

# Table Talk

*News and Views of the  
Student Body of The Lutheran  
Theological Seminary at Gettysburg.*



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## COMMUNITY

Welcome to the neighborhood: our special neighborhood. As we look around us at the relics of history, the permanence of this institution seems a striking contrast to the people who make up our community. Despite the fact that we wish things might remain the same, there is the realization that this year is the only time that all three of our respective classes will be here together. Never again will our neighborhood be what it is today. Never again will we have the unique opportunities to be together in the way we are today.

The opportunities we have to learn from and minister to each other are infinitely enhanced by the diversity of our members; from the toddlers of West Hall to the second career students, from special students to instructors, from those directly from undergraduate studies to staff members. More than at any time in its history, our seminary family is reflecting the promises and potentials of the community, the church, the Body of Christ.

Yet with some of us, this sense of community is tempered with the realization that our community is as widespread as our members. Many students are in internship, some in far distant places. And a significant number of the two upper classes are studying in other seminaries in Washington, Maryland, Northern Virginia, and even England. Ministry and learning extend beyond our community, and even Gettysburg, through field education, supply preaching and assistantships.

In all these widespread opportunities for ministry and learning in the body of

Christ lies a danger that we may miss the problems and joys and blessings to be found in our midst. The unique beauties and gifts of this community will never be repeated. The unique ways we are called to ministry and learning here in this historical place are as diverse as we are. Just as this community can never be together again in the way it is today, our opportunities for ministry to each other can never be more than they are today.

As we embrace the opportunities we have to share this year, with all their joys, trials, blessings and sorrows, let us remember our neighbors; our classmates, spouses, families, instructors, and staff. Let us be aware of each other as the vulnerable caring people that we are. Let us be quick to rejoice with each other and forgive as we have been forgiven. Let this be a year of celebration of Christ in our midst.

## News Line

The community of LTS is cordially invited and encouraged to submit letters, ideas, and concerns to the open forum, "We've Been Thinking...." These submissions should reflect issues within our community, should be limited to 125-150 words, and must be signed. Deadlines are at 5:00 p.m. on the last Friday of every month. If any of these criteria pose unusual difficulties, please speak with one of the editors. Articles may be handed to, or placed in the editor's mailbox.

# INTERVIEW

One of the new faces at the seminary this fall is Dr. William O. Avery, the associate professor of field education.

He is a graduate of Gettysburg College and Seminary. He has many memories of the Seminary, some of them quite amusing. While he was a student here he worked as an indoor workperson for maintenance. One of his jobs involved painting the flagpole. This turned out to be a lot harder than it seemed, because scaffolding had to be built around the flagpole. When it came time to climb up, nobody wanted to, for fear the scaffolding would break. After the pole was finally painted, the scaffolding had to be torn down.

Dr. Avery remained close to the Seminary after he graduated. He obtained his STM degree and was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1971. Dr. Avery has been director of advanced studies here since 1980.

In his opinion, the atmosphere has changed over the years. When he was a student (1964-1967), there was little emphasis on practical ministry. There was no internship or C.P.E. The Seminary operated under the quarter system and letter grades were given. During the time when he was a student, the Seminary obtained permission to serve the Eucharist.

Of course, the student body consisted of a different makeup back then. There were not as many women, older students, and children. Most of the married couples lived off-campus and groups formed based on where one lived, on or off campus. He feels that having more housing has brought the student body closer together as a family.

Dr. Avery has a vision which involves theological reflection on the practice of ministry. He hopes to have this action-model vision developed here. There is a great commitment and love for the Seminary in Dr. Avery's heart. He would like to help a generation of pastors learn what practical ministry is all about. Dr. Avery has spent sixteen years in the parish before coming to this position. He misses the congregational support at Sunday worship and the time of study and reflection. Yet he realizes that it was time to move in another direction, a direction which brought him here.

The action-model focuses on the action-reflection method of learning. There is an initial emphasis on observation and reflection. Participation follows the reflection on what one has observed. In the field education program this will be accomplished through the teaching parish. The model is already used in many C.P.E. programs and is also used in internship supervision.

In reality Dr. Avery only spends 70% of his time here at the Seminary. Some of the time he is out visiting interns and C.P.E. centers. He is in charge of three clusters of internship churches and tries to visit as many C.P.E. centers as he can. In October, he will be with the C.P.E. center in Allentown Hospital for several days. Next summer he will do his basic unit of C.P.E. at Hershey Medical Center. His philosophy is you "can't assign students to C.P.E. or internship sites until you know the sites and the students". He feels that this is most important and strives to get to know each student and as many supervisors as he can.

For now, Dr. Avery lives in Millersville with his family, although he does have a room in Valentine to stay in should his schedule here leave little time to commute on a particular night. His wife is a first grade teacher and also a pioneer and workshop leader in the Rite to Write program. They are the parents of two sons; one is a student at Drexel University and the other is in seventh grade.

We welcome Dr. Avery to our family here at the Seminary.



## Chaplain's Corner

The Student Association is off to another fine start. This year we are going to have as much community emphasis as possible, to attempt to build a supportive family feeling, that will serve everyone. In order for this to be accomplished we need you to help. If at any time you are approached to help with a project please consider that the only way things get done is if we help to get them done.

The Student Association will attempt to take into consideration the needs of the individuals of the community, the needs of the seminary community as a whole, and the needs of the world. Let us know if there is something that you feel should be done. We are here to serve you.

One thing that the students, as well as the faculty and staff, will be considering is a policy statement dealing with alcohol and other drugs, their use and abuse. This came out of the middle's pre-session, and a task force is being organized to deal with the matter.

Another possibility for the year will be having community meals in the refectory. This would allow for some fellowship, and the building of that community spirit.

The intramural football season has begun, so get out there and get those tired bones moving. We beat Philadelphia last year, we need to make it two in a row.

Finally, keep an eye on the calendar for possible social events sponsored by the classes and by the Student Association.

I will close with an image from my C.P.E. I think it sets the tone for the year ahead. Instead of running the obstacle course, we find ourselves walking towards the sunset, which is far off in the distance, but yet within our sight. We take each step as we can, building on the steps that have brought us thus far. There are times when we stop and don't want to move, but somehow, by the grace of God, and the support of those fellow wanderers we continue, waiting for the new dawn.

Bill Weiser  
S.A. President

Until I was asked to write this article, I hadn't thought much about the fact that it's exactly 40 years since I entered seminary as a new student. Things were different then. A war was going on, and because of manpower shortage, students were recruited to go out by truckloads on October afternoons to help pick apples or work in canning factories. There was only one woman student, and since she was a Southerner who ate her meals at great leisure, the gentlemen who sat at table with her in the refectory chafed under the captive courtesy until she was finished before they dashed off to their next event. Most of the men were single, and Old Dorm was their chief residence, with a common shower room on the ground floor where many a mighty chorus was sung and where students streaked in and out from all floors trailing an elusive towel.

But there are other ways in which things are different now. Forty years later I'm entering the seminary again, this time as a chaplain. (such a creature in our midst was unheard of then.) But I fell as though I'm also entering as a student. (There is still much for me to learn!) With you, I am excitedly looking forward to whatever gifts of growth the coming year may hold as we experience seminary life together. It seems to me much of what it means to be a community on Christ has its focus in these directions: A Remembrance of Things Past, An Experience of Things Present, An Envisioning of Things to Come. I'll be saying more about these in future issues of Table Talk.

**s. a. notes**





"A" PUZZLE

A D A M I S S I R O H C N A N O N O M E A  
B A C A C O L Y T E N L I L T T E E S I R  
B A B S O L U T I O N A N T I C H E R O C  
A R K O F T H E C O V E N A N T I N T E H  
Z W S I S T E R O Q P T S R N S A L M S B  
N O I T A I C N U N N A A A N I E M I N I  
N E S P Y L A C O P A B Y S S E G O B N S  
O F F S P I N I G I H A A L P H A M I O H  
I A G N O S T I C A P S E O P T I M E T O  
S C A T I P A T I N Y E P A G A O Y E E P  
N T I A M I S H N F R A B B I D D E V E A  
E A M U L E T O N I C A T E O T A V E X W  
C A S H E S ' L E N T O Z W N A I S L E V E  
S S P A N G E L U S P N N H C A A M E N N  
A P P L E L T S O F A A A T O N E M E N T

Can you find the hidden words which all begin with the letter "A" and which all describe an object or concept related to Christian heritage? The answers can be found by reading horizontally, vertically, and diagonally, forward and backward, up, and down. Here are some clues.

1. Someone who helps at the altar in liturgical worship - usually a youth.
2. Walkway between pews in a sanctuary.
3. It means "truly may it be so"; a sign of agreement, or is often a shout of praise.
4. A bishop of the highest rank.
5. The latin word for this fruit means "evil".
6. Hebrew word for "man" or "mankind," referring to humanity as a whole.
7. Latin for "in the year of our Lord," referring to years after Christ.
8. The period in the church year anticipating Christ's coming.
9. One who believes that there is no God.
10. One who believes that it is impossible to know whether or not there is a God.
11. The first letter in the Greek alphabet (Rev. 1:8).
12. A table in the chancel of Christian churches.
13. Pronouncement of the pardon or forgiveness of sins.
14. The announcement of Gabriel to Mary that she would give birth to Jesus.
15. It's importance to a ship makes it a traditional symbol of Christian hope. (Heb. 6:19)
16. To bless, consecrate, usually with oil.
17. A song of praise or joy, often based on biblical passages and sung by a choir.
18. Referring to a prophetic message, especially in the Book of Revelation.
19. A group of books not usually included in the Protestant canon.
20. One who is sent, originally referring to any of the 12 disciples sent by Christ to teach and preach the gospel.

21. The greek word for the highest form of love.
22. Christ's act of bodily leaving this earth 40 days after the resurrection (Acts 1:9).
23. A symbol of penitence and the brevity of earthly life.
24. Meaning "at-one-ment" or union.
25. The Roman Catholic doctrine that the Virgin Mary was bodily received into heaven, without suffering death.
26. A chest containing the covenant in the Jewish tabernacle, recalling the original container of the stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were inscribed.

-Puzzle from Youth Magazine,  
June, 1978.

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A Special Thanks to all of those who contributed this month!!!

## BOOK REVIEWS

Table Talk will begin a book review section in next month's edition. If you are willing to review a book for Table Talk, have we got a deal for you! Many new book releases will be offered at half-price in conjunction with Table Talk. There is a limit of one book per person and a limit on the number of books per semester. If you are interested, see Mary Anne Bieber, Louise Knotts, or Karen Stiles. Several new releases now in the bookstore include: The New Testament and Homosexuality, by Robin Scroggs; Anatomy of an Explosion - A Theological Analysis of the Missouri Synod Conflict, by Kurt E. Marquart; The Darkness of God, Theology After Hiroshima, by Jim Garrison; Francis: A Saint We Share, A discussion guide for Lutherans and Roman Catholics, by Gail Ramshaw Schmidt; and many, many, more. For a more complete listing of new releases and more information, contact one of the three people mentioned above.