



# GTS News Quarterly

THE WAY OF WISDOM ISSUE

SUMMER 2014



Thirty-five women and men received degrees, diplomas, and certificates at the 192nd Commencement on May 14, 2014.

- “BOTH” & “AND”
- ADDING IT ALL UP
- MEETING PARISH NEEDS
- PREPARING FOR REAL-WORLD MINISTRY
- CURRICULUM INTEGRATION
- AND MORE



## The Wisdom of “Both” and “And”

The Very Rev. Kurt H. Dunkle  
Dean and President

The first time I ever considered that very Anglican phrase, “both/and,” I was seated in Sherred 1A, right here at General. It was how a now-retired GTS professor spoke about that seemingly simple concept to unravel decades-old quandaries. At first, it seemed so foreign, until I remembered we were being taught to think *theologically*, not as the world had formed us.

As time wore on, thinking this very Anglican way – both/and – was so liberating and so empowering. Suddenly, rocky paths became walkable. By learning to think theologically, the high hills had been laid low; the crooked paths made straight.

Was Jesus man or God? Both/and. At the Eucharist, does the bread and wine remain bread and wine, or does it become the real and living presence of Jesus Christ? Both/and. Do we have to die to get into heaven, or has it begun already and all we need to do is open our eyes to its fullness around us right now. Both/and!

Only in our church, engaging the breadth of Anglican theology, does this math work. While the rest of the world must labor within established mathematical principles, we are empowered to think in terms of not just 100% of something; we can authentically dwell in the 200% realm. “Both/and” is such an Anglican way of addressing sticky issues; I love how General taught me to think theologically.

So it is with *The Wisdom Year* at General.

One of the increasing questions I receive is how we will fit practical, wisdom-forming experiences into three years of academics. More pointedly, will academics suffer? Sometimes the questions are about having enough time; sometimes the questions are about what we will emphasize; still others are about mechanics. In other words, academics or practical applications? Of course, you know the answer: both/and!

*The Way of Wisdom* and *The Wisdom Year* are not about choices and exclusions. They’re about embrace and integration. This next step in General’s Plan to Choose Life is not about moving away from our rich history of solid teaching and scholarship. Rather, it’s about integrating what we have done well for 197 years into what we need to do well for the next 197 years.

(Cont’d on page 2)

THE GENERAL  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

440 West 21st Street, New York, NY 10011



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We have heard the Church's cry to continue to do what General is well known for – outstanding academic achievement – but add to it those things which, because of our changing church, have become necessary elements of seminary preparation. "Send graduates to us ready to 'hit the ground running'" we hear. We interpret that as not to eliminate anything, but rather to add to it those things necessary for leading congregations and faith bodies in the 21st century. Both/and!

No doubt, some will wonder about the mechanics and timing of how we add without taking away. Stay tuned as this Fall and Winter these details will be highlighted. Excess time will be captured and days will be filled, no doubt. But our guiding principal is to begin to replicate the life of a church leader in the fullest way possible. I hope our "customers" see this as preparing students for lives as active, rather than passive, leaders in our church.

Both/and is so key to our Anglican way of thinking theologically. It is central to the way we are approaching *The Way of Wisdom* and *The Wisdom Year*. Nothing will be lost; we will, however, gain a fortune.

Thanks for your great comments and support about this ground-breaking initiative. Without sounding too boastful, I think we are changing the face of theological education. All for the good.



## Meeting Parish Needs

**The Rev. J. Donald Waring '89**

Rector, Grace Church, New York

One of the sad realities of the current economic climate is the diminishing number of Episcopal churches that can afford a curate – the traditional title of a new priest whose first call is to work in a parish under the supervision of a seasoned rector. It is not that the opportunities for ministry have dried up, but the resources to fund these positions have.

Grace Church Broadway has a long history of distinguished rectors, including Henry Codman Potter (1868-1883), who became Bishop of New York; William Reed Huntington (1883-1909), who authored the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral; and Walter Russell Bowie (1923-1939), who was a Biblical scholar, prolific author, and later a seminary professor.

The truth is, Grace Church has never relied on the rector alone, but rather on a team of clergy who have brought a variety of gifts to the work of the parish. Throughout the

## Adding It All Up

### AN INTEGRATED CURRICULUM IS THE CORE OF THE WAY OF WISDOM

**The Rev. Dr. Clair McPherson**

Professor of Ascetical Theology

*"I enjoyed my various courses at General, but I could never see how they added up."*

That may well be the most common negative comment GTS graduates tend to make. Even the very best students have said that, while they found courses interesting and seminary life rewarding, the curriculum simply did not seem to cohere, except sporadically and unintentionally.

The graduate school-academic-scholarly model, which has until very recently provided the primary paradigm for seminary education, is partially responsible for this. In this paradigm, each discipline or, as we tellingly label them, "academic specialization," has seemed a discreet field of inquiry, hermetically sealed and, essentially, abstract. (One eminent professor at General once scoffed at the idea that anything he taught in the classroom might have anything to do with what was said in Chapel.)

This perpetuates the ivory tower liability that gives academia in general, and seminary education in particular, its unsavory flavor for the general public, and also the sense of cognitive confusion that makes so many seminarians feel that they are wasting their time, even when they are academically successful.

An integrated curriculum is, in the first place, a pragmatic response to that weakness. Systematics, liturgics, spirituality, history, scripture, music, ethics, homiletics, and pastoral care will increasingly appear to be integral parts of a theological whole, rather than discreet islands of specialized interest. (Cont'd on next page)

years, many of the assistant clergy were newly ordained. Benjamin Washburn, Samuel Shoemaker, and Theodore Parker Ferris were among those who began their ministries here under supervision, in a setting that allowed them to experiment, receive feedback, and eventually move on to lead major institutions of The Episcopal Church. Indeed, the wider church was blessed for decades because these young priests had a good beginning.

Today, many once-robust churches are struggling to pay the salary of a rector, to say nothing of a curate. At Grace Church we have two full-time priests on staff, but we have no room in the budget for a curate. Thus, our historic role of helping new clergy make a good start is simply on hold. Or is it?

I see *The Wisdom Year* as a way to meet the needs of churches like Grace, while fulfilling our role to provide real-world experience to our future clergy. Here is a creative, economically viable way to meet a number of pressing leadership needs that the church is facing. I look forward to learning more, and to the possibility of participating ourselves.

## Adding It All Up

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Theology, we believe, is the obvious and fundamental unifying principle. The various professorial chairs at GTS are all labeled chairs of this or that branch of theology: moral theology, liturgical theology, biblical theology, ascetical theology, historical theology. Theology is in this understanding not only the systematic study of revealed truth, but rather the study of the ways God is praised, served, apprehended and loved through all the traditional areas of study. In the sense in which the Cappadocians used the word, every one of us is a theologian because we seek to lead a Godward life: the one who prays, says Evagrius of Pontus, is a theologian, and a theologian is one who prays.

At the practical level, this means that we shall plan, and teach, within the awareness of one another's syllabi, and that we shall deliberately highlight ideas, themes, topics, facts, and visions shared among our disciplines. For (an arbitrary and fictional, but entirely possible) example, we might deliberately schedule a study of sin, in Systematics, during Lent, echoed by a study of the sacrament of reconciliation in Liturgics, of penance in Ascetical Theology, of early medieval devotion in Church History, and in New Testament, the study of the Letter to the Hebrews, and the Levitical sacrificial system in Old Testament.

Beyond that, it is our conviction that emphasis on an integrated curriculum can reveal a synoptic vision within the faculty that has been there *in potentia* but never before realized. Many members of the faculty share such a vision already, and the encouragement of this common vision can be a source of tremendous and unprecedented strength.

And as far as our liturgical life in Chapel is concerned, not only is it connected to what happens in class, it is the first place classroom work can be tried and tested. Chapel is where we speak and listen to the God revealed to us in Scripture and study.

## Student Perspectives on Integration

Mark S. Anderson '16 and Anne Urinoski '16

Having just moved to New York City, neither of us was sure of what to expect from our new lives at General Theological Seminary. Moreover, we had not seen the intricacies of how our courses would fit together.

However, immediately after Orientation, we began a course entitled "Introduction to Theological Education." The faculty designed this class to demonstrate how the various theological disciplines cohesively fit together.

After beginning the semester with a discussion of our new life together in the seminary community, each interconnected unit of the course was taught by a different member of the faculty, who introduced us to his or her specialty and discussed how their disciplines fit together and informed one another. For example, we discussed how Liturgics examines the ways that a group relates to God and Ascetical Theology examines how an individual relates to God.

More broadly, however, this course helped us create a more unified understanding of our entire experience at General thus far. For instance, as we spent time in this class discussing ways to read the psalms during Morning Prayer and ruminate on them over the course of the day, we were considering how to integrate our chapel and academic experiences.

By the conclusion of the semester, this course had helped us begin to develop a sense of how the various components of the GTS curriculum would fit together to prepare us for ministry.

## Preparing for Real-World Ministry

### The Rev. Scott White '96

President, Alumni Executive Committee

When I graduated from General Seminary in 1996 I felt fully prepared for the ministry that lay before me. I could not have asked for better preparation to lead the worship life of the congregation I had been called to, or more properly prepared to study the Scriptures in a way that led to preaching with intellectual integrity and spiritual conviction.

Yet what I was not prepared for was the sheer weight of everyday parish ministry. I had been raised from birth in the life of the church, had served on a Vestry and had even been a member of a search committee; yet the full dynamic of leadership as a priest was a whole new ball of wax. Within the first 12 months of my new ministry, there was the suicide of a dear member, the flooding of the parish day school, and then the sudden departure of the person I worked for, which led to a leadership role for me, altogether unexpectedly. The expectations that came with preaching week in and week out, the juggling of difficult and, frankly, dysfunctional

personalities, the analysis of financial reports never before seen by my eyes, and a whole host of other expectations I had never considered were ever present, all as I sought to build my own personal life, outside of my parish, in a city I had never even heard of until I moved there.

I have always believed that there had to be a way to include a deeper experience of everyday ordained ministry – beyond Field Education – in the course of seminary formation, a process that included a support structure and a healthy way to process both failure and success.

This is why I am excited about *The Way of Wisdom*. Arranging the seminary experience in such a way that the student has the opportunity to enter real-life parish ministry as a part of seminary formation is an arrangement that is long overdue, and an answered prayer for many of us. General Seminary's new initiative to immerse Senior seminarians in congregational life will give students an opportunity for learning that integrates the classroom with the nave in ways that will only lead to healthier ministries all around.

I am ever thankful for the band of priests and friends who shepherded me in my first years of ministry and overjoyed to know that the incoming students of GTS will have the opportunity of which I have only dreamed.

# News & Notes HAPPENINGS ON THE CLOSE AND BEYOND

## General Seminary Awards Three Honorary Degrees

At the 192nd Commencement on May 14, GTS awarded honorary Doctorate degrees to three distinguished leaders of The Episcopal Church: the Rt. Rev. Douglas Hahn '96, the Rt. Rev. Chip Stokes '90, and the Rev. Canon C. K. Robertson, Ph.D.

## Incoming GTS Junior Named First Recipient of SIM/Mercer Challenge Scholarship

The Society for the Increase of the Ministry and the Mercer Fund of the Diocese of Long Island have awarded the first SIM/Mercer Challenge Scholarship to Jason Daniel Roberson, an entering junior at GTS, and his sponsoring bishop, the Rt. Rev. Charles vonRosenberg of South Carolina.

## Professor David Hurd Receives Honorary Doctorate from Sewanee School of Theology

On May 9, The School of Theology at Sewanee, The University of the South, bestowed an Honorary Doctorate upon Dr. David J. Hurd, Professor of Church Music, Organist, and Director of Chapel Music at General Seminary.

## GTS Hosts "Ordained Women Called to Servanthood and Authority"

On April 29, Women at General, which is a student-led group at General Seminary, hosted a panel discussion entitled "Ordained Women Called to Servanthood and Authority: Embodying the Paradox Inside and Out."

## Angela Robidoux '14 Receives 2014 President's Award for Excellence in Leadership

At a celebratory event on April 24, Angela Robidoux '14 accepted the 2014 President's Award for Excellence in Leadership from the LCU Fund for Women's Education.

## GTS Hosts "OMG: Spirituality in the Digital Age"

On April 3, the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston presented the 2014 Kay Butler Gill Lecture, "OMG: Spirituality in the Digital Age." He spoke of the development of a unique spiritual community: an inter-religious, international congregation of people from many distinctive backgrounds, all linked by a shared response to a spiritual vision that is both pragmatic and poetic.

## Easter Egg Hunt Brings Neighbors Together

Easter Sunday saw the revival of a General Theological Seminary tradition: a neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt on the Close.

## The Rev. Canon Heather Cook '87 Elected Bishop Suffragan in Maryland

On May 2, the Rev. Canon Heather Cook '87, was elected Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland at the 230th Diocesan Convention at Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City.

Read the full stories from this issue at:  
[news.gts.edu/notes](http://news.gts.edu/notes)

## Alumni News

### Transitions

**The Rev. Kelly Ayer**, '10, Rector, Zion Episcopal Church, Avon, NY

**The Rev. Canon Donna Lise Dambrot**, '00, Canon for Social Outreach, Diocese of Southeast Florida

**The Rev. Canon Heather Cook**, '87, Elected Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Maryland

**The Rev. Matthew R. Johnson**, '08, Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, NC

**The Rev. Elise Johnstone**, '05, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Lexington

**The Rev. Brandt Montgomery**, '12, Chaplain, Ascension Episcopal School, Lafayette, LA

**The Rev. John Jeffrey Purchal**, '04, Vicar, St. Andrew's, Mastic Beach, NY and St. Andrew's, Yaphank, NY

**The Rt. Rev. Allen Shin**, '96, Ordained Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of New York

**The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling**, '02, Priest-in-Charge, Trinity Church, Castine, ME

**The Rev. Keith Voets**, '12, Associate Rector, Church of St. Barnabas, Irvington, NY

### Necrology

The Rev. Canon William Shannon Brace, '41  
The Rev. Gary E. Caldwell, '60  
The Rev. Dr. John Docker, Jr., '63  
The Rev. Kenneth Franklin, '59  
The Rev. Dr. Rowan Allen Greer, III, '59

The Very Rev. Bill Hale, '54  
Patriarch Ignatius Zakka Iwas, '63  
The Rev. W. Alan King, '58  
The Rev. Theodore W. Lewis, '53  
The Rev. Wray MacKay, '54  
The Rev. H. King McLaughon, '89  
The Rev. C. Andrew Mephram, '52  
The Rev. George Dibrell Young, Jr., '52