

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

April E-Newsletter

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New Curriculum for GPTS Students

Dr. Shaw



Over the past two years, under the direction of the Board of Trustees, the Faculty at GPTS has reviewed the curriculum. There was some consideration given at the beginning of the process to perhaps move away from a four-year program to a three-year program. However, as the faculty members reviewed course evaluations and exit interviews with graduates, we realized that such a move would not suit either the needs of our students or the needs of the Seminary. The result of the process was a re-vamping and fine-tuning of the curriculum, but with no change in the number of hours needed for graduation.

The primary changes made to the curriculum are as follows: In the Old Testament department, Beginning Hebrew Exegesis has become Exegesis of Hebrew Narrative, while Advanced Hebrew Exegesis has become Exegesis of Hebrew Poetry and Prophecy. This is really a change in name to reflect more accurately the content of the courses. In the New Testament department, Greek Exegesis I focuses on the Gospels and Acts, whereas Greek Exegesis II deals with the Epistles and Revelation.

The Historical Theology department remained untouched. In the Systematic Theology department, the course that was formerly Ecclesiology & Polity has been divided. There is now a two-hour course entitled Ecclesiology. The polity portion of the course has been moved to the Applied Theology department, and combined with the study of Robert's Rules of Order, and church offices under the name "Polity, Robert's Rules, and Church Offices."

In Applied Theology, Christian Education and Evangelism have been combined into one course, and Missions has become a course in its own right. (In the previous Catalog, Evangelism & Missions were

Thinking Biblically about Stewardship



This is the first in a series of articles on biblical stewardship. We hope these are helpful as you consider investing in the ministry of Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

HANDLING OUR WEALTH

Money affects every aspect of our lives. It is one of the acid tests of character and so it is not surprising that scripture has a lot to say about it.

Did you know that there are over 2,300 verses in the Bible that deal with our possessions? Jesus knew how important it was to talk about since two-thirds of his parables address the topic. Why are money and our possessions such issues for God? The way we handle our money doesn't just affect us in our pocketbooks, it affects us spiritually. How we handle our money affects our relationship with the Lord.

These scripture passages highlight four principles:

- 1) God is the owner of everything.**
- 2) We are to be generous with the treasure entrusted to us.**
- 3) We are to manage our treasure prudently.**
- 4) Our treasure can be dangerous if not handled responsibly before God.**

The first and foundational principle is that God is the source of everything. He owns it all. We are his managers.

In God's eyes, we really own absolutely nothing. Every cent, every possession is God's. This is quite

combined in one course separate from Christian Education.) Also in Applied Theology, we have added the course Reformed Spirituality, which will be taught by Dr. Carrick. The faculty considered that given the divergent views of “spirituality” in our day, such a class was necessary, particularly in helping our students in their own spiritual development.

Finally, two new courses have been added to the Apologetics & Ethics portion of the Curriculum. The first is Islam, which will be taught by Dr. Anees Zaka of Church Without Walls in Philadelphia. The faculty was strongly of the opinion that such a required course is a necessary part of seminary training, considering our current situation. The second new course is Christianity and Its Competitors, which will be taught by Dr. McGoldrick. In essence, it is a critique of the cults, well-informed by church history as well as theology.

These changes, which have been approved by the Board, will go into effect with the Fall 2010 semester, further strengthening what we believe to be already one of the strongest seminary curricula available.



[Katekomen Online](#) Since it ceased publication several years ago, many scholars and others have expressed interest in resumption of Katekomen, Greenville Seminary's scholarly journal. Although resources are not available currently for revival of Katekomen as a printed publication, we are happy to announce the creation of a free online version of this journal. This journal is designed to acquaint prospective students, supporters, scholars and all other interested persons with the perspectives and theological thought of Greenville Seminary, its faculty and affiliated learned thinkers. Katekomen can be found on the web by clicking [here](#) or entering katekomen.gpts.edu into your Internet browser's address bar. Be sure to bookmark this site or add it to your "favorites" for ease of access in the future.

contrary to the “me” culture that teaches us to think this is my house, my car, my bank account. Recognizing God’s ownership of all things is critical in allowing Him to become Lord of our money and our possessions. This may seem limiting, but it is really liberating.

Strange as it seems, money and possessions, which should be among the blessings of life, have tied more people in knots, caused more failed marriages, and sent more people to the psychiatrist than we’ll ever know. This is largely because many people live by their pocketbooks and try to fulfill their lives with things, finding it easy to act as if God doesn’t exist in this area of their lives. Slowly the mindset can develop that, “I worked hard for what I have, and it’s mine to do as I choose.”

We cannot own something without it owning us. We lose joy and a sense of freedom if we try to play God. He owns. We manage. When we pursue what has been created instead of the Creator, we create our own materialistic god.

Giving a meaningful percentage of one’s income is a step in the right direction. Why?

Because it helps a person to develop a right perspective that all his or her money, ability, his or her very life, belongs to God. These are trusts from God to be used as He would have them used. It frees us from faithless fear and results in an indescribable freedom that can never come to those who think they must do everything for themselves.

We acknowledge God’s existence and His ownership of everything by using God’s resources for furthering God’s kingdom. The proper perspective shifts our interest from earth to heaven — from self to God. It is investing for eternity. In the next few issues of this newsletter, we will explore our responsibility in handling our treasure effectively and generously and the dangers that are present if we do not act responsibly.

What Does Scripture Say?

The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it. Ps. 24:1

“The silver is mine and the gold is mine”, declares the Lord Almighty. Haggai 2:8

Upcoming Events

May 17-20 - Reformed Church in the U.S. Synod meeting, Ebenezer Reformed Church, Shafter, California. GPTS will be represented by Development Director Garry Moes.

May 21, 7:00 PM - GPTS Graduation. If you are in the Greenville area, please plan to join us. Dr. Benjamin Shaw will give the address. A reception will follow.

May 31 - June 5 - Biblical Worldview Student Conference: We encourage all young people to consider attending this conference at Milligan College outside of Johnson City, TN. The conference is sponsored by Westminster, PCA in Kingsport, TN. The purpose of the conference is to train young men and women (age 15 to college seniors) to grow in the faith and be better equipped to face the challenges of an increasingly hostile world. More information can be found at www.westminsterkpt.org.

June 28 - July 1 - Presbyterian Church in America General Assembly, Nashville Convention Center, Nashville, Tenn. GPTS will be hosting a breakfast for interested commissioners on Wednesday, June 30, 7:00 a.m., at First Baptist Church, 108 Seventh Avenue South, Nashville. If you wish to attend the breakfast, RSVP to the GPTS Development Office (bbenson@gpts.edu).

August 2-6 - Summer Institute Medical Ethics Conference with Dr. Del Bailey at Greenville Seminary. More details available online soon or by calling the seminary.

Please Pray With Us

April Prayer Requests:

- **Please continue to pray for God's provision of all needed resources for the seminary.**
- **Please continue to pray for Leon and Charles Amicy, Octavius Delfils, their churches and their families as they continue to minister in Haiti. The Presbyterian Mission in Haiti (PMH) continues to minister to survivors of**

You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. Deut. 8:17-18

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- May 2nd** – Dr. Dyer – Reedy River PCA, Conestee, SC
- May 2nd** – Dr. Carrick – Providence Church, Duluth, GA
- May 7th – 9th** – Dr. Pipa – Mission Conference, St. Paul PCA, Jackson MS
- May 9th** – Dr. Carrick - Sandy Springs OPC, Marryville, TN
- May 9th** – Dr. Dyer – Reedy River PCA, Conestee, SC
- May 16th** – Dr. Curto – Providence OPC, Greensboro, NC
- May 24th – June 23rd** – Dr. Curto – Missions trip to Belgium, Switzerland & Ethiopia
- May 30th** – Dr. Carrick – Providence Church, Duluth, GA
- June 8th** – Dr. Dyer – Sandy Springs OPC, Maryville, TN
- July 4th** – Dr. Carrick – Grace Reformed PCA, Greeneville, TN

the earthquake in January. Additional details supplied by the PMH board are available on the PMH website:

www.presbyterianmissioninhaiti.org

- Pray for students considering GPTS for the Fall semester.
- Please pray for Dr. McGoldrick's wife (Betty) as she is awaiting spinal cord stimulator therapy to relieve significant pain.



The tables below outline the seminary's financial picture for the month of March.

As we have reported before, our monthly average expenses, including the interest on the building mortgage, are approximately \$78,000. We have made it a goal to increase regular monthly giving to this amount.

If you are not currently giving monthly, please prayerfully consider this change. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) enables monthly giving without having to write and mail a check each month. You can sign up for EFT on the [donation pages of our website](#) or by contacting Brenda Benson (bbenson@gpts.edu or 864-322-2717, ext. 318).

NEW GIVING OPTION: We have created a new and easy mechanism for supporting GPTS financially. You may now make quick donations **ONLINE from our web site**. You may make a one-time donation to any of several GPTS support categories or set up a monthly donation schedule.

July 26th -29th – Dr. Smith – Ministry Conference, Machen Retreat Center, Highland County, VA

Ongoing:

Dr. Smith is teaching an Adult Sunday School class at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church in Brevard, NC

Dr. Shaw is leading a Men's Bible Study at 2nd PCA in Greenville, SC

Dr. McGoldrick is serving as stated supply at Grace PCA in Dacusville, SC

Farewell to Simone

Buob: The faculty, staff, and students have bid a fond farewell to Simone Buob as she has returned to Switzerland to take an elementary school teaching position.

Simone has had more than one staff role during her time studying at Greenville Seminary, most recently as manager of the Presbyterian Bookshop. Simone has finished her course work and will be receiving her Master of Arts in Biblical Studies next month. As you think of Simone, please pray for her and particularly for the advance of the gospel in her home country of Switzerland. Please pray that God will provide Simone with genuine fellowship and encouragement even in the midst of challenges.



General Fund Update

	March Budget	March Actual	Difference Compared to Budget for March	Fiscal Year to Date Budget	Fiscal Year to Date Actual	Difference Compared to Budget for Fiscal Year to Date
Expenses	\$ 66,784	\$70,107	\$ 3,323	\$ 625,860	\$ 627,628	\$ 1,768
Donation Income	\$ 56,232	\$ 46,223	- \$ 10,009	\$ 506,076	\$ 483,278	\$ 22,798
Other Income	\$ 12,162	\$ 11,793	- \$ 369	\$ 114,399	\$ 156,619	\$ 42,220
Total Income	\$ 68,394	\$ 58,016	- \$ 10,378	\$ 620,475	\$ 639,897	\$ 19,422

Capital

Funds Update

Goal	\$ 3,500,000
Receipts	\$ 2,381,957
Outstanding Pledges	\$ 769,103
New Income Needed	\$ 348,940
Outstanding Bills	\$ 38,500
Monthly Note	\$ 6,785

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