



# Kingswood

CHRONICLE

Uniting Knowledge and Vital Piety

SEATTLE PACIFIC UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY  
SPRING/SUMMER 2015

*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 disjoined, 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

### Summer Theology Institutes for Pastors and Lay Leaders

MULTI-ETHNIC MINISTRY:

**Bishop Matt Thomas**

June 15–18; \$140

(June 8 registration deadline)

TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY:

**Dr. Michael Paulus**

July 6–7; \$50

(June 29 registration deadline)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, VISIT [SPU.EDU/THEOLOGYINSTITUTE](http://SPU.EDU/THEOLOGYINSTITUTE).

## Beginning Autumn 2015

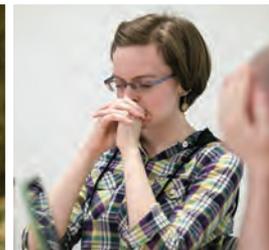
### Two New Master's Degrees Coming to Seattle Pacific Seminary:

#### A Master of Arts in Asian American Ministry and Master of Arts in Christian Leadership

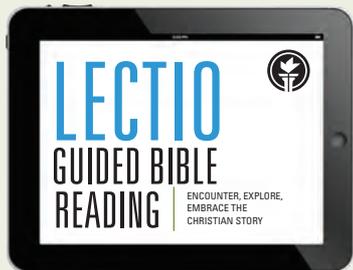
The proposals for two new Seminary degrees were submitted last summer. Both received rigorous and constructive review by SPU's Curriculum Committee; two required "readings" by the University Senate and a unanimous affirmative vote after the second reading; and both have now been formally approved by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

These degrees will be classified as "professionally oriented" degrees by our secondary accreditation agency, the Association of Theological Schools.

"As Seattle Pacific Seminary prepares for full membership in, and initial secondary accreditation by, the Association of Theological Schools, we find ourselves repeatedly giving thanks to God for our 'embeddedness' in a great Christian university," says Rick Steele, professor of moral and historical theology and associate dean of the School of Theology's graduate studies. "Our relationship with SPU allows us to rely upon the talents of so many amazing colleagues across the faculty and staff and utilize the rich resources of our campus community. We are — and feel — deeply blessed."



## 2015–16 LECTIO SCHEDULE



**NEW!** FALL 2015  
**1 & 2 Samuel**  
with Dr. Sara Koenig

WINTER 2016  
**Gospel of Mark**  
with Dr. Laura Holmes

**NEW!** SPRING 2016  
**Hebrews**  
with Dr. Rob Wall

SUMMER 2016  
**Selections from the Prophets**  
with Dr. Jeff Keuss



### SERVING ALONGSIDE: A Conversation with Local Congregations on Homelessness

SPU's hosting of Tent City 3 on our campus afforded significant learning opportunities for students, seminarians, and the broader community. The Center for Biblical and Theological Education and the John Perkins Center put together one such opportunity on February 26: a church leaders lunch, "Loving Our Homeless Neighbors: Justice, Mercy, and Your Church."

More than 60 local church leaders shared lunch with guests from TC3, heard a theological perspective from SPU Assistant Professor of Missiology Dr. David Leong on "Who Would Jesus House?," shared ways their congregations are serving the homeless, and engaged in brainstorming on next steps. SPU Alumnus of the Year Rev. Rick Reynolds offered prayer.

This event honored ministries already underway in local congregations, while at the same time asking church leaders to pray, wait upon the Lord, and consider next steps for their churches in living out God's call from Isaiah 58:6–9: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?"

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, 'Here I am.'"

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNUS  
**Criss Mitchell, '13**



Criss and Alyssa Mitchell, with sons (left to right) Zebe, Psalm, and Justice.

Teaching in a public school with a diverse student body is an opportunity to put theology into action, says **Criss Mitchell**, who teaches language arts at Nicholas J. Begich Middle School in Anchorage, Alaska.

“Anchorage has the most multiethnic school district in the United States,” he says. “It’s a very, very diverse student population that I work with,” he says, adding that the school has students from backgrounds including Hmong, Samoan, African-American, Filipino, Tongan, Thai, Somali, and Sudanese.

Mitchell says that his Master of Divinity studies at Seattle Pacific Seminary, along with his own experience as a person of biracial heritage, provide skills for relating to students in such a diverse context.

He describes a recent conversation with a biracial student, during which he was able to relate about issues of identity and understanding one’s cultural heritage, as a person who has experienced such questions firsthand.

“Being biracial myself, and living through those issues, I do think it

gives me some insight,” he says. He adds that he often recalls Willie James Jennings’ book, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*, from a seminary course he took. “How are our selves formed?” he reflects. “How do we understand ourselves in relation to each other? Are we defining one another against each other? Where does the image of God fit in?”

Mitchell says he loves teaching: “It makes me have to put my theology into action ... I can dream all of this at a desk, but sometimes I need feet on the ground.”

Mitchell holds a literature degree from Washington State University and a master of arts in teaching from the University of Alaska, in addition to his MDiv. Along with language arts, he teaches courses in creative writing and film criticism.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with sons Zebe, Psalm, and Justice. He is an avid reader and likes to read young adult literature to remain conversant with his students.

Mitchell and his wife, Alyssa, live in Chugiak, Alaska, with their children.



UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNA  
**Caitlin Wasley '09**

intercultural applications, coordinates the Match Grant program for World Relief Seattle, where she works with newcomers every day.

A federally contracted resettlement agency, World Relief aids about 750 individuals and 300 families in Seattle each year, providing basic orientation and support during their transition in the United States. The Match Grant program works with select refugees during the first four to six months after arrival to connect them with employers and jobs.

“We have lots of folks who were professionals in their fields at home: professors, dentists, doctors, lawyers,” Wasley says. “But they have rejection after rejection here. We tell them: If you work with us, it might not be what you want, but we’ll get you a job.”

Depending on their language skills, refugees often find jobs in housekeeping, customer service, security, packaging, or food preparation. And while they’re encouraged to keep their first job six months, many are promoted or move on to more specialized work sooner.

“Seeing people return [to World Relief] is one of the most rewarding parts of my job,” Wasley says. “They’ll have perfect English, more kids, and after five years they’re eligible for citizenship.”

At SPU, Wasley says her minor in global and urban ministry gave her a foundation for exploring cultures and meeting people different from her. After graduation, she spent two years as an English teacher for World Relief through AmeriCorps, then completed a master’s degree in comparative religion at the University of Washington.

“I’ll hopefully be working with refugees for the rest of my life,” she says. “They’re the most resilient, talented, resourceful people I know.”

According to **Caitlin Wasley**, there’s a biblical theme of migration that incorporates not just the orphan and the widow, but also the newcomer.

“Jesus was wandering all over,” she says. “Under the current UN definition, he could be considered a refugee.”

The 2009 SPU graduate, who majored in Christian theology and physics with



## Seminarians Serve Dinner at Tent City 3

On February 25, 14 Seattle Pacific Seminary students and staff made and served turkey chili to the residents of Tent City 3. The homeless encampment was hosted on the SPU campus from December 13 to March 7. Seminary Program Assistant Carina Fung and Seminary Director Billy Vo organized the group, from food purchase and preparation, to serving and cleaning up.

Prior to dinner, the group toured Tent City 3, led by a resident named Steve. The community was well organized and self-managed, and had strict rules about sobriety, no violence, and no drugs. Two residents, acting as security guards, staffed the first tent, where all guests must register. This tent also housed donated medicines and medical supplies. The next tent stored blankets and pillows for residents, which were regularly laundered. Steve showed the group two tents with a television and computers for residents’ use. Another tent stored donated food. In the middle of the space, there was a common area for eating meals. The remaining tents were the residents’ private areas for sleeping.

The students were particularly impressed with the organization of the community and how well they managed supplies and resources and enforced quiet hours. One student said it struck a chord when she saw that one of the residents was the same man who sold newspapers outside her local grocery store on a regular basis.

“I always said hello to him at the market, but I never considered before where he lived or what his life might be like beyond selling the newspaper,” she said. “Seeing him on my campus caused me to pause and reflect on his commute from SPU to the market and how much of his life he spends outside in the cold.”

In addition to student, staff, and community groups providing hot meals to the residents during their SPU stay, several forums, workshops, and lectures were held on campus to educate and inform the SPU community about homelessness and how to help. For more information, check out [spu.edu/tentcity](http://spu.edu/tentcity).



## SPS Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

On May 5, Seattle Pacific University's Asian American Ministry Program and Office of University Ministries joined communities across the nation to commemorate Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

Church leaders and students gathered at First Free Methodist Church for worship, prayer, theological reflection, and discussions about what it means to be an Asian American Christian, and how the collective experience and faith of these believers can enrich the life of the Church and impact the ministry of racial justice and reconciliation today.

Jonathan Tran, a professor of religion at Baylor University, was the keynote speaker. He has authored books and articles related to theology, ethics, race, and identity politics. Tran served on staff with Intervarsity for six years, and frequently speaks at churches and conferences across the country.

### NEW FACULTY

The School of Theology welcomed two new short-term faculty members this year:



### Chad Marshall

Chad Marshall began teaching at SPU in an adjunct role in 2011, and he became a full-time instructor of University Foundations in 2014. He teaches Christian formation, Scripture, and theology. Marshall is currently working on a doctorate in New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he also earned a master of theology degree in biblical studies, as well as his master of divinity degree.

"I enjoy teaching at SPU because it is an ideal setting in which to live out my vocational calling to help students think theologically and missionally about the world and their place in it," Marshall says.

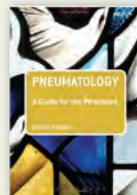


### Jamie Coles

A native of the *other* Washington, Jamie Coles began her role at SPU earlier this year. She teaches University Foundations courses in Christian formation and scripture. Coles received her master of divinity degree from Wesley Theological Seminary, as well as a master of arts in biblical studies (specializing in Old Testament) from The Catholic University of America, where she also completed her coursework toward a doctorate in the same field.

"Teaching is more than a career for me. It's a calling, and so I take my teaching environment very seriously," Coles says. "The sense of community here at SPU that I have witnessed and experienced among faculty, staff, and students has made my teaching experience at SPU immensely fulfilling and rewarding."

## School of Theology Faculty Books



### ***Pneumatology: A Guide for the Perplexed***

By Associate Professor of Dogmatic and Constructive Theology Daniel Castelo

(Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2015)



### ***Drinking from the Wells of New Creation: The Holy Spirit and the Imagination in Reconciliation***

By Professor of Theology Kerry Dearborn

(Cascade Books, 2014)



### ***Calling and Clarity: Discovering What God Wants for Your Life***

By Associate Professor of Theology and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies Douglas Koskela

(Eerdmans Publishing, 2015)



### ***A Compact Guide to the Whole Bible: Learning to Read Scripture's Story***

By Paul T. Walls Professor of Scripture and Wesleyan Studies Rob Wall and Associate Professor of New Testament Studies David R. Nienhuis

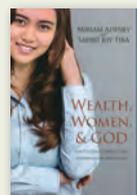
(Baker Academic Press, 2015)



### ***Why the Church? (Reframing New Testament Theology)***

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

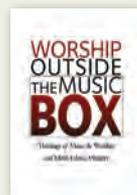
(Abingdon Press, 2015)



### ***Wealth, Women, & God: How to Flourish Spiritually and Economically in Tough Places***

By Associate Professor of World Christian Studies Miriam Adeney and Sadiri Joy Tira

(LifeChange Publishing, 2014)



### ***Worship Outside the Music Box: Theology of Music & Worship and Multi-Ethnic Ministry***

By Associate Professor of Music and Director of the Center for Worship Stephen Michael Newby

(Redemption Press, 2015)

See all School of Theology faculty books at [spu.edu/SOTbooks](http://spu.edu/SOTbooks).



## Farewell, Levisons!

Professor of New Testament Dr. John (Jack) Levison and Professor of Theology Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison have accepted positions at Southern Methodist University. In January, Jack became the W. J. A. Power Chair of Old Testament Interpretation and Biblical Hebrew at SMU's Perkins

School of Theology, where Priscilla will also serve the associate dean for external relations, beginning this fall. Both began their SPU careers in 2001.

We congratulate the Levisons and are excited for their new pursuits. However, their colleagues, students, and former students at SPU feel the loss of two who have contributed profoundly to the teaching and scholarly reputation of the University.



## From the Dean

This month, a wonderful group of students — both seminarians and undergraduate theology majors — graduate from SPU. They offer so many rich gifts for service in our ever-changing world. I have great hope and faith in what God will be able to do in and through them. But I also have a fear. It is a fear born of personal experiences with friends who have gone into church-related occupations. John Wesley used to ask a question to all those who were going to be ordained: “Are you in debt so as to embarrass yourself in ministry?” This question is still asked at some Methodist conferences, and — when asked — it receives rolled eyes and chuckles. Such reactions are actually a result of nervousness, because everyone knows that the rising costs of higher education and the low amount of church staff compensation result in crushing debt for many new pastors. If we’re honest, we know that financial pressures can and do have a negative impact on the possibility of people engaging in effective ministry.

Here at the SPU School of Theology, we have begun to look for ways to provide more opportunities for our students to start off on or to regain a healthy financial footing. You can help, too, by your gifts to student scholarships. All of us are needed to support and encourage our students and soon-to-be Christian leaders.

Doug Strong  
Dean, School of Theology

Give online to:  
**The School of Theology**  
spu.edu/SOTgiving

**Seattle Pacific Seminary**  
spu.edu/SPSgiving



## The Church as Prophetic Witness for Reconciliation

The Center for Biblical and Theological Education hosted a church leaders lunch, “Faith for the Common Good: The Church as Prophetic Witness,” on April 23. The gathering was part of a larger conference, “For Such a Time as This: The Hopes and Challenges of Reconciliation,” put on in partnership with ScholarLeaders International and the John Perkins Center.

The lunch discussion afforded an opportunity to hear how the church can

serve as a witness of hope and reconciliation in a war-torn, conflict-laden world through: a view from Israel/Palestine by Dr. Salim Munayer, director of Musalaha (a nonprofit focused on Israel/Palestine reconciliation) and professor at Bethlehem Bible College; a view from city hall from Seattle City Councilman Tim Burgess; and a view from the church by Rev. Lina Thompson, Lake Burien Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Peter Chin, Rainier Avenue Free Methodist Church.

## 2015 Paul T. Walls Lecture



Doug Koskela, SPU associate professor of theology and the associate dean of undergraduate studies in the School of Theology, gave the 2015 Paul T. Walls Lecture in Wesleyan Theology on May 6 at First Free Methodist Church.

His talk, “I Knew When Written on My Heart: Experience and the Knowledge of God,” looked at the ways in which an experience of the heart enable us to know God. Koskela

examined how we relate the intellectual claims of the Christian faith to the dynamics we experience on the way of salvation, citing John Wesley’s sermons and other writings, which articulated a carefully defined and crucial role for such experiences. Communities in the Wesleyan tradition have tended to follow Wesley in valuing both the head and the heart, yet many believers sense a tension between them, says Koskela. He explored the place of spiritual perception in Wesley’s understanding of how one comes to embrace the Christian faith, and also considered the contemporary relevance of Wesley’s vision in the particular settings of congregational ministry and Christian educational institutions.

Rob McKenna, chair and associate professor of SPU’s Department of Industrial-Organizational Psychology, served as the respondent.

## Fowl Examines Idolatry’s Causes, Avoidance



What might lead the people of God into idolatry, and how can they avoid it? Dr. Stephen Fowl explored this question on January 22 at the free 38th annual Alfred S. Palmer Lecture, hosted by SPU’s School of Theology and Seattle Pacific Seminary.

Fowl, a professor of theology at Loyola University Maryland and SPU’s 2014–15 theologian in residence, believes it is extremely rare for someone to wake up one morning and decide to

begin worshipping a false god. In his lecture, Fowl showed that through the lens of Deuteronomy 6, the history of Israel and the Church testifies that God’s people often erred into idolatry. This lapse is often the result of the small, incremental accumulation of dispositions, habits, and practices cultivated over time. By the time a prophet confronts someone over idolatry, it is almost impossible to recognize how he or she got there and how the individual might repent.

An annual event at SPU since 1978, the Palmer Lecture Series “seeks to bring the best minds and hearts in Wesleyan theology and biblical studies to campus to discuss the Christian faith from a Wesleyan perspective.” The lectureship is held in honor of Alfred Palmer, a pastoral leader in Western Washington for more than half a century.

Coming October 25–27

### EQUIPPING FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN LEADERS: Theological Education and Church Renewal

Seattle Pacific Seminary, in cooperation with A Foundation for Theological Education, Duke Divinity School, and the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, will co-host an “Equipping Faithful Christian Leaders” event October 25–27. This invitation-only event brings together faculty and administrators from seminaries and universities across the U.S. to reflect on the future of theological education, as well as fresh expressions of ecclesiology in the North American church.

Keynote speakers include Dr. L. Gregory Jones, senior strategist for leadership education and the Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. professor of Christian ministry at Duke Divinity School; Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean, the Mary D. Synnott professor of youth, church, and culture at Princeton Theological Seminary; and Rev. Dr. Kenneth Carter, bishop of the Florida area of the United Methodist Church.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Seattle, WA  
Permit #1179

School of Theology / Seattle Pacific Seminary  
3307 Third Avenue West, Suite 204  
Seattle, Washington 98119-1950  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Engaging the culture, changing the world®  
**Seattle Pacific UNIVERSITY**

**Kingswood**  
Chronicle  
Uniting Knowledge and Vital Piety

Newletter for School of Theology Alumni and Friends

If you would like to receive a digital version of *Kingswood Chronicle*, please email [theology@spu.edu](mailto:theology@spu.edu).

**School of Theology Online**  
spu.edu/theology  
**Seattle Pacific Seminary**  
spu.edu/seminary  
**Center for Biblical and Theological Education**  
spu.edu/cbte

