



# Receive

## KAIROS

*The Voice of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Students*

9/19/2019

AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ISSUE 339

Inside: poetry, reflections,  
welcome notes, and more!

# Editor

## Sheth LaRue, Senior MDiv.

Sheth was born at a young age and has been introverted and under-confident for most of his life (except for a brief period from August 18 to August 23, 1997). Avid fan of pie and Led Zeppelin. The most famous person he ever met is a tie between Barry Lopez and Rich Karlis, neither of which are very famous. He wants humanity to be nicer, kinder, and more loving. And to laugh more. Fears spiders.



# Designer

## Reba Balint, Middler MDiv.

Reba is an AYAVA Alum and still trying to figure out this whole vocational thing. She loves denim jackets and music she wasn't yet alive to originally listen to. She believes in sharing cheerfulness whenever possible. Has deep respect/fears for bees.



## KAIROS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Kairos is the voice of the students at Austin Seminary and will publish content that contributes to the faith conversation on the APTS campus. Students, partners of students, on-campus family members, faculty and staff are welcomed to contribute submissions. Remember that we are a Beloved Community - this does not mean that you can't express a negative opinion, but it does mean that you should express it in a loving and just way. Content which attacks individuals or groups will not be run in Kairos - this is to be distinguished from content which might criticize the actions of individuals or groups.

While we are tolerant of many things, we will not tolerate:

- Openly hostile language, especially when directed at God, the Bible, the Church, other faiths, APTS, or any member of the Seminary
- Slurs against any person or group;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-religious, or bigoted language of any kind;
- Language that contains slander or defamation;
- Excessive foul language (if you have a good reason for using said language, please speak with us first and we may need to also speak with the Dean of Students);
- Lewd or inappropriate pictures

If you submit something that violates these guidelines or community guidelines we will talk with you about it first, yet we reserve the right to censor your piece or to reject it altogether. When submitting, please identify yourself by including your name and date of graduation and/or your position in the Seminary. No anonymous work will be published.

While Kairos generally carries no advertisements for sale of goods or services by individuals, exceptions may be made for the sale of a student or professor's library or other study aids. It is not possible to make all program announcements which are submitted, but Kairos will do its best to include them if provided in a reasonable time frame.

Please send submissions to:  
[sheth.larue@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:sheth.larue@student.austinseminary.edu)

## A Few Words

Savannah Caccamo, Senior MDiv

Dearest students,

Seminary will not live up to your expectations. Seminary will be everything you ever imagined and nothing like what you thought. Seminary is the most important part of your ministry and is insignificant in the scope of your life. It will hold the greatest, deepest questions within you, and yet it will give you no answers. I say this not to discourage you. Many of us have gone to great sacrifices to be here and those sacrifices are significant and faithful to your call. I say this to remind you that seminary is but a step on the journey that is your calling. It is one part of the process. If you expect it to be everything, to fill all your holes, answer all your questions, you will be disappointed. If you are ready to be changed by those around you, the students, faculty, staff, the city, the subject-matter, you will be opened up in ways you could not have dreamed.

Seminary will change you and change the way that you interact with others. But a lot of the work you need to do on your own. I came to seminary after a year of service. I expected seminary to be like the campus ministry I attended in college, where events were organized constantly. This place encourages you to make a space for yourself - don't wait for someone else to make it for you. Seminary was my first step in truly feeling like an adult.

The students at Austin Seminary have worked really hard over the years to make this a place that can truly include all voices, acknowledging the ways that living in Christian community can be hard while still encouraging us to show up for one another (lookin' at you, Beloved Community Covenant). My advice is to take seminary as it comes, but if you feel you are missing something here, go out and find it. Seminary was never meant to be everything to everyone. It is a place of learning that encourages us to ask questions, be vulnerable, and show up for one another, but it is just the first step on the journey of ministry. It is the preparation phase for our calls as pastors, chaplains, non-profit executive directors, teachers, playwrights, and the list goes on. Here we find people with similar and dissimilar spirits, who will walk with us through the questions of faith, the Hebrew and Greek, the ordination exams, the all-night study sessions. If you look around, you will see your colleagues in ministry. How cool is that?

Coming to seminary might have been the easiest or the hardest thing you have ever done. And we welcome you, no matter what! But I hope that you remember not to take yourself (or seminary, midterms, ordination exams) too seriously, because this too shall pass.

With love,  
Savannah



Welcome and Blessings  
Jacob Naron, Middler MDiv

As we head into a new year, some of us are returning for another round of this weird thing we call seminary, and some of us are trying to figure this weird place out for the first time. Whatever headspace you enter this year in, know that you are loved and welcomed here. On this threshold of something new, I would like to offer three pieces of advice to help you survive seminary.

First - read for class. But do not read everything for every class. Professors reading this might cringe at this suggestion, but I have found that it is okay to not read every single word assigned for your classes. Each semester I try to take in every word, but as the semester trucks along I find myself disappointed with my lack of reading. You will have people in your class that read everything, but do not compare yourself to them. Some people read a lot. Some do not. I do not. Join me and do not feel guilty. Read enough to know what is going on, but give yourself some slack.

Second - have someone that does not speak 'seminary' in your life. What do I mean by this? Have someone who will not want to discuss the intricacies of the Hebrew language or who will not understand what the word exegesis means. Faith is the center of our lives, but no one talks about God 24/7. It is exhausting and can burn you out if you are not careful. I have a job off campus selling shoes, and I find myself enjoying doing something that has nothing to do with God. Shoes are easy, and shoes are never theological (at least not in a way I am aware of). You do not have to get a job off campus, but do invest in a friendship that is not too theological. This could be your spouse or friends you meet at the Local. Find outside people - they will keep you grounded.

Finally, it is okay not to like everyone. Stress can make you see your fellow classmates in a not-so-loving way. However, even if you do not like someone, you must still value them as a human. We do not get to be jerks to each other just because we differ in our theological leanings or faith backgrounds. I am often reminded by my wife to step back from a situation and remember to not be a jerk. We must remember that God has gathered us together to learn from each other. Although we may not like everyone in our classes, we must refrain from overlooking their value to this community. Also, on a similar note, have someone in your life that can call you out when you are not shining the light of Christ. It is easy to get an inflated ego here so remember that everyone is called by God, not just you or me. Accountability partners are a great way to keep your jerk-ness in check.

I hope this finds you well as we begin this seminary weirdness together. Best of luck, and try not to get too stressed, if I could get through it, you can too!

# DO YOU KNOW THE AUSTIN STORY?

Learn about Austin's racial history and the issues that face its communities of color in a safe, open, and productive environment with the One Human Race Initiative.



Tuesday, September 24, 6 PM - 8:30 PM  
The UT Episcopal Student Center  
Kinsolving Parish Hall, All Saints' Episcopal Church  
209 West 27th Street

This event is **free**. Registration is required at [onehumanraceaustin.org](http://onehumanraceaustin.org).



## BREAKING DOWN THE *walls* BETWEEN US

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AUSTIN  
901 Trinity Street | Austin, TX

*Sunday, September 22*  
6:00 Rally & Spoken Word Event

*Monday, September 23*  
8:30 Registration Opens  
10:00 Worship: Emmy Kegler  
11:15 Lecture: Lai Ling Ngan  
12:15 Networking Lunches  
2:00 Lecture: Namsoon Kang  
3:15 Panel Discussion  
4:30 Dinner Break  
6:30 Worship: Traci Blackmon  
8:00 Lecture: Robyn Henderson-Espinoza

*Tuesday, September 24*  
8:00 Doors Open  
9:00 Lecture: Mihee Kim-Kort  
10:00 Interfaith Panel  
11:15 Workshops  
12:15 Lunch  
1:45 Workshops  
3:00 Lecture: Alicia Reyes-Barrientez  
4:00 Worship: Margaret Aymer

Nevertheless She Preached is a volunteer-led, grassroots movement empowering all people to dismantle patriarchal structures by elevating voices of faith leaders on the margins.

We hope you'll consider joining us at our third annual conference, Sept. 22-24, in Austin, TX! You'll have the chance to hear and learn from preachers, scholars, poets, and community leaders like Traci Blackmon, Mihee Kim Kort, Emmy Kegler, Robyn Henderson-Espinoza, Margaret Aymer, Lai Ling Ngan, Alicia Reyes-Barrientez, Namsoon Kang, and more! Discounted price available for students! Find out more and register at [shepreached2019.eventbrite.com](http://shepreached2019.eventbrite.com)

The Austin Story (our one-evening presentation about Austin's racial history)

hosted by the UT Episcopal Student Center  
Tues Sept. 24, 6 PM - 8:30 PM  
Kinsolving Parish Hall, All Saint's Episcopal Church  
209 West 27th St.

The One Human Race Workshop  
Sat Oct 12, 9 AM - 5:30 PM  
St. James' Episcopal Church  
1941 Webberville Rd

You can get further information or register at [onehumanraceaustin.org](http://onehumanraceaustin.org).

TEXT @apts101  
TO 81010

Stay Connected  
with remind

STAY IN THE KNOW ABOUT:  
CAMPUS EVENTS, STUDENT ACTIVITIES,  
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS, & MORE!

STUDENT  
SENATE

## From Your Senators - APTS Student Senate

Whether you're joining us for the first time or are returning to Austin Seminary: welcome! We're excited to be able to work for and with y'all this year! As this year's Student Senate, we're here to serve as your voice to the wider Seminary community. Our purpose is to facilitate communication, connections, dialogue and decisions which support the community in its efforts to: serve/worship God; nurture individuals and grow relationships; and cultivate spiritual growth and leadership within the student body. For any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have, the Senate is your platform.

During the summer, the Senate brought up various issues and concerns to address this year: improving communication, service, spirituality, and transparency for students. As such, we selected the theme of Connection for the year. We feel this holistically encompasses our aspirations, including the ideas of service, hospitality, and communication both within and outside our Seminary, and prioritizes strengthening these elements for students.

Some new and exciting developments include our new communication initiatives: Senate Newsletter (Mailchimp), campus reminders (Remind), and Student Leadership coordination (Slack). Additionally, Senate is committed to student groups, creating new resources as well as holding our first ever orientation for student group leaders while also investing in our Student Activities Fair. We've also allocated funds to help make our Community Cupboard - a safety net for our students in times of need - more sustainable. Lastly, we've planned service events aimed to empower students in their action. And this is just the first month!

As the students' voice, Senate consists of two Senators from each student class, as well as one Master of Arts Senator, representing the Youth Ministry, Theological Studies, and Ministry Practice programs. In addition to the senators, the Student Body President presides over the Senate meetings and works with Senate for the students.

\*The MA and Junior Senators are elected early in the Fall semester; be sure to nominate yourself or someone you know to be a part of the team!

Wondering how you can, or why you should get involved in the Senate's work? Each of the Senators, excluding the Secretary and Treasurer, head Commissions that help to uniquely serve the seminary community. These commissions can be joined without election, so contact us if you are interested in participating! The commissions are:

Community Care -  
supports community through prayer and outreach

Connections -  
fosters connections with student groups and Senate

Fellowship -  
plans social/recreational activities for the seminary

Koinonia -  
plans Tuesday Koinonia gatherings

Outreach -  
promotes outreach both within and beyond the seminary

Our Senate meets twice a month and all are welcome. Meeting dates are announced through email at least 3 days in advance. Additionally, we have one Student Body Meeting per semester, which will be announced soon! We look forward to a great year of serving. Know that you're always welcome and that your voice truly matters.

Don't be a stranger. Stay involved. Stay connected.

### Our 2019-2020 Student Senate:

Senior: Jean Corbitt & Chelsea May Law

Middler: Allen "A.J." Roberts & Rachel Watson

Junior: TBD\*

MA: TBD\*

President: Usama Malik



### APTS Polity Bowl & Holy Spirit Squad

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide an enthusiastic/athletic/creative outlet to promote school spirit.

Polity Bowl - [nick.demuynck@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:nick.demuynck@student.austinseminary.edu)  
Karen Sprouse - [karen.sprouse@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:karen.sprouse@student.austinseminary.edu)

### African & African Descendent Student Group

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide support for and address concerns particular to African-American students. Our goal is to serve and support each other, the APTS community and the larger Austin area.

### Artists in Austin

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

Artists in Austin seeks to engage the Seminary community with the greater arts community in Austin, honoring both the artists at work on our campus and the artists at work in Austin. Artists in Austin wants to support student artists in their ongoing artistic process and facilitate opportunities for the greater seminary community to engage with the city's plentiful art offerings.

Contact - [reba.balint@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:reba.balint@student.austinseminary.edu)

### Latinx Student Association

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide a forum for students of Latinx decent to support each other and build community/network through the sharing of ethnic and religious experiences. As a student-centered organization, the group will provide opportunities to address specific concerns, issues and challenges in the community relating to Latinx within the APTS community. In addition, students will have opportunities to serve the APTS community and also the greater Austin community.

### Methodist Student Group

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

To establish a connection among Methodist Students for fellowship and discussion of relevant issues.

Contact - [jesse.hinds@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:jesse.hinds@student.austinseminary.edu)

### MSSW/MDIV Student Group

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide support to and a community for current dual degree students and a place where inquiring students might learn more and get questions answered.

Contact - [taylor.mclean@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:taylor.mclean@student.austinseminary.edu)

### Queer Alliance

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

Queer Alliance celebrates the imago Dei in all of God's children, recognizing God's creative power in all gender and sexual identities. Thus, the mission of Queer Alliance is to create a welcoming, supportive, and brave space within the APTS community for LGBTQIA+ persons and allies through fellowship, education, worship, and advocacy both in and beyond the walls of our seminary.

Contact - [kimberlee.runnion@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:kimberlee.runnion@student.austinseminary.edu)

### Seminarians withOut Borders

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

Exists to faithfully witness to the plight of immigrants in the United States, both on our border and in our local community.

Contact - [savannah.caccamo@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:savannah.caccamo@student.austinseminary.edu)

### S.O.S. (Supporters of Seminarians)

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

To offer support for and create a community among spouses, partners, couples, families, and students, while enhancing the experience of and the atmosphere at APTS.

Contact - [Sarah.Matt.matts@yarcom.com](mailto:Sarah.Matt.matts@yarcom.com)

### Students for Social and Environmental Justice

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

To encourage students to live out our ideals of social justice and environmental care as members of the body of Christ.

Contact - [nick.demuynck@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:nick.demuynck@student.austinseminary.edu)  
[jonathan.freeman@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:jonathan.freeman@student.austinseminary.edu)

### Threshold to Chaplaincy

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

As we stand at the threshold of learning we strive to be spiritual healers to those encountering a threshold in their lives. This group seeks to inform and guide students on the education requirements, volunteer opportunities, current events, and work options in the chaplaincy field.

Contact - [karen.sprouse@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:karen.sprouse@student.austinseminary.edu)

# STUDENT GROUPS!



#### AYAVA House

Megan McMillan, Admissions Associate and AYAVA House Coordinator

Hello APTS Community! I am so excited about the upcoming year and the community that will be cultivated in the AYAVA House here on Austin Seminary's campus. We have seven AmeriCorps volunteers that are housed on our campus this year. They come to Austin from North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Illinois, New Hampshire, and Louisiana to serve our great city. The AYAVA House - Austin Young Adult Volunteers and AmeriCorps - was birthed nine years ago out of the Admissions Office when they saw a need as young adults were moving to Austin for a year of service craving a space to belong. Therefore, the AYAVA House at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary was created as an Intentional Community following the guiding principles of vocational discernment, service to the community, theological reflection, engagement in spiritual practices, and simple living. Please join me in welcoming these incredible people to our community.

First Row: Nick Demuyne (AYAVA House Liaison), Megan McMillan (AYAVA House Coordinator), Anna Latimer, Shannon Brooks, Len King  
Second Row: Rachel Peterson, Josi Carder, Alexandria Jordan, Jill Morrone



Shannon Brooks is 22 years old from just north of Chicago. She attended Knox College and earned a BA in Spanish. This year, she is serving at Breakthrough Central Texas. A fun fact about her: "I taught myself to play 'Wonderwall' on the piano so I could say 'anyway, here's Wonderwall' and then play it."

Anna Latimer is 22 years old from Georgia. She earned her BA in Early Childhood Education and Spanish from Wesleyan College. This year, Anna is serving Literacy First as a tutor. Anna has been riding horses for 7 years and has learned the basics of English and Western riding.

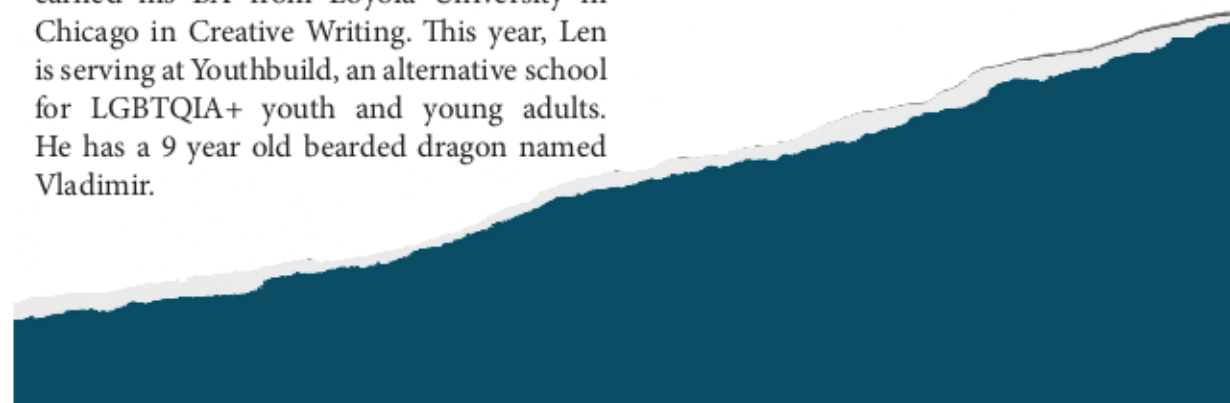
Josi Carder is 23 years old from North Carolina. She earned her BA in Sociology and Philosophy from Appalachian State University. This year, she is serving at Literacy First as a tutor. Josi loves the blues, dancing, and swimming.

Jill Morrone is 24 years old and from New Hampshire. She earned her BA in Communications from The University of New Hampshire. She is embarking on her second year of service. This year, Jill is serving Literacy First as a tutor. She has been playing the piano since she was 6!

Alexandria Jordan is 22 years old from Louisiana. She earned a BA in Psychology from Louisiana State University. This year, Alexandria is serving 4-H teaching third graders to garden. She, herself, loves to garden!

Rachel Peterson is 25 years old from North Carolina. She earned her BA in Philosophy from Appalachian State University. This year, she is serving Literacy First as a tutor. Rachel self-published a book of poetry on Amazon. It's called "For You: A Raw Draft". Check it out!

Len King is 25 years old from Alabama. He earned his BA from Loyola University in Chicago in Creative Writing. This year, Len is serving at Youthbuild, an alternative school for LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults. He has a 9 year old bearded dragon named Vladimir.



Your Resident Assistants are always here to save the day, but there's only so much we can do! Here's a helpful list of who to call and when to call them.

McCoy RA – Lex Allum  
Anderson RA – Kimberlee Runnion  
Duplexes RA – Carrie Winebrenner  
Currie RA – Stephen Milburn

McCord Front Desk – 512-404-4800  
On-Call RA – 512-522-9192  
Normal Maintenance – [mr@austinseminary.edu](mailto:mr@austinseminary.edu)  
Emergency Maintenance – 512-900-1902  
IT Department—512-404-4820 or  
[it@austinseminary.edu](mailto:it@austinseminary.edu)

When you call/email anyone concerning your home, please be sure to include your name, building and number, and a phone number where you can be reached.

#### LOCKED OUT OF YOUR HOME?

If you find yourself locked out, here's what to do:

If the McCord desk is open, go to the McCord desk and get the spare key.

#### McCord Desk Hours

Monday–Friday:	8:30 am–8:00pm
Saturday:	10:00 am–5:00 pm
Sunday:	3:00 pm–8:00 pm

All other days and hours, call the RA Lock Out number: 512-522-9192.

- The RAs have one hour to respond to a lock-out call. Please note that on Sunday mornings this might be a little longer because of church attendance.
- If your key card is not working, the RA can let you into your home, but you will need to contact maintenance for a repair/replacement.
- Your first lockout is free; each additional lockout will incur a \$10 fee (billed to your student account).

#### POWER OUT?

When your power is out, determine if it's your home or the entire building. If it is just your home, you can check your breaker box yourself, or you can contact maintenance to have them restore your power. If it is your entire building, contact your building RA—do not contact maintenance.

#### NO WATER?

Check your email to make sure it wasn't a planned shut-off. If no notices were given, contact maintenance.

#### ISSUES INSIDE YOUR HOME?

Stove not working? Refrigerator not cold enough? No A/C? Front door not working? Elevator not working? Doors not closing? Contact normal maintenance.

#### EMERGENCY ISSUES WITHIN YOUR HOME?

Leaking pipes? Backed up toilet? Garage doors not operating? Contact emergency maintenance.

#### NO INTERNET?

Contact the IT department.

#### NOISY NEIGHBORS?

Campus-wide quiet hours are 10:30 pm–7 am. If your neighbors are too noisy during quiet hours, try speaking to them first. If the noise does not stop, contact your building RA.

#### CAR TOWED?

Contact Space Makers Towing: 512-961-3076/

#### MEDICAL OR OTHER EMERGENCY?

In case of emergency, if you feel you are in immediate danger, or to report a crime that is in progress or has just occurred, call 911 or use the blue Emergency Phones. For non-emergency police assistance, call 311.

All emergencies should be reported to Heather Zdancewicz and Sarah Gaventa.

Dear Members of the Austin Seminary Family,

Greetings to you all in the language of love and peace, and in any other you call your own. Whether you're returning on the seminary journey, or just beginning it, welcome! I've mentioned previously that Seminary can often times feel like a gray area of life, leaving you hard-pressed to truly be able to make sense of it. However, I can guarantee you that you'll probably never encounter a more colorful gray area of your life, literally and metaphorically, here at Austin Seminary. Despite the fact that I wasn't able to realize this until my second year, know that it is never too late. I never felt out of place as I became more involved and active within the community, ultimately seeing the beauty, tranquility, and blessings this place has to offer.

Similarly, my hope for each of you is that regardless of where you are in life - know this community will always be ready for you when you are ready for it. Not often is it that we choose to embark on a journey alone. Many of us bring with us our loved ones to accompany us. In addition, many of us also bring things that make this journey even more arduous, whether from our past, mental/physical health struggles, and ever-present financial stresses, among others. It is my hope that Austin Seminary, as an institution and community, can be the support you need it to be, to meet you where you are, wherever and whenever you are needing it.

During this journey our differences may inevitably bring us into tension and conflict with one another. Aside from aspiring to love one another as ourselves, know that we are all like-travelers of life making a brief stop here. We should thus hope to leave this place better than we found it, mindful and respectful both to those who host us and those who wayfare with us. Regardless of our differences, we all find our paths crossed here - in learning, in trial, in community - together.

Additionally, regardless of where we came from, we all came with a desire to serve in some capacity. Thus, I am hopeful that for this year, and beyond, we can grow together in this service for God and creation, amalgamated through our individual expressions of love for God. A wise scholar once said, "If you love the art, you must love the artist, and if you love the creation, you must love the Creator." By living in community, serving one another, and working together to serve others, I hope that we can foster this love, and truly serve, whether our neighbors, communities, families, or one another.

In serving as your Student Body President, it is the greatest honor to be able to serve all of you. Please contact me as you may, whether with questions about study tips, student leadership, or if just needing a listening ear. I'm here for each and every one of you, and know that this institution is too.

Humbly,

Usama Malik

PS: You can also find me in the SAV alongside an all-star lineup of the Seminary's finest staff and snacks!





And  
Jonathan Freeman, Middler MDiv

So!  
Another special someone,  
Spewed on our sacred shore.  
Care to compare fish?

Or better yet-  
Let's look before the storm.  
What hasn't brought you here?  
What stayed on the boat?

Whatever it is-  
Wherever it is-  
We welcome it.

We welcome it to Tarshish.  
And to Nineveh.  
And to Seas where Spirits swim  
Between.

Welcome to what's left;  
Welcome to what's not yet;  
Welcome to the work;  
And welcome to the sweat.

God knows it's hot out here,  
And my generation is notoriously bad at  
keeping plants alive...  
But the Gospel is this:

You'll never be ready.  
And  
You'll never be alone.

## Let's Talk About Alcohol

Sheth LaRue, Senior MDiv

Seminary is great – we get to spend our time learning about God, creation, and humanity while adding some five-dollar words to our vocabulary (ask Brendan how to use them in normal conversations). Some of this classroom information may be new to you and some of it may just be a refresher, but if you haven't heard it yet, let me be the first to tell you: seminary is tough. You're going to be challenged by impossible time constraints while trying to write long papers on one word as you wrestle with long-held personal beliefs. Your sleep is going to be less, your good eating habits will dwindle, and you'll be looking for avenues of respite.

Alcohol is an easy way to escape the pressures you'll face in seminary, but it's not the best way to escape. Hear me out - I think drinking is allowed, but it should be approached with limitations. Be mindful of how much you drink, when you drink, and why you're drinking. We're all going to have moments when we drink too much, and we should apply an over-abundance of grace to ourselves in these moments. Once the mind is cleared from the hangover fog, take some time to evaluate why we overdid it, what got us into that situation, and how we can avoid it in the future.

And let's look out for each other and keep one another accountable. If you see your friends spending too much time and money on alcohol, don't be afraid to talk to them about it. If you think you need to intervene or shed light on the situation, by all means do so. Let them know that you're concerned about them and approach these moments with love and grace for the whole person. Remember: you are not the Savior and can only do/say so much - you cannot cure them, you cannot save them, you cannot make them change.

If you think you may have a problem with drinking or are unsure of how to start these conversations with your friends, please don't hesitate to contact Sarah Gaventa in the SAV. If you find her to be too intimidating (or want more info) check out these resources:

- Alcoholics Anonymous - [www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/find-aa-resources](http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/find-aa-resources)
- Smart Recovery - [www.smartrecovery.org/](http://www.smartrecovery.org/)
- Women for Sobriety - <https://womenforsobriety.org/>

If you have an alcoholic in your life and need assistance, you can find help at:

- Al Anon - [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)
- Alcohol.org - [www.alcohol.org/helping-an-alcoholic/friend/](http://www.alcohol.org/helping-an-alcoholic/friend/)

[Acknowledging that alcohol consumption on campus is an on-going issue, we're using space in Kairos for students to speak about their experiences with alcohol. How has alcohol affected your life? What outcomes have you seen from using alcohol? What have been your experiences with sobriety? How do we/can we balance drinking and faith? How would you suggest we partake? If you'd like to contribute to this discussion, contact Sheth LaRue for more info.]



## A Second Career

Kelly Bratkowski, Middler MDiv

On the morning of September 4th, 2018, I awoke with a distantly familiar feeling – the first day of school jitters. Admittedly, the seemingly temporary nature of this anxiety was a nice respite from the overarching anxieties that had accompanied the decision to leave a career for an uncertain future. Still, the nervousness of entering a classroom was not something that I expected to experience at age 34.

It had been almost a decade since I last planned for the start of a school semester. The well-known concerns of where I would sit and what my professors would be like were there, but they were accompanied by a new set of worries: Do I take notes on a computer or notebook? Do people even use notebooks anymore? How far in advance should I start studying for an exam? Will I remember how to write a research paper? After a few weeks, I began to realize that while my break from school may have created some challenges, my workplace experiences taught me time-management and organizational skills which were a huge asset to me in the classroom.

One day, as I was surrounded by books and notecards and feeling the stress of studying for my first round of midterms, I was overcome by an imposing thought: This is my job. I reflected on how just one year prior I was spending the majority of my time stressed out over writing performance evaluations and relishing in my moments of free time where I could read and journal about theology. Now, I was given the opportunity to dedicate the majority of my time to learn from talented and insightful professors, to read, to write, and to study. I was fighting back tears as I was overwhelmed with a feeling of gratitude. I understood that I would gladly trade the stress of writing productivity reports for the stress of writing a theological paper debating the authority of Scripture. While the uncertainty of my future still existed, in that moment I knew that I was called to seminary and that I was exactly where I was meant to be.

If you are reading this and have struggled with the anxieties that come with being a second-career seminary student, my recommendation to you is to let your anxiety drive your passion. At some point you felt a call in your heart that gave you the courage to leave something behind to begin something new. Trust that call and dive into seminary with the same hunger that led you here. Old study habits will come back and worries about the future will remain, but while you are here, take the time to cherish this opportunity that you have been given. Three years in a classroom is sure to go by just as quickly as three years behind a desk did.



the back page – Sheth LaRue, Senior MDiv

Growing up in and around the church, I was no stranger to the potluck. Before me on the tables were twenty-four feet of mystery food: cream of \_\_\_\_\_ used as casserole binding agents...vegetables in various stages of preparation...what did Esther put in her meatloaf? It was a gastronomic gamble.

What I loved about these potlucks was that they were similar to the Biblical lovefeasts - times for believers to gather and share a common meal. People certainly ate their fill, but they also talked about their lives and shared their stories. We see these lovefeasts a few times in the New Testament (1 Cor 11:20-43; Jude 12; 2 Pet 2:13), mostly when the text's authors are admonishing the participants for being greedy, impatient, and unwelcoming.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul was dealing with these exact issues. He had known about the Christian community's ill treatment of one another and had written to gently coax them towards a better way of living. In an effort to inform and educate the community, Paul used the word προσλαμβάνεσθε (proslambanesthe) in 14:1 and 15:7 – this word's root is defined: “to receive or accept in one's society, in(to) one's home or circle of acquaintances.”[1] This definition, like blueberry pie at the potluck, is pretty filling, but not great. But I think this gets more to the heart of what Paul was saying: “to receive kindly or hospitably, admit to one's society and friendship, treat with kindness.”[2] This definition is like the fresh, warm chicken breast at the bottom of the KFC bucket – it's got meat on it and tastes good as I chew on it.

Paul could have easily used δέχομαι (dechomai) when he said that the Romans should welcome/accept one another, but he chose the more intense προσλαμβάνεσθε. Paul didn't want the community to simply say hi and shake a hand; he wanted them to bring others in, give them a place at the table, and treat them as life-long friends. Paul isn't suggesting that the Romans welcome one another, he is commanding that they make this welcoming and receiving a habitual practice, and that they do it immediately.

As we begin this new academic year, I pray that we all can “Accept [προσλαμβάνεσθε] one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God” (Rom. 15:7, NIV). These words were written to the Romans, but I think we can put them into practice. Where can we find spaces to receive others in? What does it look like to have a common meal? How can we meet together in friendship and kindness? When can we invite others to our Lord's table to join in the great lovefeast that has been set before us?

May we always welcome people with haste, may we generously pour out our kindness, and may we do so with loving intensity.

much love. sheth.

[1] William F. Arndt, et. al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979), 717.

[2] “προσλαμβάνω” Bill Mounce, accessed 9/4/2019, <https://www.billmounce.com/greek-dictionary/proslambano>

# 2019 Calendar

SEPT 10	Chapel Service - Dr. Suzie Park, preaching APTS Student Activities Fair Junior Senator Nominations	Shelton Chapel 11:10 AM Stotts 12:10 PM
SEPT 12	Morning Prayer Merit Scholars & Fellows Luncheon	Shelton Chapel 11:10 AM Knox 12:00 PM
SEPT 13	Student Senate Meeting	Knox 11:30 AM
SEPT 16	Lunch w/Students - Presbyterian Sallie Watson ASA Fall Dinner	TBD 12:00 PM Knox 12:00 PM Stotts 5:30 PM
SEPT 17	Chapel Service - Rev. Sarah Gaventia, preaching APTS Student Senate Elections begin	Shelton Chapel 11:10 AM
SEPT 19	Morning Prayer Constitution Day, Dr. Gary Bledsoe	Shelton Chapel 11:30 AM McMillan 210, 12:00 PM
SEPT 20	Dual Degree Luncheon Mission Presbytery CPM	Knox 12:00 PM McCord 203 8:00 AM
SEPT 23	Open House @ President's Manse - Incoming juniors & spouses/partners	6:30 PM
SEPT 24	Chapel Service - Rev. Bobbi Kaye Jones, preaching	Shelton Chapel 11:10 AM
SEPT 25	SPM Orientation II	
SEPT 26	Morning Prayer PCUSA Vocation & Placement Seminar	Shelton Chapel 11:30 AM McCord 204 12:00 PM
OCT 1	Chapel Service - Dr. Margaret Aymer, preaching	Shelton Chapel 11:10 AM
OCT 3	Non-PCUSA Vocation & Placement Seminar	McCord 12:00 PM
OCT 7	Middler Class Meeting	McCord 204 12:00 PM
OCT 9	Senior Class Meeting	McCord 204 11:30 AM

# KAIROS

**What's Kairos?** Once upon a time a creative writing journal and a church newsletter had a wild tryst out behind the Smoot house. It was a torrid love affair and a short seven months later, under a waning gibbous moon, Kairos was born.

Kairos is actually one of the voices of the students...it's whatever the students want it to be. For now, it's a place for students to write and express themselves, but it's also a place for the student body to communicate so we know when and where to eat free food on campus. It's a place to practice writing difficult things in 500 words or less. It's a place to share your poetry.

**Can I write for Kairos?** Please do! You're highly encouraged to write for Kairos! On the back of this paper you'll find monthly themes - you can choose to write on those topics, or it can be on something completely different! Please don't hesitate to contribute - we really want to give you ample opportunity and practice writing to a specific audience on a specific issue.

**What do I need to do to write for Kairos?** Check out the submission guidelines. Follow them. Let the spirit move through you. Read our prompts for the year to give you some creative starts. Remember that you're part of a beloved community, and what you write is saved in the seminary archives for all eternity. ALL ETERNITY!

**What else do I need to know?** God loves you. You're pretty great. You *can* write...or draw...or take pictures. Send it to us and we'll try to get it in print.

## Kairos Submission Guidelines

Kairos is the voice of the students at Austin Seminary and will publish content that contributes to the faith conversation on the APTS campus. Students, partners of students, on-campus family members, faculty and staff are welcomed to contribute submissions. Remember that we are a Beloved Community - this does not mean that you can't express a negative opinion, but it does mean that you should express it in a loving and just way. Content which attacks individuals or groups will not be run in Kairos - this is to be distinguished from content which might criticize the actions of individuals or groups.

While we are tolerant of many things, we will not tolerate:

- Openly hostile language, especially when directed at God, the Bible, the Church, other faiths, APTS, or any member of the Seminary;
- Slurs against any person or group;
- Racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, anti-religious, or bigoted language of any kind;
- Language that contains slander or defamation;
- Excessive foul language (if you have a good reason for using said language, please speak with us first and we may need to also speak with the Dean of Students);
- Lewd or inappropriate pictures

If you submit something that violates these guidelines or community guidelines we will talk with you about it first, yet we reserve the right to censor your piece or to reject it altogether. When submitting, please identify yourself by including your name and date of graduation and/or your position in the Seminary. No anonymous work will be published.

While Kairos generally carries no advertisements for sale of goods or services by individuals, exceptions may be made for the sale of a student or professor's library or other study aids. It is not possible to make all program announcements which are submitted, but Kairos will do its best to include them if provided in a reasonable time frame.

Please send submissions to: sheth.larue@student.austinseminary.edu



# 2019-2020 WRITING PROMPTS

## November. "Breaking Bread"

We're entering the seasons of big meals, rarely-seen cousins, and divisive discussions – how do you enjoy these times when it can be so contentious? How can we live out peaceable meals in our world today? What do you think a good meal with a few enemies would do for you? How do we bring people to the table to eat, to talk, to share? What are some ways to work towards ecumenism in your personal life?

## December. "Immanuel"

Matthew 1:22-23 – "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')." What the heck is Advent anyway? What have you been waiting for this year? How hopeful are you that God will break in to your life – your world – just as God broke in all those years ago? What does 'Immanuel' – God with us – mean to you? Why do you (or don't you) celebrate Advent, Christmas, all of this holiday stuff? How is this Christmas/Advent going to be different from last years'?

## January. "A Day On, Not a Day Off."

Martin Luther King, Jr. – "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve." In 1994, the U.S. Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and is observed as 'a day on, not a day off'. How have you seen the Church promote service – and has it been in an unselfish way? What is a good story of your service in this world? Are Dr. King's words true – that anybody can serve? How have you witnessed/been a part of acts of service building bridges and solving social problems? Can service truly move us closer to Dr. King's vision of a 'Beloved Community'?

## February. "Love/Loss"

Valentine's Day can be great or gross...and when churches get involved in love, sometimes it can get downright weird. How have you seen the Church promote healthy relationships, and how can we work to make this even better than it is now? Is the Church okay with singleness (as the apostle Paul was), or do you think there's a push to be in a relationship? What business does God have in our personal and intimate relationships? Does the Church handle break-ups well? How does the Church handle divorce (good, bad, indifferent)? What are some ways we can better minister to those in relationships (good ones, bad ones, none)?

## March. "Mental Health"

Our emotional, psychological, and social well-being affects how we think, feel, and act; it determines how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. How does the Church react to mental health issues, and are these responses helpful or hurtful? What have been your experiences at the intersection of faith and mental health? How do we balance science and the Spirit, the facts and the Faith? How do we as faith leaders address mental health issues in our communities?

## April. "Food"

How have you seen food bring people together for good? What's your favorite Biblical food story? What's a secret family recipe that's important to you, and why is it important (Share the recipe with us?!). Have you had a turbulent relationship with food...how has that affected you, and how has it affected your faith? What words of encouragement would you offer to others who may be wrestling with food?

## May. "Leaving"

Acts 20:38 – "What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again." Having spent at least three years at APTS, what's it like to leave? What's it like to know you're probably never going to see your classmates again? How do we leave places well? How can we maintain relationships at a distance? What words of advice/hope/blessing would you like to give those who are graduating this year? ...to those who are going to be remaining in school?