

LUTHER RICE SEMINARY, INC.

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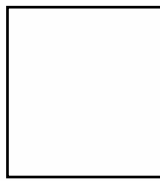
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Serving the church by providing biblically based education to Christian men and women for ministry

Luther Rice is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and the Association of Biblical Higher Education (ABHE).

Luther Rice is an Equal Opportunity higher education institution open to any qualified individual without regard to race, religion, sex, age, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability, except where required by specific religious tenets held by the institution.



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MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY

Prepares Ministers for the Church

The 36-hour Master of Arts in Ministry (MAM) program consists of 12 courses designed to assist church leaders in acquiring practical skills for leadership in a local church or support ministry. The program includes courses in Old and New Testament studies, systematic theology, the work of ministry, preparing an expository message, and other topics directly related to ministry. Graduates will learn how to evaluate ministries in light of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment, and be leaders in developing, designing, and implementing highly effective ministry initiatives.

“There is a need for more leaders who are trained in biblically sound theology, but many people are not able to uproot their families and move to go to seminary. This ministry-focused degree program, which can be earned completely online, meets the needs of busy pastors and church staff who may not desire a long divinity degree,” says Dr. Evan Posey, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Luther Rice.

Luther Rice College and Seminary has been cultivating an environment of Christian excellence since 1962 and is known for providing high quality biblically based programs for Christian men and women. The faculty believes—and teaches—that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God.

For more information about Luther Rice and the Master of Arts in Ministry degree, visit LutherRice.edu or call **770-484-1204**. You may also contact the degree program coordinator, Dr. James Kinnebrew, at James.Kinnebrew@LutherRice.edu or **770-484-1204 ext. 5698**.

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September 2018
Annual Alumni Edition

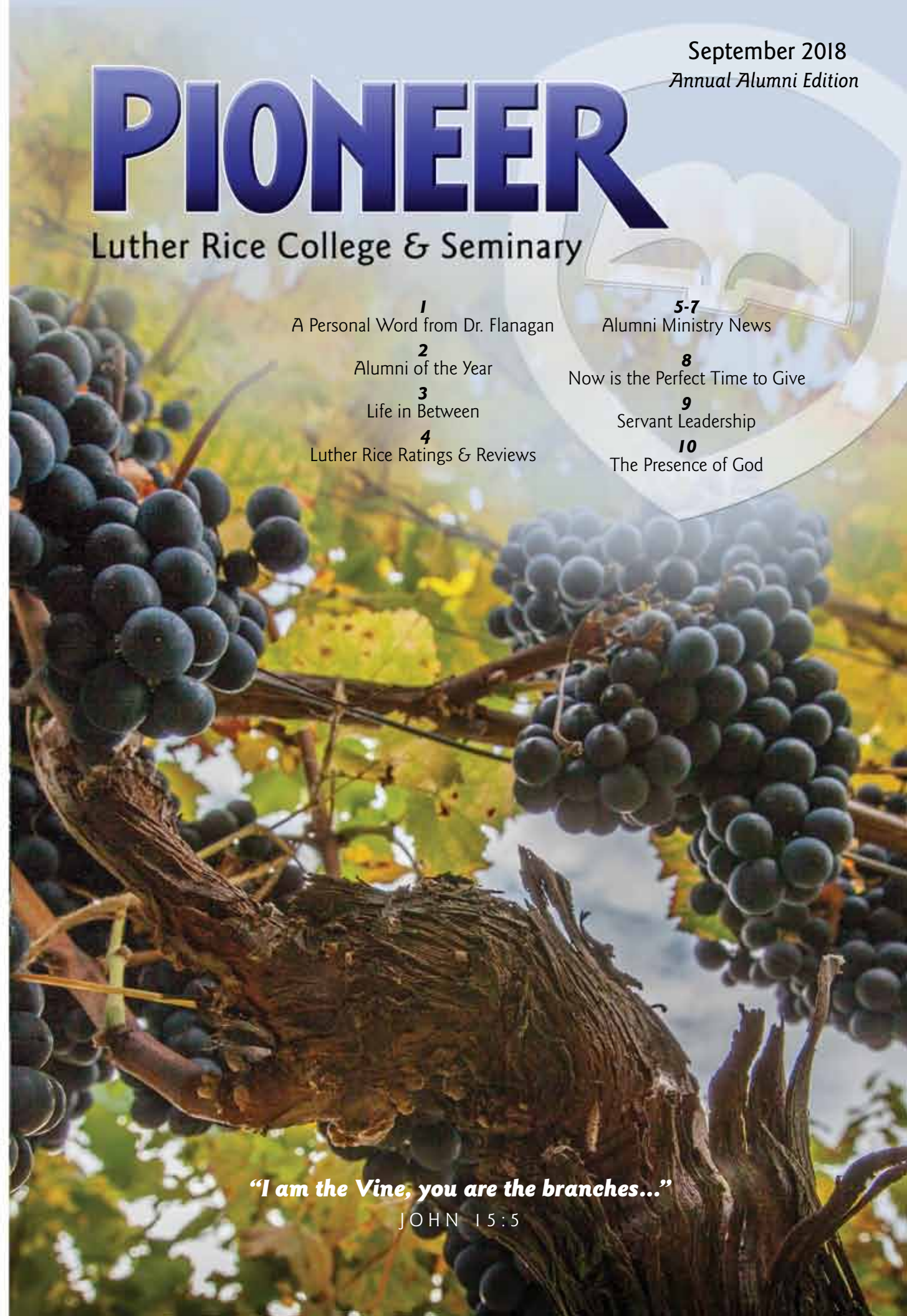
PIONEER

Luther Rice College & Seminary

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“I am the Vine, you are the branches...”

JOHN 15:5



A Personal Word



from **DR. FLANAGAN**

My wife and I recently returned from our small farm in the Midwest. The farm—30 acres with a house originally built in 1870—only produces hay. This year there was an invasion of Johnson grass, which is essentially a weed that can choke-out the intended crops in a field. It spreads rapidly and is hard to deter.

This situation is much like the Christian life. There are constantly tares growing among the wheat. There is a constant process of separating the wheat from the tares or keeping the vines and weeds from overtaking the crop.

As believers, we should be aware that there is no stopping point for the process of cultivation. We have to be attentive to the invasive species that invade our hearts and minds. The same is true for our college and seminary. The attempt of the invasive species to enter into the life and doctrine of the school is constant. Cultivation and pruning have to occur regularly.

We have a slogan that we use often: “Trust Luther Rice.” Our students, alumni, and supporters are relying on Luther Rice to stay true to its foundational tenets. Those foundational tenets are built on our view of Scripture: inerrant, verbally-inspired, and historically-accurate.

Please consider providing a year-end financial gift. Because when you do, you help our students prepare for a lifetime of ministering to others. If interested in making an estate or planned gift, please contact Mr. Louis Hardcastle, the V.P. of Financial Affairs at 770-484-1204 ext. 5287.

As you recommend students to attend Luther Rice, or provide prayer and financial support, rest assured that we are doing our part to cultivate and prune, and to maintain the foundational standards that have been the hallmark of Luther Rice.

James Flanagan
President

ALUMNI OF THE YEAR *for* 2018



Dean and Karen Dawson left for the Jamaican mission field in 2003, where they became co-directors of Bethel Christian Mission in the mountains of Manchester parish. For 10 years, their primary

responsibility was to facilitate short-term mission teams on the island. They also provided the facility for national pastors to receive training from Luther Rice Seminary. We are honored to announce they have both been named co-awardees of the annual Alumni of the Year Award for 2018.

In 2010, they assumed a dual role as directors of Bethel and began

serving with Operation Mobilization (OM). Dean was the Western Caribbean Director overseeing operations in Jamaica, Belize, Cayman, Bahamas, Turks & Caicos, and both the American and British Virgin Islands. The primary purpose was to train and send out Caribbean missionaries into global service.

Karen served as Field Personnel Officer and Short-term Mission Coordinator during their time with OM Caribbean. Eventually, teams of national believers were established on each island nation and the administration of the ministries was turned over to them. During this time, Dean and Karen both attended Luther Rice, both earning undergraduate and graduate

degrees. Dean graduated in 2009 with a master's degree in Christian Studies and Karen graduated in 2011 with a master's degree in Biblical Counseling.

In 2013, God called them to move to the country of Moldova. They assumed roles as the Pastoral Care and

Counseling couple for the multi-national missionary team based there. Dean also served as the Director for the Global Action Training Program for all new missionaries, as well as Mobilizing Moldovans into Missions (MMM). Karen served as a mentor for the women on the team and was part of personnel department, again facilitating short-term missions. During their time in Moldova,

they saw a 100% increase in the number of Moldovan missionaries who became a part of their OM team and left to serve in other countries. Dean and Karen assisted with two church plants, one in the capital city of Chisinau and the other in the village of Losova.

In 2017, they returned to the U.S. to assume positions with OM USA. In July of 2017, Dean took the position as Midwest Regional Director for the Church Engagement team. Karen is providing logistical support for Dean in this new role.

Luther Rice is proud to count Rev. Dean and Karen Dawson as alumni of the institution and excited for their recognition as outstanding servants for Christ.



Life In Between

by Laura Powell

I suppose I have always loved the outdoors. As a child, my hair was often green-streaked in the summertime from chlorine and the sun, and if I was not romping through the creek with neighborhood friends, I was more than likely tending to the “secret garden” my mom helped me plant. While I always looked forward to the family’s annual rafting trip down the Hiwassee River, through the years, my love of the outdoors has continued, intensified, and blossomed into other interests. So, it really came as no surprise that I decided to hike 40 miles of the Appalachian Trail (AT) for my 40th birthday.

I do not know the primary motivation for the hike. Perhaps, it was a combination of wants and needs. I value change and a good challenge, so I am certain those two played a small part in my decision. However, there was something else. I needed to spiritually recharge, a mountaintop experience, if you will. So, I heeded the stirring within, and I began to make preparations. My best friend, Sarah, committed to go on the adventure with me, and we decided to hike the trail between Amicalola Falls and Neel Gap, Georgia. It seemed easy enough.

Hiking the AT—with what felt like the weight of the world on your back, blisters on your feet, muscles screaming for relief, and sweat continuously pouring down your brow—causes many hikers to regret their decision. There was absolutely nothing easy about the hike. In fact, it was excruciating at times—not just physically, but mentally

and emotionally as well. Sarah and I found ourselves digging deep into our personal reservoirs, hoping and praying that we would find something to ease our pain.

That relief (and power) came in the form of Scripture. We found ourselves chanting verses as we methodically put one foot in front of the other. We felt God’s continual presence, becoming fully aware that this task was nearly impossible without His help. This, I thought, was my mountaintop experience! The struggles, the fears, the hurts, and the beauty that we experienced on the mountain translated to our lives down below. God reminded me of this truth and renewed my need for Him along life’s peaks and valleys.

Now, I have just returned from my second 40-mile hike; this one in honor of Sarah’s 40th birthday. Although it is difficult to explain the pull of the mountains to someone who doesn’t understand my actions (or antics), all I know is that I find God in His creation, and I know that He will sustain me during life in between hikes.

Editor’s Note: Laura works as an Enrollment and Marketing Associate in the admissions and marketing office. Her daily tasks include managing the admissions processing for all new and returning students, among other responsibilities. She is a student in the Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling degree program with a 4.0, and a devoted wife and mother of two school-aged children. She has faithfully served students at Luther Rice for ten years.



Laura & Sarah

Luther Rice Ratings and Reviews:

★★★★★ 5/5 2018-05-21

Great Experience

jonaheasley
Verified Customer

"Luther Rice provides a world class education with a Christ centered worldview. Thankful for this life changing education."

★★★★★ 5/5 2018-05-21

Outstanding!

karendwalker6
Verified Customer

"I really enjoyed my educational experience. The instructorss were amazing!"

★★★★★ 5/5 2018-05-26

A best in Christian education!

josephguzik
Verified Customer

"I completed my MDiv/A online through Luther Rice. The courses were incredibly challenging and the professors pushed me to be the best student I could be. While there are more well known schools out there, I wouldn't trade my education at Luther Rice for a name. They truly love their students and want to see them succeed. I love this school and their focus on Christ!"

★★★★★ 5/5 2018-05-16

Superior online degrees

dwdarr2
Verified Customer

"The online programs at Luther Rice are superior to most other universities and seminaries because every class included lectures and teaching (which, shockingly, many other programs don't) and they all can be completely from your location. Luther Ruce started offering online degrees before most other places even knew it would be a trend. They are ahead of the curve in the quality they are offering. I am loving my master degree classes!"

★★★★★ 5/5 2018-05-21

Perfect fit!

stephensleevee
Verified Customer

"Great price. Great education. Great experience."

★★★★★ 5/5 2018-05-24

Prepared for Ministry!

ganigel
Verified Customer

"My experience at Luther Rice prepared me for pastoral ministry in practical ways. It also became a place of spiritual maturity for me as my faith and beliefs were cultivated and developed. Praise God for Luther rice College and Seminary."

Alumni Ministry News

Craig Bailey '10, '17 was appointed as Chief Academic Officer and Dean of School of Biblical teaching and administrative duties. Bailey serves as a pastor and U.S. Army Reserve Chaplain and recently completed Command General Staff College.

Syl G. Adkins '79 is the president of Church Growth Ministries, a nonprofit organization established in Omaha, Nebraska. He has helped develop churches that have a strong desire to grow where they're planted. After many years of pastoral ministry and leading revivals, they have moved back to his wife's home state of Georgia.

Tony Cooperwood '12 hosts a weekly radio program entitled *Spiritual Truths* where he teaches listeners how to apply the Word of God to their daily lives. He is the pastor at Bethel M.B. church in Pontotoc, Mississippi. The church's primary evangelical outreach ministry is "Prayer on the Square Revivals." Through this ministry, they hold services each month on courthouse grounds in different cities throughout Mississippi. This year they plan to expand the ministry to Tennessee and Alabama.

Devin Peterson is a current student and has recently been appointed as Resident Chaplain of Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, where he is completing Clinical Pastoral Education Training (CPE) in pursuit of earning chaplaincy certification through the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. He began his new position on August 20.

Gary Johnson '81, '83 says "I have great memories of Luther Rice Seminary. I got out of the Navy in 1980. I started school and the ministry that year. I have been in full-time ministry ever since. LRS gave me the tools that I needed to get started on the right track. I have 3 children who are all in full time ministry today. So, I just wanted to send a personal thank you for helping me on the journey. Dr. Flanagan, you were a personal help to me and my brother-in-law Bob Hentze. I have been a pastor, and now am the Director of Missions in the Miami, Florida area."

Dave Gipson, '12, '16 is now Senior Pastor of Tower Grove Baptist Church in St Louis, Missouri. He also has a popular blog at DaveGipson.net and is featured in the Bad Pastor Podcast on iTunes. Gipson has articles published regularly by TheologyMix.com and several other sites.

Andy Royals '80 is retiring after 39 years as a senior pastor. He is entering into full-time evangelism, doing revivals and Bible conferences. He has also published sermon outlines and commentaries for *The Savior's Servants*, which includes 67 expository sermons. The sermon compilation can be ordered from Amazon.com.

Eloy Puga '15 released a short book entitled *Cold Nod*. The book is available through Amazon and other retail outlets.

D. Keith Miller '07, '08, '09, '15 was appointed District Chaplain for the Association of North Carolina Alpha Men of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Carl Carlozzi '77 published a new book entitled *There Is a Scripture Which Says...* (Humorous, Goofy, Revolting and Mind-Bending Passages with Commentary)."

Donald Houston '87 was called out of retirement to pastor Trinity Baptist Church in Paducah, Kentucky.

Bill Viel '75 retired from the position of Executive Director, Inner Harbor Ministry, Baltimore, Maryland, and moved to Rocky Mount, North Carolina. He now serves as Mission Service Corps Missionary, North American Mission Board, assigned to First Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, as the Director of Community Ministries.

Margie Miller '09, '11, '18 who serves on the academic advising team at Luther Rice, earned her doctor of ministry degree this past May. Miller's previous degrees include a master's degree in Biblical counseling and a Master of Divinity degree, both earned at Luther Rice while working as a full-time employee. Congratulations, Margie, on a job well done!

Victoria Thomas '14 is a current student, radio host, and author of four published books. Her most recent book is entitled, *I Almost Loved You*. She is part of the CWR Radio network, her show is entitled *Welcome to Wholeness* and airs Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 7-8 p.m. EST.

Ted Corby is a current student. He and his wife planted a new church in Jacksonville, Florida, called Immersion Fellowship. It is a house church for now, and its objective is to reach people who have shunned the traditional church for various reasons.

Sabrina Botts is a current student who launched the River of Oasis Ministry and Retreat Center within the last year. Its mission is to Refuel leaders, ReStore relationships and ReConnect people to their God given purposes. The goal is to provide individual and family counseling, retreats and enrichment, and short term stay options for people and families in crisis. Learn more about the ministry at riverofoasisretreat.com

Charles Crane '78 has had multiple books published, his latest two being, *The Bible: The True and Reliable Word of God* and *The Families of Man, Biblically and Archaeologically Traced from Noah Till Today*. The latter attempts to show how all peoples today can be traced back to Noah and his family.

Larry Bryant '09 completed a tour as Command Chaplain in July of 2017 for the United States Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, Florida. He received a Coast Guard Commendation Medal for the work accomplished during that tour. At the end of July 2017, he checked into his new unit, Combat Logistics Battalion 22, 2d Marine Logistics Group, 2d Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Since that time, he and his wife have been ministering to the marines, sailors, and families of CLB 22 in preparation for deployment this fall with the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit. This will be Bryant's third deployment as a Navy chaplain. In September, he will be promoted to the rank of O-4 or Lieutenant Commander.

Josh Mancuso '10 is a filmmaker, actor and marketing coach. His most recent work is directing a documentary called *Coming Home*. It chronicles the journey of a young Indian man named Jeremiah who travels to India for the first time to walk in his father's footsteps. It's a 40-day journey of self-discovery and a search for God's purpose in his life. But, what he really finds is poverty, orphans, and slums. He learns that his father ministered to these people as a missionary many years ago. Jeremiah is an actor by profession, but this journey led him to create a foundation that cares for

orphans in the slums of India. The first screening was in Beverly Hills on Saturday, July 14.

Bill Perkins '17 accepted a call to be the senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Harlingen, Texas. He will begin the first Sunday in September.

Nancy Almodovar is a current student who will be attending the Apologetics Academy run by Dr. John Warwick Montgomery and Dr. Menuge from Concordia in Strasbourg, France, next year. This will provide her with more tools to serve as a professor of world religions to the military.

Sujeet Nuthulapaty is a current student. He and his family will be going to India in September to serve as missionaries.

Harold Hamilton '15 started Word Up Walls Down Christian Church in March 2018 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Eric Reynolds '15 was called up for active duty in the U.S. Army to serve as a Battalion Chaplain. He is assigned to Ft. Bliss to the 2nd Eng BN where he meets the ministry needs of soldiers in this battalion. For the last 3 years, he served soldiers in the Army Reserves.

Connie Johnson '13 has worked as an adjunct professor at Hampton University and Saint Leo University, teaching Religion and Philosophy courses. Some of her students have become followers of Christ during their time in her classroom. In addition to her teaching, she is currently working on a research project as a prerequisite to entering a Ph.D. of Theology program.

Continued on page 7

Alumni Ministry News

Laurie Witherspoon '16 was hired as a chaplain at the New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. She graduated with four units of Clinical Pastoral Education Training through ACPE. She was selected to be a chaplain in the United States Army Reserve.

Kevin Byous is a current student who celebrated his fifth anniversary as pastor of the Philippi Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

Pete Mattix '15 is now Senior Pastor at Lake Country Baptist Church in Eatonton, Georgia.

Meredith Kirk '18 is an LPGA Teaching Professional and new author. While struggling with a bout of depression, she completed her master's degree in Christian Studies. As she came out of her depression with renewed hope, she was compelled to write a book to help others. Her book is entitled, *The Mount Moriah Experience—A Believer's Guide to Walking Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death*. The book was published in June and is available on her website at meredithkirkcoaching.com.

Catherine Millard '95 has published two works recently entitled, *Sir Isaac Newton's Proof of Creationism*, and *Patrick Henry, the Great Awakening and Road to the Revolution*. Both books are available on the Christian Heritage Ministries website at christianheritagetours.org.

Earl Randall '18 is the new pastor at The Church at Monticello in Monticello, Georgia.

Derrick Keeter '14 is Founding Pastor of Grace Point Church in Thomaston, Georgia, and chaplain at Bridgeway Hospice in Stockbridge, Georgia.

Gazzara Hill '17 was recently appointed to the position of Police Training Academy Director at the Clayton County Police Department.

Bob Frey '92 recently received Alcohol and Other Drug Counselor Certification from the State of California.

Larry McDowell '17, '18 is a current student who was called in February to be senior minister of Cahaba Heights Baptist Church, Vestavia Hills, Alabama. He began a summer weekly Radio Drive-In Revival in the parking lot on Sunday evenings where attendees can hear the music and sermon from their FM radios. He brings in volunteer music from area churches, preaches an evangelistic sermon and offers a fellowship meal provided by him and his wife afterwards.

Brian Williams '10, '16 is pastoring the International Chapel of Vienna and the International Baptist Church of Vienna in Austria.

Justin Nichols '16 was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant with the Saint Louis County Police Department. His education at Luther Rice helped him achieve this promotion within three years with the department.

Terri Engdahl '15 serves in the women's ministry at Crestview Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. The church is small, aging, and in an area impacted by homelessness and poverty. Additionally, she will be serving the Greater Austin Emmaus community as the Assistant Lay Director for the Women's Walk in November.

Tom Parrott '10, '13 earned his Doctor of Counseling degree (D.Min.) from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a state Licensed Professional Counselor working with Access Grace Counseling located in Alpharetta, Georgia.

Dale Delaney '16 was promoted to the position of Connections Pastor at Reimage Church. He was ordained and also serves on the elder board and directional leadership team at Reimage Church.

Mike Sherrad '15 contributed to an article for the *Apologetics Study Bible for Students* entitled *Evidence for God: Free Will* and had an article published in the Christian Research Journal entitled *Is a Pro-Choice Hermeneutic Possible?*

David Simmons '15 taught Systematic Theology in November of 2017 in the greater Lima, Peru, area for five churches, their pastors, other church leaders, and all the church members. This was his 11th mission's effort in greater Lima.

Cody Gold '18 is a current student and, as of June 1, became the full-time Associate Pastor at Calvary Crossroads Church in Grants Pass, Oregon.

Derrick Fielder '09, '13 is the new Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, Georgia.

Jurey Howard '08 is a current student and recently published a Christian novel on the subject of redemption entitled *Face of Dreams*. The book is available on Amazon.

James Paul '92 retired for the fifth time from a full-time ministry position. He is currently available for pulpit supply in the North Georgia area.

Sean Rheau '14 is a church planter in Johns Island, South Carolina. The church is called Live Oak Church.

Dean Blackburn '14 used his Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling from Luther Rice to achieve his LADC, which is the highest level for licensed alcohol drug counselors available in Massachusetts.

Timothy Mitchell '14 published three peer reviewed articles in academic journals during his time as a student and in the two years following. He began a Biblioblog titled *The Textual Mechanic* where he continues to publish articles related to New Testament Textual Criticism and early Christian book culture. He is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom studying New Testament Textual Criticism. Mitchell has also contributed a chapter discussing the New Testament Autographs in a forthcoming book by Peter Gurry and Elijah Hixson entitled, *Myths & Mistakes: Correcting Common Misconceptions about the Text of the New Testament*.

Gina Fernandez Beverly is a current student who authored two inspirational and motivational books, *Do You Know Who You Are* and *What You Are Entitled Too?* and *Dysfunction Breeds Distorted Vision*. She is also a radio show co-host on iHeart Radio 96.3 Brunswick, Georgia: EPIC Life Radio – Empowered Purposed in Christ with Ms. Kenyetta Bell.

Michael Weis is a current student who was called as the pastor of his first church in January, after serving in Japan. He and his wife have since had their first baby.

John Howard '08 is a current student who recently published a novel on the subject of redemption entitled *Face of Dreams*. The novel is available on Amazon.

Cindi Myers '17 accepted a new high school teaching position teaching World Geography, World Religions, and General Literature. She released a new book in the summer entitled *The Fight for Your Spiritual Life*. The book explains what spiritual warfare is and how to deal with it in your life. The book is loaded with Scripture and other tools that will help believers grow closer to God. Her book *The Longing*, a retelling of Elkanah, Hannah and Penniah's story is with the editor and expected to be published next February. This is a story about longing for something, yet not having it, and learning to rely on God to be enough.

Now is the perfect time to give!

Get a tax break and support Christian ministry education

Your partnership with Luther Rice College and Seminary means a new generation of Christian leaders will be prepared to share the hope of Christ as ministers, pastors, missionaries, counselors, and apologists.

As the end of the year draws near, now is a great time to give a gift in support of Luther Rice. Your donation will help prepare men and women for ministry, supporting the church in communities around the globe—even in your own backyard. Your gift will also give you 2018 tax advantages as well. Consider:

1. You can donate appreciated assets, receive a tax deduction for the fair market value, and potentially avoid a capital gains tax.
2. A paid-up life insurance policy is another asset for which you can donate and receive a tax deduction while the cash value works for Luther Rice as they prepare ministers of the gospel.
3. Establishing a charitable gift annuity not only supports the institution, but also provides you with an immediate, ongoing tax deduction and a regular income for life.
4. Donating cash, as long as the gift is postmarked by December 31, yields a tax deduction for your 2018 taxes too.

To find out more about how you can benefit from year-end giving to charitable organizations like Luther Rice, talk to your financial advisor or tax attorney. For more details on how to give to Luther Rice, you may contact Louis Hardcastle, Vice President of Financial Affairs, at 770-484-1204 ext. 5287 or via email at Louis.Hardcastle@LutherRice.edu. Information can also be reviewed on our website at LutherRice.edu/give. Contact us today to get started.

Connecting the Call of Servant Leadership

By Dr. Zephine Smith-Dixon

When I was challenged to run the race set before me, I initially limited God's divine purpose to a ministerial call to share in the Great Commission. But the demand on my life to serve in leadership increased immensely while the competing priorities of family, work, and civic duties remained as necessary as ever. I struggled to understand how all these components could be served with excellence and purpose for God.

*TO STUDY
SYSTEMATIC
THEOLOGY IS TO
UNDERSTAND
THAT WE
SERVE GOD
IN ALL THINGS...*

God led me and granted me favor to work at the Georgia Department of Education in a state leadership role to support improved outcomes for students with disabilities. As Georgia's State Director for Special Education, it is my honor to work diligently on behalf of over 214,000 students and families representing the 10th largest program in the country. I truly believe that we will be accountable for how we have created a voice for those who often remain voiceless.

As a mother, wife, and career woman, what exactly did God expect from me with this call? After a short while, I explored the desire to learn more about ministry and study Christian studies with Luther Rice. Having a terminal degree in educational leadership, I made this decision in confidence after much prayer with God. I demonstrated a desire to study and show myself approved spiritually. My program and time spent with Luther Rice increased my awareness of Christian studies but more importantly improved my

relationship with God.

After graduation, I reflected on how accepting my call and journey with Luther Rice would take my walk with God to the next level. My initial thoughts hindered

God's will because I continued to compare myself to others in full-time ministry, knowing this would not be my fate. I clearly heard God's voice confirm that I was to be committed to serving full-time. What an awesome revelation that was supported through my learning experiences with Luther Rice. To study systematic theology is to understand that we serve God in all

things, including my role as a wife, mother, and state education director.

I was recently honored by my undergraduate institution, Columbia College, to receive recognition as the 2018 Wil Lou Gray Outstanding Educator and again bring glory and recognition to leading in a manner that brings God glory. It is not a coincidence, but divine order, that God has seen fit to allow me to serve in this manner and put the pieces of servant leadership together for me. I am forever grateful.

Editor's Note: Zephine is a 2018 Luther Rice graduate earning her master of arts in Christian Studies. She serves as Georgia's State Director for Special Education Services overseeing all disability services provided in every Georgia school district.



THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Chapel sermon presented by Dr. David Mapes, Professor of Theology

I. The Garden of God

- A. God created Adam on the 6th day and gave Adam the tool of language, fully developed with words that were not just symbols, but words that had meaning.
- B. Then the Lord made Eve and a garden and brought Adam and Eve into this place where the Lord made His special presence known. There the Lord walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day.
- C. Genesis 3:8 After they sinned they hid from the presence of God.
- D. Genesis 4:16 Cain went out from the presence of the Lord.
- E. Though man had the privilege of walking with God as Enoch, few did so as sin permeated the world.
- F. Genesis 6:5-6 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth

II. The Calling of Abraham

- A. In Genesis 12 God calls Abram out of the Ur of the Chaldees and enters into a covenant with him promising Abram that He would make of him a great nation.
- B. The Lord is going to bring a special people into existence. A people that He can call his own. A place where He can put His special presence.
- C. God brought the proto-nation down into Egypt and incubated them until He was ready to deliver them out of bondage. In the fullness of time, God brought forth His people out of Egypt to Mount Sinai where He entered into the Mosaic (Sinaitic) law covenant with them.

III. Israel Will Be the Place of God's Presence

- A. Exodus 19:3-6 And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine."
- B. Exodus 25:1-22 Take an offering so God may dwell among them I And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering; and let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.
- C. Ex 29:43-46 And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory. And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God.
- D. Ex 33:14 And he said, "My presence shall go with thee."
- E. Ex 40:33-38 Moses finishes the work on the Tabernacle the Lord's special presence fills the place.
- F. Nu 6:27 And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.
- G. Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the glory of the LORD filled the house. (See also 1 Kings 8:22,29; 2 Chron 20:9)
- H. Ezekiel 10:4; 10:18; 11:23 The glory departs

IV. Messiah: God's Special Presence

- A. In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son made of a woman. God the Son became incarnate. He was Emanuel = God with us. (Matt 1:23) Once again God's special presence was on the earth.
- B. John 1:1-14

V. The New Covenant People Will Be the Place of God's Presence

- A. 1 Cor 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
- B. 1 Peter 2:5-10 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you. Notice the parallel with Ex 19.

VI. Then a New Heaven and the New Earth

- A. Revelation 21: God creates a new earth where His special presence tabernacles with his fully embodied saints forever. God, the Father, completes what He started in Gen 1.

