All serious approaches to education ask not only What is to be learned? but also How do we learn? and What is the best way to learn what should be learned? Every quality educational institution wrestles with these questions continually. Answers are not easy, but creative efforts to respond to such questions must never be abandoned or neglected.

The Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM) program of Austin Seminary represents one substantive institutional attempt to respond creatively to the concerns imbedded in these questions. The program was created in 1973 by a curriculum committee of three, and I was privileged to be a member of that trio. We had worked for months doing research, studying seminary curricula, and discussing with faculty and focus groups in the church what persons needed to learn in order to be effective pastors. After processing all that information we agreed on the knowledge and skills needed. Then we faced the question: How can this knowledge best be learned and these skills acquired? Out of our deliberations we designed the SPM program. Several matters were clear to us:

1) certain things could be learned best in the context of doing or “practicing” ministry;
2) quality learning through practice would require skillful supervisors to guide the learning;
3) specific learning goals to which the student was committed would be critical for the learning; and
4) such education must carry the same weight in the curriculum as classroom learning, and be so valued by faculty.

Many things about that initial program put in place more than twenty-five years ago have changed, but those four principles have remained. Moreover, while SPM does assist the student to “apply” some of what has been learned in the classroom, the program maintains its own distinctive nature for learning that which is critical for anyone called to be a pastor a congregation and to be a leader in the church.

The articles in this issue of *Windows* will give you more insight into this program, particularly as the program has been developed and enriched under the excellent leadership of Professor Michael Jinkins.

Robert M. Shelton
President
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Theological Education Fund
(1% Plan)

Got 1%?
The theological schools of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) no longer receive funding from the basic mission budget of the General Assembly. Churches are asked to contribute 1% of their operating budgets to the fund, which is then distributed to the seminaries.

Publisher and Mailing Statement

Windows is the successor publication to the Austin Seminary Bulletin (newsletter edition). This issue of Windows is Volume 115, Number 3, Summer 2000, ISSN 2056-0556. Windows is published three times each year by Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Editor: Randal Whittington; Writers: Brian Brock, David Gambrell, Krissy Schwarz, and Randal Whittington; Photographers: Brian Brock and Randal Whittington; Illustrator: David Gambrell. Non-profit bulk mail permit no. 2473.

Postmaster: Address service requested. Send to Austin Seminary Windows, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 100 E. 27th St., Austin, TX 78705-5797.

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Cover: Need a lift? If the lure of the open road isn’t enough to make you pick up this issue of Windows, perhaps you’ll enjoy the truckloads of good news about Austin Seminary’s SPM program we’ve packed into its pages. This is theological education in the fast lane—where theoretical rubber meets the asphalt of practical experience. Our students will not only have a license to preach, they’ll be fine-tuned and fueled up for the journey ahead. So fasten your seatbelts . . .

Photograph by Randal Whittington.
This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me

THE OLD WOODY GUTHRIE RECORD SPINS IN THE JUKEBOX

As I contemplate a cup of coffee, a truck stop place mat, and the task before me: plot a course to visit all sixteen Austin Seminary year-long interns; collect their thoughts, experiences, and reflections on the past year. A daunting assignment—a record number of Austin Seminary interns is scattered farther and wider than ever before, each committing a year of his or her seminary experience to the Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM). Their pastoral contexts and job descriptions are as diverse as the American landscape. How will I cover them all? The road ahead stretches out like a winding thread, a long and twisting . . .

As I was walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
I saw below me that golden valley
Interns from sea to shining sea

Preparation for ministry is a different kind of journey. The process of call and response—listening for God and learning to trust—has its own rhythm and movement. A skyway of endless possibility, a valley of golden opportunity. Sometimes you’re clipping along at sixty-five miles per hour, sometimes you’re broken down on the side of the road, waiting for a spiritual tow truck. No doubt our year-long interns have had their own moments of exhilaration, frustration, joy, loneliness, road rage . . . . One way to find out.

First stop, California, where Sarah Powers and Dylan Huntsman are completing year-long internships in Oakland and Oroville, respectively.


Sarah Powers
Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church, Oakland, California, nine months

ike many interns, Sarah has a generalist’s job description, allowing her to sample a broad array of pastoral responsibilities: worship planning, preaching, visitation, and “lots of singing.” One of the happy surprises in Sarah’s work is her enjoyment of older adult ministry. “I love listening to their stories and working to find new ways to incorporate them into the life of the church.” The role of the supervising pastor, so central to Austin Seminary’s SPM program, has been critical in her vocational development. “My supervisor has given me much useful feedback that has improved many of my ministry skills, leading to greater confidence in myself and who I am as a pastor. My call seems stronger and I have a better idea of the type of church I would like to head towards after graduation.” As for her personal goals, Sarah has learned to protect her day off and to reserve time for her own prayer and study.

Moving from a manuscript to note-less preaching has been a particular joy in her internship.

Dylan Huntsman
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Orovile, California, nine months

ne hundred forty-five miles away in Orovile, Dylan is—more than likely—planning the next big youth event, writing a sermon, or preparing discussion questions for a college group. He says his experience just gets better the more he gets to know his parishioners; toward that end, Dylan says “I visit the hospital twice a week and sometimes spend whole afternoons with people, talking.” He describes his internship as a “rich experience,” and feels lucky to have had the chance to participate in such a learning experience. Dylan reports that he has improved his organizational skills, learning "how to hold one hundred things on my mind at once."

Tasha Hofmann
Schreiner College, Kerrville, Texas, ten months

ough I arrive at the Schreiner College campus early in the afternoon, it’s well past midnight before Tasha can catch her breath and find time to chat. As the campus minister at this small Presbyterian college, she plans social activities, service opportunities, and weekly chapel services; she tutors students in a religion course; provides counseling; and has been instrumental in promoting a greater bond with the local Presbyterian church through a sign language choir and a student adoption program. “Once you’re waist-deep in, it becomes pretty clear how huge the task of ministry is,” she explains. “I am beginning to realize how important it is to keep myself strong—both physically and mentally—but most of all strong spiritually. Working in ministry can brighten my whole week . . . and it can also make me hide under the covers.”

Tasha values the opportunities for learning that a year-long internship provides: “Just being able to watch what other ministers do and how they do it is worth a year of your time. There may be no other time in many of our lives when we have that gift—the gift of working under someone who recognizes that we have no idea what we’re doing and who is OK with that!”

Shamaine Chambers
Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas, twelve months

ai Leigh Addison, an elder at Shepherd of the Hills, first took notice of Shamaine at a youth camp at Mo-Ranch last summer where Shamaine preached to two hundred kids on the grass. “Shamaine did an unbelievable worship service.” With Jai Leigh’s encouragement, SHPC’s new pastor Larry Coulter arranged for
Shamaine’s internship before he even moved to Austin. That transition in leadership has been an important part of the context for her year.

Jai Leigh has observed Shamaine’s growth in worship leadership over the past year. “Last Sunday she did worship and it was the first time I’ve seen her preach without notes—not in the pulpit but out among the people. I really think it’s more effective that way, more personable.” Jai Leigh appreciates the special gifts and resources a seminary intern can provide. “It has been a blessing all the way around—good for the intern and great for the church.” For instance, Shamaine has initiated a new approach to Christian education through the rotation model of Sunday school. “It has really worked well—my third grader loves it. If there’s a down side to having an intern do youth ministry it’s that it’s hard when the youth get attached to interns and then lose them every year as they return to their studies.”

Phil Legg
Parkway Presbyterian Church, Corpus Christi, Texas, twelve months

David Evans, Phil’s supervising pastor at Parkway Presbyterian Church, is an expert on interns and internships. Having supervised numerous interns in the past seventeen years, he has attended more supervisor training seminars (a mandatory component of the SPM program at Austin Seminary) than he can count. Still, it is a responsibility he takes very seriously. David calls his supervisory style “relaxed and intense”: while he refuses to hover over the intern’s shoulder, he is intentional and thorough when it comes to discussing case studies (another distinctive of the SPM internship), teaching students to think theologically in the parish context.

When he arrived at Parkway in 1997 David was eager to establish the SPM program at that church. Phil was Parkway’s first intern. “He came to us as a diamond in the rough,” David recalls, “and has matured into a good preacher and an incredible teacher, able to relate to people of all ages.” How did this happen? “Phil followed me around for the first couple of months, and then I began to push him out of the nest more and more, and let him go on his own. He has truly become a colleague in ministry, a vital part of the life of this congregation.” The congregation has embraced David’s vision of the SPM program as part of their mission to the larger church, and church members have grown to understand and value their role as Phil’s “real-life” teachers and mentors. “We’re going to miss him a lot,” David says. Apparently, Phil’s not too eager to leave either; he has decided to stay on at Parkway on a contract basis for two months after he completes his internship.

Marialice Billingsley
Windwood Presbyterian Church, Cypress, Texas, nine months

Like many of the interns I’ve spoken with, Marialice finds her work varied and challenging. “There is not a brief job description that can explain an ordinary day, because there has not been one ordinary day since I have been at Windwood. It is a surprise waiting to happen every week.” One tragic surprise, in particular, turned out to be a major learning opportunity: “The bus carrying our youth for a ski trip in Colorado crashed. The whole crisis was an overwhelming event that most people never experience in their lives—my definition of ministry was changed from a textbook manual to a living experience. It has clarified for me my call to be a pastor to a congregation and to be part of the lives of God’s people.” Throughout the year, Marialice has been grateful for the support and teaching she has received as part of a growing church staff, citing the loving way her ideas and leadership have been accepted by all. “The working relationships of the elders, pastor, and church staff are necessary for communication within the community of faith—the corporate effort of the church staff is vital for a functioning, growing church.”

Debbie Spangler
Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church, The Woodlands, Texas, twelve months

Houston traffic cooperates and in less than an hour I’m talking to Mark Vernon (MDiv’90), Debbie’s supervisor at Timber Ridge. (Debbie has rushed to the hospital to visit a parishioner who has just given birth.) How did Mark set the stage for Debbie’s relationship with
the congregation? “The covenant that Professor Michael Jinkins helped us set up with Debbie was very focused on specific goals and areas that needed to be worked on. She was given the freedom to really explore the things that she had questions about. We then put together a lay committee of people to act as liaisons and guides—some of my wisest members, ranging in age from their early thirties to one that’s eighty-seven—and they have taken her under their wing and guided her.”

Mark is very positive about the SPM program in general, and the year-long internship in particular. “We hold in our hands a piece of the future of the church. This individual is going to touch—most likely—thousands of lives in the course of their ministry. I would encourage any pastor that really wants to have a growth experience spiritually to bring in an intern.” But Mark offers a word of caution as well: “I really think that y’all are going to have your hands full keeping Debbie locked up in class for two more semesters.” Indeed, this is one of the benefits of the SPM program at Austin Seminary: after a year in ministry, the lessons of seminary have new implications and applications in the real world of the local church.

Cindy Dack  
Fort Hood Army Base, Killeen, Texas, nine months

Cindy’s assignment as chaplain intern at the world’s largest military base—50,000 soldiers, plus families—involves helping the ninety-five other chaplains on base to utilize and minister to the children and families of soldiers in their midst. When Cindy began to address this concern, most of the chapel services didn’t even include children’s sermons—the liturgies were focused almost exclusively on the needs of the soldiers. Now children participate in the services by serving as greeters and taking the offering. She also initiated a post-wide vacation Bible school, involving eight hundred children and three hundred fifty teachers. This practice of ministry has helped her to clarify and hone her pastoral call: “My passion,” Cindy says, “has to do with centering the family in Christ.”

Another objective was finding constructive ways to deal with the conflicts and tensions that are inherent to the environment of a military base, where worshipers subscribe to practically every faith under the sun. A monthly advisory committee of lay people and chaplains from a broad range of denominations and traditions helped her to channel and process the conflicts she encountered; more frequent meetings with her supervisor were also invaluable. “I have learned a great deal about how I will handle conflict when I am a pastor.”

Andy Odom  
St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, Texas, twelve months

Poor planning on my part—I arrive at St. Stephen on the day after Andy’s wedding, and he has already embarked on his honeymoon with bride Denise Lee (MDiv’99). But his supervisor, Bill Galbraith, is more than happy to fill me in on Andy’s time at that church. “Andy arrived with many gifts for ministry but he leaves with a more confident understanding of himself as a pastor. He has been challenged to grow in his capacity to discern how the church functions as a system and his role as a leader within it. In this sense, Andy has grown not only in knowledge but in wisdom.”

How was Andy received into the life of the congregation and the circle of his colleagues in ministry? “At St. Stephen, we try to quickly include the intern as a full member of the church staff. As such, the intern has specific responsibilities within the life of the congregation and shares general responsibilities with the rest of the staff. Beyond the regular work a student and supervisor do, the lay support committee meets regularly to reflect upon, affirm, and help clarify the experience of the Supervised Practice of Ministry in this setting.”

I ask Bill about his impressions of the SPM philosophy of leadership development, and specifically, the year-long internship. “The year-long internship offers ample time to act and reflect upon a range of successes and fail-
obey meets me with a Bible under one arm and a baby in the other. He and Marcie (MDiv’98) became the proud parents of Margaret Michelle in February. As we walk from the manse to the church, Toby describes his unusual position: “I serve as the solo pastor of a congregation of forty-eight in a community of three thousand. I preach and lead worship each week. In addition, I am responsible for the pastoral care for all of our members, and I plan and lead the weekly Bible study.” Unlike most interns, Toby has an “off-site” supervisor who serves a church in a neighboring community.

Contrary to some stereotypes about small towns, Toby has found Tonkawa an exciting context for life and ministry. “The year has never been dull!” he exclaims. “Being a pastor is always challenging and never the same from one week to the next. I now know that parish ministry demands nothing short of all we have and gives back to us more than it ever demands. I found my call to Minister of Word and Sacrament affirmed at every step of the way.” Along that path, Toby has become an advocate for the rural church. “I was surprised to see myself, a child of the suburbs, loving small town life in rural Oklahoma! I learned the profound strengths of small churches in the midst of a world that calls for greater budgets, more programs, and larger facilities. Members of small churches choose to go to small churches for the unique witness they offer. We should honor and protect the special place of small churches. I believe they are the true strength of our denomination.”

Nicole Richardson
Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Missouri, twelve months

Finding creative ways to manage multiple roles and responsibilities has been an important part of Nicole’s internship experience. “I have learned to balance my family with church and personal time spent with God.” Her church activities include worship leadership, visiting members in nursing homes and hospitals, senior adult ministry, and participation in the stewardship and mission committees. Even meetings have been a source of joy for Nicole: “I have discovered how much I really do love the mundane day-to-day activities of the church. The most unexpected thing is that I have learned is how Presbyterian I really am! My sense of call has deepened. I feel more confident more consistently than I did even six months ago.”

Greg Brady and Anghaarad Teague
First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson City, Missouri, thirteen months

Like Toby and Marcie, Greg and his wife, Melissa, have become first-time parents during his SPM year. He hands baby Susan Noelle off to one of her many “church grandparents,” and we find a place to talk.

For Greg, the year-long internship has opened up many possibilities. He has had the opportunity to see new ideas come to fruition as fully realized church programs that are fun as well as spiritually beneficial. In so doing, he has learned to seek out the intersection of the congregation’s needs and his own passions and interests. The year-long internship has also allowed him the time and space to find different ways to make discipleship meaningful for his parishioners. He has been able to explore this theme with middle and senior high youth groups, developing Sunday school curricula that emphasize personal spiritual growth. “The congregation has been sort of a laboratory,” he explains, “where you are put in a position of responsibility, and learning
is taking place in the ministry environment.”

In another part of the church, Anghaarad is knee-deep in kindergartners. As parish assistant for family life, she works with the preschool, Sunday school, youth fellowship, middle school and senior high events, singles groups, and the confirmation class. She also assists with worship and visitation. “Designing a service for children—but keeping within the Reformed tradition and not allowing it to become hokey—was a big challenge. The two services I did were very well received by the congregation and that was very rewarding.”

As she looks to the future, Anghaarad is even more certain of her vocation with children and families; she also knows what to look for in a potential call. “I feel very strongly about being called to associate ministry, and this experience has helped me define what kind of working relationship I want to be in with a senior pastor. I have a list of questions to ask when looking for a church.” Like many interns, Anghaarad has also experienced the loneliness and isolation that often accompanies the pastoral office. Recently she joined a local ecumenical young adult group to try to make some new friends beyond her immediate church context. As a new pastor, she will be better prepared to face this challenge as well.

Blake Brinegar
Summerville Presbyterian Church,
Summerville, South Carolina, nine months

Over a meal of Charleston red rice, shrimp and grits, and collard greens (don’t tell his parents) I inquire about Blake’s life as an intern. He assists with weekly worship, congregational fellowship, small group ministries, ecumenical outreach, teaching, and visitation. He also took thirty youth on a ski trip to West Virginia. Much of ministry is in the details, Blake has discovered; but fortunately, “you don’t have to know it all off the top of your head. I always carry a notepad with me and write down the question. Then I try to find the answer over the next week and get it to the person who asked or to the class.”

Were there any surprises during his SPM? “I was surprised by the amount of support that I have received from mem-

bers in this congregation. They are very willing to assist me in my growth.” What kind of growth? “I think it is that I feel more comfortable in my pastoral role,” Blake muses. “I am no longer talking to a bunch of congregants, but rather people who are my friends and whose lives I have entered. I feel more confident in what I am doing.”

Jill Acree
Church of the Saviour, Washington, D.C., twelve months

In some ways, Jill’s internship is the most unusual of all I have witnessed. “I serve in ministry with a group of homeless women with AIDS,” she explains. “On a typical day, I listen. Often the conversation is about sex.”

As a year-long intern at the non-denominational, socially active church, Jill has learned a great deal: “that Washington, D.C., is really a small town; how influential the church is—from the drug-infested neighborhoods of the inner city to its most powerful political circles and throughout the world, all because of a handful of people being faithful to the radical call of Jesus Christ; the amazing power of prayer to transform me; that it isn’t a matter of reading the Bible with the newspaper in the other hand, but living fully in both realms at the same time every single day; and that the kingdom of God is among us, manifested in a house full of diseased and depressed women.”

“I know I am called to serve in ministry with the poor.” Jill believes this is a vocation that will put her at odds with the prevailing culture—and even her denomination, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); but this year in ministry has made her even more certain of that direction. Like Debbie, Jill will have a hard time returning to the academic realm when this year is over. “It gets better and more challenging every single day.”

Ann Herlin
Westminster Presbyterian Church,
Wilmington, Delaware, nine months

Having grown up in a small Presbyterian church in south Texas, Ann wanted to have the experience of working in a larger, multi-staff congregation. “I half-expected this large church to be an
impersonal place where you never got to know anyone, and that has not been the case at all.” In fact, personal relationships have been integral to Ann’s ministry at WPC. “Easter Sunday I sat and looked out at the faces of the congregation during the prelude. Perhaps because they were packed closer together, perhaps because more whole families were sitting together, perhaps it was left over from watching folks walk forward for communion in the earlier service—but it was very emotional. I cared about these folks; I knew some of what the sorrows and struggles and joys of their lives are, and here we were all together on this morning for this purpose. I realized that in some ways what my year has been about is getting to know the congregation. That was my explicit task for the first few weeks, but throughout the year, in all different ways and settings and degrees, that’s been what I’ve been about, and it is really one of the foundational tasks of ministry.”

Another important aspect of Ann’s internship has been finding ways to integrate her interest in the Spanish language and Latin American culture into the congregational life of a North American church. Toward that end, she helped to incorporate the Mexican “las posadas” tradition into the church’s annual family Christmas Eve services, and traveled to Guatemala to visit WPC’s sister church (where she was the unofficial song leader and preached in Spanish.) “I was quite surprised to discover that I no longer think of my ability to speak Spanish as a nice, little bonus, but think of it as part of my call, and know that I need to be using that in some way (there are a million options).”

And with that, it’s time to bid a fond “adios” to Ann and my other year-long intern friends. But not before a few leftover collard greens and one last chorus of our theme song. All together now:

From the Pacific to the other ocean
From seminary to the congregation
Preparing pastors for their vocation
This plan is made for ministry

David Gambrell (MDiv ’98) contemplates imaginary journeys—while channeling Woody Guthrie—in his capacity as associate for public relations at Austin Seminary.

SPM at APTS

This issue of Windows focuses on year-long internships; but there is more than one path by which Master of Divinity students can fulfill the Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM) requirement at Austin Seminary:

- The year-long internship is for students who are able to work for an nine- to fifteen-month period in a particular parish setting.
- The summer internship provides students with a ten-week, full-time congregational ministry.
- The teaching church allows students to engage in SPM in the Austin area while attending classes during the fall and spring terms.

Whichever road they choose, SPM offers Austin Seminary students an opportunity to develop ministry skills in congregations under the supervision of competent and experienced ordained ministers. All supervising pastors are required to attend a training session during which SPM Director Michael Jinkins familiarizes them with the philosophy and practices of the program and certifies them for their role as supervisors.

In addition to regular meetings with their supervisors, students meet as a group with Jinkins at least twice during their internship to discuss written accounts of their ministry experiences. Through this process of action and reflection, students learn a model of ministry that is theologically informed, critically reflective, and practically sound. This invaluable educational experience is usually undertaken after the second year of academic study.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) offers students experience in a clinical setting—such as a hospital, mental health institution, or local congregation—and is conducted under the supervision of a certified clinical pastoral educator. Students usually complete one unit of CPE in ten weeks. Pastoral Care in a Hospital Setting is a seminar (typically four weeks in duration) which introduces students to the concepts and practices of ministry in a medical context. Though CPE and Pastoral Care in a Hospital Setting do not ordinarily meet the Supervised Practice of Ministry requirement, students often find these elective courses excellent preparation for many ministry settings.
When the church becomes the classroom, the learning never ends

by Michael Jinkins

One of my favorite stories is told by James Herriot in his first book, All Creatures Great and Small. Herriot had just arrived in Yorkshire, fresh out of veterinary college, when he was called out in the middle of the night to deliver a calf. It was a tough breach delivery in a stone barn high up in the windswept Yorkshire moorland. It was so cold inside the barn he had to break the ice on the surface of the water bucket just to wash up. Throughout most of the delivery the young vet was lying on his back in the icy muck and mud on the barn’s earthen floor, his arm up the backside of the cow, every contraction squeezing his arm like a vise. All the while he was cursing his professors back at the veterinary school in Glasgow, “They never told me it would be like this!”

When James Herriot’s professors demonstrated a delivery it was in a concrete holding pen, warm and dry in an instructional barn on the college campus. The concrete floor was spotless. The professors stood in white lab coats. The whole procedure was neat and tidy, and he remembered leaving the lecture thinking that delivering calves would be a snap. Shivering half-naked and wet, bone-tired and dirty, the only thing likely to snap for this recently graduated and credentialed veterinarian was his forearm.

I’ve often thought that being a pastor is a lot like being a vet. And the contrast between how we learn in seminary and how we practice ministry in congregations can be almost as stark as the contrast between that classroom delivery and the real thing.

Our goal in Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary’s program of Supervised Practice of Ministry...
(SPM) is (in a manner of speaking) to get all our students up into those hilltop barns now, so they will be better prepared to learn the shape of ministry as it really is, and so that they can learn how to do biblical and theological reflection in ways appropriate to actual congregational ministry. It may be that the most important piece of knowledge for the new minister is how to break the ice on the water bucket without breaking a hand. And that is something we are not likely to learn in any conventional seminary classroom—no matter how good the instruction is.

Theology and biblical studies, church history, Christian ethics and pastoral counseling are all vitally important subjects in the preparation for pastoral leadership. Any pastor worth his or her salt should be theologically and biblically prepared to help members of a congregation to understand their lives in light of the grace of Jesus Christ. But most people in our congregations don’t raise theological issues the way we do in academic classrooms. Rather than posing an abstract question like: What is the nature of original sin? most folks are likely to ask, Why is it that I’m unable to stop doing what I know is bad for me? or, Why is it that the people we love most are most resistant to our help? or, Why does Murphy’s Law seem more potent than the Golden Rule among most of the people I know?

Harry Emerson Fosdick was right when he said that nobody comes to church with the burning desire to find out whatever happened to the Jezubites. But we do come to church wondering whatever happened to the joy I once took in knowing that God loves me without condition? Whatever happened to that relationship with my daughter or son, husband or wife that once nourished me and now is bitter as gall? Whatever happened to the concern I once felt for the needs of others? Whatever happened to the courage I once took for granted to simply do the right thing? Our goal is to place students in the real practice of ministry under the supervision of experienced, well-trained pastors so that they can learn the full dimensions of theological reflection on the life of congregations.

Austin Seminary is committed to the preparation of men and women for leadership in the church. Which means we have failed in our work if we merely prepare people to be good students. That’s why the motto of our SPM program is: When the church becomes the classroom, the learning never ends. Every member of our seminary faculty is committed to this vision of helping our students learn to become lifelong learners in the context of the church. If the academic classroom is the only place they know how to learn, then their learning stops when they put down their pens on the last day of the last examination of the last class. But if our students learn that the primary place of discovery is the congregation, commencement is just the beginning.

This philosophy of theological education is grounded in a very common-sense understanding. The principal site of pastoral formation is the church. Seminary plays a crucial role in the church’s work of pastoral formation, providing critical theological training in the core disciplines of ministry. But the full education of pastors and other church leaders happens in our congregations over a lifetime. It is our intention that all students who graduate from Austin Seminary are ready upon graduation for the next stage in their education.

$470,000 grant to fund Hispanic ministry

The Teagle Foundation of New York has agreed to fund a cooperative initiative to Austin Seminary and its neighboring theological institutions, the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest and the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest (a program of Wartburg Theological Seminary). This $470,000 grant is given under the Foundation’s Collaborative Ventures program, and will be used to develop an ecumenical center for Hispanic theological education and ministry, housed at Austin Seminary.

With its Lutheran and Episcopal partners, Austin Seminary will develop, staff, and fund the activities of the center, leading to even greater collaboration and further joint programming by the consortium of Austin seminaries. The goal is outlined in three phases: an initial phase of assessment and program development; a second phase including a business plan, curriculum, course offerings, and marketing strategies; and a final phase of program implementation and campus networking.

“This generous grant by the Teagle Foundation enables us and our neighbor institutions to lay a foundation upon which to construct programs for the growing Hispanic constituency in the United States and particularly in the Southwest,” said President Robert M. Shelton. “Such programs will benefit all three seminaries as they seek to enhance and enrich their education of leaders for the church in the 21st century.”
THE CLASS OF 2000

Steven Barnes of Sherman, Texas; single; PC(USA); employed by Lacerte Software in Dallas, Texas

Janice Brown of Austin, Texas; married with two children; PC(USA); seeking a church-related position in Austin

János Hunyadi of Kunmadaras, Hungary; single; Reformed Church in Hungary; returning to Hungary to seek a call as a solo pastor

Dwayne Jones of Austin, Texas; married with two children; Church of God; pastor, Paraclete Ministries Inc., Round Rock, Texas

Seung-Jin Lee of Austin, Texas; married; PC(USA); pursuing a Clinical Pastoral Education program in Pasadena, California

Melissa (Man-Hong) Lin of Nanjing, Jiangsu, P. R. China; married with one child; returning to position as assistant director of the China Christian Council

Janice Spence-Huntsinger of Austin, Texas; married; Baptist Church; pursuing a non-ordained church position

Sue White of Austin, Texas; married; UMC; pastor, Parker Lane United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas

Jesse Alexander of Panama City, Florida; married with two children; PC(USA); seeking a call as a solo or associate pastor, preferably in a southern state

Jan Baldwin of Salado, Texas; married; UMC; associate pastor, Colleyville United Methodist Church, Colleyville, Texas

Mark Brechin of Yorktown, Texas; married; UMC; pastor, Somerset United Methodist Church, Somerset, Texas

John Curtiss of Alliance, Nebraska; married; PC(USA); seeking a call as a pastor or hospital chaplain near Auburn, Alabama

Elsie Ferguson of San Antonio, Texas; single; UMC; pastor, Wesley United Methodist Church, San Angelo, Texas

Joe Fletcher of Fort Worth, Texas; single; UMC; director of youth ministries, University United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas

Miranda Fontaine of Austin, Texas; single with two children; PC(USA); associate pastor, St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas

John Gage of Austin, Texas; single; UCC; associate pastor, United Church on the Green, New Haven, Connecticut
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Status/Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ernie Gardner</strong></td>
<td>Dallas, Texas</td>
<td>single; PC(USA); pending completion of ordination process, will seek a call as a solo or associate pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>John Gruel</strong></td>
<td>Edmond, Oklahoma</td>
<td>married with two children; PC(USA); in conversation with a church in Oklahoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dana Hamilton</strong></td>
<td>Gonzales, Texas</td>
<td>married with one child; UMC; associate pastor, Northwest Hills United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chris Harrison</strong></td>
<td>Tyler, Texas</td>
<td>married with two children; PC(USA); seeking a call as a solo pastor in central Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Raymond Hillis</strong></td>
<td>Houston, Texas</td>
<td>married with two children; Missionary Baptist; pastor, Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kevin Holley</strong></td>
<td>Oklahoma City, Oklahoma</td>
<td>married; PC(USA); seeking a call as a solo or associate pastor in a suburban area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suzanne Isaacs</strong></td>
<td>Converse, Texas</td>
<td>married; UMC; pastor, Bethany United Methodist Church, San Antonio, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elaine Johnson</strong></td>
<td>Tulsa, Oklahoma</td>
<td>married with two children; PC(USA); in serious conversation with several churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deborah Jones</strong></td>
<td>Temple, Texas</td>
<td>married; Disciples of Christ; family minister, First Christian Church, Temple, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anni Judkins</strong></td>
<td>New Braunfels, Texas</td>
<td>married with three children; Independent Interdenominational; entering Ph.D. program in biblical studies, Baylor University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linda Kessie</strong></td>
<td>Bristol, Connecticut</td>
<td>married; UMC; associate pastor, St. John’s United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dave Larkin</strong></td>
<td>Upper Darby, Pennsylvania</td>
<td>married; PC(USA); seeking a call as a solo or associate pastor on the east coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Debra Latture</strong></td>
<td>Saint Petersburg, Florida</td>
<td>married with one child; PC(USA); in conversation with several churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fawn Lawrence</strong></td>
<td>Grand Junction, Colorado</td>
<td>married; PC(USA); seeking temporary employment in Austin for one year, before seeking a call as a solo or associate pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>James Lee</strong></td>
<td>Plano, Texas</td>
<td>married with two children; PC(USA); pending completion of ordination process, will seek a call as a solo or associate pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peter Lee</strong></td>
<td>Madison, Wisconsin</td>
<td>married with two children; PC(USA); in conversation with a Korean Presbyterian church in central Texas for an associate position</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE CLASS OF 2000

Rob McClelland of Arlington, Texas; married; PC(USA); seeking a call as an associate pastor for youth or college ministry.

Ceil McKinney of Goliad, Texas; married; UMC; pastor, Dewville United Methodist Church, Dewville, Texas, and First United Methodist Church, Nixon, Texas.

Regina Maas of Austin, Texas; married; PC(USA); seeking a call as an associate pastor for families, youth, and/or children.

Clint Regen of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; married with one child; PC(USA); seeking a call as solo or associate pastor in the southern United States.

Enid Ross of Glens Falls, New York; married with three children; UCC; fulfilling ordination requirements.

Josh Rowley of Camas, Washington; married; PC(USA); in serious conversation with several churches.

Valerie Sansing of Austin, Texas; married with two children; UMC; associate pastor, Bethany United Methodist Church, Austin, Texas.

Jackie Saxon of Austin, Texas; single; American Baptist Church; associate pastor, University Baptist Church, Austin, Texas.

Paul Sink of Raleigh, North Carolina; married with one child; PC(USA); director of youth ministries, First Presbyterian Church, Statesville, North Carolina.

Stuart Smith of Dallas, Texas; married; PC(USA); pending completion of ordination process, will seek a call as an associate pastor for youth.

Byoung-Mun Sohn of Austin, Texas; married with one child; PC(USA); seeking a call as a pastor in Seoul, Korea.

Phillip Steinbach of San Antonio, Texas; married with one child; UMC; pastor, First United Methodist Church, Mertzton, Texas, and Christoval United Methodist Church.

Jim Wallace of Tyler, Texas; married; PC(USA); pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Abilene, Texas.

Rich Wepfer of Irving, Texas; single; PC(USA); pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Clinton, Missouri.

Leonard Wideman of Houston, Texas; married with two children; PC(USA); pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Eldorado, Texas.

Key to Master of Arts and Master of Divinity entries: graduate’s name and hometown; marital status; denomination; first call/placement or future plans. Key to Doctor of Ministry entries: name, current position; title of doctoral project.
Robyn Stivers Abel, pastor, Iroquois Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Kentucky; “Men, Religion, and the Quest for Wholeness”

William Christman, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Joplin, Missouri; “The Paralysis of Presbyterianism: How the Standards of the Scottish Covenanters have Shaped the Presbyterian Churches and ts Their Ministry Today”

Michael W. Ensrude, pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Fredricksburg, Texas; “The Church’s One Foundation: Embracing a Decentering God”

Gary Paul Goodman, pastor, Community Presbyterian Church, Neptune Beach, Florida; “Narrative First Person Sermons: Witnesses to the Week of Passion”

D. Richard Hollingsworth, pastor, Braeside United Church, Braeside, Ontario, Canada; “Great Lakes Rural Culture”

Charles C. Martin Sr., pastor, Union Missionary Baptist Church, Cedar Hill, Texas; “Rethinking Pastoral Care with African Americans: Pastoral Care with African Americans amid Contextual Change”

Ann Pennington, chaplain, Regis/St. Elizabeth Centers, Waco, Texas; “A Teaching Model for Hope and Spiritual Development in Senior Adults”

Lawrence Lee Porter Jr., pastor, Community Presbyterian Church, Forsyth, Missouri; “The Use of Narrative in Relational Faith-Sharing Evangelism”

Dale Alan Schultz, pastor, First United Methodist Church, Mexia, Texas; “A Method for Preaching the Psalms”

Carlton W. Utley, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, Nebraska; “Household Worship: Life after the Benediction”

2000-2001 Continuing Education Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 7-11</td>
<td>“Human Growth and Development”</td>
<td>Oct. 22-27</td>
<td>Immersion Week / CSF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 14-17</td>
<td>Immersion Weekend / CSF</td>
<td>Jan. 2-5</td>
<td>“Religious Education Theory and Practice”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep. 24-29</td>
<td>“Introduction to Spiritual Guidance” / CSF</td>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>“Lenten Lessons”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2-4</td>
<td>“A Pastoral Theology of Anger”</td>
<td>Feb. 11-16</td>
<td>Immersion Week / CSF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5</td>
<td>“Advent Lessons”</td>
<td>Mar. 4-9</td>
<td>“Spirituality for the Fiery Furnace and the Lion’s Den: Daniel” / CSF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>“Present Your Body, A Living Sacrifice”</td>
<td>Apr. 2-4</td>
<td>“Faithful Worship, Faithful Living”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15-18</td>
<td>“Educational Leadership in the Ministry of the Congregation”</td>
<td>Apr. 26-29</td>
<td>“Spiritual Theology” / CSF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSF = Certificate in Spiritual Formation
2000 Commencement swells the ranks of church leadership

Austin Seminary’s commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2000 tested the limits of University Presbyterian Church’s newly renovated sanctuary. On Sunday, May 21, the cavernous space was filled beyond capacity—with caps, gowns, hopes, dreams, prayers of thanksgiving, sighs of relief, thunderous applause, and the jubilant strains of “Lift High the Cross.”

A crowd of approximately eight hundred was on hand to celebrate with the fifty-seven graduates: eight receiving the Master of Arts degree; thirty-nine, the Master of Divinity; and ten, the Doctor of Ministry. Austin Seminary alumnus and well known Presbyterian leader Frank Diaz (MDiv’82) delivered the commencement address, “Attitude is Everything.” Louis H. Zbinden Jr., chair of the Austin Seminary Board of Trustees, presided and was assisted by Academic Dean J. Andrew DeArman in the conferring of degrees.

Three students rose above the sea of pomp and circumstance to receive special honors: the Rachel Henderlite Award for contributions to campus diversity and understanding was granted to Suzanne Floy Isaacs; the John B. Spragens Award for further study in Christian Education was given to Richard William Wepfer; and the Charles L. King Preaching Award was granted to John Ragen Gage.

The commencement exercises also set the stage for academic announcements by Austin Seminary President Robert M. Shelton. Dr. Shelton related the following actions of the board of trustees: to grant tenure to Professors Stanley R. Hall and Michael Jinkins; to promote Drs. Cynthia L. Rigby and Sherron Kay George to the rank of associate professor; to reappoint Professors Christine E. Blair and Kathryn L. Roberts for five-and three-year terms, respectively; to affirm the appointments of Drs. Michael N. Miller and C. Ellis Nelson as research professors; to change William N.A. Greenway’s title to assistant professor of philosophical theology; and to approve a six-month sabbatical for Professor Stephen Breck Reid.

On the eve of the commencement ceremony, Saturday, May 20, a baccalaureate service was held at Hope Presbyterian Church. Hosted by the senior pastor, Rev. Fred Morgan (MDiv’71), the service featured a meditation on “Integrity and Wholeness: The Marks of Being Commissioned” by Professor Ismael García and the Eucharist, celebrated by Dr. Stanley R. Hall.

New trustees named

Austin Seminary’s Board of Trustees elected two new members during its spring meeting. La Unah “Una” S. Cuffy is a business project manager at USAA in San Antonio. With undergraduate and graduate degrees in management from Greensboro College and Chapman University, she is an experienced leader in the highly specialized field of change management. Cuffy served on active duty as an Air Force officer for ten years and is currently serving in the Air Force reserves. She has a total of nineteen years in the Air Force, working primarily in the area of public affairs and marketing. She is a member of New Braunfels Presbyterian Church. Cuffy is married to Michael Glenn and they are parents to a son, Connor.

General Robert T. Herres, USAF (Ret.) is chairman and CEO of USAA. He retired in 1990 from the Air Force as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He serves on the board of trustees of Trinity University and the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, whose pastor, Louis Zbinden, is chair of Austin Seminary’s Board of Trustees.

We believe . . .

Daniel Bonevac engaged the community in lively discussion with his theme, “Believing in Miracles,” for the fifth annual George S. Heyer Jr. Lecture, Wednesday, April 19.

Bonevac, professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy at The University of Texas at Austin, is the author of Simple Logic and Reduction in the Abstract Sciences. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church, Austin.
Lewis is full professor of Christian education

Following in the footsteps of such luminaries as C. Ellis Nelson and Rachel Henderlite, Dr. Laura Brookings Lewis was inaugurated to the position of full professor of Christian education at Austin Seminary on April 12. Professor Lewis has been a member of the Austin Seminary faculty since 1982. The native Texan earned her undergraduate degree in English and speech from The University of Texas (UT) at Austin, the M.Div. from Austin Seminary, the M.A. from Presbyterian School of Christian Education, and the Ph.D. from UT.

Professor Lewis’s address, “Rethinking Confirmation,” examined the church’s preparation of its children for confirmation and what follows that experience. Reflecting on Ephesians 4:1-7, Lewis related the passage to children and youth, noting that children possess unique gifts for ministry which must be discerned and celebrated. Citing statistics of denominational membership loss—caused, in part, by young members leaving the church shortly after confirmation—Lewis exhorted the church to look for ways to make the process of living into their confirmation vows more meaningful for youth.

According to Lewis, the time between Baptism and confirmation is a time for preparation—an opportunity to lay a solid foundation for understanding the church’s confessions. As children grow, Lewis asserted, the church must find new ways to include them in worship and service events, “nurturing them toward a sense of vocation.” Following confirmation, members of the congregation should support these young members, helping them discern fitting opportunities to become active members in the life of the church.

Prior to her appointment to Austin Seminary, Dr. Lewis served as an associate pastor at Hope Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, and as director of Christian education at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, North Carolina. Professor Lewis was a member of the Special Committee to Write a New Catechism for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She has contributed to many scholarly texts, including The Pastor’s and Educator’s Guide for “Belonging to God: A First Catechism.”

Seminary trustee Marvin Griffin presided over the service of inauguration and Professor Ralph Underwood gave the charge to Dr. Lewis. Lewis and her husband, Robert E. Lewis, have two daughters: Nancy and Kate.

TRANSITIONS

Linda Cunningham, administrative assistant to the president, has been promoted to the position of executive assistant to the president, effective July 1. Cunningham has served in the Office of the President since 1978.

Willie Alexander, who worked on the Seminary maintenance staff for nearly three decades, died on June 2.

Burnett B. Roberts, an Austin Seminary trustee from 1980 until 1988, died in November in Levelland, Texas.

“Twas the night before Easter . . .” Mingling ancient Christian tradition with contemporary movements in liturgical art and music, the Austin Seminary community marked the eve of Easter with its annual celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Sherron George led the reaffirmation of Baptism, Stanley Hall presided at Communion, and Michael Jinkins preached.
Carol Miles appointed as assistant professor of homiletics

Carol Antablin Miles has received an appointment to the position of assistant professor of homiletics following the completion of her doctoral work at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Dr. Miles was awarded the Ph.D. in theology and communication in preaching on May 15, 2000. Her dissertation was titled “Proclaiming the Gospel of God: The Promise of a Literary-Theological Hermeneutical Approach for Christian Preaching of the Old Testament.” While a student at Princeton, Miles was awarded a Princeton Doctoral Fellowship and received both the Edward Howell Roberts Scholarship in Preaching and the Frederick Neumann Prize for Excellence in Greek and Hebrew.

Miles has served on the faculty of Austin Seminary since the fall of 1999. Her enthusiasm for Christian preaching of Old Testament texts has energized her students. “She combines just the right amounts of assurance and challenge,” says Brett Van Veldhuizen, middle from Harrison, Arkansas, “so that her students end up with a deep respect for the job of preaching and a desire to do it well.”

Professor Miles brings to her vocation parish experience on both coasts, having served churches in California, New Jersey, and New York. She is a regular supply preacher, retreat speaker, and teacher of adult Christian education. Miles was ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on March 19 at First Presbyterian Church, Berkeley, California. Her husband, the Reverend David Miles, who is the Seminary’s interim pastor to the community and dean of student life, preached and Professor Scott Black Johnston gave the charge.

The Miles’s two sons, Ethan, 4, and Samuel, 2, were on hand for their mother’s graduation, with cheers of “Way to go, Mommy!” ringing out in Princeton’s Miller Chapel.

IN BRIEF

Associate Professor of Church History Ellen Babinsky led a workshop at the Oasis 2000 Conference on Reformed Spirituality in Atlanta, Georgia, February 28-March 2.

Tina Blair has been elected president of the Association of Doctor of Ministry Education. She will chair a research group which will engage in a major study of D.Min. programs in the U.S. and Canada.

In July, Academic Dean Andrew Dearman begins a six-month sabbatical. This summer he will attend the International Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Capetown, South Africa, and teach a two-week course at South Africa’s University of Stellenbosch. Professor Laura Lewis will be acting academic dean in Dearman’s absence.

Sherron George will be teaching “Introduction to the New Testament as a Missionary Document” this summer at the Lithuania Christian College in Klaipeda, Lithuania, the only Christian liberal arts college in central and eastern Europe.

Timothy Lincoln, director of the Stitt Library, has been awarded a grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion. Lincoln will use the funds during his study leave in 2001 to explore user training in three seminary libraries with a view toward identifying common practices and problem areas.

Michael Miller, research professor in the church and higher education, will deliver the sermon and preside over the Eucharist at the November 2000 meeting of the Synod of the Sun. The meeting will be at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Flower Mound, Texas, November 9-11.

Terry Muck has resigned from the faculty of Austin Seminary. On June 30, he will marry Frances Adeney and move to Wilmore, Kentucky, where he has accepted a position on the faculty of Asbury Seminary.

Cynthia Rigby, associate professor of theology, has been ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The service was held on June 4 at the Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, where she served on the staff prior to her teaching position at Austin Seminary.
Kubatzky tapped for vice presidency

The Austin Seminary Board of Trustees has elected Timothy A. Kubatzky to serve as vice president for institutional advancement, effective July 1, 2000. Jerold “Jerry” Shetler will become the Seminary’s vice president for church relations and planned giving.

Kubatzky comes to the Seminary from Southwestern University where he has been associate vice president for development since 1995. Kubatzky brings a wealth of experience in higher education fund raising, having previously served in the administrations of Rice University and the University of Houston system.

During his tenure at Southwestern, Kubatzky was responsible for raising annual, endowment, and capital gifts. Southwestern boasts an endowment of more than $340 million, one of the highest endowments per student in the nation. Kubatzky was strategically involved in Southwestern’s recent successful $92 million campaign.

A graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia, Kubatzky has earned certification from the National Society of Fund Raising Executives and the Conrad Tietell Planned Giving Institute. He is an elder at First Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, Texas. “Tim served on our session and been a faithful member of our church for many years,” says Michael Roberts (DMin’96), pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Georgetown. “He is a creative person, a compassionate leader, and a wonderful communicator.”

Kubatzky is married to Katherine Kerr and they are parents to three sons: Corey, Erin, and Lindsay.

Evans resigns to serve PC(USA) Foundation

After sixteen years of faithful and dedicated service to Austin Seminary, the Reverend John Evans has resigned as vice president for development and church relations to accept a position as regional development officer for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation.

A 1968 graduate of Austin Seminary, Evans returned to the institution in 1984 to become the Seminary’s director of vocation and admissions. In 1991, he accepted a call to direct the Office of Development and Church Relations as vice president. He was a recipient of the 2000 ASA Award for Service.

In response to Evans’s resignation, President Shelton offered these words of consolation and celebration: “As much as we all deeply regret John’s leaving, we give thanks to God for all that he has meant and means to each of us personally and as a colleague. For many he will always ‘be Austin Seminary.’”

The Presbyterian Foundation receives and administers gifts from individuals, as well as manages funds for Presbyterian churches and organizations. Evans is no stranger to the Foundation, having served as chair of that body’s development committee and on its board of trustees. In 1998 and 1999 he served as vice-chair and chair, respectively, of the Foundation Board. Evans’s resignation is effective June 30, 2000; he plans to begin his new work with the PC(USA) Foundation thereafter, from an office in Austin.

Alums embrace Nelson challenge

Austin Seminary alumni/ae responded enthusiastically to the $30,000 alum challenge to fund the C. Ellis and Nancy Gribble Nelson Chair of Christian Education. The goal has been met, with more than $31,000 received in gifts and pledges since the challenge was extended during Mdwinter Lectures in February. To date, more than $112,000 has been pledged toward the chair by alums.

If you would like further information about the Nelson Chair or other giving opportunities at Austin Seminary, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 512-472-6736.
ALUMNI/AE NEWS

BIRTHS
To Susan and Brent A. Barry (MDiv'94) a son, Ian Russell, March 14, 2000.
To Katie and Baron E. Eliason (MDiv'96) a daughter, Lily Marie, November 19, 1999.
To Marcie Dameron Brown (MDiv'98) and Toby L. Brown (S, Oklahoma City) a daughter, Margaret Michelle, February 25, 2000.
To Debra and Stuart R. Smith (MDiv’00) a son, Hayden Phillips, March 19, 2000.

CLASS NOTES
1970s
Robert D. Lively (MDiv’73, DMin’79) has written a book, Psalm 23: God’s Prescription for Our Pain, to be published by Morehouse Publishing and released later this year. One hundred percent of the proceeds from this book will go to support work with abused children through CASA of Travis County in Texas.

James A. Ryan Jr. (MDiv’76) has been named chief of chaplain services for the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in Little Rock, Arkansas. He has served as a staff chaplain with the VA since 1991.

Theodore V. Foote (MDiv’79) and Alexander P. Thornburg (MDiv’90) have co-authored a book, Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt—a “theological survival guide” for youth, parents, and other confused Presbyterians. The easy-to-understand, slightly irreverent approach to theology is available through Geneva Press, Louisville, Kentucky.

James D. Rigby (MDiv’79, DMin’79) received the “Champion of Social Change Award” from the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault at ceremonies in May.

1990s
Laura S. Mendenhall (DMin’97) was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from her alma mater, Austin College, during commencement exercises in May.

NECROLOGY


Janis Smith (MDiv’86) Austin, Texas, March 5, 2000.

And the winner will be ...
The Austin Seminary Association is seeking nominations for the 2001 ASA Awards for Service. If there is an Austin Seminary alumnus/a you wish to nominate, please write a letter of recommendation describing his or her distinguished service to the Seminary or the church and mail it to Jerry Shetler, vice president for church relations and planned giving. ASA Board members serving on this year’s awards committee are: Judy Fletcher (MDiv’69), Trudy Morphew (MDiv’98), and Thomas Reid (MDiv’86). Winners of the award will be honored at the association’s Annual Banquet and Meeting after Midwinter Lectures, January 31, 2001.

Mark your calendar
Graduates from the classes of 1961 and 1991 are invited to gather for reunion events during Midwinter Lectures, January 29-31, 2001. Robert Jenson, professor of religion emeritus at St. Olaf College, and Dorothy Bass, professor of theology at Valparaiso University and author of Practicing Our Faith, will be the lecturers.

Musician, scholar, and director of the University of Cambridge’s “Theology Through the Arts” program Jeremy Begbie captivates a forum audience with a musical analogy for the Trinity. During his March visit to Austin, Begbie also conducted a seminar for the faculty of the Presbyterian and Episcopal seminaries on the special contributions of the creative arts to the study of theology.
The Nelsons recall...

One of my earliest childhood memories [of Austin Seminary in the 1920s] was going over to Lubbock Hall to visit with the two women who cooked—Ada and Lottie. My sister, Bippy, and I were allowed to fold the paper napkins for the supper table as we sat at a long work table by a south window. We thought this was a great privilege and enjoyed talking with Ada and Lottie. The dining hall had a long porch across the south side, where there was always a game of “forty-two” in progress. Mrs. S. C. Leake and her cousin, Mrs. Thomas Green, were in charge of the dining hall; they lived in an apartment built for them in that building.

One of the more colorful characters on the campus was Munroe, who functioned as custodian and general handyman. He lived in a couple of rooms in the basement of Sampson Hall. On cold mornings he came to build a fire in our coal furnace in the basement. On Christmas mornings he always appeared at our back door; when his knock was answered, he would say— with a huge grin—“Christmas Gift!” And that was Daddy’s signal to bring out the gift he had for Munroe, usually small items of clothing and some money.

At one time Daddy [Professor Robert F. Gribble] decided to raise sheep on the lower area below the houses—where the Smoot Cottage is today. He thought they could be used to “mow the lawns” and save some money. He found out through sad experience that the big deterrent to raising sheep in town was raids by dogs, who could get through any fence he could erect. One of my early memories is of being waked in the night by the noise of the barking dogs and the sound of Daddy rushing down the stairs on his way to the sheep pen to fend off the dogs. The sheep would never try to defend themselves or escape the attacks, and Daddy’s conclusion was that the only thing stupider than a sheep was a man who would try to raise them. He did get at least one “crop” of wool: I have a blanket made from some of that wool!

On Tuesday night, “student preaching” was held in the dining hall; the tables were pushed back and the chairs were arranged in rows with a lectern in front. A piano was in the room, and the event would be much like a church service. The faculty sat on the front row, and after the service they gave their critiques of the sermon. It was often Dr. Summey’s custom to invite some students to his apartment after the service. He served very thick and bitter Louisiana coffee and very rich fruitcake. The students often “watered” the flower pots with the coffee or quietly unlatched the window screen and poured the coffee on the shrubs below.

One year when the students were weary from exams, a few of them went downtown to one of the second-hand stores on Red River Street and bought a large, metal, white-painted statue of the Greek goddess Minerva. It was at least 6 feet tall. They somehow got it set up on the campus and put a sign around its neck with these words in Hebrew:

“Much learning is a weariness to the flesh.” When Daddy saw it, he paid no attention to the statue but corrected the Hebrew words!

—Nancy Gribble Nelson

During the 1949-50 school year when I was the director of “field work,” we had a problem locating enough churches for students to gain pastoral experience. Because one student, Leslie Webb, owned a small plane, we worked out a plan to fly students on weekends to north Louisiana and southern Arkansas where some churches needed supply pastors. The pilots of our “Gospel Airlift” were Seminary students, veterans of WWII.

On one flight the pilot decided on the return trip to land in a little-used air strip in northwest Austin. Bringing the plane down where there was no airport, clearing a fence, and bouncing around on a dirt runway was rather traumatic. When the pilot asked the student preacher how he liked his first trip on the “Gospel Airlift,” he said, “It certainly improved my devotional life!”

—C. Ellis Nelson

We’re collecting memories of APTS. Please send yours to Windows, 100 E. 27th Street, Austin, TX 78705.
It’s all smiles at Austin Seminary’s 2000 Commencement

Ann Pennington, Larry Porter, and Michael Enrude

Cindy Rigby

Nebraskans John Curtis and Carl Utley

Melissa Lin

Elsie Ferguson

János Hunyadi

Anni Judkins and John Alsup

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