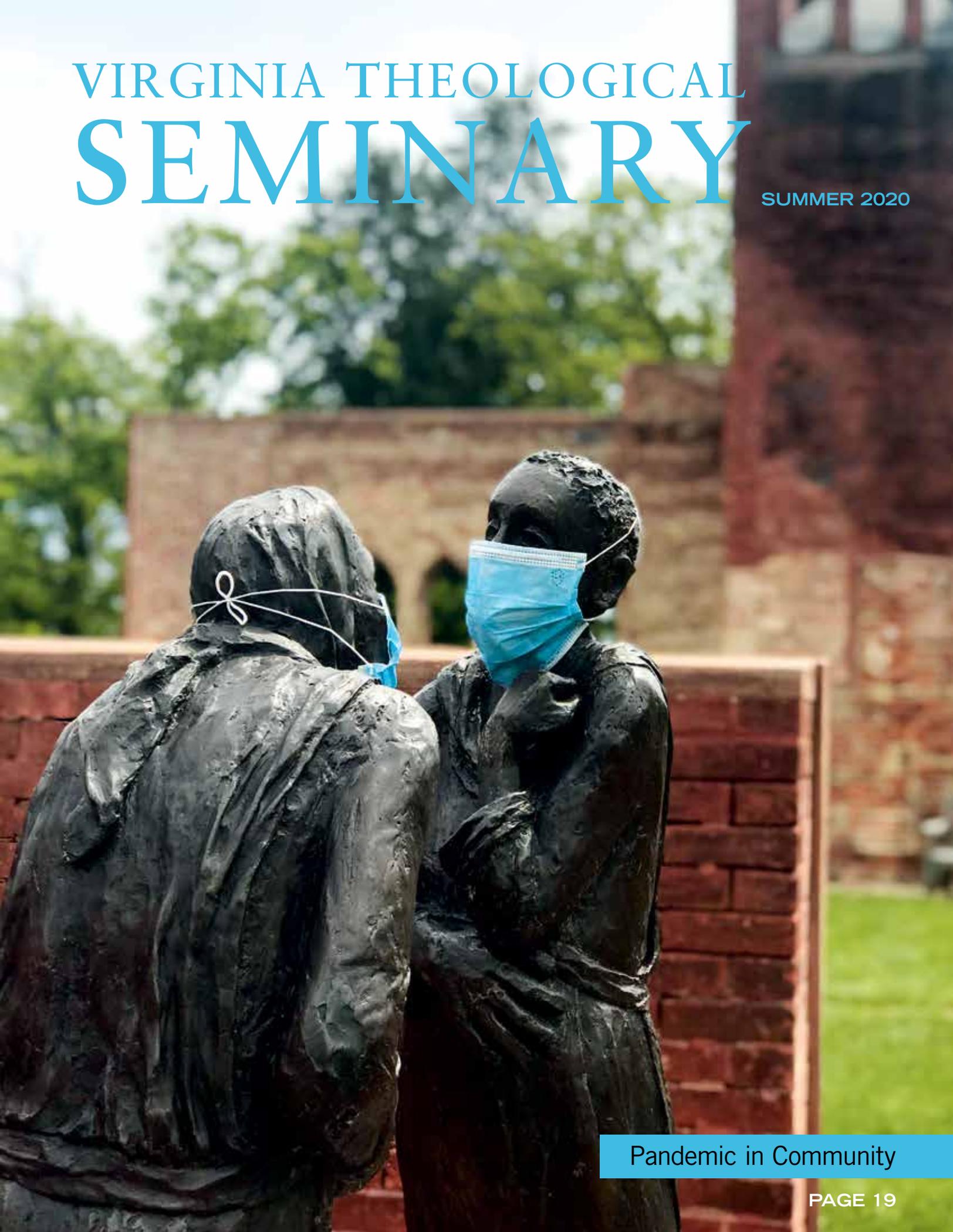


VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SUMMER 2020



Pandemic in Community

PAGE 19

Table of Contents

PHOTO: CURTIS PRATHER



On Tuesday, February 11, 2020, the “public phase” of the Seminary’s Capital Campaign kicked off in the newly renamed Coffield Refectory.

Features

19 Pandemic in Community

The challenges and triumphs of a residential community facing the unexpected together.

28 Digitization of Student Records

The evolving capacity of the digital landscape provides the Seminary needed solutions.

32 Msalato Theological College

The importance of maintaining strong partnerships with our sisters and brothers from across the globe.

36 The Coffield Refectory

The spectacular renovations of the Refectory, Scott Lounge, 1823, and the kitchen were well past due.

Virginia Theological Seminary Magazine is published three times per year (January, July, and October) for alumni and friends by the Communications Office, Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. Editorial comments should be directed to editor@vts.edu.



PHOTO: CURTIS PRATHER

“Behind the scenes photo” of the Rev. Kate Sonderegger, Ph.D., the William Meade Professor of Systematic Theology, from the online Commencement service.

26

**ON THE COVER**

Just outside the 1881 Chapel Garden is the sculpture “Mary as Prophet—’He has filled the hungry with good things’ Luke 1:52.” VTS commissioned this work of art, which depicts Mary at the moment of prophecy with Elizabeth reaching out to protect her. Consecrated by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2015, the sculpture, by Mary Margret “Peggy” Parker, was given a 2016 Honor Award by Faith & Form. In the spring of 2020, images that appeared online of “Mary” and “Elizabeth” wearing masks helped unite the Seminary community, both on and off the Holy Hill, during the pandemic.

Photo: Christin Lazo

Departments

- 4 Dean’s Message
- 10 Faculty News
- 16 On Holy Hill
- 22 Academic Affairs and Student Life
- 24 Scene at VTS
- 26 Commencement 2020
- 30 Center for Anglican Communion Studies
- 34 Lifelong Learning
- 38 Advancing VTS
- 40 Alumni News & Notes
- 46 In Memoriam
- 47 Board of Trustees

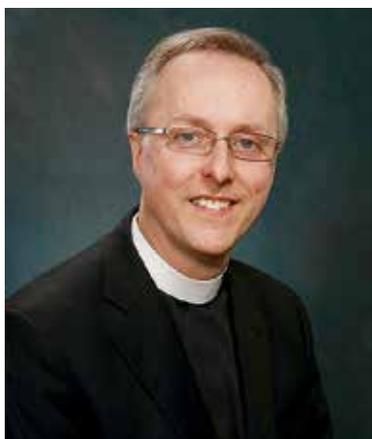


VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

THESE DESPERATE TIMES

This Extraordinary Season

There have been tears and many sleepless nights. The spring and summer of 2020 will be long remembered. From pandemic to violent racism, it has been a brutal time.



The world watched as the life was crushed out of Mr. George Floyd. We all learned anew that America is not a safe place for African Americans. Jogging can be dangerous; sleeping in your own home can be dangerous; and a trivial infraction—perhaps a counterfeit \$20 bill—can be a death sentence. The result of Mr. Floyd’s death was an eruption of

deep-seated anger; protests from city to city; non-violent demonstrations; and, yes, to some, looting.

After consulting with key colleagues Vice President Jacqui Ballou, MBA, the Rev. Joseph Thompson, Ph.D., and the Rev. Judy Fentress-Williams, Ph.D., this statement was issued and shared on June 1:

“I can’t breathe, sir.” This was George Floyd’s plea. This is too poignant for words. If one Black man in our country cannot breathe, then none of us can breathe.

As we live through this painful moment, it seems that our country is at a tipping point. Yet again, racism has been ruthlessly exposed. A Black life was taken in less than nine minutes. This cannot be.

The history of brutal and violent actions against persons of color is the history of us all. We all must do the work of self-examination. We must examine our tendency for racial bias and prejudice. Change must come. We cannot go on as we are.

Some are desperate for the protests and riots to stop. The preferred way forward for many is for no demonstrations and for the racial status quo to continue. This cannot be the outcome. We need leadership in this country that creates a social contract between the protesters and the white majority which will deliver a transformation of structural racism in our economic structures; in policing; in the criminal justice system; in education; in health treatment; in housing; and in voting.

If our country is to be transformed, all institutions need to play their part. We must transform The Episcopal Church and Virginia Theological Seminary, so we can truly recognize our racism and our support for unjust structures.

May George Floyd rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for his soul and his family. We pray for change. We pray for our country. We pray for our own households. I pray that we will do the hard work of self-examination and transformation.

The demon of racism is not just “out there.” The Seminary is not immune from racism. Repeatedly, we have been reminded by our students of color that VTS can be a hard place to be. “White students have been physically distancing from me for some time,” one African American student recently told me. This moment was an important reminder that I must continue to work to make this place what it ought to be. The white majority does not realize just how insensitive we can be. In the world of assumptions, actions, and practices, we assume a normal that is just white.

The dying words of George Floyd are a challenge to this seminary. We all have work we must do.



PHOTOS: CURTIS PRATHER AND THE REV. PAUL BENNETT '20



The death of Mr. Floyd and its aftermath were in the context of a worldwide pandemic. COVID-19 is constantly changing reality. This is a complex narrative.

Many decisions which we find ourselves having to make are finely balanced—perhaps the other option would have been wiser. Employees are worried about their job security. Among the students, those with a higher tolerance for risk want more options for worship (perhaps an outside, physical distancing Eucharist); others wanted to follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines to the letter. The details are many: What about the dog park? Do we close the campus to guests? How do we provide for those international students who cannot fly home? What do we say to the employee needed on campus who is afraid to come to work? What plans can we make for the future? What will the endowment, our major source of income, look like?

In the pandemic moment, there are different roles to play. Sometimes, I am the pastor who needs to reassure the employees about an unknown future, while not misleading them. I am also the pastor who consoles the graduating students who are deeply disappointed that the beautiful end of year ritual of Commencement was not happening as planned. Sometimes, I am the leader with an obligation to bequeath to the future the comparably strong institution that those from the past worked so hard to establish. Sometimes, I am the priest who needs to make sure that the work of formation in community continues to happen on the campus. Sometimes, I am the systematics professor who needs to educate in the hardest of times.

On a personal level, I am the father whose heart breaks as he hears that his son has been laid off. I am the son-in-law who is worried about his elderly mother-in-law, isolated in her room at Goodwin House where there are cases of COVID-19. And through it all, I need to pray and walk closely with God.

This editorial is being written in June; it will be read in July or August, and we cannot be sure what will happen in the intervening weeks. We postponed publishing the spring issue of the *Virginia Theological Seminary Magazine* to the summer in order to capture the impacts of the George Floyd tragedy and this COVID-19 period, up to and even beyond Commencement. Rarely has life been so complex and difficult on the Holy Hill.

It was on January 30, 2020, that I wrote the first Dean's Commentary (my daily blog on the VTS website) about the coronavirus. Given our close connection to Ming Hua

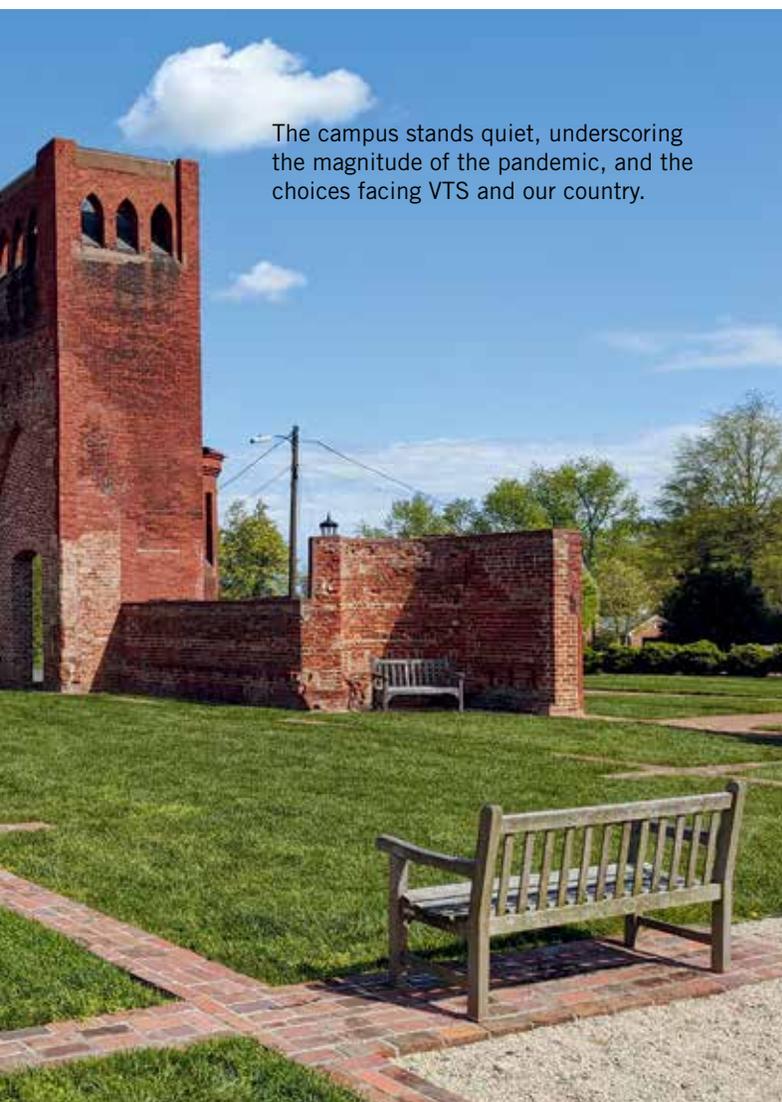
Theological College in Hong Kong, we were tracking closely this new potential pandemic. I stressed the mantra that has become a central part of our lives—"wash your hands for at least 20 seconds." But, I confess, I did not expect the drama that has now unfolded.

The Board of Trustees approved a strategic plan, which was set to carry us through to 2023 (our Bicentennial). We began the implementation work in 2018. We had a capital campaign planned. We had campus construction projects, which began with Bicentennial Hall and include the Refectory, Addison Academic Center, the Bishop Payne Library, the Welcome Center, and finally, the Deanery. We rolled out a new financial aid package. We anticipated a season of inconvenience as we lived without



a Refectory and Addison. But we also assumed a joyful reentry to Coffield Refectory in February 2020, and then into Addison in May 2020. We had many well thought-out plans.

One lesson from this moment is that human agency is very limited. For people of faith, this is a fundamental assumption; but, occasionally, we get a brutal reminder. A virus is indifferent to our plans. As the coronavirus moved around the globe, it wreaked havoc in human communities. People become ill and, sadly, many have died. Over 133,000 and climbing in the U.S. alone. Hospitals have been overwhelmed. Unemployment has touched every family, and fear and anxiety became the norm. In the immortal words of W. H. Auden, it is an “age of anxiety.”



The campus stands quiet, underscoring the magnitude of the pandemic, and the choices facing VTS and our country.

Messages from the Board of Trustees were shared with staff during a Zoom meeting.



Our own COVID-19 story at the Seminary started early.

An Episcopal parish in Georgetown had the first local case. They were featuring VTS faculty in their Lenten series. So, an initial group of students and faculty went into voluntary quarantine as soon as the news was shared. Then, the organist from the same congregation, who played for a VTS service in the Chapel, tested positive for COVID-19. Another group of students, staff, and faculty went into voluntary quarantine. We were disciplined and responsible. Two seminarians, already in quarantine, tested positive for COVID-19. The tally for the Seminary (as of this writing) from this Episcopal parish trajectory of the coronavirus was 2 seminarians, 1 student spouse, and 1 part-time staff member testing positive—and at its highest point, 53 people in voluntary quarantine.

Along with the rest of America, VTS started to “shelter in place” in mid-March. All employees were required either to work remotely or to participate in online training. The sole exceptions were essential services: the Facilities team continued to come to campus to address emergencies and make necessary repairs; and one Hospitality employee worked daily with students to receive and distribute mail and packages.

All classes went online. Chapel went online. The Senior Sermon became a Zoom sermon. When Ralph Northam, the governor of Virginia, announced that the state should “shelter in place” until June 10, Commencement and our doctoral degree summer programming went online.

Along with all congregations, dioceses and schools, we have seen our budget take a hit. Rental income disappeared; we had no tuition revenue for The Butterfly House, our on-site childcare center; and our Annual Fund giving was impacted.

FROM THE DEAN

We informed the Board that we were likely looking at a deficit for 2020-21 of \$325,000. Our endowment fell; and the COLA (cost of living allowance) was removed from next year's budget. We guaranteed positions until the end of the fiscal year (June 30); we are still not sure what it would look like in the fall after this has gone to print.

It is a deeply humbling experience. We like to imagine that we can control events. We like to believe that we anticipate problems. We like to imagine that if we are responsible and careful, then we can cope with anything. The truth is that we are small and every moment of "normality" in 2019 and before were extraordinary gifts (even if we did not see it at the time).

The text of Scripture assumes a backdrop where human life is vulnerable, where life expectancy is short, and where you never know from which direction the next challenge will come. "Taking up our cross and following our Lord" was, in the New Testament, a literal invitation to martyrdom. This is a moment when we are being moved to read Scripture as countless Christians have read Scripture in centuries past and around the globe today; we are reading Scripture from the vantage point of anxiety, fear and vulnerability.

Paul writes in II Corinthians 4: "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies." There is no promise in Scripture that we are not going to be afflicted, or perplexed, or persecuted, or struck down. But the promise of Scripture is that, through the grace of God, we will not be crushed, not driven to despair, not forsaken, and not destroyed.

It is true that the community of VTS has not be crushed, not driven to despair, not forsaken, and not destroyed. There has

been considerable grace in this moment. Students provided community to each other. Three videos of "hymns of isolation" were created. A parody newsletter, called *These Desperate Times*, was published. The TryTank offered "Dial-a-Priest," a service to the sick and dying, made possible by



a hundred clergy around the country who were willing to answer the call. Lifelong Learning delivered their digital expertise and created rich, imaginative programming viewed by literally hundreds of people. The library provided daily Zoom consultations to help seminarians access electronic resources. Formation and ministry have continued at Virginia Theological Seminary.

There have been countless signs of grace and hope both on campus and beyond.

Julia Domenick '22 was an ER nurse before she came to VTS. When she could this spring, headed to a New Jersey hospital and then to an Alexandria emergency room to do her part while she finished her classes online. She was our connection to the frontline care givers in this moment who have shown dedication and determination to heal others, even while putting their own health at risk. Julia was also present in Lafayette Square when peaceful protesters were removed to enable the president to walk to St. John's Church for a photo opportunity.



Julia Domenick's send-off to NJ to help treat COVID-19 patients.

Our alums have been imaginative. Facebook Live worship, Zoom meetings, and virtual coffee hours have been provided. Countless statements have been made in response to the tragic murder of George Floyd. I sense a deeper commitment to make a difference for justice than I have ever felt before. We must insure that Mr. George Floyd did not die in vain.

Our Bicentennial is recognition of our 200 years of service. That is a very long time. This is not the first time when the campus of the Seminary has felt more different than usual. During the Civil War, professors left the campus and moved the Seminary to rural Virginia. The actual campus became a hospital for Union armies. As we live through this moment, we look at the past with new eyes. In a small way, we relate to and understand the fear and anxiety that must have been present for people in the 1860s. Like them, we are not sure how long this will last; like them, we do not know when

we can return to a pre-COVID-19 normal if we can. More importantly, the racism that gave us the Civil War continues to be a challenge for us today.

Marking the Bicentennial is a moment when we look closely at the journey VTS has made. We remain fortunate in many ways. The Board leadership is strong. We continue to attract talented and able students. We have dedicated, faithful faculty and staff. We are continuing (even in a pandemic) to place our graduates. Our alums are praying for us and supporting us. We have friends who are continuing to send us gifts. With a campus which is less crowded, the construction workers have continued to progress the campus construction projects. (Interestingly, the construction workers were considered by Governor Northam to be providing an essential service). We have been

overwhelmed with applicants for the fall. We are definitely “not crushed, not driven to despair, not forsaken, and not destroyed.” Our hearts are grateful, even as we are sad.

We are all learning to live that “the future is in the Lord’s hands.” We are all learning to trust anew. In so far as we make plans, we do so with some humility, even some anxiety. Yet, plan we must. Classes will need an online option. Chapel and lunch will be offered in shifts with appropriate physical

distancing. Masks might well become a 2021 norm. Handshakes are probably a greeting, which will be left in the past. Our responsibility in this season is simple: we keep our eyes on Christ. Christ is our model; Christ is our support; Christ is our guide. In the words of St. Patrick of Ireland (5th century), as 21st century Christians, we pray: “Christ in me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left.”

Please pray for the Seminary. We will make decisions prayerfully. We seek to help others as we trust that others will seek to help us. We seek to participate in a future that is different from the past—a future where all of God’s people, especially those minorities of color, are honored in this Seminary and in this world.



PHOTO: ANDREW LAZO



Dean Markham films part of the 2020 Commencement service, which premiered on YouTube and Facebook Live on May 14, 2020.

PHOTO: CURTIS PRATHER

May God be with us all in this extraordinary season.

Yours, as ever, in our Lord Jesus,

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

In these challenging times, we are grateful to the hard-working staff of the Bishop Payne Library (BPL). Under the direction of Head Librarian, Mitzi Budde, D.Min., the library staff has displayed a great creativity and ingenuity in suddenly shifting into an entirely e-resource, remote-access environment. They have quickly responded to student and faculty inquiries, offering daily Zoom online office hours and providing guides to e-resources through the BPL

interlibrary loan services to provide research resources.

When it reopens in 2021, the Bishop Payne Library will provide new spaces for a variety of learning styles and collaboration and create a library commons area; increase accessibility, modernize infrastructure, added fire suppression systems, and integrate technology into learning spaces; preserve the collections, increase space for archives and rare books,



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:

Mitzi Budde, D.Min

By Christin Lazo, Communications Assistant

Facebook page. They have designed a Brightspace virtual library space and sponsored an “I Miss My Library” contest for National Library Week—all while preparing for the library’s big move this summer.

In order to make long overdue renovations to the library, all operations and a core print collection of 15,000–20,000 books will be relocated to the Welcome Center during the 2020–2021 academic year. (The bulk of the print collections will go into storage). Library staff will continue to experiment with innovative new ways of providing services to the community. They will also draw upon their partnerships with the libraries of the Washington Theological Consortium and

and celebrate the African American Episcopal Historical Collection.

“It’s going to be amazing!” says Budde, who came to VTS in 1991 before being promoted to head librarian and associate professor in 1997, and head librarian and professor in 2003. At the May 2020 meeting of the Board of Trustees, she was promoted to the Arthur Carl Lichtenberger Chair in Continuing Education and Theological Research. The chair was created in 1966 to honor the Most Rev. Arthur Carl Lichtenberger, the 21st presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, and was last held by the Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D., from 2013–2017. With this chair, VTS honors Budde’s lifelong leadership of the continuing education of VTS students and the

larger public through the accumulation, conservation, and ongoing access to the best resources for theological research.

In the midst of all the changes and challenges, Budde has authored a number of books on/for prison ministry and participated in local outreach to the incarcerated and their families.

“Statistics show that nearly half of Americans know someone who is or has been in prison. But the stigma is such that we don’t share that in church or even with our friends. So, we may think we don’t know anyone who is serving time or who has served time, when in fact, we almost certainly do,” Budde observes. “And any of us could find ourselves incarcerated, right? It’s so easy to drive distracted, sneaking a quick text message or email at 70 miles per hour—and

you could easily have hit and killed a biker or jogger in that moment of inattention. Or drive home from a dinner party where you know you drank too much, or whatever we might be tempted to do that could turn catastrophic in a moment of inattention or distraction or rage.”

She says it is truly astonishing to realize how much the Bible talks about caring for those who are imprisoned. “And Jesus calls us to visit those who in prison as if we are visiting Jesus himself. After all, we Christians follow a Savior who was himself convicted by the state and sentenced to the death penalty.”

Budde discovered her passion for prison ministry after serving as co-chair of a two-year dialogue of the Faith and Order Convening Table of the National Council of Churches on

the theological issues around mass incarceration. That study resulted in the published collection of dialogue essays: *Thinking Theologically about Mass Incarceration: Biblical Foundations and Justice Imperatives* (Paulist Press, 2017), to which Budde contributed.

“As we worked on this project, I became convicted (pun intended) that I couldn’t lead a study on mass incarceration just as a concept; I needed a connection with real people serving time in the criminal justice system,” she says.

She signed up to join a group of about twenty volunteers—including students, staff, faculty, and alumni—who lead a Bible study/art program provided by the Seminary every week, year-round, for women incarcerated at the William



G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center in Alexandria. It has been a profound and life changing experience.

“Both the biggest challenge and greatest blessing is that of any ministry with people you care about—being fully present to the people you engage with, knowing that you can’t fix their lives or their problems,” she observes. “All you have to offer is accompaniment: walking together with them for a short time, sharing about your own encounters of God and hearing how they are encountering God. Studying the Bible together and listening to the way they are making connections between Scripture and God and the circumstances of their lives. It is such a great privilege!”

In December 2017, Budde was invited by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to serve as project manager, co-editor, and contributing writer for a prison prayer book resource for the church, *Hear My Voice: A Prison Prayer Book* (Augsburg Fortress, 2019). The writing team included Budde and the Rev. Beth Bingham '17, as well as a currently incarcerated person, a formerly incarcerated person, people with experience in prison and reentry ministries, and people with gifts in liturgical writing.

“The purpose of the prayer book is to give voice to God’s presence to those in jails, prisons, and detention centers; those facing arrest and sentencing; those serving time,” says Budde. “We framed the prayer book with the liturgical year, to connect the themes of the season and events of Jesus’ life to the particular circumstances and challenges of those in prison. It includes a section of prayers to be prayed by prisoners and their loved ones at the same time, to deepen their connection to one another. We also included a section on praying with incarcerated saints through the ages, from Joan of Arc to Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Luther King, Jr., so that those in prison, who often feel so alone, might feel connected to fellow Christians through the ages, as well as to God. We wanted to offer a word of hope, to say that none of us is ever beyond God’s redeeming love and redemptive grace, no matter what we’ve done. Through Christ, everyone can find forgiveness, healing, new life, and hope for the future.”

Budde has also contributed to the National Council of Churches book *United against Racism: Churches for Change* (Friendship Press, 2018), which facilitates study of the issues around racism in parishes, seminaries, and denominations and inspires them to work toward racial equality. She is already hard at work on her next

book, which will encourage and equip congregations to begin their own prison ministries. At the same time, she remains actively involved in a number of local prison ministry initiatives on behalf of the Seminary.

For instance, last fall, VTS offered its first Inside-Outside course, in which seminarians studied issues of the incarceration system side-by-side with incarcerated students at the Truesdale Detention Center.

For the past two years, the library has hosted Project Christmas Angel, with Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR), a multi-faceted support agency for citizens transitioning from prison back into the community. With the motto “Theological Research Leads to Gospel Action!” the Seminary community filled an enormous collection box to overflowing with toys and gift cards to help provide Christmas gifts for children of incarcerated parents.

The Seminary community has also helped to prepared “Welcome Home Hypothermia Kits,” providing gloves, hats, coats, backpacks, and toiletries for men coming out of incarceration during the winter months.

For more information or to find out how you can help, please email Dr. Budde at mbudde@vts.edu.

“The purpose of the prayer book is to give voice to God’s presence to those in jails, prisons, and detention centers; those facing arrest and sentencing; those serving time.”

— MITZI BUDDE, D.MIN.



The Suzanne Thomas Faculty Research Award

Each May, Virginia Theological Seminary honors a faculty member with the Suzanne Thomas Faculty Research Award. This award honors significant publications and financially supports additional work over the coming year. This year's recipient is the Rev. Judy Fentress-Williams, Ph.D, professor of Old Testament.

Dr. Fentress-Williams is one of the most senior members of the faculty, coming up on her 18th anniversary of teaching at VTS. At Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Judy provides inspiring sermons and pastoral presence.

In addition to her prior volume on Ruth and her role as chief Hebrew Bible editor of Common English Bible's *Women's Bible*, she is also at work on a commentary on Genesis for the Interpretation Commentary series, as well as essays in *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in Africa and the African Diaspora*.

This summer, she will have a major work published: *Holy Imagination: A Literary and Theological Introduction to the Whole Bible*.



PHOTO: BRIAN MAZE

Marty Wheeler Burnett, D.Min., M.Mus. is named Associate Professor of Church Music

Virginia Theological Seminary announced this May the faculty appointment of Marty Wheeler Burnett, D.Min., M.Mus. as associate professor of church music.

“We are delighted with the appointment,” said Dean Markham. “She will truly bring depth and commitment to this work.”

In 2010, Burnett received a doctoral degree with a liturgical music focus from Sewanee: The University of the South. In 1988, she received a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from Rice University.

Since 2007, Burnett has led and coordinated the music ministry at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska. As Canon Precentor, she conducted the Cathedral Choir, Schola Cantorum, Requiem Choir, and Summer Choir, and served as director of the children's and



youth choir program, Cantate Choral Academy. In addition, she oversaw the Handbell Ensemble and coordinated concerts and special music events. An award-winning educator, Burnett previously served as Director of Fine Arts and Associate Professor of Music at College of Saint Mary in Omaha. Burnett moves onto the VTS campus this summer.

NEW FACULTY APPOINTMENTS FOR HOOKE AND MATHES

This spring VTS announced the appointments of the Rev. Ruthanna Hooke, Ph.D. to the position of associate dean of students, and the Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes to the position of associate dean of chapel.

“I’m thrilled that my colleagues are taking this step,” said the Rev. Melody Knowles, Ph.D., vice president of academic affairs. “They are both committed and creative leaders who have made VTS stronger in the core areas of worship and community life.”



Hooke joined the VTS faculty in 2003. Her areas of interest and research include comparative religion, the Divine-human relationship in preaching, embodied preaching, the performing arts, the Linklater Voice Method, and the philosophies of Kierkegaard, Barth, Levinas, Irigaray, and

Derrida. During her appointment as dean of chapel, she facilitated the community’s move into the new Immanuel Chapel; reorganized the worship planning process and the worship schedule, creating a rhythm of worship that allows for a range of liturgies; and enhanced processes for training, rehearsing, and reflecting on worship services.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed my work as associate dean of chapel,” Hooke said, “and I am now looking forward to supporting students’ experience and the life of the community in a new way as associate dean of students.”

Mathes joined the VTS faculty in 2017. His areas of expertise are congregational development and clergy mentoring. He teaches courses on the theory and practice of ministry.



During his tenure, he has reorganized August Term, served as director of contextual ministry, and handled

the complexity of both construction and COVID-19. As associate dean of chapel, Mathes will be able to continue to work closely with seminarians in a crucial part of their formation, as he brings decades of experience in ordained ministry to this central part of our community life. Before coming to VTS, he was the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego.

“I love learning and growing with our students,” said Mathes. “And in this season, our community will be called to value our traditions of worship as we adapt to a changed environment. This will call us to be resilient, creative, patient, and open to the Holy Spirit. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve.”

HEANEY PROMOTED TO PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY AND MISSION



This spring the Board of Trustees confirmed the faculty’s unanimous recommendation that the Rev.

Robert Heaney, Ph.D., D.Phil. be promoted to professor of theology and mission. Heaney has been teaching at VTS since 2013, and during that time has authored several serious and significant books, including *God’s Church for God’s World, From Historical to Critical Post-Colonial Theology*, *The Promise of Anglicanism* (with William L. Sachs) and *Postcolonial Theology: Finding God and Each other Amidst the Hate*. He also edited *Faithful Neighbors: Christian-Muslim Vision and Practice* (with Zeyneb Sayilgan and Claire Haymes), and contributed essays to many other books. He is a leader in the Anglican Communion and is currently a member of the Lambeth Conference Design Group.

Heaney has also been the director of VTS’s Center for Anglican Communion Studies and worked to define and clarify the center’s purpose as “promoting and practicing better community for the Communion.” He is an engaging and academically rigorous teacher and a colleague who can be trusted upon to speak with honesty and wisdom.

Faculty Transitions



This fall, the Rev. Altagracia Perez-Bullard, Ph.D. will take on additional responsibilities as the director of contextual ministry. Continuing as assistant professor of practical theology, Perez-Bullard will expand her teaching role from the classroom

to embrace the various ministry placement sites in which our students serve and learn. Contextual ministry is a central part of the M.Div. program at VTS, and provides opportunities for rich engagement with clergy supervisors.



This summer, the Rev. Shawn Strout, Ph.D. '12 assumed a new title and new responsibilities as associate for academic planning and assessment and visiting professor of worship. As an alum, Shawn has long been a presence at VTS. Most recently, he served as assistant

to the associate dean of chapel for worship planning and program implementation and as the director of evaluation for TryTank. He is deeply appreciated for the administrative prowess and pastoral skill he brought to those roles, and we look forward to his leadership on new projects at VTS.



Zeyneb Sayilgan, Ph.D., announced this spring that she will become the Muslim scholar at the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies. Sayilgan has taught at Virginia Seminary since 2014, currently serving as the Henry Luce Visiting Professor of Islamic

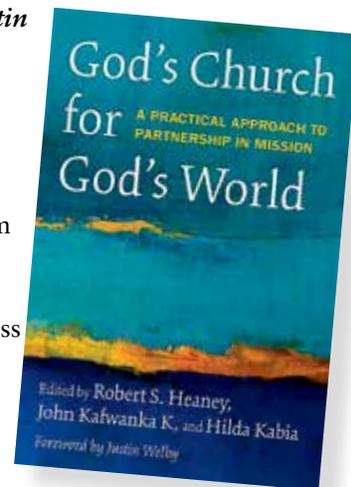
Theology and Religious Pluralism. The last several years have witnessed a suspicion of Islam, and growing threats to the Muslim community. As she worked on her book on a theology of migration from an Islamic perspective, her story of faith and her theological analysis of our contemporary world grew all with whom she shared her work. In her faithful living and committed teaching, she taught us all about the dangers and evil of prejudice, and we are grateful for impact that she and her family have had on our lives.

Publications

GOD'S CHURCH FOR GOD'S WORLD: A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO PARTNERSHIP IN MISSION

(Church Publishing, 2020)
co-edited by Robert S. Heaney, the director of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies at VTS; John Kafwanka K, the director for mission for the Anglican Communion; and Hilda Kabia, the first female dean of Msalato Theological College, Tanzania. The forward is by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.

An exciting and engaging text, it is designed to be accessible for individuals and groups. Each chapter calls readers into a rhythm of hearing scripture, hearing each other, and hearing the Spirit. Themes central to Christian witness dealt within the book include discipleship and the mission of God, disagreeing well, hospitality, and mutuality.



This book will be a key resource for the Lambeth Conference (now postponed to the summer of 2021).



DONATION TO BISHOP PAYNE LIBRARY

On June 9, 2020, two copies of the book on VTS graduate Oliver Duku '95, *The Autobiography of Dr. Oliver Meru Duku: Physician and Priest*, were donated to the Bishop Payne Library by co-author, the Rev. Richard Jones, Ph.D. '72, and illustrator, the Rev. Paul Bennett '20.



FROM CELAL KAMRAN '21, EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

I was at St. John's, Lafayette Square, standing where President Trump stood, fifteen minutes before him. I was handing out water and food in the crowd when suddenly, police flanked us from the left of the White House. I walked back to the church to tell the people what was happening. I must have been 15 feet from the police when they started marching towards us. This was 40 minutes before curfew, so we stayed. The air became sharp with the smell of pepper spray. That is when people started running to us because they had been clubbed or pepper sprayed. Someone who had been clubbed in the face and was probably concussed kept repeating, "We did nothing... I want to go home." He was weeping. His eyes were big, and he could not see. A friend walked him to the church steps so he would not get trampled by people running scared. All of a sudden, the police started closing in in front of the church. We packed up medical supplies and food as fast as we could, leaving so much behind. We stopped again because people were screaming for medical attention. I was telling people not to run, to not trample others, but it was terrifying. They were coming at us with clubs. It was time to go. I walked around to the Metro station and went home, shaken. While on the Metro, I saw the photoshoot as the reason why we were treated this way. We had permission from the diocese to be there. We had signed up to give out water, food, and masks. The bishop of Washington confirms that the president did not ask her permission to use the church. Neither did they ask the rector of the church.

At home in the shower, my eyes burned from the excess pepper spray on my hair and skin.

The Lessons of Martin Luther King Jr. Reverberate

We mourn the loss of George Floyd, a continuing agony for his family. As we seek to understand what is happening, it is important to remember that his family is grappling with this great loss. A child is gone; a sibling has gone; a friend is no longer there. Hearts are broken.

For thirteen consecutive years, Virginia Theological Seminary has marked the martyrdom of Dr. King with a special program that explores his life and the impact of his legacy. This year, just weeks after the killing of Breonna Taylor and weeks before the murder of George Floyd, the Rev. Joseph Thompson, Ph.D. '19, director of multicultural ministries, designed an important and historic online event that focused the attention on the history of race at VTS.

The Rev. Joseph Constant '03, author of *No Turning Back: The Black Presence at Virginia Theological Seminary*, and Catherine Meeks, Ph.D., executive director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, joined Thompson and Dean Markham to discuss race and Virginia Seminary. More than just a history lesson, or a talk about the Seminary's commitment to reparations, this year's MLK program went deep into the endless missed opportunities by the Seminary to advance the work of justice. Meeks brought her scholarly insight and wisdom to the debate around reparations, calling on institutions to locate reparations in the wider context of systems of oppressions that continue to cause suffering.

"The decision of the president to order the gassing of the crowd, including five VTS students, at Lafayette Square, and then take the Bible to the Episcopal church there, is abhorrent," said Dean Markham. "The Episcopal Church must be clear that this act is not our witness. A parish church cannot be a prop. We stand with the aching mother and sibling whose tears remind us that their son and brother has gone. Virginia Theological Seminary commits afresh to being a place that confronts our propensities to racism and seeks to be a place that is different."

The full MLK program is available on the VTS YouTube account.



“The decision of the president to order the gassing of the crowd, including five VTS students, at Lafayette Square, and then take the Bible to the Episcopal church there, is abhorrent. The Episcopal Church must be clear that this act is not our witness. A parish church cannot be a prop. We stand with the aching mother and sibling whose tears remind us that their son and brother has gone.”

—Dean Markham

FROM JULIA DOMENICK '22, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MINNESOTA

I moved to VTS from The Episcopal Church in Minnesota. My first reaction to the death of George Floyd, a death that was tragic and undeniable, was horror followed by deep anger followed by profound sadness. I emerged from those emotions and was thrown into fear as I watched the unfolding of the next day's activities in my city. Fear because my son worked in the emergency room blocks from precinct three. Unanswered texts due to his being busy in the ER fueled my fear. My

heart was finally able to calm when he called me as he tried to make his way out of work and home—listening to his voice in shock as he took in the sites that they could only see as fire from the roof of the hospital.

When I read the invitation to join the Diocese of Washington in solidarity at St. John's, Lafayette Square, it was a no brainer—and a relief that we were DOING something. I, and four of my seminary peers, traveled to DC. We did not know what to expect but felt comfortable in being with other Episcopalians at the church. Initially, I volunteered by walking through the crowd and giving bottled water to anyone thirsty. I walked in and out of the burned-out bathroom and had conversations with people that were lamenting. I heard anger, fear, sadness, and hope that maybe this time, we can make a difference in history.

My career before seminary was as an emergency room registered nurse. I was excited to meet and help the Black Lives Matter medics on the patio of the church. I was talking with a medic about how to wash out eyes if tear gas or pepper spray would be used. It was at this time that someone came to us and said that there was a man that was injured down the street. I went immediately as I had been all over H street without fear as the crowd was peaceful. As I knelt on the ground and began to tend the gentleman's eyes,

there was a sudden explosion of noise. I looked up, and where the police were initially 20 feet from me, they were now pushing forward, yelling, banging on their shields. People were screaming and running. I grabbed the man I was tending, and we began to run, as much as you can in a crowd, back toward the patio of the church. We found ourselves enveloped in a cloud of yellow/gray smoke, and our eyes, nose, throats, and lungs began to burn. Flash grenades were going off, and the sound reverberated off the buildings. Rubber bullets were being shot at the crowd, and people were being trampled. As I made it around the corner of the patio, I yelled to Gini Gerbasi that the police were coming. My seminary peers and I left the patio and made our way to the Metro station around the corner. When we got to the track, one of the seminarians gave me contact solution to wash my eyes. The pain intensified. At this time, two young adult females saw what was going on and offered a remedy from their bag. It helped almost instantly.

As we made our way back to the Seminary on the train, we were sent a message to watch the news. It was at that time we realized that the ONLY violence that happened that day was for the clearing of the church for the president to come and have a photo op. Anger, confusion, and frustration returned. It was at that time that I knew that I would continue to return every day as I am able to stand with, listen to, and be witness to people who are sick and tired of being sick and tired and will not give up until systemic change happens in our nation. Throughout the week, I pray that may the history that is unfurling around me be as a result of people living into their baptismal vows to love neighbors and respect the dignity of every human being.

Bicentennial Campus Construction

By The Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D., Co-director of the Bicentennial Campaign and the Arthur Carl Lichtenberger Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, construction is deemed “essential” during “sheltering-in-place” with the COVID-19 pandemic. At the Addison Academic Center, our contractors, Whiting-Turner, altered their work week to four ten-hour days, but they have remained on schedule. Several walk-throughs were planned for the last week of April. The remaining work involves newly installed state-of-the-art technology.

We hope all will be able to visit the renewed Addison Academic Center soon. You will appreciate the mezzanine which is now home to Lifelong Learning. The Flamingo is modern and new. Part of the lower level of Addison will feature a five-panel digital wall called “The Seminary’s Saints and Stories.” This electronic marvel will celebrate the historic Bicentennial from campaign to campus construction to the ways we will mark our 200 years of ministry and mission, as we plan for the future.

Lastly, it is well that the new Addison will host the stained-glass windows which were given by the Class of 2007. These lovely windows survived the 2010 Chapel fire. Now, at last, they will have a new home in the Addison rotunda. The mission windows from the 1881 Chapel, which hung in the interim Chapel in the lower level of Addison, will be rehung in the multi-purpose room on the lower level.

Two buildings have been completed in the Bicentennial Campus renewal: Bicentennial Hall, which recently received the District of Columbia Section Candela Award of Merit, and Coffield Refectory, which also includes Scott Lounge, 1823, and the Seminary kitchen. Our last communications with the construction company came with the good news that we had a savings of \$377,000. This represents the careful work of Jacqueline Ballou, M.B.A., vice president for finance and operations, and our project manager, Will Regan.

The Bishop Payne Library (BPL) is on schedule for construction to commence August 15, 2020. The interim library will be in the Welcome Center. Sixteen thousand books will be available in the Welcome Center/BPL for



PHOTO: CURTIS PRATHER

eight months. About a quarter of the archives will be in the lower level of Bohlen. Most of the library, rare books, and archives will be in inaccessible offsite storage, both physically and digitally (more on page 28). Most of the library staff will have their offices in the lower level of the Welcome Center.

Additionally:

- The old Post Office is being renovated this summer to serve as the Campus Mail Center.
- Designs are in hand for the new Welcome Center.
- Maywood and the Bell House are being renovated, so all students can live on campus.
- VTS continues to work with Will Rieley and Associates on campus landscaping, parking, and signage.



PHOTO: CURTIS PRATHER

COVID-19 has changed life on the Holy Hill—for the time being. Yet, we continue to renew the campus as a sign of hope that residential theological education may be different in the days ahead, but it will still be necessary as faithful, effective leaders are formed

for our Church and for the Anglican Communion.

PANDEMIC IN COMMUNITY: *Striving Together*

By Josh Paget '21, Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

Transitioning entirely to online classes was an enormous task for students and faculty. However, the more complex work was figuring out the other elements that make residential seminary such a valuable, life-giving, ministry-forming experience.

In some ways, the absence of our regular student life programming was a boon to creativity. Students were able to share their unique ministerial gifts in new mediums. From creative ways to bond and pass the time, to navigating hard conversations and remaining committed to community worship and spiritual growth, VTS students finished the year together.

FUN WAYS

Shouting Prayer

At 6:25 p.m., folks gathered at their windows or outside, safely distanced, to participate in Shouting Prayer. Originally written at VTS, Shouting Prayer is a tradition that invites bold and loud declarations of God's love for the world, for neighbors, and for oneself. Kids were delighted to shout and wave from their windows, asking "Again! Again!" and faithfully returned each night.

Parody Newsletter

These Desperate Times, a parody newsletter, was covertly delivered to the email inboxes of those on campus. Offering hilarious reports on real and

hyperbolic happenings, the newsletter developed a weekly distribution and covered topics like the campus geese infestation, an interview with ex-ex-officio trustee Arucard the vampire, and the top five foods to grow in an apartment during quarantine. Eventually revealed as a senior class prank, the newsletter was responsible for many laughs and much speculation during the last quarter of the year.



Sarcastic Buttons

Members of the community were initiated into the "VTS Zoominary / Class of COVID"—badge of honor for some, and a joke too close to home for others.

Ministry of Silly Walks

Some sidewalks were designated under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Silly Walks. All bipeds were encouraged to engage in a silly walk while passing through the area. Please note: no CXM credits were offered for participation in this ministry.

HOPEFUL WAYS

Virtual Hymn Sing-Alongs

Through the clever editing genius of Pete Nunnally '20, the community was able to sing together while in quarantine. Recorded and released while 58 members of our community were in self-quarantine, the songs declared, "Though we are separated, by walls or borders, we are all united in praise of God and our Lord Jesus Christ." Pete patiently explained the technical nuances to community members and encouraged them to sing boldly and authentically.

Community Gardens

A dozen families became active in the CultivateVTS community gardens. Winter crops were harvested, and new crops began to sprout. New and



seasoned gardeners exchanged tips and seeds to create beautiful arrays in raised beds. The gardens served as a reminder of the Spirit at work in the world and that even amidst the Zoom exhaustion, tragic headlines, and missed goodbyes, color and life still emerge from the ground.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Daily Offices Online

Throughout the crisis, students offered online daily rituals for the community. The daily prayer offices conducted on Facebook Live were at first a means to connect a community quarantined in close quarters, but later they served as a way to connect a community that had spread across the country as students left VTS to shelter at home. This was an opportunity to lead and comfort fellow students and future colleagues in ways different than traditional chapel leadership participation. Morning Prayer, the Great Litany at noon, contemplative prayer in the afternoon, and Compline, were all student-initiated and served to connect to the VTS community in new ways.

PHOTO: CHRISTIN LAZO



online, limiting the art experience to two dimensions. However, the online format enlarged the audience to include students' extended families, field ed congregations, and incoming students.

Easter Eve Service

Students developed a safe yet vibrant version of the Easter Vigil. Lighting the new fire in each of the three residential courtyards on campus, students and families watched through the windows, or online, as members of the community sang the Exsultet, read the scripture, rang bells, and prayed for our community and our world.

Unassigned Duties

As the Seminary was able to provide fewer services, students stepped in to take care of each other and the campus. They volunteered to clean hallways and bathrooms, empty trash cans around campus, and hang signs reminding neighbor guests to obey leash laws and respect privacy of the residential areas on campus. Students delivered meals, ran errands, made masks for each other, and raised funds for those who lost income from canceled student jobs.

Goodbyes

There was no in-person, communal goodbye of commencement and commissioning this year, but rather a long, protracted series of goodbyes. In order to return home before highway and border closings and shelter-in-place orders took effect in different parts of the country, students posed in social distance selfies with departing seniors or formed tunnels along the road to wave as seniors departed campus.

The online Commencement ceremony on May 14 became a surprise welcome opportunity for us to see one another again, and to reflect on how we have formed one another for this time and in this time.

COMMUNITY CARE

Community Formation

The student body engaged in hard conversations about community norms and expectations given the new social distancing rules and ramifications for students, spouses, partners, and children still living on campus. The process and the subject matter was not easy. A series of community-wide Zoom sessions allowed for sharing ideas, developing strategies, airing grievances, and moments of compassion and understanding. Ultimately, students developed a new rule of life for how to live as a part of this community on campus.

Stations of the Cross

Students and faculty created original art and written reflections for a Stations of the Cross exhibit. Creating art was a powerful way to process and express the communal grief as the severity of the pandemic revealed itself in new ways week by week, and day by day. The service had to be moved

PHOTO: CHRISTIN LAZO



PANDEMIC IN COMMUNITY: *Surviving Together*

By Kathryn Glover, M.P.A., SHRM-SCP, Vice President for Administration and Institutional Effectiveness

So many lines from movies, things people say in difficult situations, and old adages come to mind: Monty Python’s “Always Look on the Bright Side of Life” or “When life gives you lemons...” It could be worse. Rather than relying on these and others to power us through each day, week, and month of the COVID-19 campus closure, I have found that it is each individual’s resilience and willingness to reframe things that has made the difference for the individual, the team or department, and the institution overall.

Even after the many weeks of working remotely only, I still have moments when I anticipate having a face to face meeting or conversation, only to realize that once again there will be a screen separating me from the others in the conversation. At least we’re not having to wear masks on Zoom!

Part of that forgetting comes from the desire to be with and converse with colleagues in person and to have impromptu conversations with folks whose paths we cross in the hallways. And I have truly missed people popping into my office to share good news, to tell me a funny story, or even seek my counsel or feedback on an idea or difficult situation. That is still happening somewhat, but not to the same degree.

I have tried to fill these gaps of in-person interactions by emailing staff periodically to check in on them.

We share with one another the benefits and challenges of working from home, the difficulties that we or those we love are experiencing, and the silver linings of our remote experience. It comes as no surprise to me that I am not alone in articulating that the staff community at VTS is strong and connected, and we individually and collectively value each other as people and are longing to reconnect.

These learnings have impacted the present and will inform the future. When there isn’t a natural space and time for gathering such as lunch in the Refectory, you create that space. When you can’t share anecdotes, ideas, and funny stories in person, you create a newsletter that highlights exactly that, featuring employee pets doing silly things, or employees singing “In Your Easter Bonnet” to a dog wearing a bonnet, and you offer online games of Scattergories. Teams and departments connect more often by Zoom, increasing the intra-departmental communication, coordination, and connectedness.

So maybe we have made lemonade from lemons and looked for the silver lining. It hasn’t been in a superficial

PHOTO: CHRISTIN LAZO



and transitory way, but in a life-giving and life-changing way. As we design the gradual return to campus, we will pivot again to ensure that as folks have different experiences, we retain the intentional connectedness and communication.



Doctoral Programs at VTS

By The Rev. Ross Kane, Ph.D., Director of Doctoral Programs

The summer residency is the capstone of our low-residency doctoral programs. For three weeks each summer, students gather on campus for intensive coursework, worship, and community fellowship. We look forward to it all year. It's a joy to see students gather from around the world, to watch classes culminate in rich discussion, to hear joyful conversations in our refectory.

Amid COVID-19 we could not gather, however. In this changing circumstance, our priority was to retain the most fundamental aspects of the residency so that students can continue toward graduation, while adjusting more flexible aspects of the program. In-person coursework moved online via Zoom and pre-recorded lectures. Students defended their thesis proposals in peer groups, with students looking at each other's faces on screens rather than across a table. They debriefed a case study online too. Meanwhile, we decided not to do some things that we usually do. One case study debrief moved to the fall; we canceled our signature lecture event; some students took a reduced load.

Since our programs are already low-residency and involve online learning, the adjustment was relatively straightforward. Our students are already use to completing coursework online long before the residency begins, and our faculty know the ins and outs of our online learning management system. This programmatic shift, difficult though it was, proved to be the easier bit. The harder shift

was adjusting communally and spiritually to not being together face to face.

Students were resilient this summer. They came to class, put in the work, and engaged in lively discussion. We missed them in person, but we still found ways for our spirits to join with one another amid the difficulty of this time.

COVID-19 AND ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP

Reflecting on a doctoral residency without residents, I realize that we were practicing adaptive leadership in motion. Life seems so different during a crisis, such that we can feel at the edge of our resources and competency. But this summer reminded us that often the best way to respond to a crisis is by drawing from the tools we already have, adjusting and adapting them to new circumstances. In this regard, a metaphor of pastoral leader as jazz band leader seems instructive. We improvise in new circumstances while drawing from a deep well of tradition, always doing so in community with others.

After all, we did quite a lot of improvising this summer. But it wasn't improvisation as if anything goes; rather it was improvisation like a jazz musician playing new music based on years and years of practice, training, and learning a tradition. This summer we drew from principles that we practice day after day in the doctoral programs. Listen and collaborate. Innovate based on what we do best. Hold to the essentials of the program. Simplify.

The adjustments this summer required innovation based on these principles. Early on, we listened to faculty and students share ideas about potential difficulties and tried to adapt accordingly. We kept our summer seminar courses, for example, but moved other requirements elsewhere. We encouraged students to reduce their course load if needed. We drew from what we do well: we



An all-Zoom thesis defense with Dr. Lou Divis.

found that we could increase our online offerings amid the pandemic because we already have significant tools from being a low-residency program. We could improvise with online learning because we had already honed a similar process earlier. We kept the most fundamental parts of the program so that students can keep to the curricular paradigm, but we simplified other aspects.

Another lesson from jazz was that we had to face the difficulty of this moment rather than shy away from it. As a genre, jazz knows something about grief and human struggle—one hears it in the harmonies of Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk, the voice of Billie Holiday, the rhythms of Charles Mingus. There was grief this summer, albeit it of a different kind. We felt loss that our community was separated, that our year did not culminate in summer fellowship. We tried to speak openly about this struggle rather than avoid it.

When our patterns return to what's more familiar, the doctoral programs take lessons from this season of learning amid a pandemic. Being pushed out of our routine led us to gain new tools and insights. For example, we moved our program orientation and library sessions for new students entirely online. We will retain features of that because it gives students more tools early on in a low-residency program. Similarly, we had to have doctoral defenses through Zoom this year. While the in-person defense is always preferred, the Zoom option proves quite viable especially for international students who have trouble returning to campus.

Good pastors are innovators, always looking for insights that the Holy Spirit places around us to discover. If you or someone you know is an innovative pastor looking for new tools in adaptive leadership, consider coming to Virginia Theological Seminary to join our doctoral programs. Together we are learning new ways to share God's abiding love in surprising and unexpected circumstances.

The successful doctoral defense by the Rev. Sari Ateek, D.Min., rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, Norwood, was one of the last ones done in person this year. With the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, D.Min., '88, '12, bishop of Washington.



PHOTO: ELIZABETH PANOX-LEACH



PHOTO: CURTIS PRATHER

PREPARING THE RESIDENTIAL SEMINARY

*By The Rev. Melody Knowles, Ph.D.
Vice President of Academic Affairs*

Virginia Seminary values residential theological education. In the context of COVID-19, we are planning the academic year of 2020–21 to promote community and educational engagement while remaining open to teaching and learning online. The goal is to promote and protect the health of all in the face of possible second wave outbreaks, self-isolation due to contact tracing, localized shut-downs, and be prepared for every little thing that we have learned this spring.

As the faculty explore the various options for class next year, the Seminary is committed to providing:

- a rich community life of chapel and lunch in a context of physical distancing and smaller group gatherings;
- classes that explore new and flexible ways to promote teaching and learning in a mix of online and face-to-face contexts; and
- opportunities to learn together about what COVID-19 is teaching us.

This spring VTS faculty modified the course of studies in order to plan courses with the educational needs of our students in fall 2020 at the top of their minds. Professors are writing proposals specifying their needs for classroom spaces, tech support, and training, in order that things can go as smoothly as possible and that the institutional infrastructure is ready to support a variety of scenarios.

I'm grateful for the many ways that the faculty rose to the sudden challenges this spring and proud of their work for the coming academic year.

A YEAR IN PICTURES



AUGUST / Morning service near St. Cyrian's Labyrinth



SEPTEMBER / Football



OCTOBER / Nature hike / Commencement / Halloween



NOVEMBER / Chilli Cook Off in The Tent / Luther Bowl fun



DECEMBER / Lessons and Carols



JANUARY / Cross-Cultural Education Program in Cuba



FEBRUARY / Women and Reconciliation conversation

A YEAR IN PICTURES



July / Flamingo in Exile / The Ordination of the Rev. Joseph Thompson, Ph.D. '19



NOVEMBER / Preparing for the opening of Bicentennial Hall



JANUARY / The Archbishop of Canterbury joins VTS pilgrims in Jerusalem



MAY / Composting

COMMENCEMENT 2020

On Thursday, May 14, 2020, VTS celebrated our 197th Commencement, awarding 45 students with degrees of Master in Divinity, Master of Arts, Diploma in Theology, and Diploma in Anglican Studies. For the first time, Commencement was celebrated exclusively online.

“We are dispersed around the country as our chapel and refectory sit empty. The campus is eerily quiet. In this time of pandemic, dislocation, and disorientation, we find ourselves with at least two conflicting emotions: joy for our graduates and grief for what is lost in this season,” said Dean Markham. “We pray and give thanks in the assurance that God is in the midst of both our joy and our struggles. This is a tender time. But we are an Easter people, and so let us now listen deeply to the Word of God in Holy Scripture. Grounded in God’s promises of restoration and renewal, we look forward with our graduates as they follow in the footsteps of generations of VTS alums and ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.’”

The commencement address was given by the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, 11th Bishop of

Indianapolis, and the first Black woman to be elected a diocesan bishop in The Episcopal Church.

“I deeply believe that we are watching a new church being born. And in this church, as in every age, we need ALL of the gifts. The gifts of teaching, preaching, and tending the sacramental life of the church will continue to provide a firm foundation for the community-building and justice-seeking and radical welcoming that is needed now more than ever. But I bid you never forget that this is the work the whole people of God, lay and ordained,” said Baskerville-Burrows. “As we create the church that will respond to the spiritual and economic sea changes happening all around us, we will be called to be midwives of the sacred, not technicians of the sanctuary.”

She concluded, “I pray that you find your own assurance that nothing—not even a virus—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Wherever you are bound, know that this hurting world needs you. I give thanks for each of you and your ministry in our beloved church that the world desperately needs. You are just the ones we have been waiting for.”



Anglican Communion Prize
Guimond Pierre Louis



The Thomas Underwood Dudley Award for Reading of Scripture and Liturgy
Shanthakumar Sureshkumar



The Bishop Mark Dyer Prize for Theological Reflection
Stephen Crippen



The Episcopal Preaching Foundation Award
Gwynn Crichton



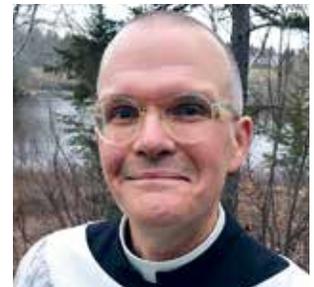
The Ronnie A. Yoder Scholarship for 2020
Elta Wilson



The 2020 Susan Ford Chair
Peter Nunnally



Charles and Janet Harris Award
Amanda Bourne and Douglas Worthington





THE FULL CEREMONY IS AVAILABLE
ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL.

VTS Congratulates the Class of 2020

MASTER IN DIVINITY

Joshua Patrick Barrett
Paul Andrew Bennett
Amanda Patrice Bourne
William Ramseur Boyles
Clint Edward Brown
Lawrence Joseph Civale
David C. Cole
Emily Collette
Jean A. Cotting
Catherine Rodman Reid Cox
Mary Gwynn Crichton
Stephen Daniel Crippen
Christopher Decatur
Matthew Dumont-Machowski
Claire Louise Elser
Jared Bartlett Grant
Rachel Howe Harber
Donna Lee Hines
James Hamilton Bates
Morton III
Peter Eric Nunnally
Jonathan Martyn Pucik

Charles Alan Russell
Colleen Smith Schiefelbein
Sam Sheridan
Philene M Ware Dunn
Jill Williams
Mary Margaret Winn
Douglas Stewart Worthington

MASTER OF ARTS

Carey Dougherty Connors
Benjamin Miller
Diana Sylvia Moreland
Terry R. Nicholetti
Allison McGehee Miller Pace
Guimond Pierre Louis
Tumaini A. Sarakikya
Sureshkumar Shanthakumar
Elta M Wilson

POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ANGLICAN STUDIES

Nina Liggett Bacas
Marcia Chanta Bhan

Erika Jackson-Essiem
Esther Ann Kramer
Brian Jeremy Means-Koss
Savannah Ponder

POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

Howard M. Fickling-Finley
Conor Donegan Salter

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Sari Naim Ateek
Devyn Chambers Johnson
Mary Lou Hoover Divis
Jeunee Lynn Jerman Godsey
Alexander Coulter Graham, IV
Sanford Harover Groff, Jr.
Nyasha Jasman Gumbeze
Warren Neil Leibovitch
Hosam Elias Naoum
Elizabeth Orens
James Melvin Pevehouse
Dustin Eric Trowbridge



DIGITIZATION *of Student Records*

By Christopher Pote, Seminary Archivist

One of the main functions of the Virginia Theological Seminary Archives is to preserve the records of the institution. Preservation can take on several forms, but as physical space allocation increasingly becomes an issue, digital preservation is often a viable option. Digitizing records allows for greater long-term preservation, re-allocation of shelving space in Archives, and a step towards increased modernity in records management. On September 27, 2019, the Archives shipped 5,462 student files to Frederick, MD to be digitized.

As the official record of one's enrollment at VTS, student files are one of the most vital collections

preserved by Archives; it is also one of the largest collections and the most frequently utilized. Student files date back to the 1930s when the institution started to keep these records. Until then there were only grade books.

Before commencing this program, many questions were posed to the stakeholders and vendors. How do we prepare the files to ensure that we receive back what we sent? How long will VTS be without its student files? How do we access a file that is in another state? What is the preferred file format? How will the records be securely stored/preserved? What happens to the physical files after they've been digitized? Who will have

access and what types of permissions will each person have?

The preparation of these files was no small task. Housed in 14 file cabinets, each file needed to be counted and boxed. Each of the 69 boxes were labeled with its contents and number of files. The amount of time even to remove staples would have been exorbitant, so we opted to let the vendor, the Crowley Company, do the preparation and scan each folder in its entirety.

Quality control is one of the main concerns of the project. How do we guarantee that we receive a digital version of everything we sent? No

process is infallible when humans are involved, but there was a plan to mitigate data loss. We conducted a small test program that came back with 100% accuracy; we know precisely how many files were shipped off; and both Crowley and VTS conducted random testing for accuracy throughout the project.

It took the Crowley Company roughly four months to complete. This included file pick-up, preparation, scanning, post-scanning conversion, quality control, and delivery. This timeline was concerning at first from an administrative level considering we get several requests for these records per month, but proper preparation prevented this from slowing down how quickly we serve our alumni. Knowing which box each folder was in was key. When a request came in for a transcript, for example, from a file that is in Frederick, all we had to do is inform Crowley which box it was in, and they sent us an electronic copy of the file within a day.

As for deliverables, VTS received one pdf file for every student record scanned in color at 300dpi. The files will be uploaded into our archival management software Proficio, where each individual/file will have its own record. By scanning to pdf and using Proficio, every file will be keyword-searchable and retrieving the desired file streamlined. VTS will also have the same long-term redundancy and security for these files as it does for its archival material.

This project will also free up roughly 200 cubic feet of space, which is the equivalent of 252 linear feet of shelving. This is significant.

Once VTS has signed off on the project, all physical files will be destroyed. We lose of the comfort of

possessing the original paper, but we also eliminate the incredible amount of space it takes to store, the need and time of multiple staff to serve one file, and the danger of destruction and total loss by fire and/or water. Redundant methods of electronic preservation will provide more avenues for long-term custody than just relying on one hard-copy, original, paper file.

This program will also maintain the requisite confidentiality of such records. Previously stored in a locked room in locked file cabinets, the files were only accessible by two or three people. Great for security, but not for retrieval. Crowley ensured they will maintain confidentiality while the files are in their possession. Hard-drives of pdfs were delivered to VTS and then backed-up on secure Seminary servers until they are uploaded into Proficio as the main means of preservation, where they will live behind a secure firewall.

It often takes several staff members to serve one file. The software is flexible in its parameters and will allow the proper people access to the records with the appropriate level of permissions, eliminating the need of multiple people serving one file yet retaining security and confidentiality.

This project can also be considered a pilot project, or a model, for other departments and record sets at the Seminary. The need to keep everything in hard-copy is diminishing quickly especially as more documents and records are born digital. As we have learned during the pandemic, any little act that reduces our reliance on natural resources is beneficial. With successful results and further implementation, we can work campus-wide towards substantial reduction in paper use, smoother work processes, and greater service to our constituents.



In February 2020, Julia Randle, registrar and historiographer for the Diocese of Virginia, removed diocesan archival materials from Bishop Payne Library in preparation for the library's renovation.

DIGITIZATION **BY THE NUMBERS**

1930s

**THE DECADE THE SEMINARY
BEGAN KEEPING STUDENT
RECORDS**

5,462
student files
WERE DIGITIZED

69 boxes
**WERE PACKED WITH FILES FROM
14 FILING CABINETS**

200 ft³
OF STORAGE WAS FREED UP

100% accuracy
**ACHIEVED, BASED ON
RANDOM TESTING**

300 dpi
**FILES WERE SCANNED AT HI-RES
AND ARE KEYWORD-SEARCHABLE**

4 months
TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT

A Lambeth Conference in the Aftermath

By *The Rev. Robert S. Heaney, Ph.D., D.Phil.*

Director of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies and Professor of Theology and Mission

Amidst the design and planning for the Lambeth Conference 2020, I always had in my mind the conference of 1920. That was an era-defining conference and it continues to impact the way Episcopalians think about ministry today. The conference had been postponed because of World War I, and thus, bishops met in the aftermath of trauma and death. The atmosphere in 1920 was somber. Yet, the bishops were resolved to seek deeper solidarities for the sake of life-giving worldwide witness. Famously, an “Appeal to All Christian People” was issued that bewailed the sin of disunity and sought “an adventure of goodwill.”

No one could have predicted how the Anglican Communion of the twenty-first century would echo to the Anglican history of the twentieth century. But echo it does. For sure, the bishops at the next Lambeth conference will meet in the aftermath of trauma and death. We can pray that twenty-first century somberness will be matched by an ambition for goodwill and for hope. While maybe not prescient it is, nonetheless, striking that the chosen text for the fifteenth Lambeth conference is I Peter. In the very opening of that text we read what now, more than ever, might well be programmatic for witness beyond COVID-19: *By God’s great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...*

One way of calling each other to hope and a practical way for congregations to enter into the preparation for the Lambeth conference is to read what the bishops will be reading. We are

delighted to have been involved in a series of pre-conference resources.

These resources include *The First Letter of Peter: A Global Commentary* (SCM, 2020), edited by Jennifer Strawbridge. The commentary comes from the work of the St. Augustine Seminar, for which I was a co-convenor and the Rev. Katherine Sonderegger, Ph.D., the William Meade Professor of Systematic Theology, was a lead author. This is a short study well suited to local congregations.

God’s Church for God’s World: A Practical Approach to Partnership in Mission (Church Publishing, 2020) is edited by myself, John Kafwanka K, and Hilda Kabia. Its ten chapters call us to listen to scripture, each other,

and the Spirit on vital practices that include discipleship, disagreement, hospitality, and mutuality. Alongside voices from the Communion, Jewish and Muslim writers also reflect on their understandings of these life-giving practices. With liturgy, Bible study, and reaction questions, this book would be great for congregational study and conversation. It is a rich intercultural and interreligious resource!

Christian hope will not be extinguished by wars, pandemics, or death. Amidst the trauma, grief, and uncertainty of our times, let us call each other to hope. It is my prayer that resources such as these will encourage a renewed and living hope throughout the Church and Communion.



Lambeth Design Group, Lambeth Palace, UK.

A MINISTRY OF PRAYERFUL PRESENCE:

Reflections on Praying for the Primates' Meetings with the Community of St. Anselm

By Demarius J. Walker '22, Diocese of Atlanta



Every morning for almost a year my day would start by kneeling in the crypt of Lambeth Palace and reciting this prayer:

*Lord Jesus, who prayed that we might all be one,
we pray to you for the unity of Christians,
according to your will,
according to your means.
May your Spirit enable us
to experience the suffering caused by division,
to see our sin
and to hope beyond all hope.
Amen.*

Unity, the pain of division, and prayer were central themes of my year as a member of the Community of St. Anselm (COSA).

The need for these prayers, and their fruits, became evident to me as part of the prayer team for the Anglican Primates Gatherings in 2016 and 2020. I could not think of more contrasting settings for these meetings. In 2016 the gathering was held in Canterbury Cathedral, surrounded by an English village and green countryside. The 2020 meeting was held in a modern resort hotel in Jordan overlooking the Dead Sea, surrounded by mountainous desert. The meetings also differed in tone and feel. In 2016, our directive was clear: to pray for the unity of the church. In the public prayer gatherings, you could feel the tension in the room and almost see the disdain that some of the primates had for the others.

When we met earlier this year, the atmosphere was warmer, more convivial; we still prayed for the unity of the Church, but we also asked the primates directly for prayer requests. Their diverse and honest requests included prayers for personal health, family circumstances, administrative concerns, fears of societal collapse and war, reconciliation after genocide, and the very real effects of the climate crisis. At the end of the gathering, several primates confessed that knowing we were praying for them helped them through some of the difficult moments in the gatherings.

As we now head toward the fifteenth Lambeth conference, two phrases remain with me: the words of our Lord, “Blessed are the peacemakers” and those of a priest from Nazareth, who during the Jordan gathering implored us to “enter the narrow gate, fall to our knees, and continue to pray.”



RECONCILING PRACTICES: LESSONS FROM A THREE-YEAR JOURNEY

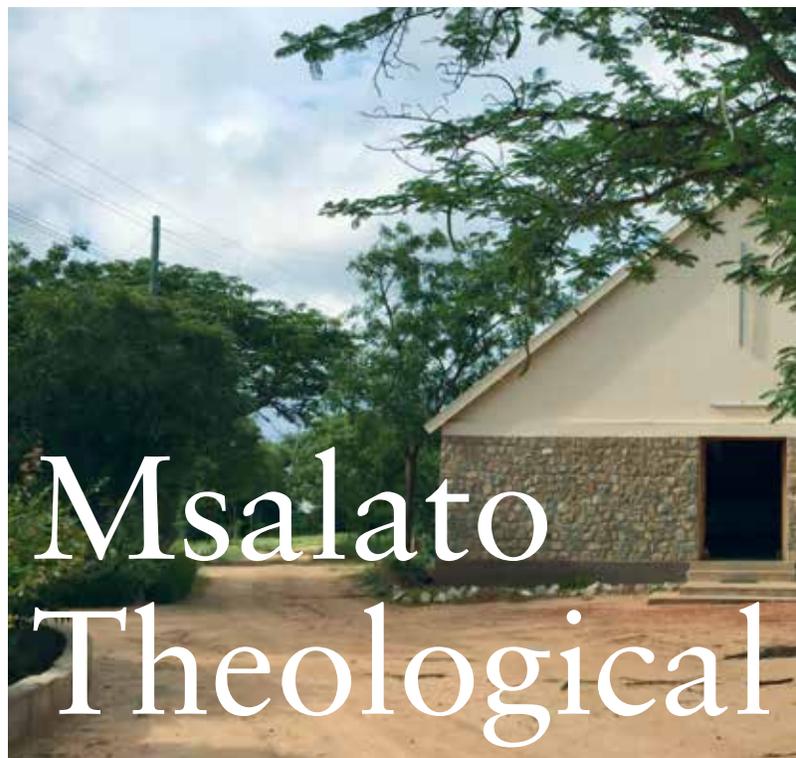
By Emily Collette '20 and Aaron Pelot, Trinity School for Ministry '20

Over the past three years, the Center for Anglican Communion Studies has convened ten seminarians from Virginia Theological Seminary, Trinity School for Ministry, Yale Divinity School, Duke Divinity School, and Nashotah House to discuss theological challenges currently facing The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

Central to our meetings and discussions has been the idea of human sexuality and the ordination and marriage of people who identify as LGBTQ+, as well as what it means to be Anglican. These conversations have been difficult for all of us, and they have required a great deal of vulnerability in our sharing and our listening.

Through it all, we have strived to maintain an open posture towards each other, as well as a willingness to continue walking together in these tough discussions. Our group was invited to share our successes, failures, heartbreaks, and our joys from our time together with the bishops in attendance at the Lambeth conference. Even though the conference has been postponed, we are putting together a workbook that will include these stories as well as suggestions for liturgies that can be used in contexts of deep conflict.

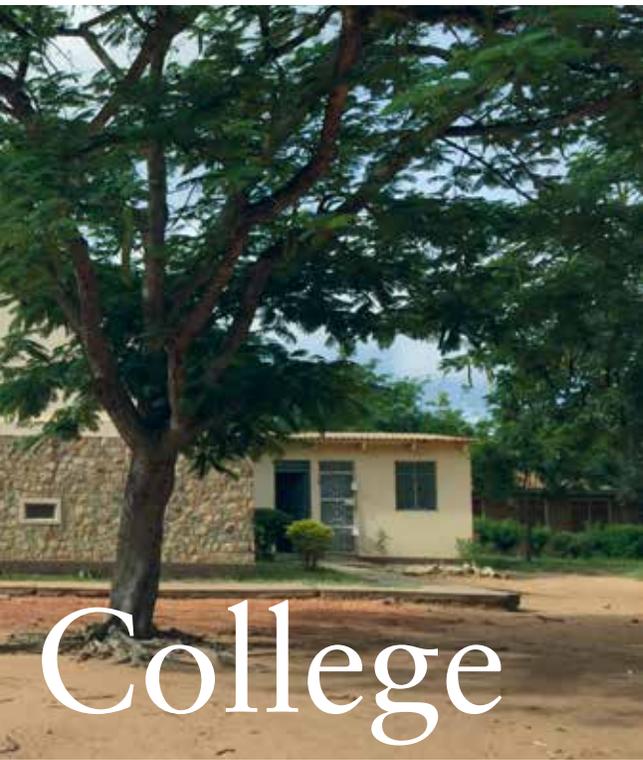
We are still unsure how our story will end, but we know that as long as we have a desire to meet together and to keep discussing the difficult things sowing discord within the Anglican Communion, our story will continue. We hope that we can be a model for others attempting to have their own kinds of challenging conversations.



In January 2010, Dean Markham, and the Rev. Canon Moses Matonya, then principal of Msalato Theological College (MTC) in Dodoma, Tanzania, signed a five-year partnership that committed the institutions to a sharing of resources. Msalato is a theological education training center for church leaders, lay and ordained, male and female, that has been successfully carrying out its mission to prepare such leaders to serve God and his people in their East African context, since 1961. Under the signed partnership, each institution agreed to hold each other in corporate prayer; to offer each other exchange programs for faculty and students; and to jointly host an annual Theology Conference for the pastors of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika (DCT). That partnership has been renewed time and time again over the last decade as evidence of each institution's continued commitment to working together in faith.

I've been to Msalato twice, and each time it was made clearer just how much that partnership means not just to the Msalato community, but to people throughout the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. My first trip was through the Virginia Theological Seminary's Center for Anglican Communion Studies' (CACS) Building Dialogue Across Conflict project, a joint endeavor funded, in part, by Trinity Church, Wall Street.

Msalato was one of four institutions involved in the two-year long grant project that promoted peace building



College



By Ebonee Davis, Archivist for the AAEHC

and conflict resolution. I traveled to Msalato with my mother and we were welcomed with the warmest of arms and treated as honored guests. There was a mutual expression of excitement surrounding our visit—us being overwhelmed by the beauty of Tanzania, and them being proud to host and share their home with us. Whenever possible, people made a point to share their gratitude for our project and the work Virginia Theological Seminary had done with Msalato over the years. While on a campus tour, our guide shared that VTS contributed to the construction of their beautiful chapel and once worked with a local orphanage in the diocese. In the following days, I met professors who were VTS graduates, spoke with students that held high hopes to someday attend Virginia Seminary, and even visited the family home of VTS alumna, the Rev. Tumaini Sarakikya '20.

A year later, I returned to Msalato as a guest facilitator for a clergy spouse conference hosted by the Bishop of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika's wife, Pendo Chilongani. The conference gathered nearly 300 women from across the diocese for three days of fellowship, revival, and prayer. Instrumental in producing this conference were the Mother's Union, led by Chilongani, the Rev. Canon Hilda Kabia, current principal of Msalato and CACS Communion Sabbatical visitor, and the Rev. Dr. Susan Lukens '11, board member, and former Msalato professor.

This trip was less formal and offered me more time to connect with the MTC and DCT community. Reuniting with faculty members, the friends I'd made through the Building Dialogue project, and women from the diocese was lovely. I was able to spend more time in town, visiting the diocesan office, meeting people in the market, and buying delicious Tanzanian coffee. At every turn, people took advantage of the opportunity to tell me how much they were grateful to Virginia Theological Seminary for the work that was being done, be it Bishop and Mrs. Chilongani speaking highly of their time at VTS during his three month long sabbatical last summer, or the kind words of the Rev. Ernest Ndahani '16, as he discussed preparing for his final year in the VTS doctoral program, or a serendipitous airport encounter with the Rt. Rev. Given Mzanje Gaula, recipient of an honorary doctorate from VTS in 2013, who proudly recalled his time here.

To date, Virginia Seminary and Msalato representatives have collaborated in over a dozen conferences, projects, and publications. There has been a consistent presence of students from Msalato at VTS and several faculty members have traveled to Msalato to speak at the annual Theology Conference. The relationship is thriving, and the effects can be felt throughout the MTC campus, diocesan offices, and even in the villages. VTS and the work of its relationship with Msalato are greatly appreciated and it brings me great joy to be connected to such an institution.

Welcome to the Department of Lifelong Learning

We are in the business of activating baptism. We take your gifts and your questions seriously. We exist to inspire and inform your capacity to “go out into the world and preach the gospel.” When a global pandemic emerged, we were ready. Here’s a glimpse into how this gifted team has risen to the challenge.

WHAT IS YOUR STORY?

HOW CAN LIFELONG LEARNING AT VTS SUPPORT YOUR MINISTRY?

WHAT RESOURCES DO YOU NEED?

EMAIL US AT LIFELONGLEARNING@VTS.EDU.

THRIVING IN MINISTRY is the sacred conversation space for our peer communities as they share the evolving shape of ministry with those they serve, and how their life in Christ is bringing reconciling love into the world.

The Rev. Carol Pinkham Oak, D.Min.
Project Director, Thriving in Ministry

I’VE BEEN DISCOVERING the ways that church, formation, and pastoral care are very much alive – and especially needed – in online spaces: teaching via Zoom, shaping and contributing to online liturgies, and helping support the Dial-a-Priest volunteers.

Cara Modisett ’22
Student Worker

THROUGH BUILDING FAITH and Wisdom from the Field webinars, I’ve empowered leaders to make tough decisions keeping their mission in mind and calling on God’s guidance.

Sarah Bentley Allred ’19
Associate for Christian Formation and Discipleship

I HAVE LISTENED to congregational leaders, lay and clergy, in order to meet their needs, affirming that they are indeed, “singing the Lord’s song in a strange land.”

Charlotte Hand Greeson
Program Administrator, Thriving in Ministry

WE ARE ACTIVELY listening to leaders—and then turning around to provide trusted conversations and resources. We are equipping church leaders from around the country to navigate previously uncharted seas.

Sarah Stonesifer Boylan
Manager of Operations and Digital Missioner

I HAVE LISTENED with empathy, avoided adding to the cacophony of “answers” and platitudes for our current circumstances, lifting up the voices of leaders and curated resources with theological integrity.

Katherine Malloy
Director of Christian Formation Resources

IN JUST 7 DAYS TryTank went from lamenting that people were dying alone, to having 100 volunteer clergy ready to take calls from hospitals, nursing homes, and families that needed pastoral care through Dial-A-Priest.

Lorenzo Lebrija
Director, TryTank

THE BAPTIZED FOR LIFE core team has taken a deeper dive into reflective listening practices and contemplative prayer, committing to doing the slow work of God with one another as we support each of our faith communities during this time of necessary pivot and transition.

Kim Arakawa
Program Coordinator, Baptized for Life

NOT ONLY HAVE I worked to transition all offerings to online formats, I've also been witness to leading edge discussions about change in the church and used that conversation to inform and fuel my ministry in my field ed parish and my summer internship.

Sarah Cowan '21
Student Worker

THANKS TO our longstanding commitment to digital literacies, we are not only serving as a resource for best practices in our own workplace, but also providing resources and “how-to’s” for the wider church at this pivotal moment in our nation’s history.

Joshua Brown
Administrative Coordinator

AS A STUDENT WORKER, I have an active role in projects, real-time impact, and preparation to go out into the world.

Joy Miller '22
Student Worker

I'VE BECOME a Zoom techolyte, hosting Lifelong Learning events, and helping my sponsoring parish get connected for worship and fellowship.

Kathleen Schotto '22
Student Worker

MUSIC, LITURGY, AND THE ARTS collected ideas from a survey and video submissions to offer resources for music in online worship.

Ellen Johnston
Director of Music, Liturgy, and the Arts

IN MID-MARCH, all continuing education programs shifted online reaching new audiences, connecting record numbers of lifelong learners across the country, and providing resources for ministry in new contexts.

Diane Wright
Director of Continuing Education

AS A FULL-TIME SENIOR PASTOR in a pandemic, I can honestly say the tools and best practices for digital ministry that our department has been creating and commending for years are holding up, and I am thankful.

Keith Anderson
Associate for Digital Content

WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD as our mission to prepare leaders for extraordinary challenges and unexpected opportunities. We have been building the ark. Now, with God’s help, we are navigating open water with competence and conviction.

Lisa Kimball
*Associate Dean of Lifelong Learning;
James Maxwell Professor of Lifelong Christian Formation*



The Coffield Refectory, Scott Lounge, and 1823

*By The Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D.
Co-director of the Bicentennial Campaign and
the Arthur Carl Lichtenberger Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology*



On February 11, 2020, the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham opened the renovated refectory to a standing-room only crowd. That festive evening also marked the public launch of the Bicentennial Campaign. The Dean welcomed alums, friends, trustees, faculty, staff, and students.

The highlight of the evening was the dedication of the refectory as the Coffield Refectory. This was the last special event which was organized by Ann Roebuck. It was spectacular, and she received a standing ovation when her retirement was announced.

The Diocese of Texas gave a lead gift to honor with gratitude an outstanding layman, Hubert Harrison “Pete” Coffield (1894–1979). It is said that although Mr. Coffield accumulated considerable wealth, he lived simply and never misplaced his gracious demeanor. Mr. Coffield’s generosity continues to benefit the ministry and mission of the Diocese of Texas. Now, Virginia Theological Seminary joins the Diocese of Texas in giving thanks for a great and good lay leader.

The renewed Coffield Refectory was also redecorated; yet it retains many of the portraits of the men and women who stand tall in the Seminary’s history. When you visit, you will

find on the east wall portraits of beloved faculty members like Charlie Price and Tony Lewis. On the south wall you will find portraits of deans and presidents. On the west wall are portraits of outstanding bishops who have well served VTS, including the Rt. Rev. John T. Walker of the Diocese of Washington, and the Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee of the Diocese of Virginia, longtime board chair.

Scott Lounge has bold new colors and is a welcoming gallery with art which recalls that we are “baptized for life” and called to embody our incarnational faith in ministry and mission. On the south wall over one of the fireplaces is a large painting of a river baptism by Memphis artist Terry Lynn. Over the fireplace on the north wall is an early nineteenth century della Robbia of Madonna and Child.





The acoustics in the café, 1823, are much improved. There are also French doors which open onto a new terrace, thanks to a generous donor and the Class of 2019. The Class of 2020 gave the sleek fire pit, around which we will enjoy gathering at future Convocations!

Finally, the Seminary's antiquated kitchen was gutted. A

new, modern, state-of-the-art kitchen has come into being. The amazing clerestory windows which have always been there are now providing beautiful, natural light. There are "stations" for just about everything! The new kitchen is a delight.

The renewal of the Coffield Refectory, Scott Lounge, 1823, and Seminary kitchen are part of a campus-wide Bicentennial construction effort. As we make the campus ready for its third century of service, we first renovated Key Hall which is now Bicentennial Hall. Next came the Refectory Complex and Addison Academic Center. This summer we will update the Bishop Payne Library. There are also plans for the Welcome Center and the Deanery, thanks to a gift from St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Houston. To "fit the campus for purpose" there will also be the first stages of a ten-year Master Campus Plan of landscaping, parking, signage, and other external improvements.

A FOND ADIEU TO ANN ROEBUCK

The kickoff for the public phase of the Capital Campaign was the final event planned and organized by Ann Roebuck. Thanks to her hard work, the spaces were ready and prepared. The food was lovely and the setting was perfect.

When Ann arrived in June 2008, Dean Markham was completing his first year as dean and president at VTS. Initially, Ann worked with Edwin King Hall who was then vice president for institutional advancement. Her brief was always about "advancing" VTS. Being a creative person, she found many ways to leave her gracious mark on the Seminary.

Ann helped shape and grow the Dean's Roundtables from Alexandria to Los Angeles, from Charleston to Houston. No detail was insignificant as she planned an event. Ann got to know many vendors and made many friends



for VTS. She truly loved our alums, students, and friends.

It was Ann giving gifts to the "beloved of God...even while they sleep" who worked with others to decorate our campus each Advent for the Christmas season. Green wreaths appeared. Little white lights. Chapel greenery. Because of her, our campus was prepared for the Christ Child.

Ann's mark will always be on the Dean's Cross for Servant Leadership in the Church and the World, given at the Advent Service of Lessons and

Carols each December. Her attention to detail meant that each recipient of the Dean's Cross was treated with great respect and due honor. It was always perfection!

We affirm in our Baptismal Covenant that we will "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself." Ann's life is an enthusiastic "yes" to that charge. Most often, it was Ann's practice to end her emails with "Take Care." That's our hope for Ann—that she will "take care," come to see us and enjoy the family she cherishes and the dear friends she treasures.



LEGO® Building Project

During the public launch event on February 11, 2020, for the Bicentennial Capital Campaign, Dean Markham announced our LEGO® building project. The goal is to raise funds through the purchase (or sponsoring) of individual bricks towards the construction of Aspinwall, Meade, and Bohlen Halls. For every \$2.00 donated, a LEGO® brick will be added to our model, and donations will be leveraged by challenge grants from the Cabell Foundation and the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation. The project is located in the Sparrow Hall conference room.

For more information, please visit <https://www.vts.edu/bicentennial-campaign/lego>.





Thank You for Your Donations to the Annual Fund in Fiscal Year 2020

Your prayers and gifts to the Annual Fund in Fiscal Year 2020 brought remarkable blessings as we worked to witness to the love of Christ in the midst of COVID-19.

Even in a time of physical distancing, a strong Annual Fund allowed VTS to respond to the needs of our students, alumni, and friends, as well as the wider church during this unprecedented time. We are grateful for the creativity, technology, and grace that granted us the flexibility to close campus, move classes and worship online, work from home,

and provide well-received resources for ministry during this time.

Thank you for your faithfulness, generosity, and prayers in this time of uncertainty.

To learn more about the impact of your Annual Fund gift, please contact Jennifer Greiner at jgreiner@vts.edu or (703) 461-1712. Thank you for all you do to support the mission and ministry of VTS.



TWO CHALLENGE GRANTS

*By Linda Dienno
Vice President for Institutional Advancement*

Virginia Theological Seminary has been awarded two challenge grants that aim to inspire additional giving in support of the Bishop Payne Library’s renovations as part of the Bicentennial Campaign.

Thanks to the generosity of the Cabell Foundation and the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation, VTS has the opportunity to unlock \$500,000 by raising \$1,000,000 in support of the Library’s renovations.

The Bishop Payne Library is essential to residential theological study and therefore essential to the Bicentennial

Campaign. We must be ready to provide resources for present and future researchers by collecting, preserving, and providing access to a variety of materials, digital and print. We must offer a place that fosters thoughtful study and contemplation for our thinking, faithful church.

By making these challenge grants, the Cabell Foundation and the Mary Morton Parsons Foundation acknowledge an important truth: God calls us to accomplish together that which we would never be able to do alone. This is an exciting opportunity for friends of VTS and The Episcopal Church who want to ensure that their gift of any size will have a great impact.



How did you happen to come to VTS?

I was brought up in The Episcopal Church and was always a person who enjoyed attending church, Sunday school, and youth meetings. After high school, I was invited to serve the youth group and the Sunday school while I was pursuing my electrical engineering bachelor's degree.

During that time, I started to experience a call to ordained ministry; however, I kept pushing it away, convinced that I was already doing my part in ministry while also pursuing my dream of becoming an electrical engineer. As you may know, you can run away from a call to ordained ministry, but you can never hide from it. So after I graduated and had worked for a couple of years, I could not run away anymore. Hence, I started my discernment process in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. During the process my Archbishop, Bishop Suheil, suggested that I attend VTS. And so I applied to VTS, which is a step in my life that I have never regretted.

What has been your path since graduation?

In our diocese the Bishop, with a committee, organizes the movement of clergy between parishes. After I graduated from VTS in May 2017, the Archbishop informed me that I

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

THE REV. WADIE N. FAR '17

The Rev. Wadie Far '17 is the priest-in-charge of The Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Salt, Jordan (established in 1849), and the chaplain and director of the boarding program at the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf (HLID). Founded in 1964, HLID is the first school for the deaf in Jordan and remains the leading institution for deaf education in the Middle East.

would go to Nablus, and be responsible for both St. Phillip Episcopal Church in Nablus, Palestine, and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Rafidia, Palestine, and eventually would become their priest-in-charge. At the time I was still not ordained a deacon yet. I did not know anything about either church nor about the challenges of serving in Palestine; however I trusted that if God's will brings us to something, then God's grace will bring us through it. So, happily, I accepted this assignment along with serving as head of the kindergarten there, was ordained deacon and later priest, and enjoyed my ministry in Nablus and Rafidia immensely.

In August 2018, I was transferred to Salt, Jordan, where I became the priest-in-charge of The Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Salt, and the Chaplain of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf and Deaf-Blind. I also serve on the Youth Committee in Jordan, and the Diocese Calls committee.

Who influenced you the most during your time VTS?

Looking back at my formation at VTS, I cannot say that there was one person or one interaction that most influenced my formation. I believe VTS offers an all-round formation experience for those who are willing to immerse themselves in it. I think the most important aspect of that formation is the welcoming atmosphere that VTS offers. When arriving, you find yourself becoming a member of a loving and welcoming family. And before you know it, you feel that you have become part of this family. This is so important since it provides a safe space in which people can interact and do the hard work of formation together. Moreover, VTS does not only provide a safe space for a person to dig deep into who they are, but also provides the tools to prepare themselves for the ministry ahead.

Do you have a favorite memory, learning, or experience you can share?

If I have to pick, it would be the times that we would meet in one of the common rooms after an evening systematics class. It was amazing being surrounded by people who were all interested in preparing for ministry by exploring our faith and beliefs to the fullest. We were all nerds, and we were proud of it. But even after a long day of studying and classes through the evening hours, we continued our learning through informal discussion in the dorms, which also meant that more people would join in the conversation. We all knew that we were in a safe place to discuss sensitive topics of our Christian faith.

What do you think was the most important thing you learned or the most important take away from your VTS experience?

Life, in general, can get very busy, and life in ministry is the same. This busyness that we face in life can force us to lose our focus on what is important to us. Life in the seminary can be the same. I strongly believe that the most important thing that I learned at VTS was not to lose focus on what is important. I learned that the most important thing is to keep my personal relationship with God strong,

whether that is through corporate worship or private worship. Without this connection, a person will lose the main objective of their life and ministry. I also learned that I should never allow the busyness of ministry to stop me from expanding my knowledge. At seminary, we are given the keys to deepening our knowledge. We should regularly use those keys if we hope to continue to grow in both our faith and our ministry.



(L-R) The Most Rev. Suheil Dawani '87, D.D. '07 (H), 14th Anglican bishop in Jerusalem; the Very Rev. Hosam Naoum '11, D.Min. '20, bishop coadjutor, diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East; the Rev. Wadie N. Far '17.

How were you impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?

When the pandemic struck Jordan in March, the borders were closed and highly restrictive measures put into place throughout the country. Our school closed and my students were sent home. This was heartbreaking as I felt our school location and environment would be safer for them. The situation has eased somewhat but, as is true across the world, life has changed in many ways.

Do you have final thoughts to share?

VTS and the VTS community have played such an important role in my formation to becoming the person and priest I am today. VTS also gave me the opportunity to connect not only with The Episcopal Church but also with the wider Anglican Communion. For that, and for much more I am truly grateful.

AAEC members gather on campus for their fall meeting, and lead the way in celebrating Giving Day at VTS.



Notes from the Alumni Office

by Shelagh Casey Brown, Director of Alumni and Church Relations

In this unprecedented and unsettling time we are living in, one constant throughout has been the outstanding leadership of Virginia Seminary alumni across the country and worldwide. With creativity and commitment, our alumni adapted to the new reality of Church with remarkable success. Many alumni have shared with me in recent months how grateful they are for their seminary education that prepared them to step into this moment, and hundreds of alumni have taken advantage of the online resources for worship and formation that VTS currently offers. Thank you, alumni; we give great thanks and blessings for your ministries!

WELCOME TO NEW AAEC OFFICERS

Congratulations to the 2020–2021 Alumni Association Executive Committee (AAEC) Officers:

- President:** The Very Rev. Billy Alford '92
- Vice President:** The Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly '09
- Secretary:** Marianne Ryan, D.Min. '09

THANKSGIVING

And we give thanks to those alumni who recently completed their three years of service on AAEC:

- The Rev. Canon Loren Lasch '07, who served as president in 2019–20
- The Rev. Anne (Annie) Fredericks Cooper '04, D.Min. '10
- The Rev. Canon Lester McKenzie '07
- The Rev. Hilary Smith, Ph.D. '00
- The Rev. James Stambaugh '17

We give great thanks for their service to the alumni and the Seminary.

THE YEAR AHEAD

Flexible and fluid are the key words of the moment as we plan for the academic year ahead. Two significant alumni events traditionally held each October are Alumni Convocation and the Class Reunions. The 2020 Convocation keynoter is the Rev. Gary Dorrien, Ph.D., the Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics at Union Seminary in New York. As we go to press, we are planning for an online format for Convocation on Tuesday, October 13, and rescheduled Class Reunions—but please check the VTS website at www.vts.edu/alumni for updated information about final plans and schedules.



We also look forward to hosting virtual alumni gatherings this fall. Stay tuned for further details. And our Lifelong Learning department continues to offer a rich array of webinars and other online resources for alumni and church leaders. Visit the website for more information on all of these offerings.

As always, this comes with prayers and blessings from all of us on the Holy Hill!

Alumni on the Move

1968

The Rt. Rev. Martin G. Townsend ▶ Interim Rector for Trinity Episcopal Church, Upperville, VA

1969

The Rev. Sidney S. Breese ▶ Vicar for Church of the Epiphany, Independence, KS

1973

The Rev. Robert W. Cowperthwaite ▶ Interim Rector for St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Venice, FL

1976

The Rev. Benjamin W. Turnage ▶ Interim Rector for St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Chelsea, AL

1980

The Rev. David L. Gable ▶ Interim Rector for St. Anselm's Episcopal Church, Shoreham, NY

1982

The Rev. Ronald G. Abrams ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Hampstead, NC

1986

The Rev. M. Dow Sanderson ▶ Priest-in-Charge for The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Summerville, SC

1987

The Very Rev. Zachary W.M. Fleetwood ▶ Interim Rector for St. Anne's Parish, Scottsville, VA

The Rev. Michael Szymanowski ▶ Priest Associate for The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Summerville, SC

1989

The Rev. Grace L. Cangialosi ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Christ Episcopal Church, Brandy Station, VA

1991

The Rev. Henrietta H. Grossoehme ▶ Priest-in-Charge for St. John's Episcopal Church, Westland, MI

1993

The Rev. Carlotta A. Cochran ▶ Priest-in-Charge for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Norfolk, VA

1994

The Rev. Clarence B. Baker ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Trinity Episcopal Church, Pine Bluff, AR

1995

The Rev. Canon Stephen C. Casey ▶ Interim Rector for All Saints' Episcopal Church, Hershey, PA

1998

The Rev. Canon Nancy Lee Jose ▶ Interim Rector for Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Wilmington, NC

2000

The Rev. Peter M. Antoci, Ph.D. ▶ Dean, Southern Maryland for the Diocese of Washington

The Rev. Kenneth R. Pepin ▶ Rector for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Fairport, NY

2001

The Very Rev. Holladay W. Sanderson ▶ Dean of the High Desert School for Ministry

2002

Ms. Margaret D. Moore ▶ Head of School for The Williams School, Norfolk, VA

2003

The Rev. Jennifer Ovenstone-Smith ▶ Rector for Grace Episcopal Church, Haddonfield, NJ

2004

The Rev. Susan Q. Claytor ▶ Rector for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Beckley, WV

The Rev. Sarah A. Wood ▶ Lead Chaplain for Trinity School, New York, NY

2005

The Rev. Lucia K. Lloyd ▶ Priest-in-Charge for St. John's Church, Bowmanville, ON

2007

The Rev. Lisa Saunders Ahuja ▶ Priest-in-Charge for St. Thomas' Parish, Washington, DC

The Rev. Jason L. Cox ▶ Rector for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, San Francisco, CA

The Rev. Amanda B. Eiman ▶ Rector for St. Philip's Church in the Highlands, Garrison, NY

2008

The Very Rev. Matthew Bradley ▶ Dean for Christ Church Cathedral, Louisville, KY

2009

The Rev. Canon Christopher M. Streeter ▶ Canon for Mission Development and Innovation for the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

PLEASE SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Write 3737 Seminary Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22304

Email alumni@vts.edu

Call (703) 461-1711

Fax (703) 370-0138

Send address changes to:

wbermudez@vts.edu

2010

The Rev. Dr. Michael J. Ciba ▶ Senior Regional Minister for Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, Hartford, CT

The Rev. Richard D. Meadows, Jr. ▶ Priest-in-Charge for St. James Episcopal Church, Baltimore, MD

The Rev. Christopher M. Robinson ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Biloxi, MS

2011

The Rev. Melissa L. B. Adzima ▶ Rector for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Longmont, CO

The Rev. Charles A. Browning II ▶ Priest-in-Charge for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Honolulu, HI

The Rev. L. Peter Doddema ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Church of the Ascension, Frankfort, KY

The Rev. Heather B. Erickson ▶ Director of Senior Ministry and Outreach, Grace Episcopal Cathedral, San Francisco, CA

The Very Rev. A. Patrick Funston ▶ Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Kansas



Bishop Hosam Naoum '11 and his wife Rafa and their family on the occasion of his Consecration.

The Very Rev. Hosam Naoum ▶ Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Jerusalem

The Rev. Seth M. Walley ▶ Assistant Rector for Christ Episcopal Church, Bay St. Louis, MS

2012

The Rev. Daniel M. Cenci ▶ Rector for Christ Episcopal Church, Elizabeth City, NC

The Rev. Dawn A. Foisie ▶ Rector for St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Marysville, WA

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Hehr ▶ Interim Associate Rector for Episcopal Church of Ascension, Clearwater, FL

The Rev. Kyle M. Oliver ▶ Instructor and Staff for Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, CA

The Rev. Shirley M. Porter ▶ Rector for St. Christopher Episcopal Church, Perry, GA

2013

The Rev. Deacon Logan Taylor Augustine ▶ Chaplain for Westminster Canterbury Richmond, Richmond, VA

The Rev. Connor Newlun ▶ Rector for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Sharpsburg, MD

The Rev. Dr. Isaac W. Nicholson ▶ Senior Pastor for South Suburban Christian Church, Littleton, CO

The Rev. Barbara H. Seward ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Harrisonburg, VA

2014

The Rev. Jean Beniste ▶ Rector for Christ Episcopal Church, Waukegan, IL

The Rev. Canon Anita Braden ▶ Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Arizona

The Rev. Judith W. Davis ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Emmanuel Church at Brook Hill, Richmond, VA

The Rev. John Hogg ▶ Associate Rector for All Saints' Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA

The Rev. Amy A. Slater ▶ Priest-in-Charge for St. Mary Episcopal Church, Green Cove Springs, FL

2015

The Rev. Joyce C. Cunningham ▶ Interim Associate Rector for Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh, NC

The Rev. Carlos de la Torre ▶ Rector for St. John's Episcopal Church, Bellefonte, PA

The Rev. Eric N. Mancil ▶ Rector for Church of the Holy Spirit, Alabaster, AL

2016

The Rev. Daniel J. Lemley ▶ Rector for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Clearwater, FL

The Rev. Annalise M. Pasalo ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Lailua, HI

The Rev. Ernesto Pasalo, Jr. ▶ Youth & Campus Missioner for the Diocese of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

The Rev. Kristen N. Tossell Pitts ▶ Chaplain for Washington Episcopal School, Bethesda, MD

2017

The Rev. Anthony Anderson ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Church of the Resurrection, Omaha, NE

The Rev. Pilar Padrón ▶ Priest-in-Charge for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Heathsville, VA

The Rev. Cara Rockhill ▶ Assistant Rector for Church of St. Andrew, Marblehead, MA

The Rev. Stephen Tamke ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Christ Church, Manhasset, NY

The Rev. Timothy Watt ▶ Rector for Trinity Episcopal Church, Newport, RI

2018

The Rev. Richard C. Bauer ▶ Rector for St. Edward's Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA

The Rev. Joshua Daniel ▶ Associate Rector for Discipleship and Worship for St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC

The Rev. Marlene E. Forrest ▶ Priest-in-Charge for St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA

The Rev. Lauren Grubaugh ▶ Associate Rector for St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Centennial, CO

The Rev. Martha Korienek ▶ Chaplain for Cathedral School for Boys, San Francisco, CA

The Rev. Grant Mansfield ▶ Rector for St. George's Episcopal Church, Maplewood, NJ

The Rev. Dr. Paul R. Moore ▶ Rector for St. Paul's Episcopal Church and La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurreccion, Mount Vernon, WA

The Rev. Alice Sawyer ▶ Priest-in-Charge for Trinity Episcopal Church, Belleville, MI

The Rev. Kathleen Walker ▶ Missioner for Black Ministries for the Diocese of North Carolina

2019

The Rev. Shawn Evelyn ▶ Priest-in-Charge for St. Edmund's Episcopal Church, Chicago, IL

2020

The Rev. Nina Bacas ▶ Assistant Rector for St. John's Episcopal Church, McLean, VA

The Rev. Josh Barrett ▶ Pastoral Leader for Church of the Redeemer, Addison NY and Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Good Shepherd, Savona NY

The Rev. Paul Bennett ▶ Diocesan Resident for All Saints Episcopal Church, Portsmouth, Ohio

The Rev. Amanda Bourne ▶ Reimagining Curacies Program, Diocese of North Carolina

The Rev. William Boyles ▶ Curate for St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Jackson, MS

The Rev. Clint Brown ▶ Curate for St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Beaumont, TX

The Rev. Chris Cole ▶ Curate for Trinity Episcopal Church, Tulsa, OK

The Rev. Emily Collette ▶ Curate for Church of the Holy Apostle, Hoover, AL

The Rev. Jean Cotting ▶ Deacon-in-Charge for St. James Episcopal Church, Piqua, OH

The Rev. Gwynn Crichton ▶ Associate Rector for Pastoral Care for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA

The Rev. Stephen Crippen ▶ Curate for Grace Episcopal Church, Bainbridge Island, WA

The Rev. Christopher Decatur ▶ Curate for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Cleveland, OH

The Rev. Philene Ware Dunn ▶ Pastoral Assistant to the Rector for St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA

The Rev. Claire Elser ▶ Curate for Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Colorado Springs, CO

The Rev. Howard Fickling-Finley ▶ Assistant Pastor for Florida Avenue Baptist Church, Washington, DC

The Rev. Jared Grant ▶ Curate for Church of the Ascension, Hickory, NC

The Rev. Erika Jackson-Essiem ▶ Assistant Rector for Trinity Episcopal Church, Folsom, California

The Rev. James Morton ▶ Rockwell Fellow for St. James' Episcopal Church, New York, NY

The Rev. Pete Nunnally ▶ Associate to the Rector for St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA

The Rev. Savannah Ponder ▶ Associate St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, Washington, DC

The Rev. Jonathan Pucik ▶ Director for The Friendship Table, High Point, NC

The Rev. Charles "Chip" Russell ▶ Assistant Rector for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA

The Rev. Colleen Schiefelbein ▶
Deacon for All Saints Episcopal
Church – Sharon Chapel, Alexandria,
VA

The Rev. Sam Sheridan ▶ Assistant
Rector, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill,
Alexandria, VA

The Rev. Jill Williams ▶ Curate for
Christ Episcopal Church, Ridgewood,
NJ

Elta M. Wilson ▶ Artist and
Theologian with Kerygma Art Studio,
Arlington, VA

The Rev. Mary Margaret Winn ▶
Assistant Rector for St. Matthew's
Episcopal Church, Sterling, VA

IN MEMORIAM

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon them.

1940s

Mr. Leverett B. Davis '42
August 27, 2014

The Rev. John J. Lloyd '47
December 18, 2018

The Rt. Rev. Gordon T. Charlton, Jr. '49
February 1, 2020

1950s

The Rev. Ralph W. Smith '50
December 7, 2019

The Rev. Dr. Charles Wesley Shike '51
June 2020

The Rev. Dr. William S. Glazier II '52
February 5, 2020

The Rev. Philip E. Wheaton '52
May 9, 2020

The Rev. Edward M. Hartwell '53
January 20, 2020

The Rev. Patterson Keller '56
March 20, 2020

The Rev. Richard N. Ottaway, Ph.D. '57
March 23, 2020

The Rev. John H. Albrecht, '59
April 7, 2020

The Rev. John I. Kilby '59
March 19, 2020

1960s

The Rev. Charles Thomas Midyette
III '66
June 1, 2020

The Rev. Canon William H.
Barnwell '67
March 27, 2020

The Rev. James M. Coram '68
November 15, 2019

The Rev. Canon Dr. Richard L.
Marquess-Barry '68
March 23, 2020

1970s

The Rev. Max O. Nye '71
September 15, 2019

The Rev. Jan C. Rudinoff '72
February 4, 2020

The Rev. Dr. J. Barrett Miller '74
December 24, 2019

1980s

The Rev. Eddie J. Ard '83
September 4, 2019

1990s

Ms. Nancy C. Kain '92
February 27, 2020

The Rev. Dr. Graham M. Smith,
D.Min. '97
April 29, 2020

2000s

The Rev. Dr. Sean A. Cox '05
March 10, 2020

2010s

The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris '12 (H)
March 13, 2020

The Rev. Robert Dilday '19
December 22, 2019



OFFICERS

Chair of the Board

Dr. David H. Charlton

Vice-Chair of the Board

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf '08

Treasurer

Ms. Amy L. Curtis

Dean and President

The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D.

Vice Presidents

Ms. Linda L. Dienno

The Rev. Melody D. Knowles, Ph.D.

Vice President and Secretary

Ms. Kathryn A. Glover, M.P.A.

Vice President and Assistant Treasurer

Ms. Jacqueline F. Ballou, M.B.A.

TRUSTEES AT LARGE

Ms. Kirsten P. Adams

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker

Mr. David Booth Beers

Mr. Julian M. Bivins, Jr.

The Rev. Catherine M. Campbell '88

The Rev. Canon Thomas G. Clarke '70

The Rev. Dr. Harold J. Cobb, Jr. '90

The Rev. Dr. Christopher D. Girata '08

The Rev. C. Neal Goldsborough '81

The Rev. Canon Dr. Michele V. Hagans

Mr. Henry Lee Stanton Hobson

The Rev. Angela S. Ifill '95

The Rev. Kimberly S. Jackson '10

Mrs. Elizabeth Cabell Jennings

Ms. Mary E. Kostel

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer (H) '02

The Rev. Susan A. Lukens, D.Min. '11

The Rt. Rev. Jose A. McLoughlin '05, (H) '17

The Very Rev. Troy D. Mendez '09

The Rev. Andrew T.P. Merrow '81

Dr. Judith H. Newman

Mrs. Caroline Taylor Norman

The Rev. Caroline S. Parkinson '84

Ms. Sissy Poland

The Rt. Rev. F. Neff Powell (H) '97

The Very Rev. Dr. Stanley W. Sawyer '76

Dr. William G. Thomas III

The Rev. Christine R. Whittaker '90

The Rev. Dr. J. Douglas Wigner, Jr. '72

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff (H) '13

The Very Rev. Billy Alford '92

FACULTY AND

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Jared Grant '20

The Rev. Mark Jefferson, Ph.D.

The Rev. Kate Sonderegger, Ph.D.



VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

3737 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Hagerstown, MD
Permit No. 93



GOTHIC FRANCE PILGRIMAGE **MAY 21–31, 2021**

As part of our Bicentennial Campaign celebration, VTS is offering an extraordinary pilgrimage through Gothic France in the summer of 2021.

This once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage will include visits to: the church of St Pierre de Montmartre, the Sacré Coeur Basilica, the St Denis Basilic, guided tours of Notre Dame de Chartres Cathedral and Notre Dame Cathedral, Sainte Chapelle, the St Séverin Church, the Cluny Museum, Mont Saint Michel, the Abbey of Mont Saint Michel, Bayeux Cathedral, Normandy, and the D-Day Museum. The full itinerary is available at www.vts.edu.

For more information please contact
Victoria Elie at velie@vts.edu.