



Kairós

"On Our Hearts"



**The Voice of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
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A Poetic Verse of Faith

by James Wright

Table of Contents

"A Poetic Verse of Faith" by James Wright.....	2
"Blackberry Parade" by Langley Hoyt.....	3
"Bird Watch" by Langley Hoyt	3
"My Mother's Burial" by Marta Pumroy.....	3
"The History of QA" by Aiden Nathaniel Diaz & Kimberlee Anderson-Diaz.....	4
"Hard to Face" by Ashley Brown...	6
"Community Photos" by Frank Vasquez.....	7
About Kairos.....	8

There in the nothingness was Someone
 Not of time and space
 Nor of a particular place
 An essence of power, not one undone
 Creating from emptiness, all from none

From spirit to flesh, invested in dust
 Gracious to all lives
 Hidden truth that survives
 The offspring of an eternal gust
 Growing toward a need to trust

This new One, from age to age existed
 Yet in humility came
 From the Wind, his name
 With a mere child He was entrusted
 The great agency of eternity subsisted

There was a life lived with great passion
 Centered on the broken
 From places often unspoken
 His call disheartened some in fashion
 So, erase the One, used the cruel assassin

Into the abyss this One withdrew
 Borrowed dressings
 Gathered with blessings
 Everlasting ethos now shown to the few
 Returned to establish an alternative view

What great power this One now retains
 Back in timeless wonder
 Seated in glorious splendor
 Together with the great I Am He reigns
 Forever loving because of crimson stains

There is but One who's just and good
 To separate and review
 To join together, renew
 What great salvation now understood
 That creation celebrates, and indeed should

We eventually come to a great awareness
 That Spirit indwells
 Human essence excels
 When together we gather, in just fairness
 All those before and after prepare us

In finality the dust is formed anew
 The stain removed
 Our pain consumed
 Ageless in wonder we see a view
 Of life and love that none can undue

My Mother's Burial

by Marta Pumroy

While my mother's funeral was streamed out on social media for the world to see, and I have already watched it once, her burial was just for those who were there. In an effort to remember it and her, here are my memories from that part...

The fear of being a pallbearer sat on my daughter's heart for a few days. What if I'm not strong enough, what if I drop it, what if my heels sink into the ground? All of these were legitimate fears especially now that I had helped put my mother's coffin into the hearse, now I will be taking her out too. My knack for stepping in and helping applied to my mother's funeral for sure, as I do not think I was listed as a pallbearer.

My mother had a "sports" themed funeral complete with her being dressed in her favorite's Mets sweater. The Iowa marching band songs were part of the funeral, both fight songs for the prelude and "In Heaven there is No Beer" as the postlude. My dad called it the "Victory Polka." The Iowa Hawks were a love of hers.

Following the hearse, I was with my daughter driving, her boyfriend and her elementary/middle school best friend. When we exited the car and walked to the hearse, a giant hawk swooped over us and landed on the tall evergreen tree as we gathered to lift her out of the hearse. It was so striking, everyone noticed. No issues with strength or heels as her coffin was moved safely on the metal cart that could roll her to the next place.

As we rolled over another gravestone, it seemed a little wrong, I noticed it was Gene and Sandy Richards. They go to our church and lived on the same street, A Avenue where I grew up. Gene had already passed, and Sandy has a spot there, but isn't there yet. I had hugged her that very morning and remember the green sweater she was wearing. It felt comforting to know my mom's final resting place already had her friends with more to come.

The burial words were typical, I had studied them myself, and knew there was predictability in these words. I looked at her coffin, the same cherry wood color as the piano that sits in my home. It was covered in yellow flowers, sunflowers, roses and more to represent the Iowa Hawks. Yellow like my first bedroom and house when I was little. I hated that color but have grown to love it. The coffin had 4 mental baseball gloves with bats on the corners to be taken off and given to my dad, my 2 brothers, and me. My pastor ended with the words "I've never ended a burial with this, and I don't think I will again, but please join me in singing.... Take me out to the ball game."

My parents hosted 57 plus minor league baseball players in their home. We took in A LOT of games and my daughter was raised in a stadium. Whenever the 7th inning stretch was about to happen, my daughter would come to find us so we could sing together as a family.

I will remember my mom when I'm in church and we sing the two hymns from her funeral. But also, every time I am at a University of Iowa event will be a memorial, every time the 7th inning stretch happens, my mom will be in my heart, and when a Hawk comes or is shown to me, my mom will leave my heart and come to my mind for a moment.



Blackberry Parade

by Langley Hoyt

Bird Watch

by Langley Hoyt



The History of QA

By Aiden Nathaniel Diaz & Kimberlee Anderson-Diaz

October 1st marks the beginning of LGBT History Month. Unfortunately, not much is known about LGBTQIA+ individuals for most of Austin Seminary's history as being out was not safe for most, let alone accepted, tolerated, or celebrated in religious spaces. What we do know is that there have been some strong, courageous Queer folks who fought for years to make Austin Seminary a more welcoming and inclusive space for the Queer community.

Queer Alliance officially formed in February 2011 after two students wanted to have a "covenant ceremony" in the seminary chapel but were denied because it was "too political." The first meeting took place at a bar called The Local, which has since closed and was replaced by Mockingbird Saloon.



Argyle Day in 2012.
Photo courtesy of APTS Archives.

They were expecting four people at that meeting. Instead, twenty-two individuals from the seminary community showed up.

Since then, Queer Alliance has been working hard to continue to create educational opportunities, opportunities for lament, and celebrations of joy to help people understand and see the humanity of Queer individuals here and in the world outside of Austin Seminary.



Queer Alliance at 2013 Austin Pride.
Photo courtesy of Kevin Henderson.

Here is some of the history that we do know:

In 2011, there was a special all-color "The Queer Issue" of Kairos to celebrate QA's formation. Community members would also wear argyle on a specific day(s) to show their support for their Queer classmates.

In 2013, Queer Alliance marched with a seminary-approved "Queer Alliance at APTS" banner in Austin Pride. Leaders of QA also wrote a letter to urge faculty to add Queer Theology courses to the educational offerings.



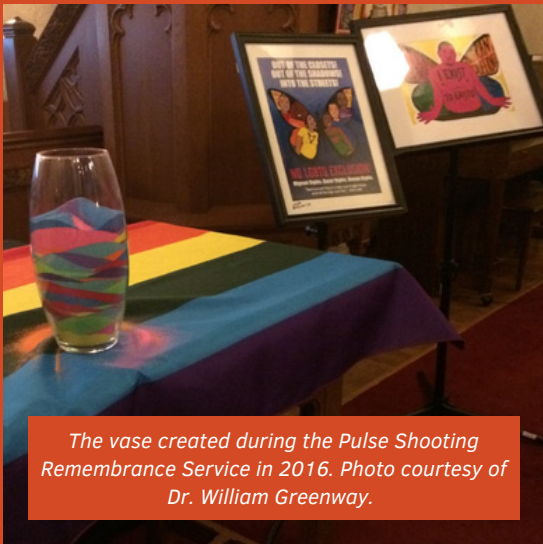
Coming Out Day in 2011.
Photo courtesy of APTS Archives.

In 2016, QA hosted a Vigil of Remembrance for Orlando Pulse Night Club shooting victims. In this service, a vase with rainbow sand was created in honor of those killed in the shooting. The vase now sits in the McCord Community Center.

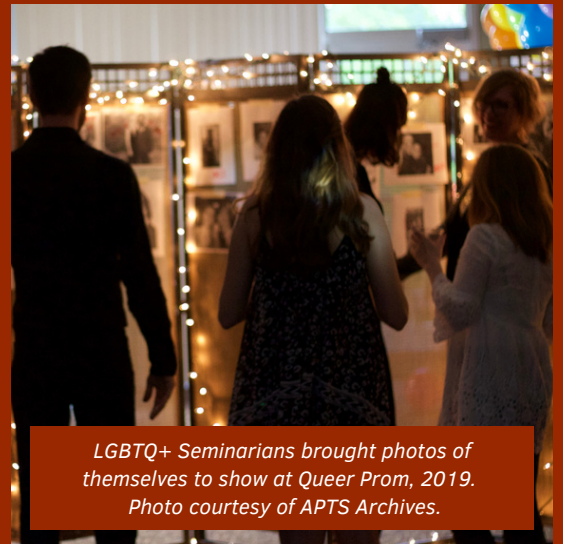
In 2019, we had our first Queer Prom, our first openly Trans adjunct instructor, gender and sexuality training for our faculty and staff, and created gender neutral bathrooms in McMillan.

In 2021, we elected our first Transgender student body president and created gender neutral bathrooms in the Wright Learning and Information Center.

In 2022, Queer Prom returned after COVID restrictions lifted, and students and faculty protested the many anti-Trans measures proposed at the Texas Capital.



The vase created during the Pulse Shooting Remembrance Service in 2016. Photo courtesy of Dr. William Greenway.



LGBTQ+ Seminarians brought photos of themselves to show at Queer Prom, 2019. Photo courtesy of APTS Archives.

Queer Alliance continues to pour its time into fighting injustice in many forms. We still hold Coming Out Day and Transgender Day of Remembrance services, and we still find ways to celebrate love. In the last year we had two openly Queer weddings in Shelton Chapel, in juxtaposition to the origins of Queer Alliance. Essentially, Queer Alliance does what it can to fulfill its current iteration of its mission statement:

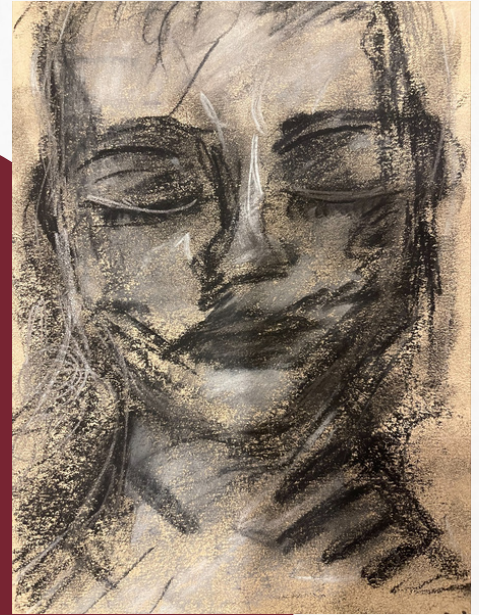
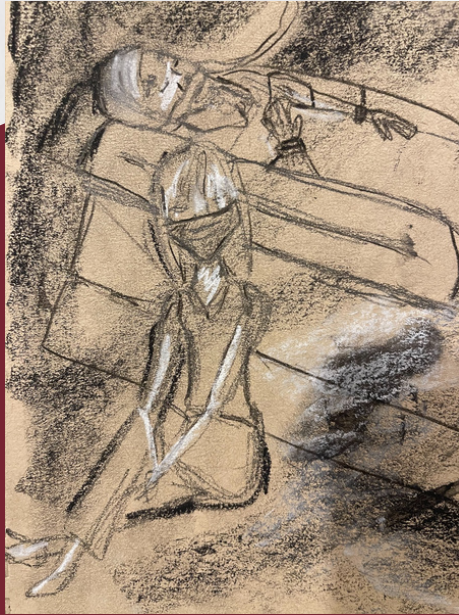
"Queer Alliance celebrates the imago Dei in all of God's children, and we recognize God's creative power in individuals' gender and sexual identities. Thus, the mission of Queer Alliance is to create a welcoming, supportive, and brave space within the APTS community for LGBTQIA+ persons and allies through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

"So the Queer issue is more than just accepting things that are different. It is more than just stopping an injustice that has gone on way too long. It is also redefining how we define normal. Because in truth, there is no normal." - Brittany Harvey, *The Queer Issue*, April 2011

**This article was written with the aide of Kristy Sorenson, Dr. William Greenway, Kevin Henderson, and Holly Clark-Porter.*

Hard to Face

Key moments in hospital chaplaincy drawn from memory
by Ashley Brown



Community Photos

by Frank Vasquez



Kairos is a publication for all members of the APTS community to share their visual art, photographs, poems, opinion pieces, and creative writing with each other on a monthly basis. If you want to peruse recent publications of *Kairos*, they can be found on MyCampus under the Resource Board and in the SAV office. You can also visit Kristy in the Archives on the Library 3rd Floor to look at new and old editions of *Kairos*.

Submissions for *Kairos* are due on the last day of each month! Please email submissions to kairos@student.austinseminary.edu. Feel free to reach out through that email if you have any questions or need inspiration or encouragement.

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