



# THE SEMINARIAN

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Issue 2

## IM 101 - 1986 STYLE

The task of communicating all that was gained in this year's seminar on Church and Culture is not an easy one, to be sure. The fact that there were 24 participants should be indicative of the varied personalities, personal histories, theologies, and expectations that were brought together in this time of growth.

We are grateful for the classroom-style presentations which were conducted by the various faculty and staff personnel which contributed to a healthy overview of theological study here at L.T.S.

However, I believe that the highlight of the seminar is what the participants have affectionately termed the "Philadelphia Experience".

Travelling by chartered bus, we arrived at 4th and Race Streets where we were greeted by Rev. Geneva Butz, pastor of Old First Reformed Church. This would be our new "home" for what became five, very intense, days of learning and growth.

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## S.C.C. MINUTES

The following are an abbreviated version of the Minutes of the SCC meeting held on Sept. 25, 1986. Len Knighton took notes in absence of Secretary, John Freudenberger.

### Old Business

President Curt Zemencik reported:

1. SCC was thanked by Lancaster Hospice for its \$100 donation
2. St. Joseph's Hospital thanked the LTS community for its Spring bloodmobile.

### Committee Reports

#### 1. Spiritual Life

- a. Compline will be held every Thurs., 9:40-10:00 p.m.
- b. An automated bell-ringer has been purchased, but is not yet in operation.

#### 2. Social Life

- a. The picnic on Sept. 24 was successful.
- b. The next scheduled event is a Halloween Party. Susan Minasian volunteered to help plan children's activities.

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## IM 101

(continued)

The itinerary called for food shopping and meal preparation by the participants, lecture presentations, times of reflection, journal writing, and vespers. Our daily schedule began much earlier and ended much later than was originally scheduled. But, this was a matter of practicality and, more so, in response to an enormous need for the sharing of our experiences.

On Sunday the group was divided into teams of two and assigned to attend worship services at various churches: some walked while others rode buses/subways to their destinations. Afterwards, each team met with the representatives of their host church for lunch and conversation.

On Mon., Tues., and Wed. mornings we were assigned to on-site urban ministry locations in teams of two or three. It was here that we were afforded "hands-on" experience and direct interaction with the hungry and homeless of Philadelphia.

During the afternoons we were addressed by representatives of the Philadelphia Committee on the Homeless (PCH), the city government, and cultural establishments.

Some members of the group were able to participate in direct street outreach between the hours of 8:00-10:00 p.m. each of these evenings. This involved walking the streets of Philadelphia with a PCH volunteer to distribute sandwiches and drinks to the homeless. (For many, this would be their only meal of the day.) Others attended the Night Arraignment Court.

What we saw was affluence on the part of many others. Faces indicated hunger, pain, hopelessness, and total loss of human dignity. We saw the injustice of our justice system which treated offenders, their families and friends in such a casual manner as to make them

almost non-existent. Such stark contrasts were evident everywhere

Then, too, we attended the Black Theatre production of "Po", the performance at the "Painted Bride", dinner in Chinatown, as well as our walking tour of South Street and Penn's Landing.

But, the point that cannot be adequately emphasized, at least in this writing, is the amount of learning and emotion which this experience generated. Our times of reflection and vespers showed that we had worked, learned, laughed, cried, and shared -- "lived together" -- for five very emotional and meaningful days. We saw a different aspect of ourselves, each other, and ministry that we, perhaps, had not been exposed to previously.

But there were some side effects: We had to endure a 5-day malady diagnosed as "Ringer's Zingers". And, to this very day some of the participants are still suffering from "Bus Lag". One individual, who shall remain nameless, can still be found sitting in the laundry room on some mornings -- waiting for the subway to arrive.

Fran -- Thank you! You have enabled us to give rise to many new thoughts and emotions relative to the ministry within the context of the "total community". We will be sorting out these valuable experiences for a very long time and trying to put them into some appropriate perspective.

To my fellow classmates I say, Thank You! Each one of you has contributed so very much to this experience. Never before have I been so very sure of my calling to the ministry. The needs are so great, yet I sense a higher degree of awareness of, and excitement about, the unlimited possibilities that our Creator holds in store for each one of us.

Jack Davies

### S.C.C. MINUTES (continued)

3. Seminary Life
  - a. There is continued concern over parking shortages.
  - b. Senior placement seminars, organized by Allen Kroehler and Curt Zemencik, will start on Oct. 6 at 8:30 p.m.
  - c. The need was expressed to complete the wiring renovation in the Pine Street houses and the asbestos removal in the Richard's Hall arts room.

#### New Business

1. Jack Davies is Junior Class Representative.
2. Chet Carbaugh, Commuter Rep., was charged to explore the need for a commuter room.
3. Concern was expressed about the student voice being diminished by the lack of a dean of students. The SCC wishes to set up an open forum with the President, Dean, and all students to discuss this and other issues. The stated purposes of the forum would be "to find out what the reorganization of the administration is and how it will affect students."

The SCC will meet again on Thursday, October 16 at 9:25 a.m. The entire student body is welcome.

### A SEMINARIAN'S PUZZLE

*Can you find the hidden word? They all pertain to things you find in church. See example.*

Example:

The cops almost caught me, I must be more careful.

1. I hesitated because I was afraid to take a chance like that.
2. Since he has a large attic, we let Grandpa store the gifts for the surprise party.
3. We are unsure what to do with the unwelcome gift. Should we untie the bow or ship it back unopened.
4. You may use bib lettuce for the salad. I prefer iceberg.
5. Nothing soothes a cowpoke more than to ride a contented horse.
6. Given such an abundance of peaches, Grandma couldn't decide whether to can them or freeze them.
7. The surgeons will use a laser Monday when they operate.
8. The captain set out for sea, sternly warning the crew of the consequences of mutiny.
9. While some find pro-wrestling stimulating, others find such displays of macho irritating.
10. It took all day to heave ninety pounds of trout into the boat.

Kathryn Schmidt

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*The work of the world does not wait to be done by perfect people.*

-copied

## From the Editors' Desk

A recent visit took me to Union Seminary in New York. The hustle and bustle of the city, the impressiveness of the Riverside Church, the endless discussions and debates on social issues, and the opportunity to listen to other professors were all fascinating. But those things were all overshadowed by a short chapel service containing a message on Matthew 11:2-6.

It was a sermon that every seminarian should hear and then review every five years or so. The chances of my being in N.Y. to hear it in this critical stage of my life - a senior about to be released into the world - made me ponder the question of God's divine providence and God's role in directing our lives. But that's another story.

Instead of trying to recount the sermon word for word (a boring practice, since many sermons are better when heard and seen, not read), I'll share my impressions of it.

John the Baptist is in prison and sends a message to Christ, asking, "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?" An important question for John since he had spent his entire life sacrificing and suffering in order to prepare the world for Jesus.

The preacher that morning pointed out that John was asking, "Is it really you? Are you really who I think you are? Have I been working all my life toward the right goal? Was my dedication justified?"

Each one of us has made the necessary decisions in order to come to seminary. Everyone has had to give up something to make this career possible. These demands and sacrifices will not end upon graduation. There are even whispers out in the field that things will get tougher.

The sermon that morning struck me because I heard my questions and my doubts in someone else's mouth. How often do I ask myself, "Am I on the right path? Is this the lifestyle I am to follow so that I can serve God?" As I burn my bridges behind me and slowly edge my way toward the unprotected arena of parish ministry, I sometimes wonder to God: "Is it you who is leading me?"

Christ's answer to John was, in part, that the blind shall see, the lame walk, and the deaf hear. The preacher at Union said that Jesus did not give a simple yes or no answer (so what's new?), but told John that the answer was made clear in the manifestations of God's power and interaction in the world.

So in my panicky moments, those times when I seriously consider taking up ditch-digging or stenography as my chosen profession, I need to reflect on God's action in my own life and in the world. One needs, I think, to periodically review one's path (perhaps even using Macquarrie's infamous formative factors). Then one can proceed on the path laid out by God.

SJF

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*A dead hen cannot hatch live chicks.*

-Doug Whiting speaking on  
Christian Education

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## \* CALL TO ALL ARTISTS \*

\* We are in the planning  
 \* stages of designing LTS  
 \* T-shirts. The cost will  
 \* depend on how many are  
 \* ordered.

\* Right now we are look-  
 \* ing for a few designs to  
 \* choose from. Please be  
 \* working on them, and keep  
 \* ears and eyes open for  
 \* further details.

\* Kathryn Schmidt \*

\* \* \* \* \*

Time  
 an elusive reality  
 ticking on  
 marching on.

Time  
 to live  
 to learn  
 to laugh  
 to love.

Never enough

Time.

Lori Eck

\* \* \* \* \*

If a man does not keep pace with his  
 companions, perhaps it is because  
 he hears a different drummer. Let  
 him step to the music he hears,  
 however measured or far away.

Thoreau



## NURSES AID

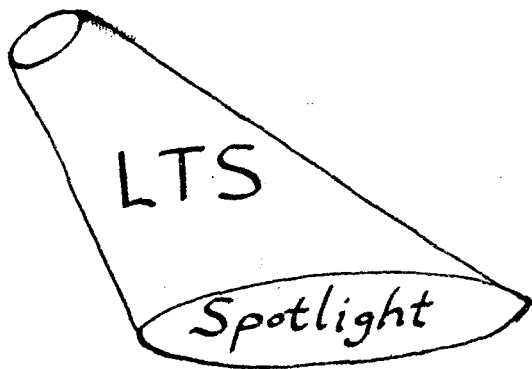
"Someday the angel will come"  
 I thought  
 "And hand me a flowing black robe"  
 Then ministry can finally begin!  
 I plotted my path so rigidly  
 that roadblocks were a crisis  
 and each crisis brought despair.

Christ once took a basin  
 and in love and care  
 washed my feet.  
 I told Him not to do it  
 But He only smiled  
 lovingly patted them dry  
 and stood to embrace me.

One day, the angel did come  
 and handed me a white uniform  
 Ministry finally began  
 Although at first  
 it resembled a detour.

So now, I take up my basin  
 and in love and care  
 wash others.  
 Christ tells me to do it  
 and I can feel his smile.  
 For sometimes as I pat them dry,  
 His eyes look out through theirs  
 and I stand to embrace Him there.

Kathryn Schmidt



### REV. DR. NATHAN D. BAXTER

Your attention please - let's have a loud organ voluntary and a special tolling of the bell. It's time to welcome the new dean of our seminary, The Rev. Dr. Nathan D. Baxter.

Nathan and his wife, Mary Ellen, and their children, Timika and David (not to mention the beautiful Labrador, Chocolate) moved into a Pine Street house on July 28. Nathan, a '76 LTS graduate who completed his D.Min. here in 1984, officially took on the duties as Dean on August 1. The Baxters moved from Lawrenceville, VA where Nathan served as campus chaplain at St. Paul College. There his responsibilities, in addition to filling the usual role of leading worship and acting as minister to faculty and students, included organizing fall and spring lecture series. The fall event focused on such current issues as capital punishment and South Africa, whereas the spring offered a week-long symposium featuring speakers like Morehead Kennedy and Paul Washington.

At St. Paul's Nathan was also professor of Philosophy and Religion. As a member of the college's executive council he established a joint graduate program between St. Paul and George Washington University. The program offers an MA in educational administration as well as an EdS degree (post-masters). He also (yes, there's more) served as the priest of a small local congregation in addition to being

active in judicatory responsibilities. WOW! What a busy man!

Needless to say, this is a man who has much to offer to the LTS community. So what are his plans? Nathan shows his wisdom and sensitivity when he says that instead of forcing his ideas and experiences onto LTS, he first wants to "begin to get more of a feel of the needs, hopes, and concerns of the community." He is very aware that the stated mission of LTS is to "prepare persons for leadership in the parish, either lay or ordained," and he plans to work within that context.

Nathan believes that "mission is synonymous to call" and in this sense LTS has been called by God to perform this task of preparing ministers. Nathan states his opinion that every member of the faculty, staff, and student body is a part of this mission. Everybody uses their beliefs, talents, and activities to shape their ministry within the larger mission.

LTS is a small community with ambitious academic offerings and an assorted population. The challenge for Nathan is to focus the individuality within the school towards its goal. If one considers that Nathan should oversee such diverse areas as the MDiv, MAR, DMin, Spectrum, and Arts in Ministry programs as well as the administrative staff, registrar, and library, one concludes that he's got his hands full.

However, Nathan confidently expresses the hope that he will "enable these various groups to function as a whole but also to find ways to help them to think in an integrated fashion." It is his belief that these programs can be brought together to work towards LTS's mission. Nathan hopes to encourage increased communication within the seminary in order to capitalize on the similarities that can be found in the different programs.

Nathan's faith is apparent when he says that he views the dean's role as a ministry that coordinates the different ministries in the seminary to work together. By accepting this position, Nathan believes that he has answered God's call. He describes the deanship as an "office that brings together all of the academic life in some common administrative structure."

Nathan's enthusiasm for LTS is apparent when he discusses the seminary's particular strong points. Among the strengths, he lists the excellent faculty, the additional services on campus such as CPDM, the counseling center, the PRC, the collegium program, the interpersonal and sociological research done by Profs. Freeman and Hartley, and the opportunity for continuing education for laity and clergy. An asset that will help Nathan in his job as dean is his conviction of the importance of education as a never-ending process. He firmly states that "lifelong learning is crucial to be effective in one's ministry."

He expresses the hope for growth in areas such as maintaining the scholarly emphasis of the seminary and encouraging interaction within

the seminary. Nathan also hopes to see more courses offered that are inclusive of the black experience. Nathan looks forward to the day when LTS will be more actively involved with the ethnic communities in Lancaster and central Pennsylvania.

He outlines some ideas that include LTS and the black and hispanic communities sharing activities, celebrations, and concerns. He envisions the seminary community making itself increasingly available to the ethnic communities in order to promote more inclusive interaction. Nathan believes that more ethnic Christians should be encouraged to take advantage of LTS's many resources.

Yes, Nathan Baxter has his work cut out for him. But he is a man with a vision and seemingly endless energy. He brings with him his experiences as a scholar, parish priest, professor, chaplain, administrator, and family man. He is open to and welcomes student response to his ideas and plans. So, Stop by his office and give him a personal welcome.

SJF

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The Seminarian is the monthly student newspaper for Lancaster Theological Seminary. Deadline for contributions is the last Friday of each month and distribution is the first Friday of each month. Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed but will be printed "name withheld" upon request.

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