



# TOWER NEWS

THE CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For Christ and the Churches

Fall 1998

## Fall Convocation and Alumni/ae Conference Hosts Panel of Church Leaders

On October 7th, 1998 the CTS community, along with alumni/ae, friends, and church leaders, will gather to hear Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite speak at the Seminary's Fall Convocation. Dr. Thistlethwaite's address will be entitled: "Beyond Survival: Leadership to Transform the Church." As a part of the 4th Annual Alumni/ae Conference that same day, a panel of distinguished church leaders will engage Dr. Thistlethwaite and CTS's Dr. Tat-Siong Benny Liew in dialogue on her address and CTS's vision for the education of future church leaders.

***Dr. Thistlethwaite's address will be entitled "Beyond Survival: Leadership to Transform the Church."***

Panelists for the afternoon discussion include The Rev. Edward Goode, Illinois Conference Minister; The Rev. Betsy Bueschel, ordained UCC minister; The Rev. Kirsten Peachey, Chaplain, Christ Hospital and Medical Center; The Rev. Dr. Alan Ragland, Senior Minister, Third Baptist Church, Chicago; The Rev. Carl Zimmerman, President and CEO of Lifelink; and The Rev. Tim Phillips, Co-pastor of University Baptist Church in Seattle. Also invited to attend the days events, including a meeting with Dr. Thistlethwaite in the morning, are pastors of churches which have historically supported CTS.

At the noon award luncheon, the CTS Alumni/ae Association will present its 4th Annual Alumni/ae Award

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## CTS Inaugurates Eleventh President

**T**he venture-some spirit of CTS was born in the imagination of creative people throughout its history... Samuel Bartlett, Philo Carpenter, Charles G. Hammond, Franklin Woodbury Fisk, Graham Taylor, D.K. Pearsons, Joseph Henry George, Arthur E. Holt, Ozora Stearns Davis, Victor Fremont

Lawson, Anton T. Boisen, Robert Cashman, Samuel C. Kinchloe, Fred Eastman, A.C. McGiffert, Jr., Albert Wentworth Palmer—to name just a few of the scholars and laypersons who were leaders in the first 100 years."

Shelby Rooks, CTS's ninth president, thus emphasized the importance of outstanding leadership in CTS's growth and development.

On Saturday, November 7, 1998, Dr. Susan B. Thistlethwaite will be inaugurated as CTS's eleventh president, adding her name to the distinguished list of presidents and leaders who have shaped CTS's mission and infused the institution with vision and vigor. Dr. Thistlethwaite assumed



*President Susan B. Thistlethwaite with immediate past-president Kenneth B. Smith*

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## CTS/TOWER NEWS

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The *Tower News* is published twice a year for alumni/ae, students and friends of CTS. News items are encouraged and should be directed to the editor.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

**T**heological Education will change more in the next decade than at any time since the Protestant Reformation. This rapid change is the result of many forces in the culture and in Christianity itself: demographic changes, economic shifts and the globalization of both theology and culture. Some of these changes are exciting and hold out promise for realizing more of God's intentions for human life; some of these changes are far from benign and we must learn how best to struggle against them.

Chicago Theological Seminary, the first institution of higher learning founded in the City of Chicago (1855) has a frontier tradition of innovation. Today we have committed ourselves to provide leadership which will both learn from this accelerated pace of change and which will provide an informed and assertive leadership in both church and society.

We have recently adopted a new motto: "*Chicago's Theological Seminary: Ministry for the Real World.*" This motto reflects our history in Chicago and our commitment to a vital ministry and mission which recognizes that God's reign of justice and mercy is here now, in our midst. Ministry and mission are in the world and for the world because that is where you find the life of God.

I have often observed that at The Chicago Theological Seminary we have not only the rhetoric of diversity, but its reality in our many colors, in how we are women and men, in our nations of origin, in our classes, in our religious affiliations. What we have in common is not best described along the old doctrinal lines of liberal versus conservative. Rather we understand our primary identity to be people who have internalized the call to 'love God with your whole heart and your neighbor as yourself.' We see that in our midst, albeit imperfectly at times, in a vital worship life, a reclaiming of the Bible as the center of our religious identity, and a strong and coherent mission.

After sixteen years on the faculty at CTS and now as its 11<sup>th</sup> President, I can promise you this: at CTS you will not be bored. This is one of the most intellectually and spiritually exciting and demanding places I have ever experienced. I look forward to our years together.

Grace and peace to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Susan B. Thistlethwaite". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.



*Dr. Susan B. Thistlethwaite*

# In Pursuit of the Call

Orientation for new M.Div. students at the seminary is an important occasion each fall. During that week many things occur, but I always find myself listening to stories of “call.” The word “call” comes from an ancient word (“Vocatio”) which has to do with the roots of both voice and vocation. A “call” embodies response to God and the confirming/ discovering in that relationship of one’s own “voice.” The preacher might say *call* isn’t as much about “who we are” as “whose we are.” Thus the coming together of call and voice in relationship to God and world often is named as *vocation*; that is, “this is what I am called by God to be about in this world.”

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***“God’s call is not to be successful, but to be faithful.”***

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As someone who has served many years in the church as a youth minister, I am aware that all persons of faith (and not only those who are ordained) struggle with hearing and responding (in vocation) to God’s call for them. This is never easy, and today’s conditions of life tend to downplay such religious interpretive language. Indeed, job applicants frequently are told that they should approach the job selling themselves to the highest bidder and willing to jump at any moment into whatever job offers them more for the short run. There is, in this equation, no “long-run”, no moral/ethical job considerations, no commitment to be sought or to be offered, certainly no “call” or “voca-

tion”. In contrast to this rationale, the “old” language of call, voice, God and vocation somehow seems antiquarian, outdated, hopelessly naive. And yet, those who embrace as their religion the newer, aggressive, individualistic route to success often seem to be cursed to live the old Rolling Stones refrain — “Can’t get no satisfaction.”

Recently I saw a T-Shirt worn by a young, obviously successful young adult; it read: “the one with the most stuff at the end wins.” And there was no smile on the face of this young adult. I think we will see more such comments as we move through the turning of the century. I also have come to believe that the gap that exists between living to have “stuff” and living in and through vocation are worlds apart. God’s call is not to be successful, but to be faithful. “Orientation”, given this perspective, seems to me to have a significance well beyond the boundaries of the seminary. Even as new students at CTS wrestle with their response to God’s claim on their lives, I would hope that words like call, voice, “vocatio,” and *vocation* provide you with hints and resources that give an orientation toward life that moves beyond the accumulation of stuff and that is finally satisfying.



*William R. Myers,  
Academic Dean*

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# A Life Trustee You Should Know: Harold M. Finley

**H**arold Finley was born in a small southeastern Ohio town, dutifully attended school, became successful in his chosen profession and has served tirelessly as a volunteer on numerous boards and committees. Although many individuals would relate to this type of biographical sketch, it is here that Harold Finley is separated from that “general” active/successful volunteer.

## *Young Prodigy Becomes Civic Leader*

Mr. Finley’s life has been anything but “general.” From his officially recorded IQ of 197, to his beginning school in the fourth grade at age 6, his matriculation at Northwestern University at age 13 and his graduation Phi Beta Kappa at 17, to his becoming a registered representative of the NY Stock Exchange at age 19, Mr. Finley has been every bit the young prodigy and, later, the brilliant adult mind that has been recognized by friends and colleagues alike.

The subject of a book, a play and a musical, this still self-effacing man with the quiet voice is honored through attention he receives from the financial wizards of both LaSalle Street and Wall Street. Although he takes pride in his professional accomplishments in finance, it is his volunteer leadership and religious roots that frame his life’s success. He has been more than a friend to Boys Clubs; colleges and universities such as Spertus, Lincoln Memorial, where a building bears his name, and Kobe in

Japan. He has worked with international relief programs such as the Rural India Health Project.

## *Ministry Leads to Lifelong Relationship with CTS*

In 1944, Harold Finley received a B.D. from CTS, becoming a Congregational minister and serving as pastor at six churches over a period of 15 years. As his leadership was valued in the world of finance, so was Mr. Finley’s pastoral leadership welcomed by all whom he touched. His time at CTS marked the beginning of what is now a more than 50 year relationship of mutual respect and deep gratitude. Harold’s physical support as Trustee, Life Trustee and friend has been immeasurable, while his financial support has been, like the man, quiet, steady and deeply committed.



*Harold Finley*

The Seminary continues to move towards its 150th year and Harold has been a part of literally one third of that story. As the Seminary changes its leadership and looks ahead, it does so with eyes also cautiously looking behind to make sure that the support of people like Harold Finley is still shepherding it toward its mission.



*Keep Those Calls Coming...*

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Admissions office .....ext. 229  
Registrar’s office.....ext. 227  
Business office .....ext. 219  
Faculty office .....ext. 231

*Be sure to  
visit our  
web site at  
[www.chgosem.edu](http://www.chgosem.edu)*

# Alumni/ae Challenge Sets \$30,000 Goal for '98 -'99

A group of CTS alumni/ae has announced a challenge to all CTS alums for the Seminary's fiscal year 1998-1999, which began on July 1. This group of leadership donors has pledged \$10,000 in new contribution dollars for CTS to match each new or increased dollar contribution from CTS's alumni/ae this fiscal year.

## *Trustee Morgan and Citibank Offer Second Match*

The initial Challenge, which would mean \$20,000 in new contributed income from CTS alumni/ae, was met with an enthusiastic and exciting response by Trustee and Development Chair Howard Morgan. Morgan will contribute \$5,000 and has secured another \$5,000 from Citibank of Chicago in order to create a second match, making each new dollar from alums this year worth three dollars for CTS. The Morgan-Citibank match brings the total challenge goal to \$30,000.

Here's how the Challenge works: A \$100 gift from an alum in 1997-1998 which is increased to \$150 in 1998-1999 will draw a \$50 match from the Challenge Leaders, and another \$50 from the Morgan-Citibank match, totaling \$250 for CTS's annual fund.

## *Challenge maximizes gifts to CTS*

"We hope CTS's 1500 alumni/ae will consider this a great opportunity to maximize their contribution dollars, as the institution heads toward the 21st

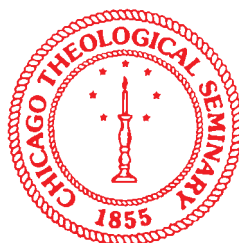


*Howard Morgan*

century with a renewed focus and commitment to educating leaders for the church," stated Howard Morgan. "We think that CTS's vitality and diversity in the face of rapid change, and its commitment to finding innovative and effective ways to transform communities, merits the support of all of the Seminary's alumni/ae."

The Challenge will run throughout the year, with an emphasis on the record level of alumni/ae contributions in the just passed 1997-1998 year, and the beginning of a new era at CTS with the inauguration of Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite.

Watch for more information about CTS Alumni/ae leadership donors in a challenge brochure to be mailed later this fall.



## CTS Receives Ford Foundation Grant for Center for Church Life Initiative

CTS has received a \$67,600 grant from the Ford Foundation to begin a unique comprehensive project through the Center for Church Life. The initiative involves working with the Chicago Heights Ministerial Alliance for community asset-building among children and teenagers. The project, entitled "Partners Empowering the Young," officially commenced in April.

This project is designed to utilize the skills of selected CTS students in helping churches of the Alliance develop and implement various programs to benefit local, at-risk youth. Programs include mentoring boys, mentoring girls, talent-enrichment, substance abuse and social skills training. The students will work with pastors, guidance teams from each congregation and community resources in conducting each program.

A second year of Ford Foundation funding is anticipated. Project administrator is George Thompson, Center for Church Life Director. "Partners Empowering the Young" was first proposed by then-President Kenneth B. Smith as a way to promote CTS's commitment to public ministry. The Chicago Heights Ministerial Alliance was approached because of Trustee Chair Tom Fulton's long involvement with that community.

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# Fourth Annual Graham Taylor Award To Be Presented To Outgoing President Kenneth B. Smith

## ***Proceeds to Fully Fund Chair in Public Ministry Bearing His Name***

The Fourth Annual Chicago Theological Seminary Graham Taylor Award Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 8, 1998, in the Grand Ballroom of the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago. The special guest speaker will be the Honorable William M. Daley, Secretary, United States Department of Commerce. The emcee for the evening will be Bill Campbell, Director of Community Services, WLS-TV. "This will be a very special edition of our annual dinner as we are honoring Dr. Kenneth Smith, the recently retired tenth President of CTS, for his fourteen years of service and leadership to the Seminary and his five-decades of selfless dedication to the larger community that we know as Chicago," said Howard Morgan, Chair of the CTS Board Development Committee. Mr. Morgan continued, "Our goal is to realize \$500,000 to be added to the \$500,000 already raised in order to fully establish and implement an academic Chair in Public Ministry bearing Dr. Smith's name."

## ***Taylor Remembered as Social Reformer***

"Dr. Graham Taylor, Professor of Religion and Sociology at CTS from 1892 until 1924, was also the founder (1894) of the Chicago Commons settlement house, which pre-dated Jane Addams and Hull-House and is still in



*Kenneth B. Smith*

operation today," stated Thomas Fulton, Chair of the CTS Board of Trustees. "The tenets of the Graham Taylor Award and those of the Kenneth B. Smith Chair in Public Ministry are practically identical, as is the dedication and work toward the common good by both men," Fulton further observed.

## ***Dr. Smith Dedicated Civic Leader As Well As Religious Figure***

In addition to his participation as the President of CTS for the past fourteen years, Dr. Smith has played a prominent role over the years with many organizations, including the Chicago Urban League, Community Renewal Society, Chicago Community Trust, and YMCA, to name but several groups. His community work reflects his commitment to his beliefs, to people in general through his ministry and to children

in particular through, for example, his presidency of the Chicago Public School Board.

"We do not take lightly the presentation of the Graham Taylor Award or establishing educational studies at CTS honoring particular individuals. We are looking forward to honoring a man who is absolutely deserving of the recognition," declared Trustee Robert Lowery.



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# Alumni Gathering - Class of 1973

*by John Yoakam*

**W**hen I graduated from CTS in 1973 I wasn't sure that I would return. I had come out as an openly gay man during the "Personal Transformation" sequence of my first quarter at the seminary. As a consequence, I was not able to become ordained. I sought to fulfill my ministry in secular work: counseling, AIDS prevention, and teaching.

Before I came to the Alumni/ae Gathering in April, I called the alumni office to see if they could put me in touch with the Heyward-Boswell Society, I was intrigued that the seminary continued to have an openly gay presence. In fact during the reunion I met openly gay and bisexual faculty, students and alumni. The CTS catalog listed courses in gay and lesbian stud-



*John Yoakam, class of 1973*

ies. I noticed that a congregation of the Metropolitan Community Church worships in Graham Taylor Hall on Sundays.

I joined my classmates for the Alumni/ae Banquet on April 14, 1998 to hear Phil Anderson's address, "Goodbye Comes Before Hello." He spoke movingly of having to say goodbye to the marriage of 51 years as he knew it, when his wife Phoebe, had a stroke. He mentioned working with a client, using an empty chair, to help this man say good-bye to his mother who had died two years previously. I felt as though we were once again in Phil's class on Gestalt therapy.

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***"Most of us from the class of '73 who attended the reunion do not work in parish ministry.. Yet...we were and still are movers and shapers!"***

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Most of us from the class of '73 who attended the reunion do not work in parish ministry.. Yet during the reunion we shared with each other how our experiences at CTS, particularly during the personal and social transformation classes, helped to shape our commitments and faith perspectives. We work now as a professional jazz musician, a seminary librarian, a professor of liturgy and homiletics, an organizational development consultant, an employee in the Belgian embassy, a denominational executive, a social worker and educa-

tor for an AIDS prevention program. We were, and still are, movers and shapers!

What the April reunion enabled me to do was to say hello again to my classmates and the seminary; and to begin a new relationship with a community which nurtured my vision of ministry twenty five years ago.

*John Yoakam, M.A.R.S., '73, completed his Master of Divinity degree in 1985 at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. He is currently working for the University of Minnesota Youth and AIDS Projects as school and community outreach coordinator. In his spare time he is writing his dissertation for a Ph.D. in social work and gerontology at the University of Minnesota.*

***CTS Alumni/ae...  
Accept the  
Alumni/ae  
Challenge!***

*Each new dollar  
contributed to CTS  
this year means a three  
dollar increase in CTS's  
Annual Fund!*

*see page 5...*

# CTS Alumni/ae Association Presents 4th Annual Award in Ministry to the Rev. Dr. Waltee Douglas

The CTS Alumni/ae Association proudly announces the recipient of its 4th Annual Award in Ministry. This year's award winner is The Rev. Dr. Waltee Douglas, Associate Minister and Director of the Christian Counseling Center of First Baptist Church, Gary, Indiana. She is a licensed psychologist, and has done extensive work in education in the Hammond and Gary School Corporations, and at Purdue University Calumet. Dr. Douglas designed and conducted a 21 week peer counselor training program at the Lake County Jail, Crown Point, Indiana. She was appointed by the Governor to the Advisory Board of the State Department of Mental Health, Division of Addiction Services.



*The Rev. Dr. Waltee Douglas*

In addition, Dr. Waltee Douglas is the founder, president and CEO of the Corinthian Christian Center, a Day Care and Outpatient Treatment program for women 55 and over, the first

geriatric center in Gary, and the only one of its kind in Indiana.

After having been married and raising four children, Waltee Douglas prepared herself for multiple careers as a teacher, counselor, psychologist, preacher and pastor. She received BA and Master's Degrees from Roosevelt University, Chicago, and went on to earn a Ph.D. in psychology from Purdue University. Later, she earned an M.Div. and D.Min from CTS.

Dr. Douglas will receive her award on October 7, 1998 at the CTS Alumni/ae Association luncheon following CTS's Fall Convocation. Cost for the luncheon is \$25. For more information, please call the CTS Development Office at 773-752-5757, ext. 264 or 220 before September. 29.

## *September*

- 20-2 Orientation
- 26 All Seminary Picnic
- 28 Fall Quarter Begins

## *October*

- 7 Fall Convocation  
Alumni/ae Conference &  
Award Luncheon
- 9 Graham Taylor Award Dinner

## *November*

- 6 Trustees Meeting
- 9-13 Registration for Winter  
Quarter
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Recess

## *December*

## *Save the Date*

**Tuesday, April 6, 1999**  
**Alumni Gathering  
and Banquet**

**Wednesday, April 7, 1999**  
**Spring Convocation  
and  
Community Luncheon  
at CTS**

For reservations call the CTS  
Development Office at  
773-752-5757 ext. 264

- 11 Fall Quarter Ends

## *January*

- 4 Winter Classes begin
- 13 Winter Convocation
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Holiday

## *February*

- 15-19 Alumni/ae Phonathon
- 22-26 Registration for Spring  
Quarter

## *March*

- 19 Winter Quarter ends
- 29 Spring Quarter begins

## *April*

- 2 Good Friday Recess

## New Professor, Bomyung Seo, Comments on Aims of Theological Education

**B**omyung Seo, Instructor of Theology and Cultural Criticism; Director of the S.T.M. Program. B.A., Drew University, 1989; M.A., University of Chicago, 1989; M.Div., Chicago Theological Seminary, 1993; Ph.D. (A.B.D.) Chicago Theological Seminary.

He will be teaching courses as diverse as Religion in Movies and 20th Century Jewish Thought (theological and philosophical themes arising from Herman Cohen, Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, Emmanuel Levinas and Emil Fackenheim), Professor Seo is regularly engaged in offering Models and Methods in Theology, Ethics and the Human Sciences as well as Interdisciplinary Approaches to Theology.

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***“Theology can no longer dwell comfortably in the realm of the sacred.”***

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Professor Seo writes:

“The task of theology has always been both hermeneutical and critical. Hermeneutical in the sense of understanding God’s Word for the contemporary world, and critical in the sense of being a prophetic voice in the world. How we understand the specific passages of the Bible and the nature of the prophecy often depends on how we view the world. Whether we seek to transform or merely to understand the world, we proceed with a prior conception of how the world is or is meant to be. So being open to and learning from the



*Bomyung Seo*

achievements of other ‘worldly’ disciplines, as it helps us understand today’s world, is an important part of how we do theology today. Also, geographically, the West is no longer the dominant center of Christianity, and the growth of churches in the third world should be accompanied by a different theological consciousness.”

He continues:

“I have come to see the central issue facing today’s world as that of domination. Domination is always based on power, forcing its will, interest and logic unto others. How to speak for the dominated of the world is an important theological question. Theology can no longer dwell comfortably in the realm of the sacred. As we are called into the world, our task is to start with the realities of the world. Nothing much has changed since the days of the Bible, human conditions that were so deplored in the Bible are still very much a part of our world. Finding God in the contradictory realities of the world and being a prophetic voice in the world are an important theological education.”

## IWS at CTS

The Institute for World Spirituality continues to offer programs designed to facilitate interreligious cooperative action. The following programs utilize community leaders as well as current CTS students to explore wellness, wisdom and faithfulness in personal and communal life. To register contact: Jacki Belile at 773.752.5757 ext 275 (kairos@worldspirit.org).

*“Sacred Spaces, Public Places”* led by Dr. Patricia Novick (CTS student) September 17, 1998, 7-9:30pm; McGiffert Lounge. Cost: \$12. An exploration of how sacred spaces can be discovered, created and used for personal and community spiritual enrichment.

*“Holistic Health and Spirituality”* led by Dr. Patricia Novick. October 1, 7:00-9:30pm Room 450. Cost: \$12. Attendees will explore how breath, nutrition, water, movement and relaxation affect the body, mind and spirit in integrated ways to reduce stress, aid in pain management and increase overall wellbeing.

*“Road to Return”* October 7 (co-sponsored with CTS — see details of Alumni/ae conference pg. 1)

*“Compassion and the Spiritual Life”* — annual interreligious retreat. October 16-18, 1998 in Hyde Park. Cost \$100. Call for further info.

*“Microcredit: Methods, Strategies and the Role of Religious Communities.”* (Co-sponsored with CTS Life-long Learning) December 5, 1998, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Location: McGiffert House Registration information forthcoming.

## FACULTY ITINERARY

**Dow Edgerton...** will be attending the Western Association UCC Fall Ministers Retreat, Pilgrim Park, IL, Sept. 14-15; will be teaching at the Wisconsin Conference UCC Lay Academy, Windsor, WI, Sept. 25-26; will be preaching at First Congregational church, Dodgeville, WI, Oct. 18; will be teaching at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Muenster, IN, Dec. 6 & 13.

**Tat-siong Benny Liew...** will lead a discussion on multiculturalism among the clinical staff of the Chicago Dept. Of Health for their Unity Month Celebration, Sept. 25; will lead a seminar on "The Portraits of God in the New Testament," Park Ridge Community Church, Park Ridge, IL, Oct. 4 & 11; will present a paper titled, "Righting Marginalization, Writing Mark" at the Annual SBL Meeting, Nov. 21-24.

**William Myers...** will be preaching at Flossmoor Community Church, Flossmoor, IL, Aug. 22 and First Congregational Church, Lockport, IL, Sept. 27; will give the charge at the installation of CTS Alum Kent Pointdexter, Lincoln Congregational Memorial UCC, Oct. 25; attending AAR/SBL meeting, Orlando, FL, Nov. 21-24; will participate in Jones Lectures at Austin Theological Seminary, Austin, TX, Feb. 1-3.

**Theodore Jennings...** will be attending the United Board of Discipleship "Curriculum for Solidarity with the Poor," Sept. 30; "Symposium on the Future of Wesleyan Studies," Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, Dec. 11-12; "Transforming Public Life: Religion in the Making of Cultural Values and Public Policy," Capetown, South Africa, Feb. 14-21.

## CTS Inaugurates

*Continued from page 1*

the responsibilities of the president's office on July 1, upon the retirement of Dr. Kenneth B. Smith.

The inaugural ceremony, to be presided over by Thomas Fulton, Chair of the CTS Board of Trustees, will be held at Rockefeller Chapel on the University of Chicago campus at 3 p.m., and will include leaders from church, academic, political and business sectors, as well as community-based organizations. A reception for all attendees will be held immediately following the ceremony at Ida Noyes Hall, directly across from the chapel.

Dr. Thistlethwaite, who has been Professor of Theology at CTS since 1984, received her A.B. from Smith College in 1970, her M. Div., from Duke Divinity School in 1974, and her Ph.D., from Duke University in 1980. She is known for her commitment to liberation theology. Her books include *Casting Stones: Prostitution and Liberation in Asia and the United States*, with Rita Nakashima Brock; *Beyond Theological Tourism: Mentoring as a Grassroots Approach to Theological Education*, with George Cairns; *Lift Every Voice: Constructing Christian Theologies from the Underside*, edited with Mary Potter Engel; *Sex, Race and God: Christian Feminism in Black and White*; and *A Just Peace Church*.

When asked how she might shape CTS's future, Dr. Thistlethwaite responds, "I keep getting asked about 'my' vision for CTS. It is not my vision. It is *our* vision and it is not one we invented. It is our response to the message of scripture. When we adopted as our vision statement that 'CTS

shall be an international force in the development of religious leadership to transform society toward greater justice and mercy' we did so because we recognize that God's reign of justice and mercy is here now, in our midst. We are in the world and for the world because that is where you find the life of God. People without a vision perish. People with a vision come to know God. That is our vision."

## Fall Convocation and Alumni/ae Conference

*Continued from page 1*

in Ministry. Nominations for the award were solicited from CTS alumni/ae, emphasizing professional accomplishments which exemplify the spirit of CTS's vision, mission, and commitment statement. The winner is selected by a committee of the Alumni/ae Association Council.

Events of the day on October 7th are as follows:

- 9:30 Alumni/ae Council Meeting in McGiffert Lounge
- 11:00 Convocation Worship in Graham Taylor Chapel
- 12:00 Alumni/ae Award Luncheon in McGiffert House
- 1:30 Panel Discussion, also in McGiffert
- 4:00 Interreligious Prison Initiative Event, "The Road to Return," in Graham Taylor Chapel.

There is no charge for Fall Convocation, however, there is a charge of \$25 for the Alumni/ae Award Luncheon, the panel discussion, and "The Road to Return." To register for these events, or for more information,

# Alumni/ae News .....

## Class of 1961

Robert **Kemper** is not only a CTS Life Trustee but has also written several books including: *Beginning a New Pastorate* (Parthenon Press), *An Elephant's Ballet* (The Seabury Press), *Kind Words For Our Kind of Faith* (Pilgrim Press), *The New Shape of Ministry* (Abingdon Press) *What Every Church Member Should Know About Clergy* (Pilgrim Press).

## Class of 1973

**Ruth C. Duck**, whose widely used inclusive-language hymnal supplement, *Everflowing Streams*, has authored a collection of new hymns, *Circles of Care*. These powerful new texts address issues of healing and reconciliation and offer new images for praise and celebration.

## Class of 1979

**Herbert Knudsen** is the new Regional Minister of Illinois/ Wisconsin Ministries of Disciples of Christ. He will be based in Bloomington, Illinois, where he has been the Chair of the Downtown Commission. He is currently vice president of the Young Men's Club and serves on the Delegates Board of BroMenn Regional Medical Center. In 1996, he was named one of the top ten executives and community leaders in McLean County (IL).

## Class of 1996

**Jacki Belile** began the ordination process of American Baptist Church-Metropolitan Chicago and anticipates being ordained in early 1999.

## Class of 1996

**Gail O'Neal** has taken a permanent position as Associate Conference Minister for Christian Nurturing and Congregational Life in the Wisconsin Conference. She will be ordained September 20, 1998.

## Class of 1998

**Myung-Soo Kwon** has moved his family to a northwest suburb of Seoul, Korea. He will be lecturing in the fall semester at Hanshin University and at the Christian Healing Ministry Institute.

## In Memoriam . . .

The Alumni/ae Association of CTS wholeheartedly supports the Seminary's vision, mission and commitment statement focused on preparing students to serve in ministry in this fragmented world. We believe that such preparation is doing what is good, right and acceptable in the eyes of God. On behalf of the alumni/ae it is an honor to present the ministry of Dr. Bonnie J. Niswander as the kind of transforming leadership that exemplifies the spirit of the Seminary. Bonnie will be remembered as a pioneering woman in the pastoral counseling movement.

Her leading influence set the course for many thousands, impacting the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, hospital systems, academic institutions and state and federal governments. Her passion for ecumenical ministry has been felt in the non dominant cultures of Chicago extending to such far away places as Belgium and Kenya. Bonnie's ministry, rooted in compassion, integrity, knowledge and understanding, gave voice to the voiceless, offered hope to those in despair and empowered the vulnerable.

While Bonnie lived through tremendous challenges in life she fully embraced living, enjoying family, friends, and nature. A pastor in the prophetic tradition, Bonnie moved gracefully from time to eternity on July 14, 1998.

Just as many others do, I feel uniquely blessed to have known Bonnie as a wise mentor and loving friend.

Contributions to the Bonnie J. Niswander Fund, established to create an annual symposium of religious faith and healing, may be sent to the Pastoral Counseling Center of Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, IL, attention Sandy Tauber.

— Dr. Janice C. Hodge  
M.Div. '86, D.Min. '88



Dr. Bonnie J. Niswander  
(1932-1998)

## Editor's Notes:

- If you are a published author, please send us titles, dates and publisher names. We will include these regularly in our Alumni/ae News.
- Please notify the CTS Development Office when you relocate. Don't forget to include your new phone number, and your e-mail address if you have one.
- We will be happy to add your church to our mailing list... just call.
- You can e-mail us at: mbeckman@chgoosem.edu

CTS Development Office  
773.752.5757, ext. 220

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# CTS Offers Lifelong Learning

**P**rofessor George Cairns, CTS's Life-long Learning Chairperson, announced the following schedule for 1998-1999, including the continuation of three ongoing programs. Two of these programs, the Interreligious Prison Initiative and the Science and Spirituality Initiative, are co-sponsored with the Institute for World Spirituality (IWS). The third program, Centering Prayer, is co-sponsored with Contemplative Outreach and meets weekly on Monday mornings at 8:00 AM, October thru May, in Thorndike Hilton Chapel.

## **October 24**

*Introductory Centering Prayer Workshop*, co-sponsored with Contemplative Outreach, facilitated by George Cairns.

## **November 10**

*The Culture of Your Earthen Vessel*, facilitated by George Thompson.

## **December 5**

*A Micro credit Seminar*, co-sponsored with the Institute for

World Spirituality.

## **February 13**

*Quaker Spirituality and Healing*, co-sponsored with 57th Street Meeting, facilitated by Beth Burbank, Tom Stabnicki and Sebrina Tingley.

## **March 6**

*Woman's Work for Wholeness: Developing Spiritual Practices for Health and Well Being*, facilitated by Eva Salmons.

## **April 20**

*Futuring Your Church*, facilitated by George Thompson,

## **April 29-May 1**

*The Second Annual Conference on the Interreligious Prison Initiative*, co-sponsored with the Institute for World Spirituality.

A brochure providing more details will be available in September. Please contact George Cairns at (773) 752-5757, ext. 235 or Eva Salmons, ext. 214 for more information.

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**THE CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

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