Beside Still Waters: Baptism and the Peace of God
Perspectives

President's Message

What a wonderful group of new students we have to report to you. Since our last class to graduate was the largest ever, we were anticipating a smaller enrollment than normal for this fall semester. Imagine our pleasant surprise when students began registering and it turned out that our enrollment was actually up by some 20% more than last year. This in spite of a rather significant hike in tuition made necessary by several additions to our program.

Furthermore, the number of students who have moved here from other states is significantly higher than in previous years. As well as from distant parts of Texas, students have come to Austin Grad from North Carolina, Oregon, Arkansas, and Louisiana. I have had the great pleasure of meeting many of these young people and am very impressed with them. We are glad that Austin Grad was their school of choice and are thankful to have them. Please pray for their success both now and as they move through their programs.

We especially give thanks for those of you who have been partners in this work through your encouragement, prayers, and financial support. Each of us is a steward of the good things God has given us, and it is gratifying to see what He will do when we work together.

I hope you can sense the excitement of the good things that are happening at Austin Grad especially as we begin this new year.

Carson Stephens

On the Cover

“Spring Day at the Falls”

Artist, Larry Dyke of Friendswood, Texas specializes in creating traditional landscapes. His art is on display at Whistlepick Galleries in Fredericksburg, Texas or log on to www.somersethouse.com

The Restoration Movement Comes to Austin

In 1847, eleven years after Texas gained its independence from Mexico and two years since being admitted to the Union, the Church of Christ began meeting in Austin. Selected by a commission appointed in 1836 by the Republic of Texas to find the most attractive spot within its boundaries for the seat of government, Austin was built at a point where the Colorado river issues from a canyon, and was situated on bluffs 40-120 feet above the river. Being the seat of government for the new Republic and the capital of the newly admitted state, it was only natural that the fledgling Restoration movement would establish a church within its boundaries.

The Austin church had its beginning in the spring of 1847 when ten followers of the Stone/Campbell movement met for worship. By 1851, the small group had grown to twenty-six and was meeting in a school house. During the next ten years, the group steadily increased in number, adding 120 members.

The church was practically dormant during the days of the Civil War, but after the war church activity increased. Following the Civil War, the congregation worshipped in a log cabin located on Congress Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets. In April, 1867 the church acquired title to its first building site at 8th and Colorado Streets and erected a wooden building. This building served the congregation until 1872 when a two-story building with a basement was constructed.

During these early years the church was known, interchangeably, as the Church of Christ or the Christian Church. However, in the early 1880s the church began to be troubled by faction. Among the issues dividing the church were those plaguing the Restoration Movement throughout the nation: methods of doing mission work and the use of instrumental music in the worship.

In March 1888, sixteen members of the church withdrew over these issues to establish a separate congregation. It was this group which later developed into the University Avenue Church of Christ. The congregation that remained at 8th and Colorado Streets became the Central Christian Church.

For the next 29 years, the Church of Christ met as the East Austin Church of Christ, having erected its own building in 1894 at the intersection of 14th and San Bernard Streets.

On March 26, 1917 the East Austin Church of Christ purchased property at the corner of University Avenue and 19th Street, and immediately began remodeling a three-story boarding house. On October 7, 1917 the church celebrated its formal opening and first worship service in its new facility and under a new name: University Church of Christ.

The next fall semester of 1918, the church founded a work among college students by establishing the Bible Chair of the Churches of Christ at the University of Texas, a forerunner of what became Austin Graduate School of Theology.


2Crowson, Bert, In Our 153rd Year (University Avenue Church of Christ: Austin, 1999), pp. 1-2.
Beside Still Waters
Baptism and the Peace of God

Most of us have only a passing acquaintance with the great masterpieces of Western art. But nearly all can bring to mind one great scene in Jesus’ life (besides the crucifixion) that has caught the attention of Western artists. It is the scene of Jesus’ baptism. And the highlight of that scene is the dove gently coming down from heaven to alight on Jesus. In this mysterious episode quietly and peacefully the Holy Spirit comes upon Jesus and empowers him for mission.

Among the scholars there is no consensus about the precise symbolism of the dove. All four Gospels tell us that God’s Spirit comes on Jesus (gently) “as a dove.” Only Luke adds the phrase “in bodily form” (Lk 3:22). As a new age dawns when the dove returns to the ark after the flood, so the reappearance of the dove heralds the dawning of God’s new world in the ministry of Jesus. But what is even more impressive in this incident is the indelible connection between Spirit and the waters of baptism. As Jesus goes through the waters and is empowered to do mighty deeds, so through the “washing of regeneration” likewise we receive the Spirit’s power to live the new life (Titus 3:5). Paul said it so well, “For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body . . .” (1 Cor. 12:13).

Because of various factors abroad, there are those who would nitpick about what happens in baptism and what does not. It is good to remember that the New Testament cannot conceive of someone calling himself or herself a Christian who is not baptized. Baptism is the place in the conversion process whereby one, through the agency of the Spirit, is incorporated into the body of Christ and begins to live the life of the new age.

But we should also remember something else. Although Jesus’ baptism and the subsequent episode of calming the wild animals at the temptation were indicators of God’s final peace, Jesus still had a cross before him. We thank God for the peace we receive with the forgiveness of our sins in our baptism. But more than likely a cross looms before us as well.

New Year Sees New Students, Higher Enrollment

The new academic year that began on August 28 has seen a strong enrollment and an increase in the number of out-of-state students who have chosen Austin Grad as their school of choice.

“Several of our classes are seeing higher enrollments than ever before,” said Dr. Michael Weed, faculty chair. “And, we are pleased with the exceptional quality of the students who have come our way.”

“Another positive sign is the number of students who have signed up for the new classes that we are offering in Christian Care and Counseling,” Weed continued.

Rob O’Lynn

A number of the students have needed employment and have found positions helping area congregations with ministry.

Rob O’Lynn, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, graduated from Harding University before enrolling at Austin Grad. The 23 year old is serving as the Associate Minister for the Church of Christ in Seguin.

When asked why he chose Austin Grad, Rob cites the quality of the professors.

“I also liked the new horizons in the direction of education and ministry that I saw in the school,” he says. “And, everyone here has been so helpful. They helped me find work and they were very helpful with admissions.”

Jason and Melissa Campbell moved to Austin from Oregon. They both graduated from Oregon State where Jason received a degree in Computer Engineering and Melissa a degree in Business. Both are now graduate students at Austin Grad.

They will be working with the Smithville Church of Christ where Jason has been named Youth and Family Minister.

“We were drawn to Austin because the school is smaller, yet it has excellent credentials,” they said. “Plus, we visited and liked Austin.”

Dr. Peterson teaches in a full classroom

Melissa and Jason Campbell
Inspired by a scripture text, Austin Graduate Alumna, Karen Alexander, has conceived and implemented a program to encourage women involved in world missions.

The text, 2 Timothy 4:9, is a personal request from the apostle Paul to his friend, Timothy, whom he implores: “Do your utmost to come before winter.” With only one companion, Luke, to comfort him in his imprisonment, Paul craves the encouragement and the presence of his good friend whom he also asks, “Bring the cloak I left in Troas.”

A graduate of the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Journalism degree, Karen Alexander received her Master of Science in Religion degree at ICS (now Austin Graduate School of Theology) in 1995 through its then cooperative agreement with Abilene Christian University. Married to Barry, who serves as an elder at the Westover Hills Church of Christ in Austin, Karen previously taught journalism at Brentwood Christian School for seven years.

“It came to me one day that it would be very worthwhile to provide opportunities for renewal for missionary women and wives, to teach them at a level that would equip them for the work they are already doing, and to befriend them for a week,” she continues.

Things moved quickly after Karen contacted several of her friends who received the idea enthusiastically. Some were former missionaries themselves who immediately recognized the value of such a program. Others were minister’s wives, and another, Jeanine Reese, is wife of Abilene Christian University Dean, Jack Reese.

The first Come Before Winter renewal program for missionary women took the group to Campinas, Brazil in July 2001 where they gathered with several missionary women to encourage them during a week of spiritual reflection and renewal.

One of the items the group takes to the renewal is a cloak, representing the scripture text upon which the ministry is based. The cloak is presented to a missionary participant. She carries the cloak to the next Come Before Winter renewal program in another part of the world and hands it on to a missionary woman who will also pass it along. Each recipient adds something to the cloak as a reminder of the various mission fields to which the program has gone.

Alexander describes the purpose of the program: “This renewal is geared toward those who daily take on the responsibility of mentoring and leading others on the mission field.”

She continues, “We bring top-notch encouragers with exceptional training and experience in women's ministry. Our goal is to honor our guests for their efforts and sacrifices, to enhance their Bible study and teaching skills, to provide opportunities for them to address their own needs, to reinforce their value as vital assets of the body of Christ on a global level, and to promote the unity of women who minister to other women in the name of Christ all over the world.”

The second Come Before Winter program took the group to Corfu, Greece in May 2002. The next is scheduled for October 2002 when Come Before Winter will gather in retreat near Florence, Italy. March 2003 should see the group travel to Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia.

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Passings

Dr. Janie Olivia Crouch Passes

She earned her Ph.D. in Spanish from the University of Texas in 1968 at age 54. She was a retired school teacher and also a retired custodian who worked for the State of Texas until 1978. She authored and published two books, including a commentary on Revelation. She was a gardener who tended a half-acre vegetable garden. Upon retirement, in addition to her studies and gardening, she took up domestic work to supplement her modest income and enable her to support ICS and other Christian causes.

Her sentiments about Christian scholarship were reflected in her words, “For the church to really ‘breakthrough’ in our society, we need to produce the thinkers, the teachers, and scholars who will write the books to shape the minds of tomorrow, and that’s why this Institute (Austin Grad) exists: to stimulate the mind as well as our feelings. After all, God gave us our minds for the purpose of using them.”

She passed on August 21, 2002 at the age of 88.
**Noteworthy**

**Beyer Serves as Visiting Professor**

AUSTIN GRADUATE School of Theology is pleased to announce that Dr. Jim Beyer has been named Visiting Professor for the academic year 2002-2003. Dr. Beyer will teach courses in Christian Care and Counseling.

Now a resident of Georgetown, Beyer served for twenty-five years as chair of the Psychology and Social Work department of Lubbock Christian University and has extensive experience both in the professional practice and teaching of clinical and pastoral counseling. He was involved in private counseling in a church setting for twenty-seven years.

Beyer holds the A.A. and B.A. degrees from Oklahoma Christian University, the M.A. from Abilene Christian University, the M.S.S.W. from the University of Texas at Arlington, and the M.R.E., Ed.S. and Ed.D. degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

“We are extremely fortunate to have the services of one so qualified and experienced in the academic study as well as the practice of counseling,” said Dr. Michael Weed, faculty chair. “Our students will benefit greatly by having one so capable guide them in this very important area of ministry.”

Beyer has been involved with a psychiatric correctional hospital as a correctional psychologist. He has taught courses in Marriage and Family; Abnormal Psychology; Personality Theories; Theories of Counseling; Mental Health; Group Work and Community Practice; Adolescent Psychology; and Social Psychology.

He has served as secretary of the High Plains Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and regularly presents seminars related to marriage and family.

Beyer is a charter member of the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha Honor Society and served for more than ten years as a judge for the Charles Bubany Client Counseling Competition held by the Texas Tech University School of Law.

**Agreement Expands Course Offerings**

Shortly after announcing that it had established its own graduate program, Austin Graduate School of Theology received an invitation to join Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in an informal agreement allowing students in the three schools to take classes at any of the schools for credit toward their respective degrees.

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest have had a similar arrangement between themselves for several years.

“This agreement allows any of our students or any of their students to take advantage of a particular course in another of the schools if it advances them toward their degree program,” said Dr. Michael Weed, Austin Grad faculty chair. “This is an advantage to our program because it broadens our students’ education by giving them access to the larger academic community in Austin.”

According to Weed, “This semester, five of our courses have a total of 15 students from Austin Presbyterian. Most are taking Dr. Jeffrey Peterson’s Beginning Greek class, which is a testimony to his reputation as a teacher.”

Dr. Carson Stephens, president of Austin Grad noted, “We are happy about this arrangement, not only because it expands our students’ opportunities, but it also validates our decision to become a graduate school.”

For some time Austin Grad has had agreements with the other Austin seminaries to share library resources.

**School Co-Hosts Bible Teachers’ Workshop**

Approximately 250 were in attendance for the one day event. Vendors brought materials that teachers can find useful in preparing their lessons. Because of its success, the date of July 19, 2003 has been set for the next workshop. Planners hope to expand offerings and include other age groups.

**Fides Quarens Intellectum**

FIDES QUARENS INTELLECTUM APPEARS ON the new school seal. It is Anselm’s Latin definition of theology: “faith seeking understanding.”
At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms liberally to the people, and prayed constantly to God. About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius." And he stared at him in terror, and said, "What is it Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God." (Acts 10)
Philanthropy

Charitable Remainder Trust
The gift that gives back

In today's uncertain economy and low interest rates, you may want to consider how helping Christian Education can also improve your income. By establishing a charitable trust with Austin Graduate School of Theology, you can take advantage of current tax laws to achieve:

Income for Life

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The Satisfaction of Helping Educate a New Generation of Ministers

If you would like to discuss whether a Charitable Remainder Trust is appropriate for you, please contact

Hugh GaineY
HgaineY@austingrad.edu
512/476-2772

Austin Graduate School of Theology

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Trust the Future

Fewer things in life are as certain as death and taxes. We do not know when we will die, any more than we can predict what Congress will do with estate taxes. But unless the Lord returns, we can be sure that one day, we will pass from this life and leave our assets and loved ones behind. Many of us have been greatly blessed in a material way, and regardless of how much or how little we have, we must plan if we intend to make any provision for our most loved individuals and organizations. While there are many ways to achieve the desirable distribution of our assets, Federal Tax Laws make it very attractive to establish gifts to charitable organizations with a Charitable Remainder Trust.

Austin Graduate School of Theology can help you establish a Trust that will provide you with an excellent rate of return for your lifetime, with the assets passing to the School upon your death. In addition, the law provides for a full deduction on the amount of the Trust, up to 50% or 30% of Adjusted Gross Income, depending on how the trust is funded. Furthermore, if the trust is funded with appreciated assets such as stock, the capital gain will not be taxed. Most importantly, you will be able to see with great joy — while you are living — the great things that your legacy can accomplish.

Please feel free to discuss trusts with your accountant or estate planner. If you would like to discuss this or other ways of establishing trusts that will benefit the school, please call me, or send an email to hgaineY@austingrad.edu. •

Hugh GaineY serves as Director of Planned Giving and Student Recruitment
Retrospective

President’s Beginning of School Reception: A Montage

Although the aftereffects of Tropical Storm Arthur caused the event to be moved indoors, some 65 students, faculty members, and family or guests gathered on Friday evening, September 6, at the ColoVista Country Club for the annual President’s Reception for the opening of school.

The rain let up and allowed those who wished to sit outside on the veranda to do so. But, rain or shine, the opportunity to get acquainted with new students and faculty and welcome returning ones back to the new school year was the most important aspect of the evening.

Photos by student body president, Mark Luckstead.