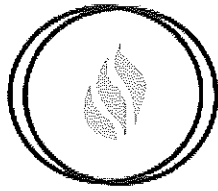


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A U S T I N GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Volume 98, Issue 1
Winter/Spring 2012

Update

In This Issue

Psalmfest 2012



In November 2011, ACU Press released *Timeless: Ancient Psalms for the Church Today*. Initiated and edited by Austin Grad's Professor Mark Shipp, this publication is a combination psalter and commentary on Psalms. This, the first of three planned volumes, contains more than one hundred new compositions based on the first forty-one psalms. In addition to these contemporary and traditional songs, *Timeless* includes commentary, responsive readings, and application notes that make it suitable for Bible study, corporate worship and private devotions.

In conjunction with the release of this unique publication, Austin Graduate School of Theology and Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ extend an invitation for you to attend PSALMFEST 2012, an introduction to these new compositions. This celebration of the psalms in songs, readings, and meditations will begin at 9:30 AM on Saturday, February 11th, at Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ (11908 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas) and will conclude by 5 PM.

[Read more](#)

- Psalmfest 2012
- In Grateful Appreciation
- Visionary Philanthropy

Upcoming Events

Women's Bible Class Day

Friday, March 30, 2012
9:30 to 11:00 AM
Hocott Commons

In Grateful Appreciation

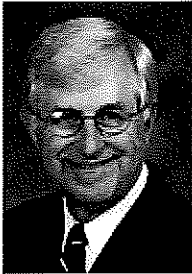
As always, we want to thank our friends who so graciously contributed to Austin Grad from October through December, 2011. We are grateful for and blessed by your generosity.

[Read more](#)

What Really Matters: A Perspective for Reading Philippians

Please RSVP to
cagnell@austingrad.edu
or
Debbie at 512/476-2772

Visionary Philanthropy: Charitable Giving as Part of Retirement Planning by Neil Haney



It may seem strange to think of giving away money while planning for retirement. Most retirement planning is about accumulation of assets, not distribution. However, some of the most visionary planning for retirement may include charitable giving.

A *Deferred Payment Charitable Gift Annuity* can be structured to provide future income at retirement while supporting your favorite charity, like Austin Grad, today.

Here is an example: Let's say that Bill is 45 years old and has begun to think about his retirement twenty years down the road. He is taking advantage of his company benefits and is also saving some each month for investment in a mutual fund, a money market fund or a certificate of deposit. His astute saving has resulted in a small nest egg of about \$30,000. Bill is charitably minded and would like to support Austin Grad but feels that his retirement planning is most important at this time.

[Read more](#)

A sample of Charitable Gift Annuity rates for CGA gifts to Austin Grad is shown below. These are rates recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) approved for January 1, 2012. Rates for Deferred Payment Charitable Gift Annuities will be provided upon request.

Single Life

<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate</u>
-	
65	4.7
70	5.1
75	5.8
80	6.8
85	7.8
90+	9.0

Two Lives – Joint and Survivor

<u>Younger Age</u>	<u>Older Age</u>	<u>Rate</u>
-		
60	65	4.0
65	70	4.4
70	75	4.8
75	80	5.3

80	85	6.1
85	90	7.3
90	95	8.8

Tel: (510) 123-4567
Toll Free: (800) 123-4567
Fax: (510) 765-4321
Email: info@company.com

PSALMFEST 2012

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The day's events include worship, special musical presentations, congregational singing, and speakers.

Special Musical Presentations

Hope Chapel Ensemble is comprised of talented vocalists who worship at Hope Chapel in Austin, Texas. Members of the Ensemble serve the congregation by rehearsing and presenting choral compositions that enhance the richness of worship and the vocal expression of the Christian faith during the seasons of Easter and Advent.

Austin-Abilene Chorale was formed for the express purpose of presenting songs from *Timeless* at PSALMFEST. As the name implies, members are residents of Austin and Abilene.

Brentwood Oaks Chorus has ministered to their home congregation and other area churches for more than twenty years. They have brought the message of Christ's birth to countless people through annual Christmas programs and give their time to benefit several retirement centers in Austin. They also minister to grieving friends and families at funerals. The members of Brentwood Oaks chorus consider their participation to be one way they can share their love for the Lord with many others.

Psalom, the spiritual music ensemble from Saint Petersburg, Russia, is currently on tour in the United States. Led by Konstatin Zhigulin, Psalom will perform at Princeton Theological Seminary before coming to Austin for PSALMFEST 2012. In addition to numerous concerts in Russia, the ensemble has performed at more than sixty churches, lectureships, and universities in the United States.

The Greenville Christian Chorus is a group of experienced singers drawn together for the express purpose of singing the compositions in *Timeless*. Members come from the Greenville area, Weatherford, Carrolton, Mineola, and Gladewater. Most first learned to sing *a cappella* in churches of Christ. The group is conducted by Joan Graves, a retired choir director in Texas public schools.

The Sweet Expressions, a mixed choral group from churches of Christ in the Austin area, has been in existence since 1975. James Tackett has directed the group since 1979. Singing a mix of religious choral styles, the group has performed in many venues: singing in homes, singing the National Anthem for the Spurs, and singing in various churches in the Central Texas area. Additionally, the group travels to

Trinidad to work with the San Juan Church of Christ and helps host the Celebration of the Season concert in Austin.

Speakers

Dr. Andrew Dearman is Director and Associate Dean of Fuller Theological Seminary in Houston where he also serves as Professor of Old Testament. Dr. Dearman will speak on *The Psalms in the Theology and Life of the Church*.

Dr. Jack Reese will speak about *The Psalms in the Life of the Christian*. He is Dean of the College of Biblical Studies and Professor of Preaching at Abilene Christian University.

Dr. David Worley, Chancellor of Austin Graduate School of Theology, will speak on *Singing the Psalms: The Culture of Praise*.

While PSALMFEST 2012 is an *a cappella* event, like *Timeless*, it is ecumenical in nature. We not only hope you will attend, we encourage you to invite your neighbors and friends to join you in this time of contemplative worship and praise.

Please pre-register by calling Debbie at 512/476-2772 or by email to cagnell@austingrad.edu.

VISIONARY PHILANTHROPY**Charitable Giving As Part of Retirement Planning**

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A *Deferred Payment Charitable Gift Annuity* can be structured to provide future income at retirement while supporting your favorite charity, like Austin Grad, today.

Here is an example: Let's say that Bill is 45 years old and has begun to think about his retirement twenty years down the road. He is taking advantage of his company benefits and is also saving some each month for investment in a mutual fund, a money market fund or a certificate of deposit. His astute saving has resulted in a small nest egg of about \$30,000. Bill is charitably minded and would like to support Austin Grad but feels that his retirement planning is most important at this time.

Bill reads about something called a "Deferred Charitable Gift Annuity." He is interested in knowing more and asks for more specific information. Here is what he learns.

If Bill were to give \$10,000 from his savings to Austin Grad in return for an immediate Charitable Gift Annuity, he would receive 3.3% or \$330 per year. While this may be similar to the return he is getting from his investments, by taking a visionary approach and deferring his annuity payments for 20 years when he is 65, he will receive \$890 per year or 8.9%.

Bill's \$10,000 Deferred Payment Charitable Gift Annuity will qualify for a charitable deduction of approximately \$1,100 on this year's income tax return.

Moreover, when Bill begins to draw his annuity at age 65, \$447 of the \$890 will be tax-free. Only \$443 will be ordinary income.

How does this benefit Austin Grad? When Bill makes his gift, Austin Grad will have use of the \$10,000 for 20 years before the annuity payments begin. By investing the funds wisely, Austin Grad will assure Bill's annuity at retirement while supporting the school's mission for many years to come.

Through visionary planning, Bill has accomplished both of his goals. He has supplemented his future retirement income while making a substantial gift to Austin Grad. Bill can request that the gift portion of his Deferred Payment Charitable Gift Annuity be used to provide scholarship support for students, help build up the Austin Grad Permanent Endowment Fund or simply be used for general operations of the school.

Update

Austin Graduate School of Theology

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Why not consider a Deferred Payment Charitable Gift Annuity as part of your retirement plan? We will be happy to provide you with specific information without obligation. Contact Neil Haney in the Austin Grad Development Office.