



REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN TIMES



WE LOVE IT WHEN YOU JOIN US FOR CONFERENCES & SOCIAL EVENTS,
SO INCLUDE THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Kick Off Picnic – September 4 at 5:30 pm
Westminster Conference – September 8-9, 2017



ACADEMIC NEWS

Payment Plan: Anyone not paying in full by the first class of the Fall Quarter must have a written payment plan arranged with the RPTS Office for payment as follows: 1/3 of tuition and fees payable by the first class of the quarter, 1/3 of tuition and fees due on the 4th of the month following the start of the quarter, and 1/3 of tuition and fees due on the 4th of the second month following the start of the quarter. When the payment plan is arranged with the Office, the student must sign a promissory note as documentation of the plan and promise to pay. Please contact [Vicki Smith](#) to set up your payment plan.

Book Orders: Just a reminder that book orders through RPTS are due by Fri, Aug. 11 at noon. The booklist can be found on the RPTS website (rpts.edu) under Students. *Note that the Bibleworks computer program is needed for Greek Exegesis and is available at a discounted price through RPTS. This program is included on the booklist for ordering. Orders can be emailed to bookstore@rpts.edu, but must be paid prior to receiving.



STUDENT NEWS

Summer Travels: Matt Robles (MDiv '17) traveled to Latvia from July 7-17 to assist with a Bible camp program. This work is part of a relationship with several churches in Latvia established by his pastor, Rev. Shaun Nolan (View Crest PCA Church in Eighty Four, PA).

Marriage: Gary Gunn (MDiv '16) and Jill Klaassen (MTS '09) were married on May 26 at College Hill RP Church in Beaver Falls, PA. Gary has also accept a call to serve as the pastor of the Meadville, PA RP Church.

Ordinations:

- Matt Soergel (MDiv '16) was ordained on June 9 in the Bible Presbyterian Church, Grand Island, NY.
- Joseph Friedly (MDiv '17) was ordained on July 14 in the RPCNA. Joseph is the pastor of Tri-Lakes RP Church in Monument, CO.
- Brian Wright (MDiv '17) will be ordained on August 9 in the RPCNA. Brian is the pastor of the Sterling, KS RP Church.
- Ryan Bever (MDiv '17) will be ordained on August 12 in the RPCNA. Ryan is the pastor of the Grace and Truth RP Mission Work in Harrisonburg, VA.

New Babies:

- Everett Wallace Allen was born to Caleb (MDiv) & Hannah Allen on June 18. He was 6 lbs., 6 oz. and 20" long.
- Isaiah Jack Stine, son of Scott (MTS) & Kate Stine, arrived on July 17. He weighed 3 lbs, 13 oz, and was 16.5" long. Pray for Isaiah who is still in the neonatal intensive care unit.



RPTS NEWS

Kick-off Picnic: Meet our new students and say hello to your classmates at the Kick-Off Picnic on Monday, Sept. 4, beginning at 5:30 pm at RPTS. [Click here](#) to register if you can join us so that we know how much food to prepare.

Westminster Conference: The annual Westminster Conference will be on September 8 - 9, 2017, at RPTS. The theme of this year's conference is "Post Tenebras Lux: Celebrating 500 Years of Martin Luther's Influence." This year's esteemed panel of speakers will look at the life and influence of Martin Luther. Speakers include William Vandoodewaard, Richard Gamble, C. J. Williams, John Bower, and Barry York. Mrs. Rebecca Vandoodewaard will also have a presentation on the struggles and contributions of Luther's wife. [Click here for more information](#). Students attend for free. Email [Kim Backensto](#) to register. Pre-registrants are sometimes eligible for free books or materials.



For Sale in the Office: Sunset Hill Stoneware mugs are hand thrown on a pottery wheel. Each handle is carefully applied. High clarity artwork is produced and hand adhered, then each piece is hand dipped into custom glazes. These timeless coffee mugs are a delight to hold, as they are to use – plus the handles stay cool when microwaved! Dishwasher, microwave and oven safe. Available in four glazes for \$15 each (tax included.)

Reaccreditation: The Association of Theological Schools is the accrediting agency of the Seminary. An ATS visiting team conducted an in-depth visit to the Seminary in March, capping a two and a half year journey in assessment and evaluation. We give thanks to the Lord for the granting of the maximum reaccreditation of ten years! The Seminary appreciates our students who helped to share the RPTS story with our accreditors. The Administration also gives thanks to Sharon Sampson for countless hours of organization and diligence in completing this work.

REmaker 2017: A handful of very gifted men and women gathered at RPTS during the week of June 19 to dedicate their time and talent in accomplishing several key building projects. A concrete stairway was demolished and replaced with decking, floors were refinished, and various plumbing, electrical, and painting projects were completed. Spending the week at the Seminary, participants labored during the day and professors taught various topics during the evening hours.



FINANCIAL AID NEWS

Student Loan Deferrals: Are you deferring previous student loans while attending RPTS? As you consider your registration for the upcoming quarter, remember that student loan deferrals require at least half-time enrollment, which is 6 credits. That requirement is typically met by taking two courses. Please note, however, that two of the language courses, the preaching courses, and the counseling practicums are 2-credit courses. If you take one of these classes along with another 3-credit course, you will not have enough credits to defer your loan for that quarter. RPTS reports student enrollment on a quarterly basis. If you are registered for less than 6 credits, you will receive notification from your loan servicer that the loan is not in deferment. Contact your loan servicer if you have any questions. See Sharon in the Financial Aid Office if you need to have a deferment request signed.

Scholarship Information: If you have some extra time this summer, you may want to research scholarships. Check out www.seminaryscholarships.org!

Scholarship Opportunity: Are you a full-time, MDiv student preparing for pastoral ministry? If so, the Financial Aid Office is aware of a scholarship opportunity available for students willing to write a sermon on TULIP. This scholarship is offered by a friend of the Seminary. Contact [Sharon Sampson](#) at 412-731-3000 for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

Library Reserve Books: Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, all reserve books will be kept in the RPTS Office. Students may check out reserve items during normal RPTS Office hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm). Pay careful attention to future editions of the *RPTimes* as more details and instructions will come at a later date.

Over the past few years, students have taken reserve books from the shelves without checking them out. Library staff and RPTS administration discussed this matter and determined the best solution is to keep reserve books under a supervised checkout system. If you have any questions or comments, contact [Professor Reid](#) or [Jordan Feagley](#).



ATLA Reciprocal Library Program: The RPTS Library has enrolled in the ATLA Reciprocal Borrowing Program! What does this mean for you? It means that your RPTS ID Card will allow you to borrow books from around 100 theological libraries in North America. [Click on this link](#) to discover a complete list of all participating libraries.

FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Prayer Notice: Dr. Jack Kinneer, our Greek and NT expert, appreciates your continued prayers as he recovers from some extensive surgery last month as treatment for cancer. He is gaining strength daily and looks forward to returning to the classroom in the Fall.

Introducing Dr. Barry York: On Friday May 26, Barry York participated in the commencement exercises at the Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida, earning the Doctor of Ministry degree. Congratulations!



Weddings:

- Vicki & Pete Smith happily married off their daughter, Maggie, to her new husband, Colin Smith, on June 23. (Yes, Maggie didn't even have to change her last name!) The couple is residing in Boston, MA where Colin is employed as an electrical engineer for Raytheon and Maggie is a co-teacher at Pine Valley Pre-School, a Spanish-immersion school.
- Ed & Nancy Blackwood celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Tamara, to Stephen Noell on July 21. The couple will reside in Corvallis, OR where Stephen is a PhD student at Oregon State University.



BEYOND OUR WALLS

Transform the Triangle 2017 (aka Community Cleanup Day): Join Covenant Fellowship RP Church (1300 Swissvale Ave, Wilkinsburg, 15221) on Saturday, August 5, from 9 am-2 pm, to clean up the neighborhood in Wilkinsburg by clearing and boarding up vacant properties. Lunch is provided.



2017 Commencement



You can dress some people up,
but you can't take them out!