

VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

News from the Hill

Alexandria, VA

Summer 2017



THE CLASS OF 2017

Page 16



Dean Markham playing on the swings with seminary children in "Nathan's Playground" dedicated on April 6, 2017 near the additional student housing. The playground is named after Nathan Neuffer, the Seminary's Horticulturalist, who worked hard to make it a reality.

Left to right: DeWayne Cope ('18), Andrew Arakawa ('19), Elizabeth McKeever ('19), Amanda Kotval ('19) with son, Kimberly Richard Arakawa, Zeyneb Sayilgan, and Gregory Seme ('18) with daughter.



Playground Dedication

April 6, 2017

Photos: Shawn Evelyn ('19)

Virginia Theological Seminary

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News from the Hill



Commencement is a busy and emotional day for everyone at VTS – faculty, students, and staff.

Top: Yanny Saquirocay, Elizabeth Nabin, Mary Prada, Andrew Rutledge ('19), and Ana Parada (Meriwether Godsey).

Bottom: Emily Riley (Doctor of Ministry Program), Christopher Pote (Archives), Margarita Pelaez-King (Human Resources), Taylor Mather (Academics), Vannessa McCormick (Hospitality), Joseph Thompson, Ph.D. (Multicultural Ministries), and Taryn Habberley (Hospitality). *Photo: Curtis Prather.*

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On the Cover: Samantha Gottlich ('17) participates in a long standing tradition by adding her name to the inside of the Aspinwall Tower. *Photo: Shawn Evelyn ('19).*

So at a Seminary, What Is Worship?

The mantra of this place is “class, chapel, lunch.” We study together; we worship together; and we take table fellowship together. Now under the guidance of our Church and Community Engagement department, led by the Rev. David T. Gortner, Ph.D., a time and motion study of the students was organized. The results were interesting. A junior was spending over 70 hours a week in seminary-related activities. This sounds like a long time: Some faculty expressed concern about the work-life balance. But interestingly, the results included five hours of lunch and five hours of corporate worship. Now it is true that both are important venues for formation. But are lunch and worship part of the work half of the work-life balance?

Focusing for now on worship, it is true that worship does need to be disciplined. The human temptation is to allow days to pass where we are barely conscious of our creator. It is so easy to become wrapped up with the immediate—worries about the kids, the latest breaking news, and that Instagram post. Creating space to be conscious of the transcendent is an obligation that requires a separation from the immediate. Most people who skip corporate worship are not adding private worship to their schedule; they are just spending more time on a paper or on Facebook or answering an email. The result is a life less aware of the transcendent grounding and therefore a life more likely to be disordered. The hard work of becoming a love-oriented human being requires plenty of space for God to work on our lives. Corporate worship really matters.

But is it work? For those leading worship, it is undoubtedly work. In fact, it is hard to worship when leading worship. One needs to be conscious of the moment in the liturgy. Worries about the timing of the Gospel procession and the absence of gluten-free wafers come to the fore. But for those attending corporate worship, this is not work. It is a pause in the day. It is the break. It is an opportunity to be fed. A good liturgy is like a fine meal, where you can enjoy the spread before you. Ideally, worship should be a joy. It should be a moment when one’s voice is raised in song and one’s problems seem less insurmountable. Good church should lead to a fuller and happier disposition on departure.



Episcopalians are not very good at attendance. We have preached such a message of reassurance and love that Episcopalians are confident that God doesn’t really mind whether we make it to Church. “God loves us anyway,” we tell ourselves. We make the mistake of telling our friends, “We don’t believe in a vindictive or petty God who will punish us for our absence, unlike those strict religions.” The result is that we are intermittent attenders at best. We specialize in the Easter and Christmas Christians.

Our mistake is that the sense of worship as work is taking over. We need to recover a sense of worship as the pause in our busyness, not an addition to it. We need to recover a sense of worship as a joy and privilege, not a waste of time where the additional email or the reading of a newspaper would be more fun. But most important of all, we need to see how damaging absence is to our soul. The devil kids us all of the time—skipping church won’t matter that much. And we barely notice how gradually and slowly we are coping less well, close relationships are harder, and our head is totally preoccupied with the ephemeral stuff. Worship matters because it is the only way to be healthy. □

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ian S. Markham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D.
Dean and President



Left to right: Veronika Travis ('18), Robert (Topher) Rodgers ('18), Bishop Shannon Johnston, Eric Grubb ('19), Wadie Far ('17), and Robin Denney ('17).



Seminary children with Jenna Daniel, wife of Joshua Daniel ('18), Fr. George Kokhno, and Andrew Arakawa ('19).



Left to right, Master Anglican Dominicans Fr. Kevin Goodrich and David Casey ('18).



Left to right: Zeyneb Sayilgan, Ph.D., Roberta (Bobbi) Kraft ('18), and Fr. George Kokhno, from St. Nicholas Cathedral.



Right to left: The Rev. Ruthanna Hooke, Ph.D., Cara Rockhill ('17), Norbert Ayeebo ('18), Halim Shukair ('18), and Lisa Bornt ('18).



The Rev. Ross Kane, Ph.D., Joins VTS Faculty as Director of Doctoral Programs

The trustees of the Virginia Theological Seminary, at their May 17 board meeting, unanimously approved the appointment of the Rev. E. Ross Kane, Ph.D., as the new Director of the Doctoral Programs. Dr. Kane, who previously served as Senior Associate Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA, joined the VTS community on July 1.

"Ross is an exceptional appointment," said the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., dean and president of VTS. "He has already proven himself a good colleague, having served as an adjunct for both master's and doctoral courses here over the last several years."

Dr. Kane inherits strong doctoral programs from the Rev. David T. Gortner, Ph.D., who successfully shepherded the programs since 2008. Last year Dr. Gortner was appointed Associate Dean of Church and Community Engagement at VTS.

Before receiving his M.Div. from Duke Divinity School, Dr. Kane received his B.A. in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. He returned to the University of Virginia for his Ph.D. in Religious Studies, concentrating in Theology, Ethics, and Culture. A Virginia native, Ross was ordained in 2009 in the Diocese of Virginia.

This call for parish ministry with rigorous scholarship that builds up the church.

Having earned his Ph.D. while serving full-time in the parish, his scholarship and publications explore the lived experience of faith communities, particularly the incorporation of new

and unfamiliar expressions of belief and practice into the Christian tradition. Ross also brings an international perspective to his scholarship and priestly vocation, having served in the Anglican Communion in East Africa before entering parish ministry. His publications appear in academic and popular presses alike, such as *Christian Century*, *Journal of Religion in Africa*, and *Anglican Theological Review*.

As Senior Associate Rector of St. Paul's, he crafted innovative adult education offerings and played a leading role in launching and sustaining new efforts to serve Alexandria's most vulnerable citizens. In recognition of these efforts, Dr. Kane was a 2016 honoree in Alexandria's inaugural 40 Under 40 awards.

"The doctoral programs at VTS have a rich legacy of building up clergy, transforming ministry, and training dynamic leaders for tomorrow's church," Dr. Kane said. "They offer a rare nexus of scholarship, practical ministry, and prayerful reflection. It is a great privilege to lead these exceptional programs in the years ahead."

Dr. Kane and his wife, Liz Doughty Kane, have two sons, Stephen and Philip. □



The Rev. Ross Kane (third from the left/front row) joins the Rev. David T. Gortner, Ph.D. (first from the left/front row), Program Assistant for the Doctor of Ministry Program, Ms. Emily Riley (far right/front row), and the doctoral students during the 2017 residency. Photo: Curtis Prather

Jacqueline F. Ballou Appointed Vice President for Finance and Operations

VTS is delighted to announce Jacqueline “Jacqui” F. Ballou, M.B.A., as the new Vice President for Finance and Operations. Ballou, who is currently the Director of Finance, Planning and Operations at the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, will join the VTS community on September 1.

“Jacqui will bring wisdom, extensive experience, and a passion for our mission, as she focuses on oversight of finance, facilities, and information technology,” said the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., “It is an honor to have Jacqui join us.”

From 2007 to 2013, Ballou worked at Howard University in Washington, D.C., in the Office of the President, Dean of the Chapel and Religious Affairs, where she developed and maintained the



department’s operating budget, managed the daily operations of the office, and created and maintained the department’s operating policies and procedures.

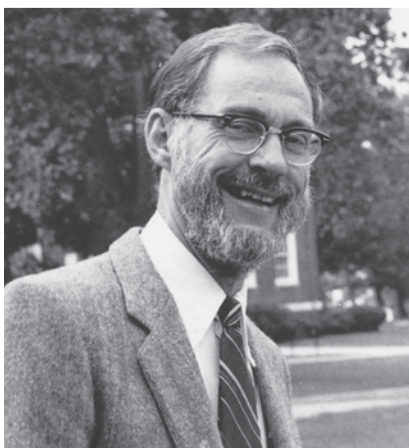
Ballou was named Salutatorian at North Carolina State University, where she received her Bachelor of Science in

Accounting. She received her Master of Business Administration in Finance and Strategic Management from Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business in Durham, N.C., and she was named Valedictorian at Howard University, where she received her Master of Arts in Religious Studies with Concentration in Ethics. During her time at Howard she was an Ethical Dimensions of Leadership Program Leader as well as a Student Leadership Conference Lecturer on Business Ethics.

As a professionally certified Business Transformation Consultant and Certified Public Accountant, Ballou was selected in 2016 to participate in a six-month intensive Foundation of Leadership Program at Harvard University.

Markham continued: “Jacqui is a delight. She has a love for Jesus, a deep commitment to community, and an eagerness to bring her skill set to theological education.” □

In Memoriam: The Rev. Milton Crum

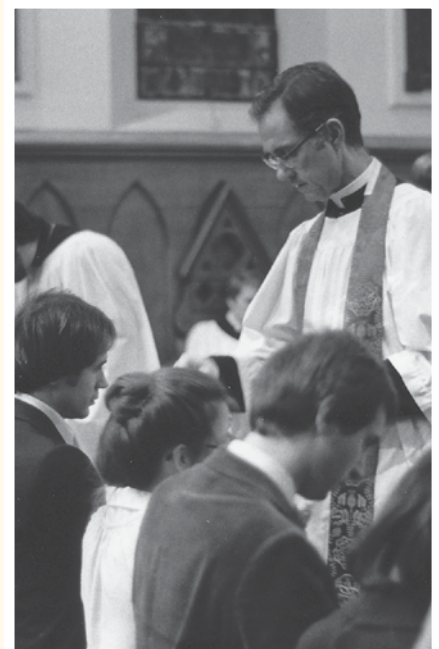


The Rev. Milton Crum (H’84) died on June 27 in Helena, MT, at the age of 93. He served as professor of homiletics at Virginia Seminary from 1966 to 1989. He was a graduate of the University of Nebraska and St. Luke’s School of Theology in Sewanee, TN.

He served in World War II and as a businessman before becoming an Episcopal priest. He published *Evil, Anger, and God* and *Manual on Preaching*, as well as numerous articles. He was most recently known by an international audience for publishing his personal observations about getting older and facing death. In 2015, he established The Käthe and Milton Crum Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) Scholarship Fund.

Milton was predeceased by his wife Käthe and is survived by stepdaughters Heather Nicholson, Suzanne Wilcox, Cynthia Wilcox, and their families.

He was also predeceased by his first wife, Jeanne Crum, who was a beloved member of the VTS community for over 20 years. □

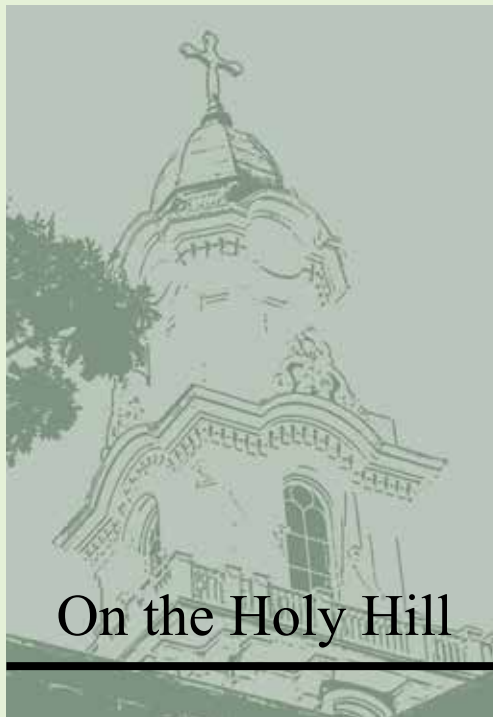


The Martyrdom of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration

On April 5 and 6, VTS commemorated the martyrdom of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with two days of special programs and worship designed for reflection and discussion. Included in the commemoration was a lecture titled “When Poor People Marched on Washington: Making King’s Multiracial vision a reality – sort of” by Dr. Gordon Mantler, George Washington University professor and author of *Power to the Poor: Black-Brown Coalition and the Fight for Economic Justice, 1960-1974*.

In addition, “At the Table with Dr. King,” a multimedia musical reflection was presented in the context of Evening Prayer on the call to act for social justice, as exemplified by Dr. King.

The two day commemoration began with worship in the Baptist tradition, with the Rev. Mark A. Jefferson (pictured), Trotter



Visiting Assistant Professor of Homiletics, who was recently nominated for induction into the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College. His sermon is available on the VTS iTunes account.



Reinicker Lecture with Ellen Charry

On April 28, the Seminary hosted a major player in theology and an active member of The Episcopal Church, Dr. Ellen T. Charry, the Margaret W. Harmon Professor of Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. She presented the Reinicker Lecture, entitled “Who Delivered Israel from Egypt.”

Charry is the author of *God and the Art of Happiness* (Eerdmans, 2010); *By the Renewing of Your Minds: The Pastoral Function of Christian Doctrine* (Oxford, 1997); *Inquiring After God: Classic and Contemporary Readings* (Blackwell, 2000); and a recent commentary on Psalms 1-50 from Brazos Press (2015).

“Ellen is the kind of theologian who is ‘all in,’” said the Rev. Melody D. Knowles, Ph.D., vice president for Academic Affairs. “There is nothing that escapes her whole-hearted endeavor to bring all parts of life into the task of theological reflection and analysis—the traditional areas of doctrine and scripture, of course, as well as motherhood, the experience of grief and joy, and even parish picnics.”

Church and Engagement and the Environment

A group from VTS, including the Rev. David T. Gortner, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Church and Community Engagement, attended the Ecology and Theology Conference at The Catholic University of America (CUA) last March. This significant event to engage seminaries in the Mid-Atlantic region on issues of faith and ecology involved 70 participants and speakers from 15 seminaries and 7 states. The Symposium was co-organized by The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development, the Washington Theological Consortium, the Green Seminary Initiative, and Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and hosted at CUA School of Theology and Religious Studies. The Symposium is part of the Seminary Environmental Leadership Initiative, which is funded through a grant from the Luce Fund for Theological Education, an initiative of the Henry Luce Foundation's Theology Program.



Missional Voices 2017



The Rev. Stephanie Spellers, canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism, Reconciliation, and Creation, preached at the second annual Missional Voices conference (April 21-22, 2017) in Immanuel Chapel. Missional Voices is a weekend of thinking, planning, and dreaming about the future of missional communities and innovative ministries in The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. It is a place where dynamic incubation of new ideas is the norm—not the exception—and where people doing uncommon ministry find support and encouragement.

Katherine Malloy Commissioned as Deacon in The United Methodist Church

Ms. Katherine Malloy, Executive Assistant to Dean Markham with an M.Div. from Emory, brings a theological literacy to her work. Indeed, when the Dean was working with the Rev. Oran Warder on their book, *An Introduction to Ministry: A Primer for Renewed Life and Leadership in Mainline Protestant Congregations*, Ms. Malloy served as the Methodist consultant to the project. Her Methodist connections are much appreciated by the Seminary.

Over the last few years, Katherine has been in discernment. On Saturday, June 17, Katherine was commissioned as a deacon in The United Methodist Church. The Dean and his wife, Lesley

Markham, made the journey to the service, and the Dean had the privilege of being one of Katherine's presenters.

VTS is delighted to have a Methodist deacon among us and looks forward to helping her grow in her vocation.





Employee Appreciation Day

On Wednesday, May 23, VTS closed for a day of employee appreciation. All employees gathered for a day of learning, fun, and community. The Seminary strives to have an environment where work is enjoyable and interesting.



Photo: Sarah Stonesifer



Photo: Sarah Stonesifer



Photo: Sarah Stonesifer



Photo: Curtis Prather



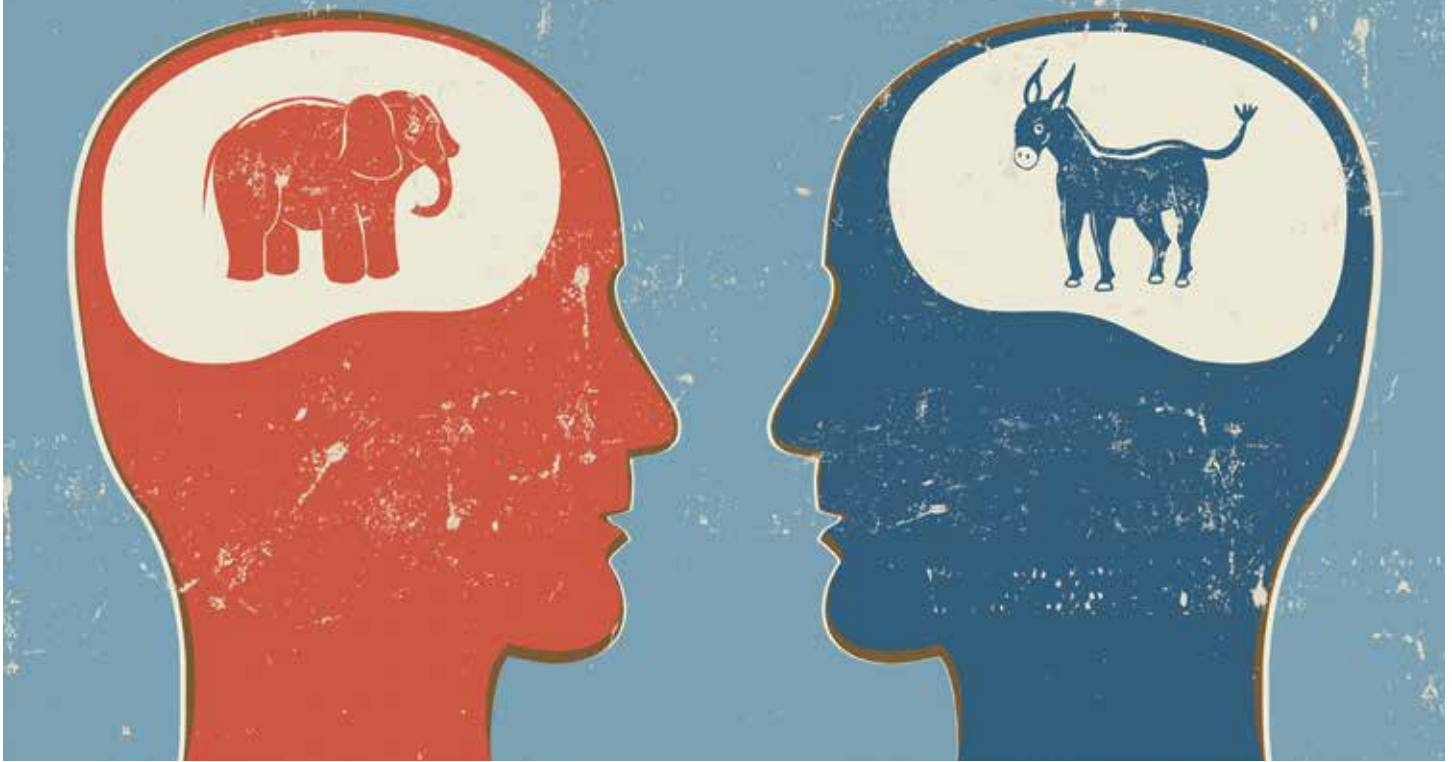
Photo: Curtis Prather



Photo: Sarah Stonesifer

“I am grateful for this remarkable group of women and men and their dedication to this place.” – Dean Markham

Civic (and Civil) Conversations: Episcopalians and Politics



By the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D.
Dean and President

Approximately 20 percent of the student body at Virginia Theological Seminary supported the Republican ticket in the last general election. They found the overwhelming angst of many of their fellow students after the election exhausting. So back in April, I had a Deanery evening to listen to the conservative voices on campus. It was interview style and highly informative. Without exception, they all supported John Kasich in the primaries. They all agonized over whether to support the top of the ticket in the general election but most did so and for a cluster of reasons. They had mixed feelings about another Clinton returning to the White House. They were worried about the abortion issue and wanted a Republican to fill the latest Supreme Court vacancy. They all came from parts of the country where the overwhelming context is Republican. During the conversation, one student pleaded with the group, “Please stop assuming that we are all homophobic, racist

bigots—we really are not.” It was an interesting and moving moment.

So how can Episcopalians talk about politics in a way that honors our differences? In response to that question, I decided that I would try an exercise—an imaginary conversation with the Republican Episcopalian and the Democrat Episcopalian, where both really listen to each other. So here goes.

The setting: the new Flamingo Coffee Bar in the basement of Addison. The Republican Episcopalian (RE) is sitting next to his friend, the Democrat Episcopalian (DE). They have both ordered lattes and are relaxing in two very comfortable chairs.

DE: I will be honest: this election has been hard for me. Part of me sees this election as a backlash against the values of inclusivity. I fear for race relations, the environment, and for the poor. So help me out here. How could you support the Republican ticket?

RE: A safety net for the poor, perhaps, but not an entire federal industry that primarily spends most of its money employing people who don't in the end move the graph around poverty very much. And on the rich, look, yes, Republicans do believe that we should let those who earn the money keep the money. I like John Wesley's maxim "Earn all you can, give all you can, save all you can." Then there is Arthur Brooks' study, "Who Really Cares," which showed that conservatives give 30 percent more to charity than households headed up by liberals. Do you sometimes think that liberals are too eager to spend the government's money and too reluctant to give away their own?

DE: Yes, I know that study and it is disturbing. Liberals need to learn to tithe as well as Conservatives do. But I don't buy your explanation. I do believe in some form of redistribution of wealth. I believe in progressive taxation. Those who have most for the sake of society should make their contribution to providing the safety net that we both support. If you are going to quote John Wesley, then can I quote John Donne. He starts his poem:

*No man is an island,
Entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
The social whole matters. A stable society depends on
a recognition of all this.*

RE: Actually, I agree that society does matter. This is the reason why words like "family" and "neighborhood" matter so much to me. Two people (and yes, forgive me, but I still think that ideally it should be the mother and the father) living together is the best environment for the raising of children. And ideally there is a civic sense of belonging: so they all belong to local organizations—like Girl Scouts or, even better, churches. This is a healthy society. Sometimes I think Democrats think society means the government, and I don't see that.

DE: And as you know I am gay. So let me just take up that point. Families take all sorts. They always have. Think of the sheer number of types of family in the Bible; and historically, there are countless different forms. Stepdads and stepmothers have been around a long time. The crucial thing is love. I think that your picture of the world is too sentimental. There are real structural challenges to participation in society. But look at the time. Dr. Farwell's class on liturgy will be beginning in a moment. I've really appreciated this conversation. I don't think you are right. But I am glad you are part of this community and part of our church.

RE: And I agree entirely. This has been a great conversation. Let us find time to really continue to think about these things. □





St. Cyprian's Labyrinth

By Curtis W. Prather
Director, Communications

“It is amazing,” said the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., dean and president, when he first looked upon the distinctive joint gift of the classes of 2009 and 2017. “I am very grateful to the two classes who made this possible.”

Composed out of stone dust and surrounded by salvaged bricks from both the 1881 Chapel and unused bricks from the new Immanuel Chapel, St. Cyprian's Labyrinth invites pilgrims to take their anxieties into the center and leave them there for God.

“We had ten different great [gift] ideas, and we then culled through that list,” said Serina Sides ('17), one of the organizers of the 2017 class gift. “We wanted to make sure that whatever our class was thinking about as a gift would also work for the Seminary and be in line with its vision.”

In early 2017, Sides, along with her classmates Wadie Far and Tim Watt, sent out a survey to the class to get ideas for the 2017 class gift. Two ideas emerged after the class voted: a permanent labyrinth on campus and a Stations of the Cross with a commemorative plaque in the 1881 Chapel Garden for St. Cyprian's Chapel.

St. Cyprian's Chapel, also referred to as The Church of the Good Shepherd, was a chapel built on the Holy Hill in the 1800s to serve the local African American community after the Civil War. Members of the VTS community, as well as from the neighborhood and neighboring communities, all worshipped there. In addition to the regularly scheduled services, Seminarians often led Sunday school classes and other types of Christian education. In the 1920s, the chapel was moved to nearby Fort Ward.

“There was really strong sentiment in favor of commemorating the St. Cyprian's Chapel,” said Sides. “Race relations, racial justice, racial reconciliation—all have been a point of discussion ever since we arrived on campus.”



ST. CYPRIAN'S LABYRINTH
THE LABYRINTH COMMEMORATES ST. CYPRIAN'S CHAPEL, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, CONSTRUCTED IN THE EARLY 1800s ON THIS CAMPUS IN AN AREA KNOWN FOR NEGRO EDUCATION. IT WAS A BELIEVED PLACE OF WORSHIP FOR LABORERS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS WHO WORKED AT THE SEMINARY AND FOR OTHERS WHO LIVED NEARBY.
THE INNER CIRCLE OF THE LABYRINTH IS MADE WITH BRICK SALVAGED FROM IMMANUEL CHAPEL (1881) WHICH WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE ON DECEMBER 22, 2013. THE REMAINING BRICK CAME FROM THE CONSTRUCTION OF IMMANUEL CHAPEL (2015). THE STATIONING COLUMNS ON THE OUTLINE ARE FROM THE EAST WALL OF IMMANUEL CHAPEL (1881).
THE LABYRINTH IS GIVEN TO THE GUARDY OF GOD WITH LEADERSHIP AND GIFTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2009 AND THE CLASS OF 2017.
MAY 18, 2017



The Class of 2017



The Class of 2009



When the class learned that the walls in the 1881 Chapel Garden were not stable enough to support any additional work, members of the class were inspired to combine the best of both gift ideas and name the labyrinth in honor of St. Cyprian's Chapel.

Sides added, "It is exciting that the Seminary was able to commemorate the African American community in this way. There were even donations made by many who were not in our class—including staff and faculty—who felt strongly about that aspect of the class gift."

While in conversation with Seminary leadership about their ideas, the Class of 2017 learned that they were not the first class to suggest a permanent labyrinth on the Seminary grounds.

"For the 17 years I've been here, there has been talk about having a labyrinth," said the Rev. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D., vice president of Institutional Advancement. "It was the class of 2009 that really pressed the case in a beautiful way and raised some money, and now eight years later, the class of 2017 stepped up."

"The Class of 2009 wanted to provide the Seminary community and the larger Alexandria community with a sacred space that offers a unique way of connecting with God and the saints," said the Rev. Beth O'Callaghan ('09), currently serving as Rector of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Darnestown, MD. "Our class is thrilled that our dream of a labyrinth on campus is now realized and we are grateful to the Class of 2017 and the Seminary for their support in making this a reality."

The location of St. Cyprian's Labyrinth, behind the Deanery with a view of the corner of Quaker Lane and Seminary Road, was chosen because the Seminary wanted a site that was more remote.

"We wanted a place where people could walk and be alone," said Hawkins. "And there are beautiful vistas from where it is located down across the campus as it goes to Quaker Lane. It's not going to be a place that is heavily traveled."

Since 2008, the Seminary has consulted with designer David Tolzmann (pictured above, with Bill Bushman) about building a permanent labyrinth on the VTS campus. With 22 years of experience, Tolzmann and his crew have been responsible for

building over 5,000 labyrinths all over the world. As soon as the Class of 2017 gift came together, the process moved swiftly.

"It was on a fast track once we got everybody together in the same room," Tolzmann said. He noted that it only took six weeks from the agreement to the construction, which itself only took three days. "We used the 'Vision Quest' design, which is a modern design that I created."

Bill Bushman, who has been building labyrinths with Tolzmann since 1998, added that the biggest challenge on this project was the elevation change that he and their three-person crew; Maximum Ricardo, Martin Bedingo-Perez, and Pablo Becko.

"Our main goal is to blend this into the existing grades and the existing landscape so that it fits in as aesthetically as possible," Bushman said.

Tolzmann didn't hesitate when asked why he had devoted his life to the specialized landscaping design of labyrinths: "There is a lot of demand for labyrinths because of the stories of the people who use them and the value people find in having them. These go back thousands and thousands of years."

O'Callaghan, of the Class of 2009, added, "The practice of walking the labyrinth is a way of engaging spiritually that is open to all, no matter your age, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey. And the impact can be profound and life-changing."

"St. Cyprian's Labyrinth is a place for people to walk, pray, and give thanks for the blessing of Virginia Seminary," said Hawkins, looking over the final work. "Thanks for the blessings of VTS, and for what God is doing in their lives."

St. Cyprian's Labyrinth will be dedicated at Convocation this October. □

Photo: The Rev. David Crosby ('12)



The Flamingo

By the Rev. Melody D. Knowles, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs and
Associate Professor of Old Testament

On a Friday in May, a group of students, faculty, and staff paused to dedicate VTS's newest gathering place. Converted from the space that housed the Cokesbury Bookstore in the basement of Addison, The Flamingo is now a venue to pick up some coffee, order a latte, and either sit in silence with a book or join in a conversation. And, if you stay late enough into the evening, you might just find yourself in the middle of a compline service.

"This is a place of hospitality and conversation," said the Rev. Alyse Viggiano ('17), whose vision and labor brought The Flamingo to fruition. A key player in the venture was another alum, Anne Karoly ('97), who hoped for a place where Evening



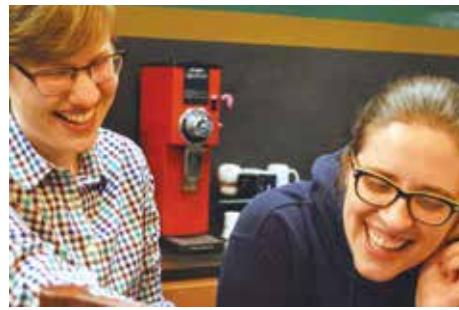
School students could gather before and after class. And Fritz Friton, along with the hardworking staff in the maintenance department, brought all of his craft and artistry to the task as well. The space is a lasting testament to their dedication.

Most alums will recognize the name, "The Flamingo." Aiming to incorporate a light-hearted student-generated tradition dating from the Reagan era of incorporating the plastic birds into everything from Mary shrines to Variety Show skits, Alyse adopted the name and the logo. "Flock

talks" (hosted conversations on everything from race and sports to ideas about a new Book of Common Prayer) are regular events, and "Flamingo-bucks" (gift certificates to redeem for coffee drinks) are coming soon.

The decor is decidedly eclectic and incorporates many parts of the Seminary's past. Classroom maps of bible lands, a heavy wooden table given in honor of a homiletics professor, countertops made out of wood from the old chapel—the repurposed furnishings welcome the visitor into a tradition of deep conversation, and allowed the budget to stretch far enough to buy a very nice espresso machine.

Next time you are on campus, please stop by for a hot latte and a warm welcome. As we prayed at the service of dedication, "May God bless the holy conversations and all the holy work done in this place, now and for the years to come. Amen." □



"The Class of 2017 has given us three distinctive landmarks for us to remember you by," said the Rt. Rev. James J. Shand, during Commencement. "The Flamingo, the Cultivate VTS gardens, and St. Cyprian's Labyrinth."



Students celebrate a special Earth Day Eucharist in one of the Cultivate VTS gardens. Photos: Shawn Evelyn ('19).



The 194th Commencement Celebrated at VTS

Virginia Theological Seminary celebrated its 194th Commencement on Thursday, May 18, at 10:00 a.m., awarding 53 students with degrees of Master in Divinity, Master of Arts, Doctor of Ministry, Diploma in Theology, and Diploma in Anglican Studies, representing 34 dioceses and six countries.

“I am optimistic about the future of the Episcopal Church. There is a hunger for our thoughtful, generous faith, grounded in a liturgy that has stood the test of time,” said the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., dean and president of VTS. “Our graduates will need to be imaginative, see ways of doing Church differently, and bring an energy and vibrancy to their ministry settings. But they can, and they will do well.”

The commencement address was given by the Canon Professor Keith Ward, D.D., FBA, the Regius Professor Emeritus at the University of Oxford, a former Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, and a Fellow of the British Academy.

“Do not let your Christ be too small,” Professor Ward told the Class of 2017. “The Christ proclaimed by John and Paul is big enough to contain this universe.”

During the ceremony, the recipient of the 2017 Virginia Seminary Ford Chair, a gift of Susan Ford to a member of the graduating class who has exhibited a strong commitment to the community life and mission of the Seminary, was awarded to Mr. Wadie Far, of the Diocese of Jerusalem.

The recipients of the Charles and Janet Harris Award, given each year to candidates for Holy Orders who have demonstrated academic excellence and leadership ability, are the Rev. Robin E. Denney of the Diocese of El Camino Real, and the Rev. Kyle Babin of the Diocese of Washington.

The Dudley Speech Prize, awarded to graduating students who, in the opinion of the faculty, have demonstrated excellence in the public reading and interpretation of the Scriptures and the Liturgy, were given to the Rev. Robin E. Denney, of the Diocese of El Camino Real, and Ms. Samantha Gottlich, of the Diocese of Texas.



The Anglican Communion Prize, which recognizes a graduating student with an outstanding commitment to discerning the mission of God through World Anglicanism, went to the Rev. Robin E. Denney of the Diocese of El Camino Real.

This year, VTS conferred Doctors of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to Peter C. Phan, Th.D., Ph.D., D.D., the Ignacio Ellacuria Chair of Catholic Social Thought, Georgetown University. Phan served as a chaplain for a police academy and a women's prison in Vietnam; received doctoral degrees from both the University of Dallas and two from the University of London. He has taught at the University of Dallas, Catholic University of America, and Georgetown University. His achievements in Catholic theology are unmatched. Phan's 2004 book, *Being Religious Inter-Religiously* encouraged deeper discourse with Asian religions and worldviews, meeting some resistance in the Roman Catholic Church. His *The Joy of Religious Pluralism: A Personal Journey* promises to continue to have a great impact in approaches to intercultural and interreligious relationships.

Virginia Seminary also conferred a Doctor in Divinity, *honoris causa*, to the Rev. Canon Professor Keith Ward, D.D., FBA, Regius Professor Emeritus of Divinity, University of Oxford. A priest in the Church of England and author of more than 30 books, ranging from very substantial to more popular theology, Ward has modeled the Anglican willingness to ask deep questions and explore issues that are often feared such as the implications of forms of life on other planets, animal immortality, and dialogue between religious traditions.

For the tenth year in a row, the service was streamed live over the internet through the VTS website. You can view it now on our YouTube channel. □



Left to right: Members of the Class of 2017, Robin Denney, Wadie Far, Charles (Raphiell) Ashford, Taylor Devine, and Peter Wanjiku.



Left to right: Sharon Williams ('18), Marlene Forrest ('18), William (Bill) Baker ('18), Elisabeth Malphurs ('19), and Amanda Kotval ('19).



Left to right: Rose Mpango ('17), Marcea Paul ('18), and Kathryn (Katie) Glover, M.P.A.



Dr. Joseph Thompson and Dr. Zeyneb Sayilgan.



The Rev. Kate Sonderegger, Ph.D. (center) with graduates of the Anglican Studies program: Barbara Fister, Kenneth Piece, Nontombi (Naomi) Tutu, Joanne Tetrault, Erin Maxfield-Steele, and Rebecca (Becca) Kello. Not pictured: Jason Cutshall, Aubrey Miller, and Cara Rockhill.



The Rev. Melody Knowles, Ph.D., with the Honorable Ronnie Yoder, who established the Ronnie A. Yoder Scholarship. This year's recipient is Mr. David Wantland, of the Diocese of North Carolina, for his entry entitled, "Genderqueer Mothering in Hosea 11." Mr. Wantland graduated this year from the Seminary of the Southwest.



From left to right: The Rev. David T. Gortner, Ph.D., gathers with 2017 D.Min. graduates: The Rev. Dr. Paul St. Germain, the Rev. Dr. Louis Woods, the Rev. Dr. Everett Lees, the Rev. Dr. Tom Alexander, Jr., the Rev. Dr. Debra Brewin-Wilson, the Rev. Dr. Helen Van Koevering, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Walter, and the Rev. Dr. Olivia Hilton. Not pictured: Dr. Kenneth Willy.



Honorary degree recipients: The Rev. Canon Professor Keith Ward, D.D., FBA, Regius Professor Emeritus of Divinity, University of Oxford, and Peter C. Phan, Th.D., Ph.D., D.D., the Ignacio Ellacuria Chair of Catholic Social Thought, Georgetown University.



2017 Master of Divinity graduates: Front row, left to right: William Packard, Serena Sides, Meredith Maples, Pilar Padron, Taylor Devine, and Erin Rath. Middle row, left to right: Wadie Far, Tony Anderson, Gethin Wied, Kevin Laskowski, Samantha Gottlich, Alyse Viggiano, Teresa Terry, Beth Bingham, and Robin Denney. Top row, left to right: Janice Hicks, Timothy Watt, Jon Musser, James Stambaugh, Stephen Tamke, Michael Sahdev, Matthew Rhodes, Worth Stuart, Andrew Scott, Scott Parnell, Kyle Babin, Jason Roberson, Paul Moberly, and Raphiell Ashford.



2017 Master of Arts graduates: Top row (left to right): Peter Wanjiku, Saw Ni Ka Mwee, D Mark Togba; Bottom row (left to right): Rose Mpango, Goodwell Timverane, and Helen Bertles -Ferreira.



Left to right: Dr. Joseph Thompson, The Rev. Dr. Canon Michele V. Hagans, the Very Rev. Phoebe Roaf ('08), and the Rev. Judy Fentress-Williams, Ph.D.



Left to right: Kathleen (Kathy) Walker ('18), Robin Denney ('17), Marcea Paul ('18), and Nontombi (Naomi) Tutu ('17).



Left to right: Graduating seniors Charles (Rahpiell) Ashford, Teresa Terry, Janice Hicks, and Beth Bingham.



Alyse Viggiano ('17).



William (Bill) Baker ('18) and Erin Rath ('17).



Left to right: Maurice Dyer ('19), Erin Maxfield-Steele ('17), and Shawn Evelyn ('19).



The Rev. Allison St. Louis, Ph.D. ('00) and Hannah Matis, Ph.D.



Graduating senior Wadie Far and members of his family: Nasri Far (father), Ghada AL Lahham Far (mother), William Far (brother), Najwa Qubain (aunt), and Dima Far (sister).



The Rev. Peter K. Ackerman ('07) and Meredith Maple ('17).



Celebrating with graduate Peter Wanjiku (from left to right): The Rev. Johnson Irungu (priest from Nairobi currently in Boston), the Rev. Canon Leslie Steffensen ('12), Peter Wanjiku, Rufus Karanja who traveled from Kenya, Rachel Macharia, and Irene Kibui.



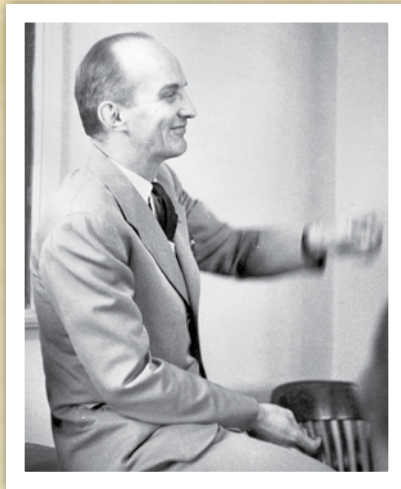
The Rev. Elbert Ransom Jr., Adjunct Faculty.



50 Years of Continuing Education: Looking Back to Build the Future

By Susan G. Sevier ('14) and Lisa M. Kimball, Ph.D.

In January 2016, as part of the strategic plan commitment for VTS to be “responsible for the formation of lay and clergy leaders throughout the church,” the Lifetime Theological Education (LTE), the Center for Ministry of Teaching (CMT), and the Center for Music and Liturgy (CLM), office were combined to form Lifelong Learning, under the leadership of Associate Dean, Lisa Kimball, Ph.D. Building on existing strengths, these three outward-facing Seminary initiatives equip the wider church to form faithful, courageous leaders and confident Christian disciples.



The Very Rev. Jesse M. Trotter, VTS dean and president (1956-69).

Lifelong Learning is a logical combination of existing expertise across the institution. LTE brings experience with audience definition and program development, and its understanding of the needs of working clergy and development of lay leadership. LTE also contributes infrastructure developed to design and manage events. The Evening School, a part of LTE, uses the teaching and formation offered by the Seminary and expands the audience for those gifts. Add to this mix the CMT’s expertise in pedagogy, Christian formation, action research, content development, curation, and promotion in a digital age. The CLM understands the power of convening and mentoring leaders to strengthen worship and music across the Church. Together, the Lifelong Learning team can more nimbly create and deliver innovative programming to wider audiences than ever before.

Two recent examples of continuing education at VTS reflect the collaborative spirit of Lifelong Learning. “A Taste of the Evening School” initiates each new term. It is a livestreamed program of public theology designed to attract returning and exploring students to campus and alumni online. A Continuing Education webinar in April with the Office of Multicultural Ministries generated over 100 registrations to learn about “Beyond Fear: Addressing Islamophobia.”

Learning From Our Past

Long before there were formal departments of Continuing Education or Lifetime Theological Education, VTS graduates knew that education and teaching were central to ordained leadership. The Seminary, for example, was among the first to abandon the recitation method of instruction and embrace the new lecture method. By 1900, selected lectures were opened to the community, as the Seminary moved towards broader adult education.

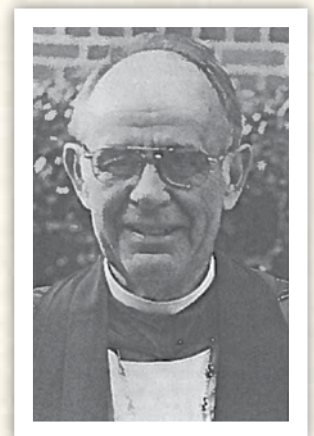
In the 1930s and 1940s, public lectures were common and continue to this day. The Seminary’s participation with the National Cathedral to develop a lecture series after World War II tapped Seminary faculty and included guest speakers such as Paul Tillich. Today’s Lay School of Theology and other continuing education programs trace their beginnings to this series.

Trotter’s Vision

In 1967 a group of clergy arrived on campus to participate in a new program called “The Six-week Program.” Under the leadership of the Rt. Rev. Bennet J. Sims, they explored the dynamics of ministry in what became the origin of the Center for Continuing Education.

Sims insisted that the program be flexible, ecumenical, and separate from faculty control. More widespread continuing education efforts were needed to meet the crisis in the Episcopal Church during the Civil Rights era that resulted in a reduced number of parishes, fewer congregants, and more clergy transitioning from parish to secular work. The new center focused on personal growth of clergy and their professional development.

This program became known as Renewal and Growth, the cornerstone of the continuing education program. It required a one-year commitment that included a six-week residency at VTS, followed by ten months of work in a home parish and a one-week conference. The program was cohort-based and structured



Bishop Sims

around peer-learning and community building. Its aim was to foster authentic pastoral ministry based on servant leadership. The program was opened to all ordained people of any denomination with at least five years' experience.

The Doctor of Ministry program came to VTS in 1975 under the leadership of the Rev. Richard Alan Busch, Ph.D. About the same time the Lay School of Theology, which became the Evening School of Theology in 2005, got underway with programs called Short Conferences, ranging from term-long classes to weekend residential seminars.

The Summer Refresher also began during this vital period for lay and ordained leaders. Participants gathered for daily worship and Bible study, discussion of issues in society and the Church, and for fellowship and personal formation.

These programs were to remain separate and distinct from the Seminary's mission to train priests, a line that has blurred over time. Participation was usually by invitation with no open enrollment. Because the focus was primarily on ordained persons, the participants were universally male although from different denominations.

1976 to 2000

In 1976, the Rev. Busch began his ministry as Director of Continuing Education and, along with the Rev. Burton Newman, Ph.D., expanded the continuing education program. Between 1971 and 1998, the number of registered participants grew from 70 to 506 and included more women.

As the programs moved to open enrollment, public relations support and marketing became crucial. VTS was challenged to build an infrastructure to support year-round continuing education.

There were many firsts during this period. The D.Min. program received formal accreditation in 1979. In 1984, VTS offered the first workshop in using computers in the church. That same



year seminarians were invited to participate in selected programs of the Continuing Education department, and a special program to aid the transition from school to ministry was offered for seniors and their spouses (a precursor of the Second Three Years program). The D.Min. program welcomed its first international students in 1992, the Renewal and Growth marketing materials were revised to include women and people of color (1994), and a one-week program was developed for lay leaders that continued into the next decade.

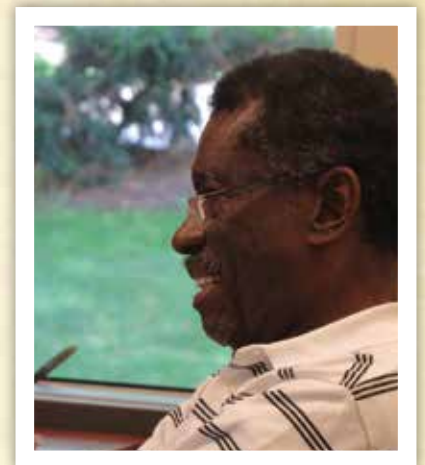
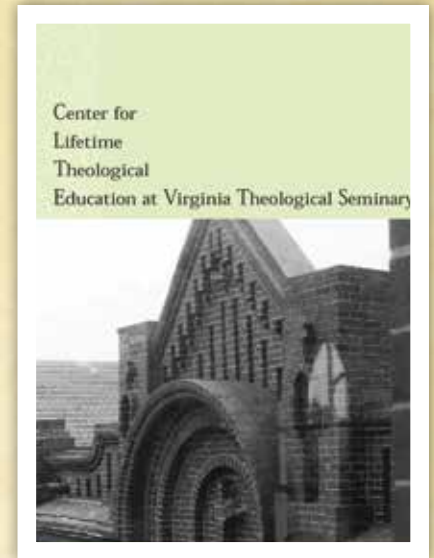
The 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Center for Continuing Education focused on the topic of spirituality in the parish and featured leaders and scholars, including Thomas C. Oden, James W. Fowler, and Verna Dozier.

Later, speakers like Barbara Brown Taylor, Parker J. Palmer, Dr. William Willimon, Dr. James Forbes, and Dr. Stanley Hauerwas appeared regularly as presenters. While enrollment for the Summer Refresher continued at capacity (80), enrollment for short conferences and other programs faltered. Change was needed.

The results of two questionnaires—one strictly to alumni and another to program participants—indicated that the Center should focus on contemporary ministry issues. In 1997-98, the Center cancelled the Winter term to ask focus groups about the needs of clergy in a changing society. They learned that clergy seek additional education for spiritual nourishment, healing, and encouragement.

After reviewing 30 years of Continuing Education at VTS, the Continuing Education Trustees Committee (April 1996) stated that the work of the Center was urgently needed by the Church.

(continued on page 24)



(continued from page 23)

The Committee asked the Seminary to increase its financial support for the Center, especially for public relations, marketing, and programming that would be responsive to the ecumenical community.

Alongside an expansive spirit of innovation came increasingly less clarity about the intended audience, which hampered the Center's ability to design targeted programming or communicate with the wider Church. Participation suffered and opportunities were missed.

2000 to 2007

The new millennium began with fresh leadership and a re-designed structure for the Center for Continuing Education. The Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D., was named Director of the D.Min. program, and the Very Rev. Charles Kiblinger, Ph.D., became Director of Continuing Education. Together they built on the strengths of the past to refresh and re-brand the continuing education efforts of the Seminary.

The Lay School of Theology became the Evening School of Theology with the creation of the Evening School certification, and off-site programs were created with other organizations. Alumni encouraged VTS to be bold and imaginative. One respondent said, "If we were able to put it [the Lay School] online, it could have a vast new audience." And another hinted at what we now understand as hybrid programming for flexibility.

New programming included a five-day workshop for those in vocational transition, opening January term courses to continuing education students, the establishment of Fridays at the Seminary (2004), and the continuation of the Crossing the Borders program for seniors.

In 2004, the Rev. Roger Ferlo, Ph.D., as the new director of continuing education, fully incorporated the Lay School as the

Evening School which had significant regional popularity. By 2005, eight courses were offered each year and an Evening School Certificate was introduced, replacing the Lay School diploma. While on-campus programming grew, the call to expand distance offerings for lay and clergy leaders using digital technologies continued. After a brief attempt to introduce online learning, efforts were abandoned after the 2008 financial crisis.

2007 to 2016

Soon after the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., became Dean and President of the Seminary in 2007, the Center for Lifetime Education became the Institute for Christian Formation and Leadership (ICFL)." under Associate Dean Roger Ferlo. He assumed a wider portfolio of responsibility including all continuing education, the Center for the Ministry of Teaching (CMT), D.Min., and the Field Education program. Two Lilly Endowment-funded initiatives were also placed under the ICFL: the Summer Collegium (a program devoted to the needs of small churches) and the Second Three Years program for graduating seniors. In March 2009 Field Education became part of the ICFL.

By 2011, there were four Evening School courses and four Fridays at the Seminary offered each academic year. The Evening School focused on theology and the arts with classes on Shakespeare, Negro Spirituals, C. S. Lewis, and a variety of visual and dramatic arts. Class enrollment was good, but the certificate program never gained popularity. The departmental review process supported the continuation of both programs within the ICFL with a clearer definition of mission and better infrastructure. Focus groups revealed that participants supported the program because they could study "beyond Bible 101" with professors who also had pulpit experience. For the faculty, these programs allowed them to develop and teach classes that were not part of the regular Seminary curriculum.



Summer Collegium 2008.



Class picture of Bishop Katherine Jeffert Schori's evening school course Spring 2016.



The departure of Ferlo in 2012 resulted in another institutional restructuring. The D.Min. program, CMT, and Field Education became independent offices under Academic Administration and Student Life. LTE and the Evening School moved to Institutional Advancement. The Second Three Years program became the responsibility of the Field Education office.

As challenges facing mainline Protestant denominations were receiving wide-spread attention, competition for online and residential programming by other seminaries and church organizations grew. The earlier financial crisis caused a precipitous drop in conference attendance across the board. At VTS the Chapel fire in 2010 and the later earthquake damage drew



our focus inward. Under the steady leadership of Associate Director for Lifetime Theological Education, Anne Karoly, these were also building years.

While overall on-campus continuing education attendance numbers have not grown since 2012, the reach of the Seminary has expanded. Well-known presenters such as Dr. Thomas Long and the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori have filled classrooms and lecture halls and LTE has begun to livestream and record selected programs.

After a period of decline, the Evening School of Theology enrollment has stabilized with an average 83 students per year, and has become steadily more robust with intentional focus on curriculum and expanded publicity. Enrollment in degree-program courses during the January and Summer terms continues to grow, and faculty value the perspective continuing education students bring to the classroom.

Next Steps

ConEd@VTS invites you to engage deeply and respond faithfully. What will it take? Let us know as we approach our 50th Anniversary and prepare for the next 100!
lte@vts.edu @VTS_Seminary. □



Anne Karoly ('97) (right) with Evening School graduate, Janet Kilian.

Deep Calls to Deep: Preaching Renewal

By The Rev. Leslie Chadwick ('04)
Program Coordinator

Deep Calls to Deep: A Program to Strengthen Episcopal Preaching is a year-long program at Virginia Theological Seminary funded by the Lilly Endowment that emphasizes the spirituality of preaching. We nurture preaching passion in mid-career clergy by deepening their connection to the Holy Spirit and engaging their voices and bodies in the service of more passionate proclamation.

Peer groups of six working preachers, including a trained peer facilitator, meet monthly over a year to respond to each other's preaching. The groups gather initially at a week-long residency in Virginia and conclude the year with a second residency. The program accepted 37 Fellows from Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia for 2016-17 and 25 from the Episcopal Dioceses of Texas and New York for 2017-18.



The two cohorts met at the 2017 Residency from June 10 to 16 which was entitled: "For Such a Time as This: Preaching for the Public Square." Speakers, panelists, and preachers included the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde ('88), the Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Fisher ('04), the Rev. Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, the Rev. Ann Gillespie ('07), the Rev. David T. Gortner, Ph.D., the Rev. Lucy Hogan, Ph.D. ('81), the Very Rev. Phoebe Roaf ('08), the Rev. David J. Schlafer, Ph.D., the Rev. Anne M. Turner, and the Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade ('66).

2017-2018 Preaching Fellows:

New York

- The Rev. Chase Danford (VTS '11) Grace Church Broadway, New York, NY
- The Rev. Adrian Dannhauser (Berkeley at Yale Divinity School '13) Incarnation, New York, NY
- The Rev. Gawain de Leeuw (University of Chicago Divinity School, M.Div., '95; General Seminary, Certificate in Anglican Studies, '96; Seabury-Western, D.Min., '11) St. Bartholmew's, White Plains, NY
- The Rev. Jake Dell (Nashotah, M.A., '08; Certificate of Anglican Studies '10) Holy Trinity Church, New York, NY
- The Rev. Gladys Diaz (General Seminary '06) Recently completed Interim at Holy Rood, New York, NY
- The Rev. Chuck Kramer (General Seminary '90) St. James', Hyde Park, NY
- The Rev. Kris Lewis-Theerman (General Seminary '05) St. Luke's, Katonah, NY
- The Rev. Michelle Meech* (Church Divinity School of the Pacific) St. John's, Kingston, NY
- The Rev. Loyda Morales (General Seminary '05) Church of the Mediator, Bronx, NY
- The Rev. Matthew Moretz* (General Seminary '06) St. Bart's, New York, NY

- The Rev. Sam Owen (Berkeley at Yale Divinity School '12) Haitian Congregation of the Good Samaritan, Bronx, NY
- The Rev. Megan Sanders (General Seminary '07) St. Paul's, Pleasant Valley, NY

Texas

- The Rev. Jimmy Abbott (VTS '10) Holy Comforter, Spring, TX
- The Rev. Bert Baetz (Duke Divinity School '05) St. Mark's, Richmond, TX
- The Rev. Todd Bryant (Seminary of the Southwest '06) Ascension, Houston, TX
- The Rev. Erin Hensley (VTS '07) St. Alban's, Austin, TX
- The Rev. Lisa Hines (Seminary of the Southwest '07) Calvary, Bastrop, TX
- The Rev. Mary Ann Huston (Seminary of the Southwest '10) St. Mark's, Houston, TX
- The Rev. Jerald Hyché (VTS '04) St. James the Apostle, Conroe, TX
- The Rev. Chad McCall (Duke Divinity School '06; Iona Program (TX): Anglican Formation '11) St. David's, Austin, TX
- The Rev. Alex Montes-Vela* (VTS '05) St. Mary Magdalene, Manor, TX
- The Rev. Kathy Pfister (Seminary of the Southwest '10) The Hill: 2nd campus of Good Shepherd, Austin, TX

- The Rev. Glenice Robinson-Como (Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University '09; Seminary of the Southwest, Diploma of Theological Studies '10) Christ Church Cathedral, Houston, TX
- The Rev. Kevin Schubert (Seminary of the Southwest '07) St. George's, Austin, TX
- The Rev. Victor Thomas* (Church Divinity School of the Pacific '97) St. James, Houston, TX

2016-2017 Preaching Fellows: (These Fellows will conclude their Fellowships at the end of the 2017 Residency)

- The Rev. Barbara Ambrose (Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Education, MCE '03; Deacon Formation Institute, Diocese of VA '10) St. Andrew's, Richmond, VA
- The Rev. Ann Barker (Candler School of Theology '96; Anglican Studies Certificate, School of Theology, Sewanee '99) St. John's, Arlington, VA
- The Rev. Dr. Rosemary Beales (VTS '05; D.Min. '12) St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Alexandria, VA
- The Rev. Jo Belser (VTS '12) Church of the Resurrection, Alexandria, VA



Participants in the week-long residency came together in early June 2017. Photo: Sharon Williams ('18).

- The Rev. Charles Brock (VTS '07) St. James', Alexandria, VA
- Ms. Merrill Carrington* (Union Theological Seminary, NYC '81) Christ Church, Georgetown, Washington, DC
- The Rev. Martha Clark (Duke Divinity School '92) St. Augustine's, Washington, DC
- The Rev. Mary Eliot (Washington Theological Union '98) Christ the King, Baltimore, MD
- The Rev. Gail Epes* (VTS '87) guest preacher; director of non-profit Dropping the Reins
- The Rev. Carol Hancock (VTS '85) St. John's, Centreville, VA
- The Rev. Meredith Heffner (VTS '08) St. James', Potomac, MD
- The Rev. Joseph Hensley (VTS '07) St. George's, Fredericksburg, VA
- The Rev. Thomas Hudson (VTS, Diploma in Theological Studies '10) St. Luke's, Brownsville, MD
- The Rev. Brooks Hundley (Union Theological Seminary '02, VTS Anglican Studies '05) St. Alban's School, Washington, DC
- The Rev. James Isaacs (VTS '02) St. James', Potomac, MD
- The Rev. Loretta Johnson (Howard University School of Divinity '97) Jones Memorial United Methodist Church, Washington, DC
- The Rev. Herbert Jones (VTS '11) Church of Our Saviour, Montpelier, VA
- The Rev. Dr. Catriona Laing (Westcott House, UK, Ph.D. Divinity '12) Church of the Epiphany, Washington, DC
- The Rev. Anne Coghill MacNabb (VTS '04) Trinity Episcopal Church, Elkridge, MD
- The Rev. Jeanie Martinez-Jantz (VTS '07) Olivet Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA
- The Rev. Mark Michael (Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University '03) St. Francis Episcopal Church, Potomac, MD
- The Rev. Loree Penner (School of Theology, Sewanee '04) St. Thomas, Towson, MD
- The Rev. Elizabeth Rees (VTS '07) St. Aidan's, Alexandria, VA
- The Very Rev. Phoebe Roaf* (VTS '08) St. Philip's, Richmond, VA
- The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli (Seminary of the Southwest '06) Christ Church, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC
- The Rev. Nicholas Szobota (General Seminary '05) Christ Church, West River, MD
- The Rev. Elizabeth Tomlinson (VTS '14) St. Paul's, Falls Church, VA
- The Rev. Ann Ritonja (Wesley '07 and VTS Anglican Studies '08) St. Peter's, Poolesville, MD
- The Rev. Barbara Seras (Seabury-Western '92) St. John's, Lancaster, PA (canonically resident, Diocese of MD)
- The Rev. Jeff Shankles (VTS '05) St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Annandale, VA
- The Rev. Dr. Ketlen Solak* (VTS '05; D.Min. '16) Brandywine Collaborative Ministries, Wilmington, DE (canonically resident, Diocese of VA)
- The Rev. Leslie Steffensen* (VTS M.T.S. '06; M.Div. '12) Canon to the Bishop for Armed Services and Federal Ministries, Office of the Presiding Bishop Suffragan, Washington, DC
- The Rev. Anne Turner* (Berkeley at Yale '03) St. Timothy's, Herndon, VA
- The Rev. Dina van Klaveren (Church Divinity School of the Pacific '06) St. Andrew's, Glenwood, MD
- The Rev. David Wacaster (VTS '04) Good Shepherd, Silver Spring, MD
- The Rev. Bambi Willis (VTS '05) St. Asaph's, Bowling Green, VA
- The Rev. Susan Wisseman (Wesley '05) Grace Presbyterian Church, Springfield, VA

*Peer Group Facilitator

Lambeth 2020 Preparation Included in Productive Sabbatical



The Lambeth Design Group met in March at the Anglican Communion Office in London, to plan for Lambeth 2020. The group, coming together for the first time, has been chaired by the Archbishop of Capetown, Thabo Makgoba, who described the initial sessions as “very encouraging.” Among those taking part were the Bishop of Nairobi, Joel Waweru Mwangi, the Bishop of Sabah, Melter Jiki Tais, the Bishop of Dallas, Dr. George Sumner, the Moderator of the Church of North India and Bishop of Amritsar, Pradeep Samantaroy, the Rev. Robert Heaney, Ph.D., D.Phil. of VTS, Mrs. Josephine Mujawiyera from Rwanda, and Ms. Cathrine Ngangira, a member of the Community of St Anselm at Lambeth Palace.

By the Rev. Robert Heaney, Ph.D., D.Phil.
Director, Center for Anglican Communion Studies

Sabbatical is grace and it is gift, and I have sought to make the time count for the development of my academic work and for the growing influence of our Center for Anglican Communion Studies (CACS). Alongside the completion of my next book, I have had exciting conversations with a range of partners and colleagues from across the Communion as we continue to work toward developing further resources that will equip Episcopalians to navigate these troublesome times.

In addition to my writing, it has been a joy to represent the Seminary in various settings and roles in the Anglican

Communion. I was invited to deliver lectures at the Corrymeela Community, Ireland; the Center for the Study of Christianity Worldwide, Cambridge, England; the Near East School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon; and Ming Hua College, Hong Kong. Along with meeting a number of very impressive scholars and religious leaders in these diverse locations, I also had the pleasure of preaching at the Cathedral in Hong Kong and in Auckland, New Zealand.

The first meeting of the Lambeth Conference design group met in London in March. The group is chaired by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba (Cape Town) and is made up of Anglican leaders from diverse contexts including Kenya, Malaysia, India, Rwanda, and

Zimbabwe. The theme that emerged for the 2020 conference was “God’s Church for God’s World,” and there remains much work to be done in planning how this theme takes programmatic shape for the bishops of the Communion. Differences were not ignored. Indeed, at several junctures, they were frankly and firmly articulated. This did not detract from a growing spirit of fellowship and trust within the group. If anything, it nourished a sense of camaraderie and purpose. By some estimates, Anglicanism will continue to experience strong growth globally, and by 2050 we will belong to a fellowship of 165 million sisters and brothers. It is imperative that along with such numerical growth there is growth in fellowship, understanding, and grace across differences. Pray that this group and this planning process will model such spiritual growth. Pray that the Lambeth Conference 2020 will be a moment in Anglican history in which we move towards deeper commitment to deeper communion.

The Fellows of CACS have each completed three year terms which means new Fellows will be appointed and will begin their work in September. I want to acknowledge their formative influence on the work and development of CACS. They have been a consistent source of encouragement and vision. Each has had remarkable success in his or her own right and within CACS. The Rev. Dr. William Sachs (CACS Fellow in World Anglicanism) continues his impressive scholarship of and for the Church. Most recently, he has edited a volume in the highly anticipated Oxford History of Anglicanism series. Dr. Zeyneb Sayilgan (CACS Fellow in Peace and Reconciliation), as well as completing her Ph.D. at Georgetown University, has also co-edited the book *Faithful Neighbors*. I am particularly delighted that the Rev. Ellie Sanderson (CACS Fellow in Public Theology) was ordained Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Wellington, New Zealand in June. I had the great honor and privilege to act as one of Ellie’s

referees in the nomination process. Most unfortunately, I did not make it to New Zealand in time for the consecration, but CACS was able to organize an event that honored Bishop Ellie in her diocese in June.

As my sabbatical draws to a close, I am looking forward to celebrating the Center’s 20th anniversary year (2017-2018). Please do keep in touch with the Seminary as news of celebratory events is announced. We are particularly pleased that our Presiding Bishop and the Secretary General of the Anglican Communion will



Dr. Heaney with his son.



Dr. Heaney (right) presenting CACS plaque to Archbishop Paul Kwong, as a sign of fellowship with Bishop Kwong’s leadership, not least as Chair of the Anglican Consultative Council.

be contributing to our year of celebration. The Secretary General, the Most Rev. Dr. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, will be hosted by CACS in November and will address the subject of “The Vibrancy of World Anglicanism.” The Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, will be hosted by CACS in February and will speak on the topic of “Why the Episcopal Church Needs World Anglicanism.”

The Rev. Melody Knowles, Ph.D., vice president for Academic Affairs, served as acting director of CACS during my sabbatical, and I am indebted to her for adding this responsibility to her already demanding leadership role. Both the CACS staff and I appreciated her exceptional vision and commitment to the ongoing work of the Center within the Seminary and within the wider Communion. □



Dr. Heaney with Florence Jee ('10).

Reflecting on Lady Gaga and Church

By the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D.
Dean and President



We all heard that Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta went to Church on Superbowl Sunday. She attended the 8:00 a.m. service at St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston, TX. And the Rector was our alum the Rev. Dr. Russ Levenson; his task that morning was to feed Lady Gaga. A week later, Russ seized on the moment to reflect in his sermon on the significance of the visit. He noted of all the guests that St. Martin’s has had over the years (the President, Secretary of State, a Prime Minister from England), the one that has provoked most interest was the visit of Lady Gaga. He said,

I have been stopped on my street, in the gym, in the men’s locker room at the gym . . . we were contacted by a writer from *Christianity Today* and *The Washington Post*. “Was Lady Gaga really at Church last week? Did she come with an entourage? What was she wearing? (. . . for the record . . . not what she wore in the half-time show). Did she take communion? What color was her hair?” So finally, I had my pat answer . . . “Yes . . . Lady Gaga was at Church last week . . . and so was Jesus. And actually, she came to see Him, not to be seen.”

Naturally, Lady Gaga’s faith journey gets attention. As Russ notes, “I know she’s taken some hits for saying she believes in God and Jesus.” And of course, there are the “Religionists” (as Russ calls them)—the self-righteous—who believe that only the really good should be in Church, who want to criticize Lady Gaga’s lifestyle and her willingness to go to Church.

But, explains Russ, the truth is we are all in need of Jesus. Russ was preaching on Matthew 5:21-37. There we find Jesus explaining that anger is equivalent to murder, looking at another with lust is equivalent to adultery, and swearing on anything is a result of being guided by the evil one. The point, explains Russ, is that none of us “make the cut.” The Religionists might tick the boxes, but their attitudes and dispositions are still destructive. None of us are perfect; all of us are frail and struggling.

The power of the liturgy of the Episcopal Church is that all the first half of service focuses on challenging us, inviting us to bring our failures to God, and seeking God’s forgiveness and healing. Russ explains:

I’ve sometimes joked here that the “peace” is ‘half-time’ in our liturgy—but it really is. The first part of our service—opening prayers, hymns, reading of Scripture, preaching, the Creed, the prayers, the confession—it is all designed to draw us away from those things that keep us from thinking we don’t need God and instead drive us to the point where we realize our utter dependence on His grace and mercy through Jesus Christ.

This “design” if you will of the liturgy in this way is to intentionally prepare one for the second part of the service—Holy Communion—a sacramental moment of connection with Jesus Christ and all the saints of God that have been, are and are yet to be.

“The power of the liturgy of the Episcopal Church is that all the first half of service focuses on challenging us, inviting us to bring our failures to God, and seeking God’s forgiveness and healing.”

Now if we are honest—it’s a show—but I don’t mean that in a negative way. We are still in the season of Epiphany—Epiphany means “revelation, manifestation,” it means “show . . .” Epiphany is a reminder that God is constantly calling us to show up that He may show Himself to us.

This Half Time Show is going on all the time—every minute of every day God is saying “Pause, look on me, see your need of Me.” Every time you show up here, God’s is already here; every time you get on your knees, God is already there; every time your life falls apart, God is there—Every time; all the time; everywhere—God is there.

If you believe yourself to be righteous—if you’ve convinced yourself that you have it altogether all the time, well then, I’m sorry—you are missing out; because Jesus Christ is the Great Healer—the Great Physician—but He does His healing not where all is pure and sterile; no—Jesus’ operating.

We have a resource—a resource that Lady Gaga has used and a resource that we all need. Russ concludes:

Well, so, yes—Lady Gaga was here in Church last week; so was Jesus. I suspect she may not come back—here at least, but He’s here today; and tomorrow, and all the days to come.

He’s here to let you know—that this is a place for sinners, like Lady Gaga; like you and me; this is a place of forgiveness, for you and me; this is a place where if your life is a total mess, you’ve come right where you should be; because Jesus is mighty skilled at dealing with garbage—and—*if for now at least*, things seem to be pretty good, you can still pause and make what’s left of life even better than it was before you walked in these doors . . .

My brothers and sisters, this is half-time for those who don’t make the cut; give your sin, your mess, your life to Him; you won’t believe how good the second half can be—it will just go on forever! *Amen.* □



The Rev. Dr. Russ Levenson, ('92), rector of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, TX

Highlights from the Alumni Office

Dear VTS Alumni,

I hope this finds each of you enjoying a slower pace this summer. While the pace is a bit more relaxed here on campus, we are also busily preparing for the 2017-2018 year. Here are some highlights for VTS alumni:

October 9, 2017: Alumni Class Reunion Celebration – Reception and Dinner honoring those whose graduation years end in “7” or “2.”

October 10-11: Alumni Convocation focusing on Diversity and Reconciliation with keynoter Dr. Christena Cleveland of Duke Divinity School.

October 11: Convocation concluding with a service of Dedication for the new St. Cyprian’s Labyrinth. Class gifts from both the Classes of 2009 and 2017 supported this long-awaited addition to campus.

April 14, 2018: Spring Alumni Picnic – Barbecue, refreshments, and fun for alumni families!

Alumni Regional Chapters: Throughout the year, chapter programs are scheduled

in various regions of the country. Please visit the website for schedule details: www.vts.edu/alumni/regional-chapters.

Please welcome the new Alumni Association Executive Committee (AAEC) officers for the 2017-2018 year:

President: The Rev. Bingham Powell ('07)

Vice President: Dr. Serena Beeks (D.Min., '09)

Secretary: The Rev. Christopher Miller ('15)

New AAEC members and the Board of Trustee member elected by alumni will be highlighted in the next issue of *News from the Hill*.

I want to thank the members of the AAEC whose terms ended on June 30: the Rev. Dorian Del Priore ('14); the Rev. Dr. Luis Leon ('77); the Very Rev. Troy D. Mendez ('09); Sharon Ely Pearson ('03); the Very Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf ('08); and the Rt. Rev. Dean E. Wolfe ('92). We are grateful for their service to the alumni and the Seminary.



VTS alumni at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, during the St. George's College course, *Women in the Bible: The Very Rev. Hosam Naoum ('10), The Rev. Mary Thorpe ('09), The Rev. Dr. Susan Lukens (D.Min. '11), The Most Rev. Suheil Duwani (H'06), and Shelagh Casey Brown, VTS Alumni Director.*

A reminder to all: Please keep us updated with new jobs, addresses, and emails. Drop a quick note to alumni@vts.edu.

As always, with blessings and deep thanks for your prayers and support of Virginia Theological Seminary!

Shelagh Casey Brown
Director of Alumni and Church Relations
703.461.1711; scbrown@vts.edu □

Alumni Picnic 2017



The Spring 2017 Alumni Picnic offered great food and conversation along with a lot of laughter and fun. Pictured left to right: Sarah Stonesifer leading the hula hooping fun; The Rev. Becky Zartman ('13) and her husband Joshua Easterson; and the Rev. Catherine Campbell ('88), VTS Trustee, and Dr. Stephen Cook, VTS Faculty.

Alumni on the Move

Please share your news with us!

Write:

3737 Seminary Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22304

E-mail: alumni@vts.edu

Call: 703-461-1711

Fax: 703-370-0138

E-mail address changes to: eosborn@vts.edu

1958

The Rev. **Herbert K. Lodder**, Associate Priest for Epiphany Episcopal Church, Dulaney Valley, Timonium, MD

1972

The Rt. Rev. **Clifton Daniel III**, Interim Dean for The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, New York, NY

1982

The Rev. **Charles M. Girardeau**, Priest-in-Charge for All Angels Episcopal Church, Eatonton, GA

1984

The Rev. Dr. **John D. Stonesifer**, Interim Rector for The Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest, IL

1986

The Rev. **Canon Carol Cole Flanagan**, Interim Rector for St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, Annandale, VA

1986

The Rev. **Linda M. Kaufman**, National Movement Manager for Community Solutions, Washington, DC

1989

The Rev. **Cynthia C. Knapp**, Rector for Christ Episcopal Church, Macon, GA

1989

The Rev. **Sherry Hardwick Thomas**, Missional Priest-in-Charge for Christ Church, Roxbury, CT

1989

The Rev. **John C. Whitnah, Jr.**, Senior Associate for Church of the Good Samaritan, Paoli, PA

1992

The Rev. **Vaughan P. L. Booker**, Priest-in-Charge for St. Philip the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Washington, DC

1992

Cdr. **David B. Thames**, Deputy Fleet Chaplain for U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, VA

1992

The Rt. Rev. **Dean E. Wolfe**, Rector for St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, New York, NY

1994

The Rev. **William L. Queen, Jr.**, Interim Rector for Christ & Grace Episcopal Church, Petersburg, VA

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Keeping In Touch



www.vts.edu

The official website for Virginia Theological Seminary.

News from the Hill

The Seminary's newsletter for supporters of VTS. Published three times a year, in March, July, and November.

Episcopal Teacher

The magazine for the Center for the Ministry of Teaching. Published three times a year.

The Annual Report

The Seminary's annual report is published once per year for alumni and friends. Published every December.

The eNews

Monthly updates about happenings at VTS. The first day of each month.

The Dean's Commentary

Daily updates from Dean Markham and/or guest contributors. Daily, Monday-Friday

Online Resources

- www.keyhallonline.com
- www.buildfaith.org
- www.eformationvts.org

You can also find us on:



Alumni on the Move (continued)

1995

The Rev. **Elizabeth T. Greenman**, Assisting Priest for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Newport News, VA

1996

The Rev. **Alan C. James, Priest** Associate for St. James' Cathedral, Chicago, IL

1996

The Rev. **Milton C. Williams, Jr.**, Rector for St. Francis' Episcopal Church, Greensboro, NC

1998

The Rev. Dr. **Jennifer Glaze Montgomery**, Priest-in-Charge for Trinity Episcopal Church, Newtown, CT

1999

The Rev. **R. Lindsley Walton**, Director of Pastoral Services for Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, Asheville, NC

2001

The Rev. Dr. **Mary Jayne Ledgerwood**, Interim Rector for St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Greenville, AL

2003

The Rev. **J. Michael Cadaret**, Interim Rector for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Mount Jackson, VA

2005

The Rev. **J. Scott Walters**, Rector for Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN

2007

The Rev. **Peter Carey**, Rector for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA

2007

The Rev. Dr. **Eric J. Liles**, Associate for Formation for St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Dallas, TX

2007

The Rev. **Steven J. Pankey**, Rector for Christ Episcopal Church, Bowling Green, KY

2008

The Rev. **Frederick C. Clarkson**, Spanish-Language Ministry Coordinator for Diocese of East Carolina, Kinston, NC

2008

The Rev. **Thomas L. Wilson**, Chaplain for Bishop Gadsden Retirement Community, Charleston, SC

2009

The Rev. **Leigh E. Hall**, Rector for Church of St. Nicholas-on-the-Hudson, Wappingers Falls, NY

2010

The Rev. **Philip H. DeVaul**, Rector for Church of the Redeemer, Cincinnati, OH

2010

The Rev. **Brian W. Turner**, Vicar for Church of the Blessed Redeemer, Palm Bay, FL



2011

The Rev. Fr. **Wiley Ammons**, Rector for Church of the Redeemer, Jacksonville, FL

2011

The Rev. **David L. Erickson**, Rector for St. Mary the Virgin Church, San Francisco, CA

The Rev. **Amelie A. Wilmer**, Priest-in-Charge for St. John's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA

2012

The Rev. **Christopher A. Cole**, Associate to the Rector for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA

The Rev. **Stephen Y. McGehee**, Associate Rector for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA

The Rev. **Leslie Charlotte Nunez Steffensen**, Bishop Suffragan for Armed Services & Federal Ministries for Episcopal Church Ctr., Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society, Washington, DC

The Rev. **Lara C. Shine Stroud**, Pioneer Priest for Diocese of St. Asaph, Ministry Area of Estuary and Mountain, Wales, UK

The Rev. **Shawn O. Strout**, Assistant Priest for St. Paul's Parish K Street, Washington, DC

2013

The Rev. **Christopher Easthill**, Rector for Church of St. Augustine of Canterbury, Germany

The Rev. **Elizabeth B. Gardner**, Acting Missioner for Young Adults and Campus Ministries, Diocese of Washington, Washington, DC

The Rev. **Patrick J. Williams**, Interim Pastor for St. Philip's Episcopal Church, New York, NY

2014

The Rev. **Canon M. Dorian Del Priore**, Canon for Parish Life for Trinity Cathedral, Columbia, SC

The Rev. **E. Weston Mathews**, Rector for Grace Episcopal Church, The Plains, VA

2014 (cont.)

The Rev. **Sarah Saxe**,
Rector for Zion Episcopal
Church, Washington, NC

The Rev. **Amy A. Slater**,
Associate to the Rector for
St. Mary's Episcopal Church,
Arlington, VA

The Rev. **Daniel Stroud**,
Rector for Diocese of St.
Asaph, Bro Famau Parishes,
Wales, UK

2015

The Rev. **Emmett B.
Anderson, Jr.**, Parish
Priest, St. Mary's Episcopal
Church, Washington, DC

The Rev. **Steven M. Balke**,
Rector for St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church,
Beaumont, TX

The Rev. **Canon Connor
B. Gwin**, Canon for Social
Engagement & Christian
Formation for the Diocese
of Southwestern Virginia,
Roanoke, VA

The Rev. **Christine D. Hord**,
Priest-in-Charge for St.
John's Episcopal Church,
Pensacola, FL

The Rev. **Christopher
H. Miller**, Rector for
Immanuel Episcopal Church,
Mechanicsville, VA

2017

The Rev. **Tony Anderson**,
Curate for St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church,
Omaha, NE

The Rev. **Raphiell
Ashford**, Vicar and
Diocesan Missioner for St.
Christopher's Episcopal
Church, Jackson, MS

The Rev. **Kyle Babin**,
Assistant to the Rector for
St. Peter's in the Great
Valley, Malvern, PA

The Rev. **Robin Denney**,
Associate for Christian
Formation for St. Cross
Episcopal Church, Hermosa
Beach, CA

The Rev. **Taylor Devine**,
Curate for St. Philip's in the
Hills Episcopal Church,
Tucson, AZ

Wadie Far, Associate for
St. Phillip Church, Nablus,
West Bank



The Rev. **Samantha
Gottlich**, Curate for St.
Mark's Episcopal Church,
Houston, TX

Dr. **Janice Hicks**, Chaplain
Resident for the Hospital
of the University of
Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, PA

The Rev. **Rebecca Kello**,
Associate Rector and
Chaplain to WKU for Christ
Episcopal Church,
Bowling Green, KY

Meredith Maple, Youth
Director for St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church,
Springfield, VA

The Rev. **Erin Maxfield-
Steele**, Curate for Church
of the Good Shepherd,
Cashiers, NC

The Rev. **William Packard**,
Assistant to the Rector
for St. David's Episcopal
Church, Ashburn, VA

The Rev. **Pilar Padrón**,
Associate Rector for
Grace Episcopal Church,
Kilmarnock, VA

The Rev. **Matthew Rhodes**,
Deacon-in-Charge for
Christ Church, Millwood, VA

The Rev. **Jason Roberson**,
Curate & Deacon for Holy
Cross Faith Memorial,
Pawleys Island, SC

The Rev. **Michael Sahdev**,
Associate Rector for St.
Philip's Episcopal Church,
Coral Gables, FL

The Rev. **Andrew Scott**,
Curate for St. John's
Episcopal Church,
Tulsa, OK

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Alumni on the Move (continued)

2017 (cont.)

The Rev. **Serena Sides**,
Assistant Rector for Christ
Church, Washington Parish,
Washington, DC

The Rev. **Mose (Worth)
Stuart**, Curate for The
Church Of The Holy
Apostles,
Hoover, AL

The Rev. **Stephen Tamke**,
Curate for St. John's of
Lattingtown Episcopal
Church, Locust Valley, NY

The Rev. **Teresa F. Terry**,
Rector for Christ Episcopal
Church, Milford, DE

The Rev. **Naomi Tutu**,
Curate for Christ Church
Cathedral, Nashville, TN

The Rev. **Alyse Viggiano**,
Curate for St. Paul's
Episcopal Church,
Alexandria, VA

The Rev. **Timothy Watt**,
Assistant Rector for
Digital Mission & Young
Adult Ministry for St.
John's Episcopal Church,
Washington, DC

The Rev. Dr. **Helen E. Van
Koevering**, Priest for St.
Stephen's Episcopal Church,
Beckley, WV

Dr. **Kenneth Willy**,
Headmaster for Oak Hall
Episcopal School,
Ardmore, OK

Save the Dates

2017

August 29
A Taste of the Evening School (Fall)

September 11
Zabriskie Lecture with
Susan Gillingham

October 9
Alumni Reunions

October 10-11
Alumni Convocation and
Sprigg Lecture with
Christena Cleveland

October 11
Dedication of St. Cyprian's Labyrinth

October 26-November 3
Merrow Fellow lectures with
Shunila Ruth

November 6-9
Fall Phonathon

November 10
Fall Visit Day

November 8-10
Costan Lectures with
Christopher Beeley

November 15
Mollegen Lecture with
Josiah Idowu-Fearon: "The Vitality of
World Anglicanism"
*Kick-off for the 20th anniversary of
the Center for Anglican Communion
Studies Celebration*

December 3
Advent Lessons & Carols with the
awarding of the Dean's Cross

2018

January 12-13
eFormation 2018

January 16
A Taste of the Evening School (Spring)

February 1
The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry:
"Why the Episcopal Church Needs
World Anglicanism"



*Bishop Michael Curry
The 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate
of The Episcopal Church*

February 16-18
Spring Visit Weekend

April 4-5
Martin Luther King Commemoration

April 9
Christ Church Oxford Choir

April 9-11
Spring Phonathon

April 14
Alumni Picnic

May 17
The 195th Commencement

*Visit www.vts.edu for our up-to-date
calendar.*



The Annual Fund: Seasons of Impact

By Jennifer Greiner
Director of the Annual Fund

We came into summer with the happy news that we exceeded our Annual Fund goal for the fiscal year ended on June 30. Thank you to all who made an Annual Fund gift in fiscal year 2017. Your gifts continue to work and make an impact on the Seminary through the days of summer and beyond.

As you can imagine, as an academic institution, VTS naturally takes on a different pace during the summer months.

Some students and their families remained on campus in our new additional student housing. We also welcomed our Doctor of Ministry students, along with participants in Deep Calls to Deep: An Initiative to Strengthen the Quality of Preaching funded by the Lilly Endowment.

The holiness of the Seminary is a gift every day of the year, but during the summer, we breathe it with freshly mowed grass and plenty of sunshine. Our history surrounds us through each season, and reminds us of our deep connection to those who came before us and to the traditions that ground us.

Summer is a perfect time to visit. Join us on campus. Come and experience (or re-experience) the holiness and history of this special place, and see the impact of your prayers and generosity. Visit the Chapel, walk the new labyrinth, explore the Bishop Payne Library, or have a drink and a meal at Café 1823. Be sure to visit the 3,000-year-old Assyrian reliefs in our library, or sit in the shade of our old campus trees while you reflect on our past and imagine our future.

Your impact is here summer, fall, winter, and spring. Your prayers and financial support matter in all seasons. Please continue giving to the Annual Fund in this new fiscal year so that we can continue to inform and inspire thousands of clergy and lay leaders who access the resources we provide with your help all year. □



Two days before Commencement, the Class of 2017 visit the completed St. Cyprian's Labyrinth.

Photo: Shawn Evelyn ('19)

Sabbatical Reflections on “Vocation”

Greetings from my sabbatical! I am most grateful for this grace-filled time. The quintessential American essayist and poet, Wendell Berry, has written that “the old and honorable idea of ‘vocation’ is simply that we each are called, by God, or by our gifts, or by our preference, to a kind of good work for which we are particularly suited.” My sabbatical has been a sacred time to reflect on the “kind of good work” to which I have given my life and have been “particularly suited.” I hasten to add that it is “good” work because of God’s grace not because of anything I have been or done.

My sabbatical reflections on “vocation” have had many dimensions. In February Linda and I led a 14-day pilgrimage with 20 close friends to Israel and Jordan. We began as dear friends and, mercifully, we came home dear friends. In March the highlight was going to every game of the ACC Tournament in Brooklyn, of all places. Of course, Duke won it all and that pleased those of us with Duke Blue blood.

In April, I traveled to England with Dean Markham to observe the progress on the stained glass windows which will be placed in the three oculi in Immanuel Chapel. The artist is Brian Clarke, the Louis Comfort Tiffany of his generation. These abstract windows will “interpret” the Holy Trinity and add a rich palette of colors to our chapel. The five-layered windows will be translucent which means the sculpted light of the space will only be enhanced.

May and June have been consumed with details regarding the transition of our daughter, Ellen, from her group home residence in Alexandria to a new group home residence in Easley, SC. Easley is a suburb of Greenville and down the mountain from our place at Caesar’s Head which has been home base for the last 25 years. This is an exciting time—but bittersweet as Ellen leaves friends and a job she has enjoyed for ten years.

July was the actual moving of Ellen. No small chore.



The Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D. (far right) at the ACC tournament with his son, Crawford, and wife, Linda.

In the midst of these sabbatical adventures, I have been about my “vocation” of writing. *Words That Listen* is going to press soon. I am also working on *From Groundbreaking to Consecration*, the monograph which completes the story of building Immanuel Chapel. Finally, I am organizing a small book for Church Publishing on sacred space.

The grace of sabbatical has been a gift which keeps on giving. I have greatly enjoyed curating (photos, descriptions and commentaries) our collection of 150+ crèches—a monumental undertaking which has taken lots of my time and Linda’s. We have also expanded our mountain garden and that work has truly been “good work.” It all began in a garden!



Ellen Hawkins.

I look forward to being on campus, in Oakwood, at my desk and out and about for VTS as of the first day of September. I have a grateful heart, living daily this “old and honorable idea of ‘vocation’” which I have been given.

The Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D.
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
The Arthur Carl Lichtenberger Professor in Pastoral Theology and Continuing Education



“The Time Is Right”

Immediately following his return from sabbatical in January, Dean Markham made a point to visit all of the departments and centers on campus. On several of those visits he brought along video cameras, and (inspired by a video produced by St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes’ School) performed alongside Seminary employees for a music video. A celebration of the shared work life together, the final video debuted on May 24 (Employee Appreciation Day) and within the first week it had over 1,000 views.

“I am grateful for this remarkable group of women and men and their dedication to this place,” said Dean Markham. “I pray for you all often.”

Special thanks to videographer and editor Vinh Si Ngo. All of our videos are available on the Seminary’s official YouTube channel, linked from the VTS homepage: www.vts.edu.





Virginia Theological Seminary
3737 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

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2017 Alumni Convocation and Sprigg Lectures Diversity and Reconciliation

October 10–11, 2017

FEATURING KEYNOTER DR. CHRISTENA CLEVELAND, DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Dr. Christena Cleveland is an associate professor of the Practice of Organizational Studies at Duke University's Divinity School. Named by *Christianity Today* as one of 33 millennials leading the next generation of Christian faith, she is also the author of *Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart*.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Off-campus visits** to local museums and historical sites related to diversity and reconciliation
- Concurrent **workshop** offerings
- The **Dedication of St. Cyprian's Labyrinth** (given by the Classes of 2009 and 2017)
- **Class Reunions Reception and Dinner** on Monday, October 9, 6:00 p.m.

REGISTER TODAY at www.vts.edu/alumni

