

## Convocation Celebration

St. Andrew's College conferred various degrees at the fourteenth joint convocation of the Saskatoon Theological Union on Friday, May 8th. The service was held at St. John's Cathedral in Saskatoon.

During the celebration 19 students received earned degrees from the three colleges (St. Andrew's College, the Lutheran Theological Seminary and The College of Emmanuel & St. Chad). St. Andrew's College awarded the Master of Divinity Degree to Deanna Cox and Kathleen James-Cavan; the Master of Theological Studies Degree to Julie Bergen and Colleen Walker; the Master of Sacred Theology Degree to Leigh Sinclair; and the Doctor of Ministry Degree to Elaine Enns. St. Andrew's College also recognized the completion of studies towards admission to The United Church of Canada by Pyoung Shik Shin; the completion of Ministry

Residency by MiYeon Kim and the completion of residential requirements of the Designated Lay Ministry Program by William Matchem.

Bruce Harding and Vic Wiebe were the recipients of Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees. Bruce was recognized for National church work, the Hymn Society, sessional teaching, composing and recording with musicians in other parts of Canada and in the U.S.A., and national and international conference music leadership have also kept Bruce in the wider public eye, while he has maintained his strong commitment to congregational singing. In the past decade he has become increasingly engaged in intercultural music-making, particularly with the Indo-Canadian community, while continuing to tour with Cheryl (Harding) and other Christian music artists, including Linnea

Good. Vic, Past Chair of St. Andrew's Board, was recognized for his career of work in the Public Service, both in Social Services and Health Care, and his extensive community involvements including with involvements with Big Brothers, the Victorian Order of Nurses, Toastmasters, School Boards, Addiction Programs, 12 step self-help programs, Rotary, counseling and support services as well as his vast contributions to the United Church at the congregational, Presbytery and General Council levels including his current contribution to the Comprehensive Review Task Group.

The convocation address was given by Reverend Doctor Sig Haugen, Bishop of the Saskatchewan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.



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## From the Academic Committee of St. Andrew's College



**Rev. Tony Thompson**  
Chair of the Academic Committee

Greetings!

This is the first message that The Academic Committee has submitted to the St. Andrew's College Newsletter in my term as Chair. It is not that there has been nothing newsworthy to share over the past 5 years; rather it seems that most of our news gets covered in other submissions. This probably will be the case once again with this issue, but I did wish to share with everyone the excitement we experience at the opportunity to offer a dual-degree program that will shorten the length of time it will take a student to acquire the academic prerequisites for ordination. This program has been developed with four primary goals in mind:

To provide the possibility for students graduating from high school to enter the ministry-path program directly, without having to acquire a separate Bachelor-level degree first.

To provide a more realistic time-frame for "mature" students entering the academic world for the very first time, as they seek to give shape to a second or third career.

To integrate new students into the

life and ethos of St. Andrew's College from the very beginning of their university experience so that they can participate in the "community" aspect of The College, even while studying for their Bachelor-level degree;

To shorten the time-span for being ordained from the current 8 years to a more realistic 5 years, more or less, thereby also decreasing the debt load which students carry when they emerge from their years of study.

We rejoice that we have been granted permission by ATS to run the dual-degree as a trial program, and we look forward to its implementation by our Faculty, and its review once the first group of students who are able to take advantage of this opportunity has graduated.

Others probably will write about this as well, but the Academic Committee would echo the gratitude we all have for Professor Nettie Wiebe and all her contributions to the life and work of the College in her capacity as Professor of Church and Society. We celebrate her scholarship, her teaching, her mentoring, and the gift of her gentle, yet focussed and determined, advocacy for the environment and our connection to the earth! We are counting on her on-going presence at the College, even in retirement!

One of the experiences that I have in "The Church" is that we don't say "Thank You" nearly often enough, even though we think frequently of the gratitude we have for the work of our colleagues. I am going to use this opportunity to thank all the members of the Academic Committee, past and present, who have worked diligently to ensure that St. Andrew's College

remains true to its vision, its mission, and its commitment to offer the highest standard of academic experiences required by all our students – in whatever degree program they have registered - as they prepare to engage in various forms of "ministry" in our communities. The Academic Committee includes not only the volunteer Committee members, but also all members of the Faculty, whose efforts shape the community atmosphere that truly makes St. Andrew's College unique, together with our Principal, whose guiding wisdom and humour help us through some interesting challenges. All of these work together with the support staff (administrative and maintenance) who have the unenviable task of responding to the multitude of requests for copies and circulation of memos, and/or maintaining an aging building. My sojourn as Chair of the Academic Committee has shown me just how complex an institution a theological college truly is. I can honestly say that in my student years at a different Theological College, I had no idea that so much work was involved behind the scenes in order for me to graduate with a Master of Divinity degree. It truly has been a wonderful "learning experience" to be aware of all the work that goes into a fully-operational theological college offering such a variety of degrees. We could not do any of this without the support of those who encourage the work of St. Andrew's College with their financial gifts. So, our gratitude extends beyond the walls of The College to the huge supporting community of congregations, UCW's, Alumni/ae, and friends! Thank you, EVERYONE!



## Board Chair



**Dawn Ballantine-Dickson**

A decision to reclaim the space taken by an unused choir loft on the side of the sanctuary in John Black Memorial United Church in Winnipeg has resulted in us

moving a seldom seen stained glass window from a far back wall to back lit prominence in our worship space. Some people have been asking if the window is new, or admitting they never really looked at it before.

St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon has been developing a current strategic plan. It is time for us to bring to new light many things we assumed we all believed and to reaffirm them, such as the need for an educated clergy, and how best to attain this goal. We do this at a time when the terms competency model and one ministry are being discussed in the educational circles of our church. To develop our strategic plan now is not to disregard what is going on around us, as we are part of the process of discernment, but to remind ourselves who we are and what we hold important within this greater framework of theological edu-

cation. We were quick to reaffirm that we are part of The United Church of Canada, that although we offer classes to students of other denominations, our primary intent is to equip students for ministry in the United Church.

How we do this is continually changing. It is now possible to download e-books from the library and take distance education courses. Our courses are now expanding to enable undergrad students to take classes for credit in a newly offered Bachelor of Theology program. While we use new technology, and try to expand our programs to meet the greater needs of the community, we still need to remember the basics. We need to bring "the windows" or the wisdom of the past to the forefront and let the light of Christ shine through it once again to enlighten a new generation of Jesus followers.

## God's World Needs Leaders



**Lorne Calvert**

Our United Church of Canada has initiated a new campaign to attract people to ordered ministry under the theme "God's World Needs Leaders." As a College whose mission is to offer justice driven education for Christian leadership, we welcome this undertaking by our national Church. We share the conviction that God's world and our faith community in that world needs well prepared servant leaders to serve in ordered or lay ministry. Our Church's Standards of Practice for Ministry Personnel remind us that our ministers are

"responsible for leading, guiding, and supporting the community of faith in the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. They touch people's lives at various points of joy, pain, celebration, and vulnerability in a variety of ways – by leading in worship, by providing pastoral care, by standing with those who suffer, and by working for justice and peace."

To be sharing in the Church's call and preparation of its next generation of servant leaders is close to the heart of everyone at St. Andrew's. In all of our programs we remain committed to academic excellence and, through the integration of study and practice, to the development of the many competencies required for ministry in our time. In recent years we have deepened the level of financial support available to those preparing for ordination. The College has expanded the experience of practical ministry and learning circle reflection in the MDiv program. We have developed a powerful partnership with Hanshin University in Seoul, Korea and a vibrant student exchange program. And now, as you will see described in this edition of Contact, we have developed a unique in Canada dual degree program

that seeks to invite and encourage young people to theological study and ministry.

Our program offerings have expanded in support of the leadership needs of the Church and community to include a specialization in spiritual care, a Doctor of Ministry program in rural church and community development, and the national program of preparation for Designated Lay Ministry.

With the help of the St. Andrew's Alumni/ae, the College is being equipped with new technology to provide our students with the best possible options for online and distance learning. We are reaching out to establish new partnerships locally and internationally for educational opportunities. Through the work of our faculty beyond the classroom we offer cutting edge theology and scholarship to the Church and community. We seek to be the affirming, justice driven and welcoming community that we are called to be.

All of this we strive for because God's world needs leaders. Our mission is unchanged. It is to provide justice driven education for Christian leadership. It is to offer the Church and the world well educated, well prepared servant leaders.



## Ministry Residency Celebrations

Spring is a traditional time for celebration. This Spring in St. Andrew's Master of Divinity programme, there is much to celebrate.

### **Celebrate the 2015 graduands: MiYeon Kim and Spirit of Peace United Church**

In September 2013, I traveled from Seoul, Korea (a city of 10 million) to begin my journey as a Resident Student Minister serving at Spirit of Peace United Church in Spirit River, Alberta (a town of 1000). As soon as I arrived at the church, the people of the church came running and hugged me tightly with radiant smiles. We knew we would love each other so much for two years.

This has been a time of huge growth for me: learning and maturing. I really loved the church members and community in Spirit River. I learned about Canadian lives, my life lessons here are about living together. Spirit of Peace United Church has a special interest in outreach. I learned a lot about community, how people help each other, and love each other. I have grown up because of the love and care of people here. I was included in their community actions: Community Kitchen, seniors painting classes, hamper fill, singing at long term care, and serving on the palliative care committee. My ministry outreach includes: initiating bible school for elementary school children on the school's professional development days, hospice visits, elder bible study, movies at the church, Ladies Bunco dice game night.

There have been many favourite memories during my time here. But one that stands out is the Remembrance Day service in Rycroft. I felt honoured that people would invite me to provide spiritual leadership. I was happy to lead the service because my grandfather was the Chaplain during the Korean War. Also, I

was thankful that Canadian young people came to Korea and sacrificed their lives for peace.

Another one of my favourite things here was the musical activities. Spirit of Peace United Church has a musical group, The Mudlarks sing Canadian country music when the church has special outreach, such as Escape Friday Night and Pie, Perogies, & Performers. I was happy to be one of the members of The Mudlarks. I had great joyful time with them.

When I came to Canada, my favourite food was Iced Cappuccino at Tim Horton's. Now I have another one, cabbage rolls. I think my church's cabbage rolls are the best in Canada.

Now it is time to leave. I don't want to talk about what I will miss. Instead, I say I take with me lots of good memories.



I will remember the love and kindness of the community of Spirit River forever. Thank you everyone. May God bless you those in God's country, Spirit River. "

MiYeon Kim will graduate from the Theological Seminary of Hanshin University and be ordained in the Presbyterian Church of Korea. An exchange student, she was awarded a special certificate in recognition of her successful completion of a full Ministry Residency through St. Andrew's College.

### **Deanna Cox and Grosvenor Park United Church**

Having just completed my MDiv I will carry with me great respect for the program offered at St Andrew's college. The program in its entirety took me from a place of deep questioning and out right denial, to building in me a strong foundation of knowledge and skills upon which I can now stand confidently in my ministry! This was no easy task.

A huge part of the success of this endeavor I attribute to the 20 month residency placement. I was fortunate enough to complete my residency at Grosvenor Park United Church right in Saskatoon. At first I thought I had got off easy, as I did not have to move and I was in team ministry so I would have someone to share responsibilities with. This proved to be an incorrect assumption.

I very soon discovered that team ministry was as much, if not at times more, work than solo ministry. As well, entering a congregation with an already existing pastoral relationship meant I had to learn to assert my own identity – something I would have never dreamed of doing previously!

Being from a smaller rural congregational background, the diverse urban make-up of Grosvenor Park provided many opportunities for growth and learning. At one point we calculated at



least 13 different mother tongues present in our congregation! This along with: gender diversity, a high number of retired clergy and academic professors, as well as people with cognitive and physical disabilities, gave me a broader and more inclusive understanding of worship preparation.



Looking back, it was in fact the challenges of this placement that were exactly what I needed. It pushed me beyond my academic knowledge and challenged me to apply my learning in practical ways. It forced me to confront my fears in a supportive environment. It laid the foundation for a strong ministry.

To the congregation of Grosvenor Park United Church, Rev. Cathy Coates – my educational supervisor, my Lay Supervision Team, and St. Andrew's College, I will be eternally grateful.

## **Dr. Kathleen James-Cavan and St. Andrew's United Church**

St. Andrew's United Church in Imperial, SK, a village of about 400 people, is surrounded by grain and cattle farms about 30 kilometers south of Watrous. In my twenty months as a student minister here, I accompanied the community in their joy and sorrow, during one of the best harvests on record, and through the disastrous flooding of

spring 2014. I was privileged to celebrate a wedding, two baptisms, and several funerals as well as weekly worship services. Through it all, the congregation helped me grow in faith and kindly supported my experiments with interactive worship, Messy Church, and creative bible studies.

As a teacher, I believe in the value of experiential learning where knowledge can be transformed into know-how. I am very grateful for this rich experience. I have been blessed by a welcoming faith community who were patient with my mistakes and loved me anyway. An urbanite with a passion for rural ministry, I developed a strong respect for the demands of the seeding, spraying, harvesting, and curling seasons.

Unlike my colleagues MiYeon Kim and Deanna Cox, I am delighted I will not have to say goodbye to my faith community for I have accepted a one-year appointment to continue in ministry with the people of St. Andrew's United in Imperial. I look forward to making new plans for living out our mission as the body of Christ while strengthening our current outreach, such as the monthly Soup-and-Sandwich fundraisers for the Mission and Service fund.

After ten years of pursuing the MDiv part-time, I find the prospect of not returning to classes in the fall almost unfathomable. I cannot quite imagine life without a stack of theological tomes or books on pastoral ministry to be read by next week. I will always be deeply grateful to the faculty and staff of St. Andrew's College for challenging and supporting me in my quest to answer God's call. Thank you to the Rev. Linsell Hurd, my Educational Supervisor, and the Rev. Laura Fohse, my Consultant, as well as my Lay Supervision Team: Helen Abrey, Heather Detwiller, Barb Grigg, and Ethel Taylor.

Kathleen James-Cavan and Deanna Cox were awarded the Master of Divinity



from St. Andrew's College on 8 May 2015. Deanna has been called to Daysland-Rosalind and Killam Pastoral Charges and will be ordained by Alberta and Northwest Conference in Slave Lake on 31 May 2015. Kathleen has accepted a call from St. Andrew's United Church in Imperial and will be ordained on 31 May 2015 in Lanigan at the annual meeting of Saskatchewan Conference.

## **Celebrate the seven Ministry Residents who are halfway through their twenty month Ministry Residencies:**

Esther Baerends with Grande Cache Pastoral Charge, Brenda Bailey with Glangarry East Pastoral Charge, Elaine Julian with Cumberland United Church, Lindsay Mohn with Mortlach United Church, Douglas Neufeld with Spirit Hills Pastoral Charge, Jason Richards with Kangnam congregation in South Korea, and Bradley Wudrich with Theodore, Springside Pastoral Charge. These Ministry Residents are experiencing challenge and support in ministry from British Columbia to Ontario in The United Church of Canada, and in Seoul in the Presbyterian Church of Korea.

## **Celebrate the student who will begin Ministry Residency on 1 September 2015:**

Eva Biederman will serve in ministry with a rural congregation in Alberta and Northwest Conference.



## A Journey That Will Change Me Forever

I applied for and was accepted for the Designated Ministry Diploma Program in 2012. I was 56 years old, and had been a member of the United Church for over 15 years. I was about to take a journey of studying at Calling Lakes Centre, a place I've never been before, with people whom I'd never met. We all have fear sometimes; I wasn't as much fearful of the Centre where I was going, but fearful wondering if I had the requirements for taking on and completing the DLM Diploma Program.

Before I arrived at Calling Lakes Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, there was lots of conversation through the DLM Google Group, so the students who would be attending already knew one another sort of, before arriving at the Centre.

We are always reminded of the presence of the Spirit in all the things we do, and people we meet, and this was affirmed when I arrived at Calling Lakes in June of 2012. Returning students were waiting at the Regina airport to greet the "new-bies", and the staff at Calling Lakes Centre were just absolutely amazing. The term my wife Jean and I continue to use here in my ministry education site is "it doesn't feel like that we left home at all." That was also the feeling I experienced at Calling Lakes Centre.

The DLM Director Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball has just been a continuing support for me and all her students. I referred to her at one time as The Good Shepherd who constantly monitors her flock/students, not just during the Learning Circles, but before and after.

After completing five of my six required learning circles at Calling Lakes, the sad news came in January 2014 that Calling Lakes Centre would close after June 2014. This meant we would have to find a new home for the Learning Circles to continue. I know that Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball didn't do all the work herself, but she was a huge part of finding a new home for the DLM program to continue.

On January 12, 2015, returning and new DLM students arrived at their new home, St Andrew's College in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Yes, there were people there whom a lot of the students had never met before, but they received the same hospitality, the same spiritual warmth, the same opportunity for us to continue study in achieving what God has called us to be, Designated Lay Ministers.

I feel so honoured to be the first person to complete the Learning Circle part of the DLM program at St Andrew's College. I feel so blessed to be taught, guided, and supported by

the DLM Director, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, the DLM Program Team and all the resource people who continue to strive for the best theory and guidance possible for the students pursuing designated lay ministry.

It is during the season of Lent that I'm writing this piece, and as we travel along the road toward Jerusalem and the cross with Jesus, let us always be reminded, that he was travelling next to us when we started our journey for ministry, and will be with us until the very end.

God's Blessings to all.

William (Bill) Matchem  
Non-Recognized Designated Lay Minister  
Green Bay South Pastoral Charge  
Newfoundland and Labrador Conference. West District.



## DLM Correction

Correction: The article about the DLM Program in the previous issue of Contact made it seem as if the DLM Program has only been in existence for five years. The article

should have stated that the current version of the DLM Program is now in its fifth year. (Previously, students went to United Theological College in Montreal for their train-

ing. The Sandy-Saulteaux Centre also currently offers a DLM program for those training for native ministries.)

# Winter Refresher 2015

By Mitchell Anderson

Mark Wallace, 2015's Winter Refresher speaker and Professor of Religion and Interpretation Theory Coordinator at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, brought a unique perspective to the deep environmental challenges facing followers of Jesus today.

Presenting what could be characterised as a Christian animist approach, Mark challenged and provoked participants into an exploration with several Scriptural stories. Mark's challenge was that we need to read Scripture with new eyes in order to face environmental crisis.

For example, Mark walked participants through a reading of the Genesis 1 creation poem that imagines the hovering Creator of Genesis 1:3 as an avian God. If God hovers and moves over the Creation, and if God the Holy Spirit graces God in Jesus on Jesus' baptism in the bodily form of a dove, then might God incarnate Godself in animal forms, including bird-like forms, in addition to and in support of

God's unique self-expression through incarnation in Christ. Walking us through this idea of God redemptively at work in the world beyond human life, challenging us to imagine a holy role for gracious interpersonal touch in a touch-starved culture, and engaging in Scripturally-grounded debate about how we might read our own stories to sustain us in the midst of environmental crisis, Mark presented a truly excellent Winter Refresher.

Of course, the gathered community also enriched the weekend. Professors offered workshops on interfaith dialogue and ecumenism, on reading the Bible in ways that might foster more ecologically sensitive imaginations, and how the Holy Spirit is creatively and redemptively active in social movements such as Idle No More today. Current students expanded their studies and connected the theme of environmental crisis with their classes, and prospective students participated through the Inquirer Program. Alumni and friends

of the College participated in these workshops and in discussion with our theme speaker Mark, raising questions about soteriology and ancient Persian imperial propaganda.

Winter Refresher is one of St. Andrew College's signature continuing education and community gathering events. Next year's theme speaker will be Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell. Shannon is Professor of Theology at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and was ordained to the office of Teaching Elder in 2014. She will be speaking on the theme of Performing Church. 2016's Winter Refresher will take place at St. Andrew's College February 29 to March 2. Additionally, Winter Refresher will also celebrate the 80th anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Lydia Gruchy, the first woman ordained to ministry in The United Church of Canada, and a graduate of St. Andrew's College. We look forward to seeing you there!





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November 15, 2014 – May 25, 2015

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You are now able to submit donations online by clicking on the [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) link found on our website.

This secure online donation site allows you to quickly and easily donate money in a secure fashion



## Retirement Party



On May 5th a party was held at the College to honour and say farewell to Nettie Wiebe, who will be retiring from the College on June 30.

## The New Dual Degree Program Encouraging Young People To Theological Education

St. Andrew's College has introduced a new dual degree (BTh/MDiv) program for preparation for ordained ministry that is on the cutting edge of theological education and unique in Canada.

Hearing the concerns voiced by young people over the requirement of seven, or more likely eight or nine years of study, to complete an undergraduate degree and the post graduate degree required as readiness for ordination; and seeking to better integrate the undergraduate degree work with preparation for ministry; St. Andrew's has created a dual degree program.

The program will offer a Bachelor of Theology and a Master of Divinity

that provides both degrees and the required ministry residence for ordination in just over five and half years. The program will engage students with the St. Andrew's faculty and the St. Andrew's community throughout their post-secondary education.

The first three years of the program will engage students in university courses and the introductory courses in the theological disciplines to complete the Bachelor of Theology. The completion of the BTh will provide the student one year of equivalency in the St. Andrew's MDiv program, and with a further year of academic study, the 20 month residency experience with learning circles, students will earn their

MDiv and recommendation of the College to the Church for ordination.

The College has received accreditation for the MDiv degree in this program from the Association of Theological Schools as an approved exemption to Education Standard ES.7.4.3.

St. Andrew's is now ready to accept students into the program this coming fall and will continue to share news of the program throughout the coming year and beyond.

St. Andrew's College has often been in a position of pioneering the new. That tradition continues with the new dual degree program.

## Invermere Trip

In mid-April the "Ecumenism" class at St. Andrew's College went on a field trip to Invermere, British Columbia, to visit Christ Church Trinity, an Anglican/United Church shared ministry. The Anglican and United Church congregations began an ecumenical ministry in the late 1960s, and in the late 1990s they built a new church to share. The group from St. Andrew's was warmly welcomed by the congregation and their minister, the Rev. Laura Hermakin, an Anglican. The congregation held a potluck lunch in the class's honour after church, and a reporter from the Columbia Valley Pioneer weekly newspaper interviewed a number of the group, including student St. Andrew's student Eva Biederman. You can find the article at

<http://www.columbiavalleypioneer.com/pdf/vol12issue17.pdf>; scroll to page 30.

The class rounded out its weekend adventures with visits to the Royal

Turrell Museum at Drumheller; downtown Calgary on a Flames playoff night; lunch at Chateau Lake Louise; and a soak in the Radium Hot Springs pool.



*Ecumenism Class*



## St. Andrew's Faculty Updates

### Christine Mitchell

Christine Mitchell is looking forward to her sabbatical year, July 2015-June 2016. She plans to spend two months in Europe on a family vacation combined with at least one conference and some research time. In the fall and winter, she will be working from home in Saskatoon, with some conferences and research trips to take her away periodically. These past few months she's been teaching a fun class on creation stories and the Pentateuch, and worked with the final-year MDiv students in their final Learning Circle. She also participated as an ATS evaluation team member in April.

### Don Schweitzer

After a year of sabbatical, I returned to the stimulus of class room and online teaching and the regular routine of academic life. Most of my research time has been spent working on Jesus' resurrection. By the time this issue of Contact is published, I hope to have completed the chapter on how Jesus' resurrection is understood throughout the New Testament. Along with others I am also working on a collectively written book on the theology of The United Church of Canada. My chapter will be on the United Church's Christology. In my spare time, I'm working on a paper entitled "Justification by grace and shared identity space."

### Sandra Beardsall

Once again, my work involved lots of ecumenical engagement. In January we welcomed an ecumenical scholar to Saskatoon for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Karen Westerfield Tucker, who teaches at Boston University, included a visit to the St. Andrew's ecumenism course in her itinerary. She spoke about her long involvement in the

international Methodist-Roman Catholic dialogue.

A couple of weeks later, the national Anglican/United Church dialogue group met in Saskatoon. We had excellent discussion of the nature of "oversight" and accountability in our two denominations, particularly the thorny question of the role of a "personal episkopé," or bishop. We reviewed a draft of the "One Order of Ministry" proposal from the United Church, and submitted a response to the national "One Order" working group.

I was one of the speakers at Epiphany Explorations in Victoria at the end of January. My theme was "Talking to Strangers: A Spirituality of the Ecumenical Life." It was good to meet old friends and make new ones at that gathering. (And as a church historian I revelled in the historic church buildings of downtown Victoria!)

In February I was invited to participate in a gathering of scholars in Pittsburgh to discuss a new book on the history of theological education, *Piety and Plurality*, by Glenn T. Miller. The books had an American focus, and I was the only Canadian present, but there was resonance with our experience at St. Andrew's around the many changes and challenges of recent decades in church, society, and education.

I took advantage of being in that part of the world to join two colleagues for a few days during Reading Week in Athens Tennessee, where one colleague teaches. The three of us are co-authoring a book on Ecumenical Shared Ministry congregations in the USA and Canada. Apart from snow storms that shut down Tennessee and scrambled travel plans, it was a rich opportunity to collaborate with fellow ecumenists.

During Winter Refresher I organized a visit for participants to Friday prayers at the local Islamic Centre. It was a wonderful and welcoming time, and it led to

an invitation for me to participate in a panel at a conference of Muslims seeking to build peaceful relationships with their neighbours across Canada.

To round off the ecumenical adventures, the ecumenism class took a four-day trip to Invermere, B.C., where we visited a long-standing Anglican/United Church shared ministry: Windermere Valley. See more about that elsewhere in Contact!

### Lynn Caldwell

I am looking forward to moving into a full-time position with faculty as of July 1st and to the opportunities to both continue and expand my work with the College. It has been an incredible privilege for me to have worked in a job-share for the Church and Society position with Nettie for the past number of years, and I am grateful to her for the generosity this represents on her part. Nettie is a wonderful colleague and an amazing example to all of us, of community-engaged leadership, teaching and scholarship!

This most recent academic term has been busy for me in the usual ways, including a balance of time between St. Andrew's, and my other teaching, in Sociology and in Education, at the University of Saskatchewan. One highlight for me at St. Andrew's was developing and teaching a new course offering in Professional Ethics for Spiritual Care, held at the end of April. Earlier in the term, I was also pleased to host a visiting scholar from St. Mary's University in Halifax, Dr. Darryl Leroux, as part of a "linking fellowship" provided by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity (ICCC) at the University of Saskatchewan.

I look forward to these late spring and summer months as an opportunity to transition into some new responsibilities at the College.



## Gala Dinners

St. Andrew's College hosted two successful dinners this spring. The first dinner was held in Regina on April 21st. The second dinner was held in Saskatoon on April 23rd.

The Regina dinner was held at the Wascana Country Club with E. K. (Ted) Turner as speaker and Singing

Friends and Neighbours as entertainment.

The Saskatoon dinner was held at the Western Development Museum with Rev. Dr. Sandra Beardsall as the guest speaker and Tannis Schmidt providing music leadership. A successful silent auction was also held.

Both evenings were filled with laughter, entertainment and good food.

Thank you to our event sponsor, Guardian Capital and our gold sponsors, MNP and Mulberry's Bakery and Café.



*Regina Dinner*



*Saskatoon Dinner*

## Alum News

### Walter Farquharson

Last year when Walter Farquharson (BD 1961; DD 1975) and Jeff Cook launched their book [An Audacious Invitation](#), they hoped to engage others in a conversation about John's Gospel and its relevance for the church and others interested in exploring this poet gospelwriter's invitation to a life of compassion and hope - much needed possibilities for the world in which we live.

If there are others interested in such a conversation, Jeff and Walter would very much appreciate hearing from them. Such conversations might even involve the presence of one of the authors in workshops or presentations. Contact Walter Farquharson - [farq.blueheron@sasktel.net](mailto:farq.blueheron@sasktel.net) to talk about the possibilities or to order a copy of the book.

### Taylor Croissant and MiYeon Kim

On May 16, 2015 MiYeon Kim and Taylor Croissant (MDiv 2014) were married in the College Chapel. MiYeon was one of the first students to come to the College through the exchange program with Hanshin Graduate School of Theology and recently completed her residency through St. Andrew's College in Spirit River, AB. Taylor graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 2014 and has served at Two Hills Pastoral Charge. MiYeon and Taylor will be moving to Korea in June where MiYeon will be ordained in the Presbyterian Church of Korea.



*Betty Calvert Photography*



## From a Faculty Book Shelf:

By Don Schweitzer



Don Schweitzer

Many United Church people are familiar with the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, his resistance to the Nazis regime and his resulting martyrdom. With *Blood and Ink: Ignacio Ellacuría, Jon Sobrino, and the Jesuit Martyrs of the University of Central America* Robert Lassalle-Klein gives us a more recent account of contemporary martyrdom, equally worthy of attention. On March 24, 1980, Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, was shot while celebrating mass in San Salvador. In the early hours of November 16, 1989, Ignacio Ellacuría and five other Jesuits, plus their housekeeper and her sixteen-year-old daughter, were murdered by US-trained El Salvadoran soldiers. Jon Sobrino, a member of this Jesuit community, survived because he was abroad at the time. Romero

and the Jesuits were killed because of their public denunciations of American-sponsored right wing violence against the poor of El Salvador.

Through careful documentation and analysis, this book tells how Ellacuría and the other Jesuits came to embrace the preferential option for the poor as the determining factor for their work as academics and followers of Jesus in Latin America. This led them to steer the University of Central America (UCA) towards academic work that served and advocated for the poor of El Salvador. This move created controversy within their order and the church. Bishop Oscar Romero at first opposed and publicly criticized them, saying that these Jesuits were infected by Marxism. Romero was always a compassionate person concerned for the sufferings of others, but he believed that the Roman Catholic church should help unify society and avoid public stands in support of any one group. This belief led him to denounce the Jesuits' prophetic activity. However, he changed his mind in March 1977 when members of the Salvadoran national police murdered Fr. Rutilio Grande, S.J., because of his work with oppressed campesinos in his parish of Aguilares. Recently appointed Archbishop, Romero arrived in Aguilares to celebrate a funeral mass for Fr. Grande. Unexpectedly, he asked the Jesuits gathered there to help him carry out his pastoral responsibilities in response to this crime, and the conflict it represented between the government on the one hand and the church and the poor on the other.

This was a turning point for Romero. Henceforth he began to publicly denounce violations of human rights and the systematic repression of the poor of El Salvador. Romero became the voice of the poor as the violence against them worsened. His weekly Sunday morning radio broadcast gained a large audience. Ellacuría, Sobrino, and others helped him write his homilies, pastoral letters, and other communications. Yet while Romero was aided by the Jesuits, it was he who now led the way in living out the preferential option for the poor in the face of violent opposition. For this he was assassinated.

Lassalle-Klein goes on to analyze the Christologies of Ellacuría and Sobrino. Through their conversion to the presence of Christ in the oppressed and suffering poor, Romero, Ellacuría, and Sobrino came to see Christ as present in the struggle for their liberation and became themselves transformative witnesses to this presence. This excellent account of an important Christian witness in the twentieth century is slow moving at times, yet like the story of Bonhoeffer, it leaves an indelible impression. Reading it I couldn't help but ask myself, where am I in relation to the evils these martyrs struggled against?

Robert Lassalle-Klein. *Blood and Ink: Ignacio Ellacuría, Jon Sobrino, and the Jesuit Martyrs of the University of Central America*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2014. Pp. xxiii + 376.

## Friends We Shall Miss

**Donald Bater** passed away on January 10, 2015. Don received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from St. Andrew's College in 1953 and received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1989.

**Bill Chapman** of Saskatoon passed away on May 22, 2015. Bill

graduated from St. Andrew's College in 1957 and he spent 35 years in ministry serving congregations at Rockglen, Quill Lake, Three Hills (AB), Grace-Westminster in Saskatoon and Elrose, as well as contributing to church committees at regional, provincial and national levels.

**George Palmer** of Regina passed away on January 6, 2015. George received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the College in 2011.



## From the Library



*Alison Jantz  
STU Library Director*

Warm summer greetings from the St. Andrew's College Library! We have had a full and active academic year in the library! Students from various classes and programs have participated in library orienta-

tion and research sessions and the students from the School of Physical Therapy continue to make good use of our space. We have begun to add material to our collection regarding online teaching and learning. As we move into an increasingly electronic world with a focus on distance education, it will be essential that our library is well-equipped with the necessary material to help facilitate a successful transition into this new realm of teaching and learning.

A highlight for me this fall was for Mallory Wiebe and I to conduct a Research in Theological Writing session with Sandra Beardsall's STM students. It was a delight to delve into the research material and spend time with students talking about the process and methodology of conducting research. I hope to be involved in more of these sessions in the future! Given that our student body is small, sessions such as these provide a wonderful opportunity to get to know the students better and learn about their library and research needs.

There are many exciting things going on in the other libraries of the STU. At the Otto Olson Memorial Library of the Lutheran Seminary, we are in the process of creating a rare book room for all of their unique and valuable material. The shelving is going up and it should be completed by the end of the summer. At the A.C. Schindel Library of Horizon College and Seminary, we are creating a quiet study room for students to have place to go for silent, uninterrupted study. This project should also be completed by the end of the summer. There continues to be ongoing communication with the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad regarding their library collection and their hopes for it for the future. I anticipate a continued vibrant relationship between all four colleges and their library collections.

The summer months will provide an opportunity to take stock of what needs to be done in the library in preparation for the fall, as well as to do some catch-up! If you have some spare time, come visit us in the very "warm" library this summer!

## Lynn Caldwell Appointed Full Time Professor Of Church and Society

The Board of St. Andrew's College, with the approval of the General Council of The United Church of Canada, is happy to announce the appointment of Dr. Lynn Caldwell as the College's full-time Professor of Church and Society.

Lynn Caldwell earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Saskatchewan, her Master of Divinity from St. Andrew's College, and her Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology and Equity Studies from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Caldwell has served the Church as a member of the program staff of Saskatchewan Conference, in pastoral ministry, with the General Council, in distance education with St. Andrew's College and leadership development with the Centre for Christian Studies. Since 2008 she has

shared the faculty position of Church and Society at St. Andrew's with Dr. Nettie Wiebe.

Also since 2008 Lynn Caldwell has taught through the College of Education and St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan.

In her now full time faculty position in Church and Society, Dr. Caldwell will lead the teaching of ethics in the St. Andrew's program and will bring both the instruction and challenge of the contemporary role of the Church in the world. In addition she has accepted the new faculty responsibility of leading the College's programs in continuing education.

Lynn Caldwell brings to her role deep connections in both community and Church, her skills in teaching and facilitat-



ing learning, her passion for justice, and her experience in the ethos and community of St. Andrew's.



# Mark Your Calendars!

## Contact

This publication is free of charge. If you would like to add someone's name to the mailing list, please contact us.

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Contact is printed and mailed by Houghton Boston, Saskatoon  
Publications Mailing Agreement # 4002272

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:  
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## Winter Refresher

**Monday, February 29th to Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016  
Saskatoon, SK**

### *Performing Church*



*Theme Speaker:*  
**Rev. Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell**

Professor of Theology at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

**A Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Ordination of Lydia Gruchy will also be held.**

## St. Andrew's Honorary Degree Nominations

Nominations are invited for the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, in preparation for St. Andrew's Convocation 2016. The degree is conferred upon persons for distinguished service in ministry, especially pastoral or missionary services, theological scholarship, church leadership, and community responsibility and concern. Nomination forms are available by calling or writing the College.

**Nomination deadline is September 15, 2015.**

**Did you know that this issue of Contact is available to read on our website [www.standrews.ca](http://www.standrews.ca) If you would like to receive Contact by e-mail instead of paper copy please e-mail [melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca)**