The seminary has a number of sermons by faculty members and students for the edification of our readers. If you would like to receive complimentary copies of a selection of these, please contact us by mail or leave a message on our answering machine (425-787-5144). Please specify either regular CD or MP3 format.

Full recordings of two NWTS courses taught by Jim Dennison are available for a suggested donation of $100. Each course includes class syllabus, handouts and an invitation to contact the lecturer if you have questions or comments. The courses are: Reformation Church History (from the Renaissance to 17th century Protestant Scholasticism); the Gospel of John (all 21 chapters). Again, please specify regular CD or MP3 format.

Recordings of the 2007 Kerux Conference are also available for a suggested donation of $40.

You may subscribe to KERUX: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary for $20.00 per year. Download the subscription form from the KERUX website, www.KERUX.com, and mail it with a check and note requesting the May issue.

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Galatians 2: 11-21

“Peter, Why Are You Trying to Justify Yourself?”

Galatians 2 continues a great narrative drama. Paul visited Jerusalem, home of the Jews. For the sake of the Gentiles, he withstood those who sought to justify themselves (Gal. 2:5). Better to please God rather than men (1:10, 2:6).

Peter concurred with Paul’s resistance, giving the apostle to the Gentiles the right hand of fellowship (2:9). But soon he was tempted to please men and fell from his secure position. Longing for the fleshsheets of Egypt, he clung to the world, resisting the heavenly inheritance in Christ. Here Peter sought to establish his own righteousness (2:18), his own niche in the world, the Lord of men.

But why precisely does Paul bring up the issue of justification when Peter tries to return to the holiness code? Why didn’t he simply remind Peter of our union with Christ in general? Because Peter’s attempt to keep the holiness codes separating Jew from Gentile was an attempt to justify himself and make this world his final inheritance — and to impose this perspective on the Gentiles (Gal. 2:18-21; 3:12, 18; 2:14).

In the law, God had forbidden Jews to eat unclean food as part of the holiness code (Lev. 10:10; 11:4-8, 24-47) — and thus forbade them to eat with the uncircumcised Gentiles who ate it (Acts 10: 28, 9-16). As such, the holiness code was part of a great eschatological drama. It was a foretaste of the eschatological separation between God’s people and the unclean in the final eschatological state. As Israel kept the holiness code, God graciously kept Israel from the curse of the nations. Through it, Christ brought blessing to the land. Therefore, the holiness code, as part of the process of taking curse from the inheritance land, pointed to the time when the Messiah would perfectly remove the curse that separated God’s people from the eschatological inheritance and its coming in history.

Now in Christ Jesus that day has arrived. Christ has borne the curses of the covenant (Gal. 3:13); Christ has brought the eschatological inheritance to his people, now semi-realized in himself. He has made them possessors of the eschatological Spirit above (3:14).

Circumcision must now pass away (5:2). As a rite, it was a foretaste of union with the cross of Christ. But it was also a sign that Christ had not yet borne the curse. It reminded God’s people that the final inheritance had not come in history, that they were still bound to the inheritance of Canaan (4:3, 25; 5:1). Thus, one (generally) had to become a Jew by circumcision in order to inherit the earthly Canaan of this world (as a foretaste of the future heavenly inheritance).

Continued on page 8...
**Graduation 2007**

Mr. Benji Swinburnson, M.Div., Licentiate of the OPC Presbytery of the Northwest, and Year-Long Intern at Lynnwood OPC.

*Congratulations Benji!!!!*

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**Want to learn more about the Word of God? Audit any Fall 2007 class at NWTS for only $40!**

Visit your first class for free and register when you come again.

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Faculty Speaking Trips

J. Peter Vosteen addressed the May 2007 Kerux Conference on "The Emergent Church". He was also guest for a week at Emmanuel OPC in Colville, WA (Jack Bradley, pastor). He will be teaching the "Homiletics" portion of the Ministerial Training Institute (MTI) for the OPC in June.

Scott Sanborn has made two visits to the meetings of the University Reformed Fellowship at the University of Washington, Seattle. He has also taught Sunday School at New Life Mission Church of La Jolla, CA.

Jim Denison has supplied pulpit and taught Sunday School at Redeeming Grace OPC, Port Angeles, WA; Trinity OPC, Bothell, WA; and Lynnwood OPC. He has filled pulpit in OPC, URC (Salem, OR) and independent churches (Wiser Lake Chapel, Lynden, WA) in Washington and Oregon. For the past five months he has been teaching Sunday School at Westminster PCA, Everett, WA. There he has presented: the structure of the Aaronic Benediction (Num. 6:23-27); the biblical-theology of the miracles of Jesus (Wedding at Cana); pattern and biblical-theology in Ps. 117; Resurrection and Eschatology (Easter); the Life of John Calvin thematically outlined, including narrative biography of the Reformer—church discipline (1538 ejection); free will and sovereign grace (Piglius and Bolsec controversy); canonicity of the Song of Solomon (Castellio controversy); doctrine of the Trinity (Servetus affair). He has concluded his time at Westminster with lectures on Hosea 1-3, and Paul's letter to Philo- lemon. Beginning this summer, he will be Stated Supply at Redeeming Grace OPC in Port Angeles, WA.

Faculty Publications

J. Peter Vosteen has written several book reviews featured in the seminary journal, Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary (Lyle Birnma, Introduction to the Heidelberg Catechism; Stephen Westerholm, Understanding Matthew).


William Denison has published A Christian Approach to Interdisciplinary Studies (Wipf & Stock). He is currently revising his Ph. D. dissertation on Rudolf Bultmann for publication by Peter Lang.

Jim Denison has written a number of book reviews and the following articles in Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary: "Justin Martyr", "Narrative Art and Biblical Theology in the Book of Ruth"; "Old Testament Historical Books: A Critical Review"; "Again, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount". He continues work on the Reformed Confessions project and has recruited several Hungarian scholars who will be translating the Hungarian Reformed Confessions into English for the first time. These contacts have resulted from the cooperation of Professor Graeme Murdock of the University of Birmingham, England, an expert on the Hungarian Reformation. A few German Confessions and two Hungarian documents remain to be assigned. Altogether, more than 122 Reformed Confessions will be included in the collection when it is published.

A special thanks goes to Kari Renkema, Stan and Juliet McKenzie, and Christina Swinburnson for their photos of the NWTS Graduation.
Thanks Be to God

We at NWTS give God thanks for his kindness to us. God has answered prayers providing for both our student (see the opposite page) and financial needs! Several months ago, NWTS was on the brink of a financial crisis. Monthly giving was low (and remains lower than our monthly expenses), and we were having to tap into our shrinking reserves to meet monthly expenses (not a good thing). But God in his kindness has provided for our needs. In two large timely gifts, God provided enough support for NWTS to manage through spring, summer, and into the fall, months that have in the past been financially difficult. Our faithful God has provided for us in other ways as well. We have benefited from donations of frequent flier mileage and automobiles (we have received funds for 2 cars and have been notified of 2 more as well). We also still await disbursement of the trust fund in which NWTS has been named beneficiary. We hope that this will come in the Fall. In the meantime, we still need your help. Our reserves have greatly increased, but our monthly giving is still not meeting our monthly expenses. Can you help us through regular, monthly giving, so that we can meet our monthly expenses without tapping our reserves?

How You Can Help NWTS:

- Pray for NWTS!
- Recommend NWTS To Students Considering Seminary
- Housing Arrangements for Students (email brian_nwts@yahoo.com)
- Donate Your Used Car by Calling 1-800-553-3018
- Donate Frequent Flier Mileage
- Direct Financial Contributions

Spring Trip

Director of Development Brian Belh traveled to visit six Reformed colleges east of the Rocky Mountains April 16 through April 30. He visited Dordt College, Sioux Center, IA; Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL; Kuyper College, Grand Rapids, MI; Grove City College, Grove City, PA; Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA; and Covenant College, Lookout Mt., GA. He visited Dordt and Trinity Christian Colleges for the first time, establishing good contacts with faculty, staff, and students. The rest were colleges that Brian visited in November, where he continued raising awareness of NWTS and establishing solid contacts. During this trip, he had the opportunity to meet with 11 potential students. Lord willing, we will begin to see the fruit of his labors in the next year.

A special thanks goes to the Anema family in Caledonia, MI, the Poll family (from the November trip), the Knox family in Ambridge, PA, and the Belh family in Dunlap TN, for their gracious hospitality to Brian.

Housing Needs

It has come to the attention of the Director of Development as he recruits students from the east, that housing is a major concern for students who have to relocate to the Northwest. As a small school with no facilities of our own, this indeed presents a challenge to us, albeit one we rejoice in! What we need are individuals who would be willing and able to house students interested in relocating. Do you have a room that you would be willing to rent? Do you own apartments or other housing facilities? Are you interested in investing in housing, especially in the service of men who are preparing to serve the Lord in ministry? If so, please contact Brian Belh at brian_nwts@yahoo.com, and let us know how you can help.
News from the Board

The Board met on May 9 at Lynnwood OPC.

Rev. Larry Semel was re-elected President.

The Board accepted the notice of retirement from the Board by David Winslow, effective the end of 2007.

Voted to change the name of the M.R.S. degree to M.T.S. (Master of Theological Studies) with no change in curriculum or degree requirements.

Noted that Dr. William Denison will teach Apologetics and Theological Prolegomena at NWTTS in the summer of 2008.

Expressed thanks to God for the work of Development Director, Brian Belh.

Students

Mr. Greg Joines of North Bend, WA, has been admitted to the M.T.S. program effective Fall 2007. Greg has a Bachelor's degree from Moody Bible Institute and reads Turretin eagerly. He and his wife are expecting their first child in October.

Andy Vanderhoff will switch from part-time to full-time status in September. Andy hopes to finish the M.Div. degree in two years. He has been 'plugging away' for several years and the Lord has provided a means of devoting himself completely to finishing his program by 2009 (d.v.).

Peter, Why... continued

But now that Christ has come, such a perspective is nothing but self-justification. To return to the holiness code and circumcision is like saying Christ has not accomplished this work (5:3-4). To limit salvation to the Jew and his household, is to say that Christ has not brought the eschatological inheritance. No wonder Paul confronts this gross error of Peter with the gospel of eschatological justification, now semi-realized in Christ!

Because we have been semi-eschatologically justified in him, all are one in Christ Jesus. All God’s people have been delivered from the curse forever. They have been imputed with the positive righteousness of the age to come in Christ. And they are all equal possessors of the inheritance above in him. Thus, there is no distinction between slave and free, male and female, but all are one in Christ Jesus (3:28). The male no longer has special privilege to inherit, and the slave also possesses the in-heritance above, as does the Gentile. We have all been justified by Christ alone – justified in Christ alone before the heavenly throne of God. We have all been set free in Christ; set free from self-justification; set free from living to ourselves (2:20); set free from men, liberated to live to God alone!

Praise be to Christ! Praise be for his great love (2:20)!

For this liberty is the expression of his great heart for us—to give us such a liberty that our hearts are set free to rejoice in him always (4:27; 5:22). Praise to him for the cross, through which we have been crucified to the world, and the world to us, and to the resurrection through which we have been delivered from this age and made participants in the liberating age to come, the Jerusalem above! And as equal participants in this city above we worship Christ, our life, and rejoice in one another — justified in him alone!

- Prof. Scott Sanborn
Celebrating Pastor J. Peter Vosteen’s 50 Years in Ministry

J. Peter Vosteen was born in Buffalo, New York in 1931. Converted while attending Wooster College, Wooster, Ohio, he married fellow student, Winfred Ham, in 1954 and then enrolled at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. He graduated in 1956 and was ordained by the United Presbyterian Church in North America (UPCNA) in Lisbon, New York. When the UPCNA merged with the PCUSA in 1958 (forming the UPCUSA), Pete accepted a call to the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) in Emo, Ontario, Canada. The Lisbon congregation subsequently affiliated with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). For 34 years, Pete served CRC congregations in Canada and the U.S., specializing in reviving dead or dying churches. While pastor of the Lynnwood CRC, Lynnwood, Washington, Pete became very concerned with the drift of the denomination away from full commitment to the Reformed faith. He joined the OPC in 1994 and his consistory followed suit in 1995. His wife Winfred died in 1998 and Pete married Mary Larson in January 1999. His recollection of the classrooms of Cornelius Van Til, Ned Stonehouse, John Murray and Meredith G. Kline is the basis of his lifelong commitment to biblical theology and presuppositional apologetics.

Dinner Honoring Graduate
Benji Swinburnson and Family