

A quarterly publication of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

AWARE

magazine

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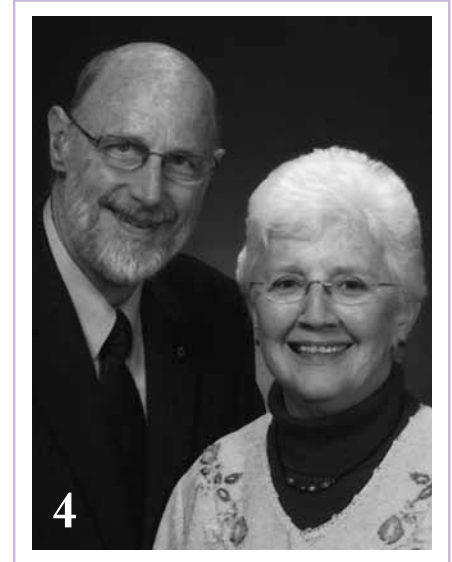
*Master of Divinity student Jake Weber
at Bethlehem Hospital in Israel
(Article on pg. 14)*

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A Correction

In the January issue of *Aware*, it was incorrectly reported that the devastating economy forced the closing of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in June 2009. Rather, Seabury is seeking to deliver new forms of theological education. This has resulted in Northwestern University purchasing and occupying much of the Seabury property as this reorganization continues. *Aware* regrets this error.

Aware is published quarterly by the development office for alums and friends of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, a graduate school of theology on the campus of Northwestern University.

ADDRESS	2121 Sheridan Road Evanston, IL 60201
PHONE	1.800.SEMINARY (800.736.4627)
E. MAIL	seminary@garrett.edu
WEBSITE	www.garrett.edu
PRESIDENT	Philip A. Amerson
EDITORIAL BOARD	Betty Campbell Charlie Lehman David Heetland Krista McNeil

Presidential Perspective

To What Story Are You Sticking?

The voice came from a woman seated behind me. “I’ve just ordered the new macaroni and cheese dish, and this is the best day of my life.” She was on her cell phone, speed-dialing friends. One after another she would leave the same message, “I just ordered macaroni and cheese... best day of my life.” I wanted to turn around and examine this lover of pasta and cheddar. However, my mother taught me it is not polite to stare. My mother, however, had no such advice about listening in on silly phone conversations, so...

After leaving four recorded messages, she reached friend number five. Delighted that a real person answered the phone, she delivered the momentous news. Apparently that person was just as skeptical as I was about macaroni and cheese. The caller persisted and then announced, “That’s my story and I’m sticking to it!”

The television nearby showed a couple of political pundits locked in churlish ideological battle. There I sat, between macaroni and cheese and the emotional national debate over health care and the economy. Some of my friends classify macaroni and cheese as “comfort food.” That was it! The television debaters and the woman behind me each had their story and were “sticking to it.” It was, plain and simple, “comfort food” for the stomach and the mind.

Apart from determining that I should not eat in this airport restaurant again, I wondered if there was a larger lesson here. I found myself reflecting on the stories that shape us, the ones that we “stick to.” I found myself thinking of Margaret Sagan, a life trustee at Garrett-Evangelical, who recently passed away. She was the daughter of J. Waskom Pickett, the remarkable missionary bishop in India.

Pickett, like his longtime colleague E. Stanley Jones, had little regard for easy ideological answers. His story was always, first and foremost, rooted in his concern

for God’s purposes in the world. I remember hearing Bishop Pickett speak when I was young. He spoke of the centrality of Christ and how great social movements could give evidence of God’s purposes for the world. He spoke of the false choice presented by the ideologies of capitalism and socialism. He spoke of both as being mere tools. His words, as I remember them, were, “I do not serve capitalism, nor do I serve socialism. I serve the risen Christ. The only question for me is how might any of our tools serve his kingdom?” Pickett spoke of the error of substituting any designs or prejudice for obedience to Christ. This remarkable man, who began his work in India with the untouchables, the poorest of the poor, left a remarkable legacy. For nearly five decades his ministry stretched from the poorest to the wealthiest, from radical activists to presidents and prime ministers.

Pickett insisted on a rigorous engagement with a Christ-centered theology that critiqued all else, even as he stayed open to new lessons from his research. He was always learning, always growing in his understanding. Everything about his story was open to change except his commitment to Christ.

As I consider his life and my own, I realize that too often I live between macaroni and easy ideology. I am aware of the significant role seminaries can play in our world; I am aware of the heritage and potential role of Garrett-Evangelical in providing more faithful, more constructive narratives whereby we shape our lives. Must we be stuck with the comfort foods of macaroni and cheese or Fox News or MSNBC?

In February Garrett-Evangelical hosted a conference on ethical leadership and the global economy. I was struck by a rather simple theme that emerged from the conference. It was that the most helpful thing we can do is tell and retell the great story of biblical faith for each new generation. (Many of the lectures and sermons from the event are available in video on our website.) At that event we also inaugurated our new Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities, to be led by

continued on pg. 16



Forging Our Future: Phase Three

David and Ann Harsh

Garrett-Evangelical recently surpassed the \$64 million mark toward its \$100 million capital campaign goal. Successfully reaching this goal will enable the seminary to continue preparing outstanding Christian leaders for our churches and communities. In this issue of *Aware* we introduce you to David and Ann Harsh, whose outright and planned gifts are playing an important role in the campaign and in the seminary's future. David received his M.Div. degree from Garrett in 1964 and his D.Min. degree in 1978. David and Ann now make their retirement home in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. The following is a condensed version of a recent interview with David.

Tell us about your call to ministry.

For some the call to ministry is a vivid and dramatic one. For me it was rather the quiet power of nurturing parents, pastors, and a local Methodist Church in Milwaukee. Two pastors were formative in my spiritual growth. As a child I experienced the caring ministry of Rev. Stan Strosahl—a Garrett grad, by the way—which led me to think this was a life worth emulating in some way. My relationship with Stan continues in an uninterrupted way from that childhood experience to the present as we both share leadership on a conference board.

A second pastor, Dr. Fred Poole, helped me in my youth to become aware of the wider world in which the Methodist Church was involved. The concept of “the world as my parish” became a part of my faith development. The opportunity in my high school senior year to serve as a conference youth officer also put me in relationship with some very solid thinking youth leaders. Not only could I learn about conference events, but more importantly the discussions and worship provided for personal spiritual growth. With that, the call to ministry was sharpened.

How did you decide to attend Garrett?

Attending Garrett was not my original goal. I thought it would be neat to get out of the Midwest and experience another area of the United States. Having researched ten of our Methodist seminaries, however, I decided Garrett fit me best. So, having been married on the day we graduated from Cornell College, my wife, Ann, and I arrived in Evanston.



David and Ann Harsh

Some years later I entered the D.Min. program. This time I was determined to find a program in another seminary location for balance in my education. Sensing some rust in my pastoral skills I wanted a program that would strengthen local church ministry at many levels in a hands-on approach. Since the Garrett-Evangelical program intentionally did this with full faculty involvement, once again I found myself choosing Garrett-Evangelical. The local church application of this program clearly enhanced my pastoral skills.

What are your most vivid memories of your time at seminary?

Upon arrival, the seminary offered me a custodial position at \$1.25 an hour. It was a position I held until graduation, and included such profound tasks as scrubbing and polishing the classroom floors, replacing the classroom ceiling light fixtures, and cleaning the bathrooms. Perhaps not surprisingly, it enabled me to relate well to every church custodian I have known since.

At a more important level, memories of faculty stand out. Their openness and approachability made learning very personal. Of course the quality of their teaching ability was also appreciated.

Finally, there are the memories of the intensive preparation for the comprehensive exams in our final year as we all faced four faculty members who thought any question related to any of our classes was fair game during the oral exam. One benefit during this year-long preparation was the closeness that developed among study partners. For me this involved four of us who would unmercifully grill each other—which made the final oral exam with the faculty seem almost friendly.

You have been leadership donors for many years. You have also taken out an annuity with the seminary, and have remembered the seminary in your will. Tell us about your decisions to help Garrett-Evangelical in these ways.

Those who preceded me at Garrett celebrated their learning by making gifts so others could receive scholarships when their turn came to attend seminary. I was the recipient of their thoughtfulness, which gave me the financial encouragement to continue toward ministry. Gifts such as this are to be perpetuated. With our gifts we can dream of future students being encouraged toward ministry because of financial support they will receive.

I was also blessed to serve a congregation (Bethany United Methodist Church in Madison) that in their thoughtfulness created the David and Ann Harsh Scholarship Fund at Garrett-Evangelical. That scholarship is already providing assistance annually to a deserving student. Someday, at the settlement of our estate, further funding will be added to this scholarship, enabling even more students to receive a quality education.

While our children and grandchildren are also remembered in our estate planning, it is important to demonstrate a larger sense of stewardship that includes gifts beyond ourselves and our immediate family. They have seen how we have lived our lives and they know that death will not change our commitment to stewardship.

Tell us about your current interests and involvements.

Retirement does not mean the end of ministry. My passion continues for the global expression of the Gospel. This takes many forms. I serve as a volunteer Mission Interpreter for the General Board of Global Ministries. They can send me anywhere to speak on their behalf.

I have been blessed to experience 63 different countries, in most cases representing The United Methodist Church in some form or other. While these were service oriented, most often I am the one who feels the blessing.

Other personal interests include music, photography, ornithology, and following a disciplined exercise program at the YMCA. Many of my photos have found their way into the pages of *New World Outlook* and *Response* magazines and mission-related web sites.

Garrett-Evangelical is grateful to David and Ann Harsh for their generous stewardship. If you are interested in joining them in making a commitment to Forging Our Future: Phase Three, contact David Heetland, vice president for development, at 847.866.3970. One-time gifts, pledges over a five to eight year period, and planned gift commitments are all welcome. Every gift is important and will help us reach our goal. Other major donors will be featured in future issues of Aware.

Seminary Announces Key Faculty, Staff Appointments

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary announces four key faculty and staff appointments:

- Dr. Hendrik Pieterse as associate professor of global Christianity and world religions;
- Dr. Anna Johnson, visiting assistant professor of reformed church history;
- The Rev. Becky Jorgensen Eberhart, assistant vice president for enrollment management;
- The Rev. Mary Ann Moman, senior advancement specialist and director of course of study.



Hendrik Pieterse

Eberhart takes charge of recruitment, admissions and financial aid June 1; Pieterse and Johnson will join the faculty July 1, and Moman will assume her new responsibilities Aug. 15.

Pieterse comes to the seminary through resources granted by the Henry R. Luce Foundation providing for teaching in areas of global Christianity, world religions, and missiology. He currently serves as director of scholarly research and book editor for the United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) in Nashville, TN. He has served as missionary, teacher, pastor, and editor of a number of publications, including the *Quarterly Review*. He holds a D. Phil. from the University of Port Elizabeth, South Africa (now the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University), and oversees several initiatives for the GBHEM, including a major emphasis on the development of higher education resources in Africa.

Johnson received her Ph.D. in history from Princeton Theological Seminary. Her dissertation was entitled “Piety and Polemics: Martin Luther’s Reform of Christian Practice, 1518-1520.” Johnson has taught as an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago. She holds a master of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and a bachelor of arts from St. Olaf College.



Anna Johnson

Eberhart currently serves as director of admissions and student services at Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Previously, she was program associate for programs for the Theological Exploration of Vocation, an initiative of the Lilly Endowment in Nashville, TN, (2004-2007). An ordained elder in the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church, she served as minister to children and their families at Bellevue UMC in Nashville (2003-2004) and as associate pastor at First UMC in Mitchell, SD (2000 -2003). She has worked as a consultant in recruitment and admissions for Chicago Theological Seminary and in vocational discernment at Dakota Wesleyan University in South Dakota. She holds a master of divinity degree from Vanderbilt University Divinity School and a bachelor of arts degree from Centre College in Danville, KY.



Becky Eberhart



Mary Ann Moman

As senior advancement specialist, Moman will work primarily in Indiana and Illinois, focusing on development, recruitment, and extending the seminary's program reach. She will also serve as the director of course of study, beginning in summer 2011. A clergy member of the Indiana Annual Conference, Moman currently serves as associate general secretary for the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and has given primary leadership to GBHEM's Division of Ordained Ministry for nearly a decade. She has headed several significant advances for theological education and ministry in the denomination, including development of distance education in Europe and Africa and oversight for the training of district superintendents and directors of connectional ministry. With responsibility for leadership development, she has advanced initiatives to welcome young adults to consider ministry and to strengthen the review process for denominationally-approved theological schools.

Four New Tracks for Doctor of Ministry Degree

Major Tuition Discounts, Scholarships Available for Fall's Inaugural Classes

Garrett-Evangelical will begin rolling out four new tracks for the doctor of ministry degree during the 2010 fall semester designed for highly motivated, highly committed pastors who want to enhance their practice of ministry.

The seminary has developed compelling curriculum and assembled distinguished faculty in four highly relevant D.Min. tracks:

- Congregational Leadership
- African American Congregational Leadership
- Spiritual Direction
- Mission in the Contemporary United States

The two leadership tracks will begin this fall and include courses in which Garrett-Evangelical faculty will partner with faculty at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. The Spiritual Direction track's inaugural class will begin in January 2011, and the Mission in the Contemporary United States class will follow in January 2012.

Available scholarships will significantly lower the current tuition rate, and those enrolling in the first semester of the inaugural class (fall 2010 and January 2011) will get an additional substantial discount.

For track descriptions, admissions procedures and the D.Min. application, prospective students can visit the seminary website at www.garrett.edu/dmin.

Students can complete coursework requirements in one and one-half to two years with no weekends required, moving through the coursework in cohorts. Coursework will be built around two-week intensives in January and July, including 72 hours of contact with faculty during each session. Students in the two Leadership tracks will also participate in three-day seminars led by Kellogg and Garrett-Evangelical faculty in the mid-fall and mid-spring.

Applicants must have a master of divinity degree or equivalent and three years of ministry experience following completion of the master's degree.

Applications must be submitted at least four weeks before the term begins.

For more information, contact Mark Teasdale, director of the D.Min. program (847.866.3954; mark.teasdale@garrett.edu) or Elaine Amerson in admissions (847.866.3880; elaine.amerson@garrett.edu).

Cheryl Anderson's New Book Urges Christians To Embrace Biblical Interpretations beyond Traditional Ones



Cheryl Anderson

In her new book, *Ancient Laws & Contemporary Controversies: The Need for Inclusive Biblical Interpretation*, Dr. Cheryl Anderson argues that traditional biblical interpretations reflect the perspectives of privileged white males and exclude the perspectives of

the “Other,” that is, those who are not privileged, not white, not male, and not heterosexual.

She urges Christians to affirm more inclusive biblical interpretations that are more consistent with the realities and perspectives of these other groups who are part of the rich diversity of God’s people.

“A privileged, male perspective that got encoded in the Bible has translated very easily into a white, Western, heterosexual male perspective today,” says Anderson, associate professor of Old Testament at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, during a recent interview. “What’s really important is that this perspective, which excludes other voices, has become equated with Christianity today. ... This is why the treatment of gays and lesbians and the ordination of women are such hot button issues in the church now.”

The book compares the Bible to the U.S. Constitution, pointing out that when the privileged, white Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution, not only were there no

women or minorities at the table, but also only six percent of the population at that time was eligible to vote. The Constitution has proven to be a living document and, through amendments reflecting new perspectives and new realities, is much more inclusive today.

“We can’t amend the Bible, but we can read the Bible differently and be aware of the different traditions within the Bible itself,” she says. “Being persons of faith means we must engage the Bible. It is not enough to use just the perspective of the privileged male. We need to hear these other voices and consider the harm caused by traditional interpretations. We need to understand that there isn’t only one way of reading the Bible so that one way is scriptural and the other one isn’t. They are *both* scriptural.”

Anderson wrote the book for a general audience, organizing the material in seven chapters that would work well with adult Bible studies and other church groups. She hopes progressive churches that are open and inclusive about homosexuality and about hearing diverse perspectives will find the book useful. Unfortunately, she says, such congregations are often told, as a result of their openness, that they are not true Christians. Anderson says they will find support in one of the book’s major themes: inclusion is Christian.



Cheryl Anderson in South Africa

Traditionally narrow biblical interpretations “hurt so many people,” she says. “The Bible says many different things. We pick and choose what we’re going to follow. ... My goal for this book is to help people see ways to interpret the Bible in healthier and more loving ways.”

Following is one of many examples of exclusive interpretation she examines in the book. “In the spring of 2007, a female faculty member at a Southern Baptist seminary in Texas was fired as part of a denominational

‘redirection’ and closer adherence to 1 Timothy 2:12: ‘But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.’

“Of course, the fact that the faculty member, who was herself a graduate of the seminary, as well as the students who had given her excellent teaching evaluations, might have a different perspective is simply not considered. . . . For traditional (conservative) Christianity, different perspectives are not acknowledged, and the consequences for targeted groups cannot be considered.”

Ancient Laws & Contemporary Controversies has earned praise from widely respected theologians.

“Cheryl Anderson’s book opens up biblical law from the perspective of women, gays, the poor, indigenous, and colonized people and wrestles with issues of biblical authority in that context, says Rosemary Radford Ruether. “This is a key work for those concerned with the role of the Bible in promoting inclusive justice.”

Adds Walter Brueggemann: “In her discussion of biblical texts, she shows how much interpretation has been the self-interested, even if self-deceiving, domain of Western affluent, white, heterosexual males. . . . Going beyond criticism of earlier interpretive practices, the book is a testimony to the faithfulness and urgency of ‘other-regarding’ interpretation.”

Ancient Laws & Contemporary Controversies is available through the publisher, Oxford University Press at www.oup.com, and amazon.com.

Anderson earned a Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and a J.D. from Wayne State University Law School. She practiced law in Washington for nearly 10 years before beginning her theological education. An ordained elder in The United Methodist Church, she frequently conducts Bible studies in churches. She is also the author of *Women, Ideology, and Violence: Critical Theory and the Construction of Gender in the Book of the Covenant and the Deuteronomic Law*.

Seminary Launches New Institute

Garrett-Evangelical launched The Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities with a power-packed, three-day conference on campus in February, “Ethical Leadership, the Church and the Global Economy.” Organized in collaboration with the seminary’s Center for the Church and the Black Experience, it focused on the dramatic impact the changing global economy is having on communities, congregations and the mission of the church throughout the Midwest.



Philip Amerson addresses panel



Max Stackhouse, Professor Emeritus, Princeton



Dipak Jain of Northwestern University (left) and Mark Fowler, Director of the Leadership Institute (right)

A conference is planned in 2011 focusing on ways the church can engage youth in a dialogue about living faith-based lives of significance, not just success, with the intention of transforming the world.

First United Methodist Church of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Meeting Needs through Creative Ministries

Garrett-Evangelical announced in October 2007 the establishment of the Leadership Circle of Congregations to recognize and thank those churches that are playing a critically important role in helping to train future church leaders.

Churches and organizations (such as United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Sunday school classes, etc.) who give at least \$1,000 during any fiscal year are recognized as members of the seminary's Leadership Circle of Congregations. In this issue of *Aware*, we are pleased to introduce one of the congregations in our 2009-2010 Leadership Circle of Congregations – First United Methodist Church of Green Bay.

Methodism began in what is now Wisconsin when Colonel Samuel Ryan, a vigorous and enthusiastic man of Irish birth, was assigned to Fort Howard in 1826. He worshipped and cared for the spiritual needs of the small community until the first pastor, Rev. John Clark (the namesake for Clark Street in Chicago), was assigned from the New York Conference in 1832. In 1836, the Methodist Society was given a tract of land by John Jacob Astor and built the first frame building. This was the first Protestant church building in Green Bay and was used for a number of years by a congregation that became First United Methodist Church of Green Bay. The church is now in its fourth building, dedicated on July 28, 1929.

Today, First United Methodist Church is a vital congregation of 1,200 members reflecting the strength of the community's diversity. A husband-and-wife team provides pastoral leadership: Rev. Paul Johnsen, lead pastor, and Rev. Sarah Johnsen, pastor. The Rev. Dave Wilkinson is minister of communications.

The website, which is central to the church's cutting-edge communications program links to three Facebook pages, including one focusing on youth ministry.

Wilkinson began an innovative and trademarked SOUND BITES Ministry in 1999. Monday through Friday he shares favorite quotes with subscribers about Christian faith and life in general that he has collected for years. Today, over 1,900 subscribers receive SOUND BITES directly. For more information and to subscribe, visit www.fumc.org, go to Communications and SOUND BITES.

The church features a broad, dynamic, far-reaching Mission Outreach that includes a Kenya Mission and a Partnership with a Lithuanian Church. For a

full description of these ministries, please visit www.fumcgb.org and go to Mission Outreach.

First United Methodist Church and Garrett-Evangelical have close ties through an endowed scholarship that was established by First United Methodist Church of Green Bay in 1991. Judy Crain and Betsy Hendrickson, now life trustees of the seminary, were closely involved with the establishment of this scholarship and it has grown to a significant level over the years.

Other relationships have strengthened the connection. Church member Dave Pietenpol, an active member of the seminary's Council of Laity, instituted a motorcycle rally in 2008 that has been a wonderful fundraiser for the church's scholarship at Garrett-Evangelical. Scott Carnes, who graduates in May with an M.Div., was formerly the director of youth ministries and returned to preach in April. Many former pastors are Garrett-Evangelical alums and Wilkinson did most of his Diaconal Ministry studies here.

Are you interested in learning more about the Leadership Circle of Congregations and how your congregation can join? If you answer is "yes," contact David Heetland, vice president for development at 847.866.3970 or David.Heetland@garrett.edu.

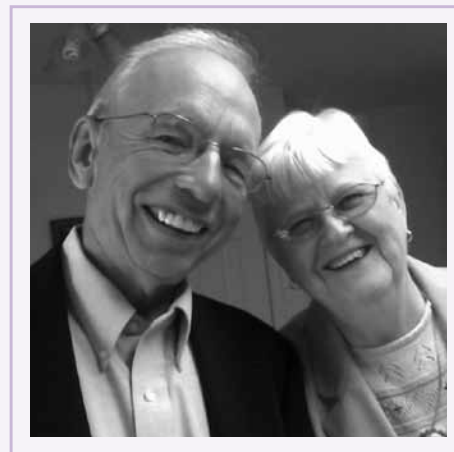


2009 KenyaHELP Retreat

In Retirement, Duane Mevis Counts His Blessings... and Continues to Serve

Rev. Duane Mevis (ETS, '59) has long been a champion of the marginalized. Whatever he and Carol—his wife, partner, and soul mate of 50 years—have done for the least of these is impressive. To everyone, that is, except this servant-oriented couple who would much prefer to do the work and deflect the praise. “This is embarrassing, really,” he said. “So many others from Garrett-Evangelical have done the same kind of work and more of it. People want to give me more credit than I deserve. None of it would have happened without the help of many, many others.”

For 17 years, the Mevises provided pre-adoptive foster care to more than 60 babies. At Wesley United Methodist Church in Naperville, he led the planning and fundraising for three trips to Pass Christian, MS, where he participated with fifteen volunteers in construction projects in an area where 80 percent of the residents lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina.



Duane and Carol Mevis

He recently returned with another Wesley group from Cedar Rapids, IA, rehabilitating homes and setting the stage for a Habitat for Humanity blitz build to help families who were forced to evacuate after last year's flooding.

He and Carol have led youth work trips to Appalachia and helped start the Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity. They've been frequent volunteers at Loaves and Fishes Community Pantry in Naperville, organizing and distributing food to those in need. For years they've organized and participated in the annual Naperville Area CROP Walk that involves hundreds of walkers and raises thousands of dollars for local and international hunger organizations.

During the 1960s they accepted an appointment to First Evangelical United Brethren Church in inner city Peoria. He worked with other churches to establish a larger parish for social-service ministries that evolved into Common Place, a ministry that continues providing services to residents in the low-income neighborhood. Duane also participated in many marches with the NAACP, advocating for educational equality and school integration.

Duane led seven pilgrimages to Israel/Palestine, visiting holy sites and trying to gain a better understanding of the region's political realities. Sensitivity to the plight of Palestinians led him to help start End The Occupation, a group that has held monthly vigils in downtown Naperville the past eight years protesting the Israeli occupation.

After his official retirement, Duane taught “Bible and Homosexuality” courses at several churches, including Wesley. The course inspired the Wesley congregation to adopt a welcoming statement that begins, “God, as known to us in Jesus Christ, welcomes all. So do we.”

Duane was called to servanthood long before he left a Wisconsin dairy farm to attend North Central College and Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville. “Wesley summarized it very well—combine a warm heart and personal faith with mission, especially with the marginalized,” he said. “Christ always seemed to reach out and to those on the edges, and that has become our calling, too.”

He has many fond memories from ETS. “I especially remember chapel with the wonderful singing and special speakers that we frequently had. I also greatly appreciated the friendships I developed over coffee.”

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Julie Fleurinor Mourns for Her Haitian Homeland, Dreams of Returning as a United Methodist Pastor

On Jan. 11, the day before an earthquake killed more than 200,000 people in Haiti, Julie Fleurinor shared a nightmare with her Missional Preaching class. “Everybody was running,” she told them. “I was so scared.” Reflecting on the dream three months later, she believes “the Holy Ghost was really preparing my heart to see the corpses laid out in the street.”

A second-year M.Div. student, Julie hopes to return to Haiti soon. She knows that some family members survived the magnitude 7.0 quake – two aunts lost their homes but weren’t injured – and others did not. Watching CNN, she thought she saw a cousin among the dead bodies. She posted his photo on the network’s website. She called repeatedly but never got through.

“Every day I was watching the news, I grieved,” she says. “It was such a deep grief because I already knew what the situation was like before the earthquake. Conditions were bad. Now they’re much worse.”

With tremendous support from the dean of students, Pamela Lightsey, fellow students and the congregation at her church, Trinity United Methodist Church in Wilmette, she managed to get through those difficult days. “God got me through it,” she says, tearing up and turning to gaze through the classroom window at the sun-soaked spring campus.



Julie Fleurinor as a child

Julie was baptized in the Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter Day Saints, which had a strong mission presence in Haiti. “We were thankful for the help,” she says. “Those people were good to me, good to my family.”

As a 5 year old in 1981, she immigrated to

Miami, where she lived until she graduated from high school. At Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, she first encountered the United Methodist Church under the nurturing influence of the Rev. Candace Lewis, who was starting Florida’s first new predominantly black church in 25 years.



Julie Fleurinor

“That was where my spiritual journey began,” she says. “Rev. Lewis continues to be a vital spiritual mentor.”

After transferring to the University of North Florida and graduating with a degree in political science and a minor in social work, Julie began her career as an operations manager for a nonprofit. She also became passionate about community development work through her church. In 2007, attending a United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries meeting about children in poverty in St. Louis, she met Dr. Elaine Amerson, who intrigued her with the notion of pursuing her passion for community development through ordained ministry... and starting down that path with a visit to Garrett-Evangelical.

“Only when I got here did I find out that her husband was the president,” she says, smiling broadly. “I liked my visit.”

She enrolled the following August and is now a certified candidate for ordination as an elder in the Northern Illinois Conference. Through a paid internship with the General Board of Global Ministries, Julie has continued her community development work – this time for the Haiti’s benefit. She is compiling information about United Methodist churches in Haiti and seeking government and denominational grants to support a

network of church-based education programs and social services in communities across Haiti.

“The lack of education in Haiti is sad,” she says, noting that an estimated 85 to 88 percent of the population is illiterate, according to Earth Trends. “That’s why I’m so excited about the educational project I’m working on. Education is light. If the light comes, it will help overcome a lot of things that oppress them.”

Julie dreams of returning to Haiti as a United Methodist pastor from the Northern Illinois Conference, building a new church and reaching out with education, social services and a boatload of Christ’s love to build community where it is so desperately needed.



Julie with Anne Driscoll, Garrett-Evangelical Trustee, and Daniel Verdegan, Fellow M.Div. Student

Garrett-Evangelical Offers New Certification Program in Children’s Ministry

Designed for Ordained and Lay Christian Educators

Garrett-Evangelical has launched a new certification program in Children’s Ministry for ordained and lay Christian educators. The program augments the seminary’s robust offering of other programs for professional certification.

Students with a passion for children’s ministry will meet certification requirements in United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, and Christian Methodist Episcopal denominations by completing the following five courses:

- Teaching for Biblical Faith
- Theological Education in the Parish
- Advanced Practicum in Teaching
- Children’s Ministries in the Church
- United Methodist Studies

Beyond Children’s Ministry, Garrett-Evangelical makes it possible for students in master’s degree programs as well as non-degree-seeking lay leaders to enhance their knowledge and skills through professional certification in Christian Education, Youth Ministry, Spiritual Formation, Music Ministry, and Evangelism. These certification programs are also a path to becoming a United Methodist deacon.

“These programs of study provide a professional foundation for ordained and lay church leaders who feel called to one of these ministries and who have a genuine passion for this work,” said Dr. Elaine Amerson, assistant vice president for enrollment management. “The courses offer cutting-edge knowledge and practice in the field for those yearning to enhance their ministry.”

Courses are available during two-week intensives in January and July at the seminary. Financial assistance is available to registered candidates for certification through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministries of The United Methodist Church. To review a complete list of certification programs and courses, please go to www.garrett.edu/certification. For more information, contact the admissions office at 847.866.3945 or getadmitted@garrett.edu.

Jake Weber's Ministry Takes Root in Palestine

Like many seminary students, Jake Weber came to Garrett-Evangelical to pursue a career in ordained ministry. But unlike many of his peers, he had no denominational allegiance when he arrived and no clear idea where his call would lead.

That was before he visited Palestine and Israel, just after completing his first semester, during Dr. K.K. Yeo's Holy Land January intensive course (see additional information at end of article). There he met, as part of his course, two extraordinary Palestinians Christians: Father Elias Chacour, the Melkite Catholic Church



Olive Harvest, Israel-Palestine

Archbishop of Galilee who, as providence would have it, delivered the seminary's commencement address four months later; and the Rev. Naim Ateek, an Anglican pastor and founder of an ecumenical, grassroots, liberation-theology center in Jerusalem, Sabeel (www.sabeel.org).

Suddenly his ministry found inspiration, though it remained unformed. When he returned to frigid Evanston in late January, Weber was on fire. He knew his ministry would involve working for peace, justice, and reconciliation in that conflicted stretch of land upon which so much depends, though he did not know how.

"It was one of those things that was just on me," he said. "I was very inspired. ... I had many talks with Nancy Twichell (field education director at the time). What do I do about this? I did really feel a big pull."

Embracing Weber's passion, Twichell and colleague Ann Rosewall encouraged him to pioneer a field-education placement with Sabeel. Sabeel, also impressed

with his commitment to its mission, abandoned the initial proposal for a summer placement and invited him to come for a full academic year.

From September 2008 through June 2009, Weber worked on Sabeel's ecumenical and interfaith initiatives, including Bible studies and service projects with extraordinarily diverse groups mostly in and around Jerusalem. They spoke mostly Arabic, but frequently used English to include him. He picked up a lot of Arabic while there and plans to become fluent in the language of this land he loves.

"The friends I made – I just can't describe the depth and meaning of those relationships," he said. "Some of them, who truly live the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself amid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I would look at as my heroes. ... They liked me being there – they knew I really cared."

Weber came away from the experience convinced the Christian minority accounting for less than two percent of the population can be the bridge builders between Muslims and Jews "by living out the life and teaching of Jesus Christ."

He studied and worked with Christians representing many church traditions, including Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Coptic, Syrian, Armenian, and two Protestant denominations – Anglican and Lutheran. The United Methodist Church presence, exclusively mission groups, is coordinated by Janet Lewis of the General Board of Global Ministries.

Sabeel was founded in 1989 when Ateek convened a committee of clergy and lay people to explore ways to implement on a practical level a Palestinian liberation theology. In March 1990 Sabeel held its first conference. The proceedings were published in a book, *Faith and the Intifada* (Orbis 1992) that was edited by Ateek, Garrett-Evangelical Professor Emeritus Rosemary Radford Ruether, and Jewish American theologian Marc Ellis.

Today, Sabeel seeks to deepen the faith and promote unity among Palestinian Christians while striving to develop a spirituality based on love, justice, peace, nonviolence, liberation, and reconciliation among Palestine's Muslims, Jews and Christians. Its work is not only ecumenical but also profoundly interfaith.

Weber was enthralled with Sabeel Bible studies as 50 to 75 clergy from many traditions held lively discussions about Scripture, often from the lectionary as they prepared homilies and sermons for that week's services. Virtually all discussions at Bible study and in churches are related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Weber said. "These were really powerful meetings," he said. "They would reflect on the conflict through the eyes of the Scripture. There was a lot of community building going on."



Clergy Meeting

The service projects were even more engaging for him. Anywhere from 30 to 50 Jews, Muslims and Christians, mostly young adults, would harvest crops for Palestinian farmers unable to get to their land because of barriers erected by the Israeli government. All Sabeel service projects are related to the region's overriding conflict, and occasionally violence erupted. Weber said some of the Jews who had settled in areas owned by Palestinians for centuries were extremely hostile to these interfaith service groups that he joined. He was in a group one Saturday morning on the way to harvest olives when a settler struck a woman from the Christian Peacemaker Team (headquartered in Chicago).

Noting the region's wide range of political and religious thought, he said many Jews support Sabeel's goals, get involved in these sometimes contentious service projects and work toward justice for oppressed Palestinians. "I can't lose sight of centuries of Jewish persecution, including the Holocaust," he said. "What Israel has done to Palestinians for the past 60 years is not right, not justifiable, but I need to completely understand the suffering of Jews before I can really help the Palestinians."

In an effort to raise awareness at the seminary and beyond, Weber is preparing a presentation for this fall about his experience and reflections on ways toward peace and justice in this troubled region. He continues to discern what form his Palestine ministry will take and what his first steps will be after he graduates with a master of divinity degree in May 2011.

He knows seeking ordination, perhaps in the United Methodist Church, will be one of those steps because it establishes credibility and opens doors in the region. He may seek a hands-on peacemaker role inside the conflict or become a scholar, teacher, writer, and advocate. Bishop-in-Residence Sharon Rader has explored options with him, including ecumenical and international work (World Council of Churches, the United Nations, etc.).

After attending both his mother's Independent Christian Church and his father's Church of Christ in rural Indiana while growing up, Weber chose Garrett-Evangelical because Wesley's teachings resonated with him and because he appreciated the seminary's broad, ecumenical approach and its opportunities for study at Northwestern University and the other seminaries affiliated with Association of Chicago Theological Schools.

"I needed to be exposed to a lot of things to help my discernment," he said. "And I certainly have been."

James E. Ridgway Scholarship

Jake Weber's trip to the Holy Land with Dr. K.K. Yeo was supported by the James E. Ridgway Endowed Scholarship at Garrett-Evangelical. The Ridgway Scholarship was established in 2006 to provide financial assistance to students traveling to Israel through Educational Opportunities, Inc. (an organization founded by James Ridgway). For most students, a trip to the Holy Land is an eye-opening experience. For many, like Jake, it is transformational. In January 2010, the fund provided scholarships to nine students participating in Yeo's Holy Land tour.

Presidential Perspective continued...

Dr. Mark Fowler. Surely this conference and this new institute is a faithful successor to the work of Bishop Pickett.

Can persons be politically liberal or conservative and still be open to a reshaping of their perspectives by searching the riches of the foundational story of Christian faith? Yes, of course. Here is where the seminary becomes a great gift for the church and the world. We are given the great task of telling and retelling the story of redemption and the Exodus of God's people from slavery. We are to retell the story of the prophets speaking their words of judgment and hope to an empire. We have the story of Jesus the Christ, who broke the bonds of death, and of the church called to live as a faithful witness to the transforming power of God.

Wendell Berry writes, "The idea of the current crop of 'conservatives' – that government can cater to greed and leave charity to volunteers – is vicious and it can't work. The 'liberal' idea – that the failures of a greedy and wasteful economy can be effectively patched by government services and regulations – is also hopeless. There is no way to get a good result from an economy that institutionalizes greed as an honorable motive and excuses waste and destruction as 'acceptable costs.'" (Berry, *Conversations with Wendell Berry*, p. 179)

What role might a school of theology play in providing a more compelling and constructive story line? What

might we say about the life of redeemed and reconciling communities? Is it possible to craft a story that begins with scripture, church history, and theology and leads to a more hopeful narrative for the larger culture? Can our everyday lives display a trust in God's story of redemption for our world and reconciliation amid the brokenness and violence all around? Can persons be politically liberal or conservative and still be faithful Christians?

Surely our lives can be given over to something better than macaroni and sloppy ideological comfort food. Surely the easy texts of the political left and right need to be replaced by people of faith with a rigorous examination of our story as God's people who seek to live faithful lives.

I believe in the demanding, paradoxical, life-transforming power of theological reflection, prayer, and social witness. I believe in the claims of the gospel on our lives to share the good news and to live toward justice, all the while reflecting on that which is central. I believe that discipleship requires openness and a willingness to think and re-think the common and popular, beyond the comfort of any ideological space. I believe Jesus still calls us to follow him. That's my story... and I'm sticking to it. That's why what we do at Garrett-Evangelical is so essential.

Duane Mevis continued...

One of those good friends, Tom Lowery (ETS '59), introduced Duane to his sister, Carol, at graduation. They were married a year later. "I really feel blessed with her as a soul mate," he said. "She shared my call to ministry. We've always been a good team." Duane and Carol make their home in Naperville. They have two children, Karen and David, and three grandchildren who live in the area.

Duane retired in 1997 after serving as pastor for 40 years in the Northern Illinois Conference, including EUB churches in Gibson City, Forreston, and Peoria. He served at Asbury UMC, Villa Park, and Bethany UMC, Aurora before serving at Wesley UMC, Naperville, from 1981 until 1990. His final appointment (1990-1997) was to Hinsdale, IL, UMC, where a scholarship was established to honor his many years of effective ministry in the conference. Duane continues to serve today as pastor emeritus at Wesley UMC, where a special service was held on June 14 to celebrate his 50 years in ministry.

"It's been a wonderful, very fulfilling ministry for me," he said. "People have been very accepting. I feel blessed."

Tex Sample Will Be Featured Speaker at Congregational Leaders Institute 2010

Register Now to Reserve Place for Five-Day Conference at Bay View, Michigan

Dr. Tex Sample, a much sought-after lecturer, storyteller, workshop leader, and author, will be the featured speaker and small group leader at Congregational Leaders Institute 2010 in Bay View, MI, Aug. 1-5.

The second annual Institute is a renewal and study opportunity for pastors and church leaders to have a week of reflection, learning, and interaction with inspirational and provocative educational and faith leaders. It is co-sponsored by Garrett-Evangelical and Methodist Theological School in Ohio in cooperation with the Bay View Religion Department.

The opening gathering and orientation will be Sunday evening, Aug. 1. Participants will hear Sample's lectures Monday-Thursday mornings and have 90 minutes every afternoon for small group conversations with him.

Sample is the Robert B. and Kathleen Rogers Professor Emeritus of Church and Society at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, where he taught from

1967 to 1999. A former cab driver, laborer, and oil-field roustabout, he received his M.Div. and Ph.D. from Boston University, and a D.D. from Coe College. Sample is an ordained United Methodist elder and a contributor to many of the DVD programs in the Living the Questions series. His most recent of eight books is *Earthy Mysticism: Spirituality for Unspiritual People*.

CEUs are available upon arrangement with one of the sponsoring seminaries. Registration for the week is \$275, plus housing. Discount rates for spouses and children are available. Enrollment is limited. For more information or to register, visit www.garrett.edu/bayview, or contact David Ahn at 847.866.3942 or david.ahn@garrett.edu.

Founded as a religious retreat in 1876, Bay View is well known for its more than 400 Victorian-style cottages, two historic hotels and beautiful views of Lake Michigan's Little Traverse Bay by the charming town of Petoskey.

Save a Tree

Ready to switch from snail-mail to e-mail?

We encourage you to help us "save a tree" by signing up to receive *Aware* online. The need to conserve our natural resources is urgent!

You can join us in our efforts to protect the environment by registering at www.garrett.edu/gogreen. You will receive a monthly email with a link to *Aware*, now in an easier-to-read format.

If you prefer, contact Betty Campbell at 847.866.3971 or elizabeth.campbell@garrett.edu to let us know your preference.

Alum News

Warren McFate, ETS 1948, Newton, IA, has compiled a resource for seminary students, pastors, and lay persons entitled, *A Formula for Your Church to Increase its Financial Resources*. It is a compendium of insights from authorities in the field of stewardship development put into a formula to help local congregations increase their finances. Copies are \$15 each, plus postage. Contact Warren at warrenjm@iowatelecom.net.

Paul E. Stiffler, ETS 1953, Villa Park, IL, has written a book entitled, *Spiritual Pathways*, a collection of poems centering on the liturgical seasons and guided images of reflection. The book is available through Xlibris press.

Jerald R. Barnhart, ETS 1960, Rochester, MN, is founder and producer of “Vets Visits on TV,” a non-profit information-education series which began its 13th year in April in 21 states. To learn more, visit www.vetsvisitsontv.org

Royal Speidel, ETS 1962, Jefferson City, MO, had a second retirement as he finished six years in the position of Distinguished Evangelist in Residence with the General Board of Discipleship at the end of December 2009. He is the author of *Evangelism in the Small Membership Church* and *100 Days of Hope*.

Larry A. Kreps, GE 1978, Cincinnati, OH, has self-published, *Cancer is a Four-Letter Word: A Pilgrimage into the Emotional, Sexual and Spiritual Aspects of Prostate Cancer*. A survivor of prostate cancer himself, he writes, “Prostate cancer literally strikes at the core of a man’s body as well as his identity as a male. It took me a while to find my way into a new life.” The book is available through Amazon.com.

Gary Peluso-Verdend, GE 1981, Tulsa, OK, has been named as president of Phillips Theological Seminary. He was formerly associate professor of practical theology and vice president of stewardship at the school.

Mark E. Spaw, GE 1983, Ann Arbor, MI, has been appointed superintendent of the Ann Arbor District of the United Methodist Church by Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton. Spaw, who currently serves as the senior pastor at Trenton: Faith United Methodist Church, will begin his appointment on July 1, 2010.

Sarah Wenger Shenk, GE 1986, Harrisonburg, VA, has been named president of Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She has been a member of the faculty and administration at Eastern Mennonite Seminary since 1995, most recently as associate dean and associate professor of Christian practices.

In Memory of Margaret Pickett Sagan, Life Trustee

Margaret Pickett Sagan passed away on January 23 in Evanston, Illinois. Margaret Pickett Sagan was born in Lucknow, India, on October 18, 1926, the daughter of J. Waskom and Ruth Robinson Pickett, Methodist missionaries. She came to the United States in 1944, attending Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) in Delaware, Ohio, and meeting John Sagan, who came to OWU at the end of World War II. Margaret married John in 1948 and moved to Dearborn, Michigan in 1952, where she raised her family and became a church and community leader. In addition to numerous volunteer positions at First United Methodist Church in Dearborn, she served as a trustee of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston and the East-Side Ministry in Detroit.

Margaret is survived by two siblings, Miriam Gould and Douglas Pickett, and by her three children and their spouses, John and Betsy Sagan of Evanston, Linda Sagan Harrier and Tem Harrier of Evanston, and Scott Sagan and Sujitan Bao Lamsam of Palo Alto, California, and by nine grandchildren.

Margaret had tremendous grace, an eternal smile, and abiding love for her family and friends. We mourn our loss as we remember and celebrate her life.

In Memoriam

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the following alums who have died in Christ.

1930s

J. Samuel Pritchard, ETS 1932, Waynesville, NC, died on October 5, 2009.

1940s

Paul Hunsberger, ETS 1942, Des Moines, IA, died on December 2, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Helen.

Harry V. Summers, ETS 1943, Brentwood, CA, died on February 3, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Ila.

Jack B. North, GBI 1944, Springfield, MO, died on January 20, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Martha.

Edwin Gruneich, ETS 1944, Akron, OH, died on December 6, 2009.

Gwendolyn McLeod, GBI 1948, Groveland, CA, died on November 23, 2009.

1950s

H. Paul Smith, GBI 1951, Lakeland, FL, has died. We regret that no further information is available at this time.

Robert James Stansbury, GBI 1951, Buckhannon, WV, died on February 9, 2010.

Abraham L. Brandyberry, ETS 1952, Medinah, OH, died on February 2, 2010. He is survived by his daughter, Sarah.

Iris Virginia Cully, GBI 1954, Claremont, CA, died on February 24, 2010. She is survived by her daughter, Melissa.

James Lloyd Paulson, GBI 1954, Cape Coral, FL, died on September 19, 2009.

Sidney A. Short, GBI 1957, Auburn, IN, died in 2009. We regret that no further details are available at this time.

Laurence I. Smith, GBI 1957, Elkhart, IN, died in October 2009. We regret that no further details are available at this time.

1960s

Carolyn Sue Bullock, GTS 1965, Flint, MI, died on August 19, 2009.

Sheldon Lang Grame, ETS 1974, Indianapolis, IN, died in February 2010. We regret that no further details are available at this time.

1980s

Lewis L. Olmsted, GE 1980, Mandeville, LA, died on December 4, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Sharon.

Distinguished Alum Award Nominations for 2011

honoring Garrett-Evangelical graduates who exemplify outstanding service in ministry

Each year, one award is given to a Garrett-Evangelical alum who graduated more than 25 years ago and a second award honors a Garrett-Evangelical alum who graduated 25 years ago or less. Nominees should embody the principles of Christian service in effective ministry and be graduates of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary or one of its parent bodies (Garrett, Evangelical, or Chicago Training School).

Nominations must be received by June 30, 2010

Awards will be presented at commencement of the following year. Persons previously nominated will be considered and will not require a second nomination to ensure their consideration.

A nomination form is available at www.garrett.edu...Alums and Friends...Distinguished Alums. Or, contact Betty Campbell at Elizabeth.Campbell@garrett.edu or 847.866.3971. Nominations can also be mailed to Betty Campbell at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL. 60201.

Garrett-Evangelical
Theological Seminary
Garrett

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Evanston, Illinois 60201

visit us at www.garrett.edu

Calendar of Events

Summer School

Monday, June 14, 2010: Session 1

Monday, June 28, 2010: Session 2

Sunday-Thursday, August 1-5, 2010 Congregational Leaders Institute

The workshop, held at Bay View religious retreat center near Petoskey, MI, features Dr. Tex Sample, a sought-after lecturer, storyteller, and workshop leader. (See page 17.)

Contact David Ahn at 847.866.3942 or at david.ahn@garrett.edu

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

First Day of Fall Classes

Wednesday, September 15, 2010,

Opening Convocation Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Center for the Church and the Black Experience

11 a.m., Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful

12 p.m. Luncheon, Robert Allen Center, Northwestern University

Speaker: Dr. James Cone, Charles A. Briggs Distinguished
Professor of Systematic Theology, Union Theological Seminary

Contact Marge Eckhart at 847.866.3902 or at marge.eckhardt@garrett.edu
or Dr. R. Drew Smith at 847.866.3984 or at drew.smith@garrett.edu

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

A Grain of Truth: Food, Justice, and Migration

Hosted by the Hispanic Center and the Center for the Church and
the Black Experience.

Contact Nancy Bedford at 847.866.3931 or nancy.bedford@garrett.edu