

For more information, contact:

Laurie Lattimore-Volkman

Director of Communication

415-451-2814

llattimorevolkmann@sfts.edu

105 Seminary Road • San Anselmo • CA 94960
415.451.2800 www.sfts.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SFTS faculty, administrators embrace SoCal during retreat

PASADENA, September 1, 2008 - The faculty of San Francisco Theological Seminary hosted their annual retreat Aug. 23 in Southern California. The following day, several members of the SFTS faculty preached and taught adult education courses at various Southern California congregations.

The Rev. Dr. Charles Marks, chaplain of SFTS, preached at two services at St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach. Pastor Gary Collins welcomed Marks to their new facility and "was most gracious in his welcome and verbal affirmation of the seminary and my role as the chaplain," Marks said.

Dr. Jana Childers, dean and professor of homiletics and speech communication, preached at the Brentwood Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles at all three of its services. Childers' sermon focused on Philippians 4:8-9 and the importance of intellectual reflection in the life of faith.

Sister Elizabeth Liebert, professor of Christian spirituality, attended the First Presbyterian Church of San Bernadino, taught a class titled, "A Spiritual Practice for Life: Discernment," and then tag-teamed with Pastor Sandy Tice (DASD '02) for the sermon.

Dr. Philip Wickeri, Flora Lamson Hewlett Professor of Evangelism and Mission, was welcomed to Westwood Presbyterian Church by Pastor Charles Orr (M.Div. '58). Wickeri taught an adult education class on Christianity in China and shared a moment for SFTS during the 11 a.m. worship service.

The Rev. Dr. James Noel, H. Eugene Farlough Jr. California Professor of African American Christianity, preached at the San Marino Community Church, where the Rev. Jeff O'Grady (current SFTS D.Min. student) is the pastor. "We had a good morning together," remarked Noel. "They invited me back!"

The Rev. Dr. David Tomlinson preached at the Northminster Presbyterian Church in Diamond Bar, a congregation served by Pastor Bob Stebe (M.Div. '83).

Dr. Judy Siker, vice president of SFTS/Southern California preached at St. Peter's by the Sea Presbyterian Church in Rancho Palos Verdes. An old friend of the church, she was warmly welcomed back by Pastor Clayton Cobb.

A little farther south, Rev. Peter D. Crouch, vice president for seminary and church relations, preached at the Pacific Beach Presbyterian Church of San Diego. Crouch was warmly welcomed to the church, which is served by Pastor Alan Deuel, (D.Min. 86). "We all enjoyed reaching out to these congregational friends of the Seminary," said Crouch. "It was a great opportunity for several congregations to meet some of our outstanding faculty."

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San Francisco Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian Church (USA) graduate school, has prepared whole leaders for the whole church since 1871. One of the founding members of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, it offers theological degrees at two campuses, in San Anselmo and Pasadena. Its innovative Program in Christian Spirituality is open to clergy and non ordained individuals. For more information please call SFTS at