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Newsletter

Spring 2017

The Presbyterian College

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A partner in the Montreal School of Theology, affiliated with the McGill University School of Religious Studies

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Our Mission—Our Vision

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Our mission is to encourage and equip faithful and effective leaders for the Church and the world. It is not a matter of choosing one over the other—both faithfulness and effectiveness are part of leadership. To be faithful is to live in hope, to let our actions be inspired by hope. This is the reminder the writer to the Hebrews gives to his congregation: “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen.” Faithfulness is rooted in hope. But we are also called to be effective. We read in the Psalms: “David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them” (Psalm 78:72).

But leadership in the church is not necessarily the same thing as leadership in the world. The primary task of Christian leaders is to first and foremost be followers. The invitation Jesus extends is not “Come and lead,” but “Come and follow.” It is in that following that we are

asked to shoulder the tasks of leadership. Leadership based on following Christ is at the heart of our mission.

But what about our vision? Vision arises from giving ourselves permission to dream and to imagine something new. Without granting ourselves that permission we become defined by our problems, by our limitations. We will dare little and the voice in our heads keeps telling us “to be reasonable,” “play it safe,” “keep all risks to the minimum” (if we risk at all). Fear of failure, not hope, will be what motivates us.

Scripture reminds us that God’s vision is far grander than we are often willing to embrace—a world where one day, “there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” It is a global, even cosmic vision, and God invites us to participate in that vision. We each play a role, and at Presbyterian College we have chosen to follow a vision set in 1995 that dreamed of Presbyterian College as an inter-national place of study, a place where theological formation would take place within the context of the global church.

That vision is reflected in this edition of our newsletter. This year we have three

graduates—one from Korea, one from Syria and one from Cameroon. They now make Canada their home, but they bring wonderful gifts from their own experience of the global church. The numbers are small and it will take time to build the size of Christian community we would really like to see at Presbyterian College, but it is a start. Our goal is to build relationships that allow us to share the resources we have and to gain from the gifts of others around the world.

As always, we write with a deep sense of gratitude. We are thankful for all those who have joined our *Taking a Leap of Faith* campaign. If you have not already participated, I encourage you to consider a gift to the College. We are also grateful for the long years of service given to the McGill Faculty of Religious Studies and Presbyterian College through the lives of Dr. Joe McLelland and Dr. Bill Klempa.

We ask for your prayers as we continue to build a truly global place of study and Christian formation—a place where God is honoured, the church is served and the world is engaged.

Dale Woods
Principal



Note from the Chair of the Board

DONALD WALCOT

The college year is coming to a close: Convocation is on the horizon, and graduates and students are now ready to enter fully into the church community to apply what they have learned for the betterment of all.

This has been a busy year for the College. For the students: lots of study, reports, contemplation, and prayer. For the professors: course preparation, lectures to give and exams to be marked. Staff at the college, after a busy year of administration, accounting and maintenance, are also looking forward to a bit more free time to get caught up on outstanding activities. My thanks to all who have worked so hard to help the college towards its goal of educating future leaders of the community, to rekindle hope, and enhance the vision of the church.

The Board, too, has been busy, implementing the new strategy approved

in the previous years, helping in fund raising and student recruitment, and providing counsel and advice when asked. As is normal, as terms come to an end, certain of the Board members will be retiring—the Rev. Kevin Livingston and the Rev. Doug Paterson will be leaving. Our sincere thanks for their keen interest and participation in our many discussions, and the good humour with which they have been part of our team. We also wish to thank Mr. Howard Davidson, Treasurer, who had to resign his position due to unexpected business pressures. While with us, he spent hours spearheading the fundraising campaign, emphasizing our involvement in the Montreal Presbyterian Community as well as being a steady and strong support for the Principal. We welcomed Mrs. Joan Vogelesang to the Board as his replacement—she is an experienced businesswoman with a firm Christian commitment. My thanks and appreciation

also goes out to those Board members staying with us for the coming year.

Our donors must also be acknowledged. So many have given in numerous ways to help us meet our goals, and we thank them most sincerely—they are truly helping to keep the College alive and thriving.

Maybe it is the spring season of rebirth and new beginning, but I feel we are at the start of a great period of growth and expansion, guided by the dynamic vision of our Principal, the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, and the enthusiastic support of the Board, staff, and college community. This creative period may often seem the most stressful, but also the most rewarding period in an organization's life—may it be so for Presbyterian College. ■

Learning From Each Other

THE REV. DR. GLEN DAVIS (VOLUNTEER FROM THE CLASS OF 1963)



Meeting with the moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Korea, Dr. Sung Hui Lee

On one of the walls of the College hangs a Vision Statement adopted by the Senate of the College in the 1990s. One clause of that statement declares: “The Presbyterian College will be an international place of learning.” It was a vision of forming leadership within the context of the global church. Over the last two years the College has been working more intentionally toward that vision.

Two years ago, our Principal, the Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, took advantage of an opportunity to visit the Presbyterian Church of the Cameroon to talk with church leaders about the possibility of inviting two students to come to PC as part of our new *Faith-to-Faith* program. That visit bore fruit in the presence of two young leaders from that church who are making a marvellous contribution to the College, and who are benefitting much from learning in a totally new environment. It is a win/win.

Next, Dale turned his sights to East Asia. He decided that a visit to Korea, with its reputation for faithful, prayerful growing churches, could establish valuable connections and open doors for the presence of Korean students in our College. He invited me to accompany him because of my former connections with churches in both Korea and Japan, and to assist with some Korean language interpreting. We spent seven days in Korea, and then five more in Japan. It was an amazing and eye-opening trip.

On Palm Sunday, we got our first taste of Korean church life. We were invited to Yeon Dong Church, where the Rev. Dr. Sung Hee Lee is the senior minister; he also serves as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK). We participated in one of the six Sunday services, each of which includes over 1,000 worshippers and choirs of 100. Dr. Lee oversees a staff of 16 associate ministers, each with his/her own specific role to play. I was invited to preach so I had to work hard to prepare a sermon in Korean after a long hiatus! Moderator Lee’s gracious welcome and the lovely souvenir gifts he presented to us became the norm for every one of our visits and appointments.

The next day, we had an appointment with General Secretary Byun of the PCK. He described the period of rapid church growth in Korea during the 70s and 80s, then a levelling off, and now the signs of coming decline. We were surprised to hear him say that his church had something important to learn from the PCC. When we asked what that was, he said that we in the PCC are in the midst of decline, probably as the result of our failure to see the signs of the times and take

steps to adapt and change to meet the needs of a changed society. He wants to learn from us so that his church does not make the same mistakes! He arranged an interview with a reporter from their weekly newspaper, and Presbyterian College’s programs and advantages received excellent exposure in a write up that appeared in that week’s edition.

A conversation with the Education Secretary of the PCK, Dr. Chisung Kim, yielded a commitment to recruit students for PC, especially after he heard about the degrees from McGill that students could receive while registered through our College at affordable tuition fees. We also got a glimpse of this man’s power when we travelled to Yung-Nam seminary in Daegu the next day. We were told that the principal could not meet us because he had been called to Seoul, along with the principals of the other six seminaries, to meet with Dr. Kim. Apparently, the seminaries are accountable to the Education Secretary of the PCK. Dale mused about how well that would work in the PCC!



Meeting with Chisung Kim, Education Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Korea

Our visit to the largest seminary of the PCK (Jangshin) on Maundy Thursday both challenged us and touched our hearts. This theological college and



Meeting with students at Yeongnam University and Theological Seminary

university has 2,600 students, more than half of them in the M. Div. program, and the rest in either a Christian Education or Music program. We attended a special anniversary chapel service in honour of the 304 high school students who drowned in the Saewul ferry disaster three years ago. The 1,600 of us in that chapel were moved to tears by the songs and testimonies of a special choir made up mainly of mothers and fathers of those students. One mother described how she had never sought God before her son drowned, but the care, support and love of Christians led her to seek God and to find solace and strength in the good news of Jesus.

Many other appointments and conversations taught us much about the liveliness of the Korean church, and gave us opportunity to share what is happening

at PC. One might ask what advantages our small college could possibly offer to students from such a vibrant, strong church. Dale made it clear that we are a small college, but that there are benefits to being small. The opportunity for a young international student, lonely and far from home, to live in our residence and become part of a caring and supportive Christian community is a major benefit. In addition, the opportunity to get a recognized degree from a renowned university like McGill, at the very attractive tuition rates through PC, not to mention the opportunity to live and study in the city of Montreal, has much to offer.

Our visit to the Korean Christian Church in Japan, the United Church of Christ in Japan, plus two historic seminaries and a couple of congregations,

provided a stark contrast to what we saw in Korea. In Japan, churches are very small, and theological colleges seem content to stick with traditional training methods and show no interest in adapting to the changes in society and in the world. But one professor admitted that an opportunity for students to get out of that “stuck” church environment and broaden their perspective could be very beneficial.

The big challenge for students from Asia is language, so our College is working on providing an intensive ESL course that would teach English from a theological and biblical perspective in order to prepare students to handle such language.

This visit was well worthwhile. It established connections with influential church and seminary leaders, helped us to learn much about Christianity in both Korea and Japan, and enabled us to share both the programs and advantages of studying at Presbyterian College. This is just a start in building fruitful relationships, but Dale is already following up on connections which hold promise for fulfilling the vision of those students in 1995 who challenged our College to become an international place to prepare Christian leaders for ministry and mission. ■



Meeting with students at Yeongnam University and Theological Seminary

Study and Teaching in Taiwan

THE REV. DR. ROLAND DE VRIES

There is a question that increasingly animates us at The Presbyterian College, and it is the question of what it means that we belong to a global church. Of course, it is one thing to teach about the global church (and this is certainly part of our curriculum) but it is quite another to engage meaningfully with sisters and brothers globally.

One way that we are developing our global orientation at the college is by inviting international students into our programs in Montreal—whether the Bachelor of Theology, Master of Divinity, or Master of Sacred Theology degree programs.

But another way to recognize the global and diverse nature of Christ's church, and to engage with it, is by visiting internationally. To that end, this Spring I spent three weeks on the campus of Taiwan Theological College and

Seminary in Taipei, Taiwan, teaching a course to M.Div. and graduate students. It was a course on the nature of forgiveness and reconciliation. Teaching this course was such a meaningful exercise as we explored these important themes from philosophical and theological perspectives, all the while attending to the different cultural lenses through which we look at such questions.

I was received with warmth and generosity by the students, staff, and faculty of the Seminary. Aside from teaching I also participated in the seminary's chapel service, played pick-up basketball with students, and shared in conversation and friendship over meals in the cafeteria. As we shared together, we were meeting one another across linguistic and cultural differences, both acknowledging the gap between us yet also seeking to meet one another in the hospitality of Christ.



The chapel at Taiwan Theological College and Seminary

Taiwan, of course, is a beautiful country—and Taipei is a large and cosmopolitan city. Having the opportunity to explore something of the country and city was also a joy and privilege. The highlight, however, was certainly laughter, conversation, and study shared with sisters and brothers in Christ. ■



Roland De Vries with faculty and staff of Taiwan Theological College and Seminary



Roland De Vries in a seminar with graduate students enrolled in his course



Presbyterian College welcomes Rosalind Berry

Rosalind joins Presbyterian College as its new Administrative Coordinator after thirteen years in the banking industry, working in various roles for one of the largest banks in Canada. Rosalind's passion for people, service,

and administration is what attracted Rosalind to the College and she is greatly looking forward to supporting the College in its work and vision. Rosalind is a graduate of John Abbott College and is married.

🌸 Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2017! 🌸



Reine Mecheal Boghos

Diploma in Ministry and Special General Assembly Certificate

Originally from Syria, Reine has called Canada home since the summer of 2013. After graduating from the Near East School of Theology in Bierut, Lebanon, with a degree in Theology and Christian Education, Reine became a lay minister and Christian educator for 12 years.

Reine is married to Feras, who is also a Presbyterian minister, with two congregations in Morrisburg and Ingleside. Reine and Feras have three daughters: Cynthia, Amy and Michelle.

Reine was very pleased to complete the In-Ministry year at Presbyterian College. Upon graduation, Reine will be looking for new opportunities to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and tell everyone His wonderful story.

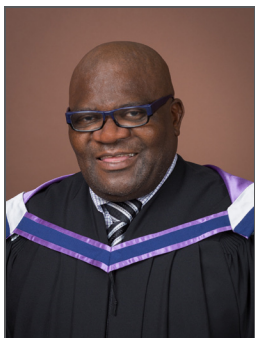


Eok Kim

Diploma in Ministry and Special General Assembly Certificate

Eok was ordained as minister in 2009 in South Korea. He came to Montreal in 2013 and joined Chambit Presbyterian Church. His family has been working for the Korean Church as ministers since the early 20th century. From his family experiences, he believes that he was called to renew His church. His interests are leadership and reforming of Christian cultures.

Eok is married, with two daughters, Yukyeom (7), Sukyeom (5), and a son Junkyeom (8 months).



Bitchoka Mbéa

Master of Divinity

Bitchoka is a native of Cameroon who came to Canada at the age of 27 as a foreign student. Upon moving to Montreal, he studied electronics and theology at the University of Montreal. After working towards his Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Trois Rivières, he returned to Montreal where he contributed his knowledge to the Montreal General Hospital in Orthopedics, Traumatology, Surgery, and the Neurological Institute of Montreal. Bitchoka is currently working at the Giengras-Lindsay Rehabilitation Institute of Montreal in neurology as Immediate Superior Assistant.

A Presbyterian by birth, he has always worked for the radiance of the Lord's work in and around the Church. Bitchoka is married and has four children.

Presbyterian College Welcomes Dr. John Azumah



This year, we welcomed **Dr. John Azumah** from Columbia Theological Seminary to give the Graduates' Lecture and convocation address. Dr. Azumah did an excellent job at both. His address in the morning was on The Church in

the Shadow of the Mosque. It was an informative historical overview of the relationship between Christianity and Islam. The convocation address was entitled "The Other Sheep" taken from John 10. Dr. Azumah reminded us that we tend to forget that Jesus embraces a much larger fold than we often want to embrace.

Dr. Azumah is the Professor of World Christianity and Islam and the Director of International Programs for Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. He specializes in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations and is interested in Islamic, Christian Theology of Religions, Missions and Missiology. His current research area

is in World Christianity and Islam in the Global South. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana and received a Diploma in Theology from Trinity Theological Seminary in Ghana, his M.A. and Ph. D. from the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. He has numerous publications including *Christian-Muslim Relations: A Bibliographical History 1500-1600*; *The African Christian and Islam*; *Islam and Christianity on the Edge: Talking Points in Christian-Muslim Relations into the 21st Century*; *The Once and Future Age: A Unity Paradigm*; and *My Neighbour's Faith: Islam Explained for Christians*. ■



Food Faith Mission, May 2017

THE REV. DR. ROLAND DE VRIES

Food is so much a part of human life—essential to our existence, simply put. But food is by no means an uncomplicated part of life, especially for Westerners living in modern times. For some, preparing food has become a kind of performance. For many, what we eat has become a key part of our personal identity. For some, food is a way of giving to others in generosity and grace.

Rachel Marie Stone spoke in our opening chapel service about her own fraught relationship to food when living in Malawi—particularly given the health risks inherent in eating. She reminded us of the challenge we all have in meeting others through food, and the potential barriers between us. In a subsequent major lecture Stone drew us

into the fictional writings of Marilynne Robinson, exploring the sacramental nature of meals—simple meals, shared



Rachel Marie Stone speaks at Food Faith Mission

on the margins of society, as meals in which the grace and presence of Christ is revealed.

At the centre of our conference was an afternoon spent hearing from "food ministry practitioners." The representatives of three separate organizations (A Rocha Canada; The Raw Carrot; St. Columba Church) spoke about how they are ministering to others, and attending to the creation, through food.

These speakers provided our attendees with a wealth of ideas about how to draw congregations into the service of neighbours and communities through food.

(Cont'd. on the back page)

Taking a Leap of Faith—Capital Campaign Update

TAHRA DE LALLO

I am delighted to report that due to the generosity of many—we have over 500 donors (!) to our first-ever campaign—we have raised, to date, over \$1.39 million in gifts and pledges towards our goal of \$1.75 million. We have been truly blessed by the continued support of our friends, family and graduates. We are also deeply touched by those churches from across the country who have granted us gifts from their own congregations. We thank each and everyone one of you.

We have much work yet to do and continue to cast our net wide. For those that have not had the pleasure of giving yet, please visit our website at presbyteriancollege.ca/DONATE or feel free to give us a call at the College.

Many blessings to all!

Celebrating Generosity

TAHRA DE LALLO



As Presbyterian College continues in its capital campaign, we want to celebrate the generosity we have received along the way. This month we celebrate the generosity of the **Rev. Larry Hankinson** who has given a significant gift to the College to help it in the area of congregational renewal and new church development.

Rev. Hankinson was raised in Bothwell, Ontario. He first sensed a call to ministry during his time in the Air Force in WWII. Having graduated from Presbyterian College in 1951, he served congregations in Burnaby and Lethbridge followed by 15 years in hospital and prison chaplaincy. Like many students during their studies, he served in summer placements including Elphinstone, Manitoba and Plattsburg, New York.

When I asked Rev. Hankinson where he learned generosity, he replied, “We grew up during the Depression years but my mother always had enough food for those who knocked on our door. We were a family of eight and when

strangers came to our table we had secret codes. FHB meant “Family Hold Back” and MIK meant “More in the Kitchen.”

His best memories of Presbyterian College were the sense of community and the professors who taught. Now he would like to see that sense of community grow. He has a particular passion for congregational renewal and new church development and his gift will help us to offer scholarships to students enrolled in that program.

We are grateful for his generosity and we trust that God will use this gift to help equip leaders with a heart for the gospel and the world. ■

Doctor of Divinity (Honoris Causa) Recipients: Reverend Cedric Pettigrew B.A., B.D., M.A., D.D.



The **Rev. Cedric Pettigrew** was born and brought up in Springhill, N.S. After graduating from high school he worked for a few years in the financial field. He then attended Sir George Williams (now Concordia) University in Montreal. After receiving his B.A. degree, he went on to attend the Presbyterian College and graduated with a B.D. degree in 1969.

After Ordination, Rev. Pettigrew has served churches in Prince Edward Island (The Tyne Valley Charge), Nova Scotia (St. Andrew's, Westville and Calvin, Halifax), and Ontario (Paulin Memorial in Windsor and Erskine Church in Ottawa). Since retirement in 2006 Rev. Pettigrew has served as Interim Minister of five congregations in Ottawa. He is currently serving at St. Giles.

Rev. Pettigrew also studied at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (now part of Union Presbyterian Seminary) in Richmond Virginia, receiving a M.A. in 1973.

Besides his congregational ministry, Rev. Pettigrew has served the wider church as Moderator of Presbytery, Moderator of the Atlantic Synod, Member of the

Board of Congregational Life and the Assembly Council. At one Assembly he filled in for the Rev. Dr. Tony Plomp as Clerk pro tem of the General Assembly. For several years he edited a newsletter for Presbyterian Church camps. He has also written for the daily devotional guide, *These Days*.

Rev. Pettigrew is married to Elizabeth. They have been blessed with three children and seven grandchildren.

Note: The Doctor of Divinity (Honoris Causa) was also awarded (posthumously) to Reverend Dr. William Klempa, B.D., M.A., Ph.D., D.D., and was accepted on his behalf by his daughter, Catherine Klempa ■

Please see the article, Remembering and Celebrating the Life of Rev. Dr. William Klempa



Remembering and Celebrating the Life of Rev. Dr. William Klempa



The **Rev. Dr. William J. Klempa** died on Saturday, March 4, 2017, having lived with a vision of a generous Reformed doctrine that could accommodate the local congregation, the national Church, the Canadian government, and sceptical academe. While having served in several congregations, his tenure as Principal of The Presbyterian College, Montreal, 1978-1998, was the centre of his life's work.

Although he had a broad influence in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, he did not initially grow up in that tradition. His mother was Ukrainian Catholic but encouraged Bill to attend the local Presbyterian church primarily so that he could learn English. His parents, Miko Klempa and Mary Syriuk, both of Eastern European origin, immigrated to Canada after WW1. The Klempas settled in the rough frontier

town of The Pas, Manitoba, and young Bill (born October 10, 1932) grew up in a working-class neighbourhood. He showed early academic promise, but, as a result of an encounter with Christ's gospel in his local congregation, at the age of fifteen Bill set his sights on the ministry rather than the law or medicine that was expected of him.

Bill's long education was fuelled by scholarships. He graduated from United College Winnipeg in 1950 with a B.A. in philosophy and from University of Toronto in 1955 with an M.A. He received a B.D. from Knox College in 1958 and was awarded the traveling scholarship. And travel he did, first to Harvard Divinity School where he could study under Paul Tillich, to New College Edinburgh with T. F. Torrance (his doktorvater), to Basil to study with Karl Barth, and to Göttingen with Otto Weber. He finished and successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis in 1962. Thus he was privileged to work with some of the greatest theology luminaries of the second half of the 20th century.

He served in three pastoral charges: Gorge (later named Trinity) Presbyterian Church in Victoria, B.C. (1962-1966), Knox Presbyterian Church in Burlington (1966-1970), and finally at Rosedale Presbyterian Church in Toronto (1970-1978). While at Rosedale he resisted pressure to apply for the position of Systematic Theology at Knox College. Bill continued to minister at Rosedale but still dreamt of academe. A chance to unite his two passions, ministry and teaching, appeared when the Rev. Dr. Donald MacMillan, the acting principal

of Presbyterian College, retired and returned to parish ministry. Bill became Principal of Presbyterian College in 1978 where he served until his retirement in 1998. He had now reached what he believed was going to be his life's work: pastoring ministerial candidates and contributing to scholarship in Reformed theology. And his accomplishment was no less than his ambition.

As a scholar, he wrote carefully and judiciously. He edited a volume of eighteen of his more scholarly essays and addresses, fourteen of which had been published elsewhere or had been delivered in scholarly settings; this volume was entitled *Exploring the Faith: Essays in the History and Theology of the Reformed Tradition* (Toronto: Clements Pub., 2009). He was the sole editor of, and contributor to, *The Burning Bush* and *A Few Acres of Snow: The Presbyterian Contribution to Canadian Life and Culture* (Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1994). He helped edit, and contributed to *Still Voices—Still Heard: Sermons, Addresses, Letters, and Reports from the Presbyterian College, Montreal, 1865-2015*, J. S. S. Armour, Judith Kashul, William Klempa, Lucille Marr, and Dan Shute, editors (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2015). He co-edited with his colleague, Dr. Robert Cully (professor of Old Testament at McGill), a festschrift for their colleague the Rev. Dr. Joseph C. McLelland, *The Three Loves: Philosophy, Theology, and World Religions: Essays in Honour of Joseph C. McLelland* (Atlanta, Ga.: Scholars Press, c1994). Bill also composed numerous more popular sermons, essays, and reports. For example,

from 1967 to 1977, he contributed fifteen times to the then extant church magazine, the *Presbyterian Record*, among these contributions was Bill's monthly series entitled, "What we believe." Bill also edited a collection of his (mostly) Rosedale sermons entitled, *For Such a Time as This* (Burlington, Ont.: Welch, 1983). By pen or by presence, Bill became a national figure in the Church even before he was appointed Principal of Presbyterian College. He was elected Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1998.

In his book, *Exploring the Faith*, Bill was glad to acknowledge those scholars and teachers who went before him and from whom he owed much. In other correspondence, he mentioned his deep gratitude for his colleagues in ministry while at Presbyterian College particularly Dr. Robert Cully, Dr. Joseph McLelland and Dr. Fred Wisse with whom to work he described as a rare privilege. But ministry was not the sum of his life. In the author's preface in *Exploring the Faith*, he dedicated his book to his wife Lois, with gratitude for the love and life they shared together and to his children and their families for their love, loyalty and support.

Over his lifetime, Dr. Klempa made an important and enduring contribution to the life and work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and beyond. Toward the end of life, he expressed wonder at why he had been so blessed in this life. We may not be able to answer that question, but as we remember and celebrate his life we can certainly affirm that we were blessed through him. ■



Remembering and Celebrating the Life of Rev. Dr. Joseph McLelland



When the **Rev. Dr. Joseph McLelland** died on December 20, 2016, Presbyterian College and The Presbyterian Church in Canada lost a great scholar, teacher and friend. From his ordination in 1949 until his death in 2016 his many contributions to the congregational and theological life of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, to Presbyterian College, to the McGill Faculty of Religious Studies and to the wider theological community, continued for over 65 years.

Joe (as he preferred to be called) immigrated with his family to Canada from Scotland in 1927. His formal education included a B.A. in English Literature from McMaster University, a B.D. from Knox College, a M.A. in philosophy from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. in historical theology from the University of Edinburgh.

Before beginning his teaching career in Montreal, Joe served congregations in Quebec, Scotland and Ontario, and lectured at Knox College. He joined the faculty of Presbyterian College in 1957 as the Robert Professor of History and

Philosophy of Religion. In 1964, he was appointed the McConnell Professor of Philosophy of Religion at McGill University. He served two terms as Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies at McGill and a term as President of the Canadian Theological Society. He was editor of several academic journals and a long time contributing editor of the *Presbyterian Record*. He authored numerous theological articles, and wrote or edited over twenty books, including *The Other Six Days*, *The Clown and the Crocodile*, and *Prometheus Rebound*. His most recent work included serving as one of the editors of the College's 150th anniversary book, *Still Voices—Still Heard*. He was elected Moderator of the 111th General Assembly in 1985.

Joe received a Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) from Knox College and from Diocesan Theological College, Montreal. In 2007, the Presbyterian College renamed its library in honour of Dr. McLelland, in recognition of his fifty-year association with the College.

Joe, in both his writing and speaking, exercised his unusual gifts of creative expression in ways that provoked deep thought and, sometimes misinterpretation. He was, on occasion, even called a heretic, to which he responded mischievously, “most Presbyterians are heretics” and went on to name a popular but inadequate view of Christology and the doctrine of God!

Dr. McLelland's academic achievements and honours were many and well deserved, but they provide only a partial picture of Joe's person. Tributes from some of his former students and

congregants help to complete that picture. For example, one former student writes, “Dr. Joe communicated his learning, his wisdom, and his prophetic insight with boldness, kindness and grace ... I will always treasure his friendship, his interest in what I might be doing, and his sense of humour. Thanks be to God for the life and ministry of our Dr. Joe!”

A former congregant wrote, “I have fond memories of you, Dr. Joe ... You challenged our young minds to think about our beliefs and our future as Christians. You used simple metaphors to help us understand big ideas. I say thank you, Dr. Joe, for equipping me to think! Yours was a life well spent.”

And from a minister who invited Joe to do a lecture series. “[Joe] won over the congregation ... We will never forget his wisdom, his approachability, his generosity and kindness. He was a great influence in my life and theology Thank you, Joe, for your ministry to me and to our whole church.”

Joe once summed up his theology of the sovereignty of God in this way, “God exerts his sovereignty through love, and therefore love would be the essential building block of the universe.” Also, he often mentioned his regret that we Presbyterians don't spend enough time talking about the last things. He said, “I wish we could be more like the fundamentalist students who sing about the glory land.” Now, as we express our deep gratitude for Joe's life among us, we can rejoice that he is now singing about the glory land with no Presbyterian inhibitions! ■

Making Presbyterian College Known

THE REV. DR. DALE WOODS



The Rev. Jill Turnbull, a present Board member representing PC at the Homiletics Festival

Part of the work of Presbyterian College is to serve the church through workshops and continuing education. In some cases, it means travelling to various

congregations. In other cases, it means inviting people to the College. It is also our mandate to introduce Presbyterian College to those who are new to our programs and mission. To that end we have tried to get outside of the College as much as possible. Here's where we've been and hope to go by the end of June:

- Montreal Chinese Presbyterian Church
- Mill Woods Presbyterian Church, Edmonton
- Presbytery of Calgary and a visit to Lethbridge
- New Brunswick Presbytery—Hanwell Congregation and St. James congregation
- Mission Fest Manitoba
- Association of Theological Schools conference
- The Presbyterian Church of Korea and the Korean Christian Church in Japan
- Presentation on leadership to Assembly Council

- The Theological Education Liaison Group
- First Presbyterian, Regina
- Partnering with Christian Direction, Montreal on “The Church in the City”
- St. Timothy’s Presbyterian Church, Ottawa
- Paulin Memorial, Windsor
- The Homiletics Festival, San Antonio
- Manna Days, Crieff Hills
- Oakridge Presbyterian Church, London
- Participation in two virtual fairs for theological schools
- Continuing Education Week at PC
- Mentoring Groups Week at PC

What’s Upcoming

- Dependable Strengths Facilitator’s Workshop: November 15-17, 2017
- MST Online course: Systematic Theology
- In preparation: an online course in leadership and another in preaching

(“Food Faith Mission, May 2017”
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Finally, we were thrilled to have Norman Wirzba round out the conference with



Food Practitioners (Carrie Van Dorp; Colleen Graham; Rebecca Sherbino; Nadia Prevost) in a Panel Discussion

two lectures on the relationship between food and creation. He reminded us of the powerful logic of consumerism, which turns food into a commodity that merely serves us—making food something we simply take. This logic of consumerism blinds us to the origins, story, and gift that food is. Wirzba also explored food as an expression of God’s love, made nutritious and delicious, as he put it—the soil, plants, and animals as gift and grace.

Resources for further exploration:

- Books by Norman Wirzba: *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating* and

Way of Love: Recovering the Heart of Christianity.

- Books by Rachel Marie Stone: *Eat with Joy: Redeeming God’s gift of food* and *More with Less: Timeless recipes and inspiration for simple, joyful eating.*
- Films to prompt conversation: *The Gleaners and I; Babette’s Feast; Fresh.*

If you would like access to the lectures delivered by Rachel Marie Stone or by Norman Wirzba, please contact the college at reception@pcmtl.ca. These lectures may be accessed for the nominal fee of \$10/each. ■