

# Kairos



**The Voice of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
Students and Community  
February 2023 | Issue 358**

## Table of Contents

"Finding the Holy in the Holy Land" by Carrie Holley-Hurt.....	2
"On the Digital Lynching of Tyre Nichols" by Tashara Angelle.....	3
"Paul Artwork" by Britt Hicks.....	4
"Photos from Egypt" by Ashley Brown.....	5
"The Man in the Painting" by Aiden Diaz.....	6
"Photos of the Trip to Israel" by Elizabeth Donihoo.....	7
"Honoring the History of HESED" by Usama Malik.....	8
"Piglet Photos from Israel" by Frieda Mottonen.....	10
"A Chaplain's Nightly Meditation" by Sam Innanen.....	11
"Photos from the SOFT Retreat" by Christian Antwi.....	12
"Photos from Midwinters" by Frank Vasquez.....	12
"Photos from The Good News in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter Trip" by Lydia Sullinger.....	13
"THE JOURNEY" by James Wright.....	13
"The Cats of Israel/Palestine (Part One)" by Sarah Rutherford.....	14
"The Cats of Israel/Palestine (Part Two)" by Aiden Diaz.....	15
Information about HESED 2023.....	16
APTS Podcasts.....	16
About <i>Kairos</i> .....	16



*The Hof Ha-Aqueduct B'Qesarya  
(By Carrie Holley-Hurt)*

## Finding the Holy in the Holy Land

**By Carrie Holley-Hurt**

I found the holy in the holy land  
But not where the relics are found  
Not where denominations laid claim  
laid foundations  
festooned that which is sacred

I found my holy in  
Boisterous community  
Deep conversation  
Joyful experience

I found my holy  
The sunrise and sunset  
The desert  
The water  
The people



# On the Digital Lynching of Tyre Nichols

## By Tashara Angelle

I'm not going to watch that video.  
Because I've seen it before.

Black pain still trending  
Like it always did before.



I don't want to rage today.  
I don't want to sit in the heavy grief with another Black mother, while gripping the hand of my own Black child.

I don't want to despair of this land and it's people again.

I don't want to obsessively remind my husband again to drive slower, or be sure to signal or don't go out without me after ten.

I don't want to relive the trauma of the other arrests.

**I'm *not* going to watch that video today.**

I'm going to sit with God for a while,  
Make breakfast for my husband and my child, and go hang out at the park.  
I'm going to watch my kid play. I'm going to live today in an act of joyful resistance.

And tomorrow, I'll go to church, and when I'm at the communion table,  
I'll take the broken body and blood of Christ and remember that **THIS** body was broken, for this broken world.  
Then I'll beat my sword into a plowshare, put my hand to that plow, and keep doing the work that He gave us to do.

*"Thy Kingdom Come,  
Thy will be done,  
On Earth, as it is in Heaven."  
Amen.*

## Paul Artwork By Britt Hicks

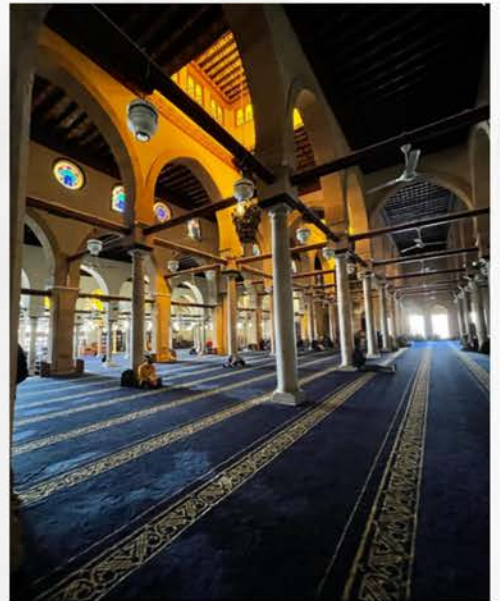


For my Jan term this year I took the Perspectives of Paul class, which I wrestled with taking as much as I wrestle with Paul. Dr. Jeong gave us an option of doing extra credit, and that could be in a medium of art that we chose. I decided to do a collage of Paul. I found some sheet music that would represent the hymns he may have sung, and I coated the sheet with Mediterranean olives. I soaked some of the epistles in wine, since that too was around then, and I like the deep red it gave the pages, and the smell. The body/ face is made up of construction paper. His eyes were made light blue as a symbol of his conversion story of being blinded by a great light. Below Paul's shoulders is half a rainbow on each side. And the way it was divided was a happy mistake. One side you have the warmer colors of the red, yellow, and orange which could represent the Apocalyptic Perspective of Paul. The other side with the cooler colors could represent the mystical side of Paul. The white dots are stars, tying in the astronomical part of Paul.



# Photos from Egypt

By Ashley Brown





## The Man in the Painting

By Aiden Diaz

During MidWinter Lectures this year, we had a bunch of familiar faces come and visit the seminary. Many who have deep connections to the history of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. A couple of those familiar faces were the Rev. Linda Whitworth-Reed and David Reed. Linda's mother, Helen Bailey Whitworth, was the artist who painted the portrait of David Leander Stitt that currently hangs near the circulation desk in the now Wright Learning and Information Center.

Who was David Leander Stitt? According to the archives, David Leander Stitt (1912-2003) served as president of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary from 1945-1971. Significant occurrences during his presidency include the construction of the library, increases in seminary finances, and a continued dedication to the selection and expansion of the faculty. Upon his retirement in 1971, the APTS Alumni Association created the David L. Stitt Fellowship for seniors and renamed the campus library in his honor. After the library construction/renovation, the library was renamed as the Wright Learning and Information Center. Therefore, the print library collection was named the "Stitt Library Collection" in continued honor of David and Jane Stitt.

Sometimes it is amazing on just how connected we can be to different parts of the seminary's history. Whether as a student, or through our families and friends, we all leave a mark on this institution's history.





# Photos of the Trip to Israel By Elizabeth Donihoo



Garden of Gethsemane



Sea of Galilee



Church of the Visitation of Mary  
and Elizabeth



Room of the Last Supper



Mary and Elizabeth and Tiles  
with Mary's Canticle of Praise



Jordan River



Rooftop view near Western Wall



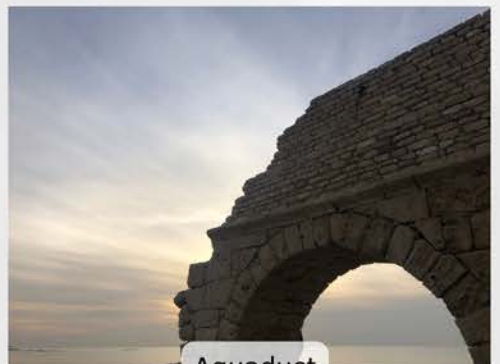
Sunset in Safed



View of Mount of Olives Graves



Church of the Multiplication



Aquaduct



# Honoring the History of HESED

## By Usama Malik

The purpose of the HESED lectureship at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is to promote awareness and church involvement in the area of social justice, thus enabling hesed, which is Hebrew for love in action. The HESED lectureship was a grassroots effort started by Austin Seminary students of the (then) African American Student Group and Hispanic Student Association in 2014 to bring scholars from black, LatinX, and other marginalized communities to Austin Seminary's campus. These voices had been under-represented in other lecture series on campus and students hoped their voices would deepen the community's conversations in response to issues of justice.

### HESED 2014: Youth Violence in Urban Centers

In 2014, the HESED Lecture Series was launched as a grassroots collaborative effort of the (then) African-American and Hispanic Student Groups. The first event focused on "Youth Violence in Urban Centers," and was the groups' collective hope that this forum will help to bring awareness and to mobilize our area pastors and current (and former) students to become active participants in bringing justice and mercy to affected youth and the community.

The first event brought Michael Davis and Eddie Bocanegra featured in "The Interrupters," a documentary film about stopping inner-city violence. Other presenters included Rick Randall, chaplain of the Austin Police Department, students, and Drs. Gregory Cuellar and Asante Todd of Austin Seminary.

### HESED 2015: Building Safe Neighborhoods?

The 2015 HESED Lecture Series focused on the theme of "Building Safe Neighborhoods?" by looking at the areas of Commerce, Law enforcement/Legal services, Health, and Education and how they are related to issues of immigration, racial profiling and mass incarceration. The program featured breakout sessions led by experts in respected areas, to bring awareness and to mobilize area pastors and current (and former) students to become active participants in bringing justice and mercy. Additionally, the event featured two keynote speakers: Virginia Raymond (Austin, TX) who opened up as the Friday evening speaker and Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes III (Dallas, TX) who ended the lecture series as the luncheon keynote speaker.

### HESED 2016: Which Lives Matter?

In 2016, the HESED theme of "Which Lives Matter?" came in response to rising social tensions heightened around issues of race, class, and religion in the U.S. At the Texas-Mexico border, Latino/a immigration and homeland security questions had given rise to social division while urban areas wrestle with America's age-old question of the matter of black lives. Hence, the question of "Which Lives Matter?". The 2016 HESED explored these social problems in light of religious convictions, most importantly hesed: the divine call to mercy and loving-kindness.

The event featured Dr. Jose Angel Gutierrez as the Friday keynote speaker, and The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney as the Saturday keynote speaker. Additionally, the event featured workshops focusing on the topics of immigration, gentrification, allyship, and Black Lives Matter.



### HESED 2017: The Politics of Care

The 2017 HESED theme of "The Politics of Care" emerged out of a recognition of the various forms of ideologically-driven inequities in health care. In matters of physical, mental, and spiritual care, race, gender and class often affect the kinds of treatments and options one has. These dynamics, rather than HESED, circumscribes care's scope and quality, with disastrous results for the poor and the marginalized. The 2017 HESED took a praxis-oriented approach to the politics of care with HESED as norm and goal. The event not only discussed the negative aspects of the politics of care, but also considered the ways to collectively respond in empathy. The event featured Dr. Elias Ortega-Aponte as the preacher and keynote speaker for the event, as well as workshops centering on: PTSD and the Politics of Care, Restorative Justice and Community, Gentrification & the Environment, and Community Health: Alternative Models.





## **HESED 2018: The High Costs of Economics and Power**

The 2018 HESED theme was unique in that it featured the collaboration of not only the African American and Hispanic Student Groups, but also the Native American Student Group on the theme of "The High Cost of Economics and Power." The theme emerged from a recognition that many communities have questions about the future of the family and finances in our changing society, and the keynote speaker and preacher was Dr. Keri Day of Princeton Theological Seminary. The event also featured workshops on the topics of Project Transformation, The Free Store, Redlining & Gentrification, and Beyond the Border: How Immigration Enforcement Impacts Austin, as well as a panel discussion with the respective workshop leaders.



*Dr. Asante Todd introduces Rev. Jimmie Hawkins at HESED 2019*

## **HESED 2019: A Changing Homeland**

The 2019 HESED was organized in recognition of being within the midst of an ever-changing landscape, where the extreme political and social polarization within the United States seemingly became the new status quo. Whether at the Texas-Mexico border or at the crossroads of East and West Austin or even at the Customs and Border Protection line at the airport, people across this state from all different walks of life, race, religion, and any other difference, experienced a rapidly changing homeland. The 2019 HESED sought to explore this idea of a changing homeland, what it means to us as members of a community, and our obligations in upholding our values during such trying times. The 2019 HESED aimed to equip its participants with knowledge and resources from the local community that would allow us to find hope through coalition building, and strengthen our ties as a community despite our differences, to stand firm in a time of unsettling change. The event featured The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the Office of Public Witness for the PC(USA), as the keynote, as well as a community panel and conversation with local community organizers.

## **HESED 2020: Intersections of Power**

The 2020 HESED theme was "Intersections of Power," which came in recognition of the fact that in today's political climate, elite power is not a singular force but rather operates at multiple intersections in US society. As such, understanding what constitutes elite power, we must examine it in intersectional ways, focusing our attention on specific socio-political junctures in which elite power wields a network of social agents, ideologies, technologies, and institutions to create oppressive types of social identities and economic realities. Hence for HESED 2020, the primary focus was to define clearly these intersections of power in prophetic, theological, and socio-political ways and offer a social justice (hesed) response to them, particularly as it relates to racially minoritized communities. The event featured Dr. Kay Higuera Smith as the keynote speaker and preacher for the event, alongside workshops on the Intersections of Power in Church Leadership, Community, and Academia, followed by a panel conversation with the respective workshop leaders.

## **HESED 2021: No Justice Without US**

The 2021 HESED was the first HESED to be held virtually amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, with the theme "No Justice without US." This HESED aimed to gather justice-minded people, activists, believers, and potential allies not only to define the injustices Brown and Black communities experience but more importantly to imagine together what justice should look like for marginalized people. The theme addressed the absence of lifegiving justice for people of color in the United States. As attested from the brutal death of George Floyd, ICE raids of immigrants, and Covid-19 deaths, people of color have faced one injustice after another, from racial to economic to health to housing to food, etc. The 2021 HESED featured Keynote speaker Dr. Leonard Moore of the University of Texas at Austin and preacher Dr. Claudio Carvalhaes, alongside engaging workshops on Anti-Racism and faith-based justice work.



*Students Chrystal Brigman, Aiden Diaz, and Marta Pumroy introduce a virtual HESED 2022.*

## **HESED 2022: Remind, Restore, Reimagine**

The 2022 HESED was also held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic with the theme of "Remind, Restore, Reimagine." Organized in recognition of the fact that as we emerged after a 2 year pandemic, and continual social unrest, the community of Austin Seminary felt called to bring attention and action, to the inequities in regards to health, economic, and social injustices amongst the marginalized, especially in Black and brown communities. The theme for the 202 HESED lectureship asked us to look back, be transformed, and look forward- "Remind, Restore, Reimagine." In this HESED, organizers emphasized wanting to remind ourselves of how we got to this point of inequity and injustice, to explore how to restore our faith practices and theological grounding after long separations in our faith communities, and to reimagine what the church can be within our communities and the world to bring about justice. The event featured Ruling Elder and Co-Moderator of the PC(USA), Elona Street-Stewart as keynote and preacher, alongside workshops on The Art of Faith-Based Activism, Oral History: Truth & Reconciliation, Narrative as Medicine, and Leading Beyond Implicit Biases. Additionally, this was the first HESED event to feature an Open Mic Night as part of its opening worship.





## Piglet Photos from Israel

By Frieda Mottonen



Market in Jerusalem



Sea of Galilee



Stop along our way to the Dead Sea



Mount of Beatitudes



Roman Aqueducts in Caeseria Maritima



ANU Museum of Jewish People in Tel Aviv



Overlook of Jewish Cemetery in Safed



On the plane on the way home



### **A Chaplain's Nightly Meditation**

Chaplain Sam Innanen

"Now I lay me down to sleep.  
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.  
If I should die before I wake,  
I pray to God my soul to take.

A day has come, and a day has gone.  
I must rest my eyes and mind until tomorrow's dawn.  
This day has taken many with its closing haste.  
May You welcome them in Your warm embrace.

If I should live for other days,  
I pray the Lord to guide my ways.  
God, unto thee I pray,  
Thou hast guarded me all day;  
Safe I am while in thy sight,  
Safely let me sleep tonight.

As I walk throughout the day,  
God, guide, and guard my way.

As deep calls to deep,  
The Holy Spirit moves in Love, Word, and Deed,  
And knows my every thought, lament, and need.

It is time to relinquish all that I am holding close,  
Pain and grief, life and death, joy and shame,  
All of the things that I have heard and seen today.  
I give them to you, because I know that you will hold them well.  
And because these things are no longer mine to hold or dwell.

Bless my friends, the whole world bless.  
Help me to learn helpfulness.  
Keep me ever in thy sight.  
So, to all I say good night."

"Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep," is a popular bedtime prayer that reaches back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with many editions. One possible origin is an old poem called "The Black Paternoster," dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Another early edition was penned by George Wheler in his book, *The Protestant Monastery* in 1698. Likewise, Joseph Addison wrote a similar prayer in 1711. The legacy of this prayer lives on.



## Photos from the SOFT Retreat

By Christian Antwi



## Photos from Midwinters

By Frank Vasquez





# Photos from "The Good News in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter" Trip

By Lydia Sullinger



## THE JOURNEY

By James Wright

Just as in times past  
Along a cluttered path  
There comes a moment  
When life's road pales

Old rhythms won't do  
The trodden path  
Seems burdensome  
And new horizons beacon

Under that façade  
Existence hampers progress  
The chores grow dim  
In light of life's jumble

Revel in the dream  
Of uniqueness  
The opportunity to bear  
A singular mission

Never before claiming the grit  
But now on the mark  
Ready to run the race  
A contest of heart and soul

Ever growing toward the prize  
Stabilizing for such a time  
That bring lives closer  
A call to support the other

Yes, the journey is hard  
And littered with fear  
But in the shadow of hope  
Dreams become reality



# The Cats of Israel/Palestine (Part One)

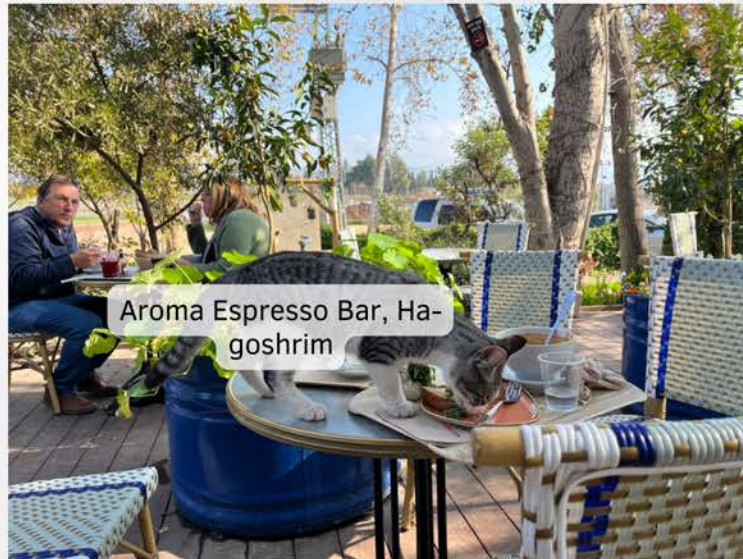
By Sarah Rutherford



Ben Yehuda Street, Jerusalem



Near Prima Kings Hotel, Jerusalem



Aroma Espresso Bar, Ha-goshrim



Old City, Jerusalem



German Colony, Jerusalem



Haas Promenade, Jerusalem



## The Cats of Israel/Palestine (Part Two)

By Aiden Diaz



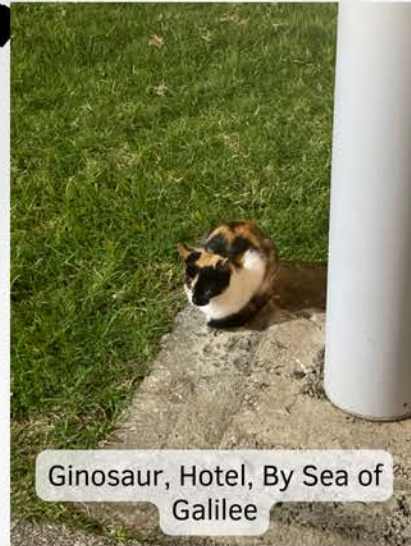
Ginosaur, Hotel, By Sea of Galilee



Old City Near Jafa Gate



Church of St. John the Baptist



Ginosaur, Hotel, By Sea of Galilee



Old City, Outside Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Ginosaur, Hotel, By Sea of Galilee



THE 10TH ANNUAL HESED LECTURE AT AUSTIN SEMINARY

2023

# HESED X

WHERE FAITH & JUSTICE MEET

**KEYNOTE**  
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray



**תּוֹנָה hesed;**  
love in action; justice; mercy  
steadfast love; loving kindness.

**2023 THEME: CAGES**  
*The purpose of the Hesed lectures of Austin Seminary is to promote awareness and church involvement in the area of social justice, thus enabling hesed, which is Hebrew for love in action.*

 **AUSTIN SEMINARY**

 **MARCH 3 & 4**

 **REGISTER TODAY**  
[AUSTINSEMINARY.EDU/HESED](http://austinseminary.edu/hesed)

 **IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAMED**  
OPTIONS AVAILABLE

 **INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS**

 **COMMUNITY ACTIVISM EXHIBIT TABLES & EXPO**

 **HESED IN ACTION**  
ALUMNI PANEL & CONVERSATION

### HESED 2023: Cages

The 2023 HESED event marks the 10th HESED event since beginning in 2014. The theme of the 2023 HESED, also known as HESED X, focuses on the theme of "Cages." While "cages" can evoke the dehumanization of those in detention, we are focusing on the more abstract idea of dehumanization all oppressed people feel when placed in cages of racism and injustice. These cages aren't easily broken, but they can be stretched and weakened as the people within create community and work towards the incremental change—change that we have experienced and celebrate as a seminary community. Questions arise for us: How do we work within cages to create that community? How do we bend the bars to reach out and form collaborative relationships with others? How do we reconcile the cages of our culture with our interior freedom in God?

The event features the Rev. Dr. Stephen Ray as keynote speaker and preacher, along with workshops centering on the theme of "cages." Apart from a unique opening worship service, this HESED will also feature a panel of HESED organizing alumni to reflect on HESED as a series as well as an influence for their work, titled HESED in Action, as well as an activism expo of community organizations and initiatives, and is the first HESED to be held in a hybrid modality.

Register for HESED 2023 today: [www.austinseminary.edu/hesed](http://www.austinseminary.edu/hesed)

Love *Kairos* but craving some audio?

Check out these podcasts!

**Winsome Podcast**  
*Join Sarah Allen, director of ministerial formation and advanced studies, and William West, director of financial aid, as they converse with members of the Austin Seminary community.*

**Insights, The Podcast**  
*Features long-form, in-depth interviews with faculty authors and convocation speakers.*

**The Austin Seminary Worship Podcast**  
*Listen to faculty and student conversations about the process of worship preparation.*

Find these podcasts at:  
[austinseminary.edu/resources/podcasts](http://austinseminary.edu/resources/podcasts)

*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.

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

Langley Hoyt, a Middler MDiv student, is the editor of *Kairos*. You can reach her by emailing [kairos@student.austinseminary.edu](mailto:kairos@student.austinseminary.edu).