



(Back, L. to R.) Students Mona Kuzub, Anne McGrath, Brian Hymers and Erin McIntyre were recognized during convocation on May 5. (Front) Fran Forsberg, Tony Thompson and Austin Fennell were the recipients of honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees. Please see story on Page 5.

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# Time for thanks as College looks to future

By Dawn Ballantine-Dickson  
St. Andrew's Board Chair

At the last board meeting in May, I encapsulated my final report as chair and member of the board as "Thanks and Goodbye." In the song Farthest Shore by David Wilcox a man goes skinny dipping, leaving all he possesses and all that he has worked for, and yet still has all he remembers and believes when he reaches the final shore.

We live in trust that whatever we have done that is of value will be utilized by others. Great thanks is owed by our College to Lorne Calvert who built primarily on the work of Laura Balas in taking the College from deficit budgets to the ability to pay off the mortgage in 2020, barring any major unforeseen expenses.

Under his stewardship, donors were found to help us make the building wheelchair accessible and funding was found for a much-needed retrofit of the kitchen and lounge, properly named the College Community Centre. More importantly Lorne enabled us to do what we are called to do: educate leaders of ministry for the future by supporting faculty and staff to do their work. He also reached out into our communities to encourage new students to use their faith and courage to follow God's calling and inform our church about the work this College does. We should not forget his enabling the work of the Saskatoon Theological Union or encouraging the admission and exchange of international students.

Sad as we are that Lorne leaves the calling of principal we are confident that the work will continue in new ways. We welcome Richard Manley-Tannis as the new principal,



**Outgoing board chair Dawn Ballantine-Dickson (right) congratulates graduates during convocation**

Doug Neufeld as the new chair of the board, and the new chairs of committees: Lloyd Lovatt for Development, Blaine Gregg for Finance, and Beth Williamson for Personnel Policy. These people are capable, faithful and visionary. It is such a joy to leave the responsibility of the College to such faithful, capable and visionary folk.

As Lorne reminded the graduates at convocation: instead of leaving the St. Andrew's community, they are now becoming a new part of it; alumni. As I leave being chair I remain alumni, thankful for all of the experience St. Andrew's College has once again blessed me with and confident that the work of the College remains in good hands. I go leaving all I have worked for, taking all that I am and all I believe.

## Manley-Tannis assumes principal's position beginning July 1



**Richard Manley-Tannis**

St. Andrew's College is preparing to welcome Richard Manley-Tannis to the role of principal.

Manley-Tannis, whose appointment by the college's board was announced in early December, officially joins the college beginning July 1, replacing outgoing principal Lorne Calvert.

Called and commissioned as a Diaconal Minister in Saskatchewan Conference in 2009, Manley-Tannis most recently served as Winnipeg Presbytery Minister for Evangelism, Mission and Church Development.

He holds an undergraduate degree from Trent University, graduate degrees from Queen's University and St. Stephen's College, and a diploma from the Centre for Christian Studies, and is in the final stages of completing a PhD with the Taos Institute and Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

In addition to ministry experience in The United Church of Canada, Manley-Tannis has professional experience in conflict resolution, transformative mediation, restorative justice, leadership development and organizational development.

The search committee and the college's board were drawn to Manley-Tannis' optimism and hopefulness about the future of the college and the church, and to his view of "stewardship that allows us to dream."

He shared his belief "that the world in which we live and breathe is longing for a message of hope and love. Preparing people to be able to share that Good News in a changing world and from a changing church presents new opportunities to dream dreams."

Manley-Tannis will be joined in Saskatoon by his wife, Reverend Shelly Manley-Tannis.



# Together we have transformed St. Andrew's

By Lorne Calvert  
St. Andrew's Principal

Nine years ago, when Laura Balas encouraged me to consider making an application to serve as the Principal of St. Andrew's College, it came as another surprise in my life from the God of great surprises. Now, as my term as principal concludes, I will always be grateful to Laura for the surprising enquiry and for making the potential of these years a possibility. And I will always be grateful to our College community for making the opportunity for me a reality.

In the time we have walked and worked together, the College has changed significantly yet always held firm to our shared mission of offering justice-driven education for servant Christian leadership. If we have had some measure of success in meeting our mission over these nine years it is because of our whole community: an evolving and talented faculty, a deeply committed and able staff, the generosity of our volunteers in College governance, the support of our alumni/ae, the Church, the wide St. Andrew's community and many, many friends of this College.

During our time together we have seen transformational change in the College through the deepening of our integrated MDiv program; the expansion of our program offerings including a MTS for International Students and a DMin in Rural Ministry and Community Development; our international partnerships and now, international student body; the establishment of our unique in Canada Dual Degree program; the inclusion of the Designated Lay Ministry Program into the life and community of St. Andrew's; the development of new directions in online learning and continuing and community education; and the incorporation of both the collections of St. Andrew's and the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad into the St. Andrew's library.

In these nine years we have celebrated the College's 100th anniversary of service; we have earned a 10-year accreditation (the longest term possible) from the Association of Theological Schools; earned a designation as an international school from the governments of Saskatchewan and Canada; and have



**Lorne Calvert served nine years as the college's principal**

now entered our 10th year as an Affirming Ministry of The United Church of Canada.

With the support of many we have been able to invest in our College home: in the fundamentals of plumbing, electrical and roofing restoration; in accessibility with an elevator and unisex washroom; in technological and classroom improvements; in the incorporation of the Meewasin stained glass; in energy conservation through window replacements; in the renovation of our chapel and new piano; in the complete restoration of our Main Lounge (with the potential of another new concert quality piano); and the gift of a renewed kitchen and dishwasher! We have seen the establishment of a community garden project on our grounds and have gained a much deeper understanding of the natural heritage we have on our College grounds.

We have been able to achieve some stability in the finances of the College because of the generosity of our friends, our alumni/ae, UCWs, congregations with some very special donors and the ongoing support of the M&S Fund of

the United Church, the Government of Saskatchewan and the sharing of our College home with the University of Saskatchewan. A decade ago we were carrying almost \$1 million in debt and next year the College will be debt-free. We have balanced our budgets; created surplus budgets; built a healthy savings account to protect us from unforeseen major property expenses; and have seen significant growth in our Endowment Fund. For all who have financially supported our College in these past nine years I extend a deep thanks!

It is for the gospel of love and justice made known to us in Jesus the Christ and for the sake of the learning encounter between teacher and student, between College and student, student and Church, between student and community that all of this is meant to serve. My strongest and happiest memories of these past nine years are of many Lutheran, Anglican, Mennonite, Catholic and Pentecostal students who have been part of our community of learners; of the Korean and international exchange students who have joined us for short periods of time; of those who have found admission to The United Church of Canada through our admission program; of the 17 individuals we have honoured with honorary doctorates; and the 60 graduating students who have earned their degrees, diplomas or certificates. These are for whom the College lives to serve. Going forth from the College these are the servants of God and servants of Church and community who lead, who strive for justice, who share compassion and love with the people and world God loves. And if ever our Church, our communities and our world needed these who travel from St. Andrew's, it is now.

For the surprising opportunity to have been part of this community I am deeply grateful.

When Laura Balas offered her final contribution to *Contact* she wrote, "My prayer is that you will offer our new Principal, Lorne Calvert, all the love and support that you offered me." You have and I am thankful. I conclude by saying that my prayer is that you will offer our new Principal, Richard Manley-Tannis, all the love and support that you have offered me!

Blessings!

# Library efforts create room to suit collection

By Alison Jantz  
STU Library Director

Greetings from the St. Andrew's College Library! The library is bustling with projects and initiatives that keep us busy and on our toes!



Katelyn Haskell, library technician, has been busy washing shelves, shifting books, and making room to better suit the structure of the collection. She has spent a great deal of time working with our archival

books that require special attention and preservation.

We have a couple of book displays up in the library for the summer months. One is a book display of "Summer Reading Picks" selected by staff and faculty of the college. Another is a display of books selected on the topic of white supremacy and racism to support the continuing education book study of *Dear White Christians* written by Jennifer Harvey. The book display will continue into June as we prepare for ReJUNEvation, which will feature Jennifer Harvey as the keynote speaker.



## Books support the continuing education study of *Dear White Christians*

For three weeks in May, Katelyn supervised two students from the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Library and Information Technology Program. They worked on cataloguing rare and archival material, cataloguing donated books, and other tasks and duties as assigned. It was an excellent experience for them and great to have them with us, providing Katelyn with extra assistance.

The summer will be filled with ongoing organization and collection maintenance. As the college empties out for the

summer, the work of the library intensifies – work that is often not possible to do during the regular, busy academic term.

Happy summer! Please feel free to contact us anytime!

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St. Andrew's College is happy to congratulate Alison Jantz, the Saskatoon Theological Union's library director, who was elected president of the Saskatchewan Library Association for a two-year term.

# Common Vision fundraisers have St. Andrew's connections

By Walter Farquharson

Many within our St. Andrew's College family celebrate and participate in the work of the Canadian Food Grains Bank, one of the United Church's oldest and ongoing of our ecumenical and global involvements. The Food Grains Bank is engaged in doing important work to address issues of world hunger.

Several Common Vision Concerts across Canada have involved St. Andrew's alumni and friends. Particularly of interest is the involvement of Ron Klusmeier (DD St. Andrew's College) and his partner Christina Bogucki who are Food Grains Bank ambassadors.

Klusmeier's music — much of it with lyrics by another St. Andrew's alumnus, Walter Farquharson — together with informative script and audio-visual support produced by Christina and Ron has proven to be an exciting way for ecumenical choirs to tell the Food Grains Bank story. It has raised substantial money in support of the struggle to eliminate world hunger while building awareness of the plight of residents of, and refugees from, lands devastated by drought and related economic and political crises.

Just before Christmas 2017 while Common Vision concert



## Common Vision concert at Duncan United Church

revenue was continuing to come in, the Food Grains Bank indicated that the total amount received and accounted for had exceeded \$100,000 — all of which qualified for the 4:1 federal government match. This meant the net amount raised through these concerts was in excess of half a million dollars.

Visit [foodgrainsbank.ca](http://foodgrainsbank.ca) or [rcklusmeier@foodgrainsbank.ca](mailto:rcklusmeier@foodgrainsbank.ca) (Singing to End Hunger) to get involved.



# College celebrates program grads, honorary degree recipients

St. Andrew's College celebrated the success and contributions of eight graduates and recognized three individuals with honorary degrees during convocation held May 4.

In total, the college awarded degrees, diplomas and certificates to seven students as well as three honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees. Four of the student recipients along with those receiving honorary degrees were able to attend and participate in the convocation chapel service and luncheon that preceded the Saskatoon Theological Union's joint convocation ceremony held at St. John's Cathedral.

The list of graduates included Mona Kuzub and Cindy Lewans, both of whom received Master of Theological Studies (Spiritual Care) degrees at convocation.

The degree of Master of Sacred Theology was awarded to Erin McIntyre.

Hati Mvundura received a Doctor of Ministry degree and a certificate recognizing the completion of courses for admission to the order of ministry of The United Church of Canada.

Designated Lay Ministry diplomas were awarded to Brian Hymers and Patricia James.

Anne McGrath was presented with a Post-Graduate Certificate in Rural Ministry.

The three recipients of Doctor of Divinity (*Honoris Causa*) degrees were Austin Fennell of Lethbridge, Alta., Fran Forsberg of Saskatoon and Tony Thompson of Prince Albert.

Fennell graduated from St. Andrew's College with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1957 and served 41 years in active ministry as well as various roles at the conference level and at General Council.

Forsberg is an advocate on behalf of LGBT2Q people and has fostered more than 150 children. Her family consists of children of various abilities, cultural backgrounds, and gender expressions.

Thompson served as a United Church minister for more than 35 years and participated in the wider church on presbytery and conference committees as well as a board member of St. Andrew's College.



**(L. to R.) Brian Hymers received a Designated Lay Ministry diploma, Anne McGrath a post-graduate certificate in Rural Ministry and Erin McIntyre a Master of Sacred Theology degree**



**Mona Kuzub (centre) received a Master of Theological Studies degree**



**Erin McIntyre speaks during the luncheon**



**Brian Hymers speaks at the ceremony**

# Planned giving fits alumna's values

By Joan K. McMurtry

Several years ago, I retired from active ministry and rewrote my will. I hope to live long years into retirement, God willing, but the sooner I die, the better off St. Andrew's College will be, because the College, God willing (yes, I am repeating myself), will receive a large part of my estate!

I made this decision because I considered the health and vision of The United Church of Canada in general and determined that St. Andrew's College meets my criteria for where my money will go. I believe that the College fits with my values and passion for ministry.

Ministry is for "the sake of the world." I believe that ministry is loaded with social justice and a vigorous sensitivity to gender issues, and is both profoundly pastoral and prophetic all at the same time. And I think that these essential foundations continue at the College. The College initiated a "planned gifts" program, which facilitated my personal giving plan.



McMurtry in 1976

With gratitude, I recall with you some significant markers from my time at the College, 1972-76. I remember consistent commitment to the rural community and to "the land" way before environmental activism became popular. I recall Dr. Dorothee Sollee coming to lead a seminar on political theology, and I recall intense discussion on liberation theology and the controversial China-Canada dialogue. I recall readings from Elie Wiesel and an urgent focus on discerning the gospel from and in the "church of the white pages."

It was the rural pastoral charge at Lucky Lake and Beechy, with its maverick minister, Peter Williams, who partnered with the College to create the first year-long internship, the College experimenting for the rest of the church. Then Dr. Ben Smillie blasted me at the end of my internship for not being connected to the community: the National Farmers Union, the local business association. I thought I had done pretty well with just surviving local church dynamics. But no, connection to the community was a critical component of ministry. I never forgot that lesson.

It was Dr. Tannahill, the librarian, who would point out to me a latest journal from Berkeley on the "new" Christian women's liberation agenda. Martha Pankratz, College secretary, huddled with me for coffee that first year as we were the only females in the building. And that same Ben Smillie a few years later both apologetically and boldly hosted the first "women and the church" theological class in Canada, calling

***"St. Andrew's College meets my criteria for where my money will go. I believe that the College fits with my values and passion for ministry."***

**— Joan K. McMurtry**



**Joan McMurtry attended St. Andrew's College from 1972-76 as preparation for 40 years of ministry**

on several of us senior female students for guidance. Later, the College proactively funded a faculty position for a female feminist scholar, Charlotte Caron. The College has never been the same since.

At my retirement, the local member of the legislature, Gordon Hogg, presented me and the congregation with a plaque that read: "We celebrate your commitment to and leadership in social justice, equality, and outreach and your role in making First United a significant force for God. You have touched our hearts and raised our spirits." The local city council a few years earlier had commended us for our significant service in the community and our focus on justice.

My years at St. Andrew's College were both challenging and conflicted. But some of the foundations of my 40 years of ministry rest in the theology and ethos of the College of that day and hopefully into its future.

When people ask about my ministry roots, I say that I am a McMurtry (with my mother's sway), I am from the Saskatchewan of social gospel and agrarian socialism, and I studied at the progressive St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon. Then I say that I am retired, but not tired.

Thanks be to God (I think).

Please join me in supporting the College into the future, with regular donations and with your planned gifts. *For the sake of the world.*



# Giving voice to ministerial leadership

***DLM experience  
provided the confidence  
to share prophetic voice***

**By Dawn Hill**

Andy Searles, in his blog post “Prophet, Pastor, Priest?” writes “throughout scripture, everything Jesus thought, said, or did fulfilled one of three ministerial roles. The role of Prophet, Pastor and Priest. In order to lead like Jesus led, each one of these roles must be present in the ministry we exercise.”

When I began the Designated Lay Ministry program, I knew I was a pastor. I’d known for many years, I just didn’t think it was “cool” when folks would tell me as a teenager that I was going to be a minister. Eventually I accepted God’s call to ministry, but only as a pastor; I strongly resisted the roles of priest and prophet.

My first learning circle was about social justice. I didn’t look forward to it and I cried every single day for 12 days in June 2015. It wasn’t entirely unbearable, tragic or terrifying; the tears were in response to my own white privilege, something I had never acknowledged before. My pastoral heart, the one I was confident could love a congregation through birth, death and everything in between, began to explore the possibility of how I was called to love all of God’s people, particularly those who were oppressed. My role as pastor began to change.

In October 2016 at my third learning circle I began to embrace my role as priest as we learned about theology, Christology, history and preaching. This continued through the remaining circles, peaking at my fifth learning circle, “The Organizing Community” when I wrestled with the question of whether churches in decline are clinging to customs rather than traditions. I learned the importance of concentrating on the tradition, the “why” and helping people recognize the meaning behind something, whilst releasing their hold on the “how.”

Finally at my last learning circle this past winter I realized my prophetic voice. The prophetic voice was always



**Dawn Hill recently completed her final DLM learning circle**

there, but the Designated Lay Ministry program not only taught me biblical knowledge, conflict resolution, pastoral care tools, and sermon writing (to name a few practical things) but it gave me the confidence to open my mouth, and let my prophetic voice out.

The Designated Lay Ministry program and St. Andrew’s College has led me to own my role as prophet, priest and pastor in ministry. I feel better equipped to lead the congregation entrusted to me, to share the love of Jesus and to fulfill the great commissioning whilst encouraging and challenging others to do the same.



# Gala celebrates Calvert's contributions

*'Lorne helped a lot of people experience that deep joy of participating in this college as it participates in the world'*

Speakers praised his leadership and tireless advocacy of St. Andrew's College during a farewell gala held May 16 in Saskatoon, but it was the good humour Lorne Calvert embraced during his term as principal that he used to illustrate the revitalization and success of the college and its mission during the past decade.

"I know why I'll be remembered at St. Andrew's. It's not for the elevator, it's not for the new programming, it's not for the financial picture — it's because I found a donor that put a dishwasher in the kitchen!" Calvert told the crowd, earning laughter and applause.

"In these past nine years it is my sense that we have achieved much as a college community. No principal of St. Andrew's College serves alone; every principal serves with faculty and staff and volunteers and boards and community. I look at this room and I see within this room much of the St. Andrew's community, a community that extends across Western Canada and now extends across Canada. If we have had some measure of success in these nine years it is because of the community that has worked and supported this college."

Current and former board members, faculty and staff paid tributes to Calvert's contributions and leadership during the gala. Their words highlighted Calvert's collaborative manner and the way in which he led shepherded changes to the college's programming and built connections with the wider church while returning St. Andrew's to a position of financial stability.

"I think that familiarity and that comfort level he has with people at many levels has been a great gift for the college in enabling him to do the work that we hired him to do," said former board chair Vic Wiebe, praising Calvert's focus on servant leadership and creating a positive environment for students, faculty and staff.

"Lorne very much demonstrated that with all levels of the college, repeatedly. I know from the board level, from seeing him interact with faculty, with staff and with people in the congregations. He was



**Lorne Calvert's leadership was recognized during the Saskatoon gala**

always looking at how he could be that servant leadership that is needed if you are going to be effective."

Board member Lloyd Lovatt noted Calvert's ability to build connections and encourage people in their ability to contribute to the work and success of the college.

"Lorne helped a lot of people experience that deep joy of participating in this college as it participates in the world," he said. "There is opposition, but Lorne

shows us that in the college there is not really competition. There are just those who don't know yet what's done here and what they can be a part of and it is to help them learn."

Prof. Lynn Caldwell said the college's faculty appreciated Calvert for the qualities he has consistently displayed as principal and for the strong relationships he built with students, the wider community and with the faculty.



“Lorne’s attentiveness and willingness to listen to others, those who shared similar perspectives and those who differed, made a strong first impression, along with his smiling good humour, his passion and his willingness to speak truthfully and even bluntly when necessary,” she said. “He has always been present and available to anyone: student, faculty, staff or visitor who needs to talk to him.”

Calvert’s commitment to the institution of St. Andrew’s and its people, both inside and outside the walls of the college, has created a lasting impact.

“Lorne has been, through all his years as principal, a wise leader in connections beyond the college,” Caldwell said. “We know John Wesley, that tireless founder and leader of Methodism, famously said: ‘I look upon all the world as my parish. Great encouragement have I therefore to be faithful in fulfilling the work God has given me.’ Surely Lorne has followed a similar pastoral responsiveness in attending to the needs of the college, church and community.”

Leslee Harden, the college’s chief administrative officer, said Calvert provided a positive work environment where people chose to do their best because they were confident in his support and encouragement.

“There are things that those of us who have had the good fortune to work with Lorne have learned through witnessing: lead by example, treat people with kindness, dignity and respect; share knowledge; and value the contributions of others,” Harden said.

New programs, new partnerships and the significant physical improvements to the college building accomplished during Calvert’s time as principal mean that “when people enter the doors they know it is a vibrant and open place of learning.”

Perhaps most significantly, the transformation of the financial situation from a debt of almost \$1 million a decade ago to a



**Lynn Caldwell**



**Lloyd Lovatt**



**Betty and Lorne Calvert share in a laugh during the evening’s tributes**

place where St. Andrew’s will be debt-free next year means that the college’s commitment to justice-driven education for Christian leadership remains vibrant.

“He has secured the financial stability to allow us to go about the business of education with optimism,” Harden said.

Calvert acknowledged the strides forward during his time as principal, but praised the support of the college’s supporters, board members, faculty and staff for their leadership.

“It is because of your commitment and support of the college that we have had some measure of success. That we have been able to give to our communities and to the church and to the world these servant leaders who emerge from St. Andrew’s,” he said. “In these nine years we have expanded our program options to better serve a changing church and a changing world and to better welcome those students willing to give of their lives and their service.”

He noted the significant contributions made by his predecessor, interim principal Laura Balas, in steadying the college more than a decade ago and asked those in attendance to welcome incoming principal Richard Manley-Tannis “who will bring a whole new set of gifts to this community” when he assumes the role on July 1.

As he departs, Calvert said his best memories are of the students, of many denominations, who have learned and prepared for servant leadership at



**Calvert and Leslee Harden, the college’s chief administrative officer**

St. Andrew’s College, including 81 students who have received a degree or a diploma or a certificate during the past decade as well as 25 recipients of honorary doctorates during the same period.

“They are why this college exists. Those who experience St. Andrew’s College — whose mission is to provide a justice-driven education for Christian leadership — they are the reason why we are here, why we give; they are the reason we labour and they are the folks who will change this world. My thanks to all of you, not only for your support of me personally, but also the faculty and staff, our boards and our volunteers. My thanks to all of you who have supported St. Andrew’s College.”

# Faculty engaged in learning, teaching & community

## Lynn Caldwell

I am grateful to have had a six-month sabbatical from July to December 2017. The broad theme for my sabbatical projects was critical social justice education and community engagement. I organized my sabbatical as an opportunity to sharpen this as a focus for my leadership in the faculty position I hold as Professor of Church and Society.

A highlight for me was spending some of my time working out of an office space at Station 20 West Community



Enterprise Centre in Saskatoon. The University of Saskatchewan has a community engagement office at that location and makes some office space available to support teaching, learning and research projects

in and with the community. In my time there I was primarily focused on course development and the design of our community field placements for Integration Seminar. One outcome of this was arranging for most of the Integration Seminar classes in Winter 2018 to be held at Station 20 West.

I was also pleased to be involved with a one-day conference organized and hosted through the College of Education and a research group in which I have been participating. The conference titled “Canada 150...more or less” was held in October 2017 and provided an opportunity to critically examine the practice of national commemorations.

In May and June I am teaching two intensive courses, facilitating a book study, and organizing the annual ReJUNEvation conference, all of which are significantly shaped by the reading and research I was immersed in during the sabbatical months.

As I continue to develop and express a focus on interdisciplinary community engaged education, I am pleased to have been invited to serve on the Advisory Board of the Engaged Scholar Journal, a multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed, online journal on community engagement. I look forward to joining the work of this board when they meet this fall.

## HyeRan Kim-Cragg

On a teaching front, after the successful attempt last term to offer a worship course with a once-a-month, semi-intensive format to accommodate students at a distance, happy developments have required a return to a more familiar format. That is, I am offering the preaching class again in the same format this winter.

The change of this course format from a regular weekly, semester-length course to a semi-intensive format prompted me to engage research as a topic to present for a faculty development project funded by a grant from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). Most faculty gathered over a lunch and learn in February and delved into a robust conversation around the benefits and challenges of this changed format.

Onward, Lynn Caldwell and I are looking forward to teaching a week-long intensive course on colonialism, racism, and intercultural ministry this June in conjunction with ReJUNEvation, having our speaker Jennifer Harvey come to our class.

On the academic writing and research front, I am working on an article, “Probing the Pulpit” for the journal, *Liturgy*. I am also working on a chapter — with a tentative title, “Power of Ritual and Importance of Indigenous Christian Spiritual Practices” — to be included in the collective St. Andrew’s faculty book project in collaboration with Indigenous scholars that addresses the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. I anticipate the arrival of the book in print, *Interdependence: A Postcolonial Feminist Practical Theology* (PickWick) this summer. I also anticipate an article, “A Postcolonial Portrait of Migrants” published in *Practical Matters: A Journal of Religious Practices and Practical Theology* this spring at [practicalmattersjournal.org](http://practicalmattersjournal.org)

On a wider community engagement front, I was invited to lead a devotion at the 20th anniversary celebration of Women In Leadership (WIL) of the ATS in Pittsburgh, Feb. 28 to March 2.



I continue to serve the advisory board of the WIL in ATS. Don and I were asked to offer the same “conversations in community series” event, held in Moose Jaw last October, during March at Knox United Church in Gull Lake, Sask.

## Christine Mitchell

Christine Mitchell has been working on a number of different projects over the past several months.

In February, she was the Augustana Distinguished Lecturer at the Augustana campus of the University of Alberta where she gave two lectures on the role of biblical texts and biblical scholarship in the context of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action.

The videos of the lectures can be found on the YouTube channel of the Chester Ronning

Centre for the Study of Religion and Public Life. The topic of these lectures was also the topic of her presidential address to the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies on May 26 at the University of Regina.

In January, Christine participated by invitation as an experienced peer reviewer at the inaugural “School for Peer Reviewers” held by the Association of Theological Schools in Pittsburgh. This event brought together accreditation staff with both new and experienced accreditation team members in a time of learning and sharing of experiences. Participating in this event was particularly helpful as she chaired an accreditation visiting team in March — her first time chairing after several times serving as a team member.

Christine continues to serve as Series Editor for the Advancing Studies in Religion series at McGill-Queen’s University Press, and as an editorial board member of the *Journal of Biblical Literature*.

She has a number of publishing projects on the go, including a book and a 40,000 word entry on 1-2 Chronicles for the new edition of the Oxford Biblical Commentary.





# Faculty updates ctd.

## Don Schweitzer

Last fall and this winter I have been busy teaching a stimulating mix of students from various backgrounds. I also helped HyeRan Kim-Cragg resource the latest instalment of An Intercultural Adventure. This was a gathering of about 30 Korean-Canadian United Church clergy and lay people in Montreal. The theme was mission and migration.

I also participated in the College's teaching sessions in Moose Jaw, facilitating a session on how the United Church interprets Scripture. It had snowed the night before I drove to Moose Jaw, we didn't have snow tires on our car, and I chose a parking spot that hadn't been cleared of snow. When I went to leave after the event, my car was stuck. However, another motorist helped me out, and when I had to preach a few weeks later this little incident became the closing illustration in my sermon.



I was the guest editor on the Fall 2017 issue of the journal Touchstone. This issue was devoted to the theme of "free, creative self-withdrawal for the sake of the other." I published an article in the issue, entitled (surprise!), "Free, Creative Self-Withdrawal for the Sake of the Other," Touchstone 35/3 (October, 2017), 38-47.

Last fall I was in Montreal when Gregory Baum was hospitalized and subsequently died. With his death a great light has gone out. Along with others, I wrote an article in tribute to him. This was published as "Theology as Conversation," (My Life with Gregory), The Ecumenist, 55/1 (Winter 2018), 12-14

**Did you know that this issue of Contact is available on our website at [standrews.ca](http://standrews.ca)?**

**If you would like to receive Contact by e-mail instead of a paper copy please e-mail [melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca](mailto:melanie.schwanbeck@usask.ca).**



The Main Lounge has been transformed with new flooring and furniture

## Renovation efforts maintain the character of St. Andrew's

by Jake Buhler

As St. Andrew's original building on College Drive nears 100 years, some of its parts are wearing out.

The wooden window frames and the impurities in the glass are showing their age. Air is leaking through the frames, causing heating costs to rise.

Property manager Carolina Castro and Antonio Rossi, building maintenance technician, are implementing a multi-year improvement plan to update and improve the College.

The plan also includes new dormitory room desks, closets, and shelving.



Upgrades to residence rooms and new energy-efficient windows in the Main Lounge are some of the projects completed in recent years

# Themes relate to faith communities

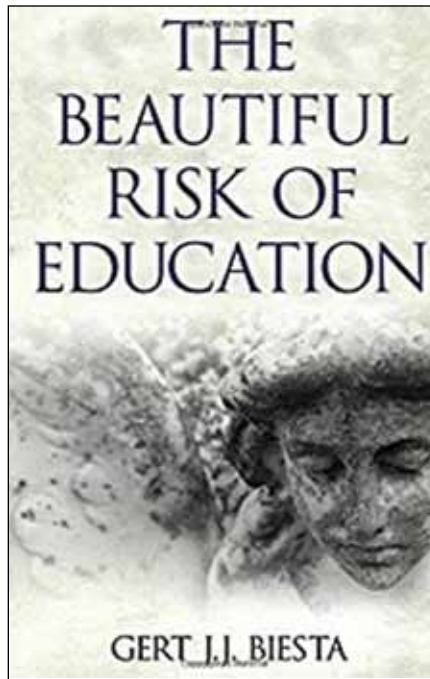
*The Beautiful Risk of Education*  
by Gert J. J. Biesta  
(Paradigm Publishers, 2014) 178 p.

By Lynn Caldwell

One of the features of this book that I particularly like, and one reason I have kept it on my desk at the College for months after reading it, is the title. It is a compelling description of education, to name it a “beautiful risk.” I appreciate the strength of those words when I see the book on my desk among more than a few piles of papers, other texts, file folders, a computer, and other signs of this as a desk where writing, reading, and conversations are most of the time directed toward education. I appreciate the compelling strength of the title, and I value the reminder of the ideas in the book itself.

Gert J. J. Biesta is a writer, teacher, and educational researcher in Europe, who publishes and speaks globally. You can find lectures and interviews with him online. A lot of his work focuses on education that happens through schools and schooling, but he speaks of embracing the risk of education in ways that relate very directly and deeply to teaching, learning, and sharing of knowledge that happens outside of classrooms.

Biesta calls education a “beautiful risk” in part because it is not something that can be controlled or designed to function like a machine or with



machine-like certainty. Teaching and learning, sharing knowledge and ideas, and developing skills all happen as people relate to people. People are, as we know, all kinds of unpredictable, imperfect and messy; we are confusing and surprising and uncomfortable; and, we are creative and impulsive, affectionate and playful. All of these qualities mean that our encounters with each other, however intentionally and carefully approached, involve uncertainty. All of these qualities make education, whether

in classrooms, church basements, or public theatres, on social media, at community workshops, or at conferences, a creative and unpredictable activity.

One of the more provocative and central ideas in the book (and there are many provocative ideas!) is Biesta’s insistence that education is, at its *best*, “weak.” He suggests that “the weakness of education should not be seen as a problem that needs to be overcome, but should rather be seen as the very dimension that makes [education] . . . educational” (p. x).

Biesta is concerned about attempts to bring more certainty and control to the goals and outcomes of educational projects, in ways that try to deny or suppress the importance of risk.

The book is a good read if you are drawn to philosophical ideas about education. I also recommend it as a book for inspiration whether or not you would identify yourself as involved in education in any formal way. Themes around which the book is organized include creativity, communication, teaching, learning, emancipation, democracy, and virtuosity. These are themes upon which the author reflects about education in ways that can open thinking about the beautiful risk of relating to each other for the purpose of justice-seeking transformation. This purpose is one toward which many educational projects in faith communities are oriented.

## Nominations sought for 2019 honorary degree recipients

Nominations are invited for the degree of Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, in preparation for St. Andrew’s Convocation 2019.

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.

The deadline for the receipt of nominations is September 15, 2018.



(L. to R.) Austin Fennell, Fran Forsberg and Tony Thompson received Doctor of Divinity (Honoris Causa) degrees during the 2018 convocation



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## Hermakin receives bursary to support education

Rev. Laura J. Hermakin of the Windermere (B.C.) Valley Shared Ministry was recently honoured and presented with a "divinity bursary" by the Masons Preceptory branch.

Hermakin is student at St. Andrew's completing a Doctor of Ministry in Rural Ministry and Community Development.

Recognized alongside Hermakin was Carolyn Rogers, a student at VST working on completing a Master of Arts in Public and Pastoral Leadership degree.

Rogers is the conference minister for Kootenay Presbytery as well as a member of Hermakin's congregation.

## Friends We Shall Miss

**Linda Westcott** of Saskatoon, SK, passed away on December 29, 2017. Linda was an active volunteer with The United Church of Canada at the local, Presbytery and Conference levels. She recently served as a financial aid officer for the College with her husband, Neil.

**Linsell Hurd** of Manitou Beach, SK, died peacefully in Saskatoon on March 7, 2018. Linsell served as acting principal of the College in 1998-99.

**Adele Smillie** of Saskatoon, SK, widow of Ben Smillie, passed away on April 13, 2018. Adele was a wonderful mother, gifted teacher and well-known community activist.

## Second Century Fund donations

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## Contact

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Some courses at St. Andrew's College are available to those who aren't registered as full-time students but who wish to participate for their own continuing education and interest. Prerequisites are not required for those auditing a course.

## SA340: The Holy Spirit November 12-16, 2018 (D. Schweitzer)

This course examines the nature and work of the Holy Spirit, looking at how it has been understood in the early church and at present. Topics covered include the role of the Spirit in the economy of salvation, expressions of the Spirit in contemporary church and society, the revelatory role of the Holy Spirit, its relation to the reign of God and the Holy Spirit as the growing edge of God. This course may be taken for audit (half cost) or credit. Prerequisite: SA113 or permission of the instructor.

## BE378: Invitation to Adventure: Luke Retells the Jesus Story January 7-11, 2019 (B. Richards, C. Myers)

By the time Luke took up pen to write the story of Jesus, he knew other accounts were already in circulation. But Luke's attention was caught by the spirit of adventure to which the hero had invited his hearers. The same breath Jesus had breathed was inspiring a new community of healing and wonder, among women and men, slave and free, rich and poor alike. To help prepare participants for preaching, study and reflection from the gospel of year C, this course works through Luke's 24 chapters, attentive to the challenge to adventure its Jesus presents. The course may be taken for audit (half cost) or credit. Prerequisite: Introduction to Christian Scriptures course or permission of the instructor.

## HA/SA382: United Church History, Theology and Polity February 25 to March 5, 2019 (D. Schweitzer)

This four-credit course explores the history, theology and ethos of the United Church through an overview of where the United Church has been, and how it has got to where it is now. Students will gain an enriched understanding of how the United Church was formed, the journey it has traveled to the present, how it is organized and how its polity functions. This course may be taken for audit (half cost) or credit. Prerequisites HA/HL 111/112, SA113, their equivalents or permission of the instructor.



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