

## Faculty Speaking and Preaching

Homiletics professor Rev. Peter Vosteen is scheduled to preach at the Lynden URC on Dec. 14. He preaches regularly at the Lynnwood OPC, and has also preached for other OPC congregations in the area.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Rev. Jim Dennison has been able to preach in Lynden URC, Monroe, Port Angeles, Bothell, Lynnwood and Oak Harbor OPCs. He has given a close reading of John Milton's Christmas poem "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity" to the Providence Classical Christian School in Lynnwood (Nov. 14), and several presentations of "Sweet Grace of God" on the life and theology of Jonathan Edwards.

We have a growing library of audio recordings that can be yours for a modest donation. For tapes or CD's of sermons and NWTS events, contact Ling at registrar@nwts.edu or call (425) 787-5144.



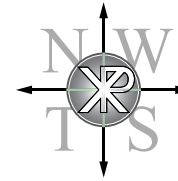
The NWTS logo represents the centrality of Christ in the history of redemption. The CR (Greek letters *chi rho*) are the first two letters of the name Christ (*Christos-Cristoj*). The vertical (eschatological) arrow represents the intrusion or revelation of God's Word into history. The horizontal (temporal) arrow represents the line of redemptive history. The intersection of revelation and history is centered in Christ Jesus, our Savior. From Creation to Consummation—Christ Jesus. At every point where God's revelation touches history, Christ Jesus is preeminent—Christocentrically, eschatologically, soteriologically (Lk. 24:44-47).



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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



His story is...

# Our Story

The advent season rings with "Glory to God in the Highest" (Lk. 2:14) because God has helped his people (Lk. 1:54) with the eschatological Savior (Mt. 1:21). And this "help" has been precious to his saints.

He had been depressed; he was wonderfully lifted up to "the heavenlies." She acknowledged her marriage was in jeopardy; her relationship was marvelously restored. Sickness had reduced him to a hospital bed; he found joyful contentment in learning of Christ. The imminent threat of death hung over her; she was at peace having already passed "out of death into life."

In each case, the centrality of Christ made the difference to these precious saints. The sweet sense of union with Christ drew the depressed into the wonderful resurrection-life of his Savior. Identification with the Bride of Christ enabled the vulnerable bride to renew her vows in love and faithfulness to her dear husband. When the eyes of the one on the hospital bed were fixed on the Great Physician, mind, heart, soul, body rejoiced in free grace which dropped like the dew of heaven. The pall of death drove the elect lady into the arms of the Resurrection and the Life—and eternal rest in him as a present gift.

Where the opportunity was provided in God's good time, each one above looked steadfastly unto Jesus by the power of the Word and Spirit. This is the gospel we treasure; this is the gospel we proclaim; this is the powerful and effective gospel which comforts the sons and daughters of God in life and in death. This eschatological word—this word from heaven—is our passion. Your life,—yes, your life, dear Christian reader, is "hidden with Christ in God". Praise his name! Praise his advent! Praise forever Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

—James T. Dennison, Jr.

*Christ had four beds and those  
not soft nor brave;  
The virgin's womb, the man-  
ger, cross and grave.  
The angels sing this day,  
and so will I  
That have more reason to be  
glad than they.*

--Rowland Walkyns (fl. 1662)

### Five New Evening Classes this Spring— see class schedule inside!

In keeping with our goals of making Reformed theological training more accessible to the Body of Christ, this Spring we are offering five of our classes in the evenings. Audit fees are only \$40 per quarter, per class— check out our 2004 Spring schedule at [www.nwts.edu](http://www.nwts.edu).

**Successful Summer Conference  
“Africa and the Bible”  
with Dr. Edwin Yamauchi**

NWTS was very pleased to feature Dr. Edwin Yamauchi at our 2003 Summer Conference in August. Dr. Yamauchi gave an erudite presentation of the culture and archaeology of the Biblical Near East, especially as it pertained to the political and cultural intersection of Africa and the Levant in OT and NT times. His critique of classical as well as Afrocentric scholarship in OT and NT history was refreshingly oriented to the historical biblical accounts and the archaeological evidence. He also addressed Gnosticism, and discussed the current issues and studies relating to it. This week-long daytime conference drew 48 attendees from the greater Puget Sound region. Tape and CD sets are now available— call or email us to get yours today.



*God all undressed went down*

*Without his robe, without his crown.*

*--Joseph Beaumont (1616-1699)*

**Board Meeting Highlights**

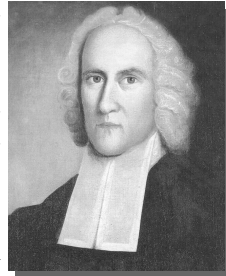
Elected Larry Semel, President; Scott Hunter, Secretary; David Winslow, Treasurer. Welcomed Mr. Scott Sanborn as our newest faculty member. Heard financial reports and reviews of speaking and recruiting trips over the summer.

*Oh Thou, whose glorious, yet contracted light,  
Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger;  
Since my dark soul and brutish is Thy right,  
To man of all beasts be not Thou a stranger:  
Furnish and deck my soul, that Thou mayest have  
A better lodging, than a rack, or grave.*

*--George Herbert (1593-1633)*

**“Sweet Grace of God”  
Remembering Jonathan Edwards**

In honor of the tercentenary of Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), Rev. Jim Dennison has presented an overview of this great Calvinist’s life to hundreds of listeners in Sunday Schools and churches in the Seattle area. A copy of this address can be e-mailed to you as an MS Word document attachment, (or sent via regular mail) if you are interested. Simply provide your e-mail address (or mailing address) and a request for the Edward’s paper to registrar@nwts.edu. You will receive an unedited version of what appeared in the October *Outlook*. An audio version of this presentation is also available on CD.



**Recent Faculty Publications**

**James T. Dennison:**

“Solomon’s Sublime Song.” *The Outlook* 53/7 (Sep 2003): 27-29.  
 “Jonathan Edwards, 1703-1758: An Appraisal of the Tercentenary of his Birth.” *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary* 18/2 (Sep 2003): 63-74.  
 “The Odyssey of Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758).” *The Outlook* 53/8 (Oct 2003): 6-10.  
 “Born of the Virgin Mary.” *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary* 18 (Dec. 2003): 16-25.  
 “Augustine and Grace.” *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary* 18 (Dec. 2003): 38-52.  
 Book Review on *Reformed Confessions of the Sixteenth Century* by Arthur C. Cochrane. *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary* 18 (Dec. 2003): 53-54.  
 Book Review on *The Religious Context of Early Christianity: A Guide to Graeco-Roman Religions* by Hans-Josef Klauck. *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary* 18 (Dec. 2003): 53-54.

**William Dennison:**

“Biblical Theology and the Issue of Application,” in *Reformed Spirituality: Communing with Our Glorious God*, eds. Joseph A. Pipa, Jr. & J. Andrew Wortman (Taylors, SC:Southern Presbyterian Press, 2003) 119-51.  
 “Resurrection Living.” *The Galilean* VI (March-April 2003): 3-6.  
 “Reason, History, and Revelation: Biblical Theology and the Enlightenment.” *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary* 18 (May 2003): 3-25.  
 “Christian Education: Is it a Mess? (Part I).” *The Outlook* LIII (June 2003): 4-7.  
 “Christian Education: Is it a Mess? (Part II).” *The Outlook* LIII (July/August 2003): 12-14.  
 “Christian Education: Is it a Mess? (Part III).” *The Outlook* LIII (September 2003): 11-13.

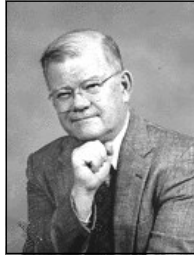
**2004 SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Patristics 2: 12:30-1:30	Homiletics II & Missions: 12:30-1:30	Patristics 2: 12:30-1:30	Homiletics II & Missions: 12:30-1:30
Introduction to NT: 1:30-3:00	Pre-Reformation and Reformation Church History: 2:00-3:00  Ridderbos Readings:	Introduction to NT: 1:30-3:00	Pre-Reformation and Reformation Church History: 2:00-3:00  Ridderbos Readings:
	Doctrine of Christ and Salvation: 3:00-5:00		Doctrine of Christ and Salvation: 3:00-5:00
EVENING	EVENING	EVENING	EVENING
Homiletics I: 6:30-8:00  History of Biblical Theology: 7:00-9:00	Acts and Paul: 6-7:30  Historical Books: 7:30-9:00	Greek IB: 7:00-9:30	Acts and Paul: 6-7:30  Historical Books: 7:30-9:00

Classes begin Jan. 5, 2004. Classes end Apr. 2, 2004. Spring Break is Mar. 8-12. Reading Week is Apr. 5-9 and Exam Week is Apr. 12-16. All classes are held at the NWTS campus (at Lynnwood OP Church) located at 17711 Spruce Way, Lynnwood, WA 98037. Please contact Ling Harrell, Registrar, at (425) 787-5144 or at [Registrar@nwts.edu](mailto:Registrar@nwts.edu) for more information or visit us online.

## Phillip E. Johnson to speak at NWTs

The Summer Conference 2004 is already taking shape. NWTs has invited Phillip E. Johnson, professor of law at the Jefferson E. Peyser School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. Author of *Darwin on Trial*, Johnson is a widely recognized outspoken proponent of the intelligent design theory, and has caused controversy in the scientific community by pointing out that Darwinism is naturalistic philosophy, not science. At the time of writing, details are sketchy, so watch for updates online at [www.nwts.edu](http://www.nwts.edu).



## Prospective Students weekend event enjoyed by all

In September, NWTs hosted a weekend prospective students event in the Lynnwood area. Attended by two men who are planning to enter the ministry, the event gave the men the opportunity to visit our campus, and sit under both the teaching of our faculty and the preaching of our Homiletics Professor, Rev. Vosteen. Together with their wives, they sat in on classes, enjoyed dinner (hosted by the lovely and gracious Sharon Dennison) with the faculty and staff, and had ample opportunity to pose their questions about NWTs. One staff member

commented, “it’s encouraging to see prospective students attracted to us both for our unique emphasis on Biblical Theology, and for our strong commitment to the Systematic Theology of historic confessional Reformed orthodoxy.”

## Prayer Requests

The fall and winter quarters have been very successful— now with 14 students, our rooms are starting to feel full. Please thank God with us that so many lives will be blessed by these students as they serve in various capacities in the Kingdom.

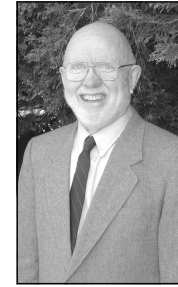
Please continue to lift the budgetary needs of NWTs before God. By any reasonable projection, revenues for the year will fall short of our budgeted need, and by God’s grace, we continue forward on the basis of the commitment and sacrifice of our staff who are compelled to carry on in the work to which God has called them.

We are in need of a craftsman who can donate labor for the construction of bookshelves in our new library.

Our professor of systematics is nursing a 100Mhz Pentium laptop thru its last phases of useful service. He would be delighted to be able to use a more modern (even if used) laptop for his class notes.

Please be in prayer for the health concerns of one of our students.

## The Homiletics Department



Teaching preaching is something new to me, at least on an every day basis. I have been preaching for 47 years and have instructed seminarians during summer internships for most of those years. The comments by my elders on those occasions were very encouraging to me. “These students come here and can’t preach their way out of a paper bag and when they leave, they’re preaching up a storm! What do you do to them?” Actually, I didn’t do anything to them. All I did was try to impart to them the basic tools of communicating God’s Word. I would then work with them on implementing those tools by means of additional suggestions. It was the seminarians themselves who did the work.

When my denomination asked me to teach homiletics for the Minister’s Training Institute, and I jumped at the chance to see if some of what I had learned over the years could be imparted in a broader venue. By God’s grace, that has worked out well, but it was not a simple transition. Teaching seminarians from scratch was something quite different from mentoring an intern, yet both teaching and mentoring are critical components of preparation for the ministry. At this point, I had to teach the principles of homiletics as well as the practical application of it.

Naturally then, when the Board of the

seminary asked me to serve as Professor of Homiletics, I was well prepared. Not only was I eager to test my gifts in the yet broader context of seminary academia, but also I was terribly concerned about the quality of preaching in our churches. I was receiving reports from all over the US that this generation of new preachers just could not effectively communicate the Word of God from the pulpit. They were sufficiently instructed in theology, church administration, and other areas, but their preaching just did not translate to the hearts and minds of the hearers. We at Northwest Seminary are concerned that our candidates be men who are humble servants who can preach the whole counsel of God in an edifying manner. Do we succeed? You tell me. Contact Ling Harrell, our registrar, and she will be glad to send you a sermon tape or CD from one of our students. You be the judge.

— Professor Rev. Peter Vosteen

## Library News

Thanks to the kindness of the Session and congregation of the Lynnwood OPC, the seminary will be able to put up some of the books from the library of the late Rev. Charles G. Dennison. This library has been stored in boxes for several years at Trinity OPC (Bothell) through the generosity of Rev. Marc Renkema and the Session there. Plans exist to erect shelving around the walls of what is now a classroom at the Lynnwood OPC, and shortly we hope to have the vast majority of the approximately 5000 volumes up and available for use.

## Gifts, Donations, and CD's

NWTS has a growing repertoire of conference, sermon, and special event recordings which we make available for the edification of the Bride of Christ. Especially popular are the Kerux conferences, and student sermons. Suggested donations for media range from \$15-\$50 depending on the set, but most importantly, we encourage you to take advantage of these resources for your edification with or without a donation. For more specific information, contact Ling.

As you become persuaded of the value of our work for the building up of Christ's Kingdom, continue to remember us in your giving. NWTS is a 501c3 federally tax-exempt educational institution. All contributions are tax deductible, and you will be issued a receipt with our sincere gratitude. If you'd like to give or pledge by Visa or Mastercard, please call us at 425-787-5144.

### Much for which to give thanks in the Office of Development

This season is known as the season of gratitude. In the office of development, it seems that there is never enough income to meet the goal, and yet by God's grace, there is never a season without abundant reason for gratitude.

No gift, large or small goes unnoticed here. Recently a visitor from out of town had the opportunity to sit in on several classes and

join us for worship on Sunday. While the visit was short, our guest seemed very enthusiastic about NWTS, and he vowed to support the seminary and speak well of this work to others, too.

Sure, I was grateful for the opportunity make a new connection with a potential supporter. I was grateful for the fellowship with another laborer in Christ's Kingdom, and all the camaraderie that entails. But I never expected what showed up weeks later in the mail.

A box of blank CD-R's...“Huh?,” you ask.

It seems that my vigilant visitor was paying attention when I explained that we don't have the budget to pay for all the CD's we circulate, so we watch the newspaper coupons for when they have the, “free after mail-in rebate” sales on blank CD-R media at the big chain stores.

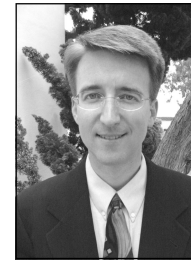
Sure enough, staring me in the face was a prayer answered in the form of a spindle of blank CD's, with the tell-tale missing UPC code, (obviously stripped for rebate purposes) and a little note that simply read, “get the Word out!”

Deeply touched, and profoundly grateful for every supporter who shares our passion for hearing the proclamation of Christ, and Him crucified, risen, and reigning, I have only to say: thank you all very much for being the conduits of the resources of God's infinite storehouse!

—Tony Hamstra

Director of Development

### From our professor of systematics- A Brief Personal Narrative:



The editor of the *Our Story* asked me to say a few things about my personal interests. I grew up in San Diego, so some of my sporting interests revolve around the water, sailing, skin diving, and wind surfing (none of which I've done for a few years). Closer to home I enjoy novels and movies. The redemptive-historical drama of scripture sparks my interest in other dramatic forms. It seems as though God has created us as dramatic creatures with a delight in ordinary drama. Then Christ draws us to participate in the drama of his own life, death, resurrection, and heavenly rule in which he is placing all enemies under his feet (and I don't mean postmillennialism, see instead the book of Acts). At any rate, I especially enjoy some of the Hitchcock classics like *North by Northwest*, *Vertigo*, and *The Birds*. On the other extreme some fantasies and science fiction have their charms like *Lord of the Rings* and *2001: A Space Odyssey* (minus its evolutionary themes and ending). I also enjoy reading books on writing, Robert McKee's *Story* being my favorite on screen writing. Some of this goes hand in hand with another interest, writing, especially writing dialogue. I've been working over the years on a satire mostly composed of dialogue. And recently I've begun to write

some theological dialogues, a fun way to examine the truth (at least for the writer). Perhaps this arises from a trait I share with most people, a love of conversing with others. And interacting with students after class for dinner at Northwest has been one of the enjoyable parts of the job. Here they have a chance to observe one of the odd things about their professor: he eats almost exclusively raw food. Of course, they inquire, finding out the initial reason, hypoglycemia, and then hearing about juicing fresh fruits and vegetables, and taking colostrum and brewers yeast for protein. It's then that they conclude that I'm simply a sinner saved by grace.

So perhaps this sets the right tone for our studies. Of course, studying is a lot of what I do, so it helps to enjoy it. And who can go wrong with the biblical text? And historic Reformed theology, even its philosophical influences are intriguing. I've especially enjoyed studying Romans and Galatians over the years and with them Paul's view of the law. The relation between the old and new covenants in Reformed theology has fit nicely with this. But you can't think about organic development from old to new covenant without thinking about drama, the drama of Christ in the text. So, finally, with an interest in film and literature, I continue to love the dramatic analysis and portrayal of the biblical narratives. Mentioning drama, I think this one has come to an end. And I thank you for walking with me for a few moments, and pray that we may walk together with him in glory.

—Professor Scott Sanborn