

# The BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Lexington Theological Seminary

Fall 2010 | Vol 46, No. 3

## A new center of learning and formation

### New program makes seminary accessible as LTS welcomes diverse new class online

Lexington Theological Seminary officially launched its distance-learning program in September, with 34 new students representing 13 states.

"I believe the online curriculum opens doors for students who, for various reasons, could not pick up and move to seminary," said LTS President James P. Johnson.

The average age of a new LTS student is 41, from recent college graduates to students in their 60s.

"This is the most diverse class we've had," noted Dr. Johnson. Thirty-two percent of new LTS students are African American, and 63 percent are women.

Accredited by the Association of Theological Schools, LTS remains focused on pastoral education. The new model moves the center of formation from the seminary to the congregation. While taking classes, students also serve a congregation, work with an

experienced mentor and participate in a covenant group.

Two-thirds of the classes are online, while the rest are short, intensive courses at the seminary, for a total of 76 credit hours, including a major capstone exercise, for Master of Divinity students.

Other degrees and certificate programs offered online include Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies for Catholics, Certificate in Pastoral Ministry,

*(Continued)*

# M.Div. stages snapshot

## Stage 1

51 Credit Hours  
Short Courses (Modules)  
2, 4 or 6 weeks each  
Competency Exercises

## Stage 2

19 Credit Hours  
Electives  
8 weeks each

## Stage 3

6 Credit Hours  
Capstone Exercise

*(continued)*

and Continuing Education. The Seminary's Doctor of Ministry program is expected to follow online soon.

The distance-learning program at LTS is designed to allow students to connect with each other via interactive message boards and forums associated with the courses. Professors post videos of their lectures with graphics and other visual aids online.

Making the online experience interactive while building a sense of community among students is important, said instructional technology designer Ben Wyatt.

"Within the courses, we have a number of discussion boards that allow the students to bounce ideas off each other in a way that builds community with the other students as well as the faculty member teaching the course," Wyatt said.

An online prayer group allows students to post prayers to further connect students with one another during their seminary journey. Some faculty members

also hold virtual office hours via Skype, a program that Wyatt uses as well to train new students in how to use the online learning system.

New LTS student Trudy Betts, Associate Pastor at Tropical Sands Christian Church, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., said the program not only serves her need for access to seminary education without relocating her family, it enhances her relationship with her congregation. "I can already see the sense of community this is creating," she said. "It demonstrates how seminary is still relevant to our churches, and that together, we're much stronger than we can ever be standing alone," Betts said.

Scholarships for 50 percent of the cost of tuition are available for Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ students.

For more information on distance learning at LTS, including scholarship and admissions information, please contact Dr. Charisse Gillett at [cgillett@lextheo.edu](mailto:cgillett@lextheo.edu) or (859) 280-1254.

## Tech notes

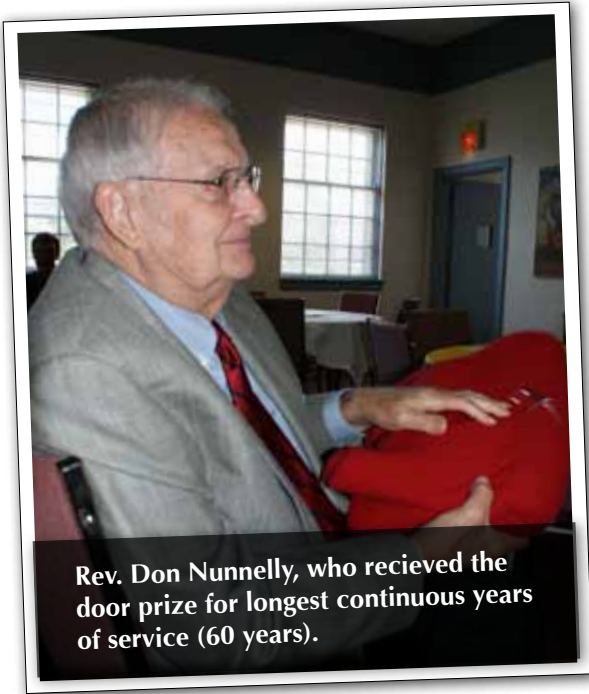
Instructional technology designer Ben Wyatt advises students to have the following equipment to get started with LTS Online:

- Internet access [DSL, broadband recommended]
- Windows XP, Vista, or Windows 7 / Mac OS X /
- 1 GB of RAM
- Web-cam / microphone headset
- Adobe Flash Player
- Web browser [Internet Explorer or Firefox]

"I can help students get the required programs installed on their computer, and they can approach me freely about technology issues when they are taking their courses," said Wyatt, who conducts individual training with each new student.

# Regional Assembly luncheon scrapbook

LTS hosted a luncheon for our extended Seminary family prior to the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Kentucky in Lexington, Ky. For more photos, see our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/lexington.theological.seminary](http://www.facebook.com/lexington.theological.seminary)



Rev. Don Nunnely, who recieved the door prize for longest continuous years of service (60 years).



Alumnae Laura Babbage, left, and Rev. Tanya Tyler share ministry experiences.



Shauna Nicholson, wife of alumnus Rev. Ike Nicholson, and son Isaac



M.Div. student Kyle McDougal discusses ministry with alumnus Rev. Chad Snellgrove.



Rev. Nathan Brown receives the door prize for traveling the furthest, from Hopkinsville.



Alums Rev. Doug Meister, Rev. Loren Broadus and Catherine Broadus

# WHAT ARE YOU READING?

## Betty Brewer-Calvert

Director of Women's Ministries,  
Christian Church in Georgia  
Atlanta, GA

*God's Tapestry: Reading the Bible  
in a World of Religious Diversity*  
by W. Eugene March

## Bruce Frogge

Minister, First Christian Church  
Naples, FL

*A Christianity Worth Believing*  
by Doug Pagitt

## Sekeniah Hamlin

SERF Reconciliation Ministry  
Greensboro, NC

*The Color of Wealth: The Story Behind  
the U.S. Racial Wealth Divide*, by  
Meizhu Lui, Barbara J. Robles, et al

## Cathy Hubbard

Associate Regional Minister,  
Christian Church In Kentucky  
Madisonville, KY

*The Missional Leader: Equipping Your  
Church to Reach a Changing World*, by  
Alan Roxborough

## Kathy Jo Mitchell

Minister, First Christian Church  
Rocky Mount, NC

*The Devil In Pew Number 7*  
by Rebecca Nichols Alonzo

## Bill Moore

Minister, Bedford Christian Church  
Bedford, VA

*A New Kind of Christianity:  
Ten Questions That Are Transforming  
the Faith*, by Brian D. McLaren

## Maggie Sebastian

Minister, First Christian Church  
Wheeling, WV

*God Never Forgets: Faith, Hope,  
and Alzheimer's Disease*  
by Donald K. McKim

## James Singleton

Minister, First Christian Church  
Wadsworth, OH

*Under the Unpredictable Plant: An  
Exploration in Vocational Holiness*  
by Eugene Peterson

# Alumni/ae notes

## 1951

**John D. Trefzger**, at 86 years old, preached his "Last Sermon" at First Christian Church, Bloomington, IL on December 19, 2009. He resides in Bloomington.

## 1983

**John and Dana Keener** have moved from Nebraska to Montana where John is minister of Joliet Christian Church and Dana is senior minister of Central Christian Church, Billings, Mont.

## 1990

**Deb Zuercher** has moved from Shands Hospital in FL to be the Chaplain for Centra in Lynchburg, Va.

## 1996

**Janice Wilson** led another group of 12 to Swaziland, Africa to partner with the Kukhany'Okusha Zion Church, the Disciples Global Ministries partner, to combat the HIV and AIDS epidemic in that country.

**Nathan Day Wilson** was recently elected vice president of the Ecumenical Community of Chautauqua in Chautauqua, N.Y.

## 2004

**Robert A. Strode** has moved from St. John AME Church in Frankfort, Ky., to Young's Chapel AME Church in Louisville, Ky.

## 2005

**Erika Smith** has moved from Director of Admissions at Midway College to senior guidance counselor at Lexington Catholic High School, Lexington, Ky.

**Amanda Wagoner** married Mark Meade on September 25. She is the associate minister at First Christian Church, Jeffersonville, Ind.

## 2007

**Andrea Brownlee** has accepted a call to be the associate minister at First Christian Church, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

## 2009

**Evan Dolive** moved from Hospice of the Bluegrass to be the associate minister of First Christian Church, Orange, Tex.

## 2010

**Fay Blevins** accepted the call to be the pastor at First Christian Church, Joplin, Mo.

**Marsha Charles** is pastor of a United Church of Christ new church start in Lexington, Ky.

**Lakeya Chase** and **Starla Solan** are serving as chaplain residents with Hospice of the Bluegrass, Lexington, Ky.

**Amanda Hatfield** has accepted a call to First Christian Church, Eden, N.C.

**Wanda Olive** and **Kate West** are chaplain residents with St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington, Ky.

**Tracy Parker** was called to be the associate minister at First Christian Church, Paris, Ky.

**Sarah Renfro** is the associate minister at First Christian Church, Frankfort, Ky.

**Tracy Siegman** became the associate minister of Union Avenue Christian Church, Litchfield, Ill.

Send your updates to [swray@lextheo.edu](mailto:swray@lextheo.edu).

# IN MEMORIAM

## Marie Easterwood

July 15, 2010

## Willard A. Guy '43

July 20, 2010

## Paul A. Johnson '54

July 23, 2010

## Betty Lou Pieratt FS

June 8, 2010

## Marilyn Trefzger

August 30, 2010

## John H. Weaver '79

September 19, 2010

## Norman E. West '53

July 12, 2010

*In memory of...*

**Jean Horner Barker**

Anonymous

**Bob Brown**

Don and Stephanie McLaughlin

**Cathy P. Brown**

Dr. Charisse L. Gillett

**Rev. M. Tim Browning**

Dr. and Mrs. John R. Browning

**Charles E. Crank, Jr.**

Melba C. Crank

**Anthony L. Dunnivant**

L. Leon and Nellie D. Durham

**Edith Dunnivant**

L. Leon and Nellie D. Durham

**Newton "Fig" Fowler**

Charles H. and Lou Brooks

Joy Flowers

**Betty Graham**

Don and Stephanie McLaughlin

**Dana Bly Horan**

Mr. and Mrs. R. Michael Bales

**Alberta E. Jones**

Dr. and Mrs. Jack J. Early

**J. Daniel Joyce**

George and Jeannette Williams

**Donald E. Littlejohn**

Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Bare

**Douglas V. Moore**

Rev. W. Robert Raiford, Jr.

**Ruth Newman**

Dr. William C. Newman

**Roscoe M. Pierson**

Charles H. and Lou Brooks

Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor, III

**Rev. Nina Poage**

Rev. Dr. Bennett Poage

# Appreciation Gifts

June 1-Aug. 31, 2010

*In honor of...*

**Bill and Donna Barr**

Charles H. and Lou Brooks

**Dr. Wayne H. Bell**

Rev. and Mrs. William Blackwell

**Marsha J. Charles**

Harold and Evelyn Watkins

**David Clark, Sr.**

Dr. Charisse L. Gillett

**Alan and Lynn Cole**

Steve and Sandy Monhollen

**Sharyn Dowd**

Rev. Anne E. Gregory

**James Fritz**

Paul and Margaret Evans

**Michael Kinnamon**

Rev. Anne E. Gregory

**Peter F. Loader**

Mr. and Mrs. Randal E. Parrott

**Jim and Petie McLean**

Bill and Julie McDonald

**Donald and Lillian Nunnelly**

Steve and Sandy Monhollen

Mary Dudley Seale

**Lester and Janelle Palmer**

Harold and Evelyn Watkins

**Sarah Renfro**

Anne Hilan

**Mary Dudley Seale**

Harold and Evelyn Watkins

**James M. Seale**

Dr. and Mrs. David L. Alexander

Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Bare

Dr. and Mrs. Wayne H. Bell

Rev. and Mrs. William Blackwell

Arthur and Betty Buell

Mary W. Calhoun

Dr. Joyce Blair Crowell

Dr. and Mrs. William Dozier

Anne Hilan

Dr. and Mrs. David Holt

Mr. and Mrs. Roland K. Huff

Dr. and Mrs. James P. Johnson

Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Linberg

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce McInnis

Dr. and Mrs. Donald Nunnelly

Mr. and Mrs. James Pape

Mr. Walter J. Pape

Lou Ann Parsons

Barbara M. Rosenbaum

Dr. and Mrs. William Seale

Ann C. Walker

Harold and Evelyn Watkins

Dr. and Mrs. Billy Williams

**Howard E. Short**

Dr. John D. Trefzger

**Rev. Edward N. Spry**

Rev. Marilyn Williams Spry

**Paul David Stauffer**

Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Bare

Dr. and Mrs. Wayne H. Bell

**Lloyd E. Tatlock**

Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Bare

**Marilyn Trefzger**

Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Bare

**Lucy Elliott Bryans Van Meter**

John B. and Eleanor T. Chenault

**Norman West**

Dr. and Mrs. Donald A. Nunnelly

**Dr. and Mrs. H. Thomas Wood**

Steve D. Wood

# Connections

## Meet our Students

Trudy Betts, Fla.  
 Vernie Bolden, Va.  
 Garlan Burman, Ore.  
 Patricia Carter, Okla.  
 Karen Cote, Ga.  
 Julia Cory, Ohio  
 Norman Cunningham, Tenn.  
 Calvin Curry, Va.  
 Anna Curwood, Ky.  
 Mary Fitch, Ill.  
 Mark Garret, Ohio  
 Tracy Glaser, Ohio  
 Peter Harper, N.C.  
 Horace Harrell, Ky.  
 Alecia Hayes, Ohio  
 Eva Hughes, Va.  
 Tomeka Jacobs, Ky.  
 Michael Junkroski, Fla.  
 John Kleinschmidt, Ind.  
 Elizabeth Letchworth, N.C.  
 Lisa Maas, Ky.  
 Laurie Metzko, Ohio  
 Jody Naron, Tex.  
 Jacque Parlato, Ky.  
 Joseph Pusateri, Ky.  
 Clifford Rippetoe, Nev.  
 John Schildt, Ky.  
 Paul Scott, Tenn.  
 Amanda Shelburne, Miss.  
 Amanda Sorenson, Ky.  
 Coleman Todd, Fla.  
 Mark Lee Underwood, Ala.  
 Jermaine Wilson, Ky.  
 Nancy Zinc, Del.

## Meet our Adjunct Faculty

### Jill Snodgrass

Associate Director, The Clinebell Institute  
 Claremont, Calif.

### Jason Hays

Pastoral Counselor, Associate Minister  
 for Pastoral Care, First Congregational Church,  
 Boulder, Colo.

### Jessica Van Denend

Ph.D. candidate, Union Theological Seminary  
 New York, N.Y.

### Rick Landon

Director, Interfaith Samaritan Counseling Center  
 Lexington, Ky.

### Jason Curry

Dean, Fisk University Memorial Chapel  
 Nashville, Tenn.

### Rick Lowery

Affiliated Professor of Hebrew Bible,  
 Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Okla.

### Zipporah Glass

Recent Ph.D. graduate (Hebrew Bible),  
 Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

### John Hull

Minister of Faith Development,  
 Beargrass Christian Church  
 Louisville, Ky.

### (William) Bill Lee

Pastor, Loudon Avenue Christian Church,  
 Roanoke, Va.



*Peter Morgan*

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**Beth Goins**  
**LTS Communications**

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LTS alumnus and author/editor Peter Morgan has a passion for history. He served as president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society for nine years, from 1995, and was honored as president emeritus of the society. He and his wife Lynne are retired in Washington, D.C., where he serves as historian in residence of National City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). So when LTS President James P. Johnson sought to capture the history of the rapidly changing Seminary, he turned to Morgan.

Morgan has been recording interviews for several months. We caught up with him recently for an interview of our own.

***Q What motivated you to take on this project?***

***A*** First is my love and appreciation for what the Seminary has meant to my life and my ministry. Second, is my background interest and experience as an historian, especially the history of the Disciples of Christ.

***Q How did you begin documenting the history of LTS?***

***A*** A list of potential interviewees has been compiled. Questions have been drafted, sent to selected historians and refined. Twenty interviews have been conducted or are in the process of being conducted, including four presidents, two interim presidents and the widow of one deceased president, four deans, four trustees, three faculty representatives, and two administrative staff.

# Recording HISTORY

***Q What have you discovered thus far that would be of interest to those who care about LTS?***

***A*** My personal experience of LTS is almost utopian--scholars together in Christian community. After reading Dwight E. Stevenson's history of the Seminary and doing the interviews, I have a clearer perception of the hard realities and challenges that the Seminary has faced throughout its 145 years.

***Q Has it been easy or difficult in finding documentation and other information about the seminary's 150 plus years in existence?***

***A*** Dwight Stevenson's history, which covers the first 100 years of the seminary, is a ready and reliable source of information. The interviewees have come well prepared and very willing to participate. The limit of the scope of the project at this point has meant that I have not had to do any research, other than the background reading in Stevenson's history.

***Q How important is it now that we look back on the history of LTS as the school sets out on a new chapter in its existence?***

***A*** History is always a trajectory from the past through the present to the future. It is crucial that the seminary in planning its future know the challenges and successes as well as the failures of the past.

***Q What do you hope that others, like LTS alumni and alumnae along with Disciples of Christ congregations take away from the historical perspective of LTS?***

***A*** The intent of this project is to make these interviews available for future historians. My hope is that eventually the alums and others will have a renewed appreciation and celebration for their seminary, and that appreciation and celebration is based on the reality of facing hard challenges.

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*Peter Morgan was in the 1964 class of the College of the Bible. His ministry includes ten years as pastor of Marion (Iowa) Christian Church and 20 years as program staff of the Disciples Division of Homeland Ministries. He has been honored by Bethany College with a doctor of humanities degree.*



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