

Greetings!

While some of the coldest temperatures in decades dropped Western Pennsylvania into the deep freeze, the warmth of God's Word is keeping our students comfortable and focused as they prepare for finals and the completion of the Winter Quarter at the end of this month.

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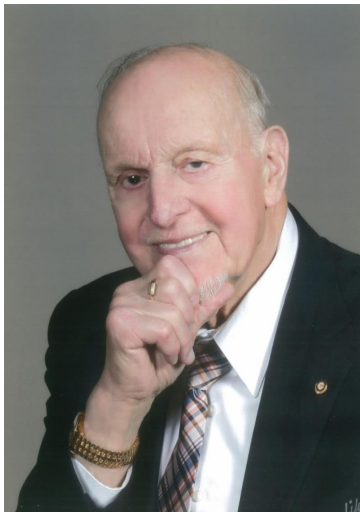
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## WORK CONTINUES

With a pause for winter, spring time will bring the completion of three more gables. The materials are already constructed and ready for installation. Lord willing, work will begin this summer in the basement. Finalized plans are underway for securing permits and final bids.

## ANNUAL DINNER



The Annual RPTS Support Dinner will be held on Friday, March 22, 2019, at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh. Dr. John H. White, former President of Geneva College, will be honored as the Faithful Servant recipient. If you would like to attend this wonderful evening of celebration and fellowship, contact [Kim Backensto](mailto:kim.backensto@rpts.edu) via email or at (412) 731-6000.

## ALUMNI IN ACTION

Dr. Nathan Eshelman (DMin 2014) recently had an article, "Fighting for Phoebe: The Widow-Deacon & the Westminster Assembly's Concept of an Alms-Based Women's Ministry" published in the 2018 *Confessional Presbyterian Journal*.

Dr. Whitney Gamble (MTS 2010) was invited to lecture at the 600 member women's Bible study called EWG, Every Woman's Grace, at Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California. Her topics were "God's Purpose for the Gospel, Gal. 1-3" and "Union with Christ, Gal. 4-6".



Rev. John Shaw (M.Div. 2006), General Secretary for the Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, recently conducted a Church Planting workshop. Dr. Joel Wood (D.Min. 2014), Pastor of Trinity Reformed Presbyterian Church in Burtonsville, Maryland, grabbed a snazzy photo during a break.



Joel Wood (left) enjoyed the teaching of John Shaw (right), General Secretary on Home Missions and Church Extension in the OPC.

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## CHAPEL SERMONS ON THE GO!

While our chapel sermons by faculty, adjuncts, and guests are still available on our YouTube channel, we wanted to let you know that we have revitalized our presence on Reformed Voice as well. You may be aware that ReformedVoice.com is an RPCNA subset within SermonAudio.com.

Since we know that many of you like to benefit from solid, Reformed teaching as you walk and drive along the way, you may find the audio links to our chapel sermons more helpful than the YouTube videos. Now you have both options!

Take advantage of these wonderful sermons on [Reformed Voice](#) or on [YouTube](#) for your personal edification or as you prepare for teaching in your own churches.

## CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY



Dr. George Scipione will be honored in a retirement celebration on Friday evening, June 14, 2019, in Pittsburgh. The dinner is scheduled to coincide with the conclusion of the concurrent Synods of the ARP and RPCNA. Save the date and watch for more information as the Seminary gives thanks for the faithful service of Dr. Scipione, with a special thank you to Eileen Scipione, who has been a great blessing to hundreds of women in the Pittsburgh area.

## LIBRARY NEWS

The Library has just added a new resource called the [Open Access Digital Theological Library \(OADTL\)](#). The OADTL is the world's first (and as of this time, only) fully open access library powered by the cataloging, search, discovery, and retrieval capacity of OCLC's World Share (WMS). The mission of OADTL is "to make all open access content in religious studies and related fields discoverable and free for everyone." For more information about OADTL, visit the [Theological Research Electronic Expressway \(TREE\)](#) on the RPTS Library webpage or read this helpful review found in the ATLA Journal, "[Theological Librarianship.](#)" This tool will give RPTS students access to a vast array of research materials.

## ONE RING

Students and alumni have the opportunity to order class rings from Jostens. All three major programs are available, MDiv, MTS, and DMin. See the options available [here](#). Rings are ordered directly from the manufacturer.



## FACULTY IN ACTION

President Barry York recently wrote a piece on overcoming fears in evangelism on [Gentle Reformation](#). You can listen to an interview on the post as recorded by [Pilgrim Radio](#).

Dr. York was also interviewed by our friends at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary about his recent work, [Hitting the Marks: Restoring the Essential Identity of the Church](#).

Professor Keith Evans will speak to the RPTS Seminary Women's group on February 11, 2019, on the topic of "Conflict in the Church and Pastoral Ministry". Seminary Women is a multi-generational and multi-ethnic gathering of women in the Seminary community. Each month, programming touches on topics that are common in the church.

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## DEACONS AND MERCY MINISTRY

This ten-lesson course, taught by RPTS President, Dr. Barry York, consists of video lectures between 25-30 minutes in length, accompanied by PowerPoints and discussion questions. The material can be used to instruct a congregation on the importance of mercy ministry and the diaconate, or in the training of deacons for their work. As the emphasis is on mercy, not all the aspects of the diaconal office are treated in this course.

Some of the special features of this course are: 1) helping congregations see the connection between the worship of the Lord, the God of the widow and orphan, and mercy ministry; 2) seeing the honored role the deacons are to have as servants of mercy in a community; 3) encouraging participants to study and discuss the Biblical ways of equipping the church to have an active mercy ministry that recognizes the congregation's gifts and limitations; 4) learning to become more knowledgeable of and active in mercy ministries that already exist in the area; 5) growing in the wisdom necessary to engage with love and confidence the poor and needy, as well as the stubborn and foolish; and 6) developing plans for how your congregation will meet the needs in your particular community.

The course is available for only \$99 at [this link](#) and is shareable within your church.

For more information, contact [Mark Sampson](#) via email or at (412) 731-6000.

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## WHY RPTS?

Are you or someone you know considering a seminary education? Here are a few reasons why you should consider RPTS.



# PAIDEIA CENTER AT RPTS

The Paideia Center for Theological Discipleship returns to the Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary again this spring. Dr. Jeff Stivason will lead the local group through a study and discussion of the Larger Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther (1529). The study group meets on March 7, April 4, and May 2. More information is [available here](#).

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## PCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Attending the PCA GA in Dallas this summer? Join Dr. York at a casual breakfast on Thursday, June 27, 2019, from 6:30 am to 8:30 am. We will start off informally with a buffet breakfast and fellowship. The more formal part of the program will begin at 7:30 am. All are welcome to attend. [Register here](#). Direct questions to [Mark Sampson](#) at (412)731-6000.

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## POINTS OF PRAYER

\* Finals are February 18 - 22. Please keep the students in your prayers as they prepare for exams.  
\* Remember the David Whitla family in your prayers as David finishes his PhD work and prepares for his course load of teaching at the Seminary. Oh, by the way, they have to find a house in Pittsburgh and relocate from Ireland. So, yes, they could use your prayers.

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## SAVE THE DATE

**Annual Support Dinner** - March 22, 2019

Are you interested in attending or being a Table Host? Contact [Mark Sampson](#) for more information.

**Commencement** - May 17, 2019

**Scipione Retirement Celebration** - June 14, 2019

**Westminster Conference** - September 13-14, 2019

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## FOLLOW RPTS

Do you follow RPTS on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#)? These are great ways to keep track of professor quotes, conferences, and news at the Seminary.

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