

In the family of God, there are No Coincidences

As a fourth-generation funeral director, Bob Jonkhoff has seen all sorts of situations surrounding death. He has observed the most well-meaning of people and pastors say and do the most unhelpful things.

Before he retired, he would come to the seminary and talk to the graduating seniors about death and dying.

He would start right out and ask them, "What would you do your first week at your new church if a child in your congregation gets hit by a car and dies? What would you do for that family?" He and the students had very helpful discussions.

Bob's connections to the seminary grew over the years. As part of the consistory at Central Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, he found the seminary to be a resource in times of need. Also, he and his late wife Carol became members of the President's Club and gave generously each year.

How fitting, then, in Bob's own hour of need, that a seminary student would be there, literally, at the doors of the hospital elevator, waiting for him.

Karen Niemeyer had interned at Spectrum Hospital during the summer for Clinical Pastoral Education credits, and she had enjoyed it so much that she continued to volunteer one night a month. This "just happened to be" her night at the hospital.

As Bob raced to the hospital after a call at midnight telling him his recently injured son-in-law had taken a turn for the worse (which he knew meant something far worse), his biggest concern was that his daughter was all alone.

He was greeted by Karen and soon learned that she had been beside his daughter throughout the entire time of her husband's sudden heart failure and unexpected death.

"Her presence was so important!" Bob says. "It meant so much. People can start quoting platitudes or scripture at a time like that, but that doesn't cut it. Jesus says, 'I was sick and you visited me,' and the righteous say, 'When?' Well, Karen was living that out that night. She was the

shoulder and arms my daughter needed."

Karen has found that chaplaincy ministry is as different as the changing needs of the patients and families.

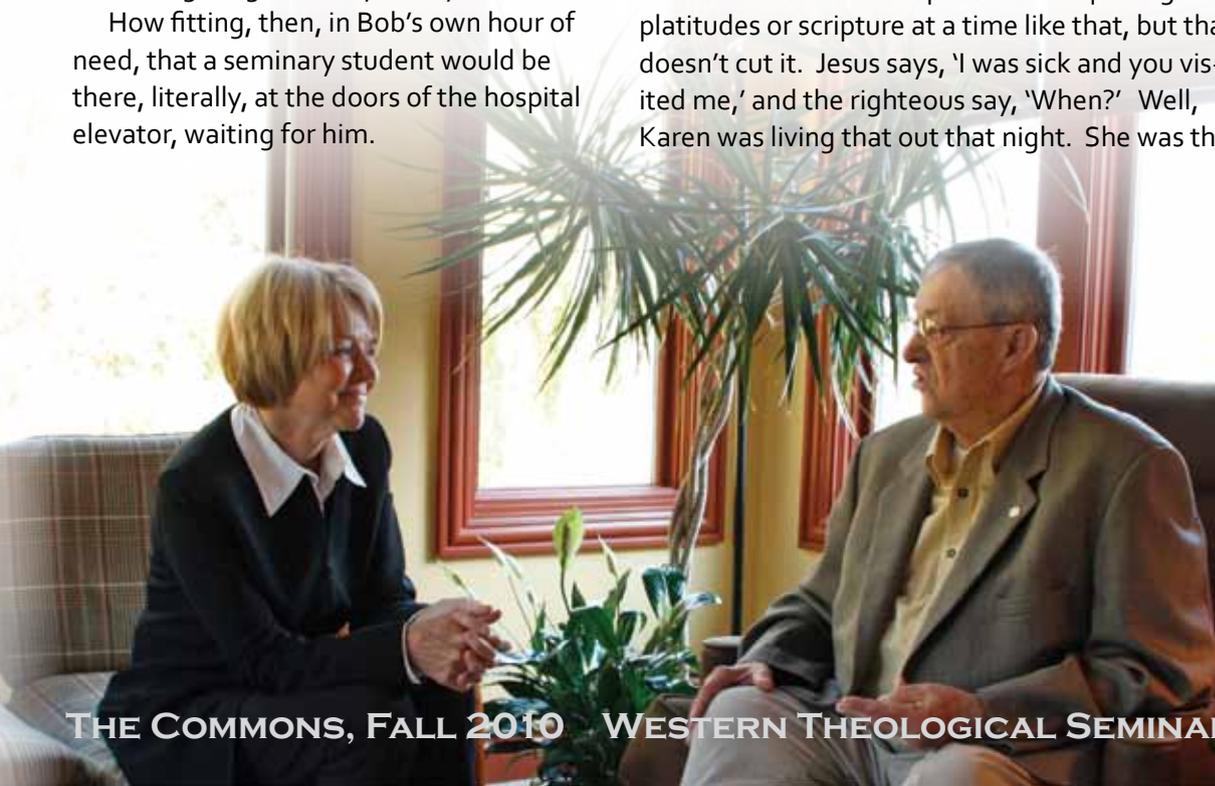
"There have been times when I felt very inadequate in comforting patients," she says, only to find out later that her visit had made a difference for them.

"My faith has really grown, because I knew that somehow the Holy Spirit had been at work through me."

Karen believes that experiencing the illnesses and deaths of her parents and the sudden death of her brother, as well as hospitalizations of other family members has given her understanding and empathy. She looks forward to working in pastoral care in the church wherever she serves.



WTS student Karen Niemeyer and Bob Jonkhoff



Many thanks to Bob Jonkhoff for letting us share this story.

The Henry Bast Memorial Preaching Program

The Rev. Dr. Henry Bast is remembered by the Reformed Church in America as one of its most gifted leaders. All who heard him preach or teach knew his special gifts and the extraordinary power the Lord gave his words.

His hundreds of sermons were borne from long hours at the desk. He read mainly Scripture, averaging thirteen chapters a day for years, plus commentaries, sermons, and devotional materials. The minister, he believed, should "be ready to pray, preach, or die on a moment's notice."

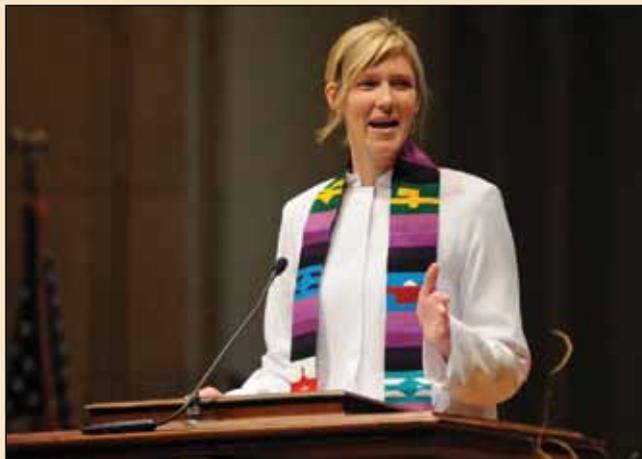
Dr. Bast's passion for preaching the gospel lives on through the Henry Bast Memorial Preaching Program at Western Theological Seminary. He would be pleased that the focus is not on him as a person, but on the glorious calling of preaching. There are five parts to the program:

1. The Bast Festival of Preaching (yearly)
2. Preaching Fellowship Awards
3. A Resident Preacher
4. The Bast Preaching Resource Center
5. The Henry Bast Professor of Preaching

We are pleased to announce that **Rev. Kate Davelaar**, Chaplain at Hope College, will be our Resident Preacher for Spring Semester 2011. Resident preachers serve as a mentor to students, present a workshop and lecture for the community,

interact with students in preaching classes, and take time to research on a personally selected preaching theme.

"I am thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to work more intentionally on the craft of preaching through study, conversation and engagement with faculty and students at Western Theological Seminary," Rev. Davelaar says. "I am hoping my time as the Bast Resident Preacher will continue to help me discern what it means to live into my calling as a preacher and foster a deeper understanding of how the preaching moment shapes a body of believers (and vice versa)."



Rev. Kate Davelaar, Bast Resident Preacher

The Bast Preaching Resource Center has been on the 4th floor

of the Cook Center for Theological Research for 25 years. **NEW THIS FALL: www.bastpreaching.org** Check out what's available online now: Henry Bast sermons, lectures and other audio resources, reading resources, a blog, Bast Festival lectures, and more!

The heart and soul of the Henry Bast Memorial Preaching Program is to compel, equip, and encourage preachers to preach the Word of God.

For more information on the program, please email journey@westernsem.edu or visit www.westernsem.edu/journey/communities/bast-preaching-program/ or call the Journey staff at 616-392-8555, x167.

www.bastpreaching.org

The Bast Resources Membership gives you full access to recordings of past Bast Festivals, other lectures and workshops. These resources can be downloaded onto your computer or ipod for easy listening.

Become a member one of three ways:

1. Attend the Bast Preaching Festival and receive a free year of membership for attending.
2. Early Bird special - \$25 if you register by December 1, 2010
3. Regular Registration - \$50 for a year membership, January-December 2011.

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

April 11-15: John Bell Week at Western

April 18-20: 1 3 5 Gathering for recent grads

May 5-6: Youth Ministry Conference with Mark DeVries

May 10: Prepare/Enrich Training

journey@westernsem.edu

1-800-392-8554, x167



Western Theological Seminary Faculty News

At their annual Alumni/ae Banquet in May, Hope College presented Professor of Old Testament **Carol Bechtel** with a Distinguished Alum Award for her scholarship and extensive service on behalf of the Reformed Church in America. Dr. Bechtel graduated from Hope in 1981.

Dr. Bechtel presented a copy of the Belhar Confession to the Synod of the Waldensian and Methodist Churches in Torre Pellice, Italy in August. She was serving as a special ecumenical envoy on behalf of the RCA's Commission on Christian Unity.

Associate Professor of Reformed Theology **Todd Billings** has been chosen to be a member of the "Wilkins Colloquy," a select group of Protestant and Roman Catholic scholars who will meet each March at Baylor University for consultations in coordination with the Center for Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue.

President **Tim Brown** led the Senior Staff Retreat for Young Life in Colorado Springs, CO on Oct. 11-12. On Feb. 2-3 he will return to Young Life to teach at their Area Director School.

Look for *Welcome to Theological Field Education*, due out in December by The Alban Institute. Director of Formation for Ministry **Matthew Floding** is the general editor and a contributor to the book.

Dr. Floding will chair the Association for Theological Field Education biennial consultation in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Jan. 19-22, 2011 and conduct a workshop with Dr. Emily Click from Harvard Divinity School for New Field Education Directors.

On September 12 **Dr. Floding** and Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship Arts **Ron Rienstra** co-presented a workshop on ways to be more inclusive of persons with disabilities at the RCA/CRC "One Body Together in Christ" conference. They led the closing worship with the help of Friends and students from The Ralph & Cheryl Schregardus Friendship House, our residential housing connecting seminary students with individuals with cognitive disabilities.

At the invitation of the Association of Theological Schools, Professor of Missiology **George Hunsberger** is participating in consultations on "Christian Hospitality and Pastoral Practices in a Multifaith Society." The purpose is to help schools prepare graduates to serve effectively and faithfully within a multifaith society and to explore how these issues may best be lodged in the ATS Standards of Accreditation.

On Nov. 20 Dr. Hunsberger will be a Respondent to Papers at the GOCN Forum on Missional Hermeneutics at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Atlanta, GA.

As part of his sabbatical last spring, Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology **Chris Kaiser** traveled overseas to lecture and teach. At the Sárospatak Theological Academy in Hungary he taught a seminar on early Christological controversies and gave a public lecture. At the Hansei University in Korea Dr. Kaiser lectured on "Discerning Spirit in a Technoscientific World: The Fourth Dimension in Dr. Cho's Theology and Ministry." While he and his wife Martha were in Korea, they were pleased to visit with two former WTS students and to meet a student currently in our Master of Theology program.

Professor of Ethics and Theology **David Stubbs** spent last semester as a visiting scholar in the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. There he worked on a book about the temple background to the Eucharist and gave lectures on "The Calling and Testing of the People of God: The Theological Structure of Numbers" and "The Temple and the Protestant Eucharistic Imagination." On June 28 at the Knox Centre for Leadership and Ministry he conducted a seminar, "Jewish Roots and Emerging Expressions of Christian Worship."

On October 31, Dr. Stubbs hosted a panel discussion at the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, for the Christian Systematic Theology Section, "Unveiling Barth on Revelation."



We are pleased to announce that **Travis West**, who earned both his Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees at Western, is now teaching Hebrew at the seminary as an adjunct professor. This past summer Travis worked on developing a textbook to support and sustain the developing Hebrew curriculum here at Western Seminary. Professor West is also teaching a continuing education class through Journey called "Engaging the God of the Old Testament – The Seven Days of Creation" this Fall.

Faculty Speaking Engagements

Dr. Carol Bechtel

Nov 7 & 14 – "The Bible and Handel's Messiah," Central Reformed, Grand Rapids

Dec 8 – "Esther," First Reformed, Grandville, MI

Feb 6, 17, 20 – "Esther," First Reformed, Holland

Dr. J. Todd Billings

Nov 7, 14, 21 – "Living Deeper into the Gospel: Rediscovering our Ancient Faith for Tomorrow," Adult education series at Christ Memorial, Holland

Nov 17 – "'To Unite Us to Our God': The Lord's Supper, the Law of Love, and Justice," public lecture at Central College, Pella, IA

Feb 24, 2011 – "Ministry in Union with Christ: A Constructive Critique of Incarnational Ministry," public lecture at Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, CA.

Dr. Tim Brown, preaching

Nov 14 – Tulare Community, Tulare, CA

Nov 21 – Twin Falls Reformed, Twin Falls, ID

Dec 5 – Vriesland Reformed, Vriesland, MI

Dec 12 – First Reformed, Pella, IA

Dec 19 – First Reformed, Oak Harbor, WA

Jan 16 – First Reformed, Zeeland, MI

Jan 23 – Outdoor Resorts, Palm Springs, CA

Jan 30 – Hope College, "The Gathering"

Feb 6 – First Presbyterian, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Feb 13 – 2nd Reformed, Kalamazoo, MI

Feb 20 – 3rd Reformed, Holland, MI

Feb 27 – Desert Haven Comm., Scottsdale, AZ

Dr. George Hunsberger

Nov 12-14 – "The Practice of Service," Sacred Practice Leadership Series co-sponsored by Grand View College and Alban Institute, Shalom Retreat Center, Dubuque, IA.

Prof. Ron Rienstra

Jan 28, 2011 – Vespers Service, Calvin's Worship Symposium, Calvin College, Grand Rapids

Feb 20 (6 pm) – "Praying with the Psalms" presentation/vespers worship service, 14th St. Christian Reformed Church, Holland

Feb 26 & Mar 6 – "Public Prayer" Education Hour workshop, Christ Community Church, Grand Rapids

"Open Horizon"

by Andy Kadzban



This past summer I had the privilege of serving as the intern at First Reformed Church in Oak Harbor, WA. Oak Harbor stands on the northern end of the longest island in the lower 48. Whidbey, or "The Rock", snakes its way up the Salish Sea, floating in the cold, salty waters of Puget Sound. On most summer days the sun rises between 4:30 and 5:00am, casting shadows out from the eastern horizon of the Cascade Mountains. It's not long before the sun lights up the Olympic Mountain Range in the west, one of the youngest and most awe inspiring mountain ranges in the country. If the day is clear enough, you'll also see Mt. Rainier to the south, over 110 miles away. And if the day is just right, it will end on Pastor Jon Brown's deck, giving you a clear view of Mt. Baker, an active volcano, on the northern horizon.

I've had the pleasure of spending the last two summers

on Whidbey. The first was spent exploring whether or not pastoral ministry was what God had in store for me. I came home having realized a call and resumed my studies with renewed vigor. This summer I went back to Whidbey with hopes of exploring some gifts and challenging some weaknesses:

I spent ten weeks living the pastoral life, and I got to do it alongside my fiancé as we explored boundaries and self-care in the pastoral life together.

I got to preach on six Sundays. I preached my first sermons on Wisdom Literature (Proverbs) and my first sermons on Pauline Epistles (Philippians). I chose, developed, and preached my first series.

I got to work....on the golf course...hiking the island...drinking the wonderful coffee of the Northwest...pulling up crabs from Puget Sound...sharing meals.

I grew to love a group of people that offered themselves honestly and wholeheartedly to me.

I toiled with them in the pain of loss. The loss of long-since-loved ones. The loss of not-yet-born loved ones. The loss of memory. The loss of the freedom and mobility of youth.

I prayed for them. I cried for them. I complained about them. I puzzled over them. I laughed with them. I experienced their grace.

And now I miss them.

Internships, as far as I can tell, have little-to-nothing to do with what an intern can teach a church, but they have everything to do with a church's ability to welcome an intern in love, trust God enough to allow them the reins, and to pick them up in grace and love when they fall. I am forever grateful to Faith Reformed Church for this, and I will always carry them in my heart as the image of a church that actually looks like the Body of Christ.

“Becoming Pastor”

by **Lindsey De Kruif**



When I first felt called to ministry, being called *pastor* did not seem realistic, but I continued to feel strongly that God was calling me to be a pastor. As a young woman beginning college, I did not know women to be in leadership in the church. Female pastors were a distant reality for me, and women serving on the consistory in my home congregation was unheard of. Attempting to listen intently to God’s call, I searched for other ways that I might serve the people of God, but persistently I felt a call to be pastor, to share the grace of Jesus Christ with the people of God through the Word and the sacraments.

This summer I tried on this call, perhaps at times a bit clumsily, as I learned the rhythms of preaching, pastoral care, and prayer at First Reformed Church in Wynantskill, New York, and was received with grace and affirmation. In the net of their grace and patience with me, I was exposed to the joys and the sorrows of ministry, baptism and weddings, financial worry and loneliness. Learning from each other and asking questions

together, we considered how the church faithfully lives within the community. Experiencing and sharing in God’s grace with this community, I felt affirmation of God’s call in my life.

The affirmation of this call felt particularly strong one day as I was preparing for a sermon. Carefully I read over the manuscript that I had written, attempting to take in the



Visiting with congregation members during Sunday morning fellowship time

words that I had been guided to speak to God’s people that week. As I read, I came across words that spoke of our salvation through Jesus Christ, and I was overjoyed knowing that this was the message that I would get to share again and again as I preached. I was also humbled, for I knew that in my calling to lead God’s people I am faced with the lofty task of faithfully liv-



Lindsey with mentor, Pastor Kerri Weldon

ing out this good news with a community of people.

With assurance of God’s faithful presence and grace surrounding me, I found confidence that God’s call in my life fits, and that by grace, God will help me grow in service to him and his people. Now as I look ahead to life after graduation, I hope to be a pastor who walks alongside God’s people in their everyday lives, calling them to see God’s presence around them, and to live into that Gospel together.



Enjoying dinner with the intern site team and the pastor



Ken Neevel

As part of my job I have the privilege of traveling the country and meeting many of Western's supporters face to face. I really enjoy getting to know the people, hearing about their work and interests, and learning why Western

Seminary is important to them. Lately I've been asked about creative ways to help the seminary in the midst of difficult economic times. Well, one way in particular comes to mind.

Some of you are retired and finding that the low interest rates banks pay these days are squeezing your monthly budget tighter and tighter. Did you know it is possible to secure a very good interest rate for the rest of your life and help Western Seminary at the same time?

A Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a legal agreement between you and Western Theological Seminary in which you give Western money, securities, or real estate, and in return, Western pays you a fixed income for life. Also, you are able to claim a tax deduction for a portion of the gift and a portion of each interest payment you receive. When you pass away, Western receives the remaining value as a gift. Unlike many retirement savings plans such as 401(k)s or IRAs, there are no limits on how much you may contribute to a CGA.

Creatively Invested

Here are a few examples of CGA rates as of September 1, 2010:

One Life			Two Lives		
Age	Interest Rate	ERI*	Ages	Interest Rate	ERI*
70	5.8%	8.2%	70 & 68	5.3%	7.15%
75	6.4%	9.32%	75 & 72	5.7%	7.98%
80	7.2%	10.81%	80 & 78	6.1%	8.84%

*Effective Annuity Rate = the increased effective return of both the tax deduction and the tax-free benefit.

A charitable gift annuity can be established with as little as \$5,000. Please call Mike LeFebre, Mark Bogertman, Dana Daniels, Vern Hoffman, or me at 616-392-8555 if you would like to discuss the possibility of establishing a CGA. We'll be happy to provide you with annuity rates and charitable deduction information that pertains to your specific situation.

CGAs are a creative way for you to invest in the ministry of Western Theological Seminary while also providing a guaranteed lifetime income for yourself. Give us a call and see if they are right for you.

Ken Neevel
Vice President of Advancement and Communications

Class of 2010

Master of Divinity graduates:

- Jeri Baker**—Director of Spiritual Growth, Immanuel Reformed Church, Lansing, MI
- Rachel Bush**—MSW studies, Grand Valley State University and p/t at Trinity Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, MI
- Jonathan DePoy**—Assoc. Pastor, Noordeloos Christian Reformed Church, Holland, MI
- Lorene Duin**—Pastoral Residency Program with Lake Michigan Presbytery
- Chad Haan**—Finishing studies at Calvin Theological Seminary
- Laurie Hartzell**—Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Benton Harbor, MI
- Megan Hodgin**—Minister of Discipleship and Mission, Fellowship Reformed Church, Holland, MI
- Mike Holleman**—Pastor, Fairview Reformed Church, Fairview, IL
- Nate Kooistra**—Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach, Reeman Christian Ref. Church, Fremont, MI
- José Macias**—Master of Theology Program, WTS
- Jason Mariano**—Pastoral Residency Program with Lake Michigan Presbytery

- Jessica Oosterhouse**—Finishing studies at Calvin Theological Seminary
- David Ryder**—Pastor, Brighton Reformed Church, Rochester, NY
- Diane Schrottenboer**—p/t Calling Pastor, First Reformed Church, Holland, MI
- Patricia Simmons**—Exec. Director and Pastoral Counselor, Jordan River Ministries, Holland, MI
- Britton Smith**—Campus Pastor, Moran Park campus, Ridgepoint Community Church, Holland, MI
- Patricia Stromsta**—Pastoral Staff, First Presbyterian Church, Kalamazoo, MI
- J.B. Wernlund**—Associate Pastor, Providence Christian Reformed Church, Cutlerville, MI
- Mark Wilson**—RCA Missionary, Cambodia
- Bob Wollam**—e/Groups Director, Engedi Church, Holland, MI
- Drew Yamamoto**—Asian Mission Supervisor, RCA Offices, Grand Rapids
- Jason Zimmer**—Pastor, North Point Community Church, Plainwell, MI

Doctor of Ministry graduates:

- Sharon Arendshorst**—Specialized Interim Minister, Great Lakes Synod, RCA
- Mark Mast**—Director of Outreach and Church Planting, Hopewell Reformed Church, Hopewell Junction, NY
- Thomas F. Neal**—Senior Pastor, Columbia Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, WA
- Jill Sanders**—Field Outreach Minister, East Central District, Iowa Annual Conference, United Methodist Church
- Stanley Seagren**—Senior Pastor, Westdale Reformed Church, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Certificate in Urban Pastoral Ministry graduate:

- Michelle Hampton**—Fresh Fire AME Church, Kalamazoo, MI

In Search Process as of 10/20/2010

- Rachel Brownson
- Nancy Claus
- Tim Mejeur
- Rosanne Mork
- Chad Thoreson
- Chris Timmer
- Jill VandeZande
- Peter VanKley



on to Glory...

Harold Leestma '42

b. Grand Rapids, MI 8/9/1917
d. Anaheim, CA 7/30/2010
Hope '39, WTS '42, Ph.D. Calif
Graduate School '73

Reformed Churches served:
(1942-52) Laketon-Bethel,
Muskegon, MI
(1952-57) Garfield Park, Grand
Rapids, MI
(1957-62) Trinity, Munster, IN
(1962-73) Garden Community,
Garden Grove, CA
(1973-87) Lake Hills Community,
Laguna Hills, CA

Bert Van Soest '46

b. Strasburg, ND 7/31/1921
d. Goshen, NY 9/29/2010
Central '43, WTS '46
Reformed Churches served:
(1946-51) Calvary, Cleveland,
OH
(1951-56) Trinity, Grand
Rapids, MI
(1956-61) Ebenezer, Morrison,
IL
(1961-69) Mountain View Com-
munity, Denver, CO
(1969-81) Pompton Lakes, NJ
(1982-86) North Branch, NJ
(1986-2005) Faith, Slate Hill, NY
Other service to the church:
(1974-76) V.P. & President of
General Synod
(1980-82) Secretary of Chris-
tian Discipleship, RCA
(1987-2005) Consultant to
churches, Middle-
town area, NY

Paul W. Kranendonk '54

b. Oostburg, WI 5/22/1927
d. Whiting, NJ 8/20/2010
Hope '50, WTS '54
Reformed Churches served:
(1954-58) First, Marion, NY
(1958-64) Helderberg, Guilder-
land Center, NY
(1964-69) Plainview, NY
(1969-74) Syracuse, NY
(1976-81) Old North, Dumont,
NJ
(1981-89) Pompton Lakes, NJ
(1989-92) (assoc) Community,
Whiting, NJ
Other service to the church:
(1971-72) President, Particular
Synod of Albany
(1985-89) Particular Synod of
the Mid Atlantics

Donald Nienhuis '54

b. Coupeville, WA 2/7/1927
d. Zeeland, MI 6/8/2010
Seattle Pacific Coll '51 WTS '54
Reformed Churches served:
(1954-57) First, Conrad, MT
(1957-61) First, Harrison, SD
(1961-67) North Park, Kalama-
zoo, MI
(1967-72) First, Midland Park, NJ
(1972-77) Hope Community,
Orlando, FL
(1977-89) Twin Falls, ID

William Hoffman '56

b. De Motte, IN 3/18/1925
d. Stewartville, MN 6/15/2010
Hope '53, WTS '56
Reformed Churches served:
(1956-60) Carmel, IA
(1960-65) Trinity, Battle Creek,
MI
(1965-69) Hollandale, MN
(1969-73) First, Fulton, IL
(1973-85) American, Luverne,
MN
(1985-90) Bayshore Gardens,
Bradenton, FL
Other service to the church:
(1973) V.P. Particular Synod of
Chicago
(1979-81) V.P. and President,
Particular Synod of
the West

Siebe (Sam) Vander Schaaf '62

b. Trummarum, Netherlands
4/28/36
d. Peterborough, Ontario, Can.
11/29/2010
Hope '59, WTS '62
Reformed Church served:
(1962-71) First, Brockville,
Ontario
Other service:
(1973-96) Professor, St. Law-
rence College, Ontario

Bruce Hoffman '63

b. Sodus, NY 2/15/1939
d. Flemington, NJ 9/19/2010
Hope 61, WTS '64
Reformed Churches served:
(1964-70) Trinity, Schenectady, NY
(1970-2003) Second, Wyckoff, NJ
Other service:
Interim pastor to several
churches while retired
Chaplain for the Wyckoff Police-
men's Benevolent Assoc.

News

Upper Room Books has published
*Sacred Breath: Forty Days of Center-
ing Prayer* by **J. David Muyskens '59**.
Dr. Muyskens has been a spiritual
director since 1991 and has practiced
centering prayer daily since 1993.

In retirement **Melchior Van Hattem
'62** took specialized interim minister
training and is serving Grove Re-
formed Church, North Bergen, NJ. At
Kinnelon Reformed Church he tested
resources for parenting and young
adult ministry. Discovering effective
materials in those fields is a continu-
ing avocation for him.

On September 20, 2009, **Wayne
Sneller '81** was installed by Central
Iowa Classis as the Senior Pastor of
First Reformed Church in Sully, IA.
Wayne and his wife Tammy have
served three RCA churches in 29
years of ministry; the latest was First
Reformed of Maurice, IA for 16 years.

Dialogue. Contact Dorothy at dyod-
nyce@bnin.net to order a copy.

Randy Vander Weit '04 was united
in marriage to Lisa Hickey on July 24
at the Christian Reformed Conference
Grounds in Grand Haven, MI. Randy
is the Director of Youth and Education
at Bethany Church (CRC) in Mus-
kegon, MI.

Eric Bogerd '07 has moved to
Des Moines, IA to begin a chaplain-
residency program in CPE for the next
year at Iowa Methodist Hospital.

Christie Dasaro '07 (Th.M.) is the co-
ordinator of Transformational Educa-
tion Network Nigeria. (www.TEN3.org)
Faced with poverty, AIDS, and political
chaos, churches are asking for help.
TEN3 is developing knowledgeable
leaders who, equipped with a thor-
ough Christian worldview and the love
of Jesus Christ, can bring hope to the



Many Western graduates were present to celebrate the opening of Pekich Park in Grand Rapids, MI on June 3, named in commemoration of Rev. Barbara Pekich '92 for her devotion to the Heartside Neighborhood. Pictured: Char Ellison '97, George Heartwell '87, Helen Phillips, Bill Pekich '08 & Sara Appleyard Pekich '09, Edie Lenz '02 (son Caleb), Jeanette & Brad Armstrong, Rob & Katrina Pekich Bundy.

Several Master of Theology graduates were delegates to the World Communion of Reformed Churches gathering in Grand Rapids in June: **Rev. Yang, Chi Sou (Andrew) '84** General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan; **Dr. Shih, Shu-Ying '98** Associate Professor at Taiwan Theological Seminary; **Roy Tamaweol '95** Indonesia; and **David Sal Thang Vunga '05** Reformed Church in Myanmar. Three M.Div. graduates were also involved: **Kate Davelaar '08**, **Dusty Keepers '09**, and **Kate Kooyman '08**.

Dorothy Yoder Nyce, '97 (D.Min.) published *Multifaith Musing: Essays and Exchanges* in April 2010. The book draws from and moves beyond her D.Min. focus on Interreligious

next generation of Africans. TEN3 is starting four Transformational Institutions in Nigeria. Christie requests prayer for wisdom and strength to be used by God for the transformation of Africa and God's glory.

Global Missions of the Reformed Church in America commissioned **Mark Wilson '10** and his wife, Deb, as Mission Partner Personnel on June 6 at Christ Memorial Reformed Church in Holland. The Wilsons will be part of Global Missions' goal to help rebuild the church in Cambodia and bring the gospel to the whole country. They will work in partnership with Phnom Penh Bible School, the Theological Education by Extension Association Cambodia, and Food for the Hungry.

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A Note from President Tim Brown

When Isaiah saw the Holy One high and lifted up with the angels of glory singing praises without ceasing, he heard the voice of heaven calling out, "Who will go for me and whom shall I send?" Without even taking his next breath he cried out, "Here am I, Lord, send me!" God calls and we stand at attention ready for action; that is how it is between heaven and earth.

When Jesus called his disciples they left their work and their families to do their masters will; that is how it is between heaven and earth.

When God called Martin Luther to nail his 95 theses to the Wittenberg door, he threw caution to the wind and did what he had to do; that is how it is between heaven and earth.

When the Ida Scudder, perhaps the most famous RCA missionary of all, was called to bring gospel care to the teeming masses in India, she left her home and those whom she loved as an act of obedience; that is how it is between heaven and earth.

I could go on and on like this, but you get my point, I'm sure. When God calls, we stand at attention ready for action because that is just how it is between heaven and earth. And you need to know that every one of our students stands at attention ready for action with us! Pray for them as they wait and discern and eagerly pray, "Here am I, Lord..."

By now you know that is how it is between heaven and earth.



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