



The

# Seminarian

Student Publication of the LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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## STUDENT WEDDINGS REVEALED

The loyalty of seminary students to their school knows no bounds. This fact was proven during the recent Christmas vacation when three students of the institution decided to marry in an effort to fill the remainder of the vacant student apartments.

John Hensch, a member of the Junior Class, and Jennie Witta were married December 18th in the Lolsinger Church of the Brethren at Alum Bank, Pennsylvania. Following the wedding, the couple left for a honeymoon trip to Niagara Falls. They now live in an apartment in Harner Hall.

John Karrer became the second member of the Junior Class to exchange vows during the vacation when he wed Phyllis Cassetta in the Homestead Methodist Church at Baltimore, Maryland on December 24th. The couple spent six days in the Pocono Mountains following the wedding.

(Cont. on Page 6)

## SENIOR CLASS HONORS PROFS

The Senior Class has given a gift of \$100 to the library to be used to buy books in honor of Dean David Dunn and Dr. Alfred N. Sayres. The class designated that the books be secured in the fields of Church History and Practical Theology. Dean Dunn and Dr. Sayres will retire at the end of the present school year.

All students are asked to reserve the evening of February 6 for a meeting of the Bookstore Co-op. More information will be given to co-op members before the annual meeting so that appropriate discussion and action will be possible at the Feb. 6 meeting.

## MANAGER AND ASSISTANT NAMED

Charles "Bill" Wealand, former assistant manager of the Bookstore was elected manager at the executive meeting of the co-op January 11. President of the co-op, Frank Landis, also announced the new assistant manager is Anna Daugherty. Both Anna and Bill are already working in their new positions. They will continue in these capacities until January 1962.

## CONVOCATION SCHEDULED

Unlike the majority of colleges and universities in the United States, there is no Homecoming at Lancaster Theological Seminary. There is no big football game, no big dance, no joyous reunion parties. There are no campus decorations, and no parades. But there is a Convocation each year which takes the place of all these things.

The Swander Lectures will be delivered this year by Dr. Joseph Sittler, professor of theology at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. Dr.

(Cont. on Page 6)

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

- 10:00 a m--First Swander Lecture "The Changed Context of an Ancient Vocabulary"
- 2:00 p m--First McCauley Lecture "Pastor and/versus Preacher?"
- 3:00 p m--Swander Lecture II: "The New Natural Piety"
- 7:30 pm--Convocation Service of Worship
- 8:45 p m--Reception

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

- 9:00 a m--Swander Lecture III: "New Dimensions of Operational Grace"
- 10:45 a m--McCauley Lecture II: "Administrator and/versus Theologian"
- 2:00 p m--Swander Lecture IV: "Grace, Ethics, and the Threatened Earth"

## DEANotations

Due to some confusion as to class status in the case of some BD and Certificate condidates, the following information applies to those who have some question in the matter. All those with less than 45 hours credit are Juniors. Those students with more than 45 credit hours, but less than 90, may consider themselves Middlers. Those with more than 90 are Seniors. Those students having 135 hours or more to their credit, who have passed their comprehensive examinations and have complied with all other requirements, should have no worries whatsoever. In case of doubt, check the list of class standings for the winter term which is posted on the east bulletin board.

James Slapinski and John Hilfiker have been forced to give up their attendance during the winter term due to illness.

James Mengel has returned to his studies after an intern year spent at the Hough Avenue Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

Harold Feerrar, pastor of the Calvary Independent Church near Quarrysville, has enrolled as an unclassified student for the present term.

A notable absense at the seminary this term is that of Dr. Moss. Dr. Moss and his family are now settled at 6406 Regents Street in Oakland, California. He is enrolled in the nearby Pacific School of Religion. Bob Jr., Jack and Timmy are attending nearby schools.

Christmas greetings were also extended by another absent member of the faculty, Dr. Gable. The Gables are now living in the historic city of Marburg in Germany. (See "Letter from the Gables")

The Catalogue-Yearbook Committee this year consists of William Bleckley, editor; Dorothy Book, assistant editor; Mary Wenck, senior consultant; Professors Achtemeier (Paul J.) and Dunn, faculty advisors. Watch the bulletin boards for announcements concerning individual, class and group photographs.

All students are expected to avail themselves of the Convocation Lectures on January 25-26. The lectures are intended as an integral part of the year's work. Students, their wives, and

## EDITORIAL...

Elsewhere in this paper you will find a small notice to the effect that the play "Twelve Angry Men" scheduled by the Chancel Players will not be given. Some observant souls will also notice that this is the first issue of the SEMINARIAN published for quite some time. The causes for both these happenings is the same.

In the case of the play, the reason for its cancelation is simple; there were not enough persons interested in participating in the production. The reason for the lack of editions of the SEMINARIAN is simply that there was no interest on the part of the students in the preparation of a newspaper. It seems rather odd that there is a shortage of students when it comes to student activities.

The SEMINARIAN is devoted to student opinion. It would seem that students have no opinions, judging from the standpoint of participation. Or perhaps the editor of the SEMINARIAN has been chosen to represent ALL student opinion. Or perhaps the students of this institution are incapable of writing anything original.

There is really no cause for complaint, however, since one person is more than adequate for recording the activities of the student body of this seminary. Unfortunately, this is due to lack of activity on the part of the student body.

The most common excuse given for lack of activity is study. This is illustrated by the large crowds found in the library each evening. Both of them. No one has yet fallen over from overwork, unless those falling asleep over their typewriters the night before a term paper is due are counted.

Perhaps some reader has an opinion as to the reason for this lack of participation on the part of the student body. Although an opinion coming from a student seems unlikely, any exceptions may write a letter to the editor expressing their views. At least it would prove that some of the readers are still alive.

friends are also cordially invited to the reception in the refectory following the closing convocation worship service.

The play, scheduled to be given by the Chancel Players, has been cancelled.

We mourn the passing of two good

(Cont. on page 6)

## LETTER FROM THE GABLES

From the old university town of Marburg to the students of Lancaster Theological Seminary, the very best of wishes from the Gables! We think of you often. To the Seniors and second year MRE students, looking toward the ministry to which you will be called, may your decisions be based on both dedication and wisdom. And, Happy Comprehensives to you!

To the Middlers and Intern-year students whom we will be eager to greet in the Fall, may this year add much to your preparation for the breadth and depth of your ministry.

To the new students whom we have had little chance to meet but whose acquaintance we will cherish on our return, may this first year of theological study lay solid foundations and confirm your sense of call.

Lee and Ann Gable

## SOME SABBATICAL REFLECTIONS

The mid-point of a sabbatical leave is a good time to reflect on what we have seen and done in these past months. As we have travelled, we have talked with many people. Their questions have required us to think objectively, not only about Europe which we are seeing for the first time, but also about America where we have lived all our lives. Marburg, where we are spending ten days, is good for reflection. Every day we look at the hill-top castle where Luther and Zwingli tried in vain to find unity for the Reformation, at the first Protestant university in Europe (Protestant from its founding by Landgraf Philip), at the quaint "Marburger" costumes of ladies who come here to do their Christmas shopping, at the new display windows as modishly arranged as anything on Fifth Avenue. This is a good place to test one's perspective.

Our most consistent impression has been of the kind, friendly concern of the people we have met. To do justice to this point would require a volume! Thinking back over the months we recall the Ecumenical Exchange students with whom we had delightful reunions—in Edinburgh, Oslo, Altensteig, with others to come later... The Congregational pastor and  
(Cont. on p.5)

## UNDER THE STEEPLE

--When the editor asked me to write this column at the beginning of the school year, we decided on the name "UNDER THE STEEPLE". One of my first tasks was to point out that the column had nothing to do with the department of New Testament. This explanation was caused by the fact that Dr. Achtemier had his office on the second floor of the Ad Building under the steeple and Dr. Moss had his on the first floor, also under the steeple. Everything ran smoothly until the appointment of Gabriel Fackre to the department of Systematic Theology. Mr. Fackre is author of a book entitled UNDER THE STEEPLE. An explanation then had to be given to the effect that this column had nothing to do with the department of Systematic Theology. Now that Mr. Fackre is on campus, office space had to be found for him. Oddly enough, the office selected was the one used by the SEMINARIAN. Therefore, this column is no longer being written "under the steeple." However, the new office of the SEMINARIAN is located in the basement of the chapel under the console of the organ. After toying with the idea of renaming this column "Under the Console", "Under the Organ" or "Under Frank McConnell", we gave it up as a futile gesture. Of course, there are such possibilities as "In the Basement of Nevin Hall", however, we've become fond of the present name and will continue to use it. After all, everything mentioned within this column takes place "under the steeple."

--Dr. Moss and his family are now in California. The fact that Dr. Moss is taking courses at the Pacific School of Religion does bring to mind the possibility of a great number of jokes, however...

--The present sabbatical term of Dr. Moss does create a great possibility. Wouldn't some student care to spend a clinical year as Student Seminary President?

--On the second of January, a legal holiday, there were only two establishments open for business in the entire city of Lancaster--the taverns and the seminary. Wonder what's going to happen next Easter Sunday?

(Cont. on p.6)

## THE ALTAR

by John Lindner

My wife and I had a discussion one night about what an altar call should or should not be and what, in fact, they were. Since I have no experience in churches where an altar call is used, she suggested that we worship the next Sunday at a church where we could expect an altar call. We decided that the Southern Baptist Church would be the most likely to have one.

Arriving at the church the next Sunday, we noticed that it was starting time--9 o'clock--but there were present only one small boy and three men (one was the preacher). We chatted a while waiting for the service to begin. Finally an elderly couple came in. After a little wait, the service started. The organist did not arrive until after the first or second hymn. The man behind me was asked to lead in prayer, the offering was given, the sermon was preached, and the service preceded normally and ended in regular fashion.

The elderly couple attending the service fascinated me. The man evidently was of Amish or Conservative Mennonite ancestry, for he was dressed in the plain black garb and had a long and full, white beard. He said "Amen" more than the rest of the congregation combined. After the service the man spoke to my wife and to me, and told us he would like us to have one of his printed tracts. After receiving a tract we left.

On our return home, we read the tract that the man in black had given us. There he told in friendly and convincing words how he had been a sinner in slavery to the use of strong drink and tobacco and other things for twenty years. And then he told us that he had been born again one night while standing on the curb listening to a preacher of the Salvation Army here in Lancaster twenty years ago.

When I had read this I thought back over the morning which had been so strange in comparison with my usual Sunday's worship. I was impressed most by the power with which the gospel was preached; "Obey the Word of the Lord" was the title of the sermon. The attendance was so poor (about 6 members, and 4 visitors), that I am sure many a person in the same situation would have decided to

close up shop, and go for coffee, instead of for the gospel. The second thing that stuck in my memory was the old man with the white beard who had been born again 20 years ago on the street. He certainly could not have been converted because of an impressive sanctuary or because of music played on an expensive pipe organ. I don't think he was born of the Spirit because some super-salesman played on the delicate emotions of the man caught in an existential situation. The only reason I can think of why that man was converted was because the gospel was preached with power.

What was it that impressed me in that almost empty church with a service so free it was loose? The gospel was preached with power. What was it that converted that man in spite of his condition and in spite of the surroundings? The gospel was preached with power. It seems to me that weak preaching of the gospel might be what is wrong with our churches, and with us as individual preachers.

Evidently I am not the only one who thinks so. A minister has exclaimed: "What are we teaching our people that really is very much different from what a sensitive Jewish rabbi would teach or a leader in the Ethical Culture Society? ... Too often I have presented Jesus simply as an example, not as a Savior... The gospel is not a matter of human effort and harder moral striving. It is the good news of God." These words do not come from some "blood-of-the-lamb" fundamentalist. They do not even come from Dr. Billy Graham. These words are of a Congregational Christian minister writing in the UNITED CHURCH HERALD, January 7, 1960.

Let us all pray that God will give us the courage to proclaim His gospel with power, for "it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes."

## FACKRE MOVES TO LANCASTER

A new face around the campus is that of Prof. Gabriel Fackre, the latest addition to the faculty of the seminary. Prof. Fackre and his family have now moved to Lancaster and make their home on Pine Street. The location of his office on campus is in the basement opposite the bookstore.

GABLES (CONT. from p.3)

wife in London who invited us to their home for Sunday luncheon and afternoon conversation. . . The mother and teen-age son on the coastal steamer who told us about Norway and taught us a little Norwegian... Bishop Dibelius' invitation to his reception to the Division of Inter-Church Aid of the World Council of Churches (in response to Dr. Wagner's letter)... The family of Mrs. Heinz (Lancaster) who entertained us so warmly in their new, small comfortable apartment in Linz... Two hours on a busy Sunday afternoon with the co-pastor of Gross Munster in Zurich, as he made the Reformation come alive for us... The staff members of Evangelical Academies and other Church centers we have visited who went out of their way to help us understand new developments in the German Church... The Marburg faculty members who welcomed us into their fellowship this week... The young International Christian Youth Exchange student who was at the Work Camp at the Voluntary Service Center in 1958, recognized me yesterday when I visited a seminar in which he is a member, and is going to show us the area around Marburg on Friday.

We have found a new sense of history. In America everything is relatively new. We recognize that our life has grown out of European backgrounds, but it is difficult to feel the continuity. During these past months we have lived in almost constant sight of reminders of the past which is still with us. The British Museum has assembled specimens of practically every phase of life in every age of history. The Norwegian Folk Museum gave us the same sense of stepping into the past that we had found at New Salem, Illinois. The Norwegian reproductions, in which people had lived as much as 700 years ago! We saw the castles that Barbarossa built in order to protect new trade routes. Charlemagne seems to have been everywhere! In Gross Munster, we saw evidences of the harshness as well as the sincerity of the Reformation. And we saw the recorded baptisms, marriages and deaths as early as 1693. Incidentally, he baptized some babies named Gabel!

Almost constantly we have seen reminders of wars and their effects. The clearest and most poignant are those of

#### CHRISTIAN FARMERS MEET SEMINARY STUDENTS PARTICIPATE

The Department of the Church and Economic Life of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA will sponsor the annual occupational seminar for farmers and rural pastors January 31-February 2 in Washington, D.C. The theme of the seminar is "The Christian Farmer and His Government." Major areas of consideration will include "1961 Forecast on Farm Legislation," "Farm Organizations and Their Legislative Proposals Relating to Farm Income and Crop Surpluses," "The International Age of Agriculture." A group of seminary students will accompany Dr. Bartholomew to the seminar. Dr. Bartholomew will present the opening speech, "U.S. Farm Policy: Historical Background and Development."

World War II, but there is plenty of evidence of the wars that have plagued our ancestors through the centuries. For example, we stood on an Alsatian hill where a very new Evangelical Academy is at work in a very old castle that has been renovated. Looking out over the country-side we saw the scene of bloody struggle in the Franco-German war of 1870. The next day we saw the huge blasted bunkers that the Nazis had built in 1939 as protection against France—now only ugly eye-sores in the otherwise productive fields. The damaged cities have been rebuilt to an unbelievable extent, though one can still see ruins in London as well as in Berlin and other German cities. The brand new buildings are mute witnesses to the ruins they have replaced. Deeper than the damage to buildings has been the damage to people. Some are refugees whom we visited in Berlin, Linz, Salzburg. Some are widows whose husbands never returned from battle or prison camp. Some were the babies born into these disrupted and dislocated families. Some are the former soldiers who can not quite recover from the wounds of body and of spirit. They seldom talk about it, but now and then in intimate conversation, it comes out. There are the people who were forced to leave their homes, sometimes where their families had lived for centuries. The Berchtesgaden glass maker whose place of business we visited did not always live

(Cont. on Page 6)

## WEDDINGS (Cont. from p.1)

Phyllis will continue her teaching of home economics in the Baltimore school system until next June when the couple expect to move into the seminary apartments. Until that time, John will be making frequent trips to Baltimore.

Eugene Schnierer of the Middler Class became the third member of the student body to marry during the holidays when he wed Marjorie Klassy at the Swiss United Church of Christ in New Glarus, Wisconsin on December 27th. Kenneth Mulholland, another member of the Middler Class, was best man at the ceremony much to everyone's surprise. The couple now reside in Harner Hall while Marjorie continues her teaching in the Lancaster school system.

## CONVOCACTIONS (Cont. from p. 1)

Sittler's general theme will be "The Powers of Grace and the Realm of Nature."

The McCauley Lectures will be given by Dr. Seward Hiltner, who is also a member of the faculty of the University of Chicago Divinity School. The general theme of his lectures will be "Functions of the Ministry--Conflict or Co-operation?"

The preacher at the Convocation worship will be Dr. Robert W. Spike, general secretary for the program of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian churches.

Dr. Alfred Bartholomew is faculty chairman of the Convocation.

The Convocation is a part of the general learning program of the seminary and is made possible by the endowed lectureships. All students and their families as well as graduates of the seminary are urged to participate.

For further information as to the Convocation schedule and information concerning the speakers, consult the various Bulletin boards as well as the display in the library.

## DEANotations (Cont. from p.2)

friends of the seminary earlier this month. Robert L. Gerhart, grandson of E.V. Gerhart, first president of Franklin and Marshall College and professor in this seminary (1868-1904), died January 2. His deep interest in the seminary was demonstrated by his gifts to the institution during his lifetime and

## LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

versus

## CROZER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 1961  
F & M GYM — 10:30 A.M.

Admission — ONE HEBREW CHEER

## GABLES (Cont. from p. 5)

there. His home was in Czechoslovakia but one morning he was awakened at five, to be told that he would have to leave before nine, taking only fifty kilograms of property with him. His name is legion. Of every five people now living in Baden-Wurtemberg, one is a former refugee.

(SOME SABBATICAL REFLECTIONS will be continued in the next issue of the SEMINARIAN.)

## STEEPLE (Cont. from p.3)

--Ken Mulholland suddenly disappeared on the day of the various "Bowl" football games. Those watching the various games that same day over television were surprised to find someone by the name "Mulholland" playing in one. Is there some connection?

--Mrs. Achtemier's Old Testament Theology course seems to grow in popularity each day as does the class enrollment. Latest visitors to class include prominent members of St. Peter's Church. The only persons complaining about the course are the operators of the mimeograph. It seems that this is the only course taught here where the course outline is of greater length than the required term paper.

--The latest meeting of the Seminary Women was highlighted by the presense of two guests--Sam Fogal and Russ Mertz. The two visitors were well received although there were some comments of the Russ Mertz' crewcut.

in his will.

Mrs. Oswin S. Frantz, widow of the former professor of New Testament at our seminary, died suddenly at her home in Millersville on the evening of January 4. She had attended the seminary Christmas Dinner on December 8. Dr. Frantz died in November, 1959.