

## ENROLLMENT

We are expecting at least six students for the Fall semester—some full-time, some part-time. Keep our student body and faculty in your prayers, please.

## SPEAKING SCHEDULE

Our Academic Dean, Rev. Jim Dennison, has preached in Orthodox Presbyterian churches in Oak Harbor, Lynnwood, Port Angeles, Monroe and Bothell. In April, at Oak Harbor, he spoke on the Life of Augustine of Hippo.

Jim will be in Denver (Covenant PCA, Wheatridge) and Southern California (New Life Mission PCA, La Jolla) in June. In August, he will speak on the Gospel of John at the OPC Family Camp, Wamic, Oregon. He is also preparing work on Irenaeus and Redemptive History (August NWTs Pastor's Institute) and a review of the revisionist assessment of Arius and Athanasius (future issue of *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary*).

Rev. J. Peter Vosteen, Professor of Homiletics, spoke at Faith Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Grants Pass, Oregon in April. Pete will be a commissioner to the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in South Hamilton, MA in June. He will also preach at the Pleasant Street CRC, Whitinsville, MA (a church he pastored from 1970-75).

## PUBLICATIONS

All have been printed in *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary* 17/1 (May 2002).

James T. Dennison, Jr., "What is the 'Critical' Reading of the Bible?"

James T. Dennison, Jr., Book Reviews of: John Welch, *Chiasmus in Antiquity*  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Chiasmus Bibliography*

E.R. Wendland, *Discourse Perspectives on Hebrew Poetry in the Scriptures*

R.N. Soulen and R.K. Soulen, *Handbook of Biblical Criticism*

D.A. Black and D.R. Beck, *Rethinking the Synoptic Problem*

Bibleworks 5.0 (Bible software package).

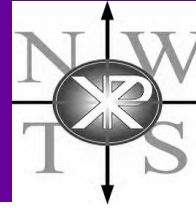
Tin Ling Harrell, "The Lamb is My Shepherd" (poem).

Copies of the *Journal* are still available. The annual subscription is \$20.00 for three issues (May, September, December). Checks may be made payable to NWTs and sent to our mailing address.

If you wish a subscription form, see [www.kerux.com](http://www.kerux.com).

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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
NEWSLETTER



# Our Story

Northwest Theological Seminary has successfully concluded its first academic year. All the assignments have been completed; all the lectures have been delivered; all the papers have been written and the exams graded. By God's grace, it has been a wonderful year of studying, learning, growing. As we pause to thank our Lord, we also pause to reflect upon our mission as an institution.

We have launched our small "school of the prophets" fully committed to displaying the Lord Jesus Christ in the Law, the Prophets, the Writings (Lk. 24:44), the Gospels, Epistles and Revelation ("the whole counsel of God," Acts 20:27). It was our express purpose to trace the history of redemption from the beginning to the end of the Bible; and to do so in such a way as to exalt our blessed Redeemer prospectively and retrospectively. I am happy to report that every book of the Bible was surveyed in biblical-theological fashion by means of our Old and New Testament Introduction courses. It is our prayer that each student attending these two courses has a redemptive-historical, Christ-centered, God-glorifying orientation to each and every book in God's inerrant Word. And it is our prayer that each student, seeing Christ revealed in all of Scripture, will love him above all

else, serve him with passion, honor and build up his precious Bride, the church.

In order to penetrate the Scriptures, our mission mandates facility in the languages in which the Holy Spirit breathed out God's Word. Our first year Greek class provided the foundation for exegesis of the New Testament. In order to proclaim the Scriptures, our mission mandates competence in sermon composition and structure, skill in delivery and passion for the act of preaching. Our first year Homiletics class initiated our students in the task of preaching.

As a seminary in the Reformed tradition, we are also committed to the Reformed Standards (Westminster Confession and Catechisms; Three Forms of Unity). The required course in the Westminster Confession of Faith provides an overview of the system of Reformed doctrine. Thoroughly Calvinistic, the Westminster Divines gave the church a marvelous summary of the Reformed faith. Each student taking this course emerged with a deeper appreciation for and fidelity to the system of doctrine found in the Confession.

But we are also aware of the changes in theological thinking since the 17th century. NWTs students need to be aware of the

history of interpretation of the Bible from the Reformation to post-Modernism. Our course in the History of Biblical Theology enables our students to read and interact with Reimarus, Hegel,

Bultmann, Barth, Childs (and many others). The shifting hermeneutic which affects the church is tied to shifting philosophical and cultural fads. The history of interpretation is as much a history of philosophy rising from and affecting the culture's demand for relevance. Genuine biblical theology anchors "relevance" in union with Christ—not union with the cultural and philosophical fads of the hour.

As we find ourselves related to the history of the hermeneutical discussions; as we find ourselves related to our 16th and 17th century Calvinistic roots; so too we find ourselves related to the history of the early church! Our Patristics course traces the history of doctrine from the 1st to the 7th century. We learn of the poignant martyrdom of Polycarp; the profound two Adams biblical theology of Irenaeus; the penetrating (if not controversial) mind of Origen; the heroic narrative of Athanasius—champion of Nicene orthodoxy against the Arians; the three remarkable Cappadocians; golden throated Chrysostom; the restless and brilliant Augustine; the detail-oriented Jerome. NWTS students read primary texts (in English translation) of each of these fathers (and more). In appreciation for the past, our students are better prepared to discern the challenges of the present.

Our mission is to serve the church through educated and devoted students. We pray that we are training humble servants, not ecclesiastical tyrants. Our prayer is that our students have understood death—death to self (in the cross of Christ)—and resurrection—resurrection to new life in the risen Savior. Semi-eschatological servanthood is our prayer for ourselves, our students, the church.

—James T. Dennison, Jr.

### NIGHT CLASS

We have been asked to offer a night class in the Fall Semester. Therefore we are planning to offer the Westminster Confession of Faith on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:30 pm, September 3 to December 3, 2002. This class can be audited for \$40.00. If you are interested in auditing or enrolling in the course for academic credit, please contact Ling Harrell, the Registrar, at (425) 787-5144.

### SUMMER PASTOR'S INSTITUTE

As a means of encouraging continuing education for pastors, but also as a means of edifying God's people in general, NWTS will sponsor a week of lectures by Dr. Jeffrey Weima (see flyer) and special afternoon sessions each day:

**Monday**—Robert Starke on the Life of Samson

**Tuesday**—James Lee on the Biblical Theology of Worship

**Wednesday**—Scott Hunter on Biblical Theology and the Great Commission

**Thursday**—Rob Broline on Mary and Elizabeth

**Friday**—Jim Dennison on Irenaeus and Redemptive History

We would be delighted to have you attend!

### FINANCES

Please continue to pray for the Lord's provision for our labors. We are encouraged by the generosity of God's people—we need more financial support so we can expand our faculty and curriculum. If you know of anyone who has a heart to support us, we have information packets about the seminary. Please contact John Lee at (425) 482-6481 or at [john.lee92@verizon.net](mailto:john.lee92@verizon.net).

### REASONS TO REJOICE

John Lee has finished round 3 of his chemo for leukemia. The Lord has been wonderfully gracious! One more round to go!

NWTS Board President, Larry Semel and his wife, Ruth Ann, give thanks to God for his care of their daughter, Tara (Mrs. Andrew Samuelsen). Tara had an aneurysm and was hospitalized for 14 days. By God's grace, she is resting at the Semel home in Morgantown, WV and is making steady progress.

