



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

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For more information, contact:
Laurie Lattimore-Volkman
Media Relations
415-264-8105
llattimorevolkmann@sfts.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former SFTS dean, professor dies at age 91

San Anselmo, Calif., Feb. 3 – The Rev. Dr. Browne Barr, former professor and dean at San Francisco Theological Seminary, died of pneumonia Feb. 1 in Santa Rosa at age 91.

Browne's nephew and namesake is a current trustee at SFTS and a second nephew, Robert Barr, was acting president of SFTS 1984-1985 as well as president of the Graduate Theological Union.

As a young man, Barr taught preaching at Yale Divinity School. He also pastored First Congregational Church, Berkeley, from 1960 to 1977.

Barr joined the SFTS faculty as professor of homiletics in 1977 and was appointed dean in 1978, serving for several years.

He was the author of five books and dozens of articles, "High Flying Geese" being perhaps the best known of his works.

In retirement, Barr and his wife Leigh lived at their ranch in Calistoga, where they continued to entertain SFTS friends and students for many years.

Upon hearing the news of Barr's death, one close friend noted "that great mind is at rest."

Dr. Jana Childers, current dean at SFTS, noted that Barr was a nationally respected preacher.

"He was one of the most influential, effective and literate preachers of his generation. His preaching in Berkeley's 'tall steeple' church throughout the 60s and 70s helped to shape an important moment in American culture," she said.

Barr is the father of four grown children - John, Maury, Virginia and Holly. Details of the funeral and memorial service will be forthcoming.

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