Renewal at PTS

Phillips Theological Seminary is talking not only about the renewal needs of congregations and of how Christianity is perceived in the U.S. PTS has also entered its own renewal process. With the help of consultants, the board and administration have been involved since February 2011 in a new cycle of strategic planning. The components of planning have included vision and mission statements, overall direction, and identification of primary audiences/students. At the October Board of Trustees meeting, the trustees affirmed a desired direction of growth in student enrollment and a period of exploration for new vision and mission statements. One of the recommendations is that the seminary should communicate with constituents in a disciplined manner. The SCOOP is one new means of communication. Our hope is that this quarterly newsletter will help to keep you informed about what is happening at the seminary. It is an exciting time at PTS! We want you, our constituents, to be intrigued, educated and inspired by the work of PTS.

If you would like to share feedback, thoughts, suggestions, etc., we would welcome them. Please send an email to Sara Smith, director of communications, sara.smith@ptstulsa.edu.

2012 Spring Course Highlights

“PTS continues its commitment to rigorous graduate theological education, while also meeting students’ need for flexibility in the schedule,” said Don Pittman, Dean and Vice President of Academic Affairs at PTS. Online classes have grown in importance, as have concentrated courses offered on weekends, mid-semester, and in summer and January terms. The shift toward courses in these formats and a student survey led the administration to reduce on-campus courses to Tuesday and Thursday only during the Spring 2012 semester. We encourage you to check out the Spring 2012 schedule on our website (www.ptstulsa.edu/schedules). See if there is a course you’d like to take. Pass the schedule on to someone who needs the kind of challenge to grow that a seminary can offer. For more information, contact Linda Ford, director of recruitment, at 918-270-6463 or linda.ford@ptstulsa.edu.
Children’s Worship Center Dedicated

PTS in partnership with the Disciples Home Missions held a service of dedication and grand opening of the Children’s Worship Center on October 25. PTS was asked by Children and Family Ministries of Disciples Home Missions, (a General Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)), if we would be willing to be the new host facility for the Children’s Worship and Wonder training programs. We answered with an emphatic, “YES!”

Attendees enjoyed touring the new location, followed by song and prayer. The Children’s Worship Center will host a variety of educational events throughout the year including: training classes that will focus on teaching faith formation for children though worship, storytelling and use of sensory-motor objects.

Through housing this resource center, PTS will become the central location for training Worship and Wonder facilitators and will allow our student’s access to this wonderful Christian Educational Resource for children. This is an amazing resource for parents, Sunday school teachers, bible school teachers, and seminarians. Materials from the worship center will be housed in the library and accessible for checkout through the library’s circulation desk.

“We are thrilled at the opportunity to partner with DHM in providing this resource for the Christian Church,” said PTS President, Gary Peluso-Verend. “As a seminary, we are more than a center for educating professional clergy. Jesus deserves an educated people – which involves much more than teaching preachers.”

Inaugural Re-Mind & Re-New Conference
January 17 & 18, 2012

Formerly known as Ministers’ Week

A remarkable increase in the de-churched and of persons who check “none” regarding religion is occurring. But we also see significant renewal movements. Missional church. Emerging/emergent church. The new monasticism. Woven through the climate change and movements of renewal are serious and provocative questions about the relationship between Christianity and “church.” PTS has invited four speakers for the inaugural Re-Mind & Re-New Conference to discuss many of these issues.

Scheduled presenters include:
- Craig Van Gelder
- Nadia Bolz-Weber
- Chris Haw
- Diana Butler Bass

Why rename Ministers’ Week Re-Mind and Re-New? Well, Ministers’ Week did not span a week, and it is not for clergy only. Re-mind means to bring to attention, especially something once known or once important that has slipped from conscious attention, as well as to change one’s mind. Re-new means to freshen or to make new.

We’ve heard for decades now about climate change in North American Christianity. Mainline decline. The rise of evangelicalism. Mushroming mega-churches and disappearing mid-sized congregations. Persons who claim to be spiritual but not religious. Post-Christian and post-Christendom North America. What does this all mean?
PTS Welcomes New and Returning Trustees

Phillips Theological Seminary (PTS) announces five new appointments to its Board of Trustees for terms ending June 30, 2014. They are Lt. Gov. Jari Askins, Dr. Karethy (Kay) Edwards, Dr. Donna Killen, Chrys D. Lemon and Dr. LaDonna Meinders. The Board of Trustees is the policy-making body of PTS and has ultimate authority for the governance and stewardship of its direction and finances.

“I am delighted by the promise for PTS these new board members represent. They bring great knowledge about higher education, governance, and how institutions build relationships. Most importantly, they bring a desire to see better educated clergy and communities of faith,” said Dr. Gary Peluso-Verdend, PTS President.

Members of the PTS Board of Trustees include leaders in the fields of ministry, education, law, and business who volunteer their time and expertise on behalf of the Seminary. Jari Askins was the 15th Lieutenant Governor of Oklahoma and is currently the associate provost for external relations at the Peggy and Charles Stephenson Oklahoma Cancer Center. She is an active member of the First Christian Church of Duncan. Kay Edwards is a professor and co-director of the Center for Cultural Competency and Healthcare Excellence at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Edwards has been a member of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ for over 33 years. Donna Killen is administrative director of A Mountain Retreat, a small retreat center for clergy, church staffs and other groups. She is a member of Evergreen Christian Church in Colorado where she has served in numerous leadership roles. She returns to the PTS board after a short hiatus. Chrys D. Lemon is an attorney in Washington D.C. and a former pilot instructor in the Air Force. He attends and has served in leadership roles at National City Christian Church in D.C. LaDonna Meinders is currently retired; her experience previously includes administrative positions at Oklahoma City University in graduate admissions and alumni relations. She is an active member of the Village Christian Church in Oklahoma City. Meinders returns to the PTS board after one year’s absence.

PTS Spring Swing Golf Classic

On Monday, April 30, 2012, Phillips Theological Seminary will host the 2nd Annual Spring Swing Golf Classic at Forest Ridge Golf Club, located in Broken Arrow. The goal for this tournament is to raise funds for student scholarships while providing an entertaining event. In order to realize this goal, the Spring Swing Golf Classic will feature:

- Eighteen holes of golf at a premier golf course with country club amenities
- Fabulous prizes, Hole-In-One contest, and exciting gaming holes
- Breakfast and lunch buffet
- Awards celebration

The format for this tournament is a four-man/woman scramble. Players may designate their own teams by listing each player on the registration form. Individual golfers are also welcome and will be placed on a team with other individual golfers. Your entry fee includes carts, green fees, practice range, breakfast and/or lunch (depending on session time) and beverages on the course.

To register online visit www.ptstulsa.edu/golf. For more information please contact Judy Krase at 918-270-6468 or judy.krase@ptstulsa.edu.