

Kingswood

CHRONICLE

Uniting Knowledge and Vital Piety

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
WINTER 2014



Kingswood Chronicle is named after the first school established by John Wesley, in Bristol, England, in 1742. For its dedication, John's brother, Charles, wrote a hymn that included this line: "Unite the pair so long disjointed, knowledge and vital piety." Our hope is that the Center for Biblical and Theological Education, the undergraduate and Seminary programs, the entire School of Theology, and this publication will unite our academic study of theology with a profound, meaningful faith in Jesus Christ — one that grows deeper every day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

School of Theology Alumni Breakfast with Faculty

An opportunity for undergraduate and Seminary alumni (including guests) to fellowship over a complimentary breakfast with School of Theology faculty and Doug Strong, dean of the School of Theology. RSVP by January 17.

February 1, 2014, 9:30 a.m.
Kingswood House
303 West Dravus

MORE INFORMATION:
theology@spu.edu

Discernment Weekend

Seattle Pacific Seminary invites you to explore your calling and vocation — in the company of Seminary faculty and students, along with others who are considering seminary. Discernment Weekend is a day and a half of teaching, prayer, discussion, thoughtful challenge, worship, fellowship, and food.

February 7–8, 2014
SPU Campus and beyond

MORE INFORMATION:
seminary@spu.edu

Racial Reconciliation and the Church: "Soul Change to Social Change"

With Brenda Salter McNeil, PhD, Associate Professor and Director of Reconciliation Studies

Co-sponsored by SPU's Center for Biblical and Theological Education and the Pacific Northwest Conference of the Free Methodist Church

February 22, 2014, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Upper Gwinn Commons

Cost: \$30 by January 30;
\$45 thereafter

MORE INFORMATION:
cbte@spu.edu

The Paul T. Walls Lecture in Wesleyan Theology: "The Book of Revelation in the Present Tense"

With Rob Wall, PhD, Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies

May 7, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
First Free Methodist Church
3200 Third Avenue West

MORE INFORMATION:
theology@spu.edu

Reflections on N.T. Wright's Visit

Bishop N.T. Wright blessed SPU twice on November 13, 2013 — first with a discussion on his book *Paul and the Faithfulness of God*, with School of Theology faculty, staff, students, and alumni; and then with a lecture on his book *A Case for the Psalms: Why They Are Essential*, to a crowd of more than 1,600.

The evening began with School of Theology Dean Doug Strong sharing a passage from *A Case for the Psalms*:

[The Psalms] are full of power and passion, horrendous misery and unrestrained jubilation, tender sensitivity and powerful hope. Anyone at all whose heart is open to new dimensions of human experience, anyone who loves good writing, anyone who wants a window into the bright lights and dark corners of the human soul ... should react to these poems like someone who hasn't had a good meal for a week or two.

Wright explained that the prayers, songs, and cries in the Psalter, which run the gamut of human experience, are the very songs Jesus grew up singing. "What you learn as a child pretty much stays with you for life; you have to work very hard to forget it," he asserted. The Psalms "have Jesus' name on the flyleaf," Wright continued, and in the Gospels, you can see the ways Jesus made them his own. "These are the songs Jesus sang, and he wants us to sing them with him," was Wright's refrain. For nearly 2,000 years, this biblical prayer book was the backbone of Christian worship.

Wright said he was puzzled by the apparent abandonment (on both sides of the Atlantic) of the Psalms in contemporary worship settings. Wright argues that we should allow the Psalms to form and shape our worship music, and he looks forward to a worship culture that is more "psalm-shaped," spear-headed by Christian musicians.

The Psalms are not just important because Jesus and the early church used them. The Psalms are essential because we need them now — *today*. And not just the little buoyant

bits that many churches read to the exclusion of the cries of agony in the dark. The Psalter contains a wild celebration of the goodness, abundance, and extravagance of creation. As Wright said, "A good God made a good world, and it is good that we are in it." The Psalms challenge our concepts of time, space, and matter. But the Psalms are particularly important because when we are going out into the world, we have no idea what will come at us. As Wright urged, "Don't wait until you are qualified or until you have more time — you need them now."

To infuse more Psalms into life, Wright referenced Billy Graham's advice: "I used to read five Psalms every day to help me get along with God. Then I read a chapter of Proverbs every day and that teaches me how to get along with my fellow man."

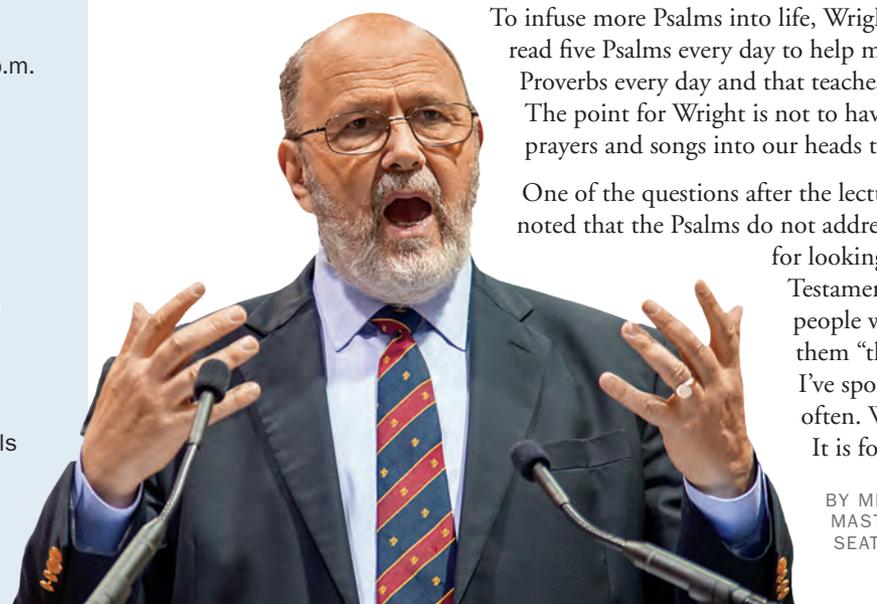
The point for Wright is not to have more rules to follow, but to get Scripture's prayers and songs into our heads the way they were in Jesus' head.

One of the questions after the lecture was about universalism versus hell. Wright noted that the Psalms do not address this head on, but rather give us a framework for looking at this issue. The Psalms, as well as the New Testament, seem to indicate that there will be certain people who stubbornly refuse God's love; the Psalms call them "the wicked." But Wright said, "In all the countries I've spoken in and visited, yours asks about hell most often. Why? Scripture is not focused on heaven and hell. It is focused on heaven and earth."

BY MEGAN WILDHOOD
MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDENT
SEATTLE PACIFIC SEMINARY



N.T. Wright speaks about the Psalms to more than 1,600 people in SPU's Royal Brougham Pavilion on November 13.



Engaging the culture, changing the world®

Seattle Pacific

SEMINARY ALUMNA

Christal Jenkins Tanks, '11

For Christal Jenkins Tanks, her vocation isn't confined just to the workplace.

"What I'm doing in the world is my vocation," she says. "It is my calling." Whether she's traveling the U.S. as a speaker and workshop leader, writing books, designing software, serving women who have suffered domestic violence, or being a wife and stepmother, it's all part of living into "God's calling and his mission and his purpose for his creation," she says.

A Portland, Ore., native, Christal came to Seattle Pacific Seminary and was in the first class to graduate from the SPS Business and Applied Theology program.

A user-experience expert, Christal designs and advises on interfaces to help her company's clients have the best interactive experience possible.

For Christal, her job is part of the Holy Spirit's work of creation. "I just think God must have an amazing imagination," she says. "People have been like, 'Wow, I never thought about it like that,'" when they see her designs. "I've really been drawing on God in my creativity."

Christal says SPS equipped her to approach her work as a form of discipleship. "The program helped me to understand the creational mandate of stewardship," she says. "It changed the paradigm of business just being about profit. It goes beyond ethics and morals to the core of what the business is, what it's trying to be, and how it operates as a citizen in our society."

Christal serves as an adviser to the Faith and Culture Writers Connection, a faith-centered writers' group.

She also travels the U.S. with God Crazy Ministries, which seeks to deliver women and girls from abuse. "Christians' natural tendency is to put on the churchy mask," Christal says. "Instead, our work with women who have experienced abuse helps them to be honest, open, and free. It breaks the silence."

Christal says SPS's focus on rest and self-care continues to bear fruit in her life. "Sometimes," she says, "we forget how important it is to stay whole while we're feeding and pouring into others." Self-care has helped her to avoid burnout and strive toward wholeness in ministry.

She most recently authored *LIVE! Speaking Life to Your Dry Bones* and contributed to *God Crazy Freedom*. She lives with her husband in Maryland.



UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNA

Katey Hage, '03



As a part-time pastor and full-time mother of three, Katey Nedelisky Hage '03 keeps busy leading worship services, playing with her children, and blogging about her faith.

Katey graduated from SPU with a degree in sociological perspectives on cross-cultural children's ministry, a major she constructed her sophomore year, as well as a minor in global and urban ministry. After graduation, she started as the children's director at Seattle's Quest Church.

Currently, Katey serves as Quest Church's pastor of children and family ministries, where she brings a wide variety of experience. "I've always worked with kids," she recalls. "Even when I was in late elementary school, I worked with the younger elementary

kids." On Sundays, she leads two services for children, which include music, Bible teaching known as "The Big God Story," and small-group time. She also greets families and connects with kids. Her ministry continues throughout the week, as well.

A blogger in her spare time, Katey says she writes because she hopes that what is meaningful to her is also meaningful to others. In one entry, she blogs about her first experience praying in color, a method of prayer that includes doodling and coloring prayers for God to see. She writes, "When you center yourself on God, and reflect on who He is, and when you let your body engage (in this case, let your hand draw and create) without using words, you can connect with

God, worship God, and even offer up people, ideas, prayers, and thoughts to God."

Katey attributes much to her time at SPU as an undergraduate. "I felt very affirmed in my calling by my leaders and elders around me," she says. "The depth of their care really made an impact." She says she chose SPU because of its centeredness on Christ. "I knew I wanted a school that wasn't just labeled as a Christian university, but whose identity was in Christ."

She recently applied to Seattle Pacific Seminary for the Master of Divinity program to continue her education. A Portland native, Katey resides in Magnolia with her husband and children.

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY STAFF

Carina Fung, Program Assistant

In addition to providing administrative support for the Asian American Ministry Program, Carina Fung plays an important role coordinating and developing online and print communications for Seattle Pacific Seminary. Her contributions promote the AAMP and SPS, both locally and beyond. She supports Billy Vo, director of the AAMP and the Seminary, and Teresa

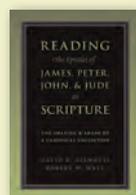
Elenbaas, budget manager for the School of Theology.

Carina began working with SPS in September 2013 in the Seminary's temporary office in the 4 Nickerson Building (see the back page for information on our move out of Alexander Hall). SPS is honored to have Carina and is excited about the ways she is already contributing to its work.

A University of Washington alumna (bachelor's degree in English literature), Carina completed her juris doctorate in 2012 at the Touro College Law Center in New York. At UW, she was a student-leader with InterVarsity, and she currently serves as a lay leader at Renew Evangelical Covenant Church with SPS alumnus David Sim, MDiv '12.



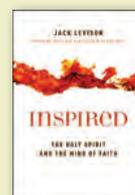
School of Theology Faculty Books



Reading the Epistles of James, Peter, John & Jude as Scripture: The Shaping and Shape of a Canonical Collection

By Associate Professor of New Testament Studies David Nienhuis and Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies Robert Wall

(Eerdmans, 2013)



Inspired: The Holy Spirit and the Mind of Faith

By Professor of New Testament Studies John (Jack) Levison

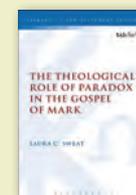
(Eerdmans, 2013)



The Class Meeting: Reclaiming a Forgotten (and Essential) Small Group Experience

By Assistant Professor of Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies Kevin Watson

(Seedbed Publishers, 2013)



The Theological Role of Paradox in the Gospel of Mark

By Assistant Professor of New Testament Laura Sweat

(Bloomsbury, 2013)

See all School of Theology faculty books at spu.edu/SOTbooks.

Looking at University Foundations in Celtic Lands



Professor Jeff Keuss (front row right) and students in the parking lot behind St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, at the grave site of Scottish reformer John Knox.

Last fall, the School of Theology's Drs. Jeff and Diana Keuss led a group of 25 students through Scotland, North Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland for an intensive study-abroad University Foundations course in Christian Theology. Co-led by Dr. Christine Chaney, professor of English, and sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, the study trip focused on the themes of reconciliation and forgiveness in both urban and rural settings.

Students heard from professors at the University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow, and International Christian College, as well as a number of activists, pastors, and priests committed to theological reconciliation. Students traveled and lived in community throughout the time together.

The class toured sites foundational to the Reformation in Scotland, such as the Glasgow and St. Giles' cathedrals; visited sites where the Covenanters drafted treatises that resulted in radical Scottish revolt in churches across the country; observed members of opposing political parties at Corrymeela in Ballycastle as they discussed significant theological and political differences and found common ground for peace; toured the "peace walls" in Belfast while Orange marches filled the streets; and listened to the work of Church of Ireland pastors in partnership with Roman Catholic priests to share common visions for healing and wholeness in Derry.

In addition to these contemporary issues, students looked back to the foundations of Christianity in Scotland and Ireland with tours of ancient archeological digs on Pictist and Celtic burial mounds. They walked the hills St. Patrick walked, and even stood in front of Windmill Studios in Dublin, where the band U2 recorded some of its most important albums.

For the 25 students, the trip brought to life many of the texts and traditions that underscore significant themes of their faith.

"Studying theology abroad made it come alive to me," says Stephanie Rice, an SPU junior. "A main theme of the trip was reconciliation, and learning about that in Northern Ireland broke my heart, but in an important way that I do not think would have happened in a traditional classroom setting."

Accreditation Update

Peer review provides quality control in higher education at both individual and institutional levels. Every professor's work is regularly assessed by his or her colleagues. Similarly, every school's work is regularly assessed by representatives of other comparable institutions — and the stamp of collegial approval is accreditation.

Seattle Pacific Seminary already holds "primary" (or "regional") accreditation, because we are embedded in a university accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Currently, SPS is seeking "secondary" (or "professional") accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools.

ATS has three membership levels: associate membership, candidacy status, and full membership/initial (secondary) accreditation. SPS was elected to the first level in 2012 and hopes to advance to the second level in 2014. As part of the application, the Seminary submitted a 200-page readiness report last July and received a two-day visit in October by Tom Tanner, director of Accreditation and Institutional Evaluation at ATS. Dr. Tanner met with various administrators, faculty members, SPS alumni and students, and representatives of the SPU Board of Trustees and the SPS Advisory Board.

Dr. Tanner commended SPS for its spirit of community; connections

within the academy, the church and the metro area; and commitment to Christ, to each other, and to the University and its mission. But he also challenged SPS to improve its visibility (publicity, web presence, social media, etc.) and viability (scholarships for students, meeting enrollment goals, etc.).

"God can blow the doors off Seattle with SPS," said Dr. Tanner. But that requires the Seminary to continue to refine its curriculum, improve its instruction, tell its story well, recruit a full complement of students, respond faithfully and creatively to trends in church and society, contain tuition costs, and cultivate new financial resources.

“God can
blow the
doors off
Seattle
with SPS.”

DR. TOM TANNER
Director of Accreditation
and Institutional
Evaluation, ATS

Welcome, Incoming Seminary Class

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

*Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.*

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

ACTS 8:26–35

Today's seminarian is a lot like Philip — obeying a call from God to preach and teach the Good News. Sometimes the journey is clear and well-marked; sometimes it isn't. For this year's incoming Seminary class, one piece remains constant for each individual — a desire to be faithful to the call of God.

Nationally, 81 percent of all

incoming seminary students do not expect to have a parish ministry position upon graduation. Fewer than half of all incoming students plan to be ordained. As the future of the church continues to change, so do traditional models of ministry as well as seminary education. While the future may be uncertain, seminary is a place where students experience



Dean Doug Strong (foreground) and this year's incoming Seminary class at Camp Casey last August.

transformation and preparation for whatever is ahead.

If you are sensing a call to ministry, consider joining the Seattle Pacific Seminary community in an intentional time of discernment at Discernment Weekend, February 7–8, 2014. This two-day event will include biblically and theologically based lectures, discussions, prayers, scripture

reading, fellowship, and times for quiet reflection.

May we all be open to hearing and responding to the call of God in our lives and helping one another along the way.

For more information about Seattle Pacific Seminary and Discernment Weekend, visit spu.edu/seminary or email seminary@spu.edu.



From the Dean

The unexpected move this summer of the School of Theology faculty and staff offices, from historic (but musty!) Alexander Hall to rented quarters in an off-campus office building, was not easy. Imagine asking 39 people to pack up and move years and years of accumulated books, files, and papers — in just a few weeks! I want to extend my appreciation to the wonderful School of Theology staff and faculty, who made the move without much complaint.

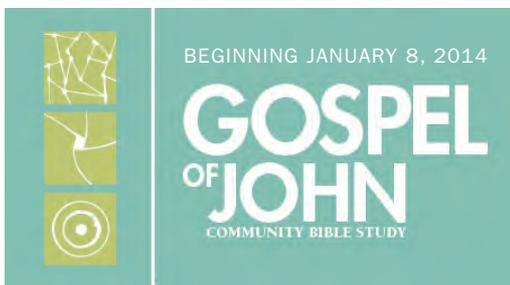
We will be in the rented space for about a year. The outcome of this hassle, I believe, will be a blessing, because the extremely worn interior of Alexander Hall will be not only retrofitted so as to withstand an earthquake, but also restored to some of its original 1893 charm. I also believe that God is in this move, because I believe that God wants to do a new thing with our School. In 1 Peter 4:10, we read:

The God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

The Lord will use the physical restoration, support, strengthening, and establishment of this old building to do the same kind of work in our lives and in our ministries of teaching and training students for effective Christian service. To God be the glory!

Doug Strong
Dean, School of Theology

A New Twist on the School of Theology's Community Bible Study



Last fall, the Center for Biblical and Theological Education piloted a new twist on the undergraduate Community Bible Study (CBS) course. In addition to those taking it for credit, the class was opened to students, faculty, staff, and members of First Free

Methodist Church who wanted to participate simply to study Scripture with others. Utilizing Professor of Old Testament Frank Spina's Autumn Quarter Lectio on the Psalms as its main text, the CBS emphasized the School of Theology's tenets: Academy, Abbey, Apostolate.

The weekly class was taught by CBTE Director Celeste Cranston and featured a lecture, contemplative exercises, and intergenerational small groups. Participants explored themes of God's presence and absence, celebration, lament, and confession. The small-group time, led by a team of undergraduates trained and supported by CBTE staff, focused on applying the text.

These intergenerational groups were a highlight for many participants. "CBS has been wonderful for the way it brings together multiple generations of people to study the Word together," notes SPU senior Rachel Boisen. "I love to hear the thoughts and wisdom of both my peers and others who have experienced more of life." Observes FPMC congregant John Weschler, "The real bonus for me has been the small, multigenerational discussion group led by a well-prepared SPU student leader. We've had great discussions and committed prayer for one another." This new CBS format will continue throughout the academic year.

The School of Theology Has Temporarily Moved

For the 2013–14 school year, the School of Theology, including Seattle Pacific Seminary and the Asian American Ministry Program, has moved out of Alexander Hall to 4 West Nickerson, Suite 200. Alexander Hall is being renovated, including seismic retrofitting to improve its safety in the event of an earthquake; and the addition of two conference rooms on the first floor, an extra faculty office, and a smaller, multipurpose chapel. An elevator and a new, efficient HVAC system will also be installed. Construction began in early December and is scheduled to end by September 2014. Last July, the City of Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board recommended Alexander Hall be designated a historic landmark.

NOTE: The School of Theology mailing address, email addresses, and phone extensions have **not** changed.

FROM THE THEOLOGY LIBRARIAN

Free ATLA Religion Database Alumni Access



The SPU Library is pleased to offer graduate alumni of Seattle Pacific Seminary and the School of Religion/Theology free remote access to the ATLA Religion Database with Serials (the ATLA Religion Database plus all of the full-text in ATLAS). For the information you need to log in, email SPU Theology and Philosophy Librarian Steve Perisho at sperisho@spu.edu with your full name (including maiden name, if applicable) and the year you earned your graduate degree.

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Upcoming CBS classes and Lectio Series

Winter
LECTIO BEGINS JANUARY 6
CBS BEGINS JANUARY 8

Gospel of John
Assistant Professor of New Testament Laura Sweet

Spring
LECTIO BEGINS MARCH 31
CBS BEGINS APRIL 2

Revelation
Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies Rob Wall

Summer
LECTIO BEGINS JUNE 23
CBS BEGINS JUNE 25

Various topics within the theme of reconciliation in the New Creation School of Theology professors and SPU community members

Sign up at spu.edu/lectio to receive weekly readings and podcasts.

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