Join us for training and inspiration in English and Spanish. The 2016 team includes Laurie Brock (Dirty Sexy Ministry), Eduardo Rivera (Academia Ecuménica de Liderazgo), Keith Anderson (Digital Cathedral, Click2Save), Tamara Plummer (ERD), Nurya Love Parish (ChurchWork), Scott Gunn (Forward Movement), Randall Curtis (The Holy Geek), Bethany Stolle (Connect by sparkhouse), Shamika Goddard (techchaplain.com), Tim Snyder (Boston University), John Roberto, Lisa Kimball, Kyle Oliver & more.

A conference on ministry in a digital world

Virginia Theological Seminary
Alexandria, Va.

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News from the Hill

Top: The Center for Anglican Communion Studies hosted a wonderful conversation to a packed house on the Future of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion on February 8, 2016. 


Bottom: The Rev. Judy Fentress-Williams, Ph.D. (center), with Paula Lewis (left) and Tia Johnson (right), graduates of the Evening School of Theology program at the Twelfth Night of Christmas celebration on January 5, 2016.

News from the Hill is published three times per year (March, July, and October) for alumni and friends by the Communications and Public Affairs Office, Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. Editorial comments should be directed to editor@vts.edu.

On the Cover: The Most Reverend Michael Curry, now the 27th and current Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; the Right Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, the 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; and the Right Reverend Frank T. Griswold III, the 25th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church on the Moore Terrace the day of the Consecration of the Immanuel Chapel on October 13, 2015. Photo: Donovan Marks.
E"ach fall the Association of Theological Schools asks each of the thousands of entering students why they chose to go to seminary and why they chose the particular seminary that they did. Although the world of theological education is changing rapidly, I was heartened to read that students still come to seminary because they feel called by God to serve others, and come to Virginia Theological Seminary because of the exceptional educational experience.

According to the answers given by our students and those in VTS’ peer group of schools entering in the fall of 2016, the most influential sources that moved them to pursue theological education are: “a call from God,” followed by “a desire to serve others,” and “an opportunity for study and growth.”

When asked why they chose the particular seminary that they did, the top response was “the quality of the faculty,” followed closely by “the academic reputation of the school” and “the curriculum.”

Heartening news, but it comes with a challenge as well. For even as we pray that God’s spirit will continue to speak and inspire a life of service, we also need to be vigilant about supporting our faculty so that they can continue to flourish.

As part of this program, the Board of Trustees received a report during their fall meeting on faculty development at VTS. Divided into the categories of funding, load, and opportunities for continued academic engagement, the Board looked at current practices and thought about future possibilities to support teaching and research. Are we generous enough with funding to attend conferences and purchase research materials? Should we recalculate teaching load and/or the sabbatical schedule? How can faculty make the most of opportunities for on-going professional development and academic engagement? Where is our support sound enough to promote significant growth, and where might it be supplemented?

As the statistics indicate, support for ongoing faculty development such as research sabbaticals are key to our viability. Knowing that students seek out the soundest educational environment in which to learn as much as possible over the next several years spurs this effort. Along with worship and service, a strong VTS involves bringing the wealth of scholarship and the tradition to bear on the questions that the contemporary world is asking, and to come up with new questions that shape the experience of today.

The Rev. Melody D. Knowles, Ph.D.
Acting Dean and President
Above: On the first Wednesday of the Fall semester, the VTS community held a stational liturgy, which began in the chapel and moved around the campus. At each stop we offered prayers for aspects of our life together—administration, academics, the maintenance department, the Butterfly House, the Refectory staff, and the library. We concluded with the Eucharist in Scott Lounge. 

Photo: Kristen Pitts ('16)

Top right: Jaime Leonard, Master of Arts student getting comfortable for studying. Photo: Kristen Pitts ('16); Center: This winter the Alexandria area had record snowfalls and the children of the faculty and staff enjoyed the snow days sledding. Photo: Jan Hicks ('17); Bottom left: Master of Arts student, Douglas Barnes ('15) enjoys class. Photo: Kristen Pitts ('16).
During a special service of Advent Lessons and Carols on December 6, 2015, the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, dean and president of Virginia Theological Seminary, conferred the Dean’s Cross for Servant Leadership in Church and Society Award to Barbara Bush, Robert E. Frye, and Stanley B. Hubbard Jr.

“It is moments like last night that one sees Anglican liturgy at its finest,” Markham said. “The majesty, beauty, and rhythm of the occasion are a major reason why women and men continue to be interested in what we offer as a tradition. The Dean’s Cross recipients made it a special and memorable evening.”

Established in 2008, the Dean’s Cross Award recognizes outstanding leaders who embody their baptismal vows to “strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.” Selected annually by VTS’ dean in consultation with the chair of the Board of Trustees, the honorees receive a handmade silver cross, modeled after the seminary chapel cross, and a certificate.

Mrs. Barbara Bush has helped countless charities and humanitarian causes during her years in public life. Her primary cause through the years has been promoting literacy. In 1989, she founded the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy which supports programs where parents and children can learn and read together. Over the years, the Barbara Bush Foundation has awarded $50 million to create or expand family literacy programs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. She has authored two children’s books, C. Fred’s Story and the best-selling Millie’s Book, whose profits benefited literacy. She also wrote the best-selling Barbara Bush: A Memoir and Reflections: Life After the White House. Bush often jokes that her successful life is a result of marrying well. Her husband’s service as Vice President and President of the United States provided her a unique opportunity to make a wonderful difference in the public eye.

Mr. Robert E. Frye Sr., a former Chairman of the Fairfax County School Board, provided leadership and direction for almost 20 years to the Fairfax County public school system. Frye had a key role in shaping what has been recognized as one of the best large school districts in the country. He has been honored as one of ten “Washington Metropolitan Area Heroes,” for his advocacy of nondiscriminatory policies in county schools, he has received more than 20 community service awards and commendations. Called “a hero to immigrant parents” by Tom Gjelten in his book, A Nation of Nations, Frye helped the school system to begin a Parent Liaison Program where schools with high numbers of immigrant students would hire a part-time person from the community to assist parents with translations of school materials and get them involved with the PTA and their child’s education. Professionally, Frye had a key role in “Saving Lives and Keeping American Families Safe” as a senior staff member of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), and over the years received numerous awards and recognitions. He retired in May 1999.

Mr. Stanley B. Hubbard Jr. was named a Minneapolis Tribune Scholar at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and was elected to the Order of the Old Well for his leadership on campus. Following service in the U.S. Air Force, Hubbard pursued a 34-year career in financial services, holding executive positions at Citibank and Liberty Life Insurance. In 2004, Hubbard was called to serve as the ninth president and chief executive officer of Kanuga Conferences, Inc. in Hendersonville, N.C. Kanuga annually serves more than 25,000 adults and youth from all over the U.S. and around the world. Under Hubbard’s leadership, Kanuga’s 34 trustees and 100 staff members have steadily strengthened accountability for delivering Kanuga’s mission to the Church and beyond. When Hubbard is not giving his energy and focus to Kanuga, he enjoys gardening at his home in Asheville. It has been said that “no one gardens alone.” That sums up the collegial spirit and collaborative work ethic of Mr. Hubbard in his work and in his ministry.
In November, VTS announced the promotion of two of its faculty members. Lisa Kimball, Ph.D. was promoted to the position of Associate Dean of Lifelong Learning and the Rev. David Gortner, Ph.D., was promoted to the position of Associate Dean of Church and Community Engagement.

Dr. Kimball joined the VTS faculty in 2009 as Director of the Center for Ministry of Teaching (CMT), and Professor of Christian Formation and Congregational Leadership. Kimball’s new role will be to build up, develop, and support the various web-based, consultancy, and non-credit opportunities that really help the Seminary support the Church, utilizing the resources of three of the Seminary’s centers—Lifetime Theological Education, the Center for Liturgy and Music, and the Center for the Ministry of Teaching.

The Rev. Dr. David Gortner has been with the VTS faculty since 2008 as Director of the Doctor of Ministry programs, and Professor of Evangelism and Congregational Leadership. In his new role, Gortner’s responsibilities will include helping seminarians learn how to engage with the unchurched (the “NONES”) through imaginative social engagement, especially through the community.

Virginia Theological Seminary is proud to announce the publication of three new books by its faculty for a nuanced reading of theological work from the church in Africa by relating it to more recent trends and demonstrating how it might impact the church’s vision of God, mission, and formation. Heaney, the Director of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies and Associate Professor of Christian Mission, came to VTS in 2013. This is his first book.


An Introduction to Ministry: A Primer for Renewed Life and Leadership in Mainline Protestant Congregations (Wiley-Blackwell, 2016), written by the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., and the Rev. Oran E. Warder, rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Va. Covering the key components of the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) curriculum, Markham and Warder offer a map and guide to the central skills and issues in training as they explore the areas of vocation, skills for ministry, and issues around congregational leadership.

To find these and other faculty publications, please visit www.vts.edu.
Immanuel Chapel Featured in BBC Radio Program

On November 22, 2015, Radio Four (the talk radio network of the British Broadcasting Corporation) visited the newly consecrated Immanuel Chapel to record the Seminary’s Thanksgiving service as part of their Sunday Worship program. Invited to participate with the VTS choir was the Chamber Singers of Episcopal High School.

“It is an amazing opportunity to be part of the Seminary choir at a time when we are fortunate enough to be featured on the BBC Radio program Sunday Worship,” said Nicholas Evancho (’18), from the diocese of Northwest Pennsylvania, who is a section leader of the VTS choir. “Not only is it a blessing to be able to sing in such a resonant and beautiful worship space and with accomplished musicians from both the Seminary and Episcopal High School, but also to have the commonality of the Anglican Communion recognized and embraced in such a way.”

The service was led by the Associate Dean of Chapel, the Rev. Ruthanna Hooke, Ph.D., with the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., preaching. For the program Radio Four also joined students, faculty, and staff for reflections on how they felt called to ministry from a variety of careers and backgrounds.

Evancho continued, “It is exciting to be connected to our fellow Anglicans in the UK and to work together as one church to worship and make great music. Such a cooperative and meaningful event makes one appreciate the size and resources present within the Anglican Communion and gets a seminarian even more excited to be a part of its mission.”

The music for the program was directed by the Rev. William B. Roberts, D.M.A., professor of Church Music at VTS, and Mr. Brandon Straub, director of Choral Music at EHS, with organist Thomas Smith. The full program is archived on the VTS website–www.vts.edu.

Immanuel Chapel Dedicatory Year

Left: Organist Janet Yieh, prior to her January 10, 2016 organ recital for over 300 people.

Right: The Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, Ph.D., was a surprise guest conductor for the finale of the December 13, 2015, Messiah Sing-a-long.

Music programs for the Immanuel Chapel Dedicatory year began on October 27, 2015, with Marilyn Haskel, Ysaya Barnwell, and Alice Parker and a rousing Community Sing, hosted by VTS’ Center for Liturgy and Music.
Immanuel Chapel 2016
Dedication Year Events

March–May

Degree and Enriched Evening School Course: Biblical Storytelling: Sacred Spaces led by the Rev. Ruthanna Hooke, Ph.D.

March
18 Organ Recital with Marilyn Keiser
22 Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill
31 Christ Church Cathedral Choir, Oxford

April
4-5 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration led by the Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes Jr.
9 Chanticleer choral concert
22 Silent Movie with organ improvisation featuring Dorothy Papadakos

May
6 Fridays at the Seminary with the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, visiting professor

June
6-8 eformation 2016

September–November

Evening School Course: Sacred Space led by the Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D.

October
4-5 Convocation 2016 with Ed Begley Jr.
Class Reunions 2015
PAGE 10, (Top left): Class Stewards, the Rev. Anne Ritchie Gavin, ’78 and the Rev. Roma Maycock, ’83; 
(Bottom photo): The Class of 1965 gathers for their 50th reunion: Front row, left to right: Janet Phelps, Barbara Mullen, Peg Albritton, Pat Ingersoll, Carolyn Lief, Lollie Willis, Tish Brown, Susan Harris Middle row: Charles Johnson, Virginia Johnson, Erv Brown, Jim Henry, John Talbird, Richard Lief, Fay Houston, Carol Swinehart Back row: Mike Freeman, John Phelps, Ray Howe, Bill McLemore, Lori Lowe, Russ Ingersoll, Rick Willis, Bill Fallowfield, Larry Harris, Chuck Swinehart. 

Bottom photo: The Rev. Canon Jeunée J. Godsey, 00, the Rev. Daniel Meck, ’00
Class Reunions 2015


Middle photo, left: Pat and Russ Ingersoll, ’65; Lottie and Rick Willis, ’65

Bottom row: William and Barbara Blakemore, ’90; AAEHC President, the Very Rev. Phoebe Roaf, ’08

News from the Hill · Spring 2016

Second row, left to right: the Rev. John Sorenson, ’85; the Rev. John Agbaje, ’95; VTS alumni enjoy the sumptuous dinner prepared by Meriwether Godsey chefs and staff.

Third row, left to right: the Rev. Barney Hawkins, Ph.D., Vice President for Institutional Advancement, offering remarks at the Class Reunion Dinner; the Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, the ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and author of Church: A Generous Community Amplified for the Future (2015, VTS Press).

The Dedication and Consecration of Immanuel Chapel
~and~
Choral Evensong in Honor of the Incarnation
~October 13, 2015~

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, the 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (above), was the celebrant for the consecration. The Rev. Dr. Susan Lukens (far left), read the Gospel. The Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby (near left), the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury, delivered the sermon. More than 1,000 people attended the historic event in the 192nd year in the life of the Seminary.

Participating in the Consecration Service were (left to right): The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, the 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia; the Rt. Rev. James J. Shand, the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Easton; the Rt. Rev. Frank T. Griswold III, the 25th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, now the 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, the 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; the Most Rev. and Right Honourable Justin Welby, the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury; the Most Rev. Suheil Dawani, the 14th Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem and now the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem; the Rt. Rev. Carolyn Tanner Irish, the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Utah; the Very Rev. Ian S. Markham, the 14th Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary.
The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry participated in the Consecration and Dedication of Immanuel Chapel less than 3 weeks before he was installed as the 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church (top left); the Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, the vice president for Institutional Advancement led the procession as verger to deliver Eucharist to attendees of the consecration who had tent seating on the Grove (top right). During the Choral Evensong, Archbishop Justin Welby served as the Officiant. (Below), he is dedicating the sculpture *Mary as Prophet*, commissioned of Margaret Adams Parker. (Below right) At the conclusion of the Evensong, an address was given by Robert A.M. Stern, founder and senior partner of Robert A.M. Stern Architects.
Eucharist is a public yet intimate act that Christian communities celebrate together. Shared bread and shared cup are meant to draw us closer to the One who calls us and to the community we are called to live into.

Weeks before the October 13, 2015 Consecration of Immanuel Chapel, I was asked by the Director of the Annual Fund, Bill Campbell, to approach local parishes on behalf of VTS to borrow the very vessels that help give the Body of Christ to the Body of Christ. There is beauty in the surrounding community sharing their holiest containers to bless a new house for God’s worship.

VTS was graciously offered 19 patens, 31 chalices, 7 flagons and one ewer from 11 sources in our community: 10 congregations and one VTS graduate. Here is a bit of their history as well as what these congregations are doing in ministry.

**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill**

Established in 1941, worship was initially held in Immanuel Chapel.

When Zabriskie Chapel was built in 1958, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill used both spaces until fire consumed Immanuel Chapel on October 22, 2010. They are now using the Chapel of the Ages on Sundays.

Immanuel’s main outreach is their annual Pumpkin Patch. Sales help support more than 20 non-profit organizations such as ALIVE!, Carpenter’s Shelter, and Community Lodgings. The pumpkins are sourced from Navajo farmers.

**Meade Memorial**

Meade has hosted Carpenter’s Shelter in the past which now has a permanent location. They offer bagged lunches as a community and ecumenical effort that cares for 30–50 individuals and families each week and an additional 40–50 on Saturdays.

Meade offers a hot lunch program from October to March. They also prepare Blessing Bags to distribute to those in need that are filled with snacks and everyday personal hygiene supplies.

**The Rev. Peter Ackerman (’07) and VTS Adjunct Instructor**

The vessels were given to him by his mother on the occasion of his priestly ordination. He cherishes these gifts from the woman who first brought him to church.

Rev. Ackerman is the Rector of St. Christopher’s, Springfield—the founding parish of ECHO which helps the needy with food and clothing; even creating a garden to harvest produce for this effort. They also host FACETS as part of the Fairfax County Hypothermia Prevention Program.
Christ Church, Alexandria
Christ Church centers itself around Jesus’ words at the end of the parable of the Good Samaritan, “Go, and do thou likewise.”

They participate in various local ministries including, ALIVE!, Bread for the World, and help with bag lunches through Meade Memorial’s program. They also participate in the New Neighbors’ program that provides English classes to immigrants and refugees.

St. Paul’s, Old Town
St. Paul’s graciously shared a chalice linked to VTS: the Wilmer Chalice. It belonged to Dr. William Holland Wilmer who in 1823 held what would become the first class of VTS in his study. This space now serves as their chapel.

St. Paul’s has a decades-long partnership with the Church in Sudan and South Sudan. Locally, they support the Lazarus Ministry, a direct volunteer service ministry in Alexandria.

Grace Church, Russell Rd
Grace’s vessels are memorials—the oldest being a gift from 1949 with others from 1978 and the 1990s. The newest additions were given in thanksgiving for Fr. Malm’s 20th year at Grace with the matching paten given in 2009.

Grace offers a food pantry three days a week with a full supply of food as well as vouchers for milk, meat, and fresh produce. Grace assists with the brown bag lunch program at Meade Memorial as well as helping provide Thanksgiving baskets seasonally.

St. Mary’s, Arlington
In 2008, St. Mary’s co-founded VOICE, a multi-faith, non-partisan organization dedicated to organizing citizens to bring about social change. St. Mary’s cooks and serves breakfast to over 400 people twice a month.

St. Mary’s also participates in various health care clinics, housing initiatives, international partnerships as well as Courtney’s House that offers comprehensive services to those victimized by domestic sex trafficking.

St. Barnabas, Annandale
Once a year, the youth of St. Barnabas raise money for hunger and famine awareness by fasting for 30 hours. They participate in the Annandale Safe Youth Project, an afterschool program that provides a safe environment for kids to be part of a stable group with caring mentors.

St. Barnabas also participates in the annual Annandale CROP Walk that raises funds for Church World Service’s hunger and refugee relief programs.

St. John’s, McLean
St. John’s uses its time, talent, and treasure to support SHARE, Habitat for Humanity, General Colin Powell’s Leadership Club, as well as Sandwich Sunday, a monthly program that prepares more than 1,200 sandwiches for Martha’s Table in DC. They also have a “Drive of the Month” program.

St. Alban’s, Washington D.C.
With one chalice safely stored since 1947, St. Alban’s could not find a better occasion to bring it back into use.
St. Alban’s has a Focus-on-Feeding program that aims to alleviate the poverty experienced by one-fifth of DC’s population. This includes a mobile meal program, along with assisting with SOME Casseroles and Christ House.

**St. John's, Lafayette Square**

With one vessel of unknown origin, the other was given to St. John’s late in the 20th Century in memory of Leslie Glenn (1900-1976), Rector of St. John’s from 1940-1956. Fr. Glenn was a VTS graduate and received a VTS Doctor of Divinity degree in 1936.

St. John’s supports the Downtown Cluster of Congregations for homeless outreach; offers funding and volunteers for Communities in Schools in DC; assists with housing initiatives and partners with the Washington Interfaith Network.

These communities that have been nourished spiritually act physically in the world around them by witnessing to God’s love.

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**Wilmer Chalice**

by The Rev. Oran Warder (‘88), Rector of St. Paul’s

*William Holland Wilmer, D.D. (1782-1827)*  
Second Rector of St. Paul’s from 1812-1826  
Originally from Chestertown in Kent County, Maryland, he was ordained in 1808 by Maryland Bishop Claggett and received his Doctor of Divinity from Brown University in 1819.

When Dr. Wilmer arrived in 1812, the church met in a little brick meeting house on South Fairfax Street. This dynamic and young preacher soon grew and transformed the church, and it was clear a new building was needed. If this was not enough he was also a church planter—he served simultaneously as rector of St. Paul’s and the new St. John’s Lafayette Square in Washington DC—and in both instances convinced his friend, renowned American architect, Benjamin Henry Latrobe to design both churches.

Connected to the Church of England following the war for independence, this was, to say the least, a challenging time for the Episcopal Church in America. Dr. Wilmer’s vision was to rebuild the church just as this new nation was rebuilding. Central to his vision was the training of leaders for the church. In 1823, Dr. Wilmer held what would become the first classes of the Virginia Theological Seminary in his study at St. Paul’s (in the same space that now serves as our chapel). In partnership with other church leaders the seminary founded and he was perhaps its first professor. There is remarkable historical symmetry that his chalice was part of the Eucharist that marked a new beginning at VTS.

Among many other things, he would continue to encourage the growth of theological education in Virginia and for the larger church. He would remain in Alexandria until called to serve as both President of William & Mary and the rector of Bruton Parish in Williamsburg, VA in 1826. He would die suddenly and unexpectedly nine months later at 45 years old. A gift from the parish to celebrate and give thanks for his extraordinary ministry here was the silver chalice that was returned to St. Paul’s many generations later.

Dr. Wilmer’s legacy continues at St. Paul’s—a central part of our identity is the deep connection to VTS and the ongoing training and formation of the church leaders (training generations of seminarians as and field educations site) and also his outward focus of service to the church and the world beyond our doors.
Virginia Theological Seminary announced *Deep Calls to Deep*, a new program for preaching renewal in October 2015. The program aims to provide the structure, space, and resources for preachers to unlock their passion for preaching.

The majority of the program, generously funded by the Lilly Endowment, is for Episcopal preachers who have been out of seminary for at least five years and who long for the space and structure to nurture their love for preaching.

Six peer groups of six working preachers, including a trained peer guide, meet together monthly over a year to respond to each other’s preaching. These groups gather initially at a residency led by the Rev. Ruthanna Hooke, Ph.D., the executive program director and Donyelle McCray, J.D., Th.D., the associate program director, and conclude the year with a second residency.

**2016-2017 Preaching Fellows for *Deep Calls to Deep* Selected!**

We are happy to share the news that we have accepted thirty-six Preaching Fellows for Deep Calls to Deep: A Program to Strengthen Episcopal Preaching. These Fellows (including seven trained Peer Guides) will attend a Residency from June 11-17 on campus at VTS. At the Residency, they will have Sabbath time with optional sessions on praying with poetry, art, and music; they will work one-on-one with preaching mentors to take an inventory of their sermons; they will connect with peer groups; and they will participate in short courses to enrich their engagement with body, voice, and spirit in their preaching. The preaching mentors for the 2016-2017 Residencies are the Rev. Ann Gillespie, the Rev. Vincent Powell Harris, the Rev. Rosa Margarita Santana, the Rev. Dr. David J. Schlafer, Dr. Kathleen H. Staudt, and the Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade.

By the end of March 2016, the program directors, the Rev. Dr. Ruthanna Hooke and Dr. Donyelle McCray, will select the Dioceses in which we’ll launch Deep Calls to Deep for the following program year. If you are interested in having this program in your diocese, please contact the Rev. Leslie Chadwick at lchadwick@vts.edu.
There has been and will be much reaction to what happened, what is rumored to have happened, and what might happen at and after the 2016 Primates Meeting in Canterbury, England. At this juncture, it is important to clarify what the Communiqué says and to discern what our testimony as the community of VTS and the Center for Anglican Communion Studies might be in the months and years ahead.

The Primates recognize that “deep differences” and “deep pain” exist throughout the Communion. Yet, a commitment to “walk together” was unanimously agreed upon at the meeting. That is not something many would have predicted. However, this walking together is “at a distance.” For the Episcopal Church this does not mean that its status changes within the Communion. However, the Communiqué states that for three years, “TEC no longer represents us on ecumenical and interfaith bodies, should not be appointed or elected to an internal standing committee and that while participating in the internal bodies of the Anglican Communion, they will not take part in decision making on any issues pertaining to doctrine or polity.” Given this, attention will now turn to the meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) in Lusaka, Zambia in April.

This is a painful moment for the Episcopal Church and there may yet be pain for other provinces. Depending on developments, one might deduce from the Communiqué that others may be “required” to “walk at a distance” in the future. For example, the Communiqué states that for three years, “TEC no longer represents us on ecumenical and interfaith bodies, should not be appointed or elected to an internal standing committee and that while participating in the internal bodies of the Anglican Communion, they will not take part in decision making on any issues pertaining to doctrine or polity.” Given this, attention will now turn to the meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) in Lusaka, Zambia in April.

Other issues including the possibility of an application by the Anglican Church of North America to the ACC for membership of the Anglican Communion, climate change, religiously motivated violence, child protection, evangelism, a Lambeth Conference for 2020, and a further Primates meeting in 2017 were discussed.

Reflecting on the meeting, Michael Curry said, “…the Anglican Communion is really not a matter of structure and organization. The Anglican Communion is a network of relationships that have been built on mission partnerships…grounded in a common faith.” This is undoubtedly the case. It is because of the mission of God that there is a church and a worldwide Anglican Communion. Even amidst the pain, we must not succumb to isolationism nor succumb to a reaction that threatens hard won relationships, fellowship and partnership across differences. As the Presiding Bishop says, “We are part of the Jesus Movement, and the cause of God’s love in this world can never stop and will never be defeated.”
PHONATHON UPDATE

**It’s almost time to Answer the Call!**

On the evenings of April 18–21, VTS students, faculty, and staff will be participating in our Spring Phonathon. By answering their call, you not only help Virginia Theological Seminary financially, you help form our seminarians for their future ministry. You help them by providing a chance to speak to people from around the country; you help them by giving an experience asking for ministry support; and many times, you help our seminarians by letting them pray with you and hear about your lives. The phonathon is more than fundraising. It is an important part of our future Church leaders’ formation.

*If you are able, please pick up the phone when they call.*

**What does the Annual Fund support at VTS?**

Virginia Theological Seminary is blessed to share our unapologetic optimism for the future of the Episcopal Church with so many alumni and friends. Thank you to the 1,075 donors who have already made your gift this fiscal year. These donations have real impacts on our students, but also our larger community.

Virginia Seminary students, who leave VTS without the burden of more student loan debt from their seminary education, are able to follow God’s call freely. They serve Christ and not the banks. Through your Annual Fund gift, our alums can focus on their ministry goals. They can serve in areas that are underserved. They can reach further out into the community after they leave VTS. Your gift spreads beyond the Seminary and improves the lives of those in communities around the globe.

Similarly, and closer to the Holy Hill, think of the Butterfly House, which offers amazing early childhood education to infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children. Through your Annual Fund gift we are able to provide childcare for our seminarians’ children. Our students have the peace-of-mind that allows them to focus on their studies. Also, through our partnership with employee families from Episcopal High School (EHS) who also use the Butterfly House, members of the VTS community (in turn) have access to the new EHS gym. Your Annual Fund support bolsters a program which benefits the entire Seminary Hill community and gives everyone at VTS the chance to live healthier, more productive lives.

As you can see, there are surprising ways gifts to the Annual Fund can spread out beyond the programs and people on campus, and impact larger audiences. If you have not yet donated to the Annual Fund this fiscal year, please join the 1,075 donors who have made their investment to the future of the Church by visiting [www.vts.edu/give](http://www.vts.edu/give).

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**Susan Lukens**

**VTS Alum and Trustee Named Associate Dean of St. George’s College, Jerusalem**

VTS is delighted to congratulate the Rev. Dr. Susan A. Lukens (DMin’11) on her appointment as Associate Dean of St. George’s College, Jerusalem, a partner institution of Virginia Seminary. In announcing this appointment, Dean Gregory Jenks noted that this marks the first time a woman has been appointed to a senior leadership position in The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and in particular at St. George’s College.

In sharing this news with the VTS community, the Rev. Dr. J. Barney Hawkins IV, VTS Vice President for Institutional Advancement and President of the North American Committee for St. George’s College, said, “We are proud of Susan! She is a missionary of the Episcopal Church who has served ably in Tanzania and will now give her best at St. George’s in Jerusalem. As a DMin student, she took seriously those iconic words which framed the west window of the 1881 chapel—‘Go Ye Into All The World And Preach The Gospel.’”
The Alumni Association Executive Committee (AAEC) holds its spring meeting on March 9-10. Key items for discussion at the meeting will be planning for the 2016 Alumni Convocation and preparing a slate of nominees for the next AAEC election process. Please email alumni@vts.edu if you have suggestions about Convocation or if you are interested in the AAEC election.

We are grateful to our alumni who serve on the AAEC: The Very Rev. Phoebe Roaf ('08), President; the Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge ('82), Vice President; the Rev. Canon Wm. Blake Rider ('04), Secretary; the Rev. Michael Angell ('11); Dr. Serena Beeks (DMin’09); the Rev. Dr. Kit Carlson ('00, '15); the Rev. Kim Coleman ('01); the Rev. Dorian Del Priore ('14); the Rev. Angela Ifill ('95); the Rev. Lauren Kuratko ('05); the Rev. Dr. Luis Leon ('77); the Rev. Canon Jose McLoughlin ('05); the Very Rev. Troy Mendez ('09); the Rev. Christopher Miller ('15); Sharon Ely Pearson ('03); the Rev. Bingham Powell ('07); the Rev. Jim Said ('13); the Rev. Barbara Williamson ('92); the Rt. Rev. Dean Wolfe ('92); and the Rev. Dr. Barney Hawkins and Shelagh Casey Brown as ex-officio members.

The 2016 Alumni Convocation will be held Tuesday, October 4–Wednesday, October 5. Class Reunion activities are scheduled on Monday, October 3. Ed Begley, Jr., actor and environmentalist, will be our Convocation keynoter. Mark your calendars now for what is sure to be a memorable Convocation.

The Regional Chapter program continues to expand across the country, allowing an increasing number of alumni to enjoy regional programming offered by VTS faculty and opportunities to connect with fellow alums and the Seminary. We invite you to participate in Regional Chapter activities; please visit the Regional Chapters section of the website for further information.

The Alumni and Church Relations Office now handles placement activities, particularly for our graduating students. Please be in touch if you have a position opening that is appropriate for one of our soon-to-be VTS alumni.

Don’t forget about the Spring Phonathon, scheduled for April 18-21! Elsewhere in this issue is an enlightening article about the Phonathon and the VTS Annual Fund.

A final reminder to all: Please keep the Alumni Office informed about changes in address and new ministries. And please don’t forget to let us know about email address changes! We want to be sure you are receiving news about all the exciting things going on here at your Seminary.

Wishing you all a blessed Lent and Easter,
The Virginia Theological Seminary Journal

Virginia Theological Seminary is proud of the work that goes into our print publications, including News from the Hill, which you hold today (published every spring, summer, and autumn). Additional publications include the Seminary’s Annual Report, the quarterly Episcopal Teacher, the new Lenten Workbook, and the Virginia Theological Seminary Journal, which has become an annual publication for lectures, sermons, and articles.

After careful reflection and input, VTS has decided to share the material that would have been found in the Journal digitally. This will allow our audience to read, view, and/or reflect on significant lectures and sermons in a timely manner, as opposed to waiting (in some instances) a year for a print publication. VTS is also beginning to publish select manuscripts through VTS Press. These books will be printed on-demand, which is an excellent way to make quality publications available while simultaneously being good stewards of the material costs required to produce them. This is a significant development in the way we communicate with our audiences, and we value your feedback as we move forward. Please share your thoughts with us at editor@vts.edu.
Spending Time With God Over A Cup of Coffee
VTS Alum Celebrates One-Year Anniversary of The Abbey

By Curtis W. Prather, Director of Communications

The Abbey is a coffee shop. The Abbey is also a church. Founded as a partnership between the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama and St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Birmingham, The Abbey is the result of hard work and dedication of the Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers (’11), who sought to replicate the “Street Church” which she learned while doing a class with the Rev. Ruthanna Hooke, Ph.D., associate dean of chapel. Launched in February 2015, The Abbey’s relaxed environment provides coffee, tea, baked goods, light food, and the space to explore questions of faith and spirituality.

Katie, who is on the staff at St. Luke’s, managed to lease the building, obtain a grant, contract with an architect, organize and oversee the builders, handle the legal paperwork, get the permits, construct a business plan, hire the staff, and create a coffee shop where church takes place.
After graduation, both you and your husband (the Rev. Josiah Rengers, '11) found job opportunities in Alabama with small parishes. What was that experience like, so soon after graduating from VTS?

It was kind of wonderful, but they were very small parishes. I have been part of some smaller churches in the past, but nothing as tiny as a family-sized church, where I knew everybody’s name, everybody’s spouse’s name, everybody’s kid’s names and everybody’s dog’s name. It was really special.

What kind of challenges did you face?

I was commuting about 80 miles one way from Eutaw to Fayetteville, Ala. At first we thought, “Okay, we can do this for about a year and a half,” but when I was pregnant with our daughter, Naomi, we knew that would need to change. Then two positions opened up at St. Luke’s here in Birmingham. I have been there three years now. Josiah just recently left and became director of St. Thomas, also here in Birmingham.

Why did you want to start a church here?

While we were still in Fayette and Eutaw, before we made the move, I started talking to Bishop Stallone about starting a church without walls in Avondale, which is a Birmingham neighborhood near where I grew up. Avondale, and the area around it, has a lot of younger, single people, a lot of young, married people, straight people and gay people. It is very ethnically diverse as well. It is a cool neighborhood. When I was living here, however, I do not remember anything on this street. It was nothing. It was just a bunch of abandoned buildings. In the last five years, growth has exploded, but there were no other Episcopal churches that serve this neighborhood. Those were really the reasons the bishop was receptive to the suggestion of a new church here.

Where did the idea for the coffee shop come?

While attending the Church Planters Academy in Minneapolis, I learned about Solomon’s Porch, a nondenominational, missional Christian community in South Minneapolis. They took an old, traditional Church, gutted the sanctuary, and then filled it with comfy chairs and sofas. They have church on Sunday, but during the week they have a little shop that sells parishioner-made pottery, cards and such. They have a women’s health clinic and a yoga studio, so there are people in and out all week long. There was something very appealing about that. As I continued to hear the stories, I began to see that something like this could work in Birmingham, too. I was already trying to build a church, but this could be a different kind of church that is open all the time and where the building is in constant use—not just constant use by the parishioners here but constant use by the community, who might stop in for coffee but stay for the conversation. I returned to the bishop with this idea, and that’s how it happened.

St. Luke’s has been supportive, I take it.

They have been incredibly supportive. The clergy there have always encouraged people to try to reach out into the city and be involved either through volunteering or outreach organizations in the City of Birmingham. I think that culture was ingrained in them so they were willing to support something in Avondale. It has been interesting.

Do you consider The Abbey more of a church or a coffee shop?

We consider it a church. It was a big learning curve for everyone. I remind my staff that this is not a small, independent business. It is a church, so we are going to pay our employees more than the minimum wage. We are going to put our coffee shop in this area. We scoped this out. This street needed a coffee shop, so it was not a bad business decision, but we chose it more for the ministry value than we did for the coffee-selling value.

Were there other examples across the country like this?

Yes, but the few Episcopal coffee shops are in church buildings. They are not paying rent. They are not paying utilities. They can be more easily staffed by volunteers. “Hey, we have an extra room. Let us open a coffee shop.”
During the week how do you make it clear that this is a church?

I think it is fairly obvious that it is a Christian coffee shop. Our artwork, right now is a Day of the Dead exhibit, but there are crosses around. The books on the shelf are Christian books. We try to partner with nonprofits, so there are always nonprofit actions involving different Christian groups going on. The flow in and out of people is really interesting. We decided to try this concept of a church that is also a coffee shop, called The Abbey.

“What the VTS message gives you hope for the Church instead of despair.”

When are scheduled services?

We have Compline on Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m., which follows a young adult EFM group that meets here. They are just fantastic. It seems very important to have Eucharist here on a weekly basis, but that has not been the main expression of the way that people have engaged in The Abbey. We are still playing around with what is the role of the Eucharist in the life here.

How is the balance between your life and your ministry?

We are still working on getting that balance. It has been hard on Josiah and Naomi. I have tried to pull as many hours here as I can, just brewing coffee, because it helps keep our payroll down. We are training our first group of volunteers next week. We have got the management and lay people in place where we can finally take that step. If that works out well, then we will be able to do more and then I will not be here quite as much. It is insane and very crazy, but I am excited.

What are your measures of success after one year?

We set the goal of trying to break even—what goes in equals what comes out—by the end of the first year. We will be very, very close to meeting this. We would also like to see more people from the neighborhood who are not already affiliated with the Episcopal Church coming to more of our events and our worship. We are starting to see that more and more. What is neat about The Abbey is that it has a good reputation in the neighborhood as both a church and a coffee shop. The setting allows for open and natural dialogues with those not in the Episcopal Church. One of our baristas is a deacon and our shop manager is a member of the choir at the Advent Cathedral. Both feel comfortable engaging in those conversations. This typically happens with the regular customers that come in every day or every other day. And then all of a sudden, I will see one of our regular customers talking to a barista about their fundamentalist background.

The setting allows for open and natural dialogues with those not in the Episcopal Church. One of our baristas is a deacon and our shop manager is a member of the choir at the Advent Cathedral. Both feel comfortable engaging in those conversations. This typically happens with the regular customers that come in every day or every other day. And then all of a sudden, I will see one of our regular customers talking to a barista about their fundamentalist background.
Most of us would agree that we are a consuming, throw-away society. The “consumer class,” as the Worldwatch Institute has identified it, is no longer the reality in Europe, North America, Japan and a few other pockets in the world. In the 21st Century there are 1.7 billion members of the “consumer class”—nearly half of them in the developing world. As incomes rise, people are acquiring more and more consumer items. They are also discarding more and more.

The U.S. consumer still has a wealthy appetite. With less than 5 percent of the global population, we burn up nearly 25 percent of the coal, 26 percent of the oil and 27 percent of the world’s natural gas. We have more private cars than licensed drivers. New houses in the U.S. were 38 percent bigger in 2002 than in 1975. Kitchens in new houses are often big and extravagant as people eat out more and more.

The environmental impacts of consumption are scary. Peter Kreitler (’69) with the Krietler Lectures keeps our community aware of the environmental and social impacts using what we have.

What from your time at VTS has played into your ministry here?

Virginia Seminary’s emphasis on parish ministry, without being stuck in a parish ministry box, was really incredible in preparing me for The Abbey. I often think about all the professors during my time at VTS. There is an excitement and so much positive energy from all of them, but they also equipped me spiritually to the hard work of building something like this from scratch. Sometimes I will look around and say I cannot believe that we pulled this off because every step of the way was just painful—from getting the lease signed and raising and spending the money, to managing employees. But all the time, the things that Dr. Yieh said, or the things that Dr. Prichard said, with all his experience in parish ministry, make me even more determined to be here for the long haul. As an alum, I can look back now and really appreciate the support that VTS gives to students and graduates.

What was great about being at VTS is that neither Dean Markham nor the Seminary perpetuates the message of doom and gloom. The VTS message gives you hope for the church instead of despair, all the while challenging us all to be the church.
of using more than we have of this earth's bounty. A group of our current students are sharing green practices with us and slowly transforming the way we “use” these 88 acres we call the "Holy Hill." The ministry of “CultivateVTS” is making a “green” difference!

My parents taught me about “using what we have.” Sadly, I was not the best learner. My father and mother actually lived “using” only a very little of what they had. They were “children of the depression” in rural South Carolina. They were people who saved and tithed. They were very frugal, and their lifestyle was not determined by their income or resources. The furniture in their first house was the furniture in their last house. They rarely traded cars. They wore their clothes until they were threadbare. Eating out was a treat. There were no paper cups or paper plates in our home. My father raised grass-fed beef cattle for the meat on our table. When the summer garden would come in always dictated when and if we went to the beach. My parents were “farm to table” long before it was the goal of expensive restaurants. They recycled before it was fashionable. In many ways they could have been robust members of the “consumer class” but chose a different lifestyle. I have not been so discerning.

My three-weeks in the Dominican Republic (DR) in January were a refresher course on the true costs of being in the “consumer class.” So many times I heard the voice of Peter Kreitler or thought about the way my parents lived their time on this earth as I walked the streets of Santo Domingo. Since the time of Theodore Roosevelt with his version of the Monroe Doctrine, the DR has been a “victim” of U.S. consumerism and a foreign policy shaped by our need to use more than we have. It has the 9th economy in Latin American. Their infrastructure is crumbling. The “haves” have more and more; the “don't haves” have less and less.

The Episcopal Church in the DR is small (7000-8000 congregants in a population of 10m) but hearty. The country is part of the Episcopal Church and in Province Nine. Our Seminary, the Center for Theological Education has nine dedicated students. The faculty is small but Dean Ashton Brooks is a man of vision and hope. We use so much being VTS. They use so little. They are “using what they have” and it is not much.

I went to the DR to learn Spanish. I am a beginner still. Also, I learned a lot about myself and my childhood while in the DR. I also brought home a treasured possession. You could say: “evidence that Barney is a hopeless member of the “consumer class.” Unfortunately, I would not challenge you. My “possession” is a crèche for my collection. It is pictured with this article. The artist is Miguel Angel Felix (“MYKY”). He finds “Pesca urbana.” His artistic technic is “Reciciaje.” MYKY is an urban fisherman who recycles what he finds on the street. He uses/transforms what he finds. The crèche is made of plastic fragments and signed. Joseph is part of a cell phone with bulging, unmatched eyes. His shoes are BIC cigarette lighters. Mary is a reclaimed Barbie Doll with long blonde hair. She wears a pink helmet! The bambino is a piece of black rubber with bottle tops for eyes. A white star hangs above the Christ Child who rests on black foam. There is a plastic chicken to complete this tableau of the Holy Family. MYKY uses what he finds and has. From what some would call trash or nothing, he makes art, art which is inspiring and life-giving.

This Lent I will continue to think about my place in the “consumer class.” I will use this new crèche as my Lenten icon. I will look through it to see how I might use less of what I have; give more of what I have; and find joy in what I find as I make my way in this beautiful world full of God’s bounty and goodness.

The Rev. J. Barney Hawkins IV, Ph.D.
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Some of the class that traveled to the Dominican Republic in January to study Spanish—Left to right: The Ven. Canon Dennis McManis from the Diocese of Southwest Florida; Jordan Casson (A.S. ’16); Dean Ian Markham; Spanish instructor, Flamel Duran; the Rev. Barney Hawkins; Dave Musser (M.Div. ’16); and Mark Chambers (M.Div. ’16).
The Rev. Dr. David Allan Scott dies at 79

The Reverend Dr. David Allan Scott, age 79, the former William Meade Professor of Systematic Theology and Professor of Ethics at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, died of cancer at his home in Murnau, Germany, on January 5, 2016. Dr. Scott joined the Seminary faculty in 1970 and served for 31 years, retiring in 2001. He is survived by his wife, Rosemarie Hildegard Hogrebe Scott, and two children, Mark (Kristin Knuuttila) and Alexandra Thompson (Alan).

David Scott was born in Providence, Rhode Island, on June 27, 1936, to Henry and Nora Scott. He received a B.A. degree from Amherst in 1958, a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Theological School in 1961, and both his M.A. and Ph.D. (1968) degrees from Princeton. He was also a Tubingen University Fellow in Germany. It was during his study in Germany that he met Rosemarie Hogrebe. They were married in 1966.

Dr. Scott was ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in 1961. Before joining the Virginia Seminary faculty he served as an Instructor in Religion at Dartmouth (1967) and as an Instructor in Theology at the Episcopal Divinity School (1967-70).

At Virginia Seminary Dr. Scott was highly regarded as a colleague among his fellow faculty members. His students found him to be an engaging classroom teacher. They appreciate his sense of humor.

Dr. Scott taught in the fields of Ethics and Theology. In theology he had deep appreciation of the work of Karl Barth. Dr. Scott was a founder and supporter of SEAD (Scholars Engaged with Anglican doctrine), a scholarly society that championed the continuing relevance of the classical Anglican theological tradition.

In Ethics he focused on Anglican Moral Theology and Bioethics. He was known to quip about the division of labor with his colleague Allan Parrent: “He does war; I do sex.” In the early years of his teaching, Dr. Scott spoke widely to dioceses and parishes in support of the Episcopal Church’s decision to accept celibate gay and lesbian persons in the ordained ministry. In the 1990s he continued to defend that standard in his teaching and writing.

David’s vision was never narrowly focused geographically; he had a deep appreciation for the church in the world beyond the United States. Prior to beginning his graduate education, he had served in Liberia as Principal of St. Augustine’s Mission School in Bolahun (1961-63). During his years on the VTS faculty, he generally spent summers in Germany. In his final decade as a teacher, he became deeply interested in the Church in China. He studied Chinese, visited China, and during his during his retirement made multiple trips there where he taught both English and theology under the auspices of the Chinese Christian Church. He also taught English in Germany.

Those who wish to extend their condolences to the family can write to Rosemarie Scott at Bahnhofplatz 5a, 82418 Murnau, GERMANY. The funeral service for Dr. Scott was held at St. Nicholas Parish Church in Murnau, Germany, on January 19.

Clockwise from top right: Rev. Scott speaking with the Rev. John Yueh-Han Yieh, Ph.D., The Molly Laird Downs Professor in New Testament at VTS; Scott in classroom, circa 1986; Scott pictured with then Registrar, Sara Barnes, and Robert C. Wright, class of 1998 and the current Bishop of Atlanta. Mrs. Barnes, who was at VTS from 1985-2002, died on February 14, 2016 as we were going to print. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.
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SAVE THE DATE
ALUMNI CONVOCATION
October 4-5, 2016

Convocation 2016 features environmentalist and stage and screen actor, Ed Begley, Jr. supported by the Kreitler Environmental Fund.

CLASS REUNION RECEPTION AND DINNER IS MON. OCT. 3, 2016
Details to follow

Questions? Contact Alumni and Church Relations Director Shelagh Casey Brown at scbrown@vts.edu.