



CALLING

A NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY • **SPRING 2021**

The Far Shore

FROM THE PRESIDENT, REV. DR. DAVID MCALLISTER-WILSON

This issue of *Calling* is about the future and about the gifts that can make it hopeful. That is a hard thing to picture right now, still in the middle of a pandemic and a severe economic recession. But now is the time to dream and have a vision through the fog and over the horizon.

I am old-fashioned in some ways. As I draft this letter, pieces of my favorite hymn, written four generations ago came to mind:

*When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

Seminary endowments are the most important infrastructure program for the Christian movement to abide from generation to generation. Not so we never change, but in order that we can endure; to maintain a high quality of education; and enable students to afford to answer their call to ministry. And to give the institution the ability to adapt and take risks for the sake of our mission.

Endowments are built with planned gifts because most of us can make our biggest gift from our assets and, ultimately, our estates. Planned gifts can be annuities and trusts, which produce income during our lives, or Wesley can be named as a beneficiary on an IRA, retirement plan or life insurance policy. Or, we can simply include Wesley in our will as a bequest. Often, there are significant tax advantages. But in my experience, people make a planned gift because they share Wesley's mission and want their values to abide.

The members of the Heritage Circle are those people who have put a planned gift in place and who let us know. Currently, there are 170 people who have done this. Including those highlighted in this publication. But we need many more. Joining our team to lead in this effort is Richard O. Walker, one of the most experienced development professionals in the United States, whom I have appointed as Planned Giving Advisor to expand the Heritage Circle.



Why is it important to let us know of such a plan? Let me offer an image. Another president in Washington once invited people to "Build a bridge to the 21st century." A seminary should have that long view, to the end of this century, beyond the life of anyone reading this. We are building a bridge together. When building an actual bridge, they start on one side, but plant the abutment on the other side to receive the span when it arrives. Planned gifts are that foundation on the far shore, giving the Board of Governors and me confidence to build toward that future.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson".

The Rev. Dr. David McAllister-Wilson
President, Wesley Theological Seminary



Leaving a Legacy

This time of pandemic has caused many of us to assess our lives, our careers and to reconsider our priorities. As most of us have hunkered down at home, family, close friends and causes dear to our hearts have come into view in ways that were obscured for us previously by the demands of career and busy everyday lives.

The health crisis has made estate planning even more urgent, and consequently, attorneys specializing in this discipline report surges in caseloads in recent months. Our estate plans are more than just vehicles to provide financial security to loved ones. They are also a statement of our life priorities – what was most important to us as we lived our lives. How we allocate the treasure we have accumulated during life says a lot about what was most meaningful to us. As people of God, each of us is called to provide for causes that build God's kingdom here on earth.

Wesley has been fortunate through its long history to have been one of those causes for so many. Since its earliest days, the Seminary has benefited from the generosity of many donors and you'll be learning more about our donors in this and future *Calling* issues.

Today, more than 170 living Wesley supporters have indicated that Wesley is remembered in their estate plans and we are pleased to honor them as members of Wesley's Heritage Circle (listed on page 7). Each year, Wesley also receives generous support from planned gifts of which the Seminary was unaware.

Many of these gifts take one of two forms: a simple bequest and/or a charitable beneficiary designation on a qualified retirement plan such as an IRA. Bequests are the most common form of planned gift in our country used to complete more than 80% of all charitable estate designations each year. A charitable bequest can be made by any person regardless of financial capacity. Here is sample language for including a bequest to Wesley:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to Wesley Theological Seminary of the United Methodist Church, a non-profit Maryland corporation, located at 4500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., 20016, the sum of \$ _____ (or _____ percent of my estate) to be used for such purposes as the Board of Governors determines at the time this bequest becomes effective."

Charitable designations from qualified retirement plans are becoming more popular as more and more of us accumulate assets in these plans that we will not use during our lives. Because

remaining funds in these accounts are subject to both estate (if applicable) and income tax when passed to non-charitable heirs, they are among the most "expensive" assets in many people's estates. Thus, these funds are often the perfect vehicle for supporting institutions such as Wesley. Each plan has forms for beneficiary designations. You should contact the account representative with whom you work to obtain the necessary ones for yours.

I am delighted to join the Wesley team this year as Planned Giving Advisor after serving as fundraising counsel for the Seminary since 2018. In this role, I am helping to build awareness of this area of giving to the Wesley community that already supports the Seminary so generously. Donors are always well-c counseled to contact their own legal advisors for advice, but I am also available to discuss any questions you may have about your own circumstances.

If you have already included Wesley Theological Seminary in your estate or would like to arrange a time to learn more, please check the appropriate box on the attached response form or contact me at rwalker@wesleyseminary.edu.

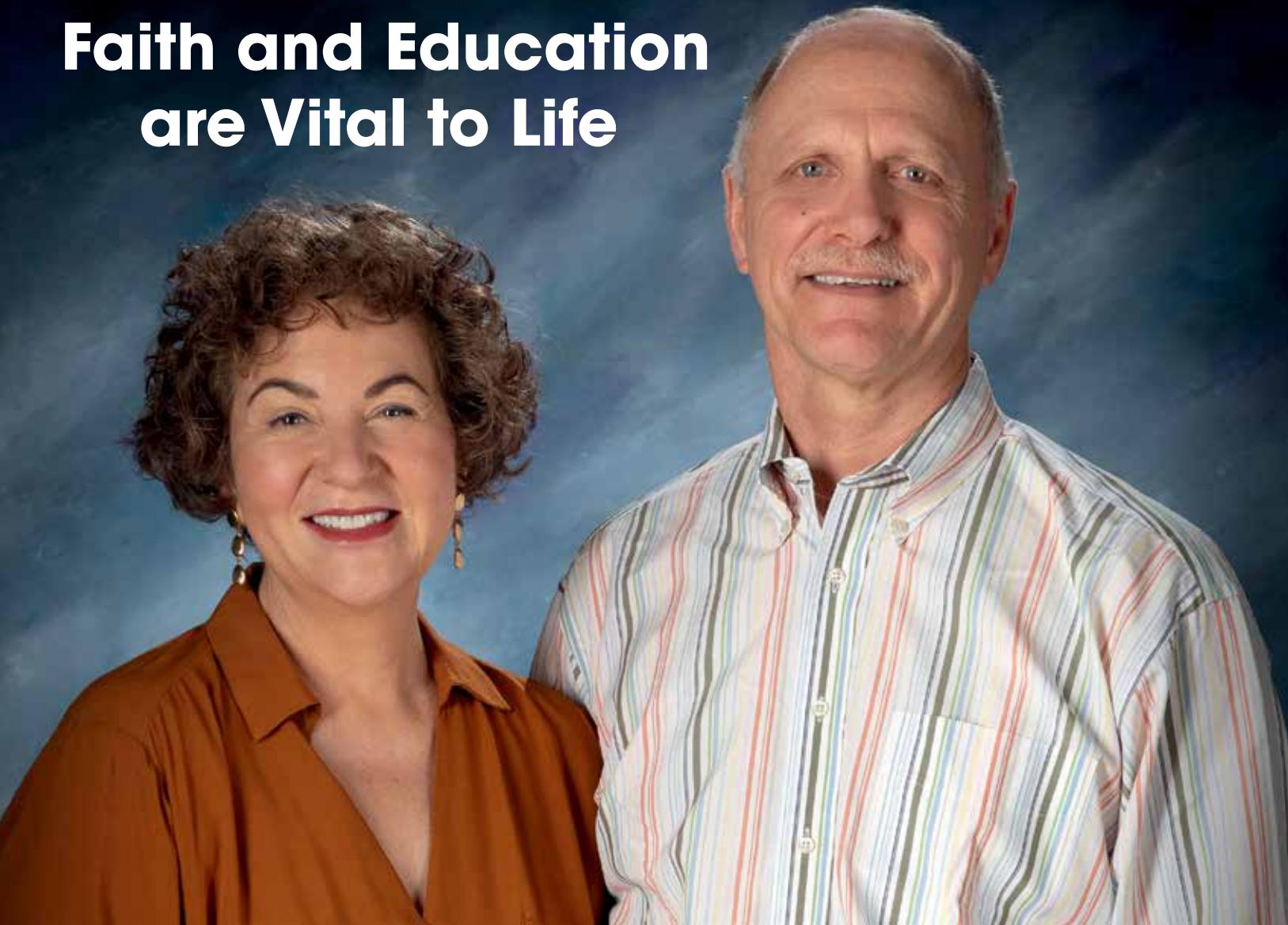
In succeeding issues of *Calling*, I will discuss other forms of planned gifts such as life insurance, real estate, annuities and trusts. Stay tuned.

Peace be with you,

Richard O. Walker, III
Planned Giving Advisor, Wesley Theological Seminary



Faith and Education are Vital to Life



“Whoever refreshes
others will be refreshed”

Proverbs 11: 25b (NIV)

In a world in which no one knows how the Holy Spirit will shape the church of the future, remembering how the past shapes us is important. Mindful of how careful investments ensure future knowledge and understanding, Barb and Bob Kenley have committed a legacy gift that endows the Barbara A. Kenley Chair in the Reformed Tradition at Wesley Theological Seminary. The faculty member occupying this chair will focus on how the reformation influenced and shaped denominations.

The Kenley's believe faith and education are vital foundations for a life well lived. They are investing in future faculty at Wesley so that students will continue to sit at the feet of amazing teachers – even as the ways of education and the church continue to evolve and become something new.

The Rev. Barbara Kenley, MDIV '98 is ordained in the Presbyterian Church USA and serves a congregation in Indiana. Her husband C. Robert Kenley, Ph.D., is an associate professor of engineering practice at Purdue University. They've been on a journey to arrive in their roles today.

With an established career in banking, Barb's life was stable and she was comfortable. She had resisted a call to ministry for a long time. Surely, she wasn't called to a complete life change amid that. But when her husband Bob, was offered a career move to the DC metro area and they agreed to spend a week praying separately about the opportunity. Bob heard an answer about the

move loud and clear; they needed to move to DC so that Barb could attend seminary.

Arriving in DC in 1995, Barb was quickly immersed in deep learning and experienced the diversity of the Wesley student body. She learned she could understand much about a person's denominational background by listening to how they presented themselves and their theological understanding. There was so much diversity of experience, of tradition and of vocation in every class.

There were three key things that a Wesley education shaped for Barb in three years as a student:

First, was a strengthening and deepening of her personal faith. Studies expanded her theology, her understanding of church history, her interpretation of and connection to scripture, and expanded her understanding of the Jewish tradition and how it undergirds Christian faith.

Second, was a profound sense of vocation – an understanding that with education, a pastor could shape faith with so many communities bringing the kingdom of God just a little closer.

Finally, her time at Wesley shaped how she understood bringing the fullness of her self to her vocation. She'd had a complex career and skills in finance and administration that were vital to the church. And with the mentoring of strong women like Drs. Sharon Ringe, Lucy Hogan, and Sondra Wheeler, Barb began to see that she could bring the fullness of her identity as a woman to her leadership role as pastor. She observed how each of

these brilliant women of Wesley were gracious and firm in their capacity for leadership as they lived out their sacred vocations.

Now in their 60s, Barb and Bob have given a lot of thought to the legacy they can leave. Each has had two full careers. They have no children. They have financial resources to share. Bob has worked in higher education, and so they have some experience with the tension between good teaching, publishing, research and job security. In endowing a faculty chair, they hope to offer "refreshment," a "well spring of life," to future faculty at Wesley, releasing them from some of that balancing act.

Barb's experience in the banking world has fueled their joint commitment to gifts that last in perpetuity. "Because of my work in banking, I know technically how to make money last forever." As a couple, they pair that knowledge with a commitment to make those resources work for causes that make the world better. They seek a cruciform reach with their giving – that is a gift that reaches up to God and out through all the world.

With their gift, Barb and Bob join the ranks of more than 150 members of The Heritage Circle, those who have committed to a planned gift to Wesley Theological Seminary. These gift commitments come in many forms and sizes. The Rev. Brian McCollum, vice president for development at Wesley says, "Making a planned gift is not a financial decision, it is a faith decision! Heritage Circle gifts are often the largest one-time gifts many people will make in their lifetime. Planned gifts help people create legacies." ♦



You can learn more about how to shape a legacy at Wesley. Contact Brian at bmccollum@wesleyseminary.edu or by phone at 202-885-8617.

I Didn't know the Possibilities of Planned Giving

A number of years ago, a retired pastor friend of mine gave a Charitable Gift Annuity to Wesley. A Charitable Gift Annuity is one of a number of kinds of Planned Gifts. For years after making the gift, that retired pastor would proudly proclaim, "It's the best investment I've ever made!"

Every gift is a kind of investment. People who give to GoFundMe campaigns are investing in a person or cause they care about. A Sunday morning offering plate donation (for one attending church in person in these Covid infested times) is an investment in the mission and vision of your church. A check written to Wesley is an investment in the future that Wesley graduates will help create.

My retired pastor friend gave for some of the same reasons most people give. He was grateful for the education and support Wesley had given him. He wanted to give others access to the opportunities he'd had. He believed in Wesley's mission to equip persons for Christian ministry and leadership in the church, advance theological scholarship and model a prophetic voice in the public square.

He was excited about Wesley's vision. He wanted to make a difference. And he had a giving heart.

Like many generous donors, my friend made regular gifts to Wesley, to his church, and to other charities too. His gifts mattered to Wesley and to him. He felt connected. He liked being a part of all that Wesley was doing. He appreciated hearing about Wesley's innovative ways of preparing church leaders for the ever-changing world of the 21st century. And Wesley benefited from his support.

In Wesley's publications, annual appeals, and alumni material he had seen the invitation to contact the Development Office for more information about Planned Giving, but he figured that, since he did not see himself as particularly rich, that information was not for him.

He learned, however, that a Charitable Gift Annuity could enable him to make a generous gift to Wesley and, at the same time, guarantee him a certain level of income for the rest of his life. This planned gift helped him accomplish two important things: supporting Wesley and providing retirement security for himself and his family. And, as he joyfully reminded me, the annuity income enabled him to travel a bit more and to make more generous contributions to his local congregation.

Other kinds of planned gifts include Charitable Remainder Trusts, Charitable Lead Trusts, and gifts through wills or estate plans. All these tools for making Planned Gifts make it possible for donors to accomplish more than they may have imagined, both for Wesley and for their families or other causes they care about. Planned Gifts require thoughtful consideration and, usually, consultation with an attorney or trusted financial advisor. The rules governing Planned Gifts make it possible to leverage the value of the gift both for the receiving charity and for the generous donor. Depending on how the gift is designed, a planned gift can bring lifelong income to the donor, income to the donor's heirs, a generous income tax deduction to the donor or donor's estate, and a generous charitable gift to Wesley.

“I never imagined I could make such a generous gift to Wesley. I’m amazed at what I’ve done.”

— a donor to Wesley, reflecting on a planned gift

So, if you are like my friend and you want to make a difference but have always assumed Planned Giving is only for folks wealthier than you – think again. In addition to benefitting Wesley, your Planned Gift might become for you what it was for my friend: a source of joy for years to come. ♦

—Ransome “Randy” Casey-Rutland
President, Town Management and
Member, Wesley Board of Governors



Heritage Circle

The Heritage Circle honors those who have invested in the future of Wesley Theological Seminary by including Wesley in their estate planning through bequests, trusts, annuities, gift bonds and other enduring gifts.

John Francis Abel Jr., '98
William D. Aldridge Jr., '85, '95
Kathryn M. Andrews
Michael W. Armstrong, '90 and
Judy Y. Armstrong
Paul D. Arnold, '74
Josephine C. Baker
Jean Balcom
A. Catharine Bealor, '89 and
Ben Bealor
Betty Stanley Beene and
William Beene
Donna M. Hennessey Bennett, '80
and John Bennett
Jane Long Betz
John Beyer and Jinny Beyer
Bruce C. Birch and
Susan Raye Halse, '88
The Estate of Larry and Marie Black
The Estate of Ethel Born
Richard Lee Bowers, '91 and
Phyllis M. Bowers
Michael T. Bradfield, '78, '03 and
Maile Bradfield
Geoffrey D. Brown
Thomas Brown Jr., '73 and
Ann Brown
Loren and Jean Bullock
Lawrence W. Buxton, '96 and
Beverly Mease-Buxton
Nora Leake Cameron, '02
Bishop Kenneth L. Carder, '65
George H. Carpenter '65
Karen M. Cassedy '95 and
Larry L. Hollar '94
William E. Chatfield and
Luella Chatfield
Lon B. Chesnutt and
Evelyn Chesnutt
Deborah Chusmir and
Michael Chusmir
David S. Cooney, '80 and
Robin Cooney
Doris Cooney
Olivia R. Costango
Richard Barkley Craig, '82 and
Peggy Craig
Marian Sams Crane, '06, '19 and
Jeffrey Crane
Dottie Crowe
James David Dake and Dotty Dake
John H. Dalton and
Margaret Dalton
Keith A. Davis and Cindy Davis
Marguerite Davis, '95
Robin Dease, '98, '10
Elsa Jeannette S. Deland, '96
James William DeMoss, '67
John M. Derrick Jr., and
Linda Derrick
Carroll A. Doggett, '78 and
Nan M. Doggett, '78
The Estate of Annette Dorrance
Stanley A. Dubowski, '01

Nancy S. Duerling and
Craig Duerling
Peggy Dutton
Curtis Christian Ehrgott, '05 and
Susan Ehrgott
Rachel Meredith Fisher, '01 and
Samuel Fisher
Simone Fitzgibbon
Abigail Elizabeth Foerster, '98
Betty J. Forbes and
Stanley Owen Forbes Sr.
Michael R. Ford and Susan Ford
Edward M. Frederick and
Annamae Frederick
John W. Fulton
Barbara R. Galloway, '05
Richard H. Gentzler Jr., '76 and
Marilyn Gentzler
William Gibb and Mary Gibb
Suzanne Denise Gibson, '02
Parmalee Prentice Gilbert and
Becky Gilbert
Betty R. Goen
Kevin G. Goodwin and
Karen Goodwin
Donald H. Hadley and
Margaret Hadley
Nancy C. Hajek
The Estate of Clifford L. Harrison
and Dottie Harrison
Doris A. Harrison and
Stanley E. Harrison
Thomas E. Hart, '70 and
Pauline Hart
Harold V. Hartley III, '83
James F. Hawkins, '88 and
Kathleen V. Hawkins
Thomas Hefner
Sara H. Henry
Paul L. Herring, '62 and
Eleanor J. Herring
Carl E. Hill, '65
The Estate of Charles R. Hilty
T. Mac Hood, '64
Lily Houseman
Martha B. Hunt
Kathleen R. Hutchens and
Philip Hutchens
William Iwig and Debbie Iwig
Mary E. Jacobson, '79
Bradley R. James and Annie James
Ann Myrecc James and Bill James
Patricia B. Jelinek, '73, '80
C. Sherfy Jones
Jeanne-Renee Jones, '00
Joye F. Jones, '95
Edward W. and Janet Kelley
Barbara A. Kenley, '98 and
C. Robert Kenley
The Estate of Phyllis Kindley
Edith Kirk
James and Eunice Knowles
Mary E. Kraus '80
Dale W. Krider

The Estate of Beulah Kruson
Jefferson S. Labala, '92 and
Hilderia Labala
Patricia Ladnier
Allie Latimer
JoAnn S. Lawson
William Anthony Layman, '70
Shin-Ja Lee
Karl Dennis Lehman, '90
G. Douglass Lewis and
Shirley S. Lewis
Douglas Eugene Liston, '95, '05 and
Judith A. Liston
William C. Logan, '64, '68 and
Sara Sprowls Logan
Thomas William Malcolm, '77, '05
and Stephanie Malcolm
Cynthia Marshall
Laura Ann Martin, '82, '87
David F. McAllister-Wilson, '88, '01
and Drema McAllister-Wilson, '86
Marvin H. McCallum, '61 and
Joyce McCallum
Robert McKinley II, '74
Ruth Ann Russell Melick, '85
Vollie Melson and Maggie Melson
Douglas Mercer, '68 and
Barbara Mercer
Rick Lee Miller, '85, '98 and
Sarah A. Miller
Kenneth Y. Millian and Alva Millian
Darrell V. Mitchel, '55
The Estate of Kathleen Mitchell
Mildred K. Momberger
A. W. and Elizabeth Moore
The Estate of Cora Moore
Raymond T. Moreland Jr., '70, '73
The Estate of H.G. and
Kathryn Morrison
Jay E. Moyer and Terry Moyer
John S. Mullen, '66
The Estate of Elton Nelson
Bennie C. Nolen
Elizabeth Jean Norcross, '05, '11
and Clint Stretch
R. David Oertel '67
William Edward Olewiler, '80, '81,
'09 and Nancy P. Olewiler
Vivian W. Otto
John S. Park, '59 and
Mary Jane Park
Dae Hee Park, '62 and
Sung Sook Park
Paula Marie Payne, '91
Cecil-Ray Penn, '73
Wayne Perry, '74 and Donna Perry
Phyllis S. Piluso
Morris A. Range
William L. Renfro and Sandy Renfro
Sharon H. Ringe
Talmadge Roberts and
Mary E. Roberts
W. McCarl Roberts, '57
Michaele S. Russell, '80, '84

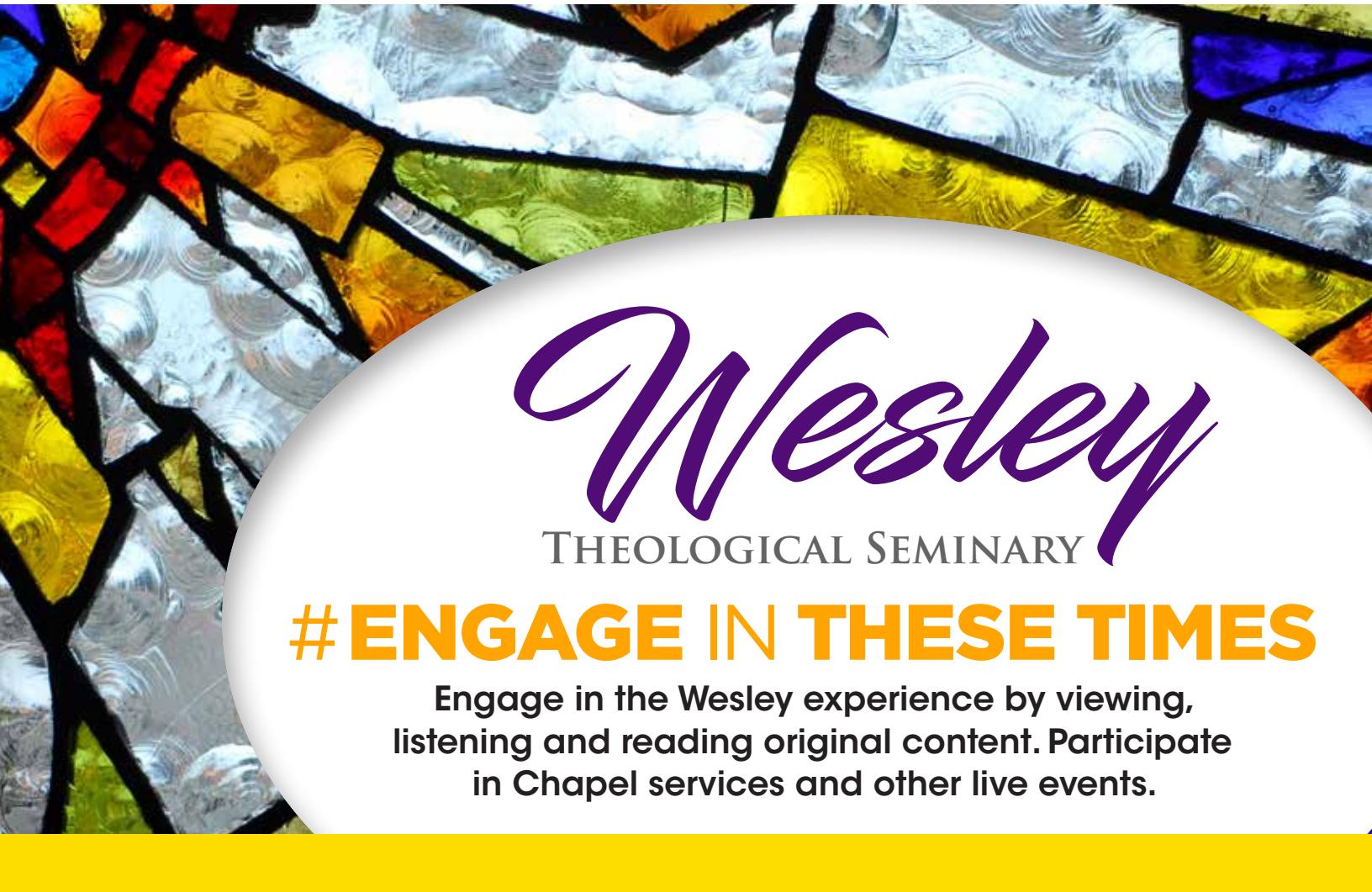
James M. Sanborn and
Emilie Sanborn
Jay A. Saxe, '60 and Nancy Saxe
Robert W. Schaefer and
Elaine Schaefer
LeRoy Schauer '73 and
Carole Schauer
Walter M. Schell, '58 and
Marian Schell
Olivia Schwartz and Tommy Schwartz
Henry F. Schwarzmann, '73
James A. Scott, '76
Claude Dennis Shaw, '99, '12 and
Marilyn M. Shaw
Sara Elizabeth Sheppard, '12
Rochelle Ann Shoemaker, '97
Thomas and Mary Short
Leonard F. Sjogren, '76
Donald R. Slaybaugh Jr., '83
Errol G. Smith, '62, '73
Gaye Smith, '80, '94
Theodore W. Smith
Gordon V. Smith and
Helen C. Smith
Marlin L. Snider, '77, '89 and
Brenda Snider
Margrit Snyder and
Carl E. Snyder Jr.
David Thomas St. Clair '80
Jean Blanton Stein
Marjorie H. Suchocki
Diane E. D. Summerhill, '86
Charles E. Swadley, '78
E. Bruce Swain
Martha Catherine Tamsberg, '00
Barbara R. Thompson
Christina Tridel
The Estate of George E. Tutwiler
Phyllis Tyler, '71
Corrinne Sells Van Buren
Mary Waldron
Lawrence H. Wayman, '71 and
Flora Obayashi-Wayman
Kenneth E. Whetzel, '60 and
Charlotte Whetzel
Sandra Smith Whitt
Mary Murton Wilkins, '69
W. Ralph Williamson
William R. Wilson, '53
Edward P. Winkler, '00 and
Nina Winkler
Julie A. Wood, '01
Raymond F. Wrenn
The Family of In Chan Yang and
Shin Ja Lee (David and
Rodney Chang)
Richard Young and Frances Young
Jean Young
The Estate of Sarah Colglazier Young
William D. Young III, '67



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ENGAGE IN THESE TIMES

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in Chapel services and other live events.