

Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

January E-Newsletter

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Welcome
new staff member
Gail Anderson



Greetings from the Administrative Assistant's office! Due to Margaret Talbot Swait's wedded bliss, I am now filling her position at GPTS. GPTS has already influenced my life in many ways.

Some of you are acquainted with my husband, Dr. Douglas Anderson, who volunteered at the seminary after he was forced into early retirement due to MS. Those were good and encouraging days for him. He and I audited one of Dr. McGoldrick's classes, a blessing in itself, and consequently Dr. McGoldrick recommended two science history books that have been great aids for me as a science teacher in a classical school. Soon after, I had the joy and privilege of knowing the Curtos through their three Ugandan sons whom I have taught (all three of them!) at Greenville Classical Academy. As a backdrop to all of this, since moving to Greenville in 1995, we have been in frequent contact with seminary students of differing ages and nationalities and have found all of them to be godly, ministry-minded individuals. It is with a grateful heart that I am now a small part of this ministry.

Having grown up in eastern North Carolina, I graduated from Asbury College (B.A. in premed). As an aside, yes, Asbury is a Methodist school, and I thoroughly enjoyed the four years spent in the bluegrass state. However, thirteen years later I saw the light when studying Romans 9. Understanding Reformed theology has been a passion ever since. Directly after college, I attended graduate school in anatomy at MUSC (where I met my husband), and later did further graduate work in nutrition at Clemson. Doug and I have lived in many areas of the southeast and have two married children that live close by. By God's grace, the years in academia, the years teaching school, and especially the years as homemaker and mom prepare me somewhat for this position.

Greenville Seminary Board of Trustees, Faculty, Staff, and students give praise to God and thanks to all our donors for the wonderful response to our 2009 End-of-Year appeal. The total of \$158,067 received by December 31st, is the second highest total we have ever received in any past December. This has enabled the seminary to pay off our General Fund debts. Many thanks to all who have prayed and generously given to support this ministry.



January 14 – January 28 – Dr. Curto – Traveling in Ethiopia

January 17 – Dr. Carrick – Geneva OPC, Woodstock, GA

January 24 – Dr. Carrick – Sovereign Grace Reformed Presbyterian (OPC), Hickory, NC

January 31 – Dr. Carrick – Sovereign Grace Reformed Presbyterian (OPC), Hickory, NC

February 7 - Dr. Carrick - Greenville Presbyterian Church (Free Church of Scotland, Continuing), Greenville, SC

February 9 – 18 – Dr. Pipa – Traveling and Preaching in Ireland

February 28 – Dr. Carrick – Grace PCA, Aiken, SC

The position I hold has varied responsibilities. Of first importance, I assist Dr. Pipa in his many capacities, including his role as an administrator, professor, and ambassador for the seminary. His calendar dictates many of my duties including travel arrangements, providing/distributing materials for teaching, coordinating committee meetings. Screening phone calls and messages is necessary because of his busy schedule. Assisting the Board of Trustees and their meetings will be an important function of this position. I coordinate staff schedules; waiver student assignments; phone/reception volunteers; and building usage, maintenance and supplies. Communication and “jack of all trades” are the key words for this position. Since we have a limited staff, and most of us part-time employees at that, the staff must work together to respond to each day’s diverse challenges.

Many are the blessings of this job. I am surrounded by saints desirous to demonstrate Christlikeness, who are an encouragement and exhortation. Doug and I would be grateful for your prayers that we would be found faithful witnesses to God’s goodness and power in all things and that we be as confident in God as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: "We know our God is able to deliver us from the fiery furnace and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the golden image you have set up."

March 5 – Dr. Pipa – Covenant College

March 28 – Dr. Carrick – Grace PCA, Aiken, SC

Ongoing:

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

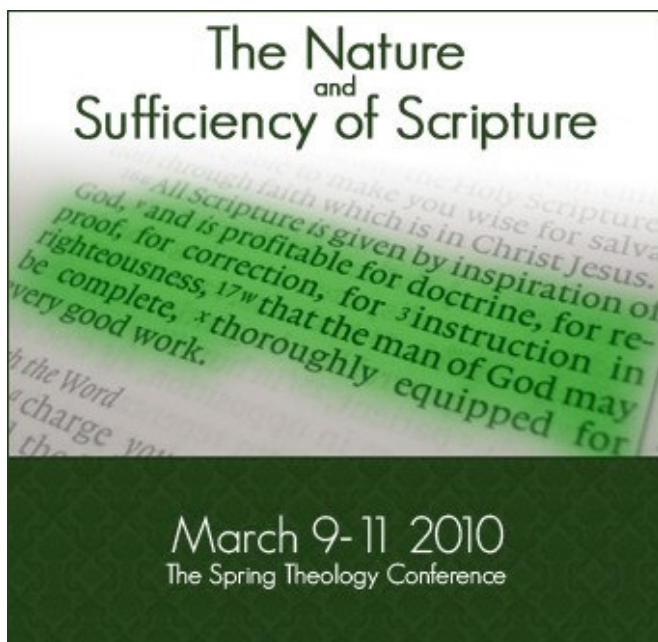
Dr. Shaw is leading a Men’s Bible Study at 2nd PCA in Greenville, SC

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

Please Pray With Us

January Prayer Requests:

- **Please continue to pray for God's provision of all needed resources for the seminary.**
- **Pray for Dr. Tony Curto as he is preaching and traveling in Ethiopia for two weeks beginning January 14th. Please pray specifically for safe travel during the trip as some of his time will be in remote areas.**
- **As you have heard reported in the news, on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 12th, Haiti experienced a 7.3 point earthquake near the capital city of Port-au-Prince. The damage is very severe: many people killed or injured in the collapse of concrete buildings; many people trapped overnight in the rubble and destruction. 3 former students of Greenville Seminary: Leon Amicy, Charles Amicy and Octavius Delfils minister in Haiti with their families. The Presbyterian Mission in Haiti (PMH) is in need of food, water and medical supplies as they seek to minister to many survivors who have traveled from Port-au-Prince. Please pray for God's mercy on the many survivors in Haiti, and particularly for supplies to get through to the PMH campus in Messailler. Additional details supplied by the PMH board are available by following the link on our website (www.gpts.edu) or the PMH website: www.presbyterianmissioninhaiti.org**



The staff, faculty, and students are bidding a fond farewell this month to Margaret Swait (nee Talbot) who has been an integral part of our seminary community since 1994. Although her title has been "Dr. Pipa's Secretary" she has generously given of her times and energies to make life at the seminary run smoothly. As many of you know, Margaret married Joffre Swait on December 12th, 2009. Margaret is moving to Alberta, Canada where her new husband is a professor at the University of Alberta. Although we miss Margaret's presence here we are rejoicing with her as she begins a new chapter in serving the Lord. Please pray for God's favor and blessing on Margaret and Joffre.

Please plan now to join us for Greenville Seminary's Spring Theology Conference, March 9th through 11, 2010. The theme of this year's conference is The Nature and Sufficiency of Scripture. Speakers include Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn and Dr. Mark Herzer as well as GPTS faculty members Dr. Shaw, Dr. Curto and Dr. Pipa. The complete schedule of speakers and online registration are now available now at www.gpts.edu/conference



In 2000, we held a conference on the sufficiency of Scripture. That conference sought to demonstrate the need to develop a consistent Christian world view with God's infallible and inerrant Word as its firm foundation. We later published the conference lectures as a book entitled: *Written for Our Instruction: The Sufficiency of Scripture for All of Life*. That book, which deals with a wide variety of topics, including counseling, worship, education, and ethics, may be purchased here:

<http://www.presbyterianbookshop.com/store/product.php?productid=2277&cat=0&page=1>. Now, a decade later, we are again visiting the doctrine of Scripture, this time dealing more directly with the nature/ of Scripture and also responding to a handful of recent and ongoing debates about the authority and sufficiency of God's Word. To see the details and to register please follow the links from our home page www.gpts.edu.

Chris Arnzen of the radio program Iron Sharpens Iron has recently interviewed three of the men scheduled to

speak at our upcoming Spring Theology Conference. Audio of these interviews can be heard online at the Iron Sharpens Iron website.

Dr. Ben Shaw, GPTS Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament on the topic: **Englising the Bible**: http://sharpens.blogspot.com/2009/12/blog-post_30.html

Dr. Joseph Pipa, GPTS President and Professor of Historical & Systematic Theology on the topic: **Why Creeds if the Bible is Sufficient**: http://sharpens.blogspot.com/2009/12/blog-post_31.html

Dr. David Murray, Professor of Old Testament and Practical Theology at Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary on his two scheduled lectures: **Holy Spirit + Holy Men = Holy Bible** and **Salvation, Sanctification and Spectacles**: http://sharpens.blogspot.com/2010/01/blog-post_08.html

If you have trouble with any of these links, please contact Brenda Benson (bbenson@gpts.edu or 864-322-2717)



Below are the financial numbers for the month of December. As of December 31st, we received \$158,067. Although we are short of our goal of \$200,000 by the end of the year, we are rejoicing in God's provision through both individuals and churches. With one exception, this total is more than the amount raised in any previous December. Please join with us in praying specifically that needed funds will continue to come in throughout 2010.

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).

General Fund Update

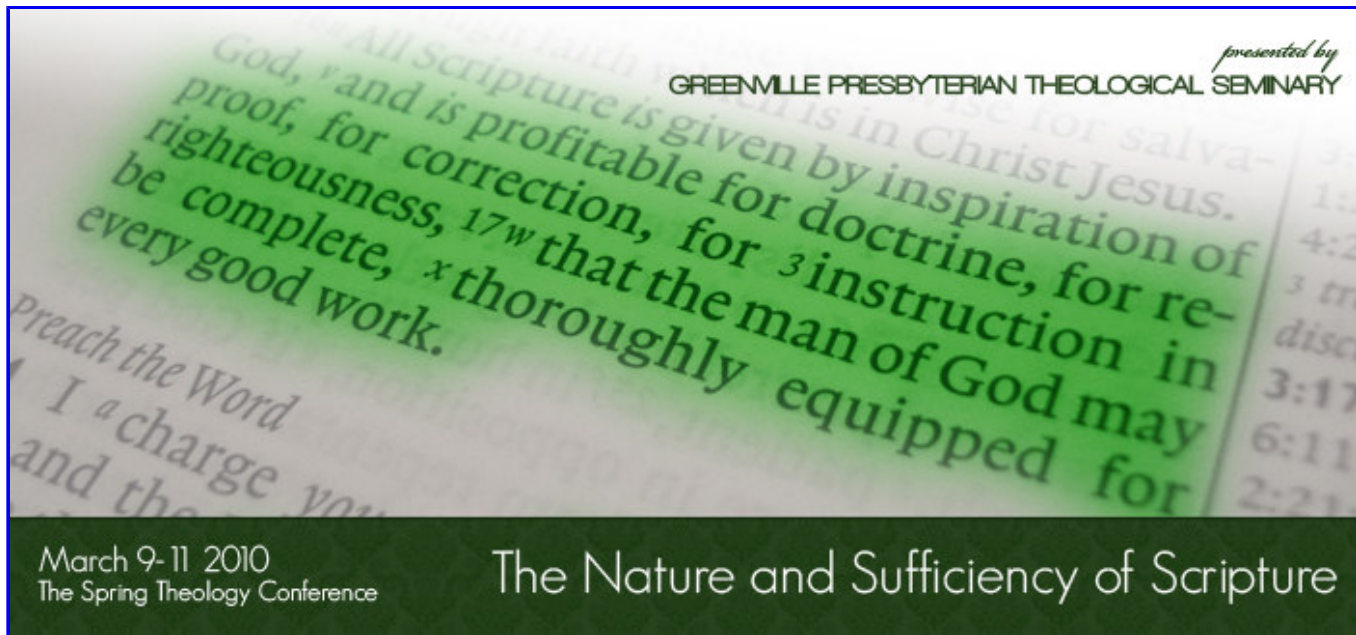
	December Budget	December Actual	Difference Compared to Budget for December	Fiscal Year to Date Budget	Fiscal Year to Date Actual	Difference Compared to Budget for Fiscal Year to Date
Expenses	\$ 66,789	\$ 87,282*	\$ 20,493	\$ 405,502	\$ 408,719	\$ 3,217
Donation Income	\$ 56,231	\$ 157,167	\$ 100,936	\$ 331,635	\$ 331,586	- \$ 49
Other Income	\$ 18,923	\$ 20,687	\$ 1,764	\$ 112,908	\$ 84,751	- \$ 28,157
Total Income	\$ 75,154	\$ 177,854	\$ 102,700	\$ 444,543	\$ 416,337	- \$ 28,206

* Note: December Actual expenses

includes payment of overdue items from previous months of 2009.

Capital Funds Update

Goal	\$ 3,500,000
Receipts	\$ 2,282,109
Outstanding Pledges	\$ 835,925
New Income Needed	\$ 382,820
Outstanding Bills	\$ 38,500
Monthly Note	\$ 8,000



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