

DIVINITY

News & Notes

Vol. XV, No. 1

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL

Fall 1999

REYNOLDS GIFT CREATES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Effective church leaders are made, not born.

That's the starting point for the Reynolds Leadership Program, a new leadership venture beginning this fall at Duke Divinity School. The three-year initiative, funded by gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Royce Reynolds of Greensboro, N.C. and the Parish Ministry Fund, establishes a year-long certificate program for United Methodist pastors from Virginia and the Carolinas; a series of one-day ecumenical leadership seminars; and training for church ministry teams at the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, NC.

"A longstanding problem in assessing the effectiveness of pastoral appointments is the lack of any clear standards or benchmarks," says the Rev. Janice A. Virtue, associate dean for continuing education and strategic planning.

"The result is a nagging sense, among both clergy and laity, that things could be going better in church leadership, yet there is a lack of clarity on what to do.

The Reynolds Program will open up for pastors and ministry teams a whole arsenal of leadership tools. The program will help them understand their own leadership styles and assess the particular needs of the churches they are serving. They will learn to develop leadership skills that address specific church situations," says Virtue, who will direct the Reynolds Program.

"One of the biggest pitfalls to pastors is their propensity to get overwhelmed by the

details of running the parish office instead of developing a vision for their congregation's mission. Thanks to Royce and Jane Reynolds and the Parish Ministry Fund, more pastors will be encouraged to see beyond the everyday to the future of a church vibrant in its love of God and growing in its faithfulness."

The cornerstone of the Reynolds Program is a year-long certificate study course in church leadership. It has received the endorsement and financial support of the Parish Ministry Fund of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. Initially, the Reynolds Certificate in Church Leadership will be focused on United Methodist clergy, with the hope of long-term renewal in United Methodist pastorates. Program participants will be selected by the recommendation of area bishops and upon the basis of an application process. Eleven participants will be pastors in the Western North Carolina Annual Conference, and the remaining

The Reynolds Leadership Program

- a year-long certificate program for United Methodist pastors from Virginia and the Carolinas
- a series of one-day ecumenical leadership seminars
- training for church ministry teams at the Center for Creative Leadership



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“...the Reynolds Program will develop more effective pastoral leaders for Christ’s church – leaders who can see and articulate a clear vision for their congregations and who can energize church members to share and participate in its fulfillment.”

— Dean L. Gregory Jones

nine will come from the North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia Annual Conferences. Each conference cabinet has endorsed the Reynolds Program.

The certificate course of study will be a joint effort of the Divinity School and the Center for Creative Leadership, an international non-profit educational institution dedicated to advancing the understanding, practice and development of leadership worldwide. Areas of instruction include identification of the individual clergy's leadership strengths and weaknesses, and the formation of a mission plan for each pastor's church.

The curriculum will be taught by Divinity School faculty, business leaders known for their commitment to the church, Duke University faculty, and faculty from the Center for Creative Leadership. The 20 participants will be mentored by a faculty and clergy mentor team who will facilitate discussion, communicate with session leaders about the participants' learning needs, and contact participants between sessions.

The second stage in the program, a series of day-long mini-courses in leadership, will feature exceptional pastors, preachers, teachers and business leaders devoted to the church's ministry. The seminars will be offered both on Duke's campus and in area metropolitan centers.

The Reynolds program's third and final phase will consist of sending ministry teams — clergy as well as lay professionals — to study leadership, teamwork and planning techniques at the Center for Creative Leadership. The

ministry teams will be selected by recommendation from area bishops, with a preference given to church teams where the pastor has completed the Reynolds Leadership Certificate program.

"We're grateful to Royce and Jane Reynolds for their commitment to theological education," said Divinity School Dean L. Gregory Jones. "Simply put, the Reynolds Program will develop more effective pastoral leaders for Christ's church — leaders who can see and articulate a clear vision for their congregations and who can energize church members to share and participate in its fulfillment. The Reynolds' generosity and the support of the Parish Ministry Fund makes this vital work possible."

The Parish Ministry Fund was established in 1968 to provide continuing education opportunities for selected parish ministers and lay leaders from the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. The fund sponsors seminars and short study courses and makes special grants for full-time study leaves. The program is administered by the Divinity School with the assistance of the Parish Ministry Fund's Board of Directors.

"The Reynolds Program will open up for pastors and ministry teams a whole arsenal of leadership tools."



Jim Wallace

Reverend Janice A. Virtue



Bruce Feeley

Walltown Neighborhood Ministries, Duke Divinity School Celebrate Partnership with Grant from the Duke Endowment

Walltown Neighborhood Ministries, Inc. and Duke Divinity School celebrated their new three-year partnership to strengthen families and community life in the historic Walltown neighborhood of Durham on July 9.

"We're excited about The Walltown Families and Children Initiative and the opportunity to partner with Duke Divinity School in ministry," said Luther Brooks, pastor of St. James Missionary Baptist Church.

"This three-year cooperative project will strengthen family life, enhance parenting skills, develop academic achievement and life skills for children and youth, and build and strengthen relationships between members of the Walltown 'neighborhood family' – the young and the old, African-American and Hispanic, church members and the unreached," Brooks said.

The mid-day celebration at St. John's Baptist Missionary Church featured lunch and remarks from Duke Divinity School Dean L. Gregory Jones and neighborhood pastors. In addition to Luther Brooks, the pastors included Robert Daniels of St. John's, Mel Williams of Watts Street Baptist Church, Brian Irving of Northside Baptist Church, and Ed Henegar of Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dr. Anne L. Burkholder, who was unable to attend, was cited for her role in helping make the partnership a reality.

Burkholder, director of the Association for Christian Training and Service (ACTS) and an associate with the

J. M. Ormond Center for Research, Planning and Development at Duke Divinity School, worked closely with the Walltown pastors during the past year. In May she was named a district superintendent for the Melbourne district, Florida conference, United Methodist Church.

Funded by a first-year grant of \$288,299 from the Charlotte-based charitable trust The Duke Endowment, the project will provide support for Walltown Neighborhood Ministries' programs and field education and service opportunities for Divinity School students.

The Families and Children Initiative will feature three programs for neighborhood children, young families and the elderly, and two programs aimed at strengthening the community's identity and supporting neighborhood churches and their neighborhood efforts.

The Families and Children Initiative programs include:

- The Walltown Achievement by Youth (WAY):

This after-school mentoring program also will include an eight-week summer camp for 75 young people, fully staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day. Neighborhood service projects will be identified and completed by the program's youth.

- Parent Education and Support (PEAS): Walltown congregations plan to partner with families transitioning from welfare to self-supporting work. Support and education will be offered for parents of young children (ages 1-5) by Child and Parent Support Services

(CAPSS), a local organization.

Health education and some nursing care will be provided through a health and nursing ministries program established by Duke Divinity School and the Duke School of Nursing.

- Rebuilding Our Neighborhood: Working together with Duke's Center for Documentary Studies, the Walltown community will be invited to participate in a Community Identity Project and a History Recovery Project. Walltown neighbors will share in rediscovering their history and in creating signs and banners that mark the community's boundaries.

- Care and Respect for Elders (CARE): Building on the WAY and PEAS programs, this component will provide transportation services for grocery trips and appointments, weekly social activities and health care through the health and nursing program.



The Rev. W. Joseph Mann and the Rev. Dr. Valerie Rosenquist present the Walltown Neighborhood Ministries and Duke Divinity School a "check" funding the first year of the Children and Families Initiative, a three-year partnership between Duke Divinity School and the Walltown Neighborhood Ministries, Inc. (L to R: Pastor Robert Daniels, the Rev. W. Joseph Mann, Pastor Luther K. Brooks of St. James Missionary Baptist Church, Divinity School Dean L. Gregory Jones, Pastor Mel Williams of Watts Street Baptist Church, Pastor Brian Irving of Northside Baptist Church, and the Rev. Dr. Valerie Rosenquist).



Lex Todd

Pastor Robert Daniels of St. John's Missionary Baptist church speaks to audience at "A Celebration of Walltown," July 9, 1999.

- Community Chaplaincy through Duke Divinity School: Seminarians from Duke Divinity School will live at a new mission house called "Neighbor House" and will work with the churches to support the WAY, PEAS and CARE ministries. They also will be actively involved in the life of the neighborhood churches. The program will hire a full-time director to provide oversight, supervision and financial management of the programs of the Walltown project.

The program grew out of three years of conversations among a group of Walltown churches that includes St. John's Baptist Church, St. James Baptist Church and Northside Baptist Church and two nearby churches, Watts Street Baptist Church and Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church. Meeting together for Bible study, prayer and reflection, the pastors discussed their vision for eradicating poverty housing, increasing home ownership, caring for the elderly, improving support and education for parents and families, building relationships with Hispanic neighbors and fostering vigorous congregational life. Already the churches have assisted in transforming a block of houses from dilapidated rental duplexes into attractive single-family homes.

The pastors' group invited Duke Divinity School to participate in the conversation about their dreams for their neighborhood. The faith-based, multi-faceted neighborhood service project for Walltown parents and children emerged from those discussions.

"The Walltown/Duke Divinity School Families and Children Initiative represents a collaboration initiated by Walltown clergy, family and civic leaders to bring together the Walltown neighborhood and Duke Divinity School to strengthen families and community life," said Dean Jones. "We're grateful for the support of The Duke Endowment in making this collaboration possible. We are excited about this ministry opportunity and look forward to the ways we can make a difference in people's lives."

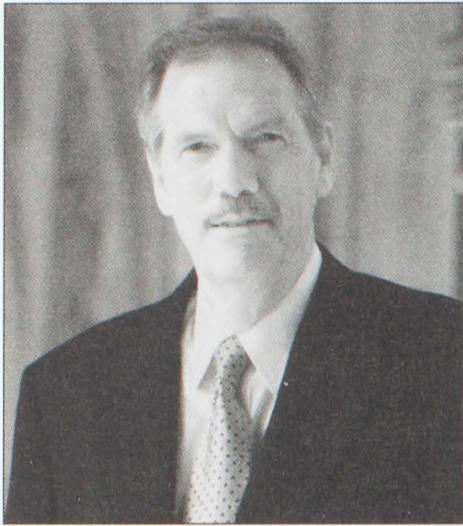
The Rev. W. Joseph Mann, director of The Duke Endowment's Rural Church Division, also voiced optimism about the project and its goals. "The Duke Endowment is pleased to be a partner with five churches of Walltown and Duke Divinity School in this collaborative effort. We hope that the Children and Families Initiative will assist communities as they identify and utilize their own strengths to work together in an imaginative way to increase the quality of life for children and families in their neighborhood."

Walltown, bordered by Duke's East Campus and Trinity Heights on the south and the Northgate Mall and the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics on the north, is one of 12 neighborhoods in the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership Initiative. The partnership initiative is a collaborative effort between local neighborhoods and Duke that includes community and economic development, strengthening public education, mentoring programs for local youth, health care and affordable housing.

Established in 1924 by N.C. industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is one of the nation's largest private foundations. Its mission is to assist the people of North Carolina and South Carolina by supporting selected programs of higher education, health care, children's welfare, and spiritual life.

For more information about volunteering with the Walltown Neighborhood Ministries/Duke Divinity School Families and Children Initiative, call (919) 286-5676.

Richard Lischer Named to Cleland Chair



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Richard Lischer

recently fully endowed by a substantial gift from the estate of Alice Mead Cleland. The Clelands were long-time members of the Duke community, and James Cleland was a much beloved professor of preaching in the Divinity School and dean of Duke Chapel. The appointment was announced April 29, 1999, at a university banquet.

Lischer has also been slated to deliver the prestigious Lyman Beecher Lectures for the academic year

Duke Divinity School Professor of Homiletics Richard Lischer was named the James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor of Preaching, effective July 1.

Dr. Lischer, a distinguished scholar, teacher of preaching and preacher, is the first person to hold this chair, which was

1999-2000 at Yale Divinity School. Lischer's lectures will be a part of the Yale-Berkeley Convocation in October 1999. Professor Lischer will be the third Lutheran in the series' 128-year history to present the lectures.

Before coming to Duke in 1979, Professor Lischer served as pastor of Lutheran congregations in Illinois and Virginia. He is the author of many books and studies of preaching and the co-editor of the *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*. His book on Martin Luther King, Jr., *The Preacher King*, was named the outstanding book of 1995-96 by the Religious Speech Communication Association.

He is the immediate past president of the Academy of Homiletics, an American organization of teachers of preaching. He has been named a Lilly Faculty Fellow, one of 10 selected nationwide for the 1999-2000 academic year.

Dr. Lischer is a parishioner of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Durham. He will present an inaugural lecture April 11, 2000, at 7:30 p.m. in the Divinity School's Alumni Memorial Common Room.

South African Church Leader Joins Faculty

The Reverend Dr. Peter Storey, former leader of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and past-president of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), has joined the Divinity School faculty as professor of the practice of Christian ministry.

Storey, a seventh generation South African, was trained at Rhodes University and ordained in 1964. In the 1970s and '80s he was a leader in both the SACC and his own denomination in the church struggle against the apartheid regime. He worked closely with (then) Bishop Desmond Tutu and is no stranger to arrest, nor to threats on his life. In 1984, he co-led an ecumenical delegation to the United Nations, the U.S. Congress, and European governments advocating greater pressure on the apartheid regime.

A passionate advocate of non-violence, Dr. Storey co-chaired the Peace Secretariat responsible for intervening in the violence in the Johannesburg/Soweto area prior to South Africa's first democratic elections. In the nation's subsequent healing process, he was appointed by President Nelson Mandela to the panel selecting the nation's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Dr. Storey founded the Methodist Order of Peacemakers and Gun Free South Africa, the nation's anti-gun lobby. He has authored many publications and was a weekly columnist for South Africa's Sunday Independent, a national newspaper. He presented the Franklin S. Hickman lectures at Duke Divinity School's Convocation and Pastors' School in 1987.

Prior to his election as bishop of the Central District of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in 1984, Professor Storey served as prison chaplain to both Robert Sobukwe and Nelson Mandela on Robben Island. He has also been director of a 24-hour crisis intervention



Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry Peter Storey, with Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

service in Sydney, Australia and was superintendent minister to the Inner City Mission, District Six, in Cape Town and to the Central Methodist Mission in Johannesburg.

In addition to his work combating racism in South Africa, Dr. Storey established ministries to the poor, the elderly, the disabled, and children. In 1973, he

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founded Careways Children's Center, the first after-school care center for children in South Africa, located in Hillbrow. During the late '60s, his work in the District Six ghetto established The Carpenter's House community center, Gateway Children's Centre, and The Christian Leadership Center.

As superintendent minister of the Central Methodist Mission, Johannesburg, he launched the People Center non-racial restaurant, the Paballo ya Batho street ministry, Cornerstone House apartments for disability pensioners, and two race relations programs — My Brother and Me and The School for Christian Living — were begun under his supervision. As bishop, he launched the Chain of Hope, consisting now of more than 50 pre-schools for disadvantaged children in his episcopal area.

The Central Methodist Mission became a focus for resistance to

apartheid, hosting numerous protests and anti-apartheid events. Many of these were surrounded and invaded by the apartheid security police. From 1991 to 1997, Professor Storey left the Central Methodist Mission to devote himself fulltime to his duties as bishop. He served as chair of the Journey to a New Land Committee responsible for revising all Methodist structures and practice in the new South Africa. In 1997, he resigned from the episcopacy.

He is married to Elizabeth, who served as personal secretary to three general secretaries of the SACC, including Bishop Desmond Tutu. They have four sons, all of whom live in South Africa.

Stated Dean L. Gregory Jones, "We are honored and privileged to have such a distinguished church leader as Peter Storey join our faculty. His insight and pastoral wisdom will greatly enrich our community and our students' preparation for faithful ministry."

Daphne Wiggins Joins Divinity Faculty

Daphne C. Wiggins has joined the Divinity School as assistant professor of congregational studies. The Rev. Dr. Wiggins, a graduate of Eastern College (B.A., 1982) and Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div., 1985), earned the doctor of philosophy degree from Emory University's Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts in 1997. She comes to the Divinity faculty from Texas Christian University, where she has been assistant professor of religion since 1996.

Dr. Wiggins was ordained to the ministry of the American Baptist Churches in 1983 (minister in full standing, 1986), and brings to the Divinity School experience in the local church and the university chaplaincy. She has conducted research on the intersection of gender and religiosity in the context of the African-American church. Her dissertation, "Where Somebody Knows My Names: The Social and Cultural Determinants of Church Attendance Among African-American Women" examines the role of black women in constructing black church culture as well as the social and cultural determi-

nants of black women's institutional commitment, and the content of their religious faith. Her present research, funded by a junior scholar grant from the Southwest Commission on Religion, is an analysis of the rhetoric and practices of congregations in five different parishes.

"At Duke Divinity School, Dr. Wiggins will help students understand the actual life of the clergy, particularly with courses in the religious life of African-American church women," said Associate Dean for Academic Programs Willie Jennings. "She represents the next generation of African-American Christian scholars. African-American scholarship has previously not had enough people who focus on the active lives of African-American Christians, and Dr. Wiggins signifies a ground-breaking direction in African-American studies scholars who take seriously the life of the church. There are few people in the country like her, so to have her with us is a major accomplishment."

Dr. Wiggins will teach courses in ministerial studies and black church studies.



Daphne Wiggins

Make a Difference! 1999 Convocation and Pastors' School

What happens when faithful Christians focus on being faithful?

That's the question posed by the 1999 Convocation and Pastors' School at Duke Divinity School. During October 11, 12 and 13, alumni, students, faculty and guests will gather to explore how faithful Christians can make a difference.

The convocation will feature a keynote conversation moderated by Dean of Duke Chapel William H. Willimon entitled, "Crossroads of a New Century: Will the Church Make a Difference?" Panelists will include L. Gregory Jones, dean of Duke Divinity School and professor of theology; Peter J. Storey, convocation preacher and professor of the practice of Christian ministry, Duke Divinity School; and Barbara Wendland, United Methodist lay woman and author and publisher of *Connections*.

Richard J. Mouw (B.A. Houghton College; M.A. University of Alberta; Ph.D. University of Chicago) will deliver the James A. Gray Lectures, "Christian Faithfulness in a Culture of Confusion" and "A Spirituality for Public Disciples."

Mouw, a philosopher, scholar and author, currently serves as president of Fuller Theological Seminary. A professor of Christian philosophy and ethics at Fuller since 1985, his research and teaching interests include social ethics and the philosophy of culture. Prior to coming to Fuller, he served for 17 years as professor of philosophy at Calvin College.

A noted lecturer, Dr. Mouw has been a visiting professor at the Free University in Amsterdam and at Juniata College. He has served on numerous editorial boards, including the *Journal of Religious Studies* and *Books and Culture*. Among his nine well-known books are *Uncommon Decency* and *Consulting the Faithful*.

"The Power of Forgiveness Toward Reconciliation" will be the subject of the Franklin S. Hickman Lectures by the

Rev. Dr. Abuna Elias Chacour (B.A. Saint Sulpice and the Sorbonne University; M.A. Hebrew University; Ph.D. University of Geneva). Fr. Chacour is founder and president of Mar Elias College and a well-known ambassador for non-violence.

A Christian native of Arab Palestine, he was evicted with his family and fellow villagers by the Israelis at the age of 8. Chacour was granted Israeli citizenship when the state of Israel was created in 1948 and has continued to live and work there. He was ordained as a priest of the Melkite Catholic Church, an Eastern Byzantine Church, in 1965. In 1994, he founded Mar Elias College in Ibillin, the only private campus in Galilee where Christians, Moslems, Jews, and Druze live and learn together.

He is author of *Blood Brothers* and *We Belong to the Land* and the recipient of numerous awards, including the World Methodist Peace Award in 1994 and the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur in April 1999. He has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize on three occasions for his work.

Barbara Lundblad (B.A. Augustana College; M.Div. Yale Divinity School) is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and will be one of the preachers for convocation. She served 16 years as a parish pastor in New York City and as a campus pastor at Lehman College and New York University. Currently an associate professor of preaching at Union Theological Seminary, she has also taught preaching at Yale Divinity School, Princeton Theological Seminary, Hebrew Union College and in the doctor of ministry program of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools. She is a popular speaker and preacher and frequently writes for publications including *Christian Century* and *Word & World*. Her teaching interests include preaching in partnership with the congregation, preaching and social transformation, new forms of preaching, and preaching as an integral part of worship.



Richard J. Mouw



Abuna Elias Chacour

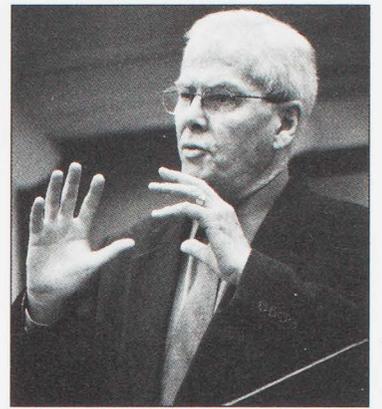


Barbara Lundblad

The **Rev. Peter Storey**, professor of the practice of Christian Ministry at Duke Divinity School and former leader of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, will be one of the Convocation preachers. He is the author of *Our Methodist Roots* and *Journey Begun: The Transformation of a Church*. Please see the article on Dr. Storey on pages 6-7.

A choice of 15 seminars will be offered to Convocation and Pastors' School attendees. Seminar topics include, "From the Belly of the Whale: Frederick Herzog and the Future of

Theology and the Church," "Walking the Labyrinth: Metaphors and Practices for a Spiritual Life," "Major Gift Fundraising and the Church," and "Web Pages for Churches." For further information on seminars and registration, please contact The Center for Continuing Education, Duke Divinity School, Box 90966, Durham, NC 27708. Call (919) 660-3448 or (888) 845-4216, email div-conted@duke.edu or visit the Convocation and Pastors' School website, <http://www.divinity.duke.edu/cps>.



Center Askren

Peter Storey



SAVE THE DATE!

Alumni Homecoming Reunion Luncheon

11:30 a.m., Monday, October 11

Special tables will be reserved for everyone belonging to a class from a year ending in a 4 or 9. All graduates and friends are invited.

The 1999 Distinguished Alumni Award presentation will be among the highlights.

Please join us.

Sheila Williams Named Assistant Director for Divinity School Financial Aid



Sheila Williams

Sheila Williams, who has been with the Divinity School's financial aid office since 1990, has been named assistant director for financial aid.

Dean L. Gregory Jones commended Williams for her "warmth and professionalism with students, her supportive relationship with colleagues, and her administrative oversight of the financial aid program."

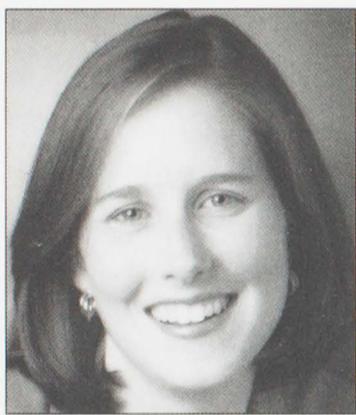
Formerly financial aid specialist, Williams will continue to work closely with Greg Duncan, director of admissions and student life.

The stereotype of the cold, sterile financial aid office simply doesn't fly with Williams, said Duncan.

"Sheila brings a pastoral, caring touch to the sometimes difficult issues related to assisting students with financial aid, and her office reflects the warmth and humor of her personality," he said. "She is an invaluable asset to our students and the mission of our school."

"I love the Divinity School students and view this work as a ministry," Williams said. A native of Durham, she and her husband, Roger, live in Butner with their three children: John, T.J. and Terri.

Deirdre Gordon Joins Continuing Education



Deirdre Gordon

Deirdre Williams Gordon joined the Divinity School April 19 as the coordinator of continuing education programs.

Gordon comes to the Divinity School from Duke Conference Services, where for the past three years she assisted a broad range of university departments with campus-based

conferences, including summer programs and Parents' and Family Weekend.

Dean L. Gregory Jones welcomed Gordon, noting that her strong skills in event planning, conference management and promotion will be crucial to the Divinity School's current and new continuing education programs.

"Deirdre has already demonstrated her value to the Divinity School by setting a standard of excellence for each of our continuing education events," said Janice A. Virtue, associate dean of continuing education and strategic planning. "Attendees will quickly see the evidence of her work."

This new position is funded by the Parish Ministry Fund and other continuing education program funds.

"I am very excited to lend my talents to building on the success and excellence of our continuing education programs," said Gordon.

Gordon is currently regional director-elect of the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors (ACCED-I) and will become regional director in March 2000.

She graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biology from Duke University in 1996. Born in South Carolina, she lived in Belgium for six years and graduated from high school in Annandale, N.J. She and her husband, Brett, live in Durham.

Leadership Letters On the Web

Leadership Letters, a newsletter on trends affecting church leadership and parish leadership and parish life, is now available online from the Divinity School's J.M. Ormond Center. A new issue debuts on the Duke Divinity web page in September 1999.

Leadership Letters is offered as a service to church leaders, interested scholars, and theological educators. It features research and commentary on issues in church life and governance.

Leadership Letters has been published periodically by the Divinity School as a traditional print newsletter.

The most recent issues of *Leadership Letters* were published in 1995 in conjunction with Duke's study of United Methodism and American Culture, funded by Lilly Endowment.

Hard copies of *Leadership Letters* are available upon request.

Contact: John James, research associate, J.M. Ormond Center, Duke Divinity School, P.O. Box 90983, Durham, NC 27708-0983. FAX (919) 660-3473 or phone (919) 660-3423.

Student Award Winners

A number of graduating Divinity students received high honors last semester. The recipients and their awards include:

Seong Hee Kim, a native of Seoul, Korea, received the American Bible Study Award for Biblical Studies. Kim, M.Div.'99, graduated with a bachelor's degree in Christian Studies from Ewha Woman's University in 1993, and earned her master's degree in New Testament from Ewha Graduate School in 1996.

During the past summer, she has worked with Duke Campus Ministry and International Student Inc. (ISI), an ecumenical group for international students. She hopes to continue New Testament studies in Duke's doctoral program in religion. Her goal is to return to Korea and teach at the college level.

Kim is a candidate for ordination in the Western N.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church. The American Bible Society sponsors the scholarly achievement award to recognize excellence in biblical studies. The recipient is presented with a choice of Bible study resources, from lexical aids to Bibles in Greek, Latin or Hebrew.

The Jameson Jones Preaching Award was presented to **Kristin Barger**, a native of Augusta, Ga. Barger, M.Div.'99, graduated from Wake Forest University in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in English. She is a United Methodist candidate for ordination in the Western N.C. Conference, and will be working in the coming year as a mission volunteer at Jubilee Partners, a Christian community and refugee ministry near Atlanta.

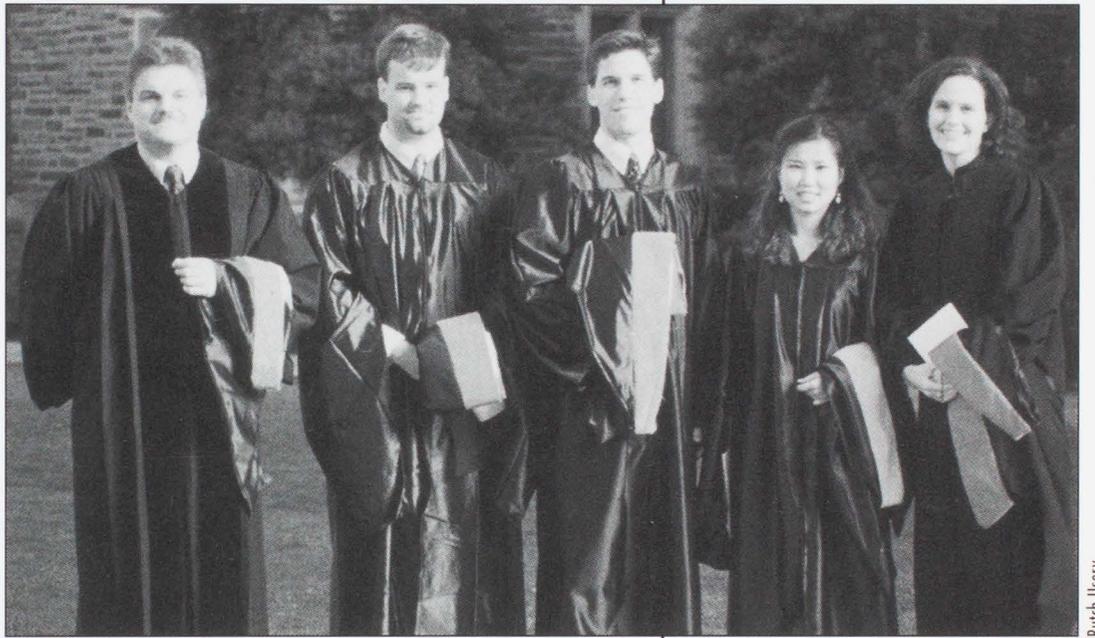
The \$500 preaching award is presented to a senior who demonstrates great potential for growth in preaching and is funded by the Jameson Jones Memorial Fund, established in 1982 by a bequest and memorial gifts following the untimely death of Jameson Jones, dean of the Divinity School, 1981-82.

The Hoyt Hickman Award for excellence in liturgics was presented to **James Davidson "Jason" Byassee**, M.Div.'99, a graduate of Davidson College and a member of the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Chapel Hill, N.C., native will continue his studies in Duke's Ph.D. program in religion in the fall. He plans to focus on biblical interpretation by way of systematic theology. "I believe that historical interpretation and liturgics are supports on which interpretation should stand," said Byassee. Despite interest in teaching and research, his first love is preaching: "I may end up in parish ministry, but stay active in publishing."

Interpretation Magazine Awards for Theological and Biblical Studies were presented to the four graduating seniors with the highest grade point averages. The recipients were **Kristen Barger**, **Jason Byassee**, **Ryan Messmore**, and **Richard Van Spivey**.

Messmore, M.T.S.'99, graduated from Duke in 1997 with a joint major in religion and public policy and a minor in philosophy. He is beginning studies for a M.Phil. in theology at Cambridge this fall. During the summer, he worked with the Talent Identification Program at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C. A United Methodist who grew up in Tennessee, he moved during high school to New Jersey. He is a member of the Southern New Jersey Conference.

Spivey, M.Div.'99, holds a bachelor's of science degree from N.C. State and a master's of science from Oklahoma State University. For the past three years, he was a student pastor at Leesburg United Methodist Church in Caswell County. He has been appointed pastor of Parkwood United Methodist Church in Durham. He and his wife have two sons, Sam, 3, and Gabe, 6 months.



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**Award Winners (l to r):
Richard Van Spivey, Jason
Byassee, Ryan Messmore,
Seong Hee Kim, and Kristin
Barger at Baccalaureate
1999.**

More Student Awards...

The United Methodist Commission on Archives and History's **John Harrison Ness Memorial Award** went to Divinity students **Cynthia Ramirez Lindenmeyer**, M.Div. '00, and **Jessie C. Keaton**, M.Div. '99.

Lindenmeyer won the \$200 first prize for her paper, "Methodism in the Face of Crisis: The Civil War Past and Present." She is a graduate of the United States Military Academy and served as signal officer in the U.S. Army for seven years.

Keaton won a \$100 award for her paper titled, "How African-American Methodists in the Central Jurisdiction Dealt with the Problem of Racism." Keaton is associate pastor of First United Methodist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

Ness prizes are given annually for papers on Methodist history written by students enrolled in master of divinity programs at United Methodist or other seminaries. The award is presented in memory of John Harrison Ness, who was a pastor, conference superintendent and denominational executive in the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Carmen Trammell, M.T.S. '00, received the **Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship** from Georgia Baptist Women in Ministry. The award was presented April 30 at the group's spring meeting at Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain, Ga. The scholarship for the 1999-2000 year was open to current or former Georgia Baptist females for theological study at either the master's or doctoral level. She is from Luthersville, Ga.

Duke Divinity student **Dan L. Gray Jr.**, M.Div. '02, was one of 10 recipients of the 1999-2000 **John Q. Schisler Graduate Awards**. A United Methodist from the Baltimore-Washington Conference, Gray's scholarship is for \$23,700.

The grants honor the late John Q. Schisler, executive secretary of the former Methodist Board of Education's local church division. Awards are made on the basis of academic standing, leadership, character, need, vocational goals in Christian education, and commitment to Christ and the mission of the church.

PLATFORM PARTY



Worship Leaders for Baccalaureate 1999 were (l to r): James D. Byassee, John S. Mewborne, Dean L. Gregory Jones, Susan J. Dunlap, D. Moody Smith, Jr., Mary Deasey Collins, Willie J. Jennings, and Tracy Anne Allred

News from the 1999 Regional Alumni Meetings

Hundreds of Divinity School graduates, spouses, and friends met during May and June at close to 40 different locations associated with United Methodist Annual Conferences nationwide to share a meal and memories. Programs included the Divinity School video presentation, energetic conversations about basketball wins, losses and prospects, and visiting speakers from Duke.

Our **Oklahoma** group in Oklahoma City feasted on imported Bullock's barbecue and hushpuppies, deep-fried on site by Bill Crowell. The 1998 recipient of the Divinity School Distinguished Alumni Award, Norman Neaves, was "roasted" by his colleagues. Tracy Anne Allred, assistant director of admissions, was the speaker. The **West Virginia** alumni in Buckhannon enjoyed a dinner presentation by Willie Jennings, associate dean for academic programs, and saluted national Divinity Alumni president David Peters, despite a plague of locusts. **Detroit** Conference Duke alumni heard from recent visiting professor Bill Quick at their luncheon in Adrian.

Western North Carolina folks at Lake Junaluska heard Dean Greg Jones and sang an impressive Divinity School song written for the occasion by Glenn Griffiths. Dean Jones was also the guest speaker in Norfolk for the **Virginia** gathering. Phil Hathcock hosted an early morning breakfast with **North Arkansas** graduates at his home in Conway, continuing the tradition established by Joel Cooper. Our graduates in **Louisiana** learned about new developments at Duke from Sarah Kreutziger, a member of the Divinity School Board of Visitors. Sandy McNutt, director of development, and Sarah Pickens, director of the Annual Fund, addressed a large crowd in Spartanburg, **South Carolina**.

The state of Texas celebrated the establishment of a special scholarship and encouraged additional contribu-

tions. Sandy McNutt met with Duke **Texas** Conference alumni in Houston; Wes Brown, associate dean for external relations, spoke at the **Northwest Texas** breakfast in Amarillo and the **Southwest Texas** dinner in Corpus Christi; and Janice Virtue, associate dean for continuing education and strategic planning, led the meeting in Wichita Falls of **North Texas** alumni where Kathryn Self provided some creative exegesis and Burt Palmer awarded a modest gift of financial aid.

Florida graduates and friends were treated to Gary Beam's always unique Duke décor and prizes as more than 80 enjoyed a luncheon in Lakeland and heard from Wes Brown. Roy Smith gathered an impressive number of **Little Rock** Duke alumni for fellowship in Pine Bluff. A cottage at the Lakeside resort was the site of the **East Ohio** luncheon with guest Janice Virtue. Andy Angel played the dulcimer for additional entertainment. Our **Mississippi** colleagues in Hattiesburg hosted Dean Greg Jones and watched a custom-made video done by 1999 graduate Michael Baker. Rick Cartwright reported that **Central Pennsylvania** alumni who dined at a restaurant in Mechanicsburg are now too numerous to meet in a phone booth. Divinity graduates in **New Mexico** at Glorieta welcomed Wes Brown and delighted in the election of Duke alumni to be the entire clergy delegation to the 2000 United Methodist General Conference (two-Bill Hutchinson and Charles Crutchfield). Brown also spoke and visited with **North Carolina** and **Holston** alumni who met for dinners in Fayetteville and at Lake Junaluska, respectively.

The regional alumni gatherings are made possible by an outstanding network of volunteer leaders whose service is particularly noted in the *Annual Report*. Thanks to all who organize and participate in these memorable occasions.

Waldo Beach: A Professor Emeritus Supports Scholars at Duke

When he began teaching at Duke Divinity School in 1946, Waldo Beach couldn't afford a car. But this became what he calls "a blessing – one of the luckiest things that ever happened to me."

He began riding a bicycle to campus and liked it so much that long after he'd purchased an automobile, he didn't want to stop. And he didn't.

Generations remember seeing his familiar, eventually white-haired, figure standing to pedal up the hill from Academy Road to the Duke campus.

Now 83, Waldo Beach lives at the Forest at Duke. A Duke blue shirt brightens his softer blue eyes, which are full of merriment:

"I should confess a brief career in liturgical dance," he says. From his wheelchair, he reaches to a shelf lined with books and presents evidence: a photograph of himself as a young man performing what indeed seems to be a liturgical dance.

But when pressed for details, he demurs. This is a wink, a slice of his subtle humor, like the tiny figure of Waldo, a character made famous in the *Where's Waldo* books, that hangs on the door to his room. Quickly he's moving on to the other, better known loves of his life: family, music, poetry, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and his 53-year association with Duke Divinity School.

Though he officially retired in 1986, this professor emeritus

of Christian ethics is as deeply committed to Christian scholarship as ever. He recently donated \$30,000 to establish scholarship aid for doctoral study in religion with a preference for theology and ethics. Jason Byassee, M.Div.'99, and Scott Williams, M.Div.'98 are the first Waldo Beach Fellows.

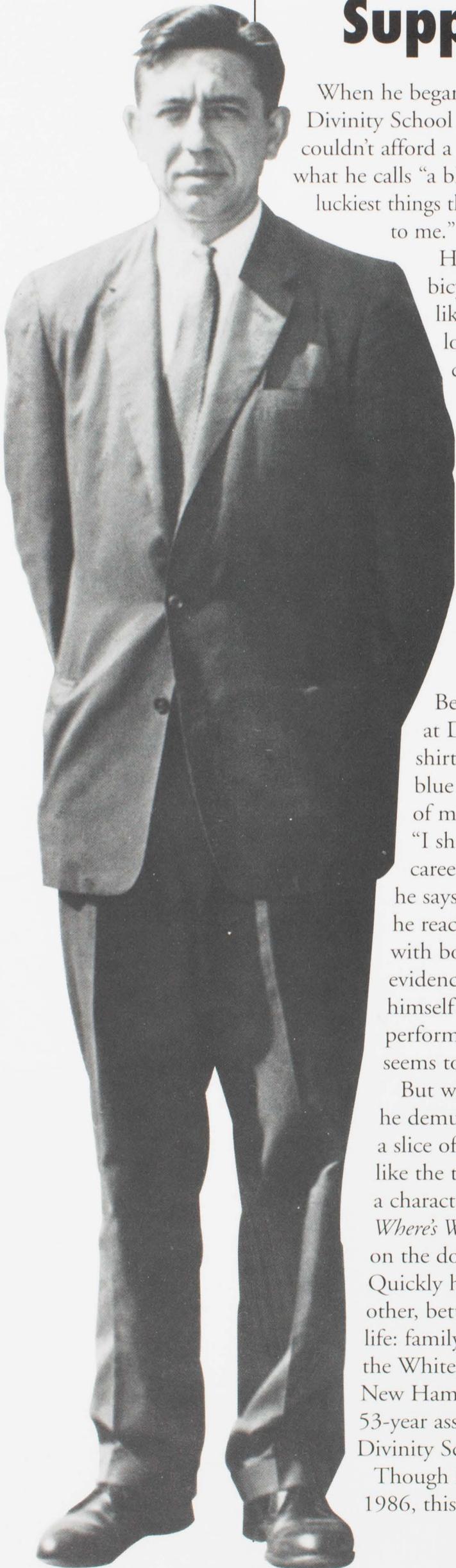
His gift is an effort at staunching the flow of bright students from the humanities into more lucrative and plentiful jobs in the sciences. That the number of teaching jobs in the humanities is shrinking, particularly in religion, is ironic says Dr. Beach, given Duke's motto of "Eruditio et Religio." He calls his donation a "little gesture" to help young men and women pursue advanced study in religion.

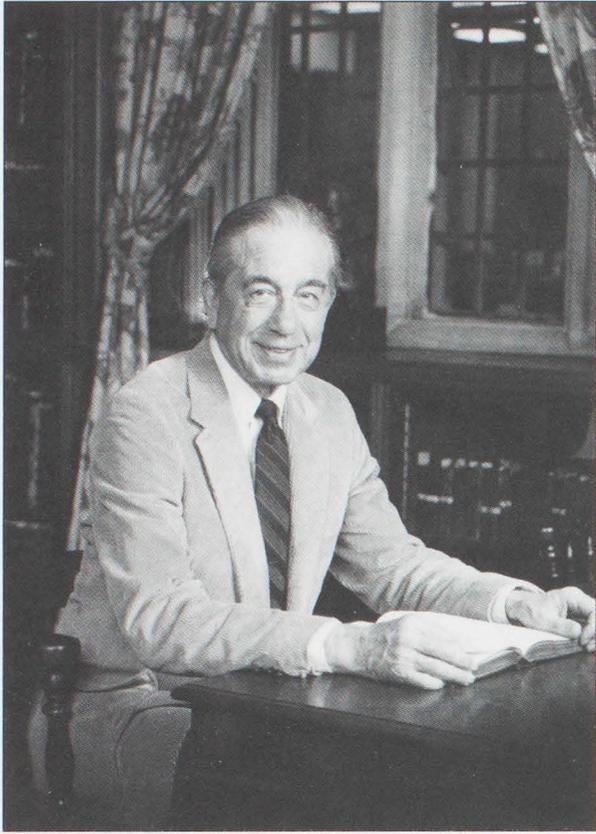
Beach and his wife, Mary, who died April 13 after a long illness, moved to The Forest at Duke several years ago from their nearby home on Pinecrest Road. A watercolor painting of that house hangs in his room. There's also a painting of the lake view from the porch of his family home in New Hampshire's White Mountains. Photographs of his family, which includes three children and five grandchildren, are everywhere.

There's a prominent photograph of Mary Beach as a youthful beauty. A graduate of Middlebury College, she did graduate study at Breadloaf School of English. She was assistant dean of women at Antioch College in Ohio, where her husband was associate professor of religion, from 1943 until they came to Duke in 1946.

"My wife and I were overwhelmed by the beauty of the Duke campus," said Beach. "It was springtime and everything was in bloom." Mary was not so overcome that, when shown the statue of James B. Duke, she failed to note his cigar: "There's a statue of Horace Mann at Antioch," she told their guide. "And he has a book in his hand."

Mary Beach was active in campus and civic life and took special interest in the Duke University Museum of Art where





Bob Boyd

she served as a docent. Dr. Beach joined the Durham Choral Society in 1951 and the couple soon began giving an annual Christmas party to celebrate the season with song: “It was a joy,” says Beach, who played piano for the festivities.

A civil rights advocate, Beach was active in the Intercollegiate Christian Council, made up of students from Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and what was then the N.C. College for Negroes (now N.C. Central University). When the eminent theologian Reinhold Niebuhr came to preach at Duke Chapel, the group organized a quiet protest.

Rather than following custom and sitting in the Chapel’s north transept, where African-American worshippers were traditionally segregated, the black students joined their white friends in the nave. For lunch after the service, Beach arranged a catered lunch in the Divinity School’s lounge: there were no dining facilities on campus for both races.

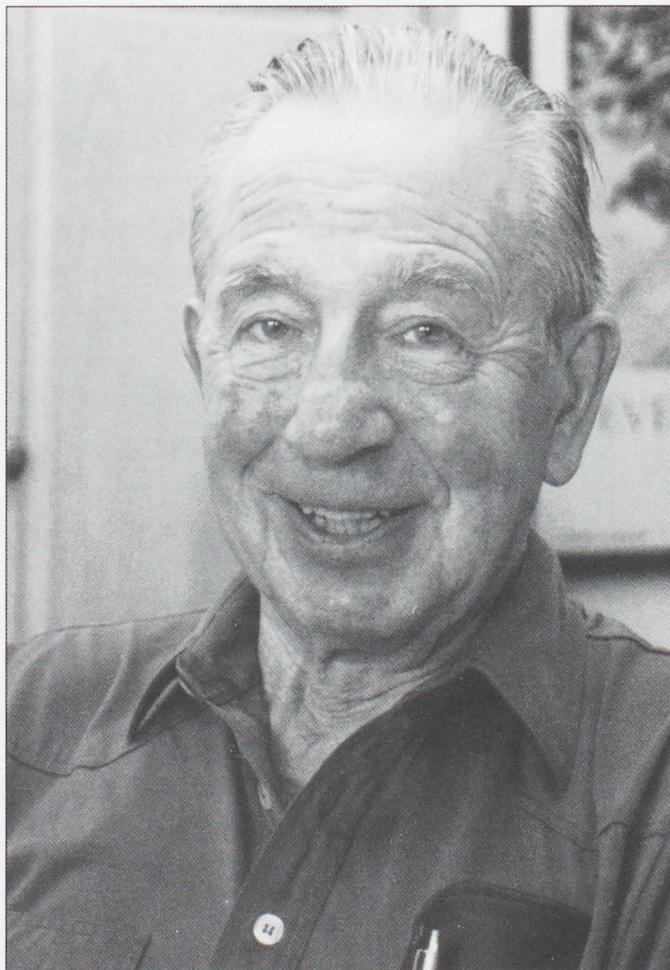
After black students were admitted to the University, Beach had the satisfaction of supervising the Ph.D. dissertation of the first black student who earned a doctorate in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Among the best known of his many books are *Conscience on Campus* (1958), *A Sourcebook of Christian Ethics* (1955, 1973), and *Christian Ethics in the Protestant Tradition* (1988), which was translated into Italian in 1993, and several books on ethics and the public schools.

Thirteen years ago Beach challenged the leadership of churches to address what he saw as the five greatest political and economic problems: the environment, human rights, the dehumanization of work, the secularization of education, and the threat of nuclear genocide. Churches, he wrote in a letter published in the 1986 issue of *Divinity News & Notes*, “are hotbeds of apathy.”

Today, he is still concerned about those same critical problems, although he believes there are now more safeguards against nuclear genocide. His challenge to the church is as timely as ever, and his latest contribution to the task is the creation of the Waldo Beach Fellows.

When he retired, he wrote that while he expected physical limitations to close in, “The life of the mind and spirit may, by the grace of God, always open out, in continued learning.” As he reads a sonnet he wrote for Christmas, his musical voice strong and clear, it’s obvious that mind and spirit are continuing to open out.



Elisabeth Stagg

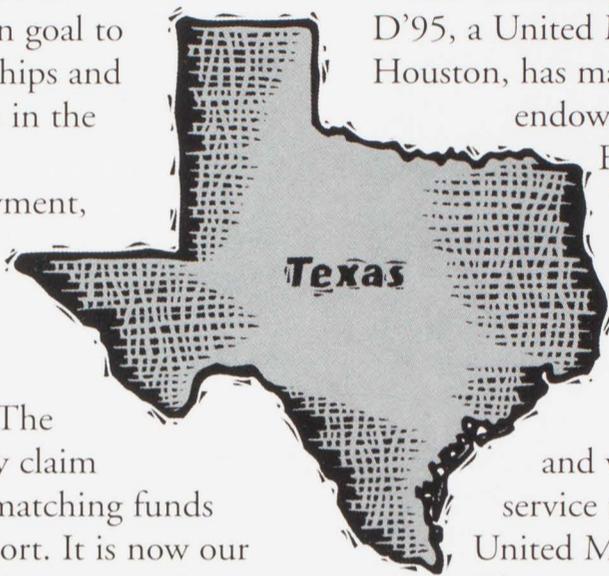
Waldo Beach (facing page) as a new faculty member, mid-career (above left) and in retirement at The Forest at Duke (above).

Match This: Texas Takes the Lead

One of the overarching goals of *The Campaign for Duke* is to secure an endowment adequate to cover the financial needs of all students who would benefit from a Duke education. Accordingly, *The Campaign for Duke Divinity School* has set an ambitious \$6 million goal to endow new scholarships and graduate fellowships in the Divinity School.

The Duke Endowment, based in Charlotte, N.C., has offered a matching campaign grant to help Duke achieve these goals. The Divinity School may claim up to \$750,000 in matching funds for scholarship support. It is now our challenge to secure donors in order to merit these matching funds.

New scholarships in the Divinity School are essential to support students from states that are widely represented in our student body. Virginia, South Carolina, Texas, Florida, and Mississippi are the initial recipients.



We have set aside \$50,000 in matching funds for each state that secures a \$50,000 lead gift. The scholarships will then be supplemented with additional gifts from alumni from the respective states.

Texas is leading the way. Loy Harris, D'95, a United Methodist pastor in Houston, has made the lead gift to endow The Texas Scholarship Endowment Fund. The income from the endowment will be used to support students enrolled in the Divinity School who are from Texas and who intend ministerial service there, with priority for United Methodist students.

These matching funds provide a unique opportunity for potential donors. For more information about regional scholarships for the Divinity School, contact Sandra K. McNutt, director of development, (919) 660-3455 or udvskm@mail.duke.edu.

Visit the Library Online!

How do you get through a stone wall?

One stone at a time, according to online photographs of the Divinity School Library's renovation.

The web page, updated by Electronic Services Librarian Andy Keck and the marvels of digital photography, provides a light-hearted look at the heavy labor involved in this summer transformation.

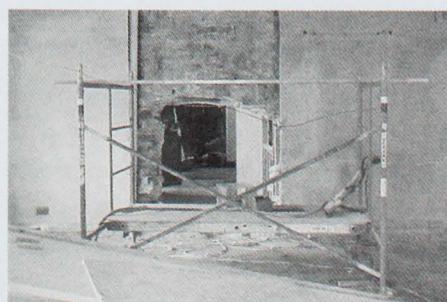
Photos include "Getting our ducts in a row" and "Maybe we need book-

ends for the bookcases?" There's even a swatch of the new carpet and a possible choice of chairs for the new space: a cozy wing-backed model versus a straight-backed wooden seat. (Is there any contest?)

To get a peek at the progress of this amazing project, visit the web site (www.lib.duke.edu/divinity/renovation/index.html). Given that there's no construction noise, it's even better than being there.



A choice of chairs? Is there any contest?



A weekend of work shows progress on knocking through the stone wall.



Faculty and Staff Notes

Teresa Berger spent the summer as a visiting professor on the theological faculty of the Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. She also gave a public lecture at the University entitled "Die weyber nach den mennern? Zur Rekonstruktion einer Liturgiegeschichte (auch) von Frauen." In July, Professor Berger's new book *'Sei gesegnet, meine Schwester': Frauen feiern Liturgie* was published by Echter Verlag, Würzburg.

Jackson W. Carroll's chapter "Leading Small Congregations: Persistence or Change?" is included in the book, *Questions for the Twenty-First Century Church*, edited by Russell E. Richey, William B. Lawrence, and Dennis M. Campbell (Abingdon Press, 1999). The book is the third volume in the Lilly-funded United Methodism and American Culture series. Carroll spoke on trends in American congregations and led a workshop on studying congregations at the annual meeting of the Interfaith Forum on Religion, Art, and Architecture, a program of the American Institute of Architects and The Duke Endowment, on April 16-17. He gave the commencement address at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Penn., on May 15.

James Eford presented the Voigt Lectures for the Illinois Great Rivers Conference in April, as well as special lectures that month at the Parkway Heights United Methodist Church in Hattiesburg, Miss. He lectured at the Groce Memorial United Methodist Church in Asheville in August.

Mary McClintock Fulkerson gave a talk entitled "Women of Faith Resist: 'Feminis' in Non-Feminist Communities" for the Adult Forum on "A Woman's Voice" at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church on April 18. She participated as one of 15 scholars in a seminar on "Public Religion and the Interior Life," one of many conversations sponsored by The Public Religion Project, directed by Martin E. Marty on April 30. She is editor of the AAR series Reflection and Theory in the Study of Religion. The first book in the series, *Like and Unlike God: Religious*

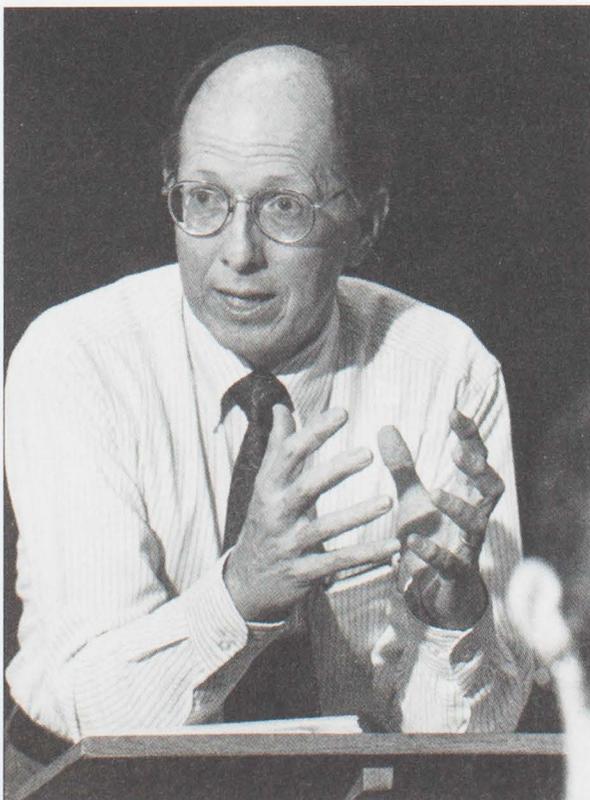
Imaginations in Modern and Contemporary Fiction by John Neary, will be published by Scholars Press.

C. Jarrett Gray Jr. was the Men's Day speaker at Peace Missionary Baptist Church in Durham on June 13.

Stanley Hauerwas has published *Prayers Plainly Spoken* (InterVarsity Press) and *The Truth about God, The Ten Commandments in Christian Life* with William Willimon (Abingdon Press). His article "Why the Christian Family is Not the American Family" was published in *Reweaving the Fabric: The Family in Context*, edited by Figi George (The Good Shepherd Center, Concordia College). He was the Roblee Lecturer at Stephens College in February and the inaugural Frazier-Henry Lecturer at the University of New Orleans in March. Professor Hauerwas is on sabbatical leave for the fall semester 1999.

Richard B. Hays taught a Pew Summer Seminar on "New Testament Ethics" May 25-June 15 at University of Notre Dame. During July 10-14 he convened the Consultation on Teaching the Bible at the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, which was sponsored by Lilly Endowment. He delivered a lecture July 17 on "Recovering Theological Interpretation of Scripture" for the Pastor-Theologian Conference at the Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, N.J. In August, he chaired the New Testament Ethics Seminar at the annual meeting of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas in Pretoria, South Africa.

Richard Heitzenrater presented "History and Tradition," an inaugural lecture for the William Kellon Quick Chair in Church History and Wesley Studies on March 11 at the Divinity School. In April he



Bruce Feeley

Richard Heitzenrater, William Kellon Quick Professor of Church History and Wesley Studies, received the 1999 Distinguished Service Award from the General Commission on Archives and History, held in connection with the fourth convocation of the United Methodist Historical Society, in St. Paul, Minn., June 24-25.

presented "Decoding the Wesley Diaries" and "The Electronic Mr. Wesley," at the Wesleyan Heritage Seminar, Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown, Penn. He gave a seminar, "Wesley and the Authority of Scripture," April 25-28 at Olmsted Manor, Ludlow, Penn. He presented "Holiness and Splendid Ignorance: Wesley on Education," on June 25 at the Historical Convocation of the United Methodist Church, Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn., where he also received the "Distinguished Service Award" from the General Commission on Archives and History.

His lecture "Doctrinal Standards in the Methodist Tradition," was part of a workshop for instructors of United Methodist Studies at Drew University, August 20-22.

Dr. Heitzenrater published articles on Ezekiel Cooper and George Miller in the new *American National Biography* (Oxford University Press, 1999). His article "John Wesley's Principles and Practice of Preaching" was published in *Beyond the Boundaries; Preaching in the Wesleyan Tradition*, edited by Richard Sykes (Applied Theology Press, 1999). He produced and edited a videotape, "The Organs of Duke Chapel," which was written and performed by David Arcus for the Friends of the Chapel dinner on April 23.

T. Furman Hewitt taught a course in pastoral care called "The Care and Nurture of Souls" at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Gweru, Zimbabwe, July 14-August 2. During his visit, Dr. Hewitt explored opportunities for Divinity students to study and work among Zimbabwe Baptists.

L. Gregory Jones participated in a symposium on "Biblical Perspectives on Forgiveness," sponsored by the journal *Interpretation* at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond. He also was the keynote speaker at the Clergy Conference at the Pastoral Institute of Columbus, GA. Dean Jones delivered the commencement address at Methodist College in May. He preached and gave two lectures on "A Faith for the 21st Century" in Highlands, NC, in August.

Dean Jones continues his involvement in several working projects: co-convenor of the Wabash Center Consultation on "The Vocation of Theological Teachers;" "The Scripture Project" of The Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton; and the "Beliefs and Practices" seminar sponsored by the Lilly-Valparaiso project on The Formation and Education of People in Faith.

Dean Jones' recent "Faith Matters" columns in *The Christian Century* include "Shaped by Lament and Hope" (April 14,

1999), "Our Children's Happiness" (May 19-26, 1999), and "Vocation" (July 14-21, 1999). He also published, "Behold, I Make All Things New" in an edited collection entitled *God and the Victim: Theological Reflections on Evil, Victimization, Justice and Forgiveness* (Eerdmans, 1999).

Sue T. Klausmeyer has been selected as the new director of the Northeast Piedmont Chorale. The Chorale, formed in 1987 for the purpose of performing classical music for the public in the northeast Piedmont area of North Carolina, performs three concert programs each season. She has master's degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J. She completed the course work for the doctor of musical arts at the University of Cincinnati and joined the Duke community in August 1998 as the assistant conductor and administrative coordinator for chapel music.

Beth LaRocca-Pitts was the A. Orin Bishop Lecturer for 1999 at Church Street United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tenn. in April. Her lecture series, entitled "Understanding Israel's God," included lectures on "The One God among the Many," "The Image of God and Humankind," "The God who Creates Both Light and Darkness," "The God Who Receives Sacrifice," and "The God of Israel, The God of Jesus." The Bishop Lecture Series is an annual endowed lectureship in biblical studies sponsored by the family of Asa Bishop. The pastor of Church Street United Methodist Church is Bill Fowler, a member of the Divinity School Board of Visitors. LaRocca-Pitts has joined the writing staff of *Homiletics* magazine. She writes commentary articles on lectionary readings.

Dr. LaRocca-Pitts was reappointed to a new four-year term effective January 1, 2000. She is on maternity leave fall semester 1999.

Priscilla Pope-Levison's article, "Is a Holistic Evangelism Possible?" was published in *Questions for the Twenty-First Century Church*, edited by Russell Richey, William Lawrence, and Dennis Campbell.

Richard Lischer, who has been named the James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor of Preaching (see story on p. 6), has published "Preaching to America" for *The Christian Century* and the article on "Preaching/Homiletics" in *The Oxford Companion to Christianity*.

Visiting Faculty **William Kellon Quick** will return for the Spring 2000 academic term

and will again teach CP 147: Care of the Parish. Dr. Quick, a member of the Divinity School Class of 1958, retired in 1998 from Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit, Mich.

Russell E. Richey's essay "Connectionalism and College" was republished in *Presidential Papers* (February 1999). During March, he participated in The Zacchaeus Project of The Episcopal Church Foundation in the ecumenical advisory meeting of the College of Preachers. He served as reflector at the joint World Methodist Historical Society-Canadian Methodist Historical Society meeting in Toronto in June, and attended the June 24-25 meeting of General Commission on Archives and History, St. Paul, Minn.

Dr. Richey presented a paper June 26-28 on "The Church and Education: A Retrospective" at the Fourth Historical Convocation of The United Methodist Church, Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn. During July, he attended the summary conference in Chicago as the United Methodist researcher for the Lilly-sponsored and Hartford-based project, "Organizing Religious Work."

D. Moody Smith is editor of The University of South Carolina Press series, *Studies on the Personalities of the New Testament*, which has accepted an eighth volume: *Who is Jesus? History in Perfect Tense* by Leander E. Keck. The book is an expanded version of Keck's 1995 Clark Lectures at Duke Divinity School. Keck is Winkley professor of biblical theology, emeritus, at Yale Divinity School. Four Duke alumni have published in the series: Alan Culpepper, G'74, (*John, The Son of Zebedee*, 1994); Clifton Black, G'86, (*Mark: Images of an Apostolic Interpreter*, 1994); Beverly Gaventa, G'78, (*Mary: Glimpses of the Mother of Jesus*, 1995) and Calvin Roetzel, G'68, (*Paul: The Man and the Myth*, 1998). Fortress Press obtained paperback rights to the series and has already released Gaventa's volume *Mary* and Roetzel's *Paul* in soft cover.

Professor Emeritus Harmon Smith presented a lecture, "The Moral Implications of Suicide," as part of the Honors Program at the University of Alabama-Birmingham on April 15. He retired in May after 40 years of teaching at Duke Divinity School.

Geoffrey Wainwright spent May in South Africa where he gave lectures and seminars at the Universities of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, and Pretoria, and the keynote address at a conference on "The Signs of the Times" at the University of the Western Cape. On Pentecost Sunday he preached at a local church in the township of Soweto.

In June, Wainwright visited Armenia on behalf of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and taught in the Orthodox Seminary there. In July, he was an invited speaker at the Lutheran Ecumenical Research Institute in Strasbourg, France, during a seminar on the Lutheran-Roman Catholic "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification."

Brett Webb-Mitchell published "Learning to Fly" in the May-June 1999 issue of *Christian Ministry*. He presented "Prophets Among Us: The Indelible Mark People with Disabilities Leave Upon Religious Communities," at "Creating Healthy Communities for People with Mental Retardation," an international symposium hosted May 24-26 by Duke University and the 1999 Special Olympics World Summer Games. He was a visiting lecturer May 13 at Biola University, La Mirada, Calif., and a workshop leader May 14-16 at Noah Homes, San Diego, Calif. He was the keynote speaker at The Gentle Touch Conference, Pittsburgh, Penn., May 3-5, and theologian-in-residence, Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry, April 26-29. He preached at Ernest Myatt Presbyterian Church in Raleigh from March through June.

William H. Willimon published *The Truth About God: Ten Commandments and the Christian Life* with Stanley Hauerwas in May. *Good News In Exile*, a theological reflection on the future of the mainline church by Willimon and pastors Anthony Robinson and Martin Copenhaver, was also published in May by Eerdmans Press. The same month, three of Willimon's essays on preaching appeared in a book edited by Erskine Clarke: *Exilic Preaching: Testimony for Christian Exiles in an Increasingly Hostile Culture* (Trinity Press International).

His sermon on Ephesians 4:7-16, "Speaking the Truth," appeared in *Interpreting Ephesians for Preaching and Teaching*, edited by Scott Nash (Smyth and Helwys Publishing Co.). The article "The Character and Habits of a United Methodist Pastor" appeared in the May-June issue of *The Circuit Rider*, and in June, he delivered the commencement address at Anderson College in Anderson, S.C. He received an honorary degree and gave the commencement address at Lafayette College in Eastern, Penn. During the summer, Willimon conducted workshops for pastors in Charlotte, N.C., Nashville, Tenn., Dallas, Tex., San Francisco, Calif., Chicago, Ill., and Minneapolis, Minn. He was the preacher for the South Carolina Conference Laity Convocation at Lake Junaluska, N.C. in August.



Duke Photography

Lois Blanton, staff assistant to the dean for more than 15 years, retired August 15. "She has served both Dennis Campbell and me with effectiveness, grace and dedication," said Dean L. Gregory Jones. "We will miss Lois, even as we rejoice with her in the new opportunities that retirement brings." The Divinity School community celebrated with Lois at a reception in the Alumni Memorial Common Room on August 9. Dana Moore Hall joined the Divinity School as executive assistant to the dean August 23rd.

DEATHS

Robert G. Tuttle, Sr., T'28, D'34, died April 12, 1999, in Asheville, N.C. He was a United Methodist minister and district superintendent whose formal service spanned 45 years in the Western North Carolina Conference. He is survived by his wife, Lillian Tuttle, two daughters, and a son.

Howard M. McLamb, T'33, D'35, died February 24, 1999, in Raleigh, N.C. He served for 43 years as a pastor and administrator in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, Azile McLamb, a son, and a grandson.

Charles Burns Nesbitt, D'56, died March 20, 1999, in Richmond, Va. He was a United Methodist pastor with membership in the South Carolina Conference and meritorious service as an Air Force chaplain and as a Christian educator. He is survived by his wife, Mary Alice Nesbitt, three children, and four grandchildren.

Jan L. White, D'89, died June 11, 1999, in Granbury, Texas. She served United Methodist parishes in the Central Texas Conference, and she was active in Conference ministries with children and youth as a retreat leader and author of curriculum resources. She is survived by her mother, two brothers, and several nieces and nephews.

Eric T. Bunch, D'92, died April 15, 1999, in Eden, N.C. He was pastor of New Saint Paul Baptist Church, a member of the ordination council and an instructor in Christian education for the Rowan Baptist Association. President of the Eden branch of the NAACP, Eric was also a member of several choral societies, an accomplished revivalist and retreat facilitator. He is survived by his parents and siblings.

Register Now for Convocation and Pastor's School Seminars: Oct. 11-13, 1999

Two-Day Seminars:

- **Understanding Congregations** - Jackson W. Carroll
- **Conversation with Elias Chacour**
- **Preaching with Passion Narratives** - James "Mickey" Eford
- **Trials and Tribulations in the Wesleyan Heritage** - Richard Heitzenrater
- **Conversation with Richard Mouw**
- **Popcorn in the Pews: Using the Movies in Ministry** - Skip Parvin
- **From the Belly of the Whale: Frederick Herzog and the Future of theology and the Church** - Joerg Rieger
- **Creative Preaching** - Clay Schmit
- **Walking the Labyrinth: Metaphors and Practices for a Spiritual Life** - Jeannette Stokes

Monday Only Seminars:

- **Web Pages for Churches** - Andrew Keck
- **The Eucharist and Christian Sexual Ethics: A Seminar in Honor of Harmon Smith** - Philip LeMasters
- **Major Gift fundraising and the Church** - Sandra Kopp McNutt

Tuesday Only Seminars:

- **Conversation with Barbara Lundblad**
- **Electronic Resources for a Pastor's Library** - Roberta Schaafsma
- **Unity of the Church as the Context for Christian Ethics: The Congregation as a School of Charity** - Philip Turner

CLASS NOTES SUMMER 1999

J. Lem Stokes, D'32, has moved to Lake Shore Commons in Wilmington, N.C., and at 91 years young is still playing golf three times weekly, scoring in the 80s and high 70s now and then.

Max W. Wicker, T'49, D'52, and Ann have moved from Northern Virginia to Aberdeen, N.C. where they are enjoying retirement and less traffic.

Walter W. Benjamin, G'57, published a memoir this spring on the Great Depression titled *The Magical Years: A Boyhood Remembrance*. Now a resident of St. Paul, Minn., he is enjoying retirement and occasional lecturing after 40 years of teaching at Morningside College and Hamline University.

William K. Quick, D'58, of Birmingham, Mich., was honored by the presentation from the Detroit Rotary Club of the Stanley S. Kresge Award for distinguished service. He has recently served as a visiting professor of the practice of Christian ministry at the Divinity School.

Charles E. Goodin, D'59, has retired in Johnstown, Penn., after 42 years of service in the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church. He will serve as co-chaplain at Arbutus Park Manor, a church-affiliated retirement community in Johnstown.

Robert T. (Bob) Knox, D'61, has retired from parish ministry in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. He and Jean now reside in Elon College, N.C.

Walter A. Whitehurst, D'61, of Virginia Beach, Va., has retired from the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church but will work part-time as a consultant on individual volunteer placements with the General Board of Global Ministries.

Charles M. Smith, D'62, was recently named superintendent of the Rocky Mount district of the North Carolina United Methodist Conference. He has been selected as one of 60 pastors nationwide by the Center of Theological Inquiry, Princeton, N.J., for its Pastor/Theologian Program funded by Lilly Endowment.

Myung J. (M. J.) Kim, D'65, of Alexandria, Va., a pastor and administrator in the Virginia United Methodist Conference, was the preacher for a "Celebration of Inclusiveness" at the North Carolina Conference meeting in June at Fayetteville, NC.

H. James Lawrence, D'70, has been appointed professor of theatre and head of the School of Fine Arts at Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, N.C.

J. Michael Leatherwood, D'71, is the new superintendent of the Lexington district in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Michael J. Coyner, D'74, bishop of the Dakotas Area of the United Methodist Church who resides in Fargo, N.D., published "Colleagues in Ministry: Ethical Guidelines for Entering and Exiting a Parish" in the May/June 1999 issue of *Circuit Rider*. He is the author of *Making a Good Move: Starting a Successful New Pastorate* (Abingdon Press, forthcoming in 1999).

Carol A. Miller, D'74, is now the pastor of the Weybridge Congregational Church in Weybridge, Vt.

Jacob L. (Jake) Kincaid, Jr., D'76, is pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck, N.D.

Neriah Goldston Edwards, D'77, D'78, has been appointed superintendent of the Canton District in the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Vergel L. Lattimore, D'77, professor of pastoral care and director of the program in counseling ministries at Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, Ohio, has published "The Pastor's Response to Alcohol and Drug Abuse" in *Ministry*, May 1999.

Thomas A. (Andy) Langford III, D'78 and **Sally O. Langford**, D'79, are the new senior co-pastors of St. Stephen United Methodist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

Gregory V. Palmer, D'79, a United Methodist pastor in Berea, Ohio, was honored by Baldwin-Wallace College in May 1999 with the doctor of divinity degree. He has received a grant from the Louisville Institute to study cross-racial appointments in the United Methodist denomination, and was elected in June to head the clergy delegation of the East Ohio Conference to the 2000 General Conference.

T. Murray Richmond III, D'80, and Kathy were pleased to provide a very warm welcome on January 26, 1999, as Steven Michael was born in Fairbanks, Alaska. The outside temperature was -35°F! Murray is pastor of the University Community Presbyterian Church and Kathy is a camp director.

Mark W. Lewis, D'84, and his wife, Nina, are the proud parents of Hannah Christina, their fourth child, born March 30, 1999. Mark is a United Methodist pastor on a special appointment from the Western North Carolina Conference to the Northern European Central Conference, where he is serving a cross-cultural appointment in Copenhagen, Denmark. He was recently appointed as the missions secretary for the Danish Methodist Board of World Missions, and he teaches Old Testament part-time at Oeveraas, the Nordic Methodist Seminary in Gothenberg, Sweden.

Deborah A. McLeod, D'85, a United Methodist pastor in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., published "Four Habits of a Good Pastor" in the May/June 1999 issue of *Circuit Rider* magazine. She chairs the Florida Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. Her husband **Thomas H. (Thom) McLeod**, D'85, is a hospice chaplain.

Sharon L. Adams, D'86, of Dallas, N.C., has been named director of ethnic church revitalization and faith community development for the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tenn.

J. Cameron West, D'86, is the new vice president for student enrollment and church relations at Brevard College, Brevard, N.C.

Mark C. Hicks, D'87, has been appointed executive director of Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries of North Carolina, Inc., a collaborative ministry of the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences of the United Methodist Church. He will coordinate the outreach of Disciple Bible Study ministries in rural and small membership churches as well as in missional settings, including prison units.

Lisa R. Withrow, D'88, D'89, assistant professor and director of field education at the Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio in Delaware, Ohio, has published *Occasions of Prayer*.

S. Mark Clark, D'89, and his wife, Sara, joyfully share the news of their adoption of Karissa Joy, who was born January 10, 1999. The Clarks reside in Soddy Daisy, Tenn., where Mark serves a United Methodist parish.

Virginia A. Lee, D'90, is now on the faculty at Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tenn., teaching Christian education.

J. Roy Ward, D'90, is serving as a United Methodist pastor and as chaplain for the Lexington, N.C., police department.

Sharon S. Freeland, D'91, of Hillsborough, N.C., the executive director of Orange Congregations in Mission, was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation as one of five recipients statewide. The merit award provides an opportunity for further development of creative leadership for significant contributions in public service.

P. Jason Buchanan, D'92, his wife, Sharon, and son, Jason, are happy to share the news of the birth of Abigail Jane on January 20, 1999. The Buchanans live in Canton, N.C., and the elder Jason is a social worker with Haywood County.

Craig A. Langston, D'93, and his wife, Keven Parker Langston, are pleased to announce the adoption of their first child, Elizabeth Hope, who was born August 23, 1998. Craig is serving a United Methodist parish in Charlotte, N.C.

Cherie Walker Meadows, D'93, and her husband **Timothy A. (Tim) Meadows**, D'94, along with their son, Walker, joyfully welcomed the birth of Seth Lawrence on May 24, 1999. The Walkers reside in Montgomery, Ala., where they work in Christian education and United Methodist parish ministry respectively.

Louann M. Averitt, D'95, and Ralph L. Murphy Jr. were married October 24, 1998. The Murphys live in Little Rock, Ark., where Louann is a United Methodist pastor.

Alicia Beam Barham, D'95, is serving as diaconal minister of children and education at Main Street United Methodist Church in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Kirk L. Hatherly, D'95, and his wife, Darleen, are delighted to announce the March 18, 1999, birth of Seth Laurence. Kirk and family reside in Reidsville, N.C., where he is a United Methodist minister.

William R. (Billy) Jarrett, D'95, and his wife, Kathy, are the proud parents of Jonathan Ray who was born December 12, 1998. The Jarrett family is living in Asheboro, N.C.

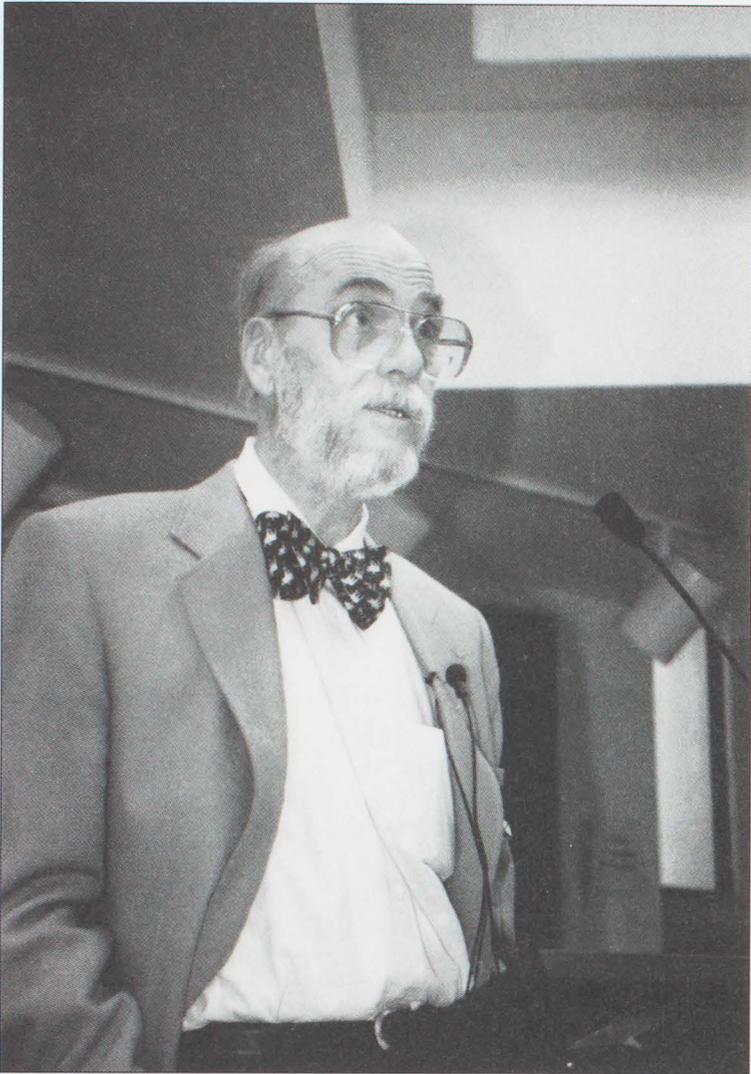
Edward C. (Eddie) Hill, D'95, and his wife, Nita, are the proud parents of twins, Bryson and Zane, born March 25, 1999. Eddie is a United Methodist pastor in Kipling, N.C.

Thomas W. Newman, D'95, and Marcie Anne Cantwell were married on May 23, 1999, in Goldsboro, N.C. Tom is a United Methodist pastor in LaGrange, N.C.

Amy Lynn Cole Kelley, D'96, and her husband **Benjamin W. (Benji) Kelley**, D'97, are delighted to announce the birth of twins, Benjamin Cole and Wesley Jacob. Benji serves a United Methodist parish at Haw River, N.C., and Amy is a diaconal minister on leave.

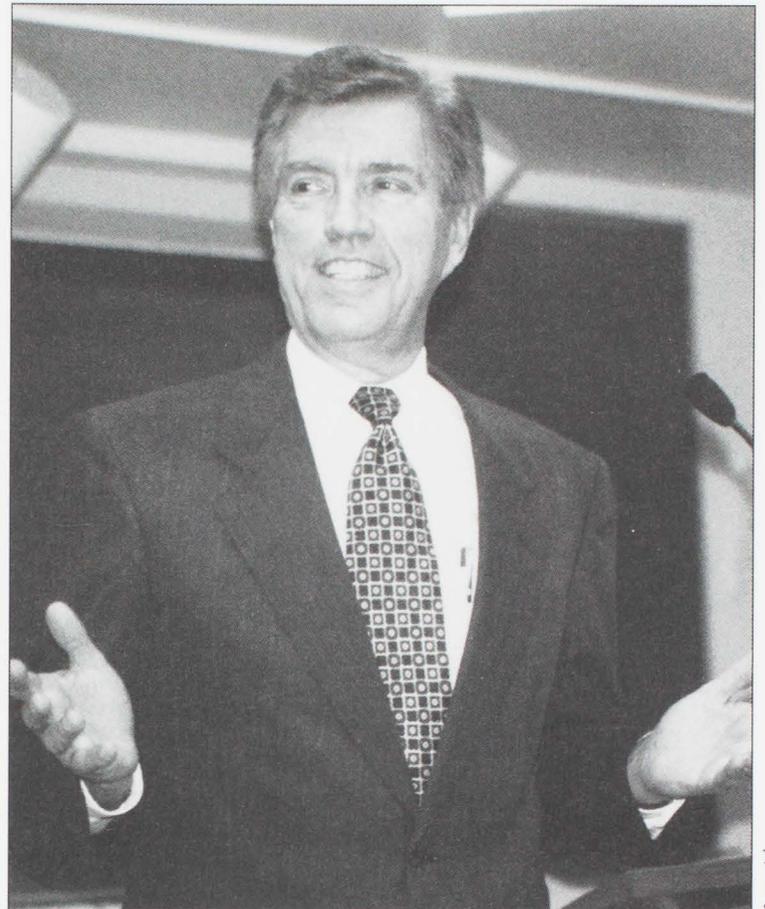
Walter C. Ballenger III, D'97, has been ordained elder in the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and appointed to a parish in Florence, S.C.

Guest Lecturers



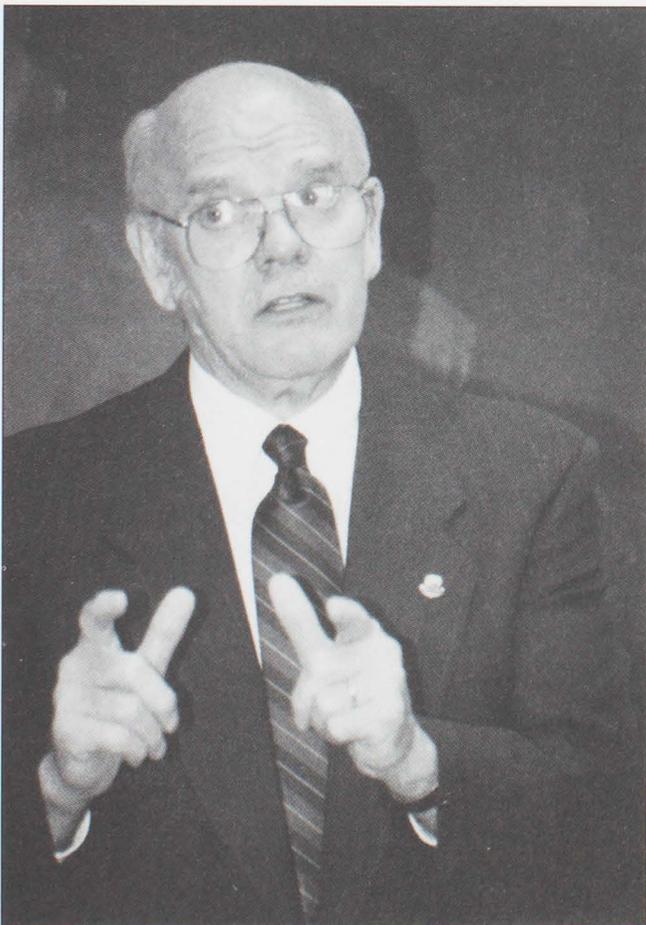
Carter Askren

Dr. Glenn Miller, professor of American church history at Bangor Theological Seminary, Bangor, Maine, lectured on "Millennial Expectations: Past and Present" for the Baptist House Spring Conference April 12. Miller was formerly at Southeastern Baptist Seminary and at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore.



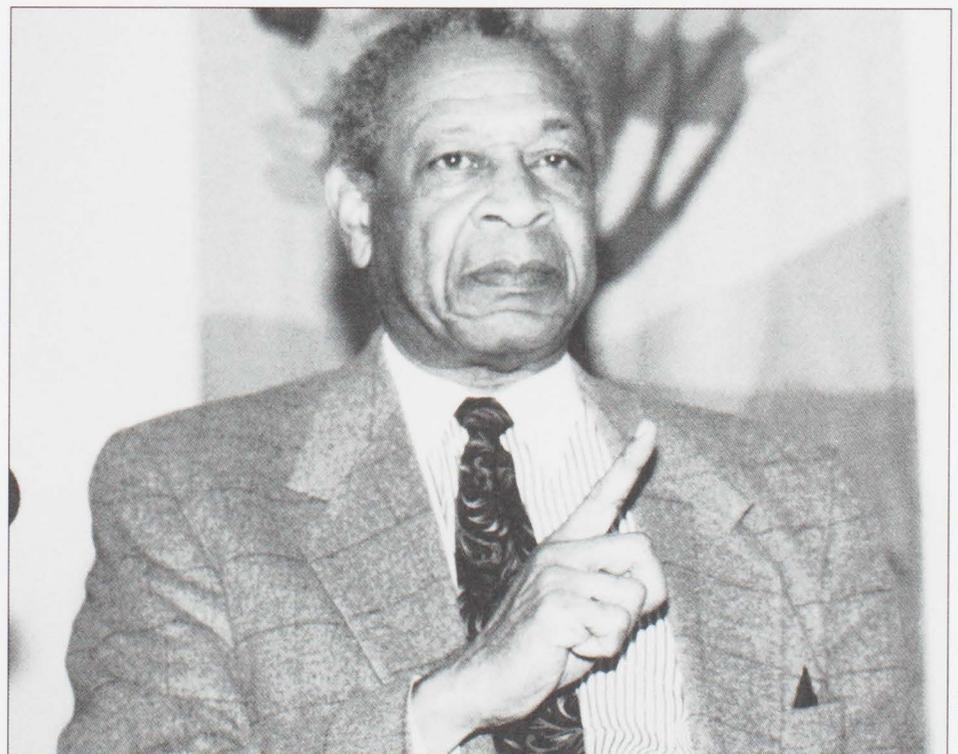
Carter Askren

Dr. William Tuck, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lumberton, NC, was worship leader for the Baptist House of Studies Spring Conference April 12. Dr. Tuck has served as professor of preaching at Southern Seminary.



Carter Askren

Dr. George Morris spoke on "Revival of Hope: Evangelism for Today's Church" April 13-14 at the Divinity School. Morris is the Dan and Lillian Hankey Senior Professor of the World Methodist Council. He has served United Methodist congregations of all sizes from Mississippi to Wisconsin.



Carter Askren

Dr. Charles H. Long, professor emeritus, the University of California, Santa Barbara, presented the 1999 Martin Luther King Jr. Lectures April 6-7: "There is a River: Orientations and Beginnings" and "The Country and Constitution of the Soul." Preachers during the lecture series included Angela A. Pleasants, M.Div. '99, and D. Stephen Lewis Jr., M.Div. '00, who both preached in York Chapel. The Rev. Michael A. Walrond, pastor of Zion Temple United Church of Christ and chaplain, religious activities, Black Campus Ministries, Duke Chapel, preached an evening service at Mr. Calvary United Church of Christ in Durham. "Dark Hallowed Ground," an exhibit of photographs by Titus Brooks Heagins, opened April 7 in the Alumni Memorial Common Room in conjunction with a reception for Dr. Long.

Duke Divinity School Worldwide



Elisbeth Slagg

Leaders of an International Worship Service April 15 in York Chapel included (l to r): Carter Askren, Edgar De Jesus, In-Yong Lee, Sam Ewell, Teresa Berger, Kai Herzog, Seong-Hee Kim, Gwang-hee Son, Rosanna Panizo and Jong Ho Kim. The service, which included languages from several different cultures, was sponsored by the International Studies Committee.



Susan Jones

Seven presidents and deans representing the 13 United Methodist seminaries in the United States learned firsthand in April of the opportunities and challenges of teaching Wesleyan theology in Eastern Europe. Dean L. Gregory Jones said he was impressed by the passion and commitment of the pastors and seminary leaders he met in Russia and Estonia: "They are struggling to build the church in the wake of great difficulties from the Soviet era," he said. "I was moved by the risks and sacrifices that pastors, faculty and seminary leaders are making in order to offer a United Methodist presence and witness." Greg and Susan Jones (center) at the Kremlin in Moscow with the presidents of Liff, United, Wesley, Methesco, and Garrett Evangelical seminaries, the dean of Boston School of Theology, and spouses. Back row, center: Roger Ireson, general secretary, Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and Jack Harnish, staff executive of the churchwide Division of Ordained Ministry in Nashville, Tenn.



Kristen Bargeon

Five Divinity students joined the Duke Honduras Journey, a 12-day work trip sponsored each spring break by Duke Chapel. In La Majada, they helped install a water system to provide a reliable clean water supply to the village. Participants included (first row, l to r) Donna Claycomb, M.Div. '00; Assistant Dean of Duke Chapel Ken Nelson; Kristen Bargeon, M.Div. '99 and Jason Byassee, M.Div. '99; (middle row, second from right) John Hill, M.Div. '00; and (back row, far right) Fred Bahnsen, M.Div. '01. The team was led by Nelson, Claycomb (Chapel missions intern) and the Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple, Episcopal campus minister. The program explores the challenges that poverty presents to the Christian church, including political, economic and social factors.

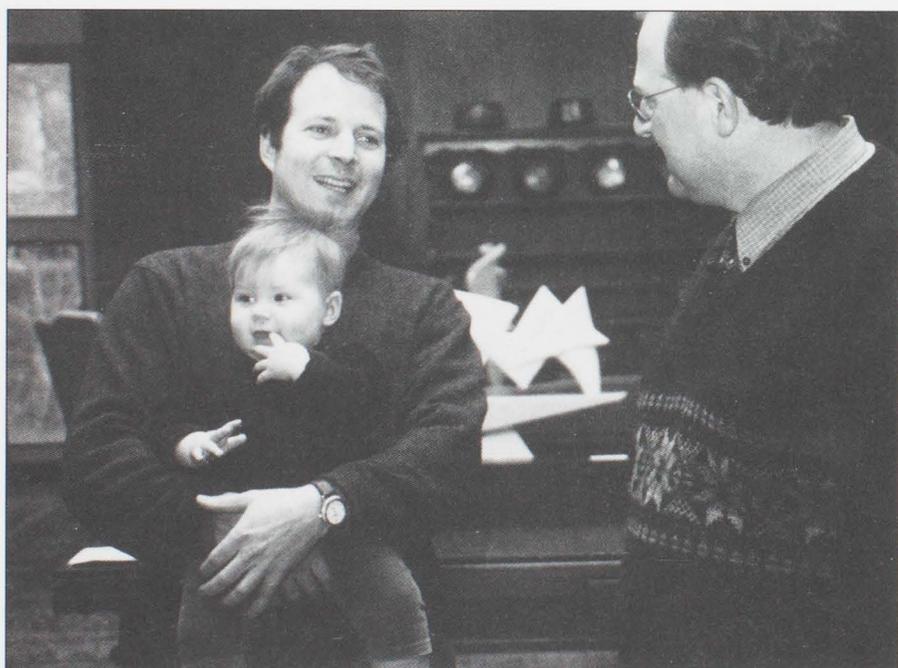
A Celebration of the Arts: March 22 - March 27, 1999



David James Duncan, author of *The River Why*, *The Brothers K*, and *River Teeth*, read from his works March 23 in York Chapel. A book signing and reception followed, co-sponsored by the Gothic Bookshop. During his three-day visit, Duncan also presented "The Necessity of Fiction in a Life of Faith," and "The Writing Life: A Conversation for Aspiring Authors."

Elisabeth Stragg

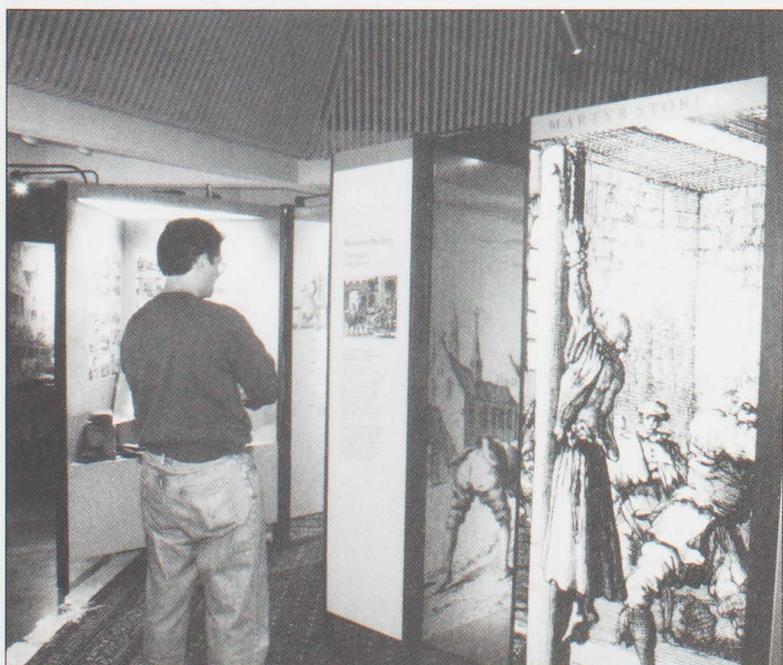
The Divinity School's Celebration of the Arts included visits by novelist David James Duncan of Montana, local sculptor William Moore, and Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb of New Mexico, who performed "Women on the Edge: A One-Woman Drama." The semester's final Live at the Lampstand, a monthly showcase for student, faculty and staff talent, brought local voices into the arts spotlight.



Sculptor William Moore (holding his daughter) talks with Luce Fellow Clay Schmit at a reception March 22 for an exhibit of Moore's sculpture in the Alumni Memorial Common Room. The exhibit of abstract sculpture continued through March 27.

Elisabeth Stragg

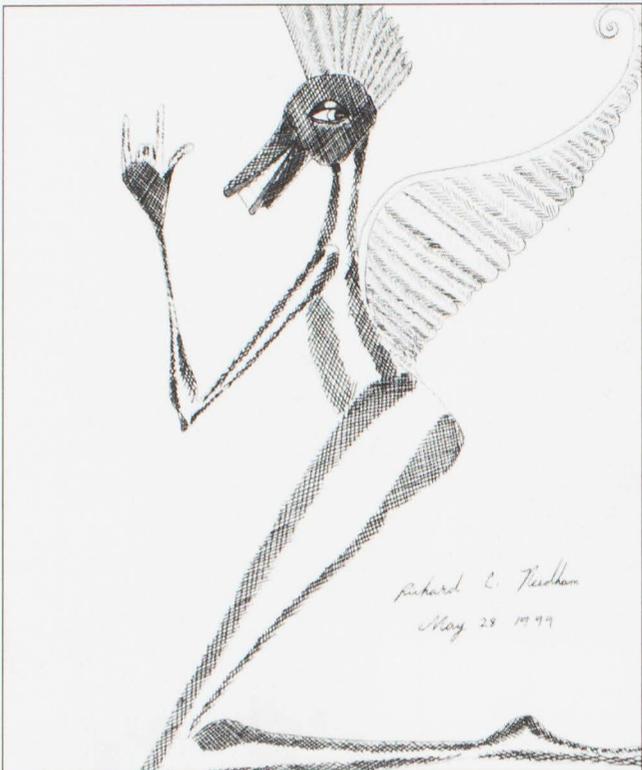
Martyrs Exhibit



Mirror of the Martyrs, based on stories of Anabaptists who were executed for their faith during the Reformation, was exhibited in the Alumni Memorial Common Room April 9-18. The exhibit was co-sponsored by the Triangle's Mennonite congregations. Mirror of the Martyrs has traveled across the nation since 1990 with stops in more than 50 locations. David Steinmetz, Amos Ragan Kearns professor of the history of Christianity, lectured on "Saints and Martyrs: Defining the True Church in Reformation Europe" Sunday, April 11, in conjunction with the exhibit.

Elisabeth Stragg

Holy Imaginings: June 26 - July 4, 1999



Duke Photography

Ricky Needham's "Holy Spirit" was featured in "Holy Imaginings: The Spiritual Stories of People with Disabilities in Word and Art" at Duke Chapel June 26-July 4. The exhibit was organized by Brett Webb-Mitchell, assistant professor of Christian nurture, and Dan Callis, an art professor at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif., in conjunction with the Triangle's hosting of the Special Olympics World Games. Sixteen artists, four from Signature Studio XI in Morganton, N.C. and 12 from Noah Homes in El Cajon, Calif., were featured.



Duke Photography

Harold Crowell's acrylic painting, "God Holding the Heavens," was also among the works in "Holy Imaginings: The Spiritual Stories of People with Disabilities in Word and Art."

Annual Fund: The Canipe Challenge

The Divinity School Annual Fund

The Divinity School has established an Annual Fund goal of \$355,000 for the 1999-00 fiscal year. Each year the Annual Fund provides critical unrestricted support to help Duke Divinity School fulfill its mission of preparing men and women for responsible and productive leadership in the ministry. We can't do it without your help. We depend on the continued participation of all our alumni and friends. By supporting the Annual Fund, you are extending the legacy of Duke Divinity School to current students and each new class of students enrolled at Duke.

The Canipe Family Challenge

Thanks to a generous \$15,000 challenge gift from The Walter G. Canipe Foundation, all new gifts received from alumni during the 1999-00 fiscal year will be matched. This means that our alumni can enjoy the benefits of membership in Divinity gift clubs at a reduced rate. A new \$50 gift will become a \$100 gift, entitling you to membership in the 1926 Club. Or, for \$125, you may become a member of the Dean's Club.

Our Children's Happiness

by L. Gregory Jones

"I just want my child to be happy." Parents say this so often that it has become an accepted explanation for why a child is doing something other than what the parents would have hoped. And, in one sense, it seems straightforward, particularly when we consider the alternative. Do we want our children to be unhappy? Depressed? Discouraged?

Perhaps, however, the mantra has simply become a distortion that masks what we really ought to want for our children. Why should the alternative be cast in terms of happiness or unhappiness, especially in an era when we have made the pursuit of happiness such a shallow and commercial enterprise?

What if we expected parents to say, "I just want my child to be faithful?" How might that shift our expectations of parenting, and of what we hope for from our children?

These questions were driven home to me in recent months by two separate yet closely related events. The first occurred at our house one Saturday. The mother of some of our kids' friends had stopped by, and in conversation she explained her generally permissive attitude toward her children's behavior by saying, "I just want my kids to be happy."

I found the phrase particularly jarring, for earlier that day I had been reading one of Origen's homilies on Abraham's call to sacrifice Isaac in Genesis 22. Origen wrote: "Who of you, do you suppose, will sometime hear the voice of an angel saying: 'Now I know that you fear God, because you spared not your son,' or your daughter or wife, or you spared not your money or the honors of the world or the ambitions of the world, but you have despised all things and 'have counted all things dung that you may gain Christ,' 'you have sold all things and have given to the poor and have followed the Word of God?' Who of you, do you think, will hear a word of this kind from the angels? Meanwhile Abraham hears this voice, and it is said to him: 'You spared not your beloved son because of me.'"

Clearly we can make no sense of this awesome, difficult call from God that Abraham sacrifice his own son if we live in a world in which our highest priority is that our children be happy. It would make more sense, though be no less difficult to accept, if we understood the call – and Abraham's response – in the context of a desire that our children be faithful. We may struggle with the identity and character of the God who tests us and who calls for such a radical commitment. Yet we might also understand more deeply the character of that God who spared not God's own child for the sake of us and our salvation.

We might also begin to gain a clearer sense of what we ask from our children. Children inevitably both benefit and suffer in complex ways from the character of their parents' lives. The real question is whether they suffer for causes and convictions worthy of that suffering. We rightly ought to cry out on behalf of children who suffer because of their par-

ents' oppression or lack of resources. We rightly ought to protest when children suffer because of their parents' selfish and self-absorbed pursuits, whether of money, sex, drugs, worldly honor and ambition or even wrongheaded religiosity.

But should we not also protest when children suffer because their parents offer them nothing worth living and dying for? When children are left with hollow and shallow lives because they have not been invited, and required, to live for something more significant than themselves? When our children are left to suffer because of our lack of convictions, or corrupt convictions, rather than because of noble and faithful ones?

Such questions became particularly poignant as I reflected on a second recent event, an exchange between a seminary student and a distinguished South African church leader. In his lecture, the churchman described his and others' involvement in the struggle against apartheid, including the risks many of them had been called to take in their discipleship. The stories were as harrowing in their details as they were inspiring in their evidence of Christian commitment.

After the lecture, the student asked the leader what his children had thought of his and his wife's involvement in the struggle. How had they coped with the risks and the suffering the family endured because of the parents' commitment to justice? The leader acknowledged that it had been very difficult. He described how painful it was for him to know that his children often were the ones who received the death threats and the epithets over the phone. He described the anxiety of being away from his family for stretches of time, and praying that they would be reunited again.

Yet, he observed, all four of his children now recognize the family's involvement in the struggle as a gift. Coming to this recognition required some long and painful conversations, including the leader's own request to his children that they forgive him for the times he was away. Yet, he reported, the children have commented that even amidst the pain and suffering they endured growing up, they are grateful for the witness their family bore. They see that witness as a gift, for they recognize that their parents taught them the importance of having convictions on which you would stake your life.

Those children may indeed be happy as adults. But if so, that happiness is a reflection of a deeper and more satisfying flourishing than the more superficial hopes too many of us tend to have for our children. Such happiness as they now experience will be a wonderful by-product of having learned the more important and more profound lesson of what it means to be faithful.

This essay originally appeared as a Faith Matters column in the May 19-26, 1999 issue of Christian Century and is reprinted by permission.

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