three years Keller led the Pastor and Public Affairs course with Pastor Leopold Bernhard. He reminded me that he always called on his students to “think theologically about the relation of the gospel and the world in which we live.”

As a Minnesota farm girl, Diane Johnson came to this strange city of Washington, D.C. from a different perspective. Being part of the course helped “demystify” Washington “by seeing more than the tourist side, and where people are living and working, often in places not so pretty.” She remembers seeing first hand the “dirt underlying duties of government, which are much more than politics.” Perhaps her time in Washington prepared her for her long tenure in the inner city of Cicero, Ill.

Agreeing with her perspective is Gary Schroeder. For him the government became real, with face and personality, “not a civics book concept but a living reality.”

So, too, for Walter Still. The

## Faculty advance in status and rank

At recent meetings of the Seminary Board of Directors, recommendations from the faculty review process and the presidential election resulted in the Rev. Dr. Marty Stevens to the Arthur Larson Stewardship teaching position, in which she will continue to teach Old Testament studies as well. Serving as Associate Professor in a tenure track (on a half-time basis), Stevens will also continue serving as the Seminary's Chief Financial Officer and Registrar.

Four faculty members have received advancement to the rank of full professor. Following extensive faculty review processes and the recommendation of the Scholarship and Leadership Formation Committee of the Board of Directors, the Rev. Dr. Maria Erling, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Folkemer, the Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna, the Rev. Dr. Brooks Schramm and the Rev. Dr. Gilson Waldkoenig were granted full professor status, effective July 1, 2010.



Bishop Pyle and Marty Stevens

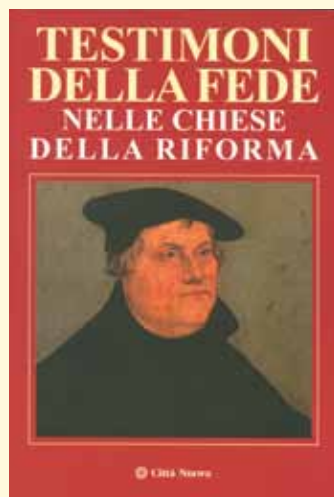
### More Augustana Stories

As a follow up to *The Augustana Story*, authors Maria Erling, Professor of Modern Church History and Global Mission and her Luther Seminary counterpart, Mark Granquist, edited a special issue of *The Lutheran Quarterly*, covering historical topics that were not included in the full length history published by Augsburg Fortress in 2008.



### Gassmann and Oldenburg in translation

Updated and new essays about Lutheranism and key figures of the Reformation by Günther Gassmann (former Distinguished Professor in Residence) and Mark Oldenburg, Steck Miller Professor of the Art of Worship, have appeared in an encyclopedic Italian reference work, *Testimoni Della Fede*, covering early churches of the Reformation. The book is published by Città Nuova (2010).



### Raising Up A Faithful Exegete honors Richard Nelson

Twenty-three colleagues, friends, and former students of Richard D. Nelson honored him by contributing essays to *Raising Up A Faithful Exegete*, a festschrift unveiled at the November meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.

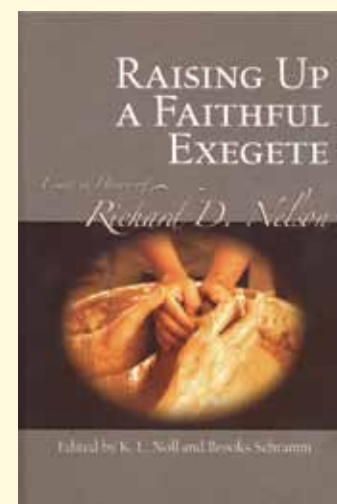
The Rev. Dr. Richard D. Nelson, former Kraft Professor of Biblical Studies at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg currently serves as W. J. A. Power Professor of Biblical Hebrew and Old Testament Interpretation as well as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

The work was co-edited by Gettysburg Seminary's Brooks Schramm, and K.L. Noll. The collection centers on the topics that are close to the heart of this teacher and pedagogue, especially Deuteronomy, the Former Prophets, priesthoods, social interactions, and theology. The hardbound, 363-page essay collection is published by Eisenbrauns, Winona Lake, Wis., (ISBN: 1-57506-201-1).

Among the contributors are a number who have made recent or ongoing sojourns across Seminary Ridge. They include Schramm, Jack Lundbom, Marty Stevens, Terence

Fretheim, Richard Carlson and others. Carlson, who taught alongside Nelson for 11 years, said "He has served as a fine model of what it means to be a dynamic and innovative teacher, an insightful mentor, a world-class scholar, a supportive friend, a dedicated leader in the church, and a person who takes sheer delight in all facets of his calling."

Co-editor Schramm includes an introductory biographical sketch for the volume, entitled "I Still Can't Believe It," which even in its brevity captures the character and pastoral identity of this scholar of the holy scriptures.



**Robin Steinke**, Dean of the Seminary, was elected to serve on the 48-member Council of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The election took place in Stuttgart, Germany in July during the Eleventh Assembly of the LWF, which meets every seven years.

The Council serves as the global Lutheran Communion's governing body between assemblies, and meets once every 12 to 18 months. It consists of the President, who is elected by the Assembly, the Treasurer, who can be elected from among the membership or from outside, and 48 persons

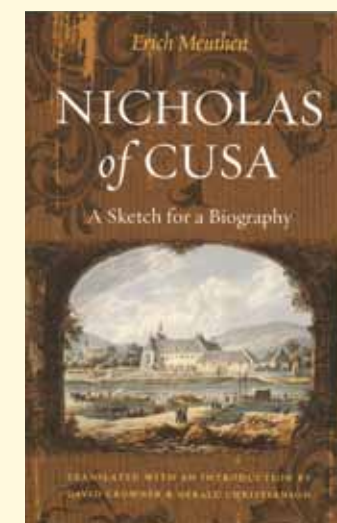
elected by the Assembly. Steinke is one of five persons elected to the Council from North America.

**Susan K. Hedahl**, Herman G. Stuempfle Professor of the Proclamation of the Word, was one of over 30 nationwide participants in the National Council of Churches conference on language, held in Chicago in August. From September 13-15, she was a keynote speaker on the topics of listening and doctrine at the South Carolina Rostered Leaders Retreat held at Luther Ridge. Her lectionary writings are available in the

The **2010 Report to Donors** is now on the Seminary website under Friends/Supporters. Questions? Call 717-334-6286 x. 3011.

*Feasting on the Word* series produced by Westminster John Knox Press. An article on teaching homiletics appeared in the January 2011 Wabash Center's professional journal.

**Gerald Christianson**, Professor Emeritus of Church History, after forty-three years, (possibly the longest tenure in the Seminary's history,) is no longer in the classroom. He continues to be active in scholarly circles. In September, Catholic University of America Press published Erich Meuthen's *Nicholas of Cusa: Sketch for a Biography* translated with a historical introduction by Christianson and David Crowner. He also presented a paper on "The Council of Basel: Will the Prodigal Find Its Way Home?" at the Congress on Medieval Studies at Western Michigan University in May. The seminary and the Lower Susquehanna Synod recognized the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination also in May. He served as the arrangements chair for the biennial "Gettysburg Conference" in October on the theme, "The Bible at the End of the Middle Ages: the Exegesis of Reform."



**Michelle Holley Carlson** has accepted a part-time contractual position as the Seminary's Director of Lifelong Learning. Carlson will continue serving as pastor of Mt. Zion Haugh's Lutheran Church in Ladiesburg, Maryland. Already well-known at the Seminary and in broader circles from pri-

or campus work in various capacities, she holds an M.Div. degree from Gettysburg Seminary (2001) and Ph.D. in Congregational Studies and Religious Education from Garrett Evangelical Seminary in the Chicago area. She has also taught courses at Wesley and Southern Seminaries.

### Julie Stecker and Norma Malfatti

As announced previously, with Pastor Vickie Brown's return to parish ministry, Pastor Ginny Price has assumed responsibilities as Coordinator of Spiritual Formation. Given those added dimensions to her call, it was necessary to consult with the Admissions Committee and determine new leadership in Lifelong Learning, as well as the Admissions Office. Senior Julie Stecker has joined Norma Malfatti as student assistants in the Seminary Admissions Office, hosting prospective students and fulfilling other duties during the spring semester.

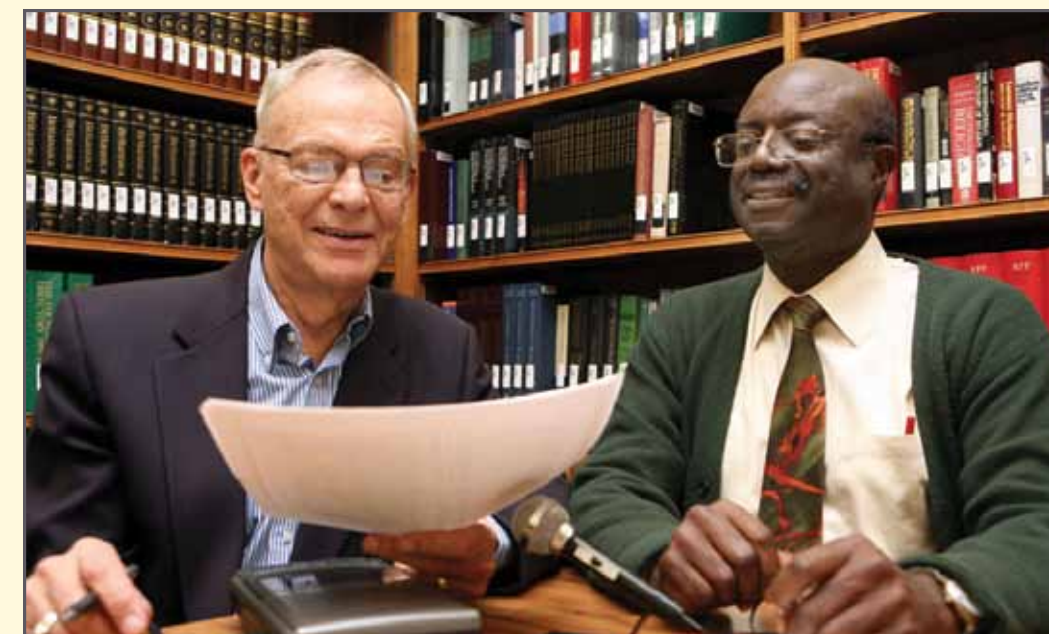


Photo courtesy of Bill Schwartz, *Gettysburg Times*.

### Seminary Explores celebrates 40 years of broadcasting

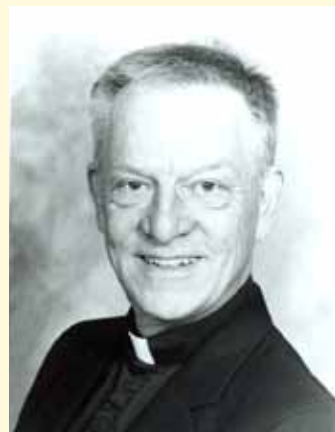
There was quite a bit going on at the Gettysburg Seminary in 1970. The Luther Colloquy was offered for the first time, a failed merger led to Gettysburg proposing a consortium of theological schools in Washington, D.C., and a local radio station invited the Seminary to begin airing a worship and devotional program. But Gerald Christianson, one of the long term hosts of the program said that the program's first host, Roger Gobbel, wasn't interested in broadcasting worship or a devotionally oriented program. "Back then, there were a lot of devotional programs on stations around the country," said Christianson, Professor Emeritus of Church History.

"The Seminary Explores' would be a conversation on issues of interest to the community," said Christianson and Nelson Strobert, Professor of Christian Education. In 1970, Roger Gobbel, a professor of Christian Education and Communication, played host and shepherded the program through conversations on local issues and social and religious issues and avoided debate and confrontation. Christianson explained "we weren't looking for controversial guests or their opinions," although they did interview persons involved in the casino proposal of 2005-2006. "We wanted conversations on issues of interest to the community; people who had an expertise in some area to help us and our listeners better understand the issue."

In 1976, Gobbel asked Christianson if he would like to take over. "Well, I like to talk," said Christianson. "So I said sure." In 1990, while preparing for a sabbatical, Christianson asked Strobert if he would fill in. Since then, Strobert and Christianson have shared the duties of asking the questions and leading a conversation.

Christianson and Strobert interview local leaders, lecturers who come through the Seminary's orbit, and church leaders who also make their way to Seminary Ridge for one purpose or another. Programs in the last few years have included county commissioners, author Jeff Shaara, Park Service leaders, local borough and college leaders, and more. Among the memorable figures they interviewed are Ed Rendell, Iranian hostage Kate Koob, Millard Fuller founder of Habitat for Humanity. Check the Seminary's website for an example of a show from the 40th anniversary year: [www.Ltsg.edu/Programs/Seminary-Explores](http://www.Ltsg.edu/Programs/Seminary-Explores).

Dick Watson of the *Gettysburg Times* contributed to this article.



**Roy Enquist dies**

The Rev. Dr. Roy J. Enquist, Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics, died April 13, 2010, from a brief and acute myeloid leukemia.

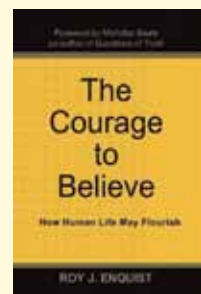
At age 83, Enquist had served in a long distinguished career as a pastor, college and seminary professor, directed the Seminary's Washington D.C.-based program, and later held the position of canon at the National Cathedral.

Roy John Enquist was born in Couer d'Alene, Idaho, and served as a Japanese language specialist in the Army in the 1940s. He graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., and in 1952 received a divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He received a master's degree in 1953 and doctoral degree in theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1960.

In 1980, Enquist was named

director of Gettysburg Seminary's Washington-based educational program, including its House of Studies. He taught at the Seminary until 1998. He had been teaching at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, and in 2000, after the enactment of the full communion agreement between the Lutheran and Episcopal churches, Enquist became a canon at the National Cathedral. In 2002 and 2003, he was the Cathedral's canon ecumenist, responsible for interfaith ministries.

Enquist was pastor of a church in Oregon and a campus minister at the University of Chicago. He later taught religion and ethics at Wittenberg University and Texas Lutheran University. In the 1970s, he also



taught in South Africa and Namibia. He wrote several books, including *The Courage to Believe: How Human Life May Flourish*, and was active in the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington and the Center for Immigration Law and Practice. He was married to Mia Brandt Enquist, his wife of 56 years. They have two sons, Krister Enquist of Milwaukee and Paul M. Enquist of Cary, N.C.

**Waldkoenig named GreenFaith Fellow**

The Interfaith environmental coalition GreenFaith named the Rev. Dr. Gilson Waldkoenig, B.B. Maurer Professor for Town and Country Church Ministry to be a "GreenFaith Fellow," joining the 2011 class in the only comprehensive education and training program for religious environmental leadership. "We're thrilled to welcome Gil to the Program," said Rabbi Lawrence Troster, Fellowship Program Director and a nationally recognized religious environmental leader. Fellows gain "the opportunity to become well-trained leaders in religious environmentalism," noted GreenFaith Executive Director, the Rev. Fletcher Harper, who added that "they will help create an environmentally just and sustainable world."



Through retreats, webinars, and extensive reading, Waldkoenig will receive education and training in eco-theology, "greening" religious institutions, environmental advocacy, and environmental justice. Waldkoenig, who already teaches courses in ecological theology in the seminary curriculum, will join Fellows from Jewish, Muslim, Roman Catholic and Protestant denominations who come from congregations, universities, campus ministries, NGO's, and denominational organizations. Each Fellow develops an eco-theological project intended to mobilize religious leaders in relation to an environmental issue.

Gettysburg is an ideal base for work in the Fellowship. "Seminary Ridge is treasured by millions of people around the globe



because of its historical significance," Waldkoenig noted. "The Seminary has been a faithful steward of the natural habitat on the ridge since 1832, helping it to recover from the battle's devastation in 1863 and collaborating with the Park Service and Gettysburg Borough in long-term care of this public treasure," he added. "As the global community confronts new environmental challenges," Waldkoenig said, "how – and why – we sustain the natural habitat of Seminary Ridge will be a witness and inspiration to many."

Waldkoenig serves as one of two faculty members on the Seminary's Green Task Force, a community wide campus effort to steer the Seminary in ecologically healthy directions. GreenFaith is an interfaith environmental coalition that educates, equips and mobilizes diverse faith communities for environmental leadership. For information visit [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org).

**Ruth Fair, Seminary's Director Emerita of Public Relations dies**

Ruth Fair, who served on the Seminary staff for 25 years, many of them as Director of Public Relations, died recently at the Brethren Home in New Oxford, Pa. Fair, 86, was active at St. James Lutheran Church, in regional Girl Scouts, the American Business Women's Association and a host of other activities. She married her husband Don in 1947 at the Church of the Abiding Presence. The Seminary Board of Directors designated to her the title of Director Emerita of Public Relations in 1998.

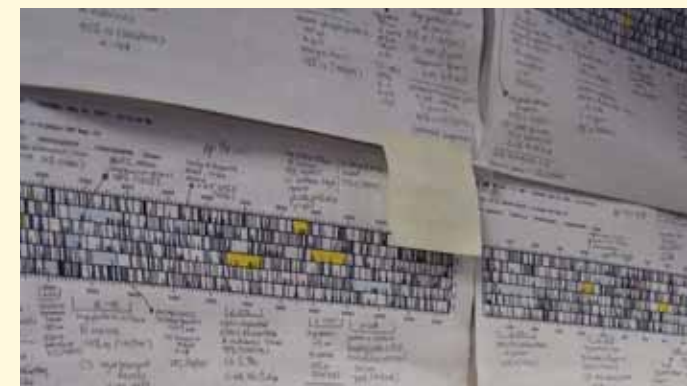
A graduate of Central Penn Business College, she was

employed by Bell Telephone Company and St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg, before joining the Seminary staff. She remained a member of St. James, where she served as Director of Christian Education, Financial Secretary, congregational council member, choir member, Sunday church school superintendent, Sunday church school teacher, and committee member. She was the recipient of the Lamb Award given by the Lutheran Council

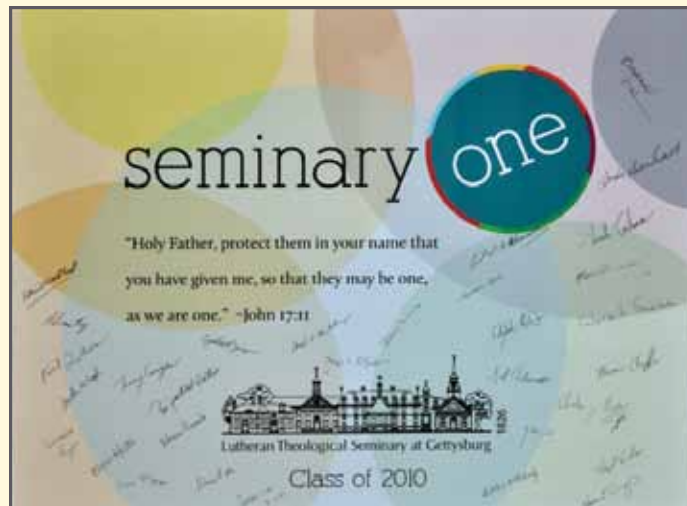


**Faith and science meet in Gettysburg**

The Rev. Dr. Leonard Hummel, professor of pastoral theology at Gettysburg Seminary, who has published and lectured extensively on cancer and religion, is currently serving on the ELCA task force on genetics. Hummel has been working with Gettysburg College professor of molecular biology Steve James, who studies DNA damage responses and other cancer-related process. They continued a pattern of team teaching on cancer and religion this last fall when Hummel joined James across town in a college course. James participated in a seminary course on the challenge to evolution in the nearby Dover, Pa. Biology curriculum case. The two are working on a book project that addresses cancer and the mutual influences between science and faith. Pictured above are James (left) with Amrit Khalsa, and Hummel (right) with Christina Kelliher. Khalsa and Kelliher are seniors majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.



in the United States in recognition of distinguished service to youth and the church. Fair was the first female president of Adams County Council of Churches. With the United Way of Adams County, she served as agency representative, vice-president, campaign chairperson, president, board member and committee chairperson. She was recognized with the Dr. W. E. Tilberg Outstanding Volunteer Award in 1988. She was a member of the American Business Women's Association Gettysburg Charter Chapter 4298, where she served as president and was named woman of the year in 1981. Fair was president of the American Association of Retired Persons Chapter 2635 where she also served as vice-president and board member.



## Alumni/ae invited to share spirit of "Seminary One"

The Class of 2010 continued a recent tradition of committing themselves to a manifold, multi-year, amazing "class gift." One by one, this year's graduating seminarians signed their names to a document, pledging a covenant to one another and to the Seminary. The "Seminary One" covenant includes giving a financial gift to Gettysburg Seminary at graduation, and making a one percent tithe of individual salaries to the Seminary in perpetuity. But the class of 2010 did not stop there. They also committed to working through their congregational contracts and contacts to match this tithe to Gettysburg or an appropriate sister seminary, and remaining in relationship with each other and the seminary as they move forward in their various ministries. Let's see if we can give them an equally powerful "amen!" through our own seminary gifting and invite our congregations to join the effort! You can make a Secure Gift today online at [www.Ltsg.edu/giving](http://www.Ltsg.edu/giving).



## Welcome Them Home Help Them Heal wins IBPA Award

*Welcome Them Home Help Them Heal: Pastoral Care and Ministry with Service Members Returning from War* by John Sippola, Chaplain, LTC, ret., M.Div., Amy Blumenshine, M.S.W., M.A., Donald Tubising, Ph.D, MDiv, and Valerie Yancey, PhD, RN has been named a winner in the Independent Book Publishers Association's (IBPA) prestigious annual Benjamin Franklin Awards™. The book won in the Religion category. Coauthor Amy Blumenshine was a Gettysburg Seminary DMFE student.

*Welcome Them Home* provides resources for pastors, parish nurses, counselors, and caregivers in churches across the country to support and advocate for veterans and their loved ones. For more information visit the IBPA website at [www.IBPA-online.org](http://www.IBPA-online.org).

## ALUMNI/AE NEWS

### Requiem Aeternam Dona Eis

The following alumni/ae, who died between November 1, 2009 and October 31, 2010 were remembered in chapel on All Saints Day with thanksgiving for their lives and service to the church of Jesus Christ. The dates accompanying their names correspond to their year of graduation.

The Rev. Lester J. Karschner	1940
The Rev. David Phoenix	1981
The Rev. Charles Edwin Voit, Jr.	1971
The Rev. Charles W. Coates	1958
The Rev. George C. Weirick	1949
The Rev. David L. Blackwelder	1961
The Rev. James M. Robbins	1952
The Rev. Kathleen Lois Powers Zimmerman	2000
The Rev. Theron M. Snyder	1958
The Rev. H. Lee Hebel	1951
The Rev. Dr. Richard A. Ruof	1974
The Rev. Dr. M. Luther Stirewalt, Jr.	1946
The Rev. Robert L. Leshner	1952
The Rev. Kenneth E. Spangler	1955
The Rev. Dr. J. Lawrence Burkholder	1942
The Rev. Paul L. Reaser	1933
The Rev. Bonnie L. Seitz	1979
The Rev. Norman R. Gauch	1974
The Rev. Albert LeRoy Weber	1958
The Rev. Dr. R. Ray Evelan	1954
The Rev. Eugene R. Alexander	1962
The Rev. John R. Hershberger, Jr.	1951
The Rev. Ralph A. Greiman, Jr.	1953
The Rev. Richard Pfeleiderer	1991
The Rev. Dale Leroy Soderburg	1954

**Robert Pielke** ('67) signed copies of his novel *A New Birth of Freedom: The Visitor* (Altered Dimensions Press) at an event with Gettysburg's First Friday Fest on June 4.

**Jim Fuchs** ('71) was ordained by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod on October 17, at Holy Cross LC, Prior Lake Minn.

**Gretchen Naugle** ('94) is serving an interim for the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska. It is a 3-point parish (Beatrice, Wymore, and Fairbury). She drives 180 miles every Sunday, celebrating Eucharist and preaching three times between 8:15 and noon!

**Scott E. Olson** ('96) after more than 10 years as an associate pastor at Central Lutheran Church in Winona, Minn., began serving Grace Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minn. as its pastor in August 2010. Olson is also finishing his thesis for a D.Min. in Congregational Mission and Leadership at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

**Scott A. Moore** ('97) offered the opening prayer for the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday September 29, 2010 in Washington, D.C. Moore is the ELCA Representative for the Luther Decade & Coordinator of ELCA Wittenberg Center Activities in Germany.

**Wendy Abrahamson** ('99) received a Certificate in Spiritual Direction in April 2010 from the Quellen Spiritual Center in Mendham, N.J. Abrahamson is pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Florham Park, N.J.

### Website offers Alumni/ae more information, features, and a directory

The Gettysburg Seminary website offers enhanced features for alumni, including a portal for free access to hundreds of subscription journals and periodicals, ATLASerials (ATLAS). The access of this service requires a special ATLAS password; contact the Seminary at [Advancement@Ltsg.edu](mailto:Advancement@Ltsg.edu) for more information.

The first updated Alumni Directory since 2003 is accessible on the Seminary's website. This list is published only for the purpose of sharing among alumni/ae of Gettysburg Seminary so you are asked to keep as confidential the access address and password. The secure site may be accessed from [www.Ltsg.edu/Alumni](http://www.Ltsg.edu/Alumni) with a password that was sent electronically to all alumni who have shared their e-mail with the Seminary. If you are not receiving information from the seminary electronically, contact us today at [Advancement@Ltsg.edu](mailto:Advancement@Ltsg.edu). We will send security information to you.

For the sake of security, the password will be changed periodically, so you will want to watch the mail for updated information.

Corrections and updates to the directory should be sent to [nargarretson@Ltsg.edu](mailto:nargarretson@Ltsg.edu)

**Timothy Leitzke** ('05) and **Emily Hollars Leitzke** ('07) announce the birth of their daughter Audrey Victoria, born April 28, 2010 at 6:46 p.m. She weighed 9 lbs 3oz and measured 20.5" long.

**Brian Palmer** ('03) began a call as a missionary in Liberia. Palmer and his wife Christine arrived in Liberia in September. Palmer is teaching at the Louis T Bowers Lay Leaders Training Center in Totota. The Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL), is a member of the Lutheran World Federation.

**Buddy Wheat** ('06) and his wife Gayle have relocated to their homestate of Texas after 37 years. He is now pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Gatesville, Texas.

### Holmquist named president/CEO of Rhode Island agency

The Board of Directors of Dorcas Place Adult & Family Learning Center in Providence, R.I. has named Carol L. Holmquist ('73) as the adult education agency's new CEO/president after a nationwide search. For the past five years, Holmquist has been the executive director of The READ Center, an adult literacy organization in Richmond, Va. She was also president of the Virginia Literacy Leadership Council and has maintained a development and marketing consultation practice for the past 18 years.

Holmquist received a B.A. from George Mason University and an M.A. in Religion from Lutheran Theological Seminary

at Gettysburg. Prior to her consulting career, Holmquist had many years of experience as a president/executive director for three nonprofits. She previously served as executive director of H.E.A.L., Inc. (Health, Education, Advantages, and Life), an ecumenical collaboration serving inner city Baltimore, as president/CEO of the Easter Seal Society of Maryland, Inc., and as executive director of Family Life Center in Columbia, MD. Holmquist started her position as Dorcas Place's fourth president on July 1.

Dorcas Place was named after a woman in the New Testament who dedicated her life to feeding and clothing the poor.



### Long awaited ordination for fellow alumnus Thwol Odolla

Thwol Omot Odolla, a seminary student from Ethiopia in the late 1990's, was to have been ordained in Gambella in 2003 but when the genocide occurred in Ethiopia, he and his family had to flee to Kenya. They now reside in the DaDaab Refugee Camp, near the Sudan border. Thwol was named a primary refugee by the United Nations and is a leader of the 3,000 Gambella Ethiopian refugees in the camp. Odolla wrote recently to Donna Nicholson, who retired from the Seminary staff, "we may thank God for those brothers and sisters who stand with us and support for this ordination. We appreciate you all in the name of the Lord. May God bless you and also we will keep our prayers for you all in Christ there."

The 1997 graduate is pictured at his ordination above (Odolla is second from the left).

course helped him see government workers as “real people, with concerns, fears, hopes and dreams.” A large part of this insight comes from experiencing the ministry of Keller and Bernhard, not just in the class, but in larger seminars where lay people came together to talk of faith and life. Still remembers, “Keller and Bernhard were interacting with important people with respect, yet with an understanding that they needed to be loved and cared for as God’s people. The pastor is there for support, and to be an advocate for those without power.”

Those encounters and discussions had two ongoing effects for Stephen Reed. He came into the course with a sense that it would be easy to see how public policy and theology are connected. The conversations made him aware of the depth of complexity involved, not allowing for easy or obvious answers.

Secondly, such interactions put a human face on people with whom he had disagreements. “this made it much harder to simply write off people who thought differently about politics.” He came to appreciate how they, too, were doing their best to think through decisions based on the issue and their understanding of the gospel.

Steffan Zehrhuhs has an interesting twist of what he took out of the course. Unlike many who were in the course, he commuted down to Washington from Gettysburg. Some of his homework in the “political laboratory” was done back in Adams County, such as going to a local school board meeting. In his conversation with his congressman, he heard a strong emphasis in the need to be active locally in political and policy arenas. Stef has not been back to Washington since seminary days, but he has lived out the goals of the course in a wide spread participation in his rural county of upstate New York.

I think Dwane Michael put a lot of ideas expressed by his fellow students in perspective



Pastor Arnold Keller

very succinctly, “what I learned in the course is that the government is us.” That is true for Washington, D.C. and for all of the communities in which we serve.

Many of the responses from the participants recalled specific encounters and remembered specific people. Greg Gullick-srud remembers a State Department official telling them that they rely heavily on church organizations in Latin America to help distribute aid. Kathleen and Steve Reed were surprised to hear a HUD official saying that the government has written off the whole of the South Bronx. Kathleen’s response was to express that this is not true of the church.

I remember going to a House subcommittee meeting to hear testimony of a former Ambassador to Egypt. I was to head to Jerusalem for a January term, and the rhetoric was hot and heavy in the Mideast. He said there was no way Anwar Sadat would go to war with Israel. In less than a month, he was proved wrong, with the start of the “Yom Kippur War.” It made me wonder about other “expert” witnesses testifying before congress.

Nearly all the classes had a chance to be in a discussion with Justice William Rehnquist, and many vividly remembered those conversations. Each was impressed with his graciousness in giving his time to an-

swer questions and hear the students’ perspectives. Paul Kirchner remembers asking “You sit on the highest moral court in the land. How does your faith impact what you do as a judge?” His response was, “it doesn’t.” At a previous House of Studies conference on politics and ethics, he explained that he saw his job on the court to interpret the law, an exercise which does not involve faith or ethics.

Tom Pierotti used some of the contacts he made in the course when he was in the parish, including Justice

Rehnquist. Each year he would bring members of his confirmation class to visit Washington and visit governmental officials. Most memorable was Bob Bergland, Secretary of Agriculture. He told the students how he understood his job in a biblical image, likening himself to Joseph, whose wise oversight of grain led to the people being fed even in times of drought.

For myself, I remember Bill Gaussman. The fact that Bill was a chain smoker put me off at first. But I started listening to what he was saying and understanding the kind of man he was. Bill was a State Department official who was sent to Vietnam in the 60’s. When he left Washington, he was an avid supporter of the war. The longer he was in Vietnam, the more he began to doubt; and then he started to speak up against the war. In spite of the risk to his career, he continued to argue against our continued involvement there. If all I had experienced in this class was to meet this courageous man, it would have been enough.

For most of those responding, central to their memories were those who led the class. Dwane Michael remembers Dr. Van Deusen “had an aura about him.” We were all impressed with the high regard in which he was held by those

he brought to class. The same can be said about Keller. A great preacher, a role model of what it meant to be a ‘churchman’ he was always looking for new ways to expand the ministry of Reformation Church on Capitol Hill. His creativity brought a holistic health ministry and brought Pastor Bernhard on board to be a chaplain to those working in government. Jane Strohl says of the two of them “I loved their wit, intelligence, and passionate commitment to the ministry.”

Bernhard had been part of the alternative seminary in Germany, and he worked with Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The Rev. Geoff Curtiss remembers he was always calling on the United States “to address the politics of empire.” He himself had only barely gotten out of Germany before being arrested. Walter Still recalled one class session where Bernhard “witnessed the joy of living in the tension of the Two Kingdoms theory. He writes, “when taken with his life’s story that he shared with the group, it was a holy moment.”

The course ran for only six semesters, from 1972-1978, but it had a large and lasting im-

“We can’t compartmentalize or separate our personal piety so as to forget an advocacy for the disenfranchised.”

— Tom Peterson

pact on the people involved and the life of the church. Michael speaks for all of us, “I was blessed to be in that class.” The spirit of the course lives on with the Seminary’s continued commitment to be part of the Washington Theological Consortium. And as Cooper-White remarks, the Seminary’s re-established partnership with “the Luther Institute in the last several years brings full circle the Seminary’s involvement in another arena which was spawned by the efforts of local clergy, seminarians and faculty dating back to the late 1960’s.”

## NEWS



### Student’s book published

Sarah Timian, a Gettysburg Seminary student from the Eastern North Dakota Synod who is currently on internship at First Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Neb., is the author of *The Last Land of Magic*. The young adult fantasy adventure novel is published by PublishAmerica. The book is available in hardcover and paperback at Amazon.com.

Timian signed copies of her books with faculty and emeritus authors at Spring Convocation 2010.

### Meet our oldest alum

Delightful pastoral conversations have taken place with the Rev. William C. Karns of Littlestown, Pa., who is believed to be the oldest living alumnus among the two thousand living graduates of Gettysburg Seminary. Pastor Karns (second from the right) is pictured here with the Rev. Kathleen Reed, from the Seminary’s



Advancement Office, and Karns’ pastor and fellow alum Jim Dunlap, with the Rev. Virginia Cover, Assistant to the Bishop of Lower Susquehanna Synod.

## Museum

Continued from page 3

and religion and the churches in the 19th century conflict.

Em Cole, former Vice President for Seminary Advancement, now serves as Executive Director of “Voices of History,” the joint venture created to raise funds for the rehabilitation and plan the museum project. “Funding this project has been a challenge in the present economic climate,” said Cole, “but this set of leading grants is crucial to seeking additional funds.” The museum project is expected to be funded by public and foundation grants and private gifts, with interim financing as needed.

Bradley Hoch, Chair of the ACHS Board, added, “Our continuing fund raising efforts need to be successful. The ACHS and Seminary must complete the project before July 1, 2013, which is the 150th anniversary of the battle and the projected grand opening of the museum.” Design development is nearly complete, and if further fund raising is successful, the project will be shovel ready sometime in 2011.

Seminarians from North and South lived and debated side by side. From 1835 to 1837, they lived with Daniel Alexander Payne, the earliest African American to receive a theological education in a Lutheran school, later becoming Bishop

Payne and President of Wilberforce University in the AME tradition. Nearby this school stood a structure that served as a stop on the Underground Railroad for freedom seekers from the South.

On July 1, 1863, the Seminary building stood at the center of the Union army’s defense against the advancing Confederates west of Gettysburg. Union cavalry General John Buford scouted the Confederate army and planned with General John Reynolds from the building’s cupola. As the events of the day unfolded, it quickly became the largest field hospital of the battle, hosting more than 600 wounded soldiers, about 70 of whom died in the building. “Gettysburg’s Seminary of 1863,” said Hoch, “presents a study in human

conflict. It is a monument to our past and a lesson for our future. It is suffering and sacrifice; honor and heroism; remembrance and reconciliation. It is a cherished heirloom that we bequeath to our children and to all who come after.”

The project enjoys the support of key local partners. This rehabilitation is the last remaining project included in Gettysburg’s 1999 “Interpretive Plan” which outlines the priority projects designed to provide enhanced historical experiences for visitors to the National Military Park and the town. Gettysburg’s Seminary Ridge Museum in a rehabilitated Schmucker Hall is expected to be the flagship of planning for the 150th commemoration of the famous battle taking place in 2013.



### Carthage College Dean of Chapel Harvard Stephens serves as Seminary pastor-in-residence

The Rev. Harvard Stephens, Jr. served as pastor-in-residence on the Gettysburg Seminary campus this fall, attending classes, experiencing campus life and interacting with students. Pastor Stephens is currently the dean of the chapel at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis., a position he has held since 2003.

# Gettysburg Seminary is active and more visible than ever in western Pennsylvania

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg is more visible than ever in Southwestern Pennsylvania Lutheran circles including special lectures, programs and people on the territory representing theological education, friend and fundraising efforts. Both Southwestern PA (SWPA) and Northwestern PA (NWP) Synods are active in the Seminary's multi year \$25m Crossroads Campaign.

Two members of the faculty were on site last fall for lifelong learning opportunities. The Rev. Dr. Marty Stevens, Arthur L. Larson Associate Professorship of Stewardship and Parish Ministry, and Chief Financial Officer, was the popular presenter for the September joint Women of the ELCA meeting of women from both synods at Lutherlyn. And the Rev. Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Associate Professor of Biblical Studies,

returned to SWPA in November when he presented "Stewardship as a part of our Christian Vocation" at an event hosted by Our Redeemer, McMurray, Pa.

In September, the Seminary appointed Ms. Marta Erling Spangler as its Advancement Associate deployed in the SWPA Synod to assist in the Seminary's Crossroads Campaign in the territory and to help interpret the Seminary's mission in congregations and with individuals. Spangler is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and served for a year as a Young Adult in Global Mission in Palestine for the ELCA, and last year as an Americorps VISTA volunteer in a Pittsburgh area social ministry organization. Serving in this position for one year, she is based in the SWPA Synod office, and is eager to meet with congregation councils, leadership groups



and pastors in helping the synod leaders lift up the importance of excellent theological education for pastoral leaders

and servants of the church.

Regular faculty faces seen in western Pennsylvania also include those rostered in the synod, the Rev. Dr. Mark Oldenburg, the Rev. Dr. Brooks Schramm and the Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna.

The Crossroads Campaign in the Synod's territory is focusing on raising support for: geothermal campus development to be faithful and thrifty stewards of our most important classroom (the chapel); Theological Education with Youth which raises up youth as leaders; and scholarships which help keep the cost of a Seminary education from becoming a barrier to following the call to public ministry. This comprehensive campaign has already begun in the SWPA Synod and will continue inviting congregations and individuals to participate through June.

## Ralph and Sandra Jones make leading Crossroads Campaign pledge

Bishop Ralph and Pastor Sandra Jones announced a \$10,000 pledge to the Gettysburg Seminary Crossroads Campaign this summer, as the friend and fund raising campaign moved into the Northwestern PA Synod for 2010 and 2011. The surprise announcement came in the middle of the June NWP Synod Assembly, following President Cooper-White's introduction of the campaign and its emphases.



"Gettysburg Seminary is an important contributor to my life and ministry" said the bishop, who graduated from Gettysburg in 1980. He continued, "as a graduate student, I had an excellent foundation for my continuing education. As bishop, I have appreciated the fine cooperation and collaboration offered by faculty and staff

at Gettysburg." Coordinating this campaign are Nancy Serwinski (nserwinski@hotmail.com) and Scott Schul, a senior seminarian in the class of 2011 (ssschul@LtsG.edu). Both are eager to help tell the Crossroads story in congregations or speak with individuals. In a communication with the synod, Jones expressed the hope that the Crossroads Campaign "will stimulate countless Lutherans to become ongoing, committed friends of Gettysburg Seminary, enabling the development of well-trained pastors, associates in ministry, and diaconal ministers – a gift to us all!"



NWPA Synod Bishop Ralph Jones (left) his spouse, Sandra, Assistant to the Bishop, announce their pledge to the Crossroads Campaign at the June Synod Assembly at which Seminary President Michael Cooper-White (right) and seminarian Scott Schul (second from right) introduce the Gettysburg Seminary capital campaign.

## Composting arrives

By Katie Dodds

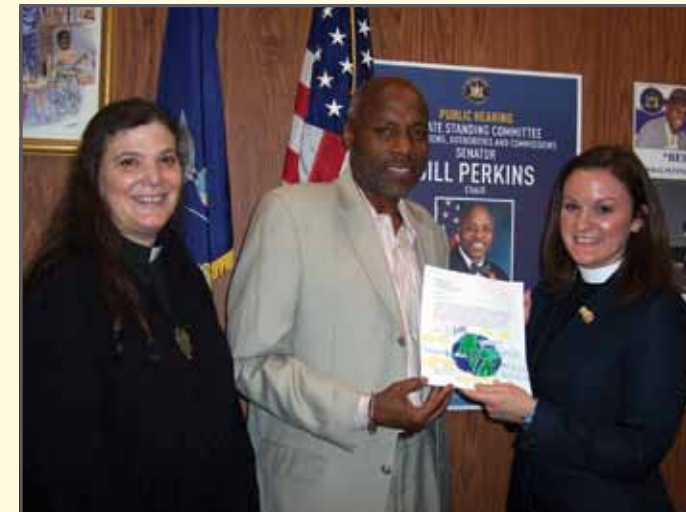
Friends, Romans and countrymen, lend us your ears...of corn, banana peels and coffee grounds...composting is here on campus. The Seminary's Green Task Force is happy to announce the start of a composting program to tie in with our recycling efforts all with the goal of making our campus green.

To recycle means "to adapt to a new use" and "alter" and there is no better way to alter organic matter than to compost

## NEWS

it for a new use. We currently have one composter at the Refectory that we will monitor with the goal of purchasing more for residential areas. Please especially encourage kids to feed the composter!

The Green Task Force Compost Committee includes Katie Dodds, John Fehring, Ryan Cosgrove, and Haley Vay Poynter. We especially thank Ann Zabawa of Biggerstaff's Catering for recycling at the Refectory.



## "Offering of Letters" in New York

On Sunday, October 24 Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan partnered with Bread for the World to have an Offering of Letters. It was the first time this congregation had carried out an Offering of Letters and everyone was very enthusiastic. Gettysburg Seminary Vicar Haley Vay Poynter was also excited to shepherd the project in this place because Bread for the World is an organization of particular interest to her. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

After the Offering of Letters took place at Trinity, Poynter called Representative Charles Rangel's office, as well as Senator Bill Perkins, to schedule appointments with them. Pastor Heidi Neumark and Poynter went to their offices in Harlem to present the letters. Some of the letters were signed in picture form by Trinity's Wee Worshipers while others were handwritten by adults in the congregation. Neumark and Poynter are pictured above with Representative Rangel.

Visit Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan (ELCA): [www.trinitylutherannyc.org/](http://www.trinitylutherannyc.org/). Visit Bread for the World: [www.bread.org/](http://www.bread.org/)



Pictured above is Annika Schul, daughter of seminarian Scott, helping with the Leap-in day for FROGS, Friends of Gettysburg Seminarians, on August 19.

We tell to love the story

SPRING CONVOCATION  
MAY 3-4, 2011

Marty Stevens | Christopher Hedges | Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman

Events include a Bertha Paulsen Mini-Convocation, Inauguration of the Rev. Dr. Theodore F. Schneider fund for Homiletics, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Christopher Hedges and congregational leaders as story-brokers, -bearers and -renewers

1-800-658-8437 EXT. 2198 | [WWW.LTSG.EDU](http://WWW.LTSG.EDU)



### Princeton Seminary captures XLV Luther Bowl, home team wins newly introduced Common Cup trophy



**The 45th Luther Bowl began Saturday, October 30, 2010 at 8:15am with the now traditional blessing of the fields followed by kickoffs.** Thirteen games followed, with Princeton Seminary's swift footed players going undefeated on the day and capturing their first ever Luther Bowl championship. The win kept the Luther Bowl trophy in Presbyterian hands, with 2009 champions from Union handing the Book of Concord trophy over to their rivals. Competition was stiff all through the day and injuries were minimal, a successful outcome attributed to rule changes to make the games more safe.

Recognizing the roots of the Luther Bowl in a traditional annual game that took place between Gettysburg and Philadelphia Seminaries, Luther Bowl LXV introduced the "Common Cup" trophy to honor the rivalry of the two Lutheran teams from the Commonwealth. Moreover, the Common Cup is designed to lift up the inextricably bound communal nature of the two schools as members of the body of Christ. A trophy was procured (unconfirmed sources said Ebay). The Gettysburg team was proud to prevail in the Saturday morning classic and made the first claim on the trophy!



Teams came from Chicago (LSTC), Columbus, Ohio (Trinity Lutheran Seminary), Rambler, Pa. (Trinity Episcopal), Columbia, S.C. (Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary), Princeton, N.J., Richmond, Va. (Union Seminary), and Philadelphia. The day ended with a Holy Eucharist, with the offering collected and sent to Virginia Theological Seminary, which lost its chapel in a fire the previous Friday.

Above: The Gettysburg Seminary team. Far left: Gettysburg's Peter Horn catching the ball. Left: the Princeton Seminary team.

## Website relaunch brings major facelift

Gettysburg Seminary relaunched its website last spring after a year-long search and months of planning for an expanded, more flexible and feature rich presence on the web. The new site, distinctly organized for different audiences (portals) such as prospec-

tive students, alumni/ae, current students, faculty and staff, life-long learning and more, also supports secure information such as a directory of alumni information and information for members of the Seminary's Board of Directors. Pictured is an example of the Seminary's main page ([www.Ltsg.edu](http://www.Ltsg.edu)). Alumni/ae can also visit [www.Ltsg.edu/alumni](http://www.Ltsg.edu/alumni) for alumni news, photos, features and publications. You can keep up with the Seminary news flow between issues of the *Seminary Views* on the site as well.



New features and resources are added to the website ([www.Ltsg.edu/resources](http://www.Ltsg.edu/resources)) regularly, including video clips and downloadable materials suitable for use in education, retreat, and congregational council settings. The site featured an introduction to the spiritual disciplines of Advent by Mark Oldenburg, Dean of the Chapel and Steck Miller Professor of the Art of Worship. A similar introduction to Lent will appear in mid-February, and you will find a host of resources on "Teach us to Pray" which also includes a video introduction to prayer by Gerald Christianson, Professor Emeritus of Church History, among other sermons, online publications and news notices.

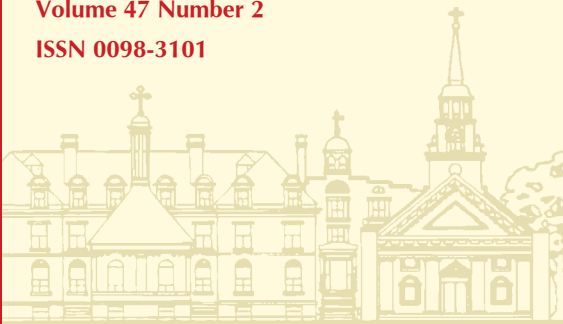
The website relaunch is a multiple month work in progress and the website team welcomes your feedback and ideas at [info@Ltsg.edu](mailto:info@Ltsg.edu). You can also find integrated information on the site and on facebook under a search for the page "Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg."

## Congratulations to our class of 2010!



**Master of Divinity:** Richard Adams, Susan Beck, Andrew Bell, Cinda Brucker, Virgil Cain, Brian Chaffee, Dona Cummings, Elizabeth Cutler, Matthew Finney, Christopher Frigm, Kibreab Gudeta, Cheryl Korte, Theresa Langdon, Joseph Leavengood, David Ludwick, Deborah Mahady, Melissa May, Eric Moser, Seth Novak, James Parsh, Katherine Russell, Julia Sprenkle, Sarah Teichmann, Linda Trout, Juanita Hall-Walters, Jonathan Wolf; **M.A.M.S.:** JoAnn Simons, Catherine Smith, Breanne Tomlinson; **M.A.R.:** Erin L. Betz, Joseph David Domko, Chad W. Hershberger, Cynthia R. Jones, Jean LeGros, Rebecca Quesada, Keith Shively; **S.T.M.:** Martha Sue Jacobi, Aurelio Magarino.


Volume 47 Number 2  
ISSN 0098-3101



*Seminary Views* is a publication of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.

Questions or comments regarding this newsletter may be sent to the Editor, The Rev. John R. Spangler at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325, or to e-mail: [jspangler@Ltsg.edu](mailto:jspangler@Ltsg.edu).

Send news items to Katy Giebenhain, e-mail: [kgiebenhain@Ltsg.edu](mailto:kgiebenhain@Ltsg.edu).

 [www.Ltsg.edu](http://www.Ltsg.edu)  
Telephone: 1-800-MLUTHER

## Upcoming events

### **Festival Choral Vespers for Transfiguration**

March 6 7:30 p.m. with the Schola Cantorum and Music, Gettysburg!

### **Annual Hein-Fry Lectures**

March 10 Dora Arce and Surekha Nelavala

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation**

April 13 Cain Hope Felder

### **Spring Convocation**

May 3-4 Inauguration of the Rev. Dr. Theoldore F. Schneider fund for Homiletics; "We Tell to Love the Story" Convocation presentations featuring Christopher Hedges, Marty Stevens, Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman and others

### **Preaching Perspectives**

May 19 Brooks Schramm and Rabbi Carl Choper



Katie Russell, left, Professor Brooks Schramm, and Melissa May, right, seek the oft preferred graduation photo-op next to the Luther statue.