Aware is published quarterly by the development office for alums and friends of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, a graduate school of theology related to The United Methodist Church.

Founded in 1853, the seminary serves more than 500 students from many denominations and various cultural backgrounds, fostering an atmosphere of ecumenical interaction. Garrett-Evangelical creates bold leaders through master of divinity, master of arts, master of theological studies, doctor of philosophy and doctor of ministry degrees. Its 4,500 living alumni serve church and society around the world.

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A biology class taken almost fifty years ago laid out four basic human vital signs: temperature, pulse, respiratory rate, and blood pressure. Recently, I wondered how good my memory was, so I did a little research and discovered I remembered correctly. However, just as I was giving myself an A+ in Vital Signs 101, I learned that other new “vital signs” have been added by modern medicine. Signs like pain, blood glucose or oxygen levels, pupil size, and an array of body chemistry tests are now included. The more we learn, the more we add to knowledge of the full range of indicators of health and vibrancy.

There is considerable interest today in the vital signs of congregations. In United Methodism we have the Vital Congregations Initiative. Jews are working with a program called Synagogue 3000. The Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Nazarene, Episcopalian, African Methodist Episcopal, Lutheran, and Free Methodist churches all have programs focusing on benchmarks or measures of vitality. A major ecumenical research effort is housed at Hartford Seminary. It is called Faith Communities Today, and I recommend it as an exceptional resource on congregational life (http://faithcommunitiestoday.org).

In June 2012, Garrett-Evangelical hosted an ecumenical gathering of top-level researchers and practitioners to join in conversation about the Vital Congregations Initiative in The United Methodist Church (www.umvitalcongregations.org). The divergent group of stakeholders, led by Bishop John Schol of the Baltimore-Washington Conference, discussed how local churches can connect with new mission fields. “We have some challenges,” said Schol. “We see this in some of our statistics, but we also see a bright future as we live out our vision as United Methodists to connect with new generations of believers and to grow highly vital congregations.” The Rev. Amy Valdez-Barker, a Ph.D. student at Garrett-Evangelical, serves as the national project manager of the Vital Congregations Initiative.

I came away from the meetings encouraged. It was good to see an ongoing and open process designed to learn from others across denominational and research lines. This initiative is proceeding in prayerful and theologically-grounded ways. Currently, the research looks at congregational vitality in terms of indicators like worship attendance, small group participation, multiple worship styles, local mission outreach, etc. It seeks to hold congregational leaders, clergy, and laity accountable for the health of their local church. I also chuckle a bit. I remember such collecting of data from my early days as a pastor. In fact, I remember my pastor father collecting such data in the 1950s. This has been going on for a long time. Today we have put the information on dashboards and can access it more quickly on our computers, but similar efforts were done in the past, except the data was collected in notebooks.

The danger of depending on such research and a few measures of vitality for a congregation is that the data collected may miss what is occurring in the context all around. What of the neighborhood, the ecology, the schools, the economy? What of the untapped gifts of the people in the neighborhood or in the pew? And, as a seminary leader, I know we should assess the quality, passion, and commitments of emerging leaders. If an agrarian expert were asked to evaluate a farm, that researcher would not limit the review to the size, color, or activities of the barn alone. The researcher would want to know about the soil, the water sources, the history of environmental care, and the potential for crop production or livestock in the future. One would need to know what kind of farmer would be needed and what preparation she or he should have for the future. I am simply calling for some “new” signs of vitality to be added to our list of congregational vital signs in 2012 and beyond.

For example, we at Garrett-Evangelical will be giving attention to what clergy and congregational leaders in various settings are discovering today. These front line practitioners have critical knowledge to share. Dr. John A. Rich, chair of the Department of Health Management at Drexel University, is a remarkable, Harvard-educated physician who graduated at the top of his class. Instead of seeking a career in a highly regarded position, he instead decided to work in programs that addressed basic and critical health care needs for poor, urban neighborhoods. Recently, when asked for one idea to improve health care in our communities, he replied simply, “Discover who in your neighborhood helps make it a healthier place and ask how will we honor them.”

I give thanks for the work of the Vital Congregations Initiative and for places like Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Even more, I give thanks for courageous clergy and lay leaders who serve in places that too often go unrecognized. Most of all, I give thanks for the rising generation of students who have accepted God’s call to serve Christ. It is remarkable to see them and hear their stories of faith and hope. For me, these future leaders are the most important vital signs of all.
The 155th Commencement of Garrett-Evangelical

On Friday, May 11, 2012 Garrett-Evangelical celebrated its 155th Commencement at First United Methodist Church in Evanston. The seminary awarded 69 degrees, including 10 doctor of philosophy; one doctor of ministry; 36 master of divinity; 17 master of arts—in Christian education, music ministry, pastoral care and counseling, spiritual formation and evangelism; and five master of theological studies. Additionally, the seminary recognized four students who completed their basic graduate theological studies and two students who completed their advanced course of study. In addition to the presentation of degrees to this year’s graduating class, members of the class of 1962 were recognized, two Distinguished Alum Awards were presented (see page 6), and two honorary doctoral awards were conferred.

Donald A. Ott, retired bishop, received an honorary doctor of divinity degree for his years of service to The United Methodist Church and to Garrett-Evangelical as a member of its board of trustees since 1999. From 2003-2010, Ott served as chairman of the academic affairs committee.

Ott graduated from Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, with a bachelor of arts degree. In 1965, he was awarded a master of divinity degree from Garrett Theological Seminary. He is the recipient of two honorary doctoral degrees: a doctor of divinity from Adrian College in 1994 and a doctor of sacred theology from Albion College in 1997.

In 1992, Ott was elected to the episcopacy by the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church and was assigned to the Michigan Area (Detroit and West Michigan Conferences). He has served in a variety of denominational leadership positions, including the General Council on Finance and Administration (vice-president from 1997 to 2000) and the United Methodist Committee on Relief among others. Ott retired from the episcopacy in 2000 and currently serves on the Council of Bishops as Retiree Correspondent.

Richard B. Gunderman, professor of radiology, pediatrics, medical education, philosophy, liberal arts, and philanthropy at Indiana University received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree. He also delivered the commencement address, “The Fullness of Life.”

Class of 1962

On the eve of Garrett-Evangelical’s Commencement, the class of 1962 from Evangelical and Garrett Theological Seminaries reunited in celebration of their golden anniversary of graduation from seminary. The 50-year alums held a worship service in the Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful, had dinner with President Philip Amerson, trustees, and faculty, and concluded the evening with entertainment by singer/storyteller Ed Kilbourne. Friday morning the 50-year alumni participated in senior chapel by anointing the class of 2012 as they prepared to graduate and embark on their vocational journey.

The class was then recognized by President Amerson at commencement for their decades of ministry in the church and in the world.

In addition to the formal reunion schedule, the reunion guests had ample opportunities for fellowship, story sharing, discussions with current students, and candid photos on the campus and lakefront. The class received copies of the 50-year Memory Booklet, which is a collection of the life stories and accomplishments of members of the class of 1962. The seminary will welcome members of the class of 1963 on May 16-17, 2013.
In addition to his duties as professor at Indiana University, Gunderman serves as the president of the faculty at Indiana University School of Medicine. He received a bachelor of arts degree (summa cum laude) from Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana. He also holds a master of public health from Indiana University, and doctor of medicine and doctor of philosophy degrees from the University of Chicago.

Gunderman was a Chancellor Scholar of the Federal Republic of Germany and is a Fellow of the Tobias Center for Leadership Excellence. He is a nine-time recipient of the Indiana University Trustees Teaching Award and has received numerous other teaching awards. He is the author of over 300 scholarship articles and has published eight books, including *We Make a Life by What We Give* (Indiana University 2008). His next book, *X-ray Vision*, is forthcoming from Oxford University Press.

President Philip A. Amerson reflected, “The activities surrounding commencement each year give us reason to again remember our main mission as a seminary—to prepare and send bold leaders to the Church, academy, and world. Commencement is always a time to welcome friends, new and old, to say ‘well done’ to our 50 year alums, and to send our graduates off to their respective ministries with a word of celebration and encouragement. Garrett-Evangelical has been doing this for 16 decades—and we are only getting started!”

Commencement Address: “The Fullness of Life”
Richard B. Gunderman | www.garrett.edu/videos

Class of 2012

As the class of 2012 left the doors of Garrett-Evangelical, they entered into various ministerial vocations. The graduates, made up of Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Baptists, and a host of other theological traditions, have embarked on their journeys as clergy, chaplains, teachers, and social workers. The class, which is made up of students from all over the world, reflects the diversity of Garrett-Evangelical and ensures the seminary’s continual international impact. Before their graduation the class was challenged to give back to the seminary in the form of a class scholarship. Their response was one of overwhelming gratitude and self-sacrifice as they laid a foundation for the Class of 2012 Scholarship. Their commitment to Garrett-Evangelical and to their future ministries is truly admirable!
Goodell and Palmer Receive Distinguished Alum Awards

Annually, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary presents Distinguished Alum awards to two persons who have rendered extraordinary service in their ministries. One award is given to an alum who graduated 25 years ago or less and another is presented to one who graduated more than 25 years ago. The 2012 awards were presented to Tom Goodell and Miley Palmer.

Tom Goodell earned a master of divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical in 1991. He is a third generation pastor and a third generation Garrett-Evangelical graduate. His father, David Goodell, graduated from Garrett Theological Seminary in 1964, and his grandfather, Roy Goodell, graduated from Garrett Biblical Institute in 1943.

Tom Goodell graduated from Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois, where he met his wife, Sherry. They have been married for 25 years and have two sons, Andrew and Nicholas.

Prior to becoming directing pastor at Crossroads United Methodist Church in Washington, Illinois, in 2004, Goodell served several churches in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. He was director of the Wesley Foundation at Eastern Illinois University from 2003 to 2004. Now in his eighth year at Crossroads United Methodist Church, he has overseen the rapid growth of the congregation from 400 members to a total of 930 members, with an average worship attendance of 800.

In partnership with other area churches, Goodell is a key organizer for Threads of Love, a center providing access to clothing for families and individuals in need of assistance in the Washington community. He has also worked with Habitat for Humanity, the McLean County AIDS Task Force, the Maryville Ministerial Alliance, and the Illinois Rivers Annual Conference Board of Higher Education (past chairperson). He is a past recipient of the City of Normal Human Relations Commission Award, the City of Bloomington Human Relations Commission Award, the YWCA of McLean County One Imperative Award, and the Harry S. Denman Evangelism Award.

Goodell also serves as on the conference board of ordained ministry and as the Illinois Great Rivers Conference chairman of higher education.

Miley Palmer received a master of divinity degree from Garrett Theological Seminary in 1962 and a doctor of ministry degree from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Palmer served United Methodist churches in central and southern Illinois for nearly 43 years. For six years he was designated as a campus minister serving at the oldest and largest Wesley Foundation in the nation. Under his ministry, 36 young adults decided to enter careers of full-time Christian service. He later served as district superintendent of the Peoria District.

Palmer has served in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference in a variety of roles. An elected delegate to both General and Jurisdictional Conferences, he served on the Jurisdictional Council on Ministries and Jurisdictional Committee on Ministry. He chaired the Board of Discipleship and the Conference Council on Ministries and currently chairs the Conference Board of Church and Society.

After retiring from the active pastorate at Grace United Methodist Church in Decatur, Palmer served for three years as a chaplain on the staff of Decatur Memorial Hospital and is now Minister of Visitation for both First Presbyterian Church and First United Methodist Church in Decatur. He has chaired the Human Relations Commission of the City of Decatur, served as a consultant to the campus ministry committee at Millikin University, and has been president of the Decatur Rotary Club and an assistant district governor for Rotary.

Palmer currently serves on the board of trustees, executive committee, and alumni board at McKendree College and is chair of its student affairs committee. He has served as a development associate for Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Palmer is married to Janet, and they are the parents of four adult children and have five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.
Can 12 people make a difference? Jesus thought so! He and his 12 disciples literally transformed the world. At Garrett-Evangelical, we believe that 12 people can still make a difference in our world. The 12 graduates featured in this issue of Aware come from richly varied backgrounds. They all share one thing in common, however—a strong passion to help transform the world in Christ’s name.

The good news is that Garrett-Evangelical did not graduate just 12 students in May, but 69—each with equally compelling stories. The positive difference these people will make in our world is almost impossible to comprehend. They will touch thousands of lives, impact hundreds of communities, and help untold numbers of people know the love of Christ. We are pleased to introduce 12 of these new graduates to you now.

RYAN HANSEN

**Degree:** Doctor of philosophy

**Hometown:** Williamston, Michigan (although Chicago has been home for the last eight years)

**Plans:** Currently pastor at Grace Fellowship Church of the Nazarene in Chicago; also hopes to teach New Testament at a university or seminary

*Since I have been at Garrett-Evangelical for nearly a decade, a single memorable experience is hard to pin down. Most meaningful to me have been the lifelong-friends and mentors/professors I have been privileged to learn with and learn from during my time here. There is such a robust variety of people with many different gifts that I continually give thanks to God for how they have enriched my life.*
STEPHEN AND CECILIA GRANADOSIN

**Degrees:** Master of divinity

**Hometown:** Seattle, Washington

**Plans:** Appointed as pastors to churches (two-point (Cecilia) and four-point (Stephen) charges) in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference

People from Seattle love coffee and rain—each complements the other as warmth tempers the cold of a dismal day. For a couple of Seattleites far from home and in seminary, moments of spiritual nurture were infinitely more satisfying than smoldering java on a nippy morning; for as we all know, prayer comforts the heart and calms the soul. Group meditation after tours of Israel and Palestine; whispered devotions with the covenant group or as part of interfaith gatherings; gospel and praise songs sung to lung-bursting capacity; prayer walks around Lake Michigan, in the halls and offices, or at the prayer labyrinth—all these filled our spirits to overflowing and will be an enormous part of what we will take with us to the congregations we will serve in southern Illinois.

STEPHANIE PERDEW VANSLYKE

**Degree:** Doctor of philosophy (master of divinity, 1996)

**Hometown:** Originally Lincoln, Nebraska (Chicago’s north suburbs for 18 years and Evanston for nine years)

**Plans:** Currently senior pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Wilmette, Illinois, and adjunct instructor of Christian worship at McCormick Theological Seminary in Hyde Park (Chicago)

*I remember the day a photocopy of the Greek manuscript containing the Apostolic Church Order arrived from the Austrian National Library in Vienna, ordered by Diane Robinson of the United Library. My advisors handed me the photocopy and said “Go, read, translate, write a dissertation!” Later on, I was able to study the manuscript in person in Vienna. I am thankful to Garrett-Evangelical for the library resources, faculty, and mentoring that made it all possible.*
JENNIFER HIBBEN

Degree: Master of divinity/master of social work (Loyola) joint program

Hometown: Des Moines, Iowa

Plans: Appointed associate pastor at West Des Moines United Methodist Church starting in August 2012

I will always remember my first semester at Garrett-Evangelical when I realized that for once I was actually studying something that really mattered to me, something that I cared about on many different levels. Finally, what I was learning meant more to me than just knowledge; what I was learning was shaping who I would become as a person and as a professional. As a graduate of the M.Div./M.S.W. program, I hope to find ways that the church can reach out to those around us and provide the holistic care that God intends for us all.

ANTHONY VACCARO

Degree: Master of divinity

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

Plans: Postulant for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago; starting a unit of clinical pastoral education at Vitas Hospice in September 2012

I have been living and working as a physician in Chicago since 1989. My most memorable experiences at Garrett-Evangelical were times in which the work and prayer of our lives in seminary came together creating bonds of friendship will carry us through our work in the ministries God is setting before us. In the years ahead, I hope to continue my ministry of healing as both a physician and ordained minister in God’s church.

JULIE FLEURINOR

Degree: Master of divinity

Hometown: Jacksonville, Florida

Plans: Appointed senior pastor at Resurrection United Methodist Church, Chicago, Illinois

Garrett-Evangelical is an unusual community of care; it really is a village-style model. At the end of 2010, my mother was admitted to a hospital intensive care unit where she remained for 28 days. As I sat by my mother’s bedside, I looked up and saw my advisor, Dr. Nancy Bedford, coming with her daughters to pray for my mother and me. I was so touched that, out of all the things she had to do, she took the time to share a prayer with us. Dr. Kirk Reed, my Vocational Formation and Church Leadership small group leader visited every day to pray and encourage us. I explained to a doctor that I was a seminary student and these were my professors. He said, “That must be a great school; I have never seen teachers care enough to show up at the hospital.” Indeed it is!
JAMES FOSTER

Degree: Doctor of philosophy

Hometown: Born and raised in Evanston, Illinois

Plans: This fall, I will head all operations under the department of visitor services at Northwestern University’s Mary & Leigh Block Museum of Art. I am also in production as a weekly correspondent on ethics and internet marketing on the show Marketer Talk with Sterling Valentine. Finally, I am planning a large Evanston community give-away at the Fleetwood Jourdain Center with my congregation at Chicago World Outreach this September.

One of my most memorable experiences was the opportunity to serve as a teaching assistant for Dr. Henry James Young (retired). Through this experience with Dr. Young, I began to realize an amazing space of love within the doctrine of God. This space provided a way of doing Christian theology that transcends every violent act and becomes a manifestation of beauty.

KELLY VAN

Degree: Master of divinity

Hometown: Da-nang, Vietnam

Plans: Ready to do God’s work wherever God leads

My family escaped from our home during the communist regime in 1975. A Baptist Friendship Church sponsored our family and delivered us to Portland, Oregon, which I consider my hometown since that was where I skinned my knee learning to ride a bicycle, celebrated my sweet sixteenth birthday, and graduated from Warner Pacific College. From there, my soul mate led me to Chicago, Illinois.

After raising five wonderful daughters, God called me to Garrett-Evangelical and provided all necessities to equip me for ministry. The most memorial experience at Garrett-Evangelical for me was graduation when everything came together perfectly —scholarship donors (like second parents) who provided financial support, professors and mentors who bestowed knowledge, and friends and family who offered support and encouragement.
DEIDRE HINES

Degree: Master of divinity

Hometown: South side of Chicago, Illinois

Plans: To be ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church this fall and enter the master of arts in pastoral care and counseling program at Garrett-Evangelical

My most memorable experience at Garrett-Evangelical was participating in the Fit To Lead initiative. This program was a holistic approach to preparing students to be spiritually, physically, and mentally fit in serving as bold leaders for the future. In all areas, life goals were created to enhance the higher calling on our lives. The experience opened my eyes to a new world of understanding my walk as a servant in Christ. A wonderful blessing, praise God!

DANIEL HART

Degree: Master of divinity

Hometown: Coleman, Michigan

Plans: Appointed associate pastor at Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church after being commissioned as a provisional Elder in the Detroit Annual Conference

I will always remember inviting around 20 people to our new Garrett-Evangelical apartment in the middle of the summer. My wife and I expected most of our friends to be busy, but we were overjoyed when every person accepted and came to help us make our new apartment our home. The community of Garrett-Evangelical has continually been there to help me to grow and to foster mutual support and friendship.

MELANIE NORD

Degree: Master of divinity

Hometown: Shawnee, Kansas

Plans: Appointed associate pastor overseeing pastoral care and adult education at First United Methodist Church, Manhattan, Kansas

My most memorable experience at Garrett-Evangelical was Dr. Brooke Lester’s Introduction to the Old Testament course. It was a huge class of first year students. We had all bonded during orientation, so we had a great time being in this class together! Very few of us had ever studied the Bible at the graduate level. It was fun to struggle with the tough stories and themes of the Old Testament with such a tight-knit group.
Churches and church organizations 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 feature one of these congregations—First United Methodist Church of DeKalb—a Leadership Circle Church for each of the last three fiscal years!

First United Methodist Church of DeKalb, Illinois, has a long history. The church was founded in 1854 when DeKalb had about 700 residents and was not yet incorporated. It received its first pastor in 1856.

The church is fully involved with its community, assisting with the establishment of three major projects: Hope Haven, a home for the homeless; the Food Pantry; and the DeKalb Area Retirement Center. It provides assistance to many community programs, including an occasional evening meal for Hope Haven, Meals-on-Wheels food delivery to shut-ins every May, and an annual contribution of $5,000 to Love INC. Vouchers are provided to those in need five mornings a week through the church office for food and gas, and this year, there is a free summer lunch program for children and adults during the week. It has been a huge success—feeding 80-90 persons per day. The church also supported local and world missions for over 50 years with the sale of home-made crafts. Their annual fall bazaar was the first in DeKalb. The church has been a Rainbow Covenant church for years.

An excellent choir provides inspiration to the congregation on Sunday mornings, often featuring soloists and orchestral accompaniment. Music is provided by the Berghaus organ, a Kawai piano, and the bell choir. Each year a special Christmas Cantata is held in the church.

There are many connections between First United Methodist Church and Garrett-Evangelical. Over the years, 24 Garrett-Evangelical alums have served the church as pastors (16) and associate pastors (8). Jonathan Hutchison, the current and 44th pastor at First United Methodist Church, graduated from Garrett-Evangelical in 1999.

Two recent seminary graduates have joined the staff this summer. Patricia Bonilla (G-ETS 2007) is the director of Christian education. Kim Chapman (G-ETS 2011) is pastor of campus ministries and SHINE pastor, reaching out to Northern Illinois University (NIU) students in ways that include the contemporary worship service (SHINE).

In 2009, the church council voted to establish an endowed scholarship at Garrett-Evangelical in honor of a beloved lay person, Charles W. Bradt, who sang with the church choir for 80 years and was a grandson of Andrew Bradt, one of the founders of the church. The church and congregation are to be congratulated on a wonderful fundraising campaign; in 2011, they reached their goal of raising $25,000 for the scholarship. In the same year, Charles Bradt died at the age of 108, and the scholarship was awarded for the first time to Larry Paris (M.Div. from Tinley Park, Illinois).

Lou Jean Moyer and Mary Bell have served as members of Garrett-Evangelical’s Council of Laity since 2009. They have coordinated visits to their church by President Philip Amerson and Osvaldo Vena, professor of New Testament, and they regularly bring the largest delegation to visit campus for the annual Council of Laity Day gathering in April.

The First United Methodist Church of DeKalb has strong ties to Garrett-Evangelical and a strong sense of mission. We are deeply grateful for its financial support as a member of the Leadership Circle of Congregations, and for the many ways the church supports its community, the seminary, our students, and theological education today.

Are you interested in learning more about the Leadership Circle of Congregations and/or the Council of Laity? For more information, contact David Heetland, vice president for development at david.heetland@garrett.edu or 847.866.3970.
I came back home to Tennessee in June of 1979. The first weekend of October that year, I drove my Chevy Vega Wagon to Jonesborough, Tennessee, for the National Storytelling Festival, sleeping in the back of my wagon. It rained all weekend. The temperature dropped to the upper 30s during the night and didn’t get out of the 40s during the day. Even given all that, I was in my element. I had read about the festival while still living in Evanston and had been aching to attend, to get to know other storytellers.

I had never even considered myself a storyteller until one day Barbara McDermitt, a professor at Northwestern asked me, “You know you’re a storyteller, don’t you?” I didn’t. I had grown up in a very rural part of middle Tennessee, and my earliest memories were of sitting on a porch in a swing and listening to my great aunt, Minerva Cherry, tell stories. Some of those stories were from the childhood of her father, my great grandfather, whose name was George Washington Cherry. Others described the early settlement of that region and incorporated traditions from both the native peoples and the European settlers. Still others were in the form of ballads and came from the British Isles. One of these, I later discovered, was a version of a ballad that has been passed down by word of mouth since before the time of Chaucer.

Though my roots were deep in the oral tradition, I grew up influenced by the larger culture and came to think of my early upbringing as “backward.” My love for literature, especially the performance of poems, fiction, and plays, kept me in touch with my roots, however, until I could reclaim my heritage. I wrote poems, stories, and plays and performed those written by others. My time at Garrett-Evangelical and Northwestern was fruitful for me during that process.

Professors Dick Ford and Ernest Saunders encouraged me to “do something creative” in their classes. So I submitted poems, plays, and paintings in place of papers. I was encouraged to be creative in whatever forms I chose. In my graduate study, D. J. Furnish, Taylor McConnell, (from Garrett-Evangelical), and Leland Roloff (from the School of Speech at Northwestern) continued to encourage my artistic interests. D. J. gave me an opportunity to publish a chapter in one of her books, and a paper for one of her classes was my first “academic” publication. I took a poetry workshop with Mary Kinzie at Northwestern and during the following spring was awarded the Academy of American Poets Prize at Northwestern.

When I began to serve churches in Tennessee, I found that more of my time was spent on the busyness of life. I continued to write and tell stories in sermons, classes, and workshops, and I incorporated stories as general editor of The Storyteller’s Companion to the Bible. I also continued to attend the National Storytelling Festival at Jonesborough where I was a featured storyteller twice. Still, over the years, serving a succession of churches, my sense of being an artist faded. Then two summers ago, during a renewal leave, I rediscovered the artist who had been pushed aside, but not completely abandoned.

Nothing I learned at Garrett-Evangelical or Northwestern has been wasted. I have returned frequently to those wells for refreshment. Being a pastor is an art. Preaching and teaching are arts as well. I encourage anyone who is called to ministry and has a background or interest in the arts to hold it close. It will inspire you and others, and it will serve you well.

Michael Williams (G-ETS 1976 and 1983), alum, pastor, and storyteller was educated at Vanderbilt University, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and earned a Ph.D. from the joint Garrett-Evangelical/Northwestern University program. He is the author of numerous articles, stories, poems, plays, and books and is a frequent guest speaker and workshop leader at regional, national, and international events. Michael is married to Margaret, and they are parents of two daughters, Sarah and Elizabeth. He currently serves as senior pastor of West End United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.
In Memoriam: Former Faculty Member Hycel B. Taylor

Hycel B. Taylor died on January 13, 2012, at his home at the age of 75. Taylor was a powerful pastor, preacher, and community activist. Born in Columbus, Ohio, on April 21, 1936, Taylor received a bachelor’s degree in fine and professional arts at Kent State University before receiving his master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Oberlin/Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee.

Taylor joined the faculty of Garrett Theological Seminary in 1970 as assistant professor of the church and the Black experience and was instrumental in the development of the Center for the Church and the Black Experience. He served as the Center’s first director. Taylor held the title of professor of applied theology when he left Garrett-Evangelical in 1985.

In 1986, Taylor was installed as the national president and chief executive officer of Operation PUSH, succeeding Jesse Jackson. His prophetic witness to justice for the African American community, women, and the poor was drawn from his deep and abiding faith and belief in the gospel. Taylor served as senior pastor of Evanston’s Second Baptist Church from 1972 to 2001. He also served the historic Pilgrim Baptist Church and was the founding pastor of Christian Life Fellowship in Skokie.

Taylor’s ministry and witness was a remarkable gift that touched the lives of many. Survivors include his wife, Phyllis; his children, Chandra Taylor Smith, Audreanna Taylor, and Hycel Taylor III; former wife, Ann Dallas; stepson Christophe Ringer; and three grandchildren.
Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the following alums who have died in Christ.

1930s

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<td>Frank E. Butterworth</td>
<td>(GBI 1941)</td>
<td>Honolulu, Hawaii, 3-12-11</td>
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<td>Robert C. Crocker</td>
<td>(GBI 1945)</td>
<td>Arlington Heights, Illinois, 6-25-12</td>
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<td>Ruby Cunningham</td>
<td>(GBI 1949)</td>
<td>Cleveland, Ohio, 12-27-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwight E. Dussair</td>
<td>(GBI 1941)</td>
<td>Lenexa, Kansas, 4-12-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles P. Godbey</td>
<td>(GBI 1946)</td>
<td>Dallas, Texas, 6-18-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>George A. Harper</td>
<td>(GBI 1946)</td>
<td>Helena, Montana, 5-2-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duane R. Manning</td>
<td>(GBI 1943)</td>
<td>Maquoketa, Iowa, 3-30-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray C. Middleton</td>
<td>(ETS 1948)</td>
<td>Harrodsburg, Kentucky, 2-19-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank H. Nestler</td>
<td>(GBI 1946)</td>
<td>Springfield, Illinois, 3-5-12</td>
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<td>Paul O. Pfaltzgraff</td>
<td>(ETS 1947)</td>
<td>Indiana, Iowa, 1-6-12</td>
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<td>Virgil Wesley Sexton</td>
<td>(GBI 1944)</td>
<td>Austell, Georgia, 6-5-12</td>
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<td>George St. Angelo</td>
<td>(ETS 1949)</td>
<td>Lisle, Illinois, 3-4-12</td>
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<td>Hollis Shook</td>
<td>(GBI 1948)</td>
<td>Albuquerque, New Mexico, 2-2-12</td>
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<td>Forrest V. Straud</td>
<td>(GBI 1947)</td>
<td>Faribault, Minnesota, 7-2-12</td>
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1950s

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lenora M. Benedict</td>
<td>(ETS 1953)</td>
<td>Lansing, Michigan, 11-5-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Brownfield</td>
<td>(GBI 1957)</td>
<td>Peoria, Illinois, 5-5-12</td>
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<td>L. Marshall Campbell</td>
<td>(GBI 1951)</td>
<td>Des Moines, Washington, 3-9-12</td>
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<td>William A. Cull</td>
<td>(GBI 1959)</td>
<td>Rockford, Illinois, 3-12-10</td>
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<td>Eldon C. Daniel</td>
<td>(GBI 1956)</td>
<td>North Richland Hills, Texas, 1-20-12</td>
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<td>Robert G. Forsyth</td>
<td>(GBI 1951)</td>
<td>Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1-15-06</td>
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<td>Gary Gruber Fritz</td>
<td>(GBI 1955)</td>
<td>Belleville, Wisconsin, 4-22-12</td>
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<td>Clarence Herman Haber</td>
<td>(ETS 1951)</td>
<td>Holton, Kansas, 1-1-12</td>
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<td>Martha (Pixie) Hammond</td>
<td>(GBI 1950)</td>
<td>Los Altos, California, 3-17-12</td>
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<td>Ralph J. Jones</td>
<td>(GBI 1953)</td>
<td>Concordia, Kansas, 9-16-11</td>
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<td>Donald L. Kuhn</td>
<td>(GBI 1954)</td>
<td>Point Reyes Station, California, 8-26-10</td>
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<td>Keng Ho Lau</td>
<td>(GBI 1957)</td>
<td>Singapore, 10-10-10</td>
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<td>Charles S. Loney</td>
<td>(GBI 1953)</td>
<td>Grove City, Pennsylvania, 6-8-12</td>
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<td>Melvin H. Nickel</td>
<td>(ETS 1955)</td>
<td>Eau Claire, Wisconsin, 8-19-11</td>
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<td>Charlotte Parmer</td>
<td>(GBI 1954)</td>
<td>Indiana, Iowa, 8-19-10</td>
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<td>Wallace Parmer</td>
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<td>Indiana, Iowa, 4-11-12</td>
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<td>Doyle Elvyn Pavy</td>
<td>(GBI 1957)</td>
<td>Fishers, Indiana, 2-27-10</td>
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<td>John F. Rebstock</td>
<td>(ETS 1951)</td>
<td>West Fargo, North Dakota, 1-29-12</td>
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<td>Lewis Redmond</td>
<td>(GBI 1956)</td>
<td>Chula Vista, California, 12-17-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gordon Charles Roth</td>
<td>(GBI 1953)</td>
<td>Raleigh, North Carolina, 5-29-11</td>
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1960s

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<tr>
<td>Clyde Beckner, Jr.</td>
<td>(GTS 1962)</td>
<td>Lucien, Oklahoma, 12-8-11</td>
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<td>Joree C. Bennett</td>
<td>(ETS 1964)</td>
<td>Lincoln, Nebraska, 3-21-12</td>
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<td>Raymond Bruce Breneman</td>
<td>(GTS 1963)</td>
<td>Dubuque, Iowa, 3-9-12</td>
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<td>Richard L. Crabbs</td>
<td>(GTS 1963)</td>
<td>Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 7-26-11</td>
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<td>Robert O. Stuebing</td>
<td>(GTS 1965)</td>
<td>San Diego, California, 6-25-11</td>
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<td>Robert E. Wank</td>
<td>(GTS 1963)</td>
<td>Oquawka, Illinois, 8-10-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russell J. Wilbur</td>
<td>(ETS 1967)</td>
<td>Louisville, Kentucky, 7-12-12</td>
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1970s

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<tr>
<td>Perry Everett Bishop, Jr.</td>
<td>(GTS 1970)</td>
<td>Glenwood, Iowa, 3-10-12</td>
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<td>Phillip C. Greer</td>
<td>(GTS 1972)</td>
<td>Sparks, Nevada, 4-10-12</td>
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<td>Norman Lee Shawchuck</td>
<td>(GTS 1970)</td>
<td>Fargo, North Dakota, 5-20-12</td>
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2000s

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Margo Byers Dexter</td>
<td>(G-ETS 2001)</td>
<td>Farmington Hills, Michigan, 4-22-12</td>
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</table>
Calendar of Events

(Academic year lectures are Wednesday, 4:00 p.m., room 205 unless otherwise noted)

Tuesday, September 4
**Featured Preacher:** President Philip Amerson
11:15 a.m., Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful

Wednesday, September 12
**2012 Convocation:** Bishop Kenneth L. Carder
Contact Marge Eckhardt at 847.866.3902 or meckhardt@garrett.edu

Thursday, September 13
**Featured Preacher:** Bishop Wayne K. Clymer
11:15 a.m., Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful

Wednesday, September 19
**Sabbatical Lecture:** Jim Papandrea,
Assistant Professor of Church History
Contact Krista McNeil at 847.866.3903 or krista.mcneil@garrett.edu

Wednesday, September 26
**Sabbatical Lecture sponsored by the Hispanic Latino/a and Latin American Center:** Nancy Bedford,
Georgia Harkness Professor of Applied Theology
Contact Krista McNeil at 847.866.3903 or krista.mcneil@garrett.edu

Tuesday, October 9
**Admissions Open House**
Contact Becky Eberhart at 847.866.3938 or becky.eberhart@garrett.edu

Wednesday, October 17
**Retirement Lecture:** Dwight Judy,
Professor of Spiritual Formation
Contact Krista McNeil at 847.866.3903 or krista.mcneil@garrett.edu

Wednesday, October 24
**Stead Center Lecture:** Peter Paris,
Emeritus Professor of Christian Social Ethics,
Princeton Theological Seminary
Contact Brent Waters at 847.866.3933 or brent.waters@garrett.edu

Tuesday, November 13
**Admissions Open House**
Contact Becky Eberhart at 847.866.3938 or becky.eberhart@garrett.edu

For a full calendar of events, visit us at www.garrett.edu