



SAINT PAUL SCHOOL
OF THEOLOGY
ANNUAL REPORT
2012/2013

MAKING CONNECTIONS



LEAVING AND GOING AND MARKING GRACE ALONG THE WAY

DR. DANIEL O. ALESHIRE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS



*Saint Paul School of Theology,
55th Opening Convocation
Greater Kansas City Campus,
Wesley Covenant Chapel
September 3, 2013*

The LORD said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing. CEB

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. NRSV

The last time I heard this Genesis 12:1-9 text was at a baccalaureate service that preceded commencement at Bangor Theological Seminary this past June. It was Bangor's 199th year of operation, and its last commencement. This venerable seminary could not make it to its 200th year.

The preacher, Pamela Shellberg, spoke about how differently the text feels when the verb in Yahweh's command is translated "leave," as in the Common English Bible or "go," as in the NRSV. The translation ambivalence of the Hebrew verb embodies an emotional ambivalence between leaving and going. "To leave," in many ways, evokes images of what was or might have been, of what has been vacated. Leaving can be joyful if the place left behind was full of pain and sorrow. It can be painful, however, when the place left behind was full of good moments and people. Leaving has a way of focusing on memory. "To go," on the other hand, is to look toward the horizon, to think about the future. Going has a way of focusing on hope.

Saint Paul School of Theology is both leaving and going. It is leaving a campus with historic connections and contemporary problems. It is leaving a view of the city that has been used more than once as icon of its mission and sentinel of its location. It is going to the campus of a nationally influential United Methodist

congregation. It is going to an educational model that makes a congregational setting a central part of the Saint Paul curriculum. It is pioneering a future model of collaboration and inventing a paradigm of theological education that shows promise of serving the future as effectively as an older paradigm served the past.

Many of the questions faced by this seminary are shared by other schools looking for answers to growing problems. Last year, 60 percent of all freestanding theological schools that are members of the Association of Theological Schools had deficit budgets. In the past five years, six freestanding schools have merged with denominational colleges or teaching universities. Two freestanding schools have closed in the past three years. Average seminary graduate debt has grown almost fourfold since 1991.

The stresses that were bearing down on Saint Paul are not unique, and the economic model of smaller, freestanding theological schools continues to be stressed and, in some cases, broken. The decision to leave was not an easy one, and the process of leaving has not been easy, but there will be a future that may not have been if the decision were not made.

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CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY: NOT DOING IT ALONE

Here, at Saint Paul School of Theology we could never speak of going it alone. We speak of community, the body of Christ, and we speak of collaboration.



Saint Paul School of Theology moved their offices to Overland Park off of I-435 and Roe on July 15. In the true spirit of Christian outreach, the entire team of staff and administrators from the Saint Paul at OCU campus drove five hours each way from Oklahoma City to Kansas City to surprise their colleagues and to help unpack that day. Pictured: Rick Burns, Brian Green-Young (MDiv '99), President Myron McCoy, Elaine Robinson, and Rachel McClain.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 ELV
1 Corinthians 12:20-25
Romans 15:5-6
Ephesians 4:16

How challenged we are when we consider our ability to accomplish anything of real substance on our own. This kind of isolated sense of self sufficiency sounds well for some who speak of “pulling themselves up by their own bootstraps.”

Yet, everywhere we turn we recognize dependence on God and/or someone. Can anyone be a “private” Christian? Of course not! The Biblical witness reminds us that the Christian faith is always about community and our dependence upon others even when we as individuals experience private encounters with God. T.S. Eliot reminds us of such in “Choruses from The Rock:”

*What life have you if you have not life together?
There is no life that is not in community,
And no community not lived in praise of God.*

*Even the anchorite who meditates alone,
For whom days and nights repeat the praise of God
Prays for the church, the body of Christ incarnate.*

Here, at Saint Paul School of Theology we could never speak of going it alone. We speak of community, the body of Christ, and we speak of collaboration. Collaboration is when two or more

entities deliberately contribute or participate in creating/producing something more than any one of the single entities could alone ever expect to produce or accomplish. Even though we may not have used this word “collaboration” much in the past, it is nothing new for us. Collaboration is in our DNA, as churches and other social service/ministry sites and their site supervisors have collaborated with us in preparing our students through contextual education.

Collaboration is what we are doing with our second campus setting at Oklahoma City University with major help and support of the Oklahoma Area of the United Methodist Church.

Collaboration allowed us to get out of the business of being property owners with the move to the Church of the Resurrection. This has given us the opportunity to have a more focused emphasis on ministry practitioners being an ever-intentional part of the classroom experience, and the church being a vital learning center.

While I am not being exhaustive in all the ways we are engaged collaboratively with others, it is important to note that we believe we can accomplish so much more by not going it alone.

Having said that, please know how much you who support us are appreciated as collaborators with us. We have a great mission, but we could not get far without the generosity of persons like you. Thank you immensely for collaborating with us as we forge ahead, finding a path into the future. ■

MAKING CONNECTIONS

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IS REAL TO SAINT PAUL STUDENT



“I have accepted this call in hopes to deal with social justice, wrongful convictions and the human condition where it relates to poverty, division among racial lines, and world thirst and hunger.”

When Darryl Burton began seminary at Saint Paul a year ago, he came with deep convictions. His focus has been strong from his first day in seminary. “I have accepted this call in hopes to deal with social justice, wrongful convictions and the human condition where it relates to poverty, division among racial lines, and world thirst and hunger,” he said.

Burton personally understands many of these issues all too clearly. In 1984 he was wrongfully imprisoned for a crime that he did not commit. A drug dealer was shot to death at a gas station in St. Louis, Missouri. The man who shot him was a light skinned African American 5’5” in height. Police looked for suspects and even

though Burton was dark skinned and 5'10" in height he was brought in. Two men came forward identifying Burton as the criminal. Both were awaiting trial but were given a lighter sentence if they testified that Burton was guilty. Darryl Burton was assigned a public defender to represent him who spent only one hour with him before the trial. The jury convicted him in less than an hour and Burton found himself being sentenced to life in prison without parole. He was assigned to the Missouri State Penitentiary, one of the most violent prisons in the United States.

"When I heard the jurors say 'guilty' I felt shock and disbelief. I just didn't think that in America an innocent man could be sent to prison for the crime of capital murder," explained Burton. He clearly remembers a huge banner that hung at the entrance of the penitentiary that said "Welcome to the Missouri State Pen. Leave all your hopes, family, and dreams behind." "When I saw that banner it deeply affected me and I didn't have hope. I hated the place, the system, and anyone that had anything to do with it. It was hell on earth. There was a lot of violence, a lot of evil, and a lot of hate." Burton remained in prison from 1984-2008-a total of 24 years.

Burton spent his days in the prison's law library, bent on proving his innocence. He wrote over 600 letters to the government, nonprofit organizations, even Oprah Winfrey to plead his case. It was not until he accepted Christ in his life that he began to notice a change in his life. "Anger and hate can be another prison. Jesus said that we must do three things in life: love your enemy, pray for them and forgive them. Until I read in the Bible, Luke 23:34 I didn't think that was possible," he said. Ten years before Burton's exoneration, he felt that he was freed spiritually. "God had to work

something out of me (bitterness and hatred) in order to work something into me (love and grace) in order to now do His work through me."

After getting a break by receiving a confession from a witness who said in 1985, "You have the wrong man, he's too dark," Burton worked with Centurion Ministries to have his wrongful conviction overturned. Darryl recalls a letter that he wrote to Jesus while imprisoned. It said "Jesus if you're real and help me get out of this place, not only will I serve you, but I'll tell the world about you." He now shares his story of adversity if it will help others or bring glory to the name of Jesus. Since 2008, he has spoken about forgiveness, redemption and hope at churches and conferences around the globe. He celebrated five years of exoneration this past August and doesn't take one day for granted.

Now Darryl Burton is at Saint Paul School of Theology and serves as a Resurrection Scholar intern at Church of the Resurrection. "I'm doing things today that can only be by the grace and mercy of God," Burton said. "I have come to embrace my walk of faith. I pray to be a humble servant in my ministry." ■



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MAKING CONNECTIONS

PROFESSOR CONNECTS **RESTORATIVE JUSTICE** EXPERIENCES IN SEMINARY CLASSES



“While practicing law I saw first-hand how the system worked. I became quickly convinced that there was a much more biblical way of doing justice.”

Saint Paul faculty member Stan Basler (DMin '00) is dedicated to restorative justice. “There is a part of me that desires systemic change,” said Basler. “I understand the limitations of one person so I hope to increase the effectiveness of others going into ministry or into the practice of law by teaching.” Basler taught classes in restorative justice at the Oklahoma City University Law School for fourteen years. Some law students

assisted reentering inmates with legal problems through Project Reentry, a pro bono program that Basler and the law school established. Now Dr. Basler shares his restorative justice knowledge with seminary students as the Visiting Professor of Restorative Justice and Prison Ministries at Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University. He is the lead faculty for the Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Master of Divinity specialization.

Stan Basler brings a wealth of experience with him when he steps into the classroom. He practiced law for thirteen years before deciding to go to seminary. "While practicing law I saw first-hand how the system worked. I became quickly convinced that there was a much more biblical way of doing justice." Basler remembered praying and acknowledging that he liked working with people in trouble. Later a position would open up to work in prison ministry. "It just felt like God had remembered that conversation."

Basler worked as Director of Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries in the Oklahoma UMC Conference from June 1994 through February 2013. During that time he helped to found three Redemption Churches in Lawton, Oklahoma City and Tulsa for prisoners, former prisoners, their families, and congregants never incarcerated. He also worked with the Oklahoma United Methodist Conference to establish two "New Day Camps" for children with incarcerated parents. He was a driving force in founding the Exodus House ministry in Oklahoma City and Tulsa which provides transitional living for former prisoners and their families. Basler was co-chair of the board of John Wesley Charter School, a school for juvenile offenders and dropouts.

Many of the issues and questions that Stan Basler discusses in class are based on these experiences. "I've learned on the ground ways to deal with prison ministry situations so I can share common mistakes and effective practices." Basler can keenly explain the interpersonal affects and issues when someone goes to prison. "This is a ministry in which there are severe peaks and valleys and it is important not to get discouraged."

While teaching, Dr. Basler continues to pastor at Penn Ave. Redemption Church in Oklahoma City and participates in Kairos Prison Ministry, an adaptation of the United Methodist Walk to Emmaus program. "I find a lot of meaning and purpose in prison ministry settings," he said. "It's been my experience that Christ is most present among the least of these."

Stan Basler was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Award in 2011 for his extensive work with prison and restoration ministries. "There are over 2 million people locked up in this country. Many are parents. This population is very low on the sympathy index but the time and money spent for restorative ministries will effect generations to come." ■



PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2013— BISHOP FRITZ AND ETTA MAE MUTTI

Bishop Fritz (DMin '75) and **Etta Mae Mutti** were the recipients of the 2013 President's Award at the spring banquet. Both have been faithful supporters of the seminary through the years.

Bishop Mutti received his DMin degree from Saint Paul in 1975, was the first Bishop-in-Residence for the seminary, and has taught multiple classes. Etta Mae has been very supportive not only of Fritz's work at Saint Paul, but also in her own way as a supplier of good food to many students and committees. The two helped to establish the World AIDS Day service at the seminary which is now observed each year.

Fritz began his service on the Saint Paul Board of Trustees in 1990, serving 23 years. In his role as Trustee in the past year he has served as a bridge between the seminary and concerned alumni and friends. He also served on the Truman Road Campus Committee in addition to his work of chairing the Personnel & Trustee Search and Development Committee of the Board.

"Fritz and Etta Mae are a vital part of the Saint Paul family and have been for many years. I thank you on behalf of the seminary for all you have done and continue to do for us," said President Myron McCoy.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

KANSAS CITY KANSAS ALUM BELIEVES COLLABORATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO GETTING THINGS DONE



“Collaborative efforts like this are not only the right thing to do but they are essential.”

Mark R. Holland (DMin '09) believes that collaboration is the way to get things done. “Anymore, no one stands alone,” he said. Holland was elected as the 28th Mayor of the City of Kansas City, Kansas and the 3rd Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas this past April 2013. He also continues as

part-time pastor of Trinity Community Church, a United Methodist Congregation that he has served for the past 14 years. Holland focused his doctoral work at Saint Paul School of Theology on the concept of “holy conferencing” an early Methodist principle set forth by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

Wesley believed that “holy conferencing” – Christians conferring together for the sake of peace and truth seeking – was a “means of grace.” “Holy conferencing is essential to the structure and polity of our church,” Holland explained. “It is so important to our church that all essential decisions regarding bylaws and elections are done in group

conference settings.” Holland believes that collaborative theology is the theology of the church. As a final project, he held a holy conference with the ten United Methodist Churches in KCK. They talked about how the churches could work best for the Wesleyan witness in Kansas City, Kansas.



They spoke about ideas for change and collaborative opportunities.

After that meeting, Holland’s congregation decided to take that model of collaboration and own it. “We wanted to put community in the center of all that we do.” Soon they were hosting groups such as Head Start, Wyandotte Mental Health, and PACES program for at-risk youth. They also

began collaborating with the Red Cross so that they are now the Designated Volunteer Report Center for natural disaster in Wyandotte County. The church also cast a vision to be a multicultural congregation that reflects the diverse cultural, economic, political and cultural neighborhood where it resides. “Kansas City, Kansas has no ethnic majority right now,” said Holland.

“Anymore, no one stands alone.”

With a grant from the Kansas East Conference they are in the process of creating a United Nations model where each service is interpreted into various languages and people can dial into the language that they need. “The spirit of our church is so strong. We have a great group of leaders who have helped us get these initiatives started,” he said.

Holland is a fourth generation Wyandotte Countian. In 2006, Holland found that he was involved in a lot of nonprofit boards and agencies while serving as a pastor. He consulted with others and then decided to run for the Office of County Commissioner. If he won, he would then step off other boards. Holland talked with his family, his Staff Parish Committee, and his Bishop before running. He also consulted former Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor and current Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II (MDiv ’76) about how he navigated being a pastor and being in the political realm. After Mark won by a small margin he began his work in government. With six years of experience he then decided to run for Mayor. “What an honor to serve as pastor and mayor in my hometown,” said Holland who is also a 3rd generation pastor. “Kansas City, Kansas has been first and last in all of the wrong categories in recent years.” “I am very excited about where we are headed. I want the best for my community,” said Mark Holland.

While Mark found collaborative ministry in church to be essential, he also realizes that the community can’t get anything done without it either. He cited many upcoming projects with one of the largest collaborative efforts in Kansas City, Kansas, being *Healthy Communities Wyandotte*. The initiative began as a response to the 2009 Kansas County

“We wanted to put community in the center of all that we do.”

Health Rankings report, which listed Wyandotte County as having the worst health in the state. Concerned that residents were dying too young and suffering from too many chronic diseases, civic leaders convened residents and representatives from more than 50 organizations and neighborhoods to brainstorm solutions.

The countywide coalition aims to help Wyandotte become the most improved county for health in the state of Kansas. “Collaborative efforts like this are not only the right thing to do but they are essential,” said Mayor Holland. ■

MAKING CONNECTIONS

OKLAHOMA GRADUATE AND **CHURCH** **CONNECT** WITH TORNADO VICTIMS



“Many people in Moore and the surrounding communities don’t have a church home. People were just hungry to have others pray with them.”

When Rev. Kathy Brown (MDiv '12) began her first appointment after seminary at New Life United Methodist Church in Moore, Oklahoma she had no idea how much the weather would affect her ministry.

An EF5 tornado hit the city of Moore, Oklahoma, and adjacent areas on

the afternoon of May 20, 2013. “We were located far enough north that we still had electricity,” said Brown. “May 21st we opened our church doors and put up signs stating that we had electricity and water.” Neighbors would stop by for bottles of water and to just plug in their cell phones so that they could communicate with family and friends.



Pastors and lay leaders worked together. Rev. Tish Malloy '85, Rev. Adam Shahan (SPST at OCU) and Rev. Chris Dodson '05 were other area Saint Paul pastors.

New Life UMC had already made outreach part of their identity. “We really wanted to focus on the community. This disaster made the congregation realize that there is a need at our back door. Many people in Moore and the surrounding communities don’t have a church home. People were just hungry to have others pray with them,” said Brown.

Kathy thought back to her seminary training at Saint Paul at OCU. “From day one in Dr. Sondra Matthaei’s *Introduction to Ministry* class we were told that as a pastor you need to know the resources in your community. Every class at Saint Paul School of Theology talked about focusing on the context and the area resources. I really have seen the importance of this teaching,” she said. Brown also shared that she thought that it was vital to ask lots of questions upon arriving to a new appointment and then really listen to fully understand the congregation’s identity as well as the events of the lives of those that make up the congregation.

New Life UMC is a unique church setting with a rural church feel yet it is located in the middle of a metro area. There are several generations of families that attend, as well as a good mix of elderly, middle age, young adults, youth, and children in the congregation. “Everyone knows everyone but they also treat guests like another member of our family,” said Brown. Since her appointment at New Life UMC the church has grown from an average weekly attendance of 25-30 to 65-70 people every Sunday.

As a small church, New Life UMC wondered what they could do with limited resources to help their sister UMC churches and the Moore community. Like so many in the community they immediately began helping with the clean-up efforts but they wanted to do more. They had collaborated with other local churches in the past but in this instance it was time to reach further. Rev. Kathy Brown took to the internet to connect with others. New Life UMC coordinated a toy drive via Facebook for the families in Moore that were impacted. “I saw the power of the connectional system immediately,” said Brown. There were truck loads of toys that arrived almost immediately and came from as far as the states of Washington and Florida. Other supplies such as quilts arrived from Montana. “We could not have provided these things ourselves but we did learn from this situation,” Kathy said. “When we work together, we can be a vessel for Christ’s work and resources are unlimited.” ■



“Collaboration is at the heart of the transition upon which Saint Paul has embarked – collaboration with our many immersion sites, with the United Methodist Church and our ecumenical partners, with practitioners, with the churches our students are serving, with Oklahoma City University, with the Church of the Resurrection, and with Resurrection’s many collaborative partners.

This is not just a method for delivering theological education. It is an introduction to an immersion in the type of ministry that our students will be called to lead as they encounter the radical changes taking place in communities of faith in the 21st Century.”

*Twila Glenn,
Saint Paul School of Theology
Board of Trustee Chair*

MAKING CONNECTIONS

OVERSEAS CONNECTION-SCHOLARSHIP GIVEN IN NAME OF KOREAN DMIN GRAD



At the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Dr. Song is invited to present on “peace and welfare”.



Rev. Dr. Yun-Soon Song (DMin'10) graduated with the first Doctor of Ministry Korean Track in Wesleyan Spirituality and Congregational Renewal at Saint Paul School of Theology. Since then she has been serving the Mealall Methodist Church as an Associate, specializing in ministry to foreign laborers as well as

immigrant workers, and at many times undocumented workers and their families. She wrote her DMin Praxis Thesis about these issues, for which she has received an honor and distinction. At the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which is being held in Busan, South Korea, she is invited to present on “peace and welfare” at the



theological discussion session. This is an honor personally for her and vicariously for Saint Paul School of Theology because she was singled out for this task even though she is not of the teaching faculty at the Theological School. “We are very proud of her and wish her all the best,” said Dr. Young Ho Chun.

Rev. Dr. Song is singularly honored by her spouse, Rev. Ki Seo Park, the senior pastor of the Mealall Methodist Church, who has endowed a Scholarship Fund in her name in the amount of \$30,000. He initially gave \$15,000 in 2010 and gave the remaining amount of \$15,000 in September. Saint Paul School of Theology is very grateful for their loyalty and unwavering confidence in the seminary’s theological education and especially the Doctor of Ministry program. Rev. Park and Dr. Song have also expressed their confidence in the scholarship and leadership of Prof. Dr. Young Ho Chun, and the scholarship is an expression of their affection and respect for him. ■

THE OTHER RECENT DONORS TOWARD THE KOREAN LEADERSHIP FUND ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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6. Rev. Young Boon Yoon, The Hyundai Christian Council\$5,000



“I didn’t give for the buildings,
I give to Saint Paul because I
believe in the mission of the
school.”

*Melvin Winger
Board member, Johnson Kansas*

Winger’s granddaughter Elizabeth Winger Young is a seminarian at Saint Paul School of Theology and works as a Children and Youth Minister at Leawood United Methodist Church.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

THE COST OF RECEIVING A SAINT PAUL DEGREE

HOUSING
\$10,200

AVERAGE COST
OF BOOKS AND FEES PER YEAR

\$3,000

30 HOURS
OF TUITION

\$17,100

TOTAL COST OF A THREE
YEAR MASTER OF
DIVINITY DEGREE:

\$90,900

Thank you

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“As a United Methodist elder serving churches in Oklahoma, being connected is a part of my life. My wife Rebekah Wallace Belase MDiv '06, a United Methodist deacon, is a senior manager with Church World Service. She helps communities raise money to combat hunger, locally and globally.

We both try to teach our daughter that we live in a connected world. Each decision we make affects many people. We believe in using our connections in the church and through our seminary to help change the world in positive ways.”

Rev. Derrek Belase, MDiv '07

Thank you



“One of the profound things I have realized is that my ministry in this rural area is really towards the whole community. We are pastors for our church indeed, but we also share in shaping the lives of so many beyond our congregation. One of the ways this happens for us is through our weekly radio devotion that is broadcasted every weekday. I can’t tell you how many people we run into from Goodland, Kansas, and the surrounding counties who listen to this devotion. I serve and connect people through the Goodland Kiwanis Club and facilitate classes for the Kansas Leadership Center. Rev. Dr. Shelly (Cox) Petz, MDiv’02 and I have organized Praise in the Park for the last three summers to worship and build bridges with five other congregations from various traditions in the area. Everywhere we go people choose to share their lives with us. Just going out to eat or to the store becomes an opportunity to connect.

Ministry in a rural community is about doing life together with the people. Jesus proclaims just before he is crucified and raised to new life that he will send the Advocate (Holy Spirit) to come along side of the disciples. In many ways I find that a pastor’s work is to be sent out to the people, to be called alongside the community, to serve and to love them all.”

Rev. Dr. Dustin Petz, MDiv ‘03

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 Rev. Lee R. Johnson '87



“Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a reminds us that “two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other.”

While this verse speaks of the value of friendship, I believe it also speaks of the value of connection in ministry. My ministry life has been richer and more rewarding as I have connected with others across generations, ethnicity, gender, denominations, etc., in pastoring, evangelism and mentoring young girls. I am thankful for the support of many who lift me when I fall and encourage me to go further. Thus, my charge to others is to make connections, lift one another in love, and expect a GREAT reward for your work together!”

Rev. Shannon Hancock, MDiv '10 is the pastor of St. Paul AME Zion church and has cofounded Sisters of Substance Foundation.

Thank you



“**T**his little boy, Alex, played in the waters of baptism as I prayed over him. His simple, joyful act mesmerized my congregation and me as we prepared to baptize him. It was an awesome reminder of our calling to delight in the joy of the Lord. Ministry, while difficult, should be a joyous enterprise.

Our church is made up of people from many walks of life: traditional families, single parents, divorcees, children and youth, wealthy and homeless, straight and gay, Tigers and Jayhawks, etc. Although we all are different, and we have different burdens and struggles, the joy of the Lord binds us together as One. While there are many things that could, in theory, come between us, we understand that we are all just playing in the waters of our baptism, just like Alex.”

Rev. Eric Huffman MDiv '06 co-leads two urban churches in Kansas City, MO with his wife Rev. Geovanna Chavez Huffman MDiv '06.

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“When I was serving at Community United Methodist Church in Nome, Alaska, I was part of a grassroots group who started a winter emergency shelter. This was after I had done my first funeral as a pastor for a man who froze to death. During a feedback session with shelter guests, they shared their need to have the shelter open an hour earlier and close a couple hours later. From their experience, 7:00 am was one of the coldest, darkest times of the day and they literally had nowhere to go to get out of the cold. The shelter was not willing to do this on Sunday mornings. I brought the idea to my church council. They approved us opening our doors to our neighbors early each Sunday morning. Not all guests stayed for our Sunday activities, but some did, and wanted to grow in their faith through discussions and worship.

This opportunity to serve God and neighbor would not have been possible without first building relationships with the shelter guests to assess their needs. Making connections is vital to being the hands and feet of Jesus in our world.”

Rev. Julie Yoder Elmore, MDiv '08

Thank you



Rev. Lorenza Andrade Smith MDiv '09 received the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Award from Saint Paul School of Theology for her ministry with the poor and marginalized. In solidarity, she has rejected all compensation and benefits for three years to live among the people on the streets or as she calls it "live under the stars."

She has been asked to speak in multiple locations from New York to Alaska. In each situation, she continues to sleep on the street to know what others face in each context. "I am merely trying to communicate the love of God, because I think that is the transforming element in all of our lives," she said. "I want to communicate this love by embodying the gospel in a way that offers mutual respect and dignity. At this point in my ministry I am listening and learning in the ministry of presence."

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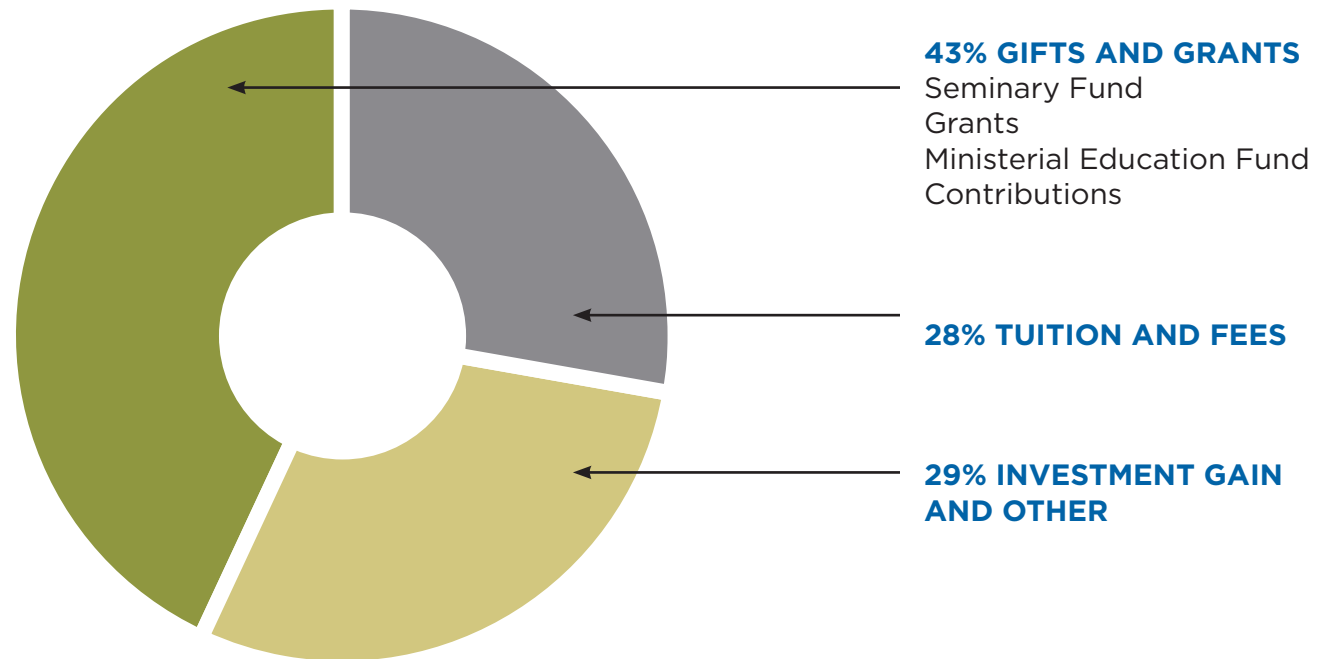
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March 25, 2014

Evangelical Society Lecture
Greater Kansas City Campus

April 23, 2014

Cleaver Lecture: Religion
and Public Life
St. James UMC, Kansas City,
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May 23, 2014

Commencement
Greater Kansas City Campus

May 28 - June 6, 2014

Holy Land Trip sponsored
by Saint Paul Academy

August 22, 2014

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First row: Rev. Eduardo Bousson (MDiv '00), Andy Blacksher, Bishop Fritz Mutti, Dr. Myron McCoy, Melvin Winger

Second row: Ashley Cheung (MDiv '06), Rev. Charlotte Abram (MDiv '89), Twila Glenn, Judge Julie Robinson, Dr. Michael Parmely, Dr. Robert Cox

Third row: Roger Marshall, Bishop Ann Sherer-Simpson, Brian Green-Young (MTS '99), Glenn Grove, John Ballard, Dr. Kristen Kvam, Bishop Scott Jones, Judy Benson, Rev. Adam Hamilton

Not pictured: Rev. Wayne Alloway, Harry Cleberg, Charles Foudree, Rev. Barry Freese (MDiv '99), Greg Harvey, Bishop Robert Hayes, Joyce Kerber, Bishop Gregory Palmer, Craig Ramsey, Dr. Elaine Robinson, Rev. Chris Ruddell (MDiv '00), Bishop Robert Schnase, Dr. Harold Washington



Saint Paul grad and board member Rev. Ashley Cheung, MDiv '06 enjoys a tour of the new office space from Rev. Lee Johnson '87, Director of Alumni Relations and Leigh Precise, Advancement Coordinator. Ashley's son shows that moving can be fun from the inside of a moving crate.



Michelle Alexander JD, author of *The New Jim Crow*, spoke movingly about mass incarceration at the Cleaver Lecture in April.



Dr. Harold Washington was installed as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean this past spring. Dr. Roger Hahn (back) of Nazarene Theological Seminary gave the address.



Rev. David Moose, Sr. MDiv '68 and his wife Judith from Kentucky reunite with former classmates/friends Rev. John Lurvey, Jr. MDiv '67 and Rev. Gwen Jones-Lurvey MDiv '68 from California. They joined forty others at the 2013 Graduate Luncheon following the Saint Paul 55th Opening Convocation.

Saint Paul Communications Department

Questions/Comments: Heather Chamberlin, Director of Communications
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