There is an odd feeling in schools every fall. Autumn brings a climate which speaks of slowness and preparation for winter. But, schools around the world begin anew, awash with freshness and hope for the coming year. How Anglican—how both/and!

General Seminary is experiencing that sense of both/and right now. Emerging from a turbulent year, we, too, are experiencing that freshness and hope for the new year. This 198th year is an exciting time to be at General.

During Orientation Week in late August, we welcomed 14 new students into various degree programs. While not the largest entering class ever, neither is it the smallest. Representing a wide diversity of all expressions of our Anglican faith, the entering class also represents a growing trend: half are non-residential commuters. Also representing the historic diversity of General Seminary’s place in the Anglican Communion, some are from foreign countries: Haiti, Barbados and Kenya. General’s entering class this year is truly general.

We are grateful for the continued financial support of General Seminary. When we say “thank you,” we mean “Thank You!” This past fiscal year we were able to meet our annual giving goal, and you can read a breakdown of all our revenue sources in the enclosed Report of Gifts. You are making a difference in the reformation of theological education—not only at General Seminary, but throughout our church.

Classes have begun and we continue to refine our Wisdom curriculum in imaginative ways. For example, this semester “Introduction to Pastoral Counseling” is being team-taught by noted psychologist and counseling professor, Dr. Gary Ahlshkog, and equally noted and experienced pastor, priest and author, the Rev. Barbara Crafton. Decades of experience and wisdom are teaming up to offer students truly integrated education in the same team-teaching of “Philosophy for Theology,” by the Rev. Dr. Clair McPherson and Dr. Alina Feld. Foundational and elective courses continue to be offered and new one-credit, week-long Wisdom Year intensives are increasing from last year.

The Wisdom Year is also expanding. From a pilot pair of seniors, the program grows this year to 100% of graduating seniors and an additional S.T.M. student returning specifically for the intense immersion experience.

(Cont’d on p. 2)
Meet Our New Faculty

AN INTERVIEW WITH
The Rev. Kevin Moroney, Ph.D.

The Rev. Kevin Moroney, Ph.D., joins General Seminary this semester as an Affiliated Professor of Liturgics. GSTS News recently sat down with him to talk about his background and the perspective he brings as an alumnus.

Would you tell us a little about your background?

I’ve been serving as Rector of Christ Church Ithan, in Villanova, Pennsylvania, for the last six years. I grew up in northern New Jersey. My father commuted into the city, so I’m very familiar with coming in and out of New York for parades and sporting events. I am also a graduate of General Seminary, Class of 1992. As a matter of fact, my first liturgy class here was 25 years ago this semester. So, for me, this feels like a silver anniversary edition of the course.

After graduating from General I returned to the Diocese of New Jersey, and began serving in a bi-vocational ministry from the outset. I have served as curate and rector; but for as long as I’ve been ordained, I have always been called to an academic ministry as well. In my early years that was comprised of parish ministry with degree work. After I completed my degree, I was in full-time academic ministry for some years. When I returned to parish ministry, I always also taught at the seminary level. This bi-vocational aspect has always been part of what I do.

While at General, Prof. Robert J. Wright noticed my interest in Irish Anglicanism, and at the celebration party after our CPE summer, he suggested that I consider doing field placement in the Church of Ireland. He arranged for that to happen and I spent three months at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and in

The Newness of New (Cont’d from p. 1)

experience of a Wisdom Year residency. Churches from the dioceses of New Jersey, Newark, New York and Connecticut are eager participants. With the arrival of the Rev. Emily Wachner as the Director of Integrative Programs, one of the chief development tasks of this year is to ensure that almost 20 Wisdom Year residency sites for next year’s seniors, and those who will come to General specifically for this curacy-like experience, are available The Wisdom Year distinguishes General Seminary as a place of superior education and formation for church leadership.

General Seminary’s rich tradition of said and sung Morning Prayer and Evensong together with community Eucharists continues. While embracing our past, we are expanding into a new area of student-designed and executed services twice a week. Monday morning Eucharist is the subject of a one-credit practicum, “Setting the Table,” with affiliated liturgics faculty member, the Rev. Dr. Kevin Moroney, and Evening Prayer on Friday afternoon is being designed and led by all of the entering students. This may be a first for General Seminary. Formation in chapel takes many paths, and deeper student involvement in the planning and execution of worship is a key component to exercising a liturgical life grounded in history and lived out in joy for future church leadership.

The Alumni Gathering and Paddock Lectures on November 4 and 5 will feature new professors, the Rev. Drs. Michael Battle and Todd Brewer, each speaking on a common topic, but from their own unique academic perspectives. The lectures are titled The Goodness of Upheaval: Pauline and Apocalyptic Perspective. That Wednesday evening there will also be a festive Evensong to honor the almost 40 years of David Hurd’s ministry to General Seminary and The Episcopal Church. We have something special for David that evening; I hope you can join us.

We are also getting our fiscal house in order. Even with a fully loaded budget (salaries, benefits, operational expenses, etc.), we have reduced our operating deficit by almost 75% over a two-year period. This is incredible progress, but the work is not yet finished. We must come to equilibrium, as the finance professionals say, in short order. Your continued support and embrace of General Seminary’s fiscal health for this essential work is important and appreciated. Thank you, again.

These both/and times at General Seminary live out our rich Anglican heritage. We are neither blind to the past nor ignorant of the unknowns of the future. As we continue to embrace each in preparation for our 200th anniversary in two years, I look forward to our continued growth together.

Thank you, all.
AN INTERVIEW WITH
The Rev. Todd H. W. Brewer, Ph.D.

The Rev. Todd. H. W. Brewer, Ph.D., was recently appointed as Assistant Professor of New Testament at The General Theological Seminary. GTS News recently sat down with him to talk about his background and what excites him about coming to General.

Would you tell us a little about your background?

My wife, Kelly, and I have been married for nine years. She works at the VA Hospital researching balance issues with veteran populations. We moved to campus this summer with our two dogs, Maggie and Belle, and we all love living on the Close.

I grew up in The Episcopal Church, the son of an Episcopal clergyman. As a child I participated in everything that Episcopal children do: Baptism, Confirmation, youth group, and so forth, but I never thought I would go into ministry myself. At the time I graduated from high school I loved physics, so I went to college to study mechanical engineering. Sometime into my third year of college, I realized what I liked about mechanical engineering was not what it actually was. I liked it because it explained the world and physics and all those sorts of things, but engineering is actually all about screws, nuts, bolts, and springs.

During this time, I was quite involved in college ministry. I really loved participating in Bible studies, meeting with other students, serving on the leadership team and thinking through critical questions about the group’s direction and the emphasis on what we needed to do to have a fruitful ministry. As my engineering aspirations faded, I began to think about pursuing ordination, meeting with people and talking it through with them. Soon enough, I graduated and went off to seminary. While at seminary — in addition to a love of ministry, and a love of people — I gained a love of the complexity of theology, particularly the New Testament. The more I studied, the harder the questions I had, and the more difficult the questions I had to answer — for myself. As a result of this questioning, I did a thesis about the historical Jesus. That thesis was foundational for me, because it set the questions in place that dictated the kind of scholarship and topics I wanted to pursue.

In particular, I was interested in the question of the relationship between Jesus and Paul. They don’t speak with the same vocabulary. They don’t address the same issues. How do I reconcile these two very significant figures in early Christianity in a way that doesn’t side with one against the other? With that question in mind, I found a supervisor and pursued Ph.D. studies in Durham, England where I studied the interrelationship between canonical and non-canonical gospels. I studied the Gospel of Thomas quite extensively; trying to understand how early Christianity was coming to terms with who Jesus was. What were the methods and means available to them? How did they come to terms with who he was and who he is continuing to be in the life of the church? These are the kinds of questions I found the gospels of early Christianity to be asking and they are the very same questions that dominate the Apostle Paul. Across the board, you can see early Christianity tirelessly trying to grapple with the identity of Jesus and his continuing significance.

What did your studies in England and being part of the wider Anglican Communion bring to your experience?

One of the things that I learned in England about both the New Testament and the life of the Church is that there is a wide diversity of Christian practices and beliefs contained within the New Testament. Even within that diversity there is a unity that holds it all together — namely a faith in the eternal significance of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. It allows for a very broad vision of what the Church can be, one that can’t be reduced to single, narrow formulations.

While I studied in England, I worshipped at St. Oswald’s in Durham. The church was built in the 12th century, and we had a crucifix from around that time which we used every single week. It was special to be in a place where the historic nature of the church is not something you just hold in theory, but is something you are reminded of every day. It was wonderful to be under that wider, big tent of Anglicanism. It was also fun as well to be there during the changing of diocesan bishops. I had the distinct privilege to be at St. Oswald’s while Justin Welby was there, and to witness his responses to the needs of the diocese before he was called away to be Archbishop of Canterbury.

What excites you about your new position here at General Seminary?

I’m really excited about General’s vision for theologcal formation, particularly The Way of Wisdom and its intentionally integrated approach to seminary education. In my research and in my teaching, I’ve always tried to be integrated in terms of how I understand what the text is doing or saying. I don’t see New Testament studies as a silo unto itself, but I have always tried to integrate systematic theology, pastoral theology, and ethical questions at every turn. In many ways, General’s vision for education really fits with what I believe to be true about New Testament study, and is essential for people who are pursuing ordination. When it comes to preaching the text in their ministries, students will have already learned to bring to bear on the text concerns that are beyond standard historical-critical questions. They are ready to explore the issues of systematic theology and of contemporary relevance. General’s vision for that kind of integrative approach fits well with me, and I think it is precisely what is needed.

My hope is that students who take my classes will first learn to read the texts for themselves; so that they can acquire the tools needed to sit down themselves, beyond seminary, and be formed by a good practice, to integrate what the text is saying with present concerns and issues and realities.

(Cont’d on p. 4)
Beyond teaching, in what ways do you see yourself participating in the daily life at GTS?

I see myself not just as a professor, but I am also ordained. So I hope to serve as both a professor and a pastor. I look forward to getting to know the students and walking with them in their formation, being concerned not just for the formation of their minds, but also for their wider holistic selves. Seminary is not always an easy time for some people. It is essential not only to be involved academically, but also to be involved at a pastoral level. I also look forward to being involved in Chapel, particularly to model a daily life which is formed by the liturgy, learning and growing with the community together.

What does The General Theological Seminary mean to you?

General is one of the cardinal seminaries of The Episcopal Church. It has a rich history, but it is also quite diverse. You have students who come from a wide range of backgrounds and geographic locations. It’s exciting to be a part of that kind of community because, if you go to a place that is completely monolithic, the kinds of questions that are asked are, by and large, pretty uniform. Diversity is one of General’s great strengths, because it allows for learning through hearing questions and answers from a wide variety of perspectives. Together we can form leaders who have been shaped by that experience of diversity.

What you see as the future of General Seminary?

I think General Seminary’s future is very bright. Every seminary now is asking hard questions about what it means to provide seminary education—not only because of financial pressures, but also because of the changing landscape of American religion. Every seminary is asking, “What does it mean to form leaders for the Church?” General is a place where that conversation is already happening. It’s very exciting for me to be part of that conversation and to see the kind of answers that are coming up, particularly with General’s integrated vision for education and formation in The Way of Wisdom. This is all a very hopeful sign for what is really needed for the Church.
One night last fall GTS seminarians, Tommie Watkins and Alex Barton sat at Community Dinner with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers and hatched two plots: what if a group from GTS attended the 50th anniversary pilgrimage remembering Alabama Civil Rights martyr—and seminarian—Jonathan Daniels? And what if the same group kept driving up to St. John’s Episcopal Church in Cleveland, one of the only Episcopal churches to serve as a stop on the Underground Railroad?

Students could experience these places, compile video footage and create a resource for the whole Episcopal Church. It would illuminate the power of crossing the boundaries of race, class, gender, sexual orientation and location that separate us from one another. It would also recast the whole idea of evangelism and sharing “the good news.”

The fire was lit. We pulled in Jo Ann Jones and Nancy Hennessey, wrote a proposal for the Episcopal Evangelism Society’s Evangelism for the 21st Century Grants, and soon the idea had become a reality.

On August 13, our group gathered—with friend and mentor, the Rev. Tom Momberg ’86—in a booth at the Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport, to review the amazing, expanded journey ahead: Birmingham to Montgomery to Selma, and then up to Appalachia; from there, to Cleveland and then Baltimore, with a final visit early in the fall to Trinity Wall Street.

Each of us coordinated with leaders on the ground to set up interviews. But we couldn’t have predicted the surprising stories we would hear: stories of the good news, stories of relationship, stories of a God who breaks open hearts and lives.

We celebrated Eucharist with Episcopalians from across America in the same courtroom where the man who killed Jonathan Daniels in 1965 was acquitted. We heard Presiding Bishop-elect Michael Curry preach about the Jesus Movement at St. Paul’s in Selma—the church Jonathan Daniels and his fellow seminarian, the Rev. Judy Upham, fought to desegregate. Then we sat with her in the “Bishop’s Room” at St. Paul’s and heard about the struggle first-hand.

In Kingsport, Tennessee, we met Gordon Brewer, the director of Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, who ties together his diaconal ministry and therapy practice to become present to the ravages of generational poverty. We accompanied a guest work group from St. Peter’s, Fairfax, who arrived in Appalachia to do “mission” work and ended up being challenged and taught by the poor people they came to serve.

In Cleveland, we saw how the former St. John’s Church had been transformed through a collaboration between artists, concerned neighbors, diocesan leaders, and the Episcopal Service Corps. Together, they had created Station Hope, a community space and theater where Clevelanders are retelling stories of liberation and engaging in prophetic action today.

Episcopalians in Baltimore shared heart-breaking yet empowering stories of their exploration of the church’s pro-slavery past. We settled into the slave balcony at St. Mark’s-Lappans and touched shackles just like the ones used to enslave black people for centuries. But we also learned how church folk were stepping into their neighborhoods to break down the contemporary class and racial divides that plague Baltimore and so much of America. And we look forward to hearing the inside stories of engagement by Trinity Church, Wall Street with the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, and how Episcopalians and Anglicans together took risks for the sake of God’s dream.

Along the way, we have seen our church struggling to tell good news and to be good news, throughout history and in this urgent moment. Each new place on the map has also marked a deeper turn in our own relationships with Jesus, proving yet again the powerful connection of the inner and outward journey with God.

This fall we continue the work: reviewing film and conversations, crafting an evangelism curriculum (tentatively titled “Good News People”) to help churches cross over between boundaries and share the good news of God’s reconciling love in the world, and finding churches to pilot the series during Advent and Epiphany.

It has been a privilege to make this journey together and, as a result, to feel such a surge in hope for the future of the Church. If you’re interested, please join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/GTsReconciliationPilgrimage, watch for our continued progress and share your own stories. We’re on this journey together, General Seminary.
When it comes to teaching liturgics, I am driven by two primary concerns. First of all, I am passionately committed to the Anglican formation pattern of the prayers speaking to the classroom and the classroom speaking to the prayers. That is a unique tradition of Anglican formation that I believe in strongly, and it is supported here at General. I couldn’t be happier that on a Monday morning, we spend an hour and a half in class, then we go to Chapel, and then we go back to class.

Secondly, I’m concerned for the well-being and formation of the students. People who come to seminary usually are making incredible sacrifices in order to do so. They are taking time away from their personal lives and families. I will do anything I can to make the formation process more enjoyable, more human, and to provide the friendship, companionship, and witness of somebody who has experienced this for a long time, in order to encourage them along the way.

Beyond teaching, in what ways do you see yourself participating in the daily life of General?

I am truly excited about my involvement in chapel life. Dean Dunkle brought to me the idea of a practicum that would provide the structure and content of Monday morning chapel. A few conversations later, we had come up with what is actually quite a good plan. On Monday afternoons, I meet with students for an hour. We call it “Preparing the Feast.” During this time, we review the Collect and Readings for the day, and we discern what themes are commingling to create the liturgy. We then pick the music, prayers, and what we call the “Little Propers,” the best Offertory sentence, the best collect for the conclusion of the Prayers of the People, and so forth. Liturgy is where the church tells its story; what we are doing is pulling a thread through that story, so it is very cleanly proclaimed. That planning becomes the service for Monday morning chapel the next week. We then lead the service the next Monday and reconvene that afternoon to discuss how it went and to plan the following week.

This is the integration of theory and practice. It is not simply about picking our favorite hymns or using the same Offertory sentence each week; it is about thinking more intentionally about how the church tells its story, and the ways we can do it in ever-increasing, thematically consistent ways.

I will also hold office hours on Monday afternoon and, because mentoring is an important part of priestly formation, each liturgy student will actually have a scheduled one-hour sit-down chat with me during the course of the semester. I will also share meals in the Refectory and participate in Evensong.

What does General Theological Seminary mean to you?

General Seminary was my mother in ministry. I came here with a deep faith and a sense of call. General stretched me in the ways I needed to be stretched, and deepened and enriched me in areas that mean the world to me. When I came here in July with my family, the first thing I did was to take my children into the chapel. There I showed them where Daddy sat for three years, and I just spent time in the chapel with my little girls. Why? Because I am their source and that chapel was my source.

I love the worship in that chapel and it formed me for three years when I was here. It sustained me during the difficult times—we all have difficult times in seminary. General Seminary prepared me for a life of ministry in The Episcopal Church, and in the Anglican Communion. When I left here to be the curate of St. Luke’s in Metuchen, New Jersey, I knew what to do. I knew how to be. I knew how to pray. I knew how to deal with stress and difficulties. And that was because I spent three years at General undergoing an intense formation process that widened, tested, poked and prodded, and deepened.

What do you see as the future of General Seminary?

General has particular opportunities and particular challenges. I think that, as an Episcopal seminary, General will always have the opportunity to be a house of formation for Anglicans. The interrelationship between the prayers informing the classroom, and the classroom informing the prayers, is integral to Anglican formation. In a society that has been marked by ever-increasing mobility, seminaries in general, and this seminary in particular, are going through a process where something like The Wisdom Year is taking previously more cloistered seminarians and moving them out into the parishes and other creative ministries. We are adding another layer of formation—practice—to the traditional relationship of the classroom informing the prayers, and prayers informing the classroom. Now the relationship becomes prayers, classroom, practice, prayers. At General, we are helping students better integrate the conversation in the classroom with direct practice.
The Rev. Emily Wachner Appointed Director of Integrative Programs

The General Theological Seminary has appointed the Rev. Emily Wachner as the Director of Integrative Programs. In this newly created position, Wachner will oversee and administer Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), Field Education, and The Wisdom Year, while creating additional integrated formational opportunities for students.

As the Director of Integrative Programs, Wachner will provide a consistent presence throughout a student’s seminary education, bridging classroom education with practical experience. She will assist in the nurturing and selection of CPE sites and assist students in the application process during their junior year. She will also develop and cultivate relationships with Field Education sites and help match students in their midyear year.

In addition, Wachner will continue to develop and implement The Wisdom Year. As part of The Wisdom Year, students integrate their final year of studies with a part-time, paid placement in a ministry setting. In the lead-up to the full implementation of that program, Wachner will develop best practices for administering this type of ministry, and will coordinate student supervision and scheduling specialized guest lecturers. She will continue in the full management of the program, including assembling an advisory team made up of local clergy and educators.

Wachner received her M.Div. from Yale Divinity School and comes to General Seminary from Trinity Church Wall Street where she is the Priest for Welcome, Liturgy, Hospitality & Pilgrimage. There she assisted the development of a new 200-person congregation and participated in the leadership of interfaith and community initiatives at historic St. Paul’s Chapel. She created and implemented new member formation classes and served as liaison for hundreds of newcomers. Before serving at Trinity, she was the Associate Rector at St. Timothy’s Church, St. Louis.

Wachner took up her duties in mid-September, but also spent time on campus during Orientation Week in late August connecting with students, staff, and faculty.

About her new position at General, Wachner states, “It is an honor and a privilege to join the General Seminary community. The work ahead of us is to bring The Wisdom Year to life, and I am thrilled to be a part of shaping the future of theological education at The General Theological Seminary.”

Exploring Civil War America in the Keller Library’s Collections

Drawing on a collection of rare pamphlets from mid-19th-century America, the Christoph Keller, Jr. Library at The General Theological Seminary has opened an exhibit running through October 15, 2015 that offers a glimpse into the political and theological debates surrounding abolitionism and sectional conflict.

“Onward, Christian Soldiers: Exploring Civil War America in the Keller Library’s Collections” marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the rebellion and celebrates the recent election of the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, as the first African-American Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church.

The display is guest-curated by Charles Calhoun, a historian and biographer who put together last spring’s much-visited exhibit, “Thomas Cromwell and the English Bible.”

The heart of the exhibit, according to Calhoun, is the display of a small sample of the Library’s collection of sermons and tracts debating whether slavery was an offense to Christian morals or a divinely sanctioned “positive good.”

Many of the pamphlets were part of a collection, bound in more than 1,200 volumes, which was donated the Library in the mid-20th century by the Diocese of Maryland. They range from the 1790s through the 1880s, Calhoun said, and are a rich and largely untapped resource for the social, political, theological, and ecclesiastical life of the time, as seen from a border-state Episcopalian point-of-view.

Fall 2015 Guest Preachers in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd

If you are in the New York area this fall, please join us for worship and sermons from a wide array of Episcopal leaders. Please consult the weekly chapel schedule on news.gts.edu for specific times.

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Keller Library’s Collections

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Alumni Gathering 2015
Wednesday, November 4
Thursday, November 5
Featuring
• Memorial Eucharist and Presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award to the Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby ’63
• A Special Evensong Honoring Prof. David J. Hurd, Jr.
• The Paddock Lectures The Goodness of Upheaval: Pauline and Apocalyptic Perspectives by new faculty members, the Very Rev. Michael Battle, Ph.D., and the Rev. Todd Brewer, Ph.D.
• Festive Buffet Dinner and Reception

For more information and to register please visit gts.edu/gathering

The 2015 Paddock Lectures
Wednesday and Thursday November 4 - 5
2:00 p.m.
The Very Rev. Michael Battle, Ph.D.
The Rev. Todd Brewer, Ph.D.
The Goodness of Upheaval: Pauline and Apocalyptic Perspectives
The lectures will provide both theological and practical conversation about why Christians engage in upheaval as a necessary good. More specifically, Paul's experiences of upheaval positively generate his pluralistic vision of the developing Church. And an apocalyptic vision, spawned by John of Patmos, provides a way for contemporary communities in the 21st century to navigate their way through nightmares to beatific vision.

For more information and to register, go to gts.edu/paddock

Prospective Student Conference
February 14-15, 2016
The Prospective Student Conference is a two-day opportunity for prospective students to see for themselves what The General Theological Seminary and the City of New York have to offer. During the conference, participants will attend classes, meet faculty members, staff, and students, dine in the beautiful Hoffman Refectory, and worship with us in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. There’s no better way to get to know General and the GTS community.

For more information, please email admissions@gts.edu

Alumni News

Transitions
The Rev. Mark Robin Collins ’08, Interim Rector, All Saints’ Episcopal Church, Glen Rock, NJ
The Rev. Andrew Durbridge ’14, Diocesan Real Estate Manager, Diocese of Long Island
The Rev. Betsy Ivey ’13, Rector, St. Simon the Cyrenian, Philadelphia, PA
The Rev. David Fleenor ’06, Director of Clinical Pastoral Education, Mt. Sinai Health System, NYC
Scott MacDougal ’07, Visiting Asst. Prof. of Theology, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley, CA
The Rev. Matthew R. Lincoln ’91, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Buffalo, NY
The Rev. Scot McComas ’03, Rector, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller, TX
The Rev. Claire Nevin-Field ’06, Rector, St. Peter’s Church, Philadelphia, PA
The Rev. Michael Rau ’13, Rector, Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, Rockledge, PA
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The Rev. Brad Whitaker ’89, Interim Rector, St. Paul’s, Chattanooga, TN
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**Report of Gifts**

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

GTS is most grateful to each one of our individual, parish, and corporate donors for their generosity in the 2014-2015 Academic Year. With your help, our mission grows and thrives! This list has been constructed with great care, but should an error or omission be found, kindly notify the Seminary’s Office of Advancement.

We would especially like to thank the donors whose names are in **bold** for their loyal support as members of **The Mary Crooke Hoffman Society** (those who have made gifts in each of the five past academic years or more) and those donors whose names are in **italics** for their faithful generosity as members of **The Jacob Sherred Society** (those who have included General in their estate planning). Donors with a symbol (†) next to their name have given in honor or memory.

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In Grateful Recognition of Our Supporters
Academic Year 2014 - 2015

As we celebrate our new and returning seminarians, and the beginning of a new chapter in the history of General Seminary, we are reminded of all God’s blessings on our community. In the midst of our challenges—financial, missional, and cultural—we witness just how many people care deeply about the Seminary. A multitude of sisters and brothers have shown their continued faith and support through prayer, honest and challenging conversation, or tithing—often all of these!

We are humbled to announce that our annual giving campaign for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2015 met our goal, with our annual fund providing 20% of our budgetary needs. Your generous gifts are being used well:

• Since 2011 we have reduced our operating budget by 60%. The Plan to Choose Life, while difficult at times, blessed us with an operating reserve that enabled us to continue our mission as we continue to change the way we operate. The reserve now has 3 to 4 years of funds remaining, and our goal is to create growth in other areas and eliminate the need for this reserve spending.

• Revenue from tuition and other student fees provides only 14% of our revenue. The Plan to Choose Life also blessed us with a new partner for the operation of Hoffman Hall and the Tutu Center, one which provides 14% of our revenue.

• For the past three years, we have taken a conservative approach regarding the use of our endowment. We realize that this money was given by benefactors over the past 198 years to help sustain the Seminary and our students. A draw of 5% annually provides the seminary with 17% of our needs, of which over $300,000 is given to students in the form of scholarships.

Looking at the data in the chart at left, you will get an idea of just how crucial the Annual Fund and Legacy Gifts are, and you can see that for every dollar we spend, 37 cents comes from you, our benefactors, dedicated to the education and formation of the future leaders of the Church.

So many have given so generously to General Seminary in so many ways, particularly this recent year, and we know a simple “thank you” is never enough. Please know that our entire community, particularly our seminarians—you future leaders—offer the deepest and most sincere collective gratitude for the concern expressed about your Seminary’s future and well-being. We are dedicated to maintaining all the best of the past while evolving to meet the needs and address the challenges of our changing Church in a changing world with purpose and vision. We can’t do it without you!