

# PRINCETON PRESBYTERIANS

---



## OF THE WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION

---

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

# HIGHLIGHTS

## OF THE PAST YEAR IN PICTURES



### **AUTHOR DISCUSSION**

with Rev. Laura Bratton on "Harnessing Courage: Overcoming Adversity with Grit and Gratitude"



**CONTEXT: AN UNCOMMON BIBLE STUDY** with our ecumenical partners and Dr. Elaine Pagels, Princeton's world-renowned Early Christianity scholar



### **2017 COMMENCEMENTS**

Len and Andrew with Mads Benishek at Princeton Theological Seminary's 2017 commencement

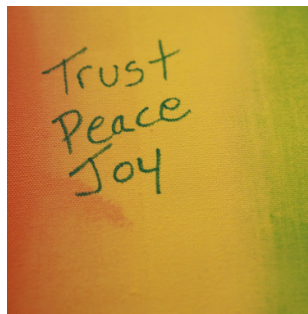


### **GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER POTLUCK**

at Len and Andrew's over the summer of 2017



**CELEBRATING THE FIRST DAY OF FALL CLASSES** for 2017 by giving away 200 sliders and raising money for hurricane relief with our ecumenical partners



**COMMUNITY PRAYERS** –detail of one of the many prayers for the year on the custom communion cloth for the fall of 2017, used weekly at Breaking Bread Worship



**MIDTERMS STUDY BREAK** means pancakes and positivity as we treat undergraduate students to PJ's Pancake House



**CHEERS TO THE REFORMATION** graduate students celebrate the 500th anniversary of the reformation at the Yankee Doodle Tap Room



# CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE CO-DIRECTORS



**Dear Friends of  
Princeton Presbyterians,**

It is a joy to write and share the good news of God's faithfulness among undergraduate and graduate students in Princeton, NJ.

A highlight of the year was Breaking Bread's Easter Worship. We baptized graduate student Julian Dean, who over the course of the year experienced a spiritual renaissance. He has become a beloved member of Nassau Presbyterian Church and Princeton Presbyterians. We also rejoiced in Christ's resurrection at an Easter Feast!

Princeton Presbyterians partnered with The Episcopal Church at Princeton and The Wesley Foundation to hire local food trucks to serve over 300

"skinny pancakes" to students on Mardi Gras, as well as 200 sliders on the first day of class in Fall 2017. These food truck parties are an opportunity to share generously without conditions—a small and delicious way to reflect God's love for us and the world.

Last Spring, these partners along with the Associate Dean of the Chapel Theresa Thames began a monthly dinner and discussion series called "conTEXT: An Uncommon Bible Study." Students brainstorm the monthly topics at the intersection of society and Scripture.

We continue to serve with the Pre-Med Hospice Volunteer Program at Princeton University. Over 30 students gather with Andrew and Len to reflect on their patient visits in local hospice centers



and discuss what it means to care for patients' bodies and souls.

Some new faces this year include three field education interns from Princeton Theological Seminary! We are so pleased to mentor and serve alongside Emily Arnold, Rebekah Keazer (PU '16), and Spencer Sundem as they bring their gifts to our fellowship.

As we plan a summer trip with students to worship, work, and rest with the Taizé Community in France, your partnership in prayer and financial giving is essential. If it is possible, please consider increasing your gift from last year, or giving again if you haven't done so in a while. We are grateful to God for each of you—your generosity enables us to continue proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ among these wonderful students

For more exciting stories about this year, visit [princetonpresbys.org](http://princetonpresbys.org) or find Princeton Presbyterians on Facebook and Instagram.

Blessings,  
*The Reverends Len and Andrew Scales*



## BOARD MEMBERS

MELISSA VERHEY, PRESIDENT

DEAN FOOSE, VICE PRESIDENT

AL KAEMMERLEN '62, TREASURER

ELIZABETH GIFT, SECRETARY

JEAN BAUER

MEGAN COILEY

DAVE DAVIS

JULIAN DEAN '13

ROBERT DYKSTRA

JANET DICKERSON-STEPHENS

MICHELE MINTER

NANCY PRINCE

SHIRLEY SATTERFIELD

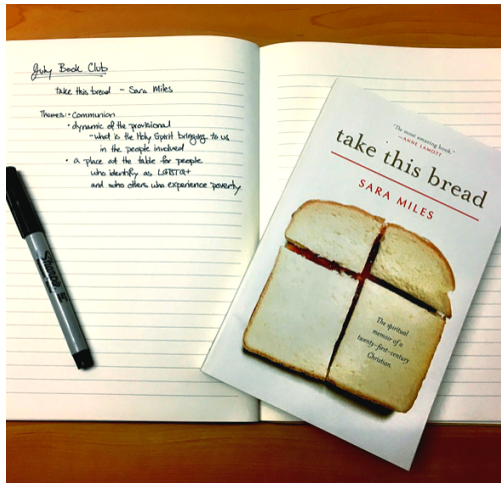
SUE RODGERS H'56

ROSAMOND VAN WINGERDEN '20



# WHAT PRINCETON PRESBYTERIANS MEANS TO ME

REFLECTION BY LAFAYETTE MATTHEWS, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2017



Princeton Presbyterians wasn't a community I set out to find, but one that found and embraced me at just the right time. As a queer and trans person, my relationship with God and the church had suffered from the hateful rhetoric and exclusion found in many Christian communities. So when Tara Woodard-Lehman approached me at the LGBT Center Welcome BBQ and invited me to her house in the cemetery, I was confused. It was part open-mic, part food and fellowship, and only a little Jesus. So I went and stumbled into a group of spiritual, inquisitive, and open people who welcomed me as I was.



By the time I started going to Breaking Bread Worship, it was a new school year and Andrew and Len had taken over as the Presbyterian chaplains. Once more, I felt nervous - would people remember me from last year, would they accept me? They did. Breaking Bread was just a five-minute walk from my dorm room, but it allowed me to escape the Orange Bubble and consider my life through a different lens. In a tumultuous year for our community and our country, I felt called to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. The people I met at Breaking Bread became cherished friends and mentors. I am so grateful for the Princeton Presbyterians' community and love.

# WHY I GIVE

REFLECTION FROM JANET DICKERSON-STEPHENS, WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER

Parker Palmer, the Quaker scholar/activist who is also the founder and senior partner of the Center for Courage and Renewal, has written and spoken persuasively about our need to live 'undivided lives' - lives of integrity where the wholeness of our multiple identities can be visible to others as we choose to reveal them. As a dean and campus life leader for many years, I discerned that some students who come to our campuses from faith communities found it discomfoting to reveal their spiritual identities and to sustain a relationship with their faith denomination. When I served as Vice President for Campus Life at Princeton University, I worked together with the Dean of Religious Life and her staff to create and invigorate spaces where students of all faiths - and all seekers - could feel comfortable and safe in their explorations and expressions of worship and spirituality. The campus ministries are vibrant and thriving communities, and I feel an affinity with each of them.

I support the Princeton Presbyterians because I am actively involved in the Presbyterian Church. Serving at Witherspoon Street and in the New Brunswick Presbytery has enriched my life immeasurably - they are embodiments of "Beloved Community."

I hope that those young Presbyterians and Seekers who are pursuing scholarly pursuits at the University, at the Seminary and in the surrounding region will choose to reveal their spiritual identities, share their spiritual gifts, and engage with their peers in Breaking Bread Worship, another Beloved Community formed in response to their interests, and/or in one of our local Presbyterian churches. The presence of youth and young adults in our congregations adds an intergenerational dimension that is spiritually uplifting and that reduces the demographic divide so prevalent in our communities and institutions.

May we each live lives that are "divided no more!"

## TO DONATE

**Thank you!**  
**Each gift, no matter**  
**the amount, is much**  
**appreciated.**

**1** VISIT  
[PRINCETONPRESBYS.ORG/DONATE](http://PRINCETONPRESBYS.ORG/DONATE)

**or**

**1** WRITE A CHECK PAYABLE TO THE  
"WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION"

**2** MAIL TO  
WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION  
61 NASSAU STREET  
PRINCETON, NJ 08542