



Immanuel

KAIROS

The Voice of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Students

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AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ISSUE 342

Inside: poetry, reflections,
winter tips, and more!

Editor

Sheth LaRue, Senior MDiv.

Sheth was born at a young age and has been introverted and underconfident 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



We Are - Jonathan Freeman, Middler MDiv.

I wear a watch when I'm alone
Not to tell the time
Just to listen to it tick

Every second
Turning into an instant
Every atom
Leaning in to listen
All of us straining for the moment

Not when-
Just that-

Through every silent second
And the ticking in between

There will be.
There is.
We are.



Campus Operations - Sarah Gomez

Greetings, APTS Community! As we wrap up the fall semester and approach the Christmas break, please note the following information regarding campus operations.

McCord Desk - The McCord Desk will close at 5:00PM Friday, December 20, 2019 and will be closed for the entire break period. The desk will re-open at 8:30AM Monday, January 6, 2020.

Southern Food Service - will close for the break after lunch on Friday, Dec. 13th and will be closed for the entire break. Food service will resume with the breakfast meal on Monday, January 6th.

Parking - Towing has been suspended for Christmas break so friends and family don't have to worry about being towed. Normal parking enforcement will resume on Monday, January 6, 2020

Lockout - If you have been locked out of your home during the holiday break, please contact an RA at 512-522-9192.

Maintenance - For general maintenance requests, please submit a maintenance request at mr@austinseminary.edu. If you have an EMERGENCY maintenance issue, please contact the on-call maintenance staff member at 512-900-1902.

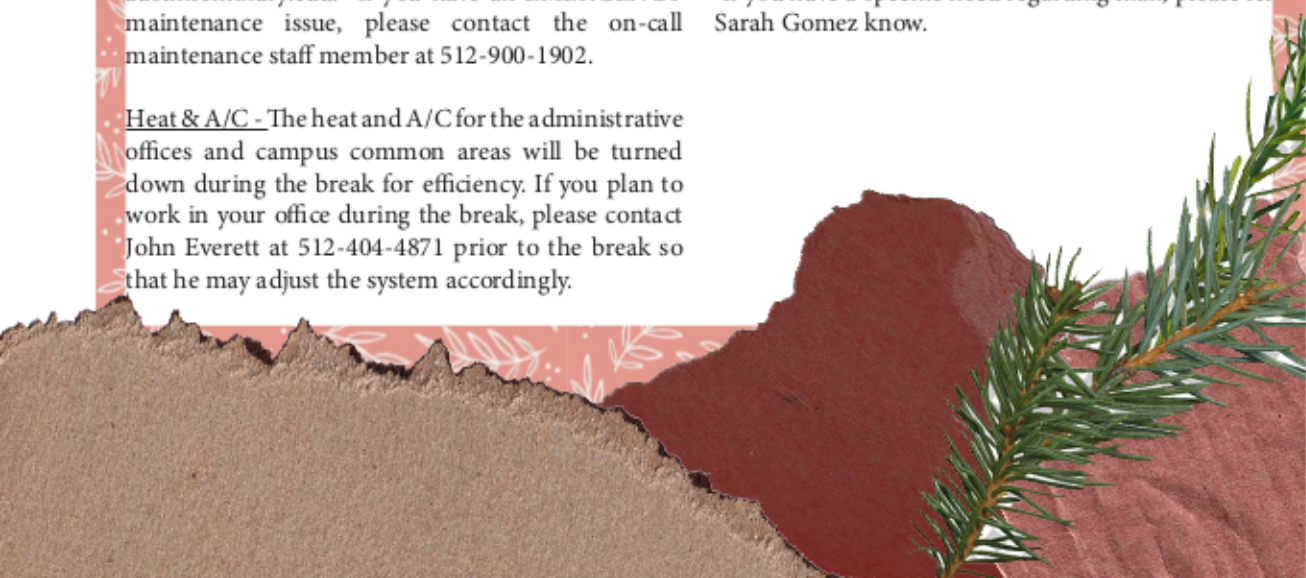
Heat & A/C - The heat and A/C for the administrative offices and campus common areas will be turned down during the break for efficiency. If you plan to work in your office during the break, please contact John Everett at 512-404-4871 prior to the break so that he may adjust the system accordingly.


Mail Service - USPS mail will be sorted intermittently over the break for the students; however, there will be no mail delivery [to staff and faculty offices] until we return from the break. The mailroom lobby is accessible using the afterhours code. If you do not have this code, please contact Sarah Gomez.

Package Delivery - FedEx, UPS, DHL have been instructed to not deliver any packages over the holiday break. If you are expecting a package, I encourage you to receive it at your house or other site. If you have a foreseeable urgent need for delivery to the Seminary, please make arrangements with the sender and /or the outside shipper.

If you are having a package delivered by Amazon Delivery service, there is no way to stop this service. I highly encourage you to have it shipped to arrive here before the break or receive it at another location. If you have a foreseeable urgent need for delivery to the Seminary, please make arrangements with the sender and /or the outside shipper. When the school is closed, Amazon delivery workers will leave the packages in front of the McCord Building where anyone can walk off with them.

If you have a specific need regarding mail, please let Sarah Gomez know.





Library Hours

Stitt Library continues its regular hours through December 13th (the end of the semester).

The library is CLOSED December 14, 2019, through Sunday, January 5, 2020.

Hours January 6-February 9


Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: CLOSED

Sunday: 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The library will be CLOSED Monday, January 20 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday



Adventus - Rev. Dr. Paul K. Hooker, Associate Dean, Ministerial and Advanced Studies

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem..."

Luke 2:15

What proximate apocalypse arrives tomorrow?
Lost key lost love cancer butterfly extinction
blood on the floor of sanctuaries schoolhouse—
must we endure yet more of heaven's plan?
Do you dare to raise your eyes, peek between
the stars to see the angels turn for home
after they have rearranged your dreams?
After the dream comes the dark.

"Be not afraid": why do the blessed say this
when the only reasonable response is fear
or maybe flight if you can make your feet work?
Are you not supposed to fear the beast?
When you meet a bear—or host of angels—
with your back against the wall, will you stand
your ground before the feral claws of glory?
After the glory comes the dark.

Do you yearn to leave the sheep and wander
into town to search for manger mother
child aglow with heaven's subtle light;
leave the eastern palaces to track a star,
offer homage at the hard world's fraying edge;
leave the boats and nets and trail a migrant
preacher pinned like a butterfly to a cross?
After the cross comes the dark.

And who knows what might happen in the dark?

From Days and Times: Poems from the Liturgy of Living
(Eugene: Resource Publications, 2018). Used with permission of the author.



the back page - Sheth LaRue, Senior MDiv.

In the opening chapter of the gospel of Matthew we meet Joseph dreaming (familiar story, different character). We're given some facts about the Mary/Joseph relationship - she, pregnant and he, committed - and then an angel appears in the man's dream. This angel makes a proclamation: don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife...she'll have a son and "you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21, NRSV).

The author then makes a comment, quoting Isaiah 7:14, "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." The author transliterates and defines the Hebrew word עִמָּנוּאֵל for his readers: "...Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'"

We'll briefly skip forward to the closing chapter of the gospel of Matthew, where we find Jesus reiterating his Emmanuel-ness: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:20, NRSV)

This Emmanuel-ness is significant for Jesus, as Douglas R.A. Hare points out: "In a remarkably succinct way the full significance of Jesus' life and work is caught in this functional definition of who Jesus is."¹ Jesus' Emmanuel-ness isn't merely something that he is, it is something that he does - this 'God with us' is part of the bigger Divine salvific plan. The Emmanuel is at the start of the gospel and is at the end of it as well.

Why would Matthew bookend the gospel with the Emmanuel, the 'God is with us'? From the very beginning of his life Jesus was the embodiment of God with creation - God was with us through Jesus. But the Emmanuel didn't stop being the Emmanuel when he ascended. Look at the verbs in both passages: is/ am - God didn't stop being with us! God is with us even now, some 2000 years after the proclamations of Emmanuel.

God is with us means that we will never be separated from God's love. No matter what we have done - or are doing - God is still there, still present, still with us.

God is with us means that we can do great things! If we claim and own that the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer is with us, then we can be assured that God's will is going to be accomplished and we're invited to be a part of that work.

God is with us means that in moments of fear, worry, and dissatisfaction, we know that we are not alone. God's on-going presence can bring us peace which will surpass all our understanding (Phil. 4:7) amid the struggles of life.

As we wind down our semester and continue to look forward to the holidays, may we be grounded by our understanding and knowledge of what Jesus does for us. When we hear the liturgist's proclamation: 'The Lord be with you', may we find rest in those words and respond with trust. The Emmanuel mourns with us, rejoices with us, walks with us, speaks with us, laughs with us, eats with us...God is with us! That is good news!

¹ Douglas R.A. Hare, *Matthew* (Louisville: John Knox Press, 1993), 12.

2019 Calendar

DEC. 13	Fall Semester Ends	5:00 PM
DEC. 13 - JAN. 6	Campus Wide Christmas Break	
JAN. 7	January Term Begins	
JAN. 20	MLK Day - No classes. Go volunteer somewhere!	
JAN. 24	Spring New Student Orientation	
JAN. 30	January Term Ends	5:00 PM



MidWinter Lectures

February 3-5, 2020



Currie Lecturer

Rev. Dr. Luke A. Powery
Dean, Duke University Chapel



Westervelt Lecturer

Rev. Robert Schnase
Bishop, Rio Texas Conference UMC



Jones Lecturer

Rev. Dana Hughes
Transitional Presbytery Pastor



Midwinters Preacher

Rev. Keatan King
Associate Pastor,
St. Philip Presbyterian Church