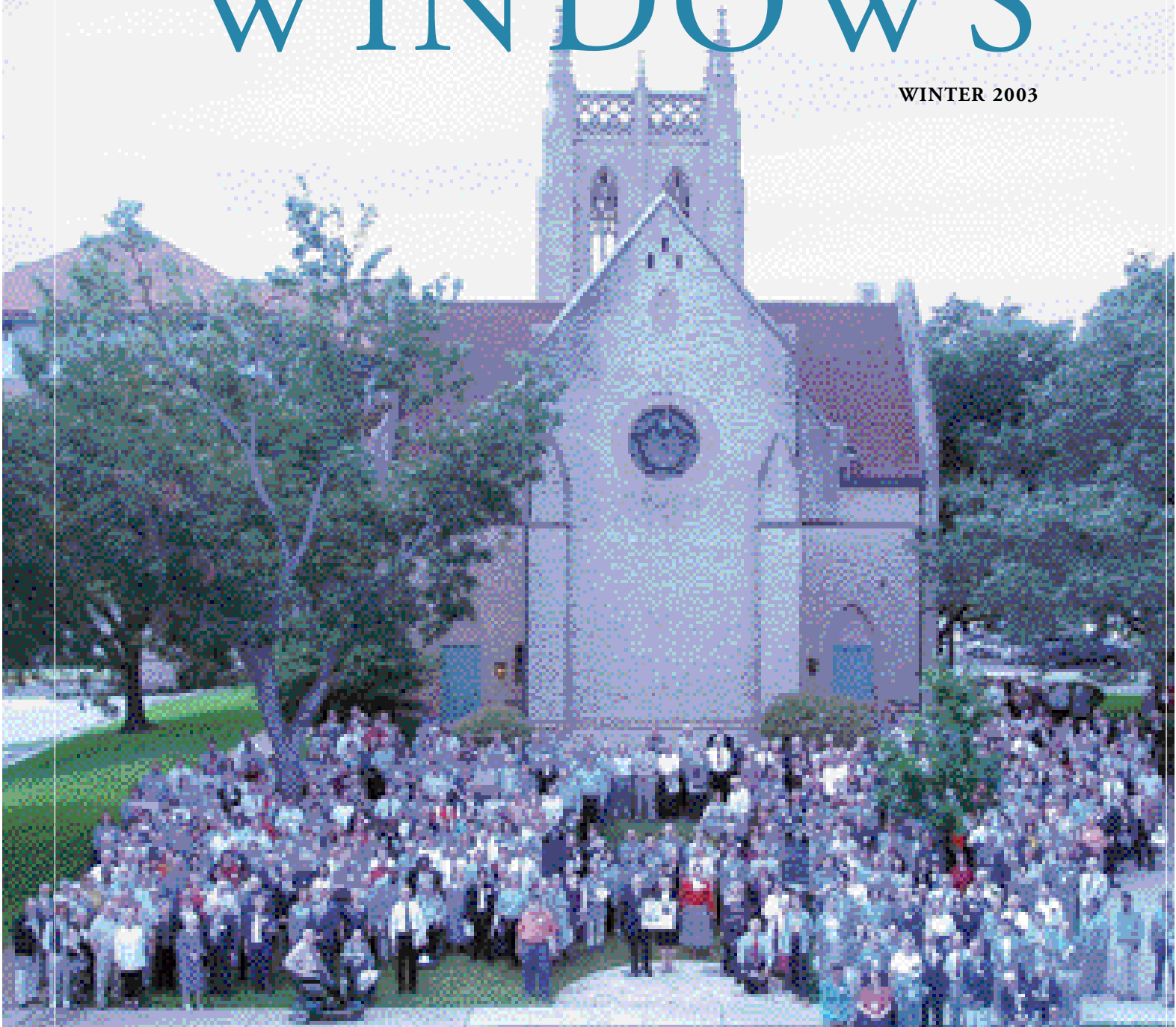


AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

# WINDOWS

WINTER 2003



*100 Years*

## LOOKING OUTWARD

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As I write these words for this my first column in *Windows*, I am still reflecting upon the Seminary's Centennial just completed—and in such grand style, I must add. Newcomers to both Austin and Austin Seminary, Kay and I cannot adequately convey what a privilege it was for us to be in on the climactic moment of this past year's events. Read on, and you will get a sense of what a great day it was, this past October 1st—the endpoint of a year's worth of celebrating a century of witness and service to the church and the world.

For me, the Centennial was an opportunity to “audit” Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. From the beginning of the day in Shelton Chapel to its ending at the Centennial Trustee Gateway, I *listened* to members of this community past and present as they told their stories until, collectively, their stories became all a part of one story. I was honored to be privy to such a marvelous act of memory.

Memory is in great measure what happens when people return to an important site of their own formation. It is triggered by both the obvious and the surprising—everything from an encounter with a beloved former professor to the smell of the floor wax in Currie Hall. There's something incarnational about a seminary education, after all;

and what we remember about it runs the range from the notes we took in Systematic Theology class to that important conversation we had while burning the midnight oil with a trusted friend. If seminary education were as simple as the mere imparting of pertinent biblical and theological and churchly information, we could learn it all from a book, or a computer, without ever leaving home. But what so many of you remembered when you came back here on October 1st was a far more layered and complicated thing—something incarnational, which you touched and felt and smelled and rehearsed once again. And that's entirely appropriate, especially since it is another incarnation—in fact, *the* Incarnation—which has convened us, and continues to convene us, as servants of the church of Jesus Christ.

But there is something else which is profoundly incarnational, and that is hope—the energy we have for the future that stretches out before us and beckons us to step forward. Time rushes on, whether we are ready for it or not—from B.C. to A.D., from the Roman Empire to the British Empire to maybe the American Empire; from the Gold Rush to the Oil Boom to the Silicon Era; from that bookend at one end of the shelf that is your life and mine, to that bookend at the other end—and the particularly Christian hope which we take with us into that always-rushing time is that it, too, is in God's hands, just as surely as is the fondly remembered past. So it is that, with an ever-growing collection of memories about this great place, and with a large platter, too, of hopes that loom large up ahead; I am grateful to God that, in this season of time, I have the privilege of serving here with you.

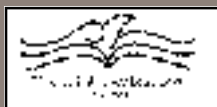
For all that has been, thanks be to God! And for all that is yet to come, thanks be to God!

Theodore J. Wardlaw  
*President*



**COVER:** *Are we blue? Hardly. More than 400 friends of Austin Seminary—many wearing their official “Seminary blue” Centennial shirts—gathered on the back lawn of the newly named Robert M. Shelton Chapel to wish Austin Seminary a very happy one hundredth anniversary and many more years of service to the church.*

Photograph by David Gambrell



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.

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Read former Professor James A. Wharton's sermon, "Ichabod or Ebenezer?" (preached on the occasion of Austin Seminary's Centennial Celebration), on-line at [www.austinseminary.edu](http://www.austinseminary.edu).



[www.austinseminary.edu](http://www.austinseminary.edu)

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# *A Grand Celebration*



sara gambrell

*Calla Merritt*



randal whittington

*Jane Spragens and Mary Jansen*



jody horton

*David Evans, Kay Bryant, and Ted Wardlaw*





*One hundred years in the making, two years in the planning, and suddenly Austin Seminary's Centennial was upon us. So we spent one glorious day rejoicing!*



*Joan Gaines (MDiv'95), Kay Lewis (MDiv'96), and Virginia Stotts*



*Frank Walker (MDiv'50), Herman Harren, and Bob Shelton*

*If you're going to try to celebrate one hundred years in one day, you'd better start early. Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary's Centennial Celebration began with a 9:00 a.m. worship service in the Seminary Chapel. Kathryn Roberts, assistant professor of Old Testament, delivered a homily from Micah 4, which begins, "In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains. . . . Peoples shall stream to it, and many nations shall come and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob.' "*

*People were streaming in, from north, south, east, and west: students, faculty, staff, and administrators past and present, as well as a host of friends, donors, and representatives from the larger church and community. By the end of Chapel, there was already a great cloud of witnesses—more than five hundred—gathered to testify to the important work of Austin Seminary in preparing people for ministry and to the memory of those visionary ancestors in the faith who established this "school of the church" one hundred years ago.*



amy meyer

## *Remarks from the Chapel rededication*

Fred Pratt Green, the hymn writer, has penned words appropriate to this occasion: "The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead." During this Centennial year Austin Seminary has been claiming and testing its heritage.

For sixty years this Chapel has been part of our heritage and a very significant part of the life of many of us here.

- Here we've worshiped, received the cup of salvation, and heard the word of life.
- Here we've retreated for private prayer, wrestled with our call, and pled for at least a pass on an upcoming exam.
- Here in joy some of us have been united in holy matrimony.
- Here in mourning the loss of colleagues, we've borne witness to the Resurrection.
- Here in midwinter, we've listened to profound theological lectures.
- Here in great anxiety, we've preached our senior sermons.

In very special ways this Chapel has become part of our own personal heritage. Now I am pleased to announce that the historical importance of this Chapel has been recognized in a larger, public manner. The Presbyterian Historical Society of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America has designated the Chapel as a Presbyterian / Reformed Historic Site. Only sites that are unique and related to important events, institutions, and personalities of the Presbyterian family are so recognized. A modest plaque which bears the seal of John Calvin will indicate to visitors and remind us that in this Chapel we are indeed on holy ground.

—John R. "Pete" Hendrick (MDiv'52)  
*Centennial Committee, Historical Subcommittee*

When you enter the front door of this relatively small chapel whose interior features were inspired by St. Peter's in Geneva, where Calvin held forth, you will see, visually centered, a communion table. For a long time, there have been arguments among liturgists and theologians about what should be considered "central"—lectern, pulpit, or communion table. But in the Austin Seminary Chapel, the communion table is centered—you can't miss it.

The table, however, has not always been there. Architect Marvin Eichenroht, good Lutheran that he was, built an altar in the rear of the chancel, as Gothic demands, and the faculty did not object. They and the student body did, however, proceed to ignore it. The altar was rarely used—some say never—and yielded regularly to a small, simple table,

*continued on page 6*



jody horron

*Pat Felter (MDiv'94) and Tracy Evans (MDiv'94)*

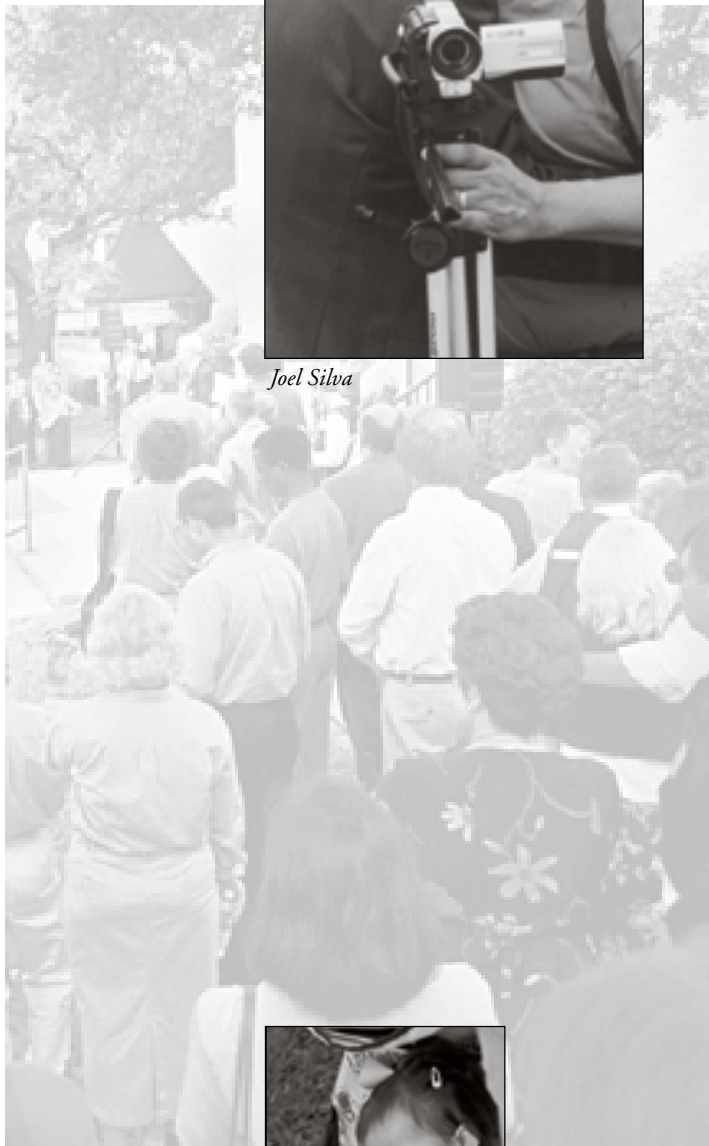


jody horron

*Bob Shelton and Nancy Mossman (MDiv'88)*



Joel Silva



Elizabeth Beatty

jody horron

*During the Chapel's rededication, Board of Trustees Chair Louis H. Zbinden read from the plaque that will soon greet those who enter the **Robert M. Shelton Chapel**: "This is a school of the church. Gather here to praise God and to learn from one another. Participate faithfully in the church's worship and mission. Go forth from this place, servants of God and of God's people. Rededicated to the glory of God on October 1, 2002, in celebration of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary's Centennial and the sixtieth anniversary of the Chapel's construction, and named in honor of one who has helped form hundreds of students into faithful pastors, and whose influence will endure for generations."*

*In its sixty years, the Chapel has been the only building on campus without a name. Students, faculty, staff, administrators, and others have gathered there for worship four times a week since the Chapel's completion in January of 1942; additionally, the Chapel has been the site of countless weddings and a number of memorial services. Thus it has become a significant place—full of memory and meaning—for thousands within the Austin Seminary community and beyond.*

*The Chapel has always been an especially significant place for retiring President Shelton, a professor of preaching and worship. During orientation at the beginning of each semester, Shelton instructed students in the rich symbolism of its architecture, inspiring many to share his passion for that place of worship. The colorful pictures that make up the rose window, ornate designs carved into darkly stained maple, biblical imagery cast in plaster and stone—Shelton found theological lessons in each detail, and taught others to interpret these messages. Legend also has it that Shelton let himself into the Chapel each morning to move the communion table to the center of the sanctuary—until his students and colleagues finally accepted that as its rightful place.*

*Likewise, the Chapel stands at the center—or heart—of the Seminary campus, a fitting location for a fitting tribute. "I've always said that the problem with loving an institution is that it can't love you back," said Shelton, clearly moved, at the dedication. "I guess it just did."*



# 2002 CENTENNIAL Celebration

rather spindly, which most accepted as a more appropriate Reformed Lord's Table.

For thirty-two years, that was the situation.

Then came Professor of New Testament Language and Exegesis Stuart D. Currie, who decided to change the situation.

Taking the modest honorarium he had received for delivering the 1973 Currie Lectures (which dealt largely with the discomfiting question of just what is a sermon), augmented by generous additional contributions from his two brothers and sister, Stuart set out to have constructed a real communion table. At the same time, he planned the construction of a pair of prie-dieu, or prayer desks. The three pieces were together a memorial to the Curries' parents, Jeannette Ella Roe Currie and Thomas White Currie, third president of Austin Seminary.

Stuart wanted more than a well-constructed table, so he decided to find a master artisan who could carve into the wood of the communion table, the vine and branches design which had been sculpted into the upper molding of the Chapel pulpit.

Just how he conducted the search remains unclear, but somewhere in San Antonio, he found the very same craftsman who had carved the vine and branches in the Chapel's pulpit more than three decades before. Now old, but still agile with his tools, the original artisan returned to the scene of his work in 1941 to produce yet another work of art. In a sense, the old master carver returned to complete the Chapel.

I was present in 1974 at the dedication, when these three finely wrought pieces were presented in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Tom Currie, whom we seemed now to sense as fellow Christian pilgrims rather than distant personalities out of a shadowland of legend. The memory of them that night made more meaningful our prayer for the communion of the saints, "Take now the veil from every heart, and unite us in one communion with all the saints on earth and the saints in heaven."

While I don't spend much time here at the Seminary, I am often visiting here in my mind. That imagined return always begins in the balcony of the Chapel, and I am looking down at the nave, remembering people and times, some very personal, such as our own wedding and that of our older daughter—but often remembering words from lectures, sermons, memorial services, conversations—and remembering always Dean McCord's powerful voice with its slight rasp, rolling out over the pews like the thundering of a modern Amos.

But my focus is on the communion table. No matter by which door I enter the Chapel building, if I keep walking, I will come to the table. And, no matter by which door you enter, you will come to the table, too.

Whatever is the transcendent meaning of all communion tables, this table is a sign and a portent for what reunions such as today's mean: "... unite us in one communion with all the saints on earth and the saints in heaven ..." for the Seminary Chapel is our place of memory, and of hope.

—Jerry R. Tompkins (MDiv'55)

*Historical Subcommittee of the Centennial Committee*



jody horton

Sara Gambrell and David Gambrell (MDiv'98)



kris toma

Vicki Ruiz

*Permanent displays of Austin Seminary's first century of student life, faculty, and administration have been designed, fabricated, and installed on the first and second floor of the McMillan Building and in the Trull corridor outside the executive suite.*





amy meyer

Wayne Sebesta (MDiv'57), Robert Sebesta (MDiv'55), Claribel Sebesta, and Daniel Sebesta (MDiv'59)

Three new historical markers adorn the Austin Seminary campus. Working with members of the Travis County Historical Marker Committee, Jerry Tompkins (MDiv'55) and the Historical Subcommittee of the Centennial Committee researched the Seminary's history to produce text for the two Texas Historical Commission markers now installed behind the Chapel. The first marker details the Seminary's genesis in the old Stuart Seminary building and its subsequent expansion to this property. The second marker explores the relationship between the University of Texas and Austin Seminary. The Presbyterian Historical Society Historical Sites Committee has placed the Austin Seminary Chapel in the registry of American Presbyterian / Reformed Historical Sites, assuring its place of honor in the story of American Presbyterianism.



randal whittington

Jim Currie (MDiv'79)



jody horton

Deborah Butler and Tom Butler



## Celebration

jody horton



Tom Currie (MDiv'52), Eleanor Currie, Sarah Currie, and David Fletcher (MDiv'69).

jody horton



Cynthia Logan (MDiv'79)

*You might have mistaken it for a big tent revival meeting. Austin Seminary's Centennial Worship service—too grand an event to be contained in any building—took place on an oak-draped lawn at the center of campus. A giant canopy stretched most of the distance between the Chapel and Stitt Library—between worship and wisdom, you might say. A community of pastors and scholars took shelter there from the light rain that had begun to fall, to be nourished by Word and Sacrament.*

*The service began with a hymn sing; from "Amazing Grace" to "Wonderful Words of Life," those gathered joined their voices in Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that spanned the centuries. Stephen B. Reid, professor of Old Testament, and Marion Childress-Usher (MDiv'80), a member of the Centennial Committee, called the assembly to worship and led in prayer and praise. Former Professor of Old Testament James A. Wharton (MDiv'52) delivered the sermon (sermon text available on-line at [www.austinseminary.edu](http://www.austinseminary.edu), "Centennial Sermon"). Cynthia Weeks Logan (MDiv'79), co-chair of the Centennial Committee, presided at the Lord's Table. After all received Communion, the community sang the Centennial Hymn: "Called to Gather as God's People," before making their way to the Centennial Trustee Gateway.*

randal whittington



Sue McCoy, John McCoy (MDiv'63), Jim Wharton (MDiv'52), Cynthia Logan (MDiv'79), Kevin McClure, and John Logan





jody horton

Brian Johnson, David Pussman, and Patrick Cobb

*The Communion pitcher on the Lord's Table for the Centennial Worship Service belonged to Richmond Kelly Smoot, who, with Robert Lewis Dabney, founded the Austin School of Theology in 1884—the precursor to Austin Seminary. The pitcher was loaned by Smoot's granddaughter, Jane Smoot. Commemorative earthenware Communion sets were handcrafted by Ruth Calhoun.*



randal whittington

Robbie Lampkin and Lynette McKissack



jody horton

Diane Buchanan



jody horton

Rebecca Chancellor, Jim Mosley (MDiv'55), and Joanne Mosley





kris toma

Dhawn Martin, Dolly Hunt, and Tracey Huff



*How fitting that the Centennial Celebration ended at a gateway. Having remembered, having spoken, having laughed, having sung, having rejoiced, having wept through one hundred years of collective memory, the people were prepared to take the next step, crossing the threshold into a new century. The Centennial Trustee Gateway—made possible by the contributions of past and present members of the board—is a set-in-stone testament to Austin Seminary's history of service to the church, and a concrete reminder of the work that is to come in preparing men and women for the transition into ministry.*

*This penultimate moment in a day full of blessing held a few more surprises. Before giving the benediction, President Robert M. Shelton announced three important gifts to the Seminary: a \$1.5 million Lilly Endowment grant to establish the College of Pastoral Leaders, an innovative program to sustain excellence in ministry; a new endowed scholarship funded by Austin Seminary alumna, initiated at the Seminary Women's Gathering; and a \$1.2 million gift from Laura McAllister Johnson, to create a faculty chair in philosophical theology.*

*Following the benediction, the day concluded with the singing of "Blest Be the Tie that Binds," affirming the bonds that have united the Austin Seminary community for these past hundred years, and that will continue to do so for generations to come.*



kris toma

Jim Johnson (MDiv'33) and Craig Nakagawa

randal whittington



*The Seminary choir*

*Think of our Centennial theme—"Where Tradition Meets Vision"—as an oak tree, with deep, sturdy roots and expansive, sheltering limbs. Perhaps members of the Seminary maintenance staff were inspired by that image when they suggested that the perfect "Centennial souvenir" would be a sapling from one of the many campus oaks. Last year, Homer Bradish, David Hill, Dennis Roetman, and Rodrigo Rosales collected live oak, red oak, and burr oak acorns; the resulting trees—some five hundred—were available for visitors to take home and plant, a symbol of hope, strength, tradition, and vision for years to come.*



david gambrell





# Wisdom from the Women

*The first gathering of alumna launches the Centennial*

On the eve of the Seminary's Centennial Celebration, one hundred alumna of Austin Seminary assembled for the first gathering of women graduates. If the enthusiasm of the group was any indication, it will not be their last. The event, a part of the Seminary's Centennial Celebration, was planned by Professor **Laura Lewis** (MDiv'80), third woman professor at the Seminary, and **Judy R. Fletcher** (MDiv'69), first woman graduate to serve as a synod executive; the Synod of the Sun co-sponsored the event.

Following lunch, the women convened in a classroom to recall and reflect on life at and life after seminary. They discussed the particular gifts that women bring to ministry, including: creative worship, inclusive language, strong pastoral counseling, role models for other women, creative problem-solving methods, and building consensus among groups.

Among the positive changes for women in ministry today were: "there's more of us," "we're not new and the 'firsts' anymore," "there are more soprano voices at presbytery meetings," and "we offer a variety of leadership roles beyond parish ministry." Issues still to be faced include the fact that very few women serve as pastors of large churches in the denomination and that women are still some of the last to receive calls into ministry from seminary.

The graduates offered the following advice to current women students:

- Find a mentor.
- Learn how to run a session

meeting.

- Be faithful to your call.
- Find a spiritual director.
- Remember the importance of networking.
- Take time to care for yourself, mind-body-soul-spirit.
- Be sure women's history is preserved.
- Remember the sacredness of our call.
- Remember this is an exciting time in Christ's church and women can help shape how we are the church.

At a dinner at University Presbyterian Church, Austin, that evening, the women learned of the legacy of Austin Seminary's women students. On hand were:

- **Mary-Margaret (Peggy) Harris Cleveland**, the earliest woman graduate of Austin Seminary still living, who was awarded a Certificate in Student Work, campus ministry, in 1953. (The degree was from the University of Texas). Peggy noted that she envied the women who could tell stories about each other in their time at the Seminary because, in her time, she was the only woman student.
- **Patricia Ann McClurg** who, in 1967, became the third woman divinity graduate and the first to serve in parish ministry in the former P.C.U.S. She later served as executive director for the P.C.U.S. in Atlanta.
- Five of the first ten women gradu-



*Alumna spent the day prior to the Centennial celebrating together. Clockwise from top: Charie Bowman Reid (MDiv'68), right, and her mother, Ethel Bowman; Fran Shelton (MDiv'93); Pat McClurg (MDiv'67) and Eleanor Sanders (MDiv'78); Alice Underwood (MDiv'94) and Louise Randall (MDiv'94); Barbara Miller (MDiv'91), Martha Murchison (MDiv'91), and Janelle Blair (MDiv'90); and Roxie Sullivan (MDiv'99), Kay Roberts (MDiv'99), and Holly Hasstedt (MDiv'99).*

Photos by Shane Whisler and Amy Meyer.



ates: **Charie Bowman Reid** and **Patricia Gladney Holland** in 1968, **Elizabeth Johnson Pense** and **Judy Record Fletcher** in 1969, and **Mary Eleanor Gaines** in 1975.

• **Florence Mason Cole** (MDiv'57) of Davidson, North Carolina, the first woman divinity graduate, was unable to be with the group but shared memories in a booklet produced for the gathering.

Reflecting on the addition of women to the student body, Dr. David L.

Presbyterian Church. I am grateful to a room full of spirit-led men who voted to make it so. Those of us who were among the first women divinity students gave little or no attention to this fact when we were in seminary. We were simply women following what we understood to be the call of God."

Nine women have served as professors at Austin Seminary: **Rachel Henderlite**, **Cynthia Campbell**, **Laura Brooking Lewis**, **Ellen Babinsky**, **Christine Eaton Blair**, **Cynthia Rigby**, **Sherron Kay George**, **Kathryn Roberts**, and **Carol Miles**. Former President Robert Shelton said, "Without exception, all who are involved with Austin Seminary agree that the women faculty have greatly enriched

The Seminary women's leadership in theological education continues as former Professor Cynthia Campbell serves as president of McCormick Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry graduate, Rev. Dr. **Laura Mendenhall** (DMin'97), serves as president of Columbia Theological Seminary.

"The day was a blessing to the women, and they are a blessing to the church," said Fletcher, who organized the event. "The large turnout confirmed that we tapped into a variety of needs. One need was to reconnect with kindred spirits who are having similar life experiences; the sharing and listening fed the women. Another need was to celebrate where women in ministry have come in our church today. We saw ample evidence of the bountiful gifts these women bring to their ministry, but these women also had a real need to say thank you to Austin Seminary for the way it prepared them for ministry and for the way it embraced them as students."

Toward that end, the graduates established a women's scholarship at Austin Seminary, announced during the Centennial Celebration. Starting with a fundraising goal of \$10,000, the women raised \$16,900 at the event, an amount that has since risen to \$18,000 with more pledges to come.

"It has been my experience in this church to be enriched every time the church opens a door to include someone new," said Fletcher. "This was true in the beginning with racial inclusion and continues this day with new immigrant churches in our land. It has proven to be true with the addition of women in ministry. I look forward to being a part of a church which continues to open doors to all God's people in ministry." 🙏



Stitt, president of the Seminary from 1945-1971, told Fletcher: "The presence of women in theological education had a seismic effect. It unleashed tremendous new talent. It changed the nature of biblical faith. The Bible was written by men, interpreted by men, and preached by men. Then suddenly it assumed a feminine nature also." Adding her own comments, Fletcher said, "I am humbled to be a part of this important addition to the ordained ministry of the

and strengthened theological education at Austin Seminary."

Laura Lewis helped the group get to know Rachel Henderlite, the first woman to be full professor and the first woman to be ordained minister in the former P.C.U.S. in 1965, by reading excerpts from an article Henderlite had written for a Seminary journal. The readings revealed a woman who was both tenacious and compassionate in her commitment to God and Christ's church. Henderlite died in 1991.



I realized that, as important as Bob and the other professors at Austin Seminary were to me, we students were important to him as well—part of what he got up every morning for, part of what made him proud.

—Trisha Tull (MDiv'85)  
Assistant Professor of Old Testament,  
Louisville Seminary

## *It was the time of the preacher*

*After thirty-one years at Austin Seminary, as professor of homiletics, academic dean, and president, Robert M. Shelton retires. His students remember him.*

"Never preach a sermon that is not applicable to someone dying of cancer." In one sentence Bob underscored the difference between a "theology of glory" and a "theology of suffering and hope." That sentence has haunted me for the past twenty years. It is omnipresent in my weekly struggle with what I shall say on Sunday; it lingers in the air after the preaching event. It has become my personal standard of measuring whether or not I have been responsible in proclamation.

—Richard O. Knott Jr.  
(MDiv'82, DMin'02), Alamo  
Heights Presbyterian Church,  
San Antonio, Texas

As the faces, and the lives they represent, come and go, none will ever embody the heart and soul of Austin Seminary as does his.

—John Richardson  
(MDiv'83),  
First Christian Church,  
Athens, Georgia



*Bob and the school in which he has invested so much of his life have given me more than I could have ever imagined: a fine education, enormous encouragement, wonderful memories, a strong belief in the communion of saints, and, of course, Willie Nelson.*

—Rebecca Weaver (MDiv'75),  
Professor, Union/PSCE



Thank you for showing me the joy of preaching.

—Barbara Hunt  
(MDiv'97), First  
Presbyterian Church,  
Chickasha, Oklahoma



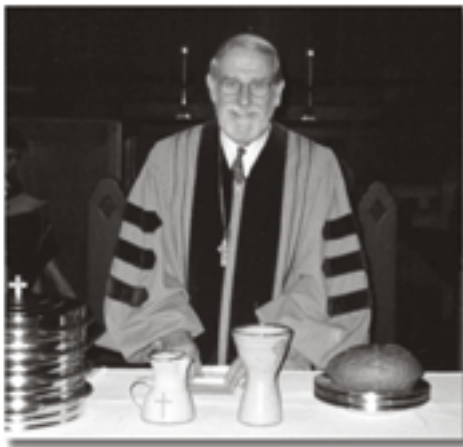
What Bob taught me about worship remains in my heart every time I humbly stand, prepared to lead the fellowship God has blessed me with. More importantly, he taught me the most precious lesson for any pastor. Because of his example of respect and compassion, I am able to value every person I serve as one made in God's image, with respect and compassion.

—Linda Reinhardt (MDiv'96),  
Jeremiah Project, Canyon Lake, Texas



I know that I owe my abilities as a preacher to his instruction, not only in learning to find the "hermeneutical bridge," but in the way he allowed me to find my own voice as a preacher.

—Tricia Tedrow  
(MDiv'98), First  
Presbyterian Church,  
LaGrange, Texas



He has shaped a seminary, a Master of Divinity curriculum, and contributed in countless other ways to theological education and the Church of Jesus Christ. But I am grateful that he has helped shape preachers and especially this particular one.

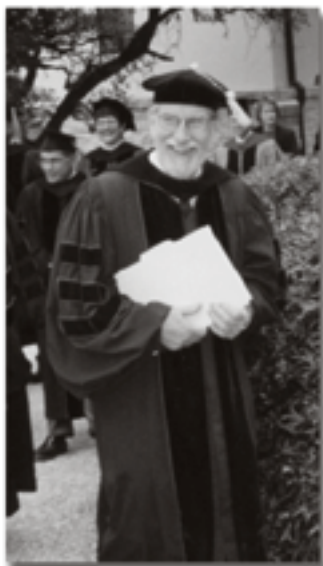
—Ann Hoch (MDiv'77), Associate Dean,  
Dubuque Theological Seminary

I think Bob helped me to realize that ministers are human beings. After twenty-five years of ministry he is one of the four people I would point to and say he helped shape who I am today.

—Daniel S. Clark (MDiv'77),  
Westminster Presbyterian Church, South Bend, Indiana

*While much can be said about his excellent administrative and professional skills, I remember a sparkle in his eye and a dance in his step that his title could not overcome. . . . He will always be to me: Bob Shelton, Greek dancing in the sanctuary of God!*

—George Cladis (DMin'96),  
Noroton Presbyterian Church,  
Darien, Connecticut



It would be difficult to overstate Bob's influence on my ministry over the past 22 years. I still refer to the lecture notes that I took in his class, and I continue to frame the central questions of ministry the way I learned to frame them in his classroom. One of my best memories of seminary was feeling that Bob's classes were a liturgy of sorts, a form of worship. In fact, I often felt that we were experiencing a blend of academia and worship.

—Steve Plunkett (MDiv'80),  
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church,  
Denton, Texas





## FACULTY NEWS

### Rigby and Black Johnston honored by trustees

At its November meeting, the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Board of Trustees granted tenure to **Cynthia L. Rigby**, associate professor of theology, and named her to the W. C. Brown Chair of Theology. The Board also named **Scott Black Johnston**, associate professor of homiletics, to the Jean Brown Chair of Homiletics and Liturgics.

A popular lecturer and workshop leader, Professor Rigby's appointment as the second holder of the W. C. Brown Chair is a significant honor, and is a recognition of her achievements as a scholar and educator. Rigby joined the Austin Seminary faculty in 1995, bringing considerable scholarly interests and enthusiasm for the mission and ministry of the church. Prior to her appointment, she had three years of teaching experience as co-instructor and visiting lecturer at Princeton Seminary and Princeton University and served as pastoral assistant and student pastor to congregations in New Jersey. She also spent a year as Pastor of Special Ministries with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Her special area of interest is setting Reformed theologies in conversation with theologies of liberation—particularly feminist, womanist, and mujerista theologies. She is editor of one volume, *Power, Powerlessness, and the Divine*, and co-editor, with Beverly Gaventa of Princeton Seminary, of a new work on the mother of Jesus, titled *Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary*.



*Professors Cynthia Rigby and Scott Black Johnston*

Dr. Scott Black Johnston joined the faculty in 1993. Prior to his doctoral studies he served as an interim pastor in New Jersey, and as a supply preacher to churches throughout the Northeast. He is co-author of a book about preaching in a post-modern context, *Theology for Preaching: Authority, Truth, and Knowledge of God in a Postmodern Ethos*. Black Johnston continues to engage the wider church, leading seminars and preaching at conferences throughout North America. His teaching interests include preaching and the afterlife, preaching and parables, preaching and the Gospel of John, preaching and the Christian festivals, hermeneutics, and religion and literature. Black Johnston's appointment to the Jean Brown Chair is a confirmation of his profound gifts as a teacher of preaching.

These endowed faculty chairs were made possible through the generosity of siblings W. C. and Jean Brown of Hot Springs, Arkansas. W. C. Brown's benevolence to the Seminary dates at least to his gift in 1940 which assured the completion of the Seminary Chapel; the W. C. Brown Chair of Theology was established in 1994. When she died in 1981, Jean Brown's \$11 million bequest was the largest donation the Seminary had ever received. The Jean Brown Chair in Homiletics and Liturgics was established in 1981; former President Robert M. Shelton was the initial holder of that Chair.

### IN BRIEF

**Dave Jensen**, assistant professor of Reformed theology, gave a paper, "Playful Parenting: The Burden and Promise of Horace Bushnell's 'Christian Nurture'," at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Toronto.

*Blessed One: Protestant Perspectives on Mary*, a new book edited by W. C. Brown Associate Professor of Theology **Cynthia L. Rigby**, made "Theological Best Books" and will be the featured discussion book on "Ecunet" for the month of December.

**Michael Jinkins**, associate professor of pastoral theology, has authored *Transformational Ministry: Church Leadership and the Way of the Cross* (Edinburgh: St. Andrew Press). Jinkins is working with Jackson Carroll on a "Pulpit and Pew" research project sponsored by Duke Divinity School and funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., conducting focus groups on "good ministry."

**Whit Bodman**, instructor in world religions, led series on Islam and Arab-Israeli issues in Austin this fall. He also taught a class at the University of Texas on Eastern Christianity.

**Arun Jones**, assistant professor of mission and evangelism, will make a presentation to Austin-area United Methodist clergy and other professionals December 4, on "*Christ and Culture* Reconsidered."

*The Board of Trustees, at its November 9 meeting, took the following action regarding faculty:*

- **Michael Jinkins**, associate professor of pastoral theology, was promoted to the rank of full professor, effective July 1, 2003. He was also

approved for a sabbatical leave from January 1, through December 31, 2004.

- **Carol A. Miles**, assistant professor of homiletics, was approved for a sabbatical leave from August 1, 2003, through January 31, 2004.

- **J. Andrew Dearman**, academic dean and professor of Old Testament, was approved for a sabbatical leave from February 1, through July 31, 2004.

### 2003 Continuing Education Schedule of Courses

"Polity, Program, and Mission"  
January 6-10 (CE)

Immersion Weekend  
February 6-9 (SF)

"Lenten Lessons"  
February 13

"The Church as it Becomes  
Visible in Dietrich Bonhoeffer"  
February 17

"How to Nurture Spiritual  
Formation in the Congregation"  
February 23-27 (SF)

Interim Pastor Training  
March 9-14

"Empowering Adults to  
Lead Adults"  
March 17-19

"Renewed Hebrew for the Pastor"  
March 24-26

"Exploring Family Spirituality"  
April 24-27 (SF)

Hispanic Pastors' Seminar  
April 28-30

Southeast Asian Seminar  
June 1-7

To learn more, call 800-777-6127 or visit  
our website: [www.austinseminary.edu](http://www.austinseminary.edu).

CE = Christian Educators' Certification  
SF = Certificate in Spiritual Formation

## MidWinter Lectures return to campus January 27-29, 2003

Austin Seminary's tradition of MidWinter Lectures began in 1949. This event has become a meaningful time for alumni/ae to return to campus, reconnect with professors and each other, and refresh their theological education with insight from respected scholars. In gratitude to the congregations that established two of these endowed lectures—Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Dallas (the Currie Lectures), and First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth (the Jones Lectures)—and in celebration of Austin Seminary's hundredth anniversary, the Centennial Committee elected to hold these lectures in the churches where they originated during the year 2002.

For 2003, the Currie and Jones lectures return to Austin to round out an exciting line-up of speakers and topics. The lectures will be held on **January 27-29, 2003**, in the Robert M. Shelton Chapel, except for the first lecture, traditionally held in the sanctuary of University Presbyterian Church, Austin.

The 2003 Thomas White Currie Lectures, "Grace and Money,"



will be given by **Kathryn Tanner**, professor of theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School. The author of *Jesus, Humanity, and the Trinity*; *Theories of Culture: A New Agenda for Theology*; and *The Politics of God*, Tanner explores the relevance of cultural studies for rethinking theological method.

The Robert F. Jones Lecturer is **Brett Webb-Mitchell**, assistant pro-



fessor of Christian nurture at Duke Divinity School. His lecture concerns "The School of the Pilgrim." Webb-Mitchell's teaching interest has focused on the practices of educating Christians. He has also published three books on the church and people with disabilities: *God Plays Piano, Too: The Spiritual Lives of Disabled Children*; *Unexpected Guests at God's Banquet: Welcoming People with Disabilities into the Church*; and *Dancing with Disabilities*.

**Paul S. Wilson**, professor of homiletics at Emmanuel College in the University of Toronto, will deliver the E. C. Westervelt Lectures, "Creative Adventures in Biblical Preaching." A past president of the



Academy of Homiletics, Wilson's books include: *God Sense: Reading the Bible for Preaching* (2001); *The Four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching* (1999); *The Practice of Preaching* (1995); *A Concise History of Preaching* (1992); and *Imagination of the Heart: New Understandings in Preaching* (1988). He is the general editor of a new series "Preaching and its Partners" with Chalice Press.

On Wednesday, January 29, join us for the Austin Seminary Association (ASA) Annual Meeting and Banquet at noon to hear from the new Seminary President **Theodore J. Wardlaw**.

Hope to see you there!

# Centennial Campaign goal set at \$25 million

The Austin Seminary Board of Trustees approved a \$25 million comprehensive fund-raising campaign at the fall board meeting on Saturday, November 9, 2002. The campaign will provide funds for all aspects of the Seminary's mission, from faculty compensation to scholarships and upgraded housing for students.

For the past two years, trustees and members of the Centennial Campaign Steering Committee have worked to secure \$14.2 million in leadership gifts and pledges. Every member of the Board of Trustees and the steering committee participated in the leadership phase of the campaign, which included gifts and pledges of \$250,000 or more from Lilly Endowment Inc., Diane Buchanan and Rick Andrew, Laura McAllister Johnson, First Presbyterian Church (San Antonio), Carl E. Everett, Robert B. Trull, Edward D. Vickery Sr., and an anonymous trustee.

Four faculty chairs have been established in the leadership phase: the William J. Fogleman Chair of Pastoral Theology, the Laura McAllister Johnson Chair of Philosophical Theology, the Louis and Kathryn Zbinden Chair of Pastoral Ministry and Leadership, and the C. Ellis and Nancy Gribble Nelson Chair of Christian Education. Several members of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, were at the November board meeting to announce the establishment of the Zbinden Chair (see page 19).

The campus-wide visionary process that created the Master Plan for Austin Seminary in 1999 defines the funding priorities for the campaign:

### Centennial Campaign Funding Priorities

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Student Housing                  | \$7,000,000         |
| Endowed Faculty Chairs           | \$5,000,000         |
| Endowed Scholarships             | \$3,500,000         |
| Annual Fund                      | \$3,500,000         |
| College of Pastoral Leaders      | \$3,000,000         |
| Technology Endowment             | \$1,000,000         |
| Faculty Development Endowment    | \$1,000,000         |
| Additions to Existing Endowments | \$1,000,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$25,000,000</b> |

Several major estate gifts have been received by the Seminary since January 2000. Irrevocable deferred gifts, such as charitable gift annuities, will be counted in the campaign, as well as bequests and other revocable deferred gifts from donors who have reached their 72nd birthday. All gifts and pledges made to campaign priorities between January 1, 2000, and December 31, 2005, will be counted toward the achievement of the goal.

—Tim Kubatzky  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

## San Antonio woman endows chair in philosophical theology

Austin Seminary received an unexpected anniversary gift at its October 1, 2002, Centennial Celebration—a \$1.2 million endowed faculty chair in philosophical theology from Laura McAllister Johnson.



Laura Johnson

Johnson's gift was inspired, in part, by an essay in *Christian Century* magazine by Austin Seminary Assistant Professor of Philosophical Theology William Greenway. She concluded that this gift would provide "an opportunity to marry my two passions," Johnson said, "my faith and my interest in raising awareness about the suffering of animals." A member of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, Johnson's faith has informed her abiding concern for the least of God's creatures. She feels strongly that the church is the appropriate setting in which to begin a larger conversation on the treatment of animals in our society.

"The Scriptures teach that God blessed and delighted in all the animals," said Greenway. "This gift ensures that for generations to come, students at Austin Seminary will reflect on our call to love all God's creatures."

In addition to funding teaching and research in the realm of philosophical theology, Johnson's gift will support a course on the Christian treatment of animals and a major symposium on animals and Christian theology.





*Celebrating the announcement of the gift of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, to honor their pastor, are Seminary and church leaders: Ted Wardlaw, Robert Bullock, Gretchen Bullock, Robert Herres, Anne Smith, Emily Peeples, Houston Harte, Paul Smith, Robert Shelton, Louis Zbinden, Kip Zbinden, and Elizabeth Williams.*

## Chair focuses on sharing pastors' experience

Louis H. Zbinden's thirty-one year ministry at First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, has been a model of Christian leadership. To demonstrate their appreciation for his guidance and their hope for a new generation of church leaders, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church honored their pastor and his spouse by raising \$1.2 million to endow the Louis H. and Katherine S. Zbinden Chair of Pastoral Ministry and Leadership at Austin Seminary.

The chair will provide funding to call, for one-to-five-year terms, distinguished and experienced pastors to teach in the broad area of ministry, including: church administration, stewardship, worship, preaching, Christian education, pastoral care, and church programming. In accepting the gift, the Board of Trustees voted to elect Zbinden as the first holder of the chair when he retires from First Presbyterian Church.

On hand to announce the gift to the Seminary's Board of Trustees

on November 9, were members of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation: Paul and Anne Smith, Houston Harte, and Emily Peeples, who is credited with the idea for the chair: "I began thinking what a wonderful opportunity it would be for Louis and others like him to be able to transition from the parish into preparing students for parish ministry, teaching out of their wealth of experience and wisdom of many years in the service of the church," said Peeples.

"The Zbinden Chair will enable Austin Seminary to invite into our midst pastoral leaders who have gifted the church with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love," said Seminary President Theodore J. Wardlaw. "Students and faculty alike will benefit from such ongoing exposure, beginning, of course, with Louis Zbinden."

Zbinden served churches in Virginia and North Carolina prior to being called to San Antonio in 1971. Under Zbinden's leadership, the congregation of First

Presbyterian Church has been galvanized around a renewed pledge to evangelism and a continuing involvement with outreach ministry. A trustee since 1993, Zbinden was chair of the Seminary Board of Trustees from 1999-2002; he continues to serve on the boards of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, Trinity University, the *Presbyterian Outlook*, and the *Presbyterian Outlook* Foundation.

"As students we spend much of our time filling our pastoral cups with theology, languages, preaching, and pastoral care skills, often overlooking a very real part of our future ministry—the everyday nature of the church," said student Andrew Parnell (Junior—Olathe, Kansas). "A faculty chair for this particular aspect of ministry would supplement and complement our education at Austin Seminary so well. The Zbinden Chair looks to add a distinctive strength to a seminary already focused on building and equipping strong pastors."

# The College of Pastoral Leaders

## *A new way to sustain ministry*

The Centennial Campaign received a major contribution in September when the Lilly Endowment Inc. announced that Austin Seminary was one of forty-seven grantees in a competitive proposal process that attracted more than 700 entries nationwide. The program, "Sustaining Pastoral Excellence," is a new effort of the Endowment to focus attention and energy on maintaining the high caliber of the country's pastoral leaders. "As busy and as 'people-oriented' as pastors' lives are, many feel a sense of isolation," said Craig Dykstra, vice president for religion at the Endowment. Austin Seminary's \$1.5 million grant was the largest to a Presbyterian seminary.

The Seminary will use its grant to establish a College of Pastoral Leaders. Through the College, self-directed cohort groups of peers will learn from experienced pastors and seminary faculty. "The College of Pastoral Leaders is the most innovative and potentially helpful program of continuing education that I have ever seen," said Rev. San Williams, pastor of University Presbyterian Church in Austin and a current D.Min. student at Austin Seminary. "The concept of 'learning cohorts' brings together small group support, professional resources, and learning around topics of vital interest to pastors."



*The Seminary looked to pastors like San Williams (left) to help craft the College of Pastoral Leaders.*

Groups will be able to request funds for travel, speakers' fees, and books to further their understanding of topics they choose to develop. For example, a cohort group could choose to meet at a retreat center to discuss shared challenges in their ministries with a highly respected mentor. Applicants for principal of the College are now being accepted.

It is expected that he or she will be in place by early summer and will

begin to define the process for ministers to apply to cohort groups.

The Austin Seminary faculty is excited about the prospects for the new College. "The stresses at work on pastors today are well documented," said Michael Jinkins, associate professor of pastoral theology at Austin Seminary and principal author of the grant proposal. "We also know, in theory and by anecdotal evidence, what pastors need to stay fresh and effective in their callings. Seminaries, however, traditionally have not used their resources to provide the kind of support pastors need most after they graduate. This program addresses those needs and will change the way we relate to our graduates and other church leaders."

### WELCOME

To Caleb John Walter Reed, born on May 15, 2002, adopted August 14, 2002 by **Ray** (MDiv'99) and **Cathy Reed** (MDiv'99).

### CLASS NOTES

1950s

**Keith Wright** (MDiv'56) contributed a chapter to a new book which was released in early September 2002. The book, *In the Aftermath: What September 11 is Teaching Us About Our World, Our Faith, and Ourselves*, was edited by James Taylor and published by Northstone Press; Wright's chapter is titled, "The Prerequisite of Peace."

**Carroll Pickett** (MDiv'57) had his first book published, *Within These Walls: Memoirs of a Death House Chaplain* for which he won the Violet Crown for Best Nonfiction Book, Texas division, given by the Writer's League of Texas and Barnes and Noble.

**Wayne H. Sebesta** (MDiv'57) was named organist emeritus upon his retirement from Presbyterian Church of the Covenant in Port Arthur, Texas, in August 2002.

1960s

**Charles R. Galbraith** (MDiv'61) has been named pastor emeritus of Grace Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi, Texas.

**Charles C. Hendricks** (MDiv'65) is one of the seven individuals newly named to the Austin College Board of Trustees.

1980s

**Gollapalle Yesudoss Moses** (MA'87) has been associated with

the World Council of Churches Working Group of Indigenous Peoples Programme and represented the W.C.C. at the U.N. World Conference Against Racism held in Durban last year. He is currently working with the National Council of Churches in India as its executive secretary for Dalit and Adivasi (indigenous peoples) as well as completing his doctoral thesis, "A Theological Appraisal of the Crisis of Political Authority in India."

1990s

**Daniel Loomis** (MDiv'96) received the Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from McCormick Theological Seminary in June 2002.

2000s

**Steven Barnes** (MA'00) was married on May 11, 2002, to Dency Reavis-Barrientos. Rev. **Neil S. Morgan** (MDiv'85) and **James H. Lee** (MDiv'00) officiated at the wedding service. Steven and Dency have moved to their new home in McKinney, Texas.

**Send your Alumni/Ae News to:**  
[windows@austinseminary.edu](mailto:windows@austinseminary.edu)

## NECROLOGY

**Charles B. Fraser** (MDiv'52)  
Houston, Texas, May 20,  
2002

**John Zell Gaston** (MDiv'52)  
Vergas, New Mexico, March  
16, 2002

**David O. Shipley**  
(MDiv'59) Kansas City,  
Missouri, March 2002

**Nancy White** (MDiv'95)  
Victoria, Texas, August 28,  
2002

## Students and alums make Phonathon calls

Underscoring their deep commitment to Austin Seminary, former students responded enthusiastically during the Centennial Alumni/Ae Phonathon in October. Over a period of six calling nights, nearly seventy students, local alumni/Ae, faculty, and staff joined together to call former students across the nation to support the Annual Fund. Alums pledged nearly \$68,000 at this point of the annual campaign with an overall goal of surpassing \$100,000 by June 30, 2003. Other goals for the year include a return to 50% alumni/Ae participation, 100% pledge fulfillment, and securing twenty alumni/Ae-named annual scholarships at a minimum of \$1,000 each.

The Institutional Advancement Office is grateful for the dedication, commitment, and enthusiasm of the following volunteer callers:

Elizabeth Airhart, *MDiv student*  
Paul Andresen, *MDiv student*  
Mary Breden, *MDiv student*  
Rick Brooks, *MDiv student*  
Sharon Bryant, *MDiv student*  
Jason Cashing, *MDiv student*  
Patrick Cobb, *MDiv student*  
Rebecca Corkill, *MDiv student*  
Katie Cummings, *MDiv student*  
Don Davis, (MA'96)  
John R. Evans, (MDiv'68)  
Johnny Freemont, *MDiv student*  
David Gambrell, (MDiv'98), *staff*  
Bill Greenway, *faculty*  
Pete Hendrick, (MDiv'52)  
Linda Herron, *MDiv student*  
Hannah Hooks, *MDiv student*  
John Hughes, *MDiv student*  
Dolly Hunt, *MDiv student*  
Michael Jinkins, (MDiv'83), *faculty*  
Brian Johnson, *MDiv student*  
Vicky Kelly, *MATS student*

Shanna Kinser, *MATS student*  
Trey Little, *MDiv student*  
Dhawn Martin, *MDiv student*  
Dana Mayfield, *MDiv student*  
Terry McLellen, *MDiv student*  
Faries McDaniel, (MDiv'50)  
Paul Merrill, *MDiv student*  
Mike Morris, *MDiv student*  
Matthew Morse, *MDiv student*  
Nancy Mossman, (MDiv'98)  
James Newman, (MDiv'93)  
Kelly Pearson, *staff*  
Dean Pogue, *MDiv student*  
Ila Purcell, *MATS student*  
Sabelyn Pussman, *MDiv student*  
David Pussman, *MDiv student*  
Steve Reid, *faculty*  
Sam Riccobene, (MDiv'91), *staff*  
Joy Richards, *MDiv student*  
Brice Rogers, *MDiv student*  
Ron Salfen, (MDiv'73)  
Eleanor Sanders, (MDiv'78)  
Ray Santillano, *MDiv student*  
Sandra Seamans, *MDiv student*  
John Sharpe, *MDiv student*  
Phyllis Shelley, *MDiv student*  
Jerry Shetler, *staff*  
Sara Singleton, *MDiv student*  
Tamara Strehli, *MATS student*  
Rodney Swisher, (MDiv'98)  
Mark Tarrant, *MDiv student*  
Karen Thompson, *MATS student*  
Mike Ulasevich, *MDiv student*  
Heather Williamson, *MDiv student*  
Leigh Wisner, *MDiv student*

—John Wilton

Director for Annual Giving

## Discovery Weekend

February 28-March 2, 2003

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on-campus visit

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## First Class, Second Century: Introducing Austin Seminary's New Students

*With the beginning of the fall semester, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary welcomed the first entering class of students for the Seminary's second century. A total of fifty-four new students have enrolled in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theological Studies degree programs; additionally, twenty Special (or non-degree) Students are signed up for fall classes in Austin and in the Houston Extension program.*

*There is considerable diversity in the incoming class. Thirty-two students, the largest percentage, are members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); two, the Korean Presbyterian Church; one, the Presbyterian Church of Mexico; six, the United Methodist Church; one each from the Baptist Church, the Assemblies of God African Methodist Episcopal, and Pentecostal; and three are non-denominational. They hail from eleven states—from Washington to New York—and four foreign countries—Angola, Korea, Mexico, and Zambia. Fifty-seven percent of the new students are married; the average age is thirty-eight.*

*The fall semester began officially with a Convocation Service on Tuesday, September 3. Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology Michael Jinkins delivered the Convocation Address. That evening, incoming students participated in the Ritual Signing of the Declaration of Intent, a tradition that dates back to Austin Seminary's earliest years in which students pledge to be responsible members of the Seminary community.*



### WINDOWS

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