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He walked wearily down the hallway toward me. A young student at Garrett-Evangelical, serving as pastor of a congregation in a nearby neighborhood, he was carrying a demanding schedule.

Noticing his bloodshot eyes, I asked, “How are you?” He paused, looked up and said, “It’s good being a pastor, but it is hard work.”

This fine student and promising future leader told me about a new outreach effort and about the challenges of bringing together the good people from the congregation and neighborhood. There are scores of students like this young man walking our halls every day. Like him they are seeking to build social, educational and spiritual bridges – it is good work, but hard work. I also want them to know it is joyful work and not their burden to carry alone.

My mail that day provided two more letters about the event on congregations and schools hosted by Garrett-Evangelical at St. Luke’s Church in Indianapolis. I have received many letters and emails about the event. Each expresses a particular point of view or wants to make certain a constituency was represented. The requests are compelling, demanding, and often contradictory. Clearly we have touched a nerve. What should be the partnership between churches and schools? This will require wisdom, patience, and careful action. It is good work, but hard work. Can it be joyful as well?

Later, I was delighted to learn that Dr. Brent Peterson, a recent Ph.D. graduate from Garrett-Evangelical has been awarded the 2011 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Wesleyan Theological Society. Brent’s dissertation was: “A Post-Wesleyan Eucharistic Ecclesiology: The Renewal of the Church as the Body of Christ to be Doxologically Broken and Spilled Out for the World.”

It speaks of the healing that comes through Holy Communion and the way this can heal the church and renew it as the body of Christ. The church is then sent out in the ministry of incarnation in the world. I think on these words, “Doxologically Broken and Spilled Out for the World.” To be broken and give ourselves up in praise and gratitude… for the world. This is our calling. Joyful good work, and it is hard work.

Not that our work is essential to our salvation, of course. It is not by our righteousness that we are saved. It is this release, this gift, this opportunity to be engaged for the world that is the cause of our joy and praise. Our call is simply to be the church. Several years ago I heard an Anglican bishop being interviewed about the financial difficulties his diocese was facing. “What will you do if legal actions result in your losing all of your property, and you have no more money?” The bishop paused for a moment and then, with a wry chuckle, he said, “Well, I guess we will find a table, get a bottle of wine and a loaf of bread and start all over again.”

Is it possible that amid all of our hand-wringing and analysis and efforts to find blame the real truth is that we have lost track of what is most important and life giving? Too many believe that if we do one more study, follow modern business practices, identify the five or seven or ten “best practices,” we will find the magical formula for renewing the church. Dr. Peterson’s dissertation points us in the right direction. As Philip Watson, former faculty member wrote, our true calling is to quite simply “Let God Be God.”

In other words, we are to stop thinking it is our riddle to solve, our church to save, our congregation to revitalize. This is all God’s work. Now, we are privileged to have a hand in it. So, my counsel to the young pastor and to the folks who worry about the education of our children, or the decline in membership, or who seek some formula to renew the denomination is very simple: Let the Church Be the Church. Let us gather at table, be broken by the amazing gifts we receive, and then joyfully spill ourselves in mission with and for others. It is good work, and it is hard work… and, if we can let go of our measuring sticks and expectations and our need to blame others, it is profoundly joyful work.
Garrett-Evangelical is rising to the challenge of offering cutting edge educational opportunities. Through its newly revitalized doctor of ministry program, the MDiv Plus program, and the newly created Plus program, the seminary offers opportunities for clergy and lay leaders to increase their knowledge, sharpen their skills, and enhance their ability to become true leaders in their churches and communities.

**Doctor of Ministry Degree**

The doctor of ministry is an advanced degree designed to help clergy become highly skilled practitioners in specific practices of ministry. With strong enrollment and new programs that clearly link classroom study and settings for ministry, this program has taken on a new vitality. Enrollment has risen from 19 one year ago to 33 today.

Participants come to campus twice a year for three-week intensives focused on four specialized practices of ministry: congregational leadership; African-American congregational leadership; spiritual direction; and mission in the contemporary United States.

The congregational leadership track offers students the best thinking in management and administrative theory from the business world. The African-American congregational leadership track focuses on how management and administrative theory can be adapted to the unique experiences of African-American congregations. Students in these two tracks participate in the Plus program sponsored by the seminary’s Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities.

The spiritual direction track equips students to become spiritual directors, emphasizing the practices of the spiritual disciplines and how to equip others to participate. The mission in the contemporary United States track helps students gain a stronger footing in both the theory of evangelism they are using and in understanding how to apply it in their cultural setting.

One aspect that sets the doctor of ministry program apart is the strong emphasis on integrating the student’s work in the classroom with the student’s actual engagement in ministry. A team from the student’s ministry setting encourages and advises the student throughout the coursework phase; seminary faculty converse with the ministry team; and a final project partners the student and the ministry team in enhancing the practice of ministry.

Current students are engaged in diverse projects which unite classroom studies with church practice. One student is developing a discipleship training program for a Methodist denomination in another country; another is developing a rural church strategy for an annual conference; and one is developing an executive education program for clergy.

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“**The D.Min. is a launching pad for large and significant new ministries in the local church and beyond.**”

--Mark Teasdale

Mark Teasdale, who became the new director of the program in April 2009, states, “Garrett-Evangelical conceives the D.Min. as a gift to the church as much as a means of causing clergy to excel in their practice of ministry.” He further says that “the D.Min. is a launching pad for large and significant new ministries in the local church and beyond.

Another plus: the program makes use of the resources of the seminary’s Ph.D. programs. All students in the doctor of ministry program take at least one Ph.D. level course and have the possibility of taking an additional Ph.D. elective. In addition, the program serves as a portal to the doctor of ministry in preaching that is offered through the Association of Chicago Theological Schools.

For more information about the doctor of ministry program, please contact Mark Teasdale at 847.866.3954 or mark.teasdale@garrett.edu.

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**MDiv Plus and Plus Programs**

Two new programs, administered under the auspices of the seminary’s Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities, are unique and distinctive to Garrett-Evangelical: the MDiv Plus program (began in 2010) and the Plus program (to begin in Fall 2011).
The MDiv Plus program is designed for recent graduates of the seminary. The new Plus program is designed for clergy, lay leaders, and key volunteers in congregations and other faith-based organizations, regardless of denominational affiliation. Together, they are designed to increase the leadership impact of clergy and laity.

Central to both programs is a format created in collaboration with the Center for Non-Profit Management at Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management. Faculty members from both Kellogg and Garrett-Evangelical lead six seminars over three years, one each in the fall and the spring. Seminar topics include developing personal leadership; financial and general management; building external relationships; and managing people and resources.

Twenty-three recent graduates enrolled in the MDiv Plus program last fall. Thirteen doctor of ministry program students also participated. This program has filled a long-recognized need for continuing support and education for clergy when they most need it—during the first three years of ministry. Its ground-breaking approach has drawn attention across the country.

The MDiv Plus program also offers caring support and coaching for individuals in their first three years of ministry following seminary. Participants benefit from thirty hours of free coaching by experienced clergy and other counselors who have successfully completed clergy coach training, a joint program of the seminary and Samaritan Consulting Services of Naperville, Illinois.

Nancy Lynn, a 2010 graduate, says “I enrolled in the program to further develop my leadership skills. Now that I am in my first appointment, I can see my own strengths and weaknesses as a church leader. This program has allowed me to continue learning with a community of my peers to support me.”

Graduates of the MDiv Plus program will receive a joint certification in church leadership from Garrett-Evangelical and Kellogg School of Management. This certification will affirm that the participant has satisfactorily completed training in both leadership and management.

For additional information about the MDiv Plus or Plus programs, please contact James Haun at 847.866.3861 or james.haun@garrett.edu.

Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities

The Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities (ITLC) was founded in February 2010 out of the growing conviction that the seminary should be “for the church” and be a networking resource to clergy and lay leadership in the ongoing mission of the church “for the transformation of the world.”

Through the leadership of President Philip Amerson, the seminary has sought to produce “bold leaders for the church, the academy and the world.” The Institute is a witness to this key commitment as it is charged with developing programs and events that provide continuous education and lifelong learning for leaders and communities. The formative program for the Institute is MDiv Plus.

Mark Fowler, Executive Director of the Institute and the Murray H. Leiffer Associate Professor of Congregational Leadership, believes the Institute will have a global impact. “The Institute is more than management; it is a means for global transformation,” he said. “The program is ambitious, reaching far beyond the region. In partnership with the Center for Methodist Studies, the Institute intends to create classes internationally, creating new partnerships with universities and seminaries of the Methodist family outside the United States.”

For more information visit the Institute’s website, www.transformativeleaders.org, or contact James Haun at 847.866.3861 or james.haun@garrett.edu.
Contemporary discussions of the function of worship in the life of the church tend to focus on the ways in which worship serves as a means to reach out to the unchurched, as a tool for evangelism, as the central practice for church growth, and as a set of products shaped by consumer desires. (The recent Call to Action report in The United Methodist Church provides only one recent example of these tendencies.) But what if we began to think about worship from a different perspective? What if we began to think of worship as a kind of mirror and model for the Christian community?

Worship as mirror. We know what mirrors do; they reflect back to us an image. Some mirrors are shaped in ways to help focus images (even images at great distances, like telescope mirrors), some to expand our field of vision (like side mirrors on semis), and some distort images (like the “Bean” at Chicago’s Millennium Park). Some of these reflected images are helpful, some are simply fun, and some are harmful.

Worship can do all of these things. It can distort our vision and be harmful when we expect worship to look exactly like us, when we expect worship to express our particular feelings, sensibilities, and tastes. In this sense, worship becomes a kind of “looking glass”—the kind of mirror we use for personal grooming and self-adoration. You might say that such a mirror prompts a kind of narcissism, a loving gaze at our selves.

But the mirror that is faithful worship sharpens and expands our vision. This mirror reflects back to us the brokenness of our lives and brings us to self-examination. It helps us look more closely at our lives, our blemishes and our wrinkles, helping us see that we are not quite as kind, as just, as attentive to the poor, or as welcoming of those who are different from us as we think we are. Yet, as it reflects this reality to us, it also reveals that we are more than we can see. This mirror shows us, even in our brokenness, an image of redemption, healing, and love. It shows us that we bear the image of God.

Worship as model. A model is something used to represent something else—whether that representation is of something concrete, like the plan for a church building, or something conceptual, like our understanding of the universe. Models can represent the actual “state of affairs” in our world or they can represent an idealized state, such as John’s vision of the heavenly city in Revelation 21-22. Models provide frameworks that help us understand things, ideas, and relationships.

When worship primarily models the actual conditions of our world, it is affirming and forming us in the values, prejudices, and behaviors of the dominant cultures in which we live. That the “worship hour” remains the most racially and economically segregated hour in our public lives is but one example. Another is the way in which many growth-oriented models for church life look increasingly like models for shopping malls, with specialized shops (worship services and musical styles) catering to every taste and level of income. A third example, especially in North American protestantism, is the way in which some of our worship practices reflect confusion between our allegiance to God and our allegiance to nation.

In contrast, the model of faithful worship enables us to encounter God’s vision and plan for the world. Worship, more than anything else, should model for us (even provide the place in which we practice) the ways in which we, in all our difference and brokenness, can become a community beloved in that difference, encounter a prophetic and caring word, and be drawn to a common banquet table. Faithful worship models for us the ways in which we bring lament and praise to God, intercede for those close to us as well those to whom we are strangers, and learn to blend our diverse voices into a harmony worthy of a generous and merciful God.

What is the mirror and model of worship showing you? How is it shaping your life as a Christian community?

E. Byron (Ron) Anderson is the Styberg Associate Professor of Worship and director of the Nellie B. Ebersole program in Music Ministry.
First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, Michigan, is an active congregation that empowers its members into mission and ministry in the community and across the globe. Its website states, “The purpose of the First United Methodist Church, Birmingham, is to gather persons into the body of Christ, nurture them as disciples of Jesus Christ and equip them for ministry and mission in the world. With deepening commitments and expanding ministries, our vision is to change lives and become a model New Testament congregation for the denomination and the center of Christian faith in the community.”

This congregation of 3,300 members takes seriously the call of the gospel to spread the love of Christ in the world. Last year church members visited four states and nine countries in addition to their work in metro Detroit and throughout Michigan. Additionally, they gave over $1,000,000 to more than 90 programs. “It would be easy for this congregation to just send our money, but we have been intentional about engaging our members in committing their own service to these ministries as well,” said John Harnish, senior pastor of Birmingham First. “Bishop Edsel Ammons told me that there is no such thing as a local United Methodist church; we are all part of a global connection. Anyone who comes to our church understands our larger commitments.”

Birmingham First is also committed to theological education through preparing people for ministry. Both Birmingham First and the United Methodist Women from that congregation are members of the seminary’s Leadership Circle of Congregations this year. The Leadership Circle is made up of churches and church organizations that contribute $1,000 or more to the seminary in the current fiscal year.

In addition, since the fall of 2000, Birmingham First has been opening its doors to become a teaching congregation to Garrett-Evangelical students during the January intensive term. Seminarians experience home stays with church members, and they are exposed to the inner life and workings of this congregation and other area United Methodist ministries, including Hope United Methodist Church and Cass Community Social Services. In January, 11 current students took part.

“In this experience, the theory that seminarians are learning in the classroom crashes on the rocks of reality,” said Mark Fowler, the trip’s leader, executive director of the Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities, and The Murray H. Leiffer Associate Professor of Congregational Leadership. “The students learn what leadership entails from three contrasting perspectives, and at the same time congregation members see in these students the hope and future of The United Methodist Church.”

Garrett-Evangelical and Birmingham First have developed a strong and reciprocal relationship. Four of the five current clergy on staff at the church have a connection to the seminary. Brian and Monica William are graduates from 2002 and 2004, respectively. John Harnish holds an honorary doctorate, and Rodney Quainton was formerly on staff of the Stead Center for Ethics and Values at Garrett-Evangelical. Garrett-Evangelical graduates who have served as associate pastors in the last ten years include Matthew Hook (1991 and one of last year’s distinguished alums), Jeff Nelson (2004), Carl Gladstone (2004), and Lynn Hasley (2004).

Garrett-Evangelical has also benefited from its relationship with Birmingham First. Dale and Barbara Glick, members of the church, serve on Garrett-Evangelical’s Council of Laity. Two life trustees, Cliff Bath and Jay Hook, and two current trustees, Ann Littleton and Roger Cummings, are members of the church.

Garrett-Evangelical is grateful to Birmingham First United Methodist Church and to its congregation for the important role they are playing in bearing witness to the love of God through Christ – and for the role they are playing in preparing future leaders of the church.

Are you interested in learning more about the Leadership Circle of Congregations and Council of Laity and how your congregation can join? For more information, contact David Heetland, vice president for development at david.heetland@garrett.edu or 847.866.3970.
Inara Brubaker came to United Methodism and to the United States in a remarkable way. Her life journey is a story of an individual overcoming obstacles and tragedy, developing a strong spiritual center and forming a strong bond to The United Methodist Church and Garrett-Evangelical. We are glad that we can share some of her story with you.

Inara, could you tell us a little about your upbringing and how you came to the United States?

I do not come from a setting/upbringing where the church was a part of our lives. I was born in Latvia before World War II and was baptized a Lutheran. My mother and I and some family friends left Latvia in 1944 as the Russian forces gathered to re-invade our country. At the end of the war, we found ourselves in Germany where we spent about five years in displaced persons camps. In 1950, we learned through one of our friends in the camp that the First Methodist Church in Ada, Ohio, having sponsored one family, was looking to sponsor another. Under the leadership of Rev. Lee Moorehead and Leonard and Gail (McPherson) McAdams, the church wanted to sponsor someone who would have difficulty emigrating and so the process began. The church had to make a commitment to do whatever might be necessary in the event that my mother would be unable to support me. I came into the country with the heading of Church World Service on my ID card, and I met my first Methodist as we were processed after arriving in New York. A woman approached my mother, embracing her like a long-lost friend. The woman and her husband were members of the McAdams family who had been sent by the church in Ada to meet the boat. That family has continued to be my extended family for more than 50 years.

Later in my life I went to Ohio Northern University (ONU) which is located in Ada. I held various jobs in order to fund my education. During my enrollment at ONU, I received a $500 scholarship from the National Methodist Scholarship Committee. I received a B.S. majoring in chemistry-mathematics; then I continued my education at The Ohio State University, receiving a M.S. and Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry. My career was as an industrial research chemist.

Tragedy struck your life in 1993 when your two daughters, Andra and Erika, were killed in a automobile collision. Would you like to tell us about them?

Andra, my younger daughter, aspired to be an educator. She hoped to use her abilities as an artist and her music skills to further that goal. Her sister, Erika, was working on a graduate degree in library science with the goal of being a library staff leader. Both girls were active in church activities and youth group and were known for their volunteer efforts. Andra was scheduled to start her studies at Garrett-Evangelical after graduating summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota’s honors program. She intended to teach at the University level.

Two weeks before Andra was to start seminary, she and her sister were killed in Indiana on their way to visit their only grandparent for Grandparents Day. En route, a man passed a semi; the girls avoided a head-on collision, but in so doing were killed in the resulting accident. Our church at that time, the Des Plaines (Illinois) United Methodist Church was a major support to me. Without their input, the input of my community, my colleagues, and the girls’ friends, dealing with this event would have been much more difficult. For about two years, I attended group meetings of Compassionate Friends. There, as I observed how people dealt with their losses, it seemed that those with a church affiliation, a faith, seemed to cope far better.

We are very grateful to have the Andra Elaine Brubaker Scholarship at Garrett-Evangelical, which you have funded through outright gifts, an annuity, and a will commitment. Can you tell us how you came to the decision to establish this scholarship and what it has meant to you?
It was very important for me to establish this scholarship in Andra’s memory. I wanted to help carry on through others what Andra, in part, had hoped to do. I think that can be best accomplished by supporting the education and the goals of individuals with aspirations that are similar to Andra’s.

Establishing the scholarship through outright gifts has enabled me to see the use of my funds during my lifetime and to see the fruits of my decision. I treasure the notes from the recipients of the scholarship. Their notes express the importance of financial support in their quest toward a degree. I also like to read about the post-degree career achievements by the recipients as provided by the seminary.

After my death, through my planned gifts (annuities and will commitment), even more students will be able to receive assistance from the scholarship in Andra’s name.

Tell us about your life today.

I’m active in a number of organizations, including the American Chemical Society’s Chemistry and Public Affairs Committee, Ohio Northern University’s Advisory Board, College of Arts and Sciences. I serve as trustee for the Bluffton Public Library and volunteer at Ten Thousand Villages, the store in Bluffton that provides vital, fair income to people in the Third World by marketing their handicrafts in North America. I also love to travel and in the last couple of years have been to Newfoundland and Labrador and to Morocco, where I took a 20-minute camel ride into the Sahara and back.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

The United Methodist Church has given me much support—I cannot imagine who I would be without it.

If you share Inara’s commitment to strengthening the church, we invite your participation in the seminary’s Forging our Future: Phase Three campaign. Unrestricted endowment gifts are especially welcome, as are gifts for endowed scholarship, faculty support, and program support. For further information contact David Heetland, vice president for development, at 847.866.3970. Outright gifts, pledges over a five-year period, and planned gift commitments are all welcome.

IRA Charitable Rollover
Extended through 2011

On December 17, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. The Act contains some incentives for charitable giving. The most important of these is an extension of the IRA charitable rollover that expired at the end of 2009.

The new law provides that in each of the years 2010 and 2011, an owner of a traditional or Roth IRA who is 70.5 or older may instruct the trustee of the IRA to distribute to a qualified charity up to $100,000 without the distribution being included in taxable income, and that the distribution will count toward the IRA owner’s mandatory withdrawal amount.

Certain rules must be followed in order to take advantage of this tax break, including:

1. The IRA distribution must go directly to the charity.
2. Private foundations and donor-advised funds are not eligible for the tax-free IRA distributions.
3. The maximum tax-free distribution you can make is $100,000 a year.
4. No benefits (such as annuity income) can be received as a result of the gift.
5. Charitable gifts must be made from a traditional or Roth IRA. Funds in a 401(k), 403(b), or other type of retirement account do not qualify.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity in 2011, you are encouraged to consult with your financial advisor as soon as possible. Or contact David Heetland, vice president for development, at 847.866.3970 for more information.
Christian Coon intended to write about people and their life in faith. He was active in his local church and was interested in communications. A joint degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and a job in religious journalism seemed like a great plan. He did not know that God would have other plans for him.

Coon’s field education placements were very formative for him, solidifying his call to the ministry. He served as a student pastor at Riverside United Methodist Church for three and a half years and soon answered his call to become an elder in The United Methodist Church. Coon graduated from Garrett-Evangelical in 1998 and was ordained elder in the Northern Illinois Annual Conference in 2000. He was then appointed to Christ United Methodist Church in Deerfield, Illinois.

While serving Christ United Methodist Church, Coon met Trey Hall at the Institute of Congregational Development and Church Planting. Hall was serving as associate pastor at Glenview United Methodist Church at the time. “We felt an immediate kinship and began dreaming about doing a new thing, grounded in theology, that was inclusive, multi-site, and evangelistic—evangelistic in the best sense of the word,” Coon said.

In May 2008, Coon and Hall submitted a proposal to Bishop Hee-Soo Jung to start the Urban Village Church, and by October their vision was approved. Soon, Coon moved to the south loop of Chicago to begin this innovative and creative ministry, a collaboration of a dynamic partnership and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Coon spent the first few months of this venture making contacts, bringing together small groups, and “previewing” worship in a variety of locations. By March 2010, a regular location had been found and weekly worship services began, and by October a second site was launched in the Wicker Park neighborhood. Urban Village Church is attracting people from many different backgrounds. There are people in their 20s and 30s, but there are also baby boomers. Some have been part of the church for their whole lives and others have strayed or been isolated from the church. Most are city-dwellers, but a number of suburbanites are making the trek into the city to be a part of this congregation.

According to their website “Urban Village Church is a new community of people in Chicago trying to do church differently. We’re committed to helping people connect with God, to accepting absolutely everybody right where they are, and to living lives that offer something good to the world. Whoever you are—seeker or skeptic, Democrat or Republican, straight or gay, young or old, woman or man—you are welcome here.”

Coon says that this kind of ministry is different from being in an established church. “I spend much more time in the community. I don’t have an office per se, but I spend a lot of time in neighborhood coffee shops.” Coon says his strength for this innovative ministry comes from having a strong, intentional prayer life, working with a spiritual director, having an amazing ministry team, and strong conference support.

Coon believes that the Holy Spirit is moving in powerful ways in the life of the church and those who encounter it. “I have heard a number of stories from people who saw our signs on the L [the elevated train] and felt compelled to come. They say they have been looking for what we are offering.” Coon says. “I have gained tremendous insights, and many misconceptions I have held are gone. I now have an open sense of how God is working.”

For more information about Christian Coon and Urban Village Church, go to www.newchicagochurch.com.
Artists-in-Residence Celebrate the Spiritual

Garrett-Evangelical Theological is pleased to welcome Karla Kincannon and Peggy Magee as artists-in-residence. Together, the two have recreated room 401, located in the tower of the main building, into an artists’ studio. Their work can be seen gracing the hallways and enriching worship services.

Kincannon (G-ETS 1991) is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church. She is a widely published author and workshop leader on the topic of spiritual formation through creativity and artwork. Over the years she has offered her talents through teaching as an adjunct faculty at Hiwassee College in Tennessee, leading seminars for small groups on spirituality, healing, and devotion, and by serving as a pastor and chaplain.

“Art invites us to interact,” Kincannon reflects, “it invokes a response and opens us up to the sense of awe that we are rapidly losing in our society.” For Kincannon, art is prayer. “It connects me with the Holy; creating reminds me that God exists.”

Magee is the former director of academic studies and registrar. Since her retirement in May 2010, after 19 years of service, she has worked with Kincannon to create the artists’ studio. Kincannon occupies the space in the mornings while Magee paints in the afternoons. Her watercolor paintings have been displayed at Blick Art Supply in Evanston, Ill., and at the Evanston Art Expo.

Painting with vibrant and rich colors, Magee says it is an art that lends itself to feeling a spiritual connection, “There is that zen moment [in painting]. I do feel that it is a spiritual experience, although I don’t call it that.” Being able to serve as one of the artists-in-residence allows her to still be part of the community she has so faithfully served; “the true gift is being able to come here in this transition year [into retirement] and be connected to colleagues, students, and future potential students. My art is helping me to help Garrett-Evangelical in a different way.”

Ruth Duck, chair of the arts committee says, “Karla and Peggy are the first artists-in-residence in recent memory. Our studio provides space for them to design liturgical art and watercolors. They have worked together to make the room attractive and hospitable to the arts. They are contributing to the art committee’s mission ‘to promote the arts as a way of knowing God, of learning, and of expressing insights about life and faith.’”

Kincannon’s work, “Loving God Well” is currently on display by the entrance of the main building. Magee’s ongoing watercolor projects can be seen in the artists’ studio in room 401.
Coffee Lab Offers More Than Just Coffee

Some come for the coffee and atmosphere. Some come for the teas and baked goods. Most come for the mission and community. The Coffee Lab is bringing together people from the Evanston community and the Garrett-Evangelical community and is spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

The Coffee Lab, which was created in partnership with First United Methodist Church, Chicago Temple, is more than a coffee shop and place to gather. The Coffee Lab is an experiment in a nontraditional form of evangelism that uses the service of coffee as a context to earn trust, build relationships and connect with people in a community of faith. Scott Simmons (G-ETS 2008) is the project manager of this new social enterprise. “The Coffee Lab allows us to be present to people in a way that a church cannot be present, especially to the non-churched,” he said. “Our Christian heritage is built on hospitality. We are called to make connections and build trust. That presence allows people to open up to the movement of the Holy Spirit in their lives.”

Simmons is fully aware of how the ministry of presence can change people’s lives for Christ. While he was pursuing an M.Div. at Garrett-Evangelical, Simmons was working at a restaurant to pay his way. His presence and hospitality to his customers often led to their asking more about his life. When he would tell them that he was studying to become a minister, many customers began to open up to him.

“I had one customer stay until I was done with my shift to continue to talk about his need for a connection with God and a faith community,” Simmons said. “The customer would not have walked into a church to talk to a pastor about these issues. The risk would seem too great. But your friendly neighborhood barista, who knows your coffee order when you walk in the door, might be just the person you would be willing to open up to.”

Beyond the evangelistic strategy, the Coffee Lab is also engaged in socially responsible business practices. The coffee comes from Chicago-based Intelligentsia. Intelligentsia has been a leader in guiding the public away from the Starbucks, fast-food style coffee by taking the science and art of coffee to a new level. Intelligentsia practices direct trade. Their website boasts, “Intelligentsia travels to our coffee’s source each of the 12 months of the year. We visit farms, roll up our sleeves, and get to it. You pick up our coffee and we shake the hand of a farmer in Peru. Or Rwanda. Or Guatemala.”

The socially conscious practices don’t end there. “Our line of pastries and tasty treats are supplied by Sweet Miss Givings, a Chicago-based social enterprise bakery that sends over 50% of its profits to support the formerly homeless and HIV/AIDS-affected men, women, and children of Chicago House,” Simmons said. “In addition to supporting Chicago House, the bakery itself functions as a comprehensive jobs program for more than a dozen disabled adults at any given time.”

In addition, most of the products used to serve the coffee and teas at the Coffee Lab are 100% biodegradable and compostable. There is little to no waste being created, allowing the impact on God’s creation to be at a minimum.

The Coffee Lab is open every day.
Dissertation Award Given to 2010 Ph.D. Graduate

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary was well represented at this year’s annual meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society (WTS). Five doctoral students, one alumnus, and one faculty member were present at the conference held at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. The theme of the 46th Annual Meeting was “Empire, Church, and the Missio Dei.” The highlight of the conference came as Brent Peterson (Garrett-Evangelical doctoral graduate, 2010) won the Outstanding Dissertation award.

Peterson, associate professor of theology at Northwest Nazarene University, won the 2011 Outstanding Dissertation award for his Garrett-Evangelical thesis, “A Post-Wesleyan Eucharistic Ecclesiology: The Renewal of the Church as the Body of Christ to be Doxologically Broken and Spilled Out for the World.” Peterson states, “My dissertation attempts to listen well to the Wesleyan sacramental tradition, both the Wesley brothers and Wesleyan scholars of the mid to late twentieth century. In this listening, I also desire to push the Wesleys and those in the tradition to greater levels of Eucharistic and ecclesiological sophistication. Hence, this project is intentionally post-Wesleyan, but not anti-Wesleyan. I look upon my own denomination, the Church of the Nazarene, as a case study of the problems that can emerge when soteriology is separated from the sacraments and ecclesiology.”

“Words cannot express my thanks for my professors and colleagues at Garrett-Evangelical. My advisor Ron Anderson spent countless hours (and days) pushing me to do my very best. His concern was not to simply find ways to pass me, but to ask me time and again to write with greater clarity, think more deeply, and probe with passionate care into the mystery of the Lord’s Supper…” Alongside Anderson were other professors who introduced me to new ideas and material that have forever shaped my theology and pedagogy… I count it a wonderful joy to reflect upon how my colleagues and professors at Garrett-Evangelical invested in me in ways that have profoundly shaped me all for the glory of God.”

The award comes as a milestone in the relationship between the Wesleyan Theological Society and Garrett-Evangelical. The conference has become a productive avenue for Garrett-Evangelical students to present their research. At the 2011 meeting, six papers were read by Garrett-Evangelical students in various disciplines. Brandon Winstead, 2011 graduate, states, “This year at WTS in Dallas, I became acutely aware of how my academic training at Garrett-Evangelical has helped me present new research in the field of African-American religious history. I realized how the past five years have enabled me to be both a consumer and producer of sound academic scholarship.”

Barry Bryant, associate professor of United Methodist and Wesleyan Studies, states, “The presence of these students and their representation of Garrett-Evangelical’s Ph.D. program represents the growing awareness that ‘Wesleyan’ is an ecumenical term used by ecclesial communities who can benefit greatly from each other’s fellowship and insights.” As Garrett-Evangelical continues to train academicians through its Ph.D. programs, it is finding more and more able scholars to represent the seminary at various academic conferences.

Distinguished Alum Award Nominations for 2012

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 a graduate of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary or one of its parent bodies (Garrett, Evangelical, or Chicago Training School).

Nominations must be received by June 30, 2011. Awards will be presented at commencement of the following year. Persons previously nominated will be considered and will not require a second nomination to insure their consideration.

A nomination form is available at www.garrett.edu/distinguishedalums. Or, contact Betty Campbell at Elizabeth.Campbell@garrett.edu or 847.866.3971.
Alum News

Bishop Albert F. Mutti, GTS 1963, Kansas City, MO, and Mrs. Mutti were given the first ever leadership award by the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund in recognition of years of advocacy for an AIDS-free world. (Fall 2010)

Dori Baker, G-ETS 1990, Altavista, VA, has edited a book entitled *Greenhouses of Hope: Congregations Growing Young Leaders Who Will Change the World* (Alban Press). Baker and seven contributors tell the stories of remarkable congregations that are experimenting with both newly imagined and time-honored ways of following the path of Jesus.

Brad Herman, G-ETS 1993, Minneapolis, MN, has recently completed a master of arts in addiction and counseling from Hazelden Graduate School of Addiction studies. He is now employed at Nystrom & Associates, Ltd., a Christian counseling center.

Tracy Smith Malone, G-ETS 1993, Aurora, IL, will assume the position of Chicago Southern District Superintendent in July 2011.

Nora Martinez, G-ETS 1993, Decatur, GA, is, as of February 1, 2011, the new assistant general secretary in the area of Congregational Development and Racial Ethnic Ministries in the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

Deborah Scott, G-ETS 2002, Gary, IN, is in her third pastoral assignment, Greater Saint James AME church in Gary, IN.

Gregory Gross, G-ETS 2003, Chicago, IL, was the recipient of “The Compassionate Heart” 2010 Red Ribbon Award from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health. “The Compassionate Heart” is presented “for outstanding work in the HIV continuum of care that has significantly improved the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS.” Gross is a UMC Deacon under appointment as the clinical manager of the HIV Testing & Prevention Program at the Center on Halsted in Chicago.

Gloria G. Hopewell, G-ETS 2007, Evanston, IL, was ordained to the Episcopal priesthood on Dec. 11, 2010, at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, where she serves as the priest associate.

Jason Hill, G-ETS 2009, Washington, D.C., is the new Director of Music, Worship and the Arts at Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church.

Michael VanOeveren, G-ETS 2010, Evanston, IL, was recently hired as a Chaplain for the Midwest Palliative and Hospice Care Center.

In Memoriam: Rev. Dr. William Turner Carter, Sr., alum and former trustee


Carter was known to be an outspoken and charismatic leader. His accomplished career included service as the first executive director for the Black Methodist for Church Renewal and, during 40 years of ministry, national and international mission-driven service that included over 20 countries and all 50 states. In his 27 years as director of the Advancement for Christ and His Church for Missional Education at The United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries in New York, $30 to $35 million passed through the Advancement each year that Bill led the program.

A year after retirement in 2006, Bill and Etta relocated to Little Rock, Arkansas, where they joined Theressa Hoover UMC. Bill is survived by his wife, Etta F. Carter; his children, Carla F. Carter and William T. Carter, Jr.; and a host of grandchildren and extended family.
In Memoriam

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

### 1940s

**Wilbur C. Prout, GBI 1941**, Englewood, FL.

**Harold Huff, GBI 1945**, Ocean Shores, WA, died on January 20, 2011. He is survived by his spouse, Hilda.

**Douglas Jackson, GBI 1945**, Dallas, TX, died on January 26, 2011.

**Walter S. Green, GBI 1946**, Newberry, SC, died on January 18, 2011. He is survived by his spouse, Marjorie.


**W. Harold Loyd, GBI 1948**, Hermitage, TN, died on March 5, 2011.

### 1950s


**Richard Truitt, GBI 1953**, Milwaukee, WI, died on January 5, 2011. He is survived by his spouse, Barbara.


**James J. Williams, GBI 1954**, Elmhurst, IL, died on January 20, 2011.

**Charles E. Frost, GBI 1957**, Youngstown, OH, died in February, 2011. He is survived by his spouse, Willie Belle.

**Jim Ulmer, GBI 1958**, Apopke, FL, died on August 21, 2010. He is survived by his spouse, Judy.

### 1960s

**Robert C. Bjorklund, GBI 1960**, Bethany, OK, died on September 1, 2010. He is survived by his spouse, Margaret.

**Stanley A. Bailey, Jr., GTS 1962**, Ishpeming, MI, died on January 9, 2011.

**John E. Kaemmer, GTS 1963**, Concord, MA, died on January 4, 2011. He is survived by his spouse, Gloria.

**Joseph W. Pilate, GTS 1967**, Gulfport, MS, died on December 16, 2010. He is survived by his spouse, Betty Jane.

**William T. Carter, GTS 1968**, Little Rock, AR, died on November 22, 2010. He is survived by his spouse, Etta Faye.

### 1970s


**Sun Kyu Huh, ETS 1974**, Garden Grove, CA, died on August 10, 2010. He is survived by his spouse, Soonok.

**Eugene Slack, GETS 1976**, Hutchison, KS, died on January 12, 2011. He is survived by his spouse, Carolyn.

### 1980s

**Patricia Carper, GETS 1986**, Savoy, IL, died on December 18, 2010. She is survived by her four children.

### 1990s

**Maria Kennedy, GETS 1998**, Houston, TX.

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**Aware Goes Green: Save a Tree**

The need to conserve our natural resources is urgent! We encourage you to help us “save a tree” by signing up to receive Aware online. To join us in our efforts to protect the environment register your email at www.garrett.edu/gogreen. You will receive an email with a link to Aware, now in an easier-to-read format.

You can also contact April McGlothin-Eller at 847.866.3927 or april.mcglothin-eller@garrett.edu to let us know your preference. To access previous issues of Aware online go to www.Garrett.edu/Aware.
Calendar of Events

Friday, May 6
**Workshop: “Understanding Youth Gang Violence”**
Contact Kathryn Lindsey at 847.866.3948 or Kathryn.Lindsey@garrett.edu

Wednesday, May 11
**Loder Open House and A Concert of Celebration**
www.garrett.edu/renovations
Contact Shane Nichols at 847.855.3866 or Shane.Nichols@garrett.edu

Friday, May 13
**154th Commencement of Garrett-Evangelical**
**Speaker, Bishop Gregory Palmer**
Contact Marjorie Eckhardt at 847.866.3902 or meckhardt@garrett.edu

Wednesday, May 18 – Thursday, May 19
**Styberg Preaching Institute Conference**
**“Preaching in an Age of Globalization”**
www.garrett.edu/styberg
Contact Gennifer Brooks at 847.866.3888 or gennifer.brooks@garrett.edu

**Summer School**
Monday, June 13 – Friday, June 24:  Session 1
Monday, June 27 – Friday, July 8:  Session 2

Sunday, July 31 - Thursday, August 4
**2011 Congregational Leaders Institute in Bay View, MI**
**“The Urgency of Leadership and the Eternal Body of Christ”**
www.garrett.edu/bayview
Contact David Ahn at 847.866.3942 or david.ahn@garrett.edu