A Texas Tradition
Beginnings of Austin Graduate
School of Theology
President’s Message

THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US WHICH MEANS that our students are ending their studies for the semester and making plans to visit family and friends for the holidays. For them, it has been arduous and slow, but for us, the time has raced by.

The holidays are a time when our thoughts and hearts turn toward friends and family. Combined with their religious nature, the holidays also tend to make us reflect upon our blessings and duties.

Because we are blessed, we have a duty to express our gratitude which we can do in tangible as well as intangible ways. Intangible expressions include prayers of thanks. As we are admonished by scripture, we can “pray for all” (1 Timothy 2:1). We can reflect on our selves and our ways and determine to make amends.

Tangibly, we can share our blessings with others. During the holidays, we sometimes become more aware of our duty to give, because it is the season of giving. We give to express gratitude to a God who gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16). We give to lift others out of despondent helplessness, and in so doing, we find that we have given to the Lord Himself (Matthew 25). We give because good works should be supported and because the work they are doing is of great value.

We must express our gratitude to all who have been so faithful in support of our cause during this year of national difficulty. You have been very kind. As you can see, we are building on a foundation laid by many faithful others before us. May God bless you and yours.

Carson Stephens

Publishers Release Books by Austin Grad Professors

NOT ONLY LAUDED FOR THEIR TEACHING ABILITIES, Austin Graduate School of Theology professors are also busily involved in academic research. Two books by Austin Grad professors have been released recently by publishers of academic works.

One Gospel from Two: Mark’s Use of Matthew and Luke (Trinity Press International, $40).

This book by a research team on Gospel Studies, features the work of Austin Grad professor, Allan McNicol.

Since accepting an invitation to be part of the research team headed by William Farmer in 1982, McNicol has been active in international biblical scholarship and publication. This volume, co-edited with several other members of the research team, is a commentary on Mark. It argues that, contrary to the views of many biblical scholars, Mark was not the earliest Gospel. According to this work, as some ancients believed, Mark shows dependence on Matthew and Luke. With copious Greek references, the book is not for the casual reader.

The book’s predecessor, Beyond the Q Impasse, co-edited by McNicol in 1996, challenged the theory that behind our canonical gospels was a collection of sayings of Jesus designated by scholars as the Q gospel.

Of Dead Kings and Dirges, by R. Mark Shipp (Society of Biblical Literature Press, $29 paper).

Who or what is “Daystar, Son of Dawn” and how shall we interpret the poem in Isaiah 14 where the phrase is found? Shipp, associate professor at Austin Grad, makes the case that the section is not a myth about a god whose hubris brought about his fall from the heavens. Rather, typical of its time, it is a “royal funeral dirge,” mourning the death of a king. The mourned king is the “king of Babylon.” Not until Jerome in the 5th century A.D. is “Daystar, son of Dawn” equated with Satan. The mock dirge is based on ancient Near Eastern royal dirge patterns. Isaiah 14 uses the imagery of such patterns and reverses them, in order to mock the king.
Incarnation

Through the ages, some have felt that God cannot adequately be understood with personal images. God cannot be tied to space and time and confined by physical limitations. Many have tried to conceive of God by using impersonal categories that filter out the limitations and imperfections of human physical existence. For example, God has been thought of as the Ground of Being, the One, the Whole, the Absolute, and the Unknowable.

The biblical picture turns this approach on its head. Jesus cites parental concern for children and then asks, “How much more does your Heavenly Father care for you?” (Matthew 7:9-11). For Jesus, God is more rather than less personal than human persons. Ephesians even suggests that human fatherhood is a reflection of the Fatherhood of the Creator (Ephesians 3:14).

The heart of Christian faith is found in the assertion that in Christ, God enters history and becomes human flesh in the life, death, and bodily resurrection of the man, Jesus. The Fourth Gospel pronounces, “the Word became flesh, lived among us, and we have seen his glory…” (John 1:14). From this fixed historical point, which we call the Incarnation, Christian reflection about God takes its bearings.

A story is told about Abraham Lincoln visiting a hospital ward during the Civil War. In the middle of the stench and noise, Lincoln stayed at the bedside of a dying soldier for over two hours, holding the young man’s hand and speaking softly with him about his home and family. The President resisted all efforts to hurry him away. A soldier in the next bed later observed: “I don’t think I understood compassion till I saw the tiredness in the President’s face and the sadness in his eyes.”

This is precisely the meaning of the Incarnation. We “understand” God as we see Jesus grieve with Mary at her brother’s tomb, as he kneels with the towel and basin before his disciples and, above all, at the cross where he seeks forgiveness for his tormentors. Through Christ—his patience, his humility, his compassion, his suffering—we see God in a way He is not revealed elsewhere.

Boston to Austin: “I Wanted to be Challenged”

“After years of rebelling against God, I finally committed my life to God,” he says.

This fall, David Condon, his wife, Amy, and their two-year-old son, Sean, came to Austin Grad from North Carolina so he could work on a Bachelor’s degree in Ministry and Christian Studies.

“I was the kind of person Josh McDowell talks about,” David says, “I tried to prove that there is no God.”

He continues, “But, when Sean was born, it was enough to convince me that God exists.”

David supported himself for many years as a musician, playing in bands up and down the East Coast.

“Ironically,” he says, “I grew up in an a cappella Church of Christ. That’s where I learned to sing. I was one of six children, and we all loved music.”

David says, “I felt called to the ministry long before I actually made the commitment. You see, even though as a musician I am accustomed to performing in front of people, I have a deep fear of preaching. I can relate to Jeremiah and Moses who were reluctant to speak for God.”

David grew up in the Boston Movement. His father was a leader in that movement a number of years before deciding to leave it.

“After we left the Boston Movement, I studied every religion in the world trying to find out what my faith was,” David relates. “I did not want to merely inherit my parents’ faith.”

In addition to music, David loves writing. “Creating is my passion,” he says. “So, it will continue to be part of my life.”

“The classes here are little by little getting me ready for the preaching aspect of ministry, even though the idea of preaching scares me to death,” he says.

When asked why he chose Austin Grad, David replies, “Because, even though it is a Church of Christ school, there are so many different students from a variety of faith perspectives. Plus, the teachers are well-educated and I wanted to be challenged.”

David and Amy, who is an Occupational Therapist, are expecting their second child in May.

“Amy became a Christian a year ago,” David says. “She believes in me and is my greatest supporter.”
A Texas Tradition

Beginnings of Austin Graduate School of Theology

A.B. BARRET AND CHARLES Roberson, two educators and ministers, were riding in a buggy in Denison, Texas one day, when Barret said to Roberson, "Let's build a school in West Texas." That was in 1903. In 1905, Barret made a tour of West Texas and, because the Church of Christ was growing there, settled on Abilene.

Col. J.W. Childers, a leader in the Abilene church, agreed to sell Barret some land he owned west of town, deducting about $2,000 from the price on the condition that the school be named in his honor. The Childers Classical Institute opened in the fall of 1906. Barret served two years as president, and Roberson was a faculty member in the new college. In 1912, Jesse P. Sewell was selected president, and he renamed the school Abilene Christian College.\(^1\)

At Austin, in 1917, the Church of Christ moved to its new building at 19th and University Avenue, within a few blocks of the University of Texas. G.H.P. Showalter, an elder of the church as well as owner and editor of the Firm Foundation, a religious journal for Churches of Christ, began promoting the idea that the churches should cooperate to establish a Bible Chair at the University whose classes could be housed in the basement of the new building. After a visit to the church in Austin, President Sewell of Abilene Christian College lent his encouragement to the idea for such a ministry at the University.\(^2\)

The University of Texas had been granting degree credit for properly organized and supervised Bible courses since 1908, and several denominations had begun offering such courses. Through the pages of the Firm Foundation, Showalter continued to press the effort to raise funds for a Bible Chair sponsored by Churches of Christ.

By September 1918, the Bible Chair was established and A.B. Barret was selected as the first teacher.

Charles Roberson came the following year and was appointed director of the Chair. It was through his influence that the courses were accredited by the University. In 1926 Roberson reported that 316 had been enrolled during the preceding eight years.\(^3\)

However, with the depression looming on the horizon and only two students registered for the spring semester, classes were canceled and the Bible Chair officially closed February 6, 1928.\(^4\) The chair remained dormant until 1951 when Ray McGlothlin re-established classes. Austin Graduate School of Theology traces its history to the Bible Chair.

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G.H.P. Showalter Championed University Bible Chair

G.H.P. Showalter was owner and editor of the Firm Foundation, a religious newspaper for Churches of Christ whose offices were located in Austin, from 1908 until his death in 1954. In 1917, using his influence as editor of the paper, Showalter was the most articulate voice advocating that Churches of Christ establish a Bible Chair at the University. He was born George Henry Pryor Showalter on October 15, 1870 near Snowville, Virginia to J.T. and Sarah Showalter. A devout man, his father was a member of the Church of Christ who had memorized the entire New Testament while serving in the Confederate Army. Young George was baptized by his father when he was 13.

Educated in the public schools of Pulaski and Washington counties of Virginia, he attended Greendale Institute at Abingdon, Virginia. He then attended Milligan College in Milligan, Tennessee, where he received his B.A. in 1890 and the M.A. degree in 1895.

From 1891, Showalter began preaching during the summer months in Virginia and West Virginia until 1897 when he moved to Texas seeking opportunities to pursue a career in teaching.

He went to Lockney, a West Texas town eight miles south of Amarillo, where a small school called Lockney Christian College was located. Not actually a college, the school offered classes primarily for students under 15 years of age. During the nine years of his presidency from 1897 to 1906, the school expanded and built a small campus.

Showalter moved from Lockney in 1907 when he was called to become president of a new school in Sabinal, 75 miles southwest of San Antonio. The school, Sabinal Christian College, opened its first session September 10, 1907 with an enrollment of 45. By the end of the school year, the number had grown to 139.

Showalter did not finish out the year at Sabinal because, for some time he had been interested in religious journalism, and had been negotiating with G.J. Steck for the purchase of the Firm Foundation. When Steck died in March, 1907, Showalter purchased the journal. Early in 1908, he moved his family to Austin and began his editorship.

As editor, he began in 1917 to promote the idea of a Bible Chair at the University of Texas. Many articles appeared urging churches and individuals to raise $150 per month to pay the teaching salary of A.B. Barret. Its first classes began in September, 1918.

An elder of the University Church of Christ from 1908 until his death in 1954, Showalter participated in its growth and expansion. He was active in the groundbreaking when its present building began construction in 1949.

When Showalter died in 1954, ownership of the Firm Foundation passed to his family, and Reuel Lemmons was named editor.
SUSTAINING GIFTS
Anonymous
Anonymous
Mary Adams
Jeff & Debra Bailey
Mildred & Bill Barker
Bob & La Juana Burgess
Hubert & Joyce Dutton
Al & Carolyn Endsley
M/M William A. Free
Calvin & Becky Groen
Frances O. Horn
Hyde Park Church of Christ

Jake & Jean Isaac
Marion & Barbara John
Mrs. Lawrence Jones
Terry & Beverly Koonce
Jim & Patricia Lanier
Cindy & Chris Lippe
Rodney & Lawanna Lloyd
Brooks & Mary Ann Loveless

Doris Bailey
LaVerne Barrett
Tom Blackmon
Dr. Perry Chesney
Dr. Olivia Crouch
Sara Curry
Jo F. McDavid
Claude Hocott
Terry & Beverly Koonce
Ray L. Inzer
David & Sue King
Norman Lawrence
Juan Morin
Lori, Kayle, & Bryce Morin
Lennox Norton
Lela Mae Pape
Billy Ramsey
Barry & Lisa Arndt
M/M N.J. Delahoussaye
Frances O. Horn
John & Charlotte McKay
Bill & Cynthia Nelson
Fran & Ottie Olson
Billie Piper
Bob & Mary Jane Starck
University Avenue Church
Joyce Wiginton
Art & Sandy Williams
Jack & Ruth Wright
Chrystle Shields
Billie Dismukes
University Avenue Church
W.R. & Ruth Walker
Jack & Ruth Wright
W.A. Sloan
Willa B. Patterson
Opal Walls
J.D. Spence
Georgia Johnson
Bill Spidell
Jenny & Bill Millican
Virgil Thompson
Ann Grey
Jack & Ruth Wright
Betty Hart Waldron
Joyce Wiginton
Lou Williamson
Joyce Wiginton
Bertha Zulch
Joyce Wiginton

CORPORATIONS/FOUNDATIONS
Anonymous Foundation
Chevron Texaco
ExxonMobil Foundation
Ferro Foundation
IBM Foundation
Lubrizol Foundation
SBC Foundation

SUPPORTING CHURCHES
Bering Drive
Church of Christ, Houston
Brentwood Oaks
Church of Christ, Austin
Gatesville
Church of Christ
Kerrville
Church of Christ
Lockhart
Church of Christ
Sunset Ridge
Church of Christ, San Antonio
University Avenue
Church of Christ, Austin
Western Hills
Church of Christ, Austin
TAX DEDUCTIBLE ANNUITIES: A WAY TO SUPPORT HIGHER CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—AND IMPROVE CURRENT INCOME

How many times have you wished to help a worthy cause, but felt unable to afford a significant contribution? Thanks to our current tax laws, there are ways you can help a very worthy cause, such as training future ministers, and, at the same time, also improve your income. How? With Tax Deductible Annuities. Tax Deductible Annuities have become one of the most effective tools in the financial planner’s arsenal. These annuities are especially appropriate when an individual needs more income than he or she can get from, for example, highly appreciated securities, because selling the securities would create a significant tax liability.

A recent AARP Bulletin contained an article about how older Americans are taking advantage of current IRS regulations to achieve two very important objectives:
1) Helping your favorite charity by establishing a “deferred gift,” and 2) Improving your income, even while interest rates are at near-historic lows. Thankfully, anyone over 60 can do both of these things at once, and, depending on the circumstances, there are additional, substantial tax incentives to do so.

The collapse in interest rates has hit many older Americans who counted on interest from banks, bonds, or CD’s to provide part of their retirement income. You can achieve payout rates well in excess of 5%, (depending on your age) for life, by gifting stocks or other securities to the Austin Graduate School of Theology in exchange for a Tax Deductible Annuity.

If you would like to help train the next generation of ministers, AND improve your rate of return AND reap substantial tax benefits, or if you just want to know more about how Tax Deductible Annuities work, please contact:

Hugh Gainey
Director of Planned Giving
512/476-2772 or hgainey@austingrad.edu

Spring 2003 Short Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 13-18</td>
<td>8:30am-5pm</td>
<td>NT 6302</td>
<td>Gospel of Luke</td>
<td>Worley</td>
<td>NT elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 6-10</td>
<td>9:30am-5pm</td>
<td>MIN 6301</td>
<td>Intro to Christian Ministry</td>
<td>Crenshaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 7-11</td>
<td>8:30am-5pm</td>
<td>NT 6306</td>
<td>General Letters: Peter and His Letters</td>
<td>Worley</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-17</td>
<td>8:30am-5pm</td>
<td>OT 6302</td>
<td>Pentateuch: Deuteronomy</td>
<td>Worley</td>
<td>OT Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 27, Feb. 17</td>
<td>1-5:30pm</td>
<td>Non-Credit</td>
<td>Intro. to Theological Studies</td>
<td>Aho</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9-13</td>
<td>8:30am-5pm</td>
<td>MIN 6302</td>
<td>The Ministry of Preaching</td>
<td>Reid</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16-20</td>
<td>8:30am-5pm</td>
<td>OT 3311</td>
<td>Old Testament Prophets</td>
<td>Hall</td>
<td>Elective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Austin Graduate School of Theology

Name: ____________________________ Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State ___________ Zip ____________

✓ I wish to become a member of Light Bearers by donating monthly at the following level:
  □ $20  □ $25  □ $50  □ $100  □ $250  □ ___________ Other

✓ I wish to: □ Pay for a Day ($300)  □ Pay for a Week ($2100)  □ Give a gift in the amount of $__________
If in Memory or Honor of Someone, please attach: Name of Honoree, Day to be Honored, Name and Address of Person to Notify.

Please charge to my card: ____________________________ (Card number)
Expiration date: ____________________________ Signature: ____________________________

1909 University Avenue/Austin, Texas 78705
### Spring 2003 Regular Semester Course Schedule
**13 January - 9 May 2003**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Day</th>
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<th>Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>7-10am</td>
<td>NT 6301</td>
<td>Reading the New Testament</td>
<td>Peterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>1-4 pm</td>
<td>TH 6304</td>
<td>Contemporary Protestant Theology</td>
<td>Weed</td>
<td>TH elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>7-10pm</td>
<td>MIN 6309</td>
<td>Family Life Ministry</td>
<td>Beyer</td>
<td>MIN elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4-7 pm</td>
<td>NT 6305</td>
<td>Pauline Letters: Galatians and Romans</td>
<td>Peterson</td>
<td>NT elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>9:30am-12</td>
<td>OT 6307</td>
<td>Biblical Hebrew</td>
<td>Shipp</td>
<td>OT elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>11am-12:30</td>
<td>GRK 5352</td>
<td>New Testament Greek II</td>
<td>Peterson</td>
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**GRADUATE COURSES**

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<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>9-10:30am</td>
<td>NT 4131</td>
<td>Interpreting the Bible</td>
<td>McNicol</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>11am-12:30</td>
<td>GRK 3352</td>
<td>New Testament Greek II</td>
<td>Peterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>MW</td>
<td>1-2:30pm</td>
<td>TH 3311</td>
<td>The Faith of the Church</td>
<td>Weed</td>
<td>Prerequisite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3-6pm</td>
<td>MIN 4350</td>
<td>Pastoral Care and Counseling</td>
<td>Beyer</td>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>7-10pm</td>
<td>NT 3321</td>
<td>Life and Letters of Paul</td>
<td>McNicol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10:30am-1:30</td>
<td>NT 4321</td>
<td>People of God in Scripture</td>
<td>McNicol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3-6pm</td>
<td>MIN 3302</td>
<td>Christian Ministry</td>
<td>Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7-10pm</td>
<td>TH 3310</td>
<td>Bible, Marriage, and Family</td>
<td>Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7-10pm</td>
<td>MIN 4350</td>
<td>Pastoral Care and Counseling</td>
<td>Beyer</td>
<td>Georgetown</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSES**

Established in 1918, Austin Graduate School of Theology is accredited to offer the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and The Master of Arts in Theological Studies by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097. Telephone (404) 679-4500.