A Message from the Principal

Most of us are familiar with the story that begins: “As he was setting out on a journey, a man came up to Jesus and knelt before him and asked him, ‘Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’” We remember Jesus’ response: “Jesus had compassion on him and said, ‘Go and sell all that you have and give it to the poor and come and follow me’.” We also know how the story ends: “At these words, the man was saddened and he went away grieving, for he was one who owned much property.”

In that story three things are communicated: a deeply felt need (eternal life); a desire to have that need met (what must I do?); and a response that is not open to transformation (he went away grieving).

If we were to take that story and apply it to the church, we could ask ourselves the same three questions:
1. What are the deeply felt needs of the church in this time and day?
2. What must we do?
3. How open are we to transformation that is required?

While there might be a number of responses to the first question (what are the deeply felt needs of the church?) I think the following would be on many people’s list:

a. How can we experience renewal in our communities of faith?
b. Can we replace dying congregations with the birth of new ones?
c. How do we keep our focus on the world and not simply on the church?
d. What needs to change so that we can develop the kind of ministers we need in congregations going through challenging times?
e. How do we engage at a deeper level with our young people?
f. Who ministers to the minister in need?
g. Who equips lay people whose vocation is in the world and not simply in the church?

Whatever answer we provide to these questions they will have one thing in common. They will require some form of change. In a book called The Top Performer’s Guide to Change, the author lists six negative reactors to change: worry, denial, resistance, retreat, blame and breaking. Worry goes beyond concern and produces anxiety rather than action. Denial simply means we do nothing. Resistance is the refusal to adapt to change. Retreat is the result of having convinced ourselves that we simply aren’t capable of addressing the challenge.
effectively. Retreat takes place when we choose to withdraw into ourselves rather than ask for help or try something new. Blame spends time arguing “if only” and places the blame on everything outside of us. To break is to become completely paralyzed. The author goes on to argue that what creates these responses is our perception of change: whether we see change as a threat or an adventure.

At Presbyterian College we have chosen to embrace change as an adventure. Like any real adventure there are many unknowns. There is no clear map and some of the roads we go down will no doubt be dead ends. Some of the roads we choose will take us into new areas that we could never have imagined. But our real goal is to go beyond change; to embrace the Biblical imperative to be transformed. Transformation goes beyond change because it reminds us that the primary actor is God and not us. That does not reduce our level of engagement. In fact, it does just the opposite. Believing that God is at work and that God can do more than we can think or imagine, we give ourselves wholeheartedly to God’s vision for a renewed world.

In this edition of the newsletter you will read a few updates on some of the changes we are making at the college. We think these are exciting and worthwhile changes. We are hopeful that the various programs being instituted will help address some of the deeply felt needs of the church. But most of all, we trust they are also stories of transformation, stories about what God is doing in our midst and not simply what we are able to pull off on our own. In the end our one prayer is that in our personal lives, in our communities of faith, and in the world that God deeply loves, we will encounter the transforming love of Christ. That, it seems to me, is the ultimate goal of theological education—to be transformed.

Thank you for taking time to read about the work of the College, remembering us in your prayers and partnering with us in our financial campaign. As alumni and friends of the College your support is vital to our work.

In gratitude,
Dale

Recruitment Update

Jillian Wood

Presbyterian College has initiated some great new programs, but if there is not a good number of students to take advantage of those programs, we will have missed the mark. So the College has decided to focus more on recruitment, and has hired Jillian Wood as our part time Recruitment Officer. Here is her first update.

Since beginning work on recruitment, most of my focus has been on laying the groundwork for new initiatives and developing a detailed marketing plan for this year. Presbyterian College needs a recruitment plan that will be durable, sustainable and effective. Our new recruitment approach focuses on eight spheres: sponsorship of conferences and camp events, magazine and digital advertising, college events, alumni networking, building stronger relationships with Presbyteries, building relationships with Christian high schools, social media activity and international outreach.

The College will be sponsoring events like conferences and concerts, as well as making appearances at Presbyterian summer camps and college fairs in order to recruit new students. The College is joining Vancouver School of Theology and Knox College for a presentation on vocation at Canada Youth 2016 in July. We’re also featuring a new advertisement in the July issue of Presbyterians Today to reach an American audience.

In order to successfully implement the eight spheres of our new recruitment plan, we need to have cohesive promotional materials, so we have engaged a
graphic designer to assist us. We are also working to design an eye-catching kiosk which can be easily transported to events like General Assembly that showcases our new look.

Mobilizing our alumni network to engage prospective students is a key piece of recruitment for the Presbyterian College, along with building our relationships with presbyteries and Christian high schools. We hope to send speakers to events in Quebec, Ontario, and New England.

As the church continues to grow abroad, international recruitment will play a key role in increasing the number of students at Presbyterian College. We have already reached out to Cameroon, Taiwan and Hong Kong to discover how the College can be helpful in the training of leaders for churches in those countries.

In terms of social media, Presbyterian College is now on Facebook and Instagram. We will be using social media to publicize our events as well as to offer a place for casual interaction between prospective students and the College.

How you can help
Some recruitment can be done by the College, but the key to recruiting students lies with you, our alumni and friends. You can spread the word about our programs. You can challenge your congregations to identify gifted people and encourage them to consider study at our College. Many of you are in a position to mentor others, whether as a minister, retired graduate, camp director, parent or teacher. If someone comes to you with questions about theological studies, please consider pointing them to the Presbyterian College.

Additionally, we are always looking for photos to share on our website and social media. Did you snap a great photo at convocation, or a continuing education event, or at the Mentorship Conference? Send it my way at jwood@pcmtl.ca and we’ll feature it on our Facebook page!

Recruitment of future leaders for our church is the work of all of us. Please join us in seeking out those who might be interested in taking advantage of creative, timely, new programs in theological education at Presbyterian College.

Leadership on the Move

An update from Dr. Victor Gavino, Director, Leadership Centre

The Leadership Centre is rapidly moving ahead with its core programs and setting new initiatives in motion. In step with these advances, and thanks to a generous grant from the Ewart Endowment for Theological Education, we now have more options for content delivery with the transformation of Classroom 1 into a web-based learning and real-time video-conferencing facility.

Mentoring Program
Two additional mentors have begun to lead groups in the areas of church renewal (David Moody) and stewardship (Herb Gale). There are now forty-one ministers across Canada participating in this program. Of these, thirty-nine will be in Montreal in June for the annual weekly mentoring conference, the theme of which is church renewal. The program includes plenaries, a panel discussion, group discussions and corporate worship. Ample free time is set aside for the participants to enjoy the Montreal summer and its myriad of outdoor activities. As in past years, we anticipate that the participants will come away refreshed, re-energized, and connected with colleagues both old and new. We are grateful to the dedication of our volunteer mentors: David Moody, Herb Gale, Christine O’Reilly, Clyde Ervine, Joan Ashley, Chuck Congram and Dale Woods. This program is open to all Ministers of Word and Sacraments within the PCC, and participants are from all three of our colleges.

Conference on Assisted Death
The continuing education week in February was well-attended onsite. A number joined via internet. Covered were theological, pastoral, ethical, legal and practical issues surrounding physician-assisted suicide, presented from the points of view of theologians, ministers, physicians, an ethicist and a lawyer. The Rev. Dr. Roland De Vries, Director of Pastoral Studies, led the discussion on theological issues. Case studies and questions on ethics were presented by Dr. Carolyn Ells, McGill professor at the Biomedical Ethics Division of the Medical School. Legal issues and the formulation of government policy were explored by Dr. Janet Epp-Buckingham, Director of the Laurentian Leadership Centre and Professor at Trinity Western. An evening panel discussion open to the public drew more than 50 attendees. The panelists were the Rev. Elizabeth Welch, an Anglican priest with training...
and experience in end-of-life care, Dr. Roger Ghoche, geriatrics and palliative care practitioner at the McGill University Health Centre, Dr. Eugene Bereza, Director of the Centre for Applied Ethics also at the McGill University Health Centre, and Dr. Bridget Carney, Health Care Ethics Consultant based in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Carney joined the panel via videoconference. The week was well received with very positive feedback. At the close of the week, the attendees expressed a diversity of opinion, which is an indication of the complexity of this issue, and of the serious manner in which all had grappled with the theological, ethical and pastoral concerns. It was suggested that a follow-up conference may be useful. An audio-video recording of the panel discussion is available at this link: https://vimeo.com/156922154/.

Retreat for ministers
After four years of running the mentoring program, we have come to understand and appreciate the question: “who ministers to the ministers?” Ministry, the special calling that it is, is inherently complex, requiring of the practitioner a certain ability to understand, relate to and handle highly interlinked human relationships: congregation, wider community, friends, family, colleagues, and denominational staff. As much as our Presbyteries seek earnestly to care for our ministers within their respective bounds, it is not always the case that appropriate care is extended to those in ordained ministry who need it. In August, the Centre will run a four-day pilot residential program for ministers who desire to be on the receiving end of ministry themselves, regardless of cause. The retreat will be run by the Rev. Dr. Jeff Loach, assisted by Jennifer Batt, spiritual director.

Collaboration with McGill
The Leadership Centre will host the pre-conference meetings of the Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, August 1-2, 2016. Dr. Gerbern Oegema, Professor of Biblical Studies and Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, has put together a program concentrating on the Johannine Question. An evening of round-table discussions will be led by Professor Daniel Cere (Religion and world politics), Professor Arvind Sharma (Interfaith relations) and Dr. Dale Woods (Faith in the workplace). Dr. Oegema will welcome 25 theologians to the pre-conference, mostly from Latin America.

Who ministers to the ministers?
The Clergy Health Initiative at Duke Divinity wrote: “Clergy recognize the importance of caring for themselves, but doing so takes a back seat to fulfilling their vocational responsibilities, which are tantamount to caring for an entire community.”

On the principle that healthy clergy is a key to healthy congregations, the Leadership Centre is launching a four-day residential pilot program to care for our ministers. The format is a retreat, to be led by the Rev. Dr. Jeff Loach, assisted by Jennifer Batt, spiritual director. Space is limited to eight participants. A nominal registration fee will cover room and board. All proceedings will be strictly confidential.

For inquiries and registration information, contact Mary Sicoli (514-288-5256 ext. 200) or send an e-mail to reception@pcmtl.ca.

Changes on the Board

We want to record the College’s gratitude to two outstanding members of the Board who have completed their terms of service, Ms. Jane Wylie and Mr. Ralph Loader. Jane’s commitment and faithfulness to the mission of the College is deeply appreciated. Her insightful interventions at board meetings and her faithful committee work will be missed. At her last meeting she expressed how much the board meetings have strengthened her Christian faith, not a common statement at the end of a term of board service! A special word of thanks goes to Ralph Loader who has served as Convener of the Board for several years. He expended countless hours and much energy on the multiple tasks of board convener. His wise, pastoral and spiritual leadership has been a blessing to us all. Ralph is an example of a Christian who takes his faith with him into the work place and into board meetings. His pastoral care and spiritual support for the Principal and faculty have been especially appreciated.
Signing of the New Agreement between Montreal School of Theology and McGill

With the new agreement between MST and McGill, new opportunities arise for Presbyterian College. With the 1948 agreement, each college could only register students from their own denomination who were studying toward ordination.

The new agreement allows the colleges to enroll students from a variety of denominations who are studying for any form of Christian ministry:

- Students who are taking the Bachelor of Theology as a first degree will be able to enroll in the College.
- Students completing the B.Th. who decide to go on to ordained ministry can then proceed to the Master of Sacred Theology and to the In-Ministry Year, as an equivalent to the Master of Divinity.
- Students will be able to take advantage of six years of theological formation at the College rather than the traditional three years. Given that many people who come in to ministry today do not necessarily have the theological background that students from a previous era had, this provides the opportunity to gain the theological foundation and Christian formation that is key to effective ministry.
- The new agreement provides an option for students who are not intending to go into ordained ministry, but who would like to complete a Bachelor of Theology with a minor in leadership with the Desautels School of Business. This would be ideal training for those desiring to serve with Non-Governmental Organizations, or who would like to work in international relations or other areas of service.
- Students may enroll in the Master of Sacred Theology (STM) as a graduate degree and do so through Presbyterian College. The STM has been reshaped into a 12-month program. This would be an ideal course of study for international students. ■

News from the Chapel

Dr. Lucille Marr, Chaplain

“So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.”—Psalm 63:4

I found hearing this ancient prayer invoked by students and staff in French, Spanish, Tagalog, Hebrew, a Cameroon dialect, Cantonese, Nigerian, Estonian, and English during a mid-winter chapel service, to be deeply moving. Not only did it illustrate the multi-national origins of our students and faculty, it also evoked the new and diverse community that Presbyterian College is striving to become.

(Cont’d. on the back page)
Congratulations to the

Elizabeth Anne Chan, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Div.
Diploma in Ministry and Special General Assembly Certificate

The Rev. Liz Chan grew up in Knox Presbyterian Church, Manotick, Ontario. She comes to us through ordination in the Wesleyan Church. Liz completed her field placement this year at Osgoode Presbyterian Church near Ottawa, under the supervision of the Interim Moderator, the Rev. Sean Seaman. To this year at the Presbyterian College, Liz brought her gifts of leadership, friendship, spiritual discernment and prayer.

Michael Dukefe
Master of Divinity as a first degree

Mr. Michael Dukefe is from Montreal, though originally from Nigeria. He completed his placement this year at United Pentecostal Church, St-Laurent. Michael’s ministry will continue to be within his Pentecostal tradition. Michael brought to this year a passion for the gospel, a commitment to evangelism, great openness to learn from those of other traditions, and a reminder to all of his instructors and fellow students of the power and grace of the Holy Spirit.

Mary Eluned (Lyn) Hughes, B.A., M.Div.
Master of Divinity and Diploma of the College

Lyn came to the college from St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Stittsville, Ontario. She served in her placement in St. Andrew’s Church in Richmond, Ontario, under the supervision of the Rev. Wayne Menard. She demonstrated her profound pastoral gifts and sensitivity, and has begun to reveal the significant ways in which pastoral ministry might shape other dimensions of ministry, including preaching, leadership and prayer. She also has shown what it means to be a life-long learner, and the profound transformation that is possible when we display both faith and discipline in our education for service to Christ.

Teresa Ruth (Terry) McWhirter, B.E.S., M.Div.
Diploma in Ministry and Special General Assembly Certificate

Ms. Terry McWhirter was raised within the Anglican Church, spent some years outside the church, and then wandered into The Presbyterian Church in Canada, via the Vineyard Church. We are grateful for this journey that has led her into our midst and called her to ordered ministry. Having completed a Master of Divinity Degree at Tyndale Seminary, Terry has completed the year of study assigned to her by the General Assembly. Her student placement was at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Nottawa, Ontario, under the supervision of the Rev. Jeremy Sanderson. Terry gave herself to this year and to the College community with commitment and care in all her work, and with an expression of her deep joy in Christ.
Graduating Class of 2016!

Elkanah Kuzahyet-Buki Shekari, B.A., M.A.
Diploma in Ministry

Mr. Elkanah Shekari is a licensed minister of the Evangelical Church of West Africa, from Nigeria. Elkanah has applied to be received as a minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and to that end completed one year of study with us this year, serving in a student placement at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in St. Lambert, under the supervision of the Rev. Dr. Barry Mack. Elkanah possesses a wonderful juxtaposition of qualities—deep faith convictions expressed and held with gentleness; a capacity to extend pastoral care, gifts of intellect that find expression in the most personal of stories. We look forward to Elkanah’s growth as a pastor, a servant, and a leader among us.

David Thomas Sturtevant, B.A., B.Th., M.Div.
Master of Divinity and Diploma of the College

Mr. David Sturtevant is from the congregation of St. Andrew’s in Kitchener, Ontario. David had a student placement at Kensington Presbyterian Church in Montreal, under the supervision of the Rev. Dr. Victor Gavino, Interim Moderator. During this In-Ministry Year, David brought the gift of confidence and the gift of a comfortable, faithful presence in worship. He has demonstrated a commitment to, and capacity for, transformational leadership, and a keen interest in bringing theory to practical fruition within congregational ministry. His keen intellect and his curiosity will serve him well as he digs more deeply into the scriptures in service of God’s people.

Master of Divinity and Diploma of the College

Mr. Victor Vaus grew up in the Lutheran Church and later began attending Knox Presbyterian Church, Burlington, Ontario. Victor came into the Master of Divinity program after a career in business, with much of his career focused in marketing and sales. Victor served in a student placement at St. Columba by the Lake in Pointe Claire, supervised by the Rev. Ian Fraser. To his final year, Victor brought the gift of a keen intellect and a sincere commitment to the Reformed theological tradition. The slow and steady deepening of friendships with Victor has been a key feature of his relationships in his placement and among his colleagues.
Celebrating Convocation

Dale Woods

Once again, on May 5th, we were privileged to celebrate convocation at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul. We are always grateful for the hospitality of St. Andrew and St. Paul, but we are especially thankful that it allows us to celebrate convocation in the context of worship. After all, it is God’s mission and it is God who calls and equips. To celebrate the completion of academic work as an act of gratitude and to centre it in the abiding love of Christ is central to our understanding of our mission to equip faithful leaders for the church and the world. Our sense of worship was much enhanced this year by a very challenging and spiritually enriching address on saying “Yes” to God, by the Rev. Dr. Marion Barclay MacKay.

Our day began with a very fine lecture on mission and power by the Rev. Dr. Glenn Inglis, followed by our graduates’ luncheon. The Rev. Dr. Ian Morrison was present, celebrating his 50th year of ordination, as was the Rev. Dr. Everett Briard, celebrating his 62nd year of ordination.

In the evening we celebrated with our seven graduates, representing three different traditions: the Evangelical Church of West Africa, the United Pentecostal Church and, of course, our own tradition. When we include the convocations of our sister colleges, Diocesan College and United Theological College, we are indeed blessed to study and learn within such a rich ecumenical context.

There is something about holy space when you are in a sanctuary. There is also something about holy space when you are among those who have sacrificed (some in very personal ways) to follow what they believe is God’s calling to serve Christ through serving his Church.

We wish them God’s blessing as they take the next step and seek a call from a congregation or an appointment to another form of ministry. May God use them to enrich the church, their local communities, and the world!

A word of thanks goes to the Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney for leading us in worship, and to Dr. Jonathan Oldengarm, organist of St. Andrew and St. Paul.

Honouring two Outstanding Servants of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Marion Barclay MacKay is a mostly unsung servant of the church who has quietly, humbly, and effectively carried out an extraordinary ministry which has had a profound influence for good in the church and in the world. Marion is an exemplary practitioner and advocate for the educational ministry of the church. She served for 10 years as Presbytery Mission Worker and Educational Consultant in Calgary-Macleod Presbytery, and then as Director of Christian Education at St. Andrew’s, Lethbridge, and as co-minister at St. Andrew’s, Calgary. Then, as ecumenical co-worker in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, along with her late husband and partner in mission, the Rev. Donald Walker MacKay, who was a graduate of Presbyterian College, she assisted in rejuvenating the Nsaba Lay Training Centre where she tutored catechists-in-training and other lay leaders, and wrote curriculum for that church’s lay training program.

Marion is an educator par excellence. She is creative and imaginative in her approach to each educational task. Marion’s gifts as an educator were recognized in 1997 when she was elected President of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators, the first Canadian to serve in that office. And later, in 2002, she was honoured with the Educator of the Year award by that same Association.
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As minister in a congregation, she is known as a compassionate and caring pastor, a careful listener who hears what is said beyond words, a thoughtful and helpful preacher. She is able to bridge the generational gaps as she interacts equally well with seniors, the middle-aged, youth and children.

It was a privilege for the College to correct the one serious omission in Marion’s resume, a degree from Presbyterian College. So, we were honoured to celebrate with her by recognizing her contributions to the church and to the lives of countless persons who have benefited from her 35 years of ministry.

After receiving her DD, Marion blessed the graduates and all those present by delivering an excellent convocation address that reminded us of God’s gracious Yes to us and called upon us all to respond enthusiastically with our own Yes to God’s call upon our lives.

The Rev. Dr. Glenn Inglis is one of those ministers who seems to have an identity crisis. He has been equally comfortable as a minister of four different congregations in Canada and as a mission co-worker in Africa, mainly centred in Malawi. His love for pastoral ministry as well as for the people of Africa, has led him and his wise, warm and competent partner, Linda, to respond to calls on both sides of the Atlantic in equal measure. In every church they have served in Canada, and in every mission task they have taken on in Malawi, they have won the hearts of the people among whom they have served. So much so that they always had to deal with the plaintive question, “Why must you go?” But God’s call leads us to diverse tasks in diverse places, and they have always been open to responding to that call in obedience. Glenn is one of the most disarming people you will ever meet. He disarms you with self-effacing words and humble, non-threatening arguments. He disarms you with his warm smile and dry humour, and then quietly brings down the hammer of prophetic biblical truth. His commitment to the gospel of justice for the poor and oppressed little ones of the earth has been unwavering. His writings in church magazines and journals have prodded our consciences and moved us to tears, as well as to action.

His preaching is thoughtful, faithful to the scripture and relevant to the lives of his listeners. His pastoral compassion is warm, sensitive and non-judgmental. Glenn has served effectively on multiple committees and courts of the church, both nationally and locally. Currently he leads the Social Justice Action Committee of the Presbytery of Westminster while serving as stated supply at West Vancouver Presbyterian Church.

Something of the heart of this servant of Christ might be glimpsed through these words which were quoted by Dr. Rick Fee in his citation for Glenn at our convocation.

“We spend hours each week missing Malawi, for it was our home for 17 years. Many of our best friends are there and they wonder why we left our second home. Living in Africa changes people. There were so many good things: full and lively churches, warm and loving people, good work to do, the sun setting over distant hills, the calm and beauty of the African dusk and dawn. But there were so many difficult things: HIV/AIDS, numbing poverty, too much death, hospitals without drugs, schools without books, dreams of countless children dashed by lack of opportunity, the waste of human potential. Some days you want to sing; some days you want to curse. The world is not just, but it is God’s world and we have a part to play.”

On convocation day, Glenn delivered an engaging pre-luncheon address on the subject of power, in the church and in the world. In his easy, laid back manner, he challenged and moved us deeply, and we knew we were honoured to be part of this man’s DD celebration.
Taking a Leap of Faith  
—Update on Financial Campaign

Tahra De Lallo—Development and Stewardship Officer

It's hard to believe that the Presbyterian College received its first Capital Campaign gift a little less than a year ago. To date, we have raised over $880,000 in pledges and one-time donations, which means that we have reached half of our ambitious goal of $1,750,000. The College has been truly humbled by the support and generosity of its friends and family.

We have received gifts from our hard-working Board, our loyal alumni, friends, families of our graduates, generous congregations, and generous support from some special funds within the PCC, including the Ewart Endowment for Theological Education.

As highlighted in our fall 2015 newsletter, the R. Howard Webster Foundation's gift of $250,000 for our Faith to Faith Program was the cornerstone gift of our campaign. The first part of their gift was $100,000, and the College had to match the remaining $150,000 from its own fund-raising efforts. We are delighted to report that we have secured our "match" and completed the requirements.

All gifts are gratefully received—no matter how big or how small. Some have chosen to pledge their gift over five years, the length of our Campaign, while others have preferred to give a one-time gift by cheque or through PAR, a monthly donation program. Some of our alumni have pledged $100 per year, and others $2,000 per year for five years. Whatever the size of your gift, we are blessed knowing that the creative work we are doing to prepare leaders to meet the challenges of ministry today, resonates with so many of you.

We continue to work energetically towards our goal, trusting that the vision of the College will connect with the generosity of every one of you and we sincerely thank all of you who have been inspired to give already. Thank You!

For those of you who have thought about giving but haven't got around to it yet, or have not yet experienced the joy of investing in the future leadership of our church by giving to The Presbyterian College, and would like to do so, please visit our website at presbyteriancollege.ca/DONATE or mail the enclosed donation/pledge sheet, or card, in the envelope provided.

Your gift will make a difference, both to our students, and to the future of your church as it continues to engage in God’s mission in the world.

| Campaign Summary |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| One-time gift     | To be raised |
| 9.2%              | 49.7%          |
| Pledges           | Goal raised to date |
| 41.1%             | 50.3%          |

Honouring a much-loved Grad with a Gift

Mary and Tom Gemmell shared more than 49 years of partnership in ministry. Mary wanted to honour Tom through a gift in his memory, and has generously donated $5,000 to the Ian Victor Pastors to Pastors Fund.
Asked why she chose to donate to fostering outstanding leadership at the College, she said: “I am pleased and grateful for the opportunity to honour Tom’s memory through a donation to the Rev. Dr. Ian Victor Pastors to Pastors Fund. Throughout his fifty years in ministry, Tom focused many of his leadership skills in support of pastoral ministers. As was Ian’s, so was Tom’s vision of congregational renewal with outstanding ministry through clergy renewal. Many blessings to all at the college as you proceed with this timely and profound “Leap of Faith.”

Tom Gemmell graduated in 1963 with a M.Div. from Presbyterian College. He worked wisely, effectively and compassionately in congregational ministry, in national church administration and in service to two of our theological colleges.

You can honour a loved one when you give a memorial gift. Several family members of alumni have already given a memorial gift to renovate a student room in the residence ($5,000 per room). Giving in memory of a loved one celebrates their life and invests in our church’s leadership by helping the Presbyterian College fulfill its mission to resource the church with leaders who will have the skills to meet the challenges of ministry in this new day, “one person, one congregation, one leader at a time.”

In and Around the Building

First, gifts from family and friends of alumni have made it possible for us to renew six student rooms in the College residence. Here’s a photo of one of the renovated rooms. This work has been a long time coming and is desperately needed.

Secondly, thanks to a generous grant from the Ewart Endowment for Theological Education, plus other gifts, Classroom 1 has been transformed into a state-of-the-art video-conferencing and lecture room. It now has excellent video and sound technology, sound

Do you have your copy yet?

This book is one that every graduate of the College, every DD recipient and every person with an interest in Presbyterian College must have. In his review of the book in the April, 2016 issue of The Presbyterian Record, Dr. John Vissers says that it “deserves to be known widely across our church.” Its creative use of brief biographies, followed by a sermon, address or letter from one of those “voices,” plus a short commentary by the writer of the chapter, makes for a book that captures the imagination and interest of the reader. Principal Dale Woods adds, “This book … tries to capture the spirit and passion of those who helped shape the life of the College” by letting them “speak in their own words.” A huge bonus at the end of the book is a painstakingly compiled list of all known graduates, recipients of DDs, principals, faculty members and others related to the College. These lists alone are worth the price of the book.

To Purchase a copy of Still Voices—Still Heard, you can:
—Order a copy from Librairie Paragraphe Bookstore, 2220 McGill College Avenue, Montreal, (514) 845-5811; or
—Contact the College at 514-288-5256 (ext. 200), and buy your copy for $30 CAD plus shipping and handling fee (limited stock). We accept VISA, MasterCard, and Interac.
panels, inset lighting and white board software. This will greatly enhance the College’s delivery of its mentoring program, continuing education and lay education courses, plus online seminars, workshops and special events. It will also enable distant members of the Board to participate clearly and effectively in meetings while remaining at home.

Next, the courtyard is undergoing a makeover that will turn it into an inviting, welcoming and productive space for the College residents as well as for the surrounding community. It will serve multiple purposes. A community garden will provide organic produce to social agency partners for use in their food security programming. There is also the potential for this produce to be used in our own kitchen and cafeteria. It will beautify neglected space and enhance it for community gatherings. It will include benches, walkways and raised garden beds. This space will support the spiritual practices of the College by providing a unique space for meditation, community gathering and prayer in either the Courtyard itself or in the adjacent chapel and library.

(“News from the Chapel” — Cont’d. from page 5)

One of our challenges is to find ways to be and to build hospitable Christian community in our diversity, not just in ethnicity but also in denominational backgrounds and preferred worship expression. As one student put it, “our worship seems a bit old, would there not be a way of contemporizing things?”

In the spirit of Marjorie J. Thompson’s suggestion that “hospitality means receiving the other, from the heart, into my own dwelling place,” this year we experimented with some new things that we hope will build community as we contemperize and re-energize our Reformed worship. A piano now graces the chapel, and we are intentional about incorporating contemporary music. Creativity has taken expression through art, song, and spoken word in poetry, and even ‘rap.’ How we sit can also transform the way a community experiences worship. The chairs are now in a circle, and prayers of the people often include voices in the congregation, sometimes in corporate prayer, other times in sharing and praying in smaller groups.

Building hospitable Christian community through worship is central to our vision of theological education. Please pray that we will continue to find ways to make worship at Presbyterian College a place of encouragement and meaning, as we seek to build the ethnically diverse and multi-national community that reflects Christ’s church.

Our Community in Worship—the College Chapel.