

Animals!

Genesis 1: 20-25

KAIROS

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Inside: poetry, pet profiles,
ponderings, prayers, and
more.

Editor

Sheth LaRue, Middler 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, Junior MDiv.

Combining her passions of Fine Arts and Religion, Reba is very excited to be the new designer for Kairos. 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 would like to thank all of you for reading, contributing, and offering kind words these past few months as we've been publishing. It is an honor to be able to showcase your work!

We're currently seeking submissions for the next edition – would you be willing to contribute a poem, essay, drawing, or photo that you'd like to share with your friends at seminary?

Questions and contributions should be sent to Sheth at...
sheth.larue@student.austinseminary.edu

The deadline for submissions is the first of the month.

Jacob and Skyler Naron

Junior MDiv



Shiloh

He is very new to APTS. He is 2 years old, and while I'm in class, Shiloh likes to mess with his cat sister, Bagheera!

Allison Angell

APTS Special Student



Maisy Ruth

She is our 3-year-old Golden Retriever. She goes to "Camp Claybrook" on the days I'm in class all day. My next-door-neighbor comes over and gets her and takes her to her house where they keep each other company. She is a lucky dog!

Kimberlee Runnion

Junior MDiv



Tobias



Gilbert

Tobias (Toby) is the black and white cat. He is ~6 years old, and I think he plays with fairies when I'm not around (they get in through the fairy door I have next to my front door). Gilbert is the orange cat. He is also about 6, and he just sneezes all over the place, so I have plenty of boogers to clean up when I get home!

Jennifer Hallberg

Senior MDiv



Shakespeare

This is my 23lb Maine Coon and baby boy Shakespeare. He is 9 years old and can sometimes heard meowing while you are standing in the Anderson hallway. He keeps me company many day and doesn't like it when I have to study for class. His favorite game is to get stuck in cabinets and chase his pink feather boa.

Karen Sprouse

Middler MDiv



Loveern

Also known as Kitty Love.

Alex Pappas

Senior MDiv

Reba Balint

Junior MDiv

Blanche

Stella

Winston



Stella likes to deliver Blanche's toys to me every night at bedtime. And Blanche's favorite snacks are baby carrots and snap peas.



I adopted Winston when he was about 1 and I was in undergrad, now he's about 5. Fun fact: he is afraid of plastic bags, a skilled hunter, he loves tummy time, great at sunbathing, will tell you when he is hungry with his voice and claws, strikes a good pose, and has a unique fondness for shoes.

Below is a sampling of the books Stitt Library has on-hand regarding animals, theology, and humanity. Take a look at these – and the many other books available to us – in our library.

Animals, Theology, and the Incarnation by Kris Hiuser

ISBN: 9780334055389

"How does an understanding of the non-human lead us to a greater understanding of the incarnation? Are non-human animals morally relevant within Christian theology and ethics? Is there a human ethical responsibility towards non-human animals? In *Animals, Theology and the Incarnation*, Hiuser argues that if we are called to represent both God to creation, and creation to God, then this has considerable bearing on understanding what it means to be human, as well as informing human action towards non-human creatures."

The Friends We Keep: Unleashing Christianity's Compassion for Animals by Laura Hobgood-Oster

ISBN: 9781602582644

"Seeking to awaken Christians to the place and, too often, plight of animals in the twenty-first century, *The Friends We Keep* gently but astutely introduces the situations animals face today--as companions, as animals in sport, as animals raised for food, and as creatures in the wild--and simultaneously retells a myriad of often surprising and instructive stories from the long, rich history of Christianity."

For Love of Animals: Christian Ethics, Consistent Action by Charles Camosy

ISBN: 9781616366629

"This book explains how traditional Christian ideas and principles—like nonviolence, concern for the vulnerable, respect for life, stewardship of God's creation, and rejection of consumerism—require us to treat animals morally. Though this point of view is often thought of as liberal, the book cites several conservatives who are also concerned about animals. Camosy's Christian argument transcends secular politics."

For the Love of All Creatures: The Story of Grace in Genesis by William Greenway

ISBN: 9780802572913

"Comparing the ancient Israelite cosmology of Genesis both with the ancient Babylonian cosmology of the *Enuma Elish* and with the modern Darwinian cosmology of Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan*, Greenway shows how the Bible in Genesis extends far beyond those other cosmologies in its discernment of the transcending, gracious love of God. Standing at the intersection of animal rights, "green" biblical studies, and philosophical theology, Greenway's *For the Love of All Creatures* will interest and inform a wide range of readers."

Animal Ethics and Theology by Daniel K. Miller

ISBN: 9780415808750

"In this book, Daniel K. Miller articulates a new vision of human and animal relationships based on the foundational love ethic within Christianity. Framed around Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan, *Animal Ethics and Theology* thoughtfully examines the shortcomings of utilitarian and rights-based approaches to animal ethics. By considering the question of animals within the Christian concept of neighbourly love, Miller provides an alternative narrative for understanding the complex relationships that humans have with other animals."

All descriptions are from respective book's publishers websites.

"Fly" - Angela Williams,
Senior MDiv

A fly was
trapped
in my home
for three days.

I don't know how
she got in
to my space.

I have heard
her pestering
Buzz
as she flies
searching for escape
Day after
Night after
Day.

This afternoon,
after I caught a glimpse
of freedom

I opened a window,
coaxed her
around the pane of glass,
past the illusion of light,
to the warmth
of

Wide

Open

Space

My hand guides her movement
until she sees
Feels
Flies
Free

Untitled - Chelsea May Law, Middler MDiv

About two and half years ago I adopted Scooter when she was about four months old. I was visiting my now-ex's family when I saw a tiny kitten outside that looked absolutely pathetic. It was covered in fleas, drinking pool water, and could barely keep its eyes open because they were covered in eye gunk and dirt. Originally, the plan was just to clean it up and put it back outside, because at the time I had no interest in cats as pets. Over the next few days I would check on it and feed it, then it started following me around. After I finished packing up my truck to leave I was sitting in the seat thinking about that kitten, and I decided I would take it with me and figure out along the way the rest of what it means to have a cat. I named the kitten Scooter and figured my next step would be taking it to the vet for a check up, shots, and figuring out its sex.

I adopted Scooter around the same time that I was in a deep depression. My whole life I have struggled with depression and anxiety. It wasn't until college when I actually was able to put a name to these feelings. Since adopting Scooter, she has made a significant difference in the way that I am able to deal with depression and anxiety. I realized that I had to take care of myself if I wanted to properly take care of her. She gave me a purpose: I had to clean her up, figure out how to get rid of the fleas, make vet appointments, and I had to develop a schedule of when to feed her. She gave me the motivation I needed to eventually help myself.

There have been countless times where I am just so overwhelmed by my thoughts that all

I can do is just lay in bed and cry. But what has made it bearable and has helped me get out of my head is the way that Scooter comes up to me and touches her face to my forehead and starts purring. She constantly reminds me that I am loved, needed, and I'm not alone.

Two months ago I adopted Muji, and since he has come into my life he has especially helped with this. As Scooter has grown up we have developed a pretty good routine, but we had both gotten used to it, which meant it was easy to just go through the motions. Bringing Muji into our home has changed up our routine in so many ways. We still have breakfast at 7am and dinner at 5pm, but the in-between times may be cleaning up a Muji mess, or Scooter and Muji trying to understand each other, or trying to figure out the best ways for Muji to get around the apartment without startling Scooter too much.

These cats keep me on my toes and keep me in check. They change up our routine just enough to keep me from just going through the motions, and if I'm not out of bed and taking care of them they will start meowing like crazy. But the best thing that they do is whenever I am feeling overwhelmed, or worthless, or generally unwell they just lay on me or next to me and purr.



Potter

Potter is the mascot for our APTS Polity Bowl games, a soon-to-be Instagram model, and the pride of the Burnett-Harris household. He also has a stream of consciousness about the world when we're not home, "When do I get treats? When do I get to see the squirrels? When can I have my toy to squeak squeak squeak squeak squeak until it dies and yet I still love it? Why didn't they leave the TV on so I can bark at all the things- horses, and animated creatures, and accordions...I hate those things!"



Audrey Burnett-Harris

Middler MDiv



Mylo

Alternatively known as "Terror-of-the-Night". Mylo is approx. 5 years old. Frequently when I walk into the apartment he's lying on his back in the middle of the floor with all his legs splayed out. So I can only assume he practices daily yoga when I'm gone. Either that or he just sort of malfunctions.

Jeannie Shear

Middler MDiv

Lex Allum

Middler MDiv

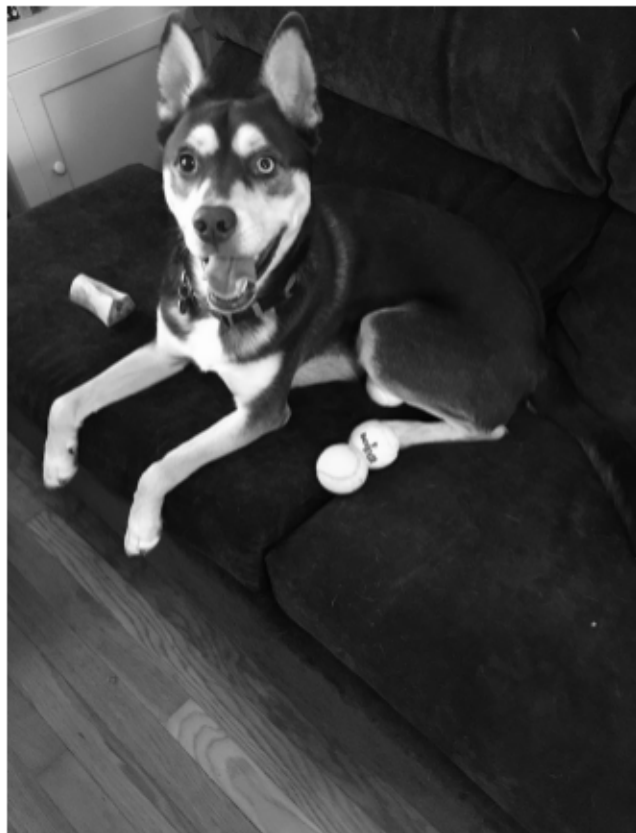
The calico is Beza (girl) and the gray and white cat is Luther (boy). They're brother and sister and just turned 10 months old on February 1st! Because I live in McCoy (pet-free zone) my cats reside at my boyfriend's apartment, but while I'm in class I think they probably get into all the cabinets to find their treats and food. (I actually know this to be a FACT because I frequently arrive to find such things on the floor). I would also guess that they spend some time modeling for each other to see which cute face they can use on me next to get pets, kisses, and yes...more treats. They're my favorite.

Luther



Beza





Ann Graham

Junior MDiv

Radar

He is my 9-year-old service dog (dachshund/chihuahua), and he hangs out with lions while I am in class.

Cooper

He is 3! While I'm in class I think Cooper goes on a mad dash to find any piece of chocolate he can even possibly reach.

Kailey Gray

Middler MDiv



Carrie Winebrenner

Middler MDiv



Kodac

Squirrels

While Kodac the African Grey is my feathered child, the squirrels on campus are all considered part of my extended family. Are they pets? Not really. More like roommates in this beloved community (much to Pam Jarvis's chagrin.) Helpful tip...they LOVE the black sunflower seeds.





Scooter Law

She is two years old and probably lays down and sleeps wherever the sun is shining the strongest, reminiscing on the days when she was the only cat in her home. In between these sleeps she's probably teasing Muji and putting her paws under the door to his room.

Chelsea May Law. Middler MDiv

Muji Law

He is 2 years old and spends most of his time sleeping on his bed waiting for me to get home so that he can be the true cuddle fiend that he is. In between sleeps he probably flops his way over to the door to his room when he sees Scooter's paws appearing under the door.



the back page - Sheth LaRue

On a warm June morning I was working on my vehicle when out of the corner of my eye I spotted something crawling through the bushes near the house. Upon closer inspection I found a pair of small, feisty, and hungry juvenile racoons. Racoons near my home were not uncommon, but seeing kits in the daylight set off a red flag: they should not have been without their mother this early in the year, nor wandering at this time of day. I fed them a few cans of tuna, gathered them into a container and took them to my brother's ranch and was able to find someone who would rehabilitate, raise, and eventually release these tiny, masked animals back into the wild.

While this was, I suppose, a compassionate act on my part, it illustrates half of my complicated relationship with animals. I view racoons as a nuisance. They're nicknamed 'trash pandas' for a reason, destroy expensive horse supplements and cattle feed, and don't mind rooting through cellars in an attempt to find something easy to eat. While these two racoons were saved, I knew that I'd be chasing off their relatives and cursing their existence later that week.

I grew up in a family that loves animals – we have pets and livestock that we care for without question. We are also a family hunts, passing down the knowledge that hunting is not a sport – it's not a competition, it's not a game, and it's not to be glorified. I was taught early and often that there is no joy in killing another creature, but that this event is necessary to my family, my existence, and my life.

I live in a complicated place – on one hand I love and admire animals, yet on the other hand I am one who kills them. How do I, as a Christian, justify my killing of God's creation? Is my evil (is this even evil?) justified because it prevents a greater evil? Can I rightfully say that

my hunting is acceptable because it provides food to those in need? Can I fairly say that it's okay to kill a predator to prevent the killing of a cow or calf?

When I take a hard look at it all, I wish I were able to land definitively either on the hunting side or the animal rights side. But there are valid arguments from both sides. Hunting provides food for me and my family, and we give what we hunt to those who are in need. Hunting maintains healthy herd numbers, preventing die-offs from overgrazing. Hunting stimulates economies and teaches new generations about human-animal relationships, survival, and the need to care for nature.

Yet I can easily counter each of these arguments – food is readily available in stores and protein can be found in plants. The lack of predators to naturally cull herd sizes is because of hunting, therefore reintroduction of those predators should be of most importance. Economies benefit from wildlife viewing just as much as hunting, and our relationship with animals can be taught without killing.

I wish there were clear-cut answers to this issue, but there aren't. If I'm honest with my belief that all creatures are loved by God, then I'm in a difficult space. I hate to think that hunting is evil, because then I'm a perpetrator of evil. Yet I can't necessarily say that it's altogether not evil. What lies in my heart is that I take no pleasure in the moment – it's a very somber and personal moment between myself, the animal, and our Creator.

If I were to take respite in anything, it would be the fact that I am wrestling with these issues and trying to figure it out. I have hope that I can have conversations about hunting and about animals with those around me. And I hope that in all of it, I can know and share my love for my Creator.

2019 Calendar

FEB. 12	Opening Worship and Celebration of the Lord's Supper	Shelton Chapel 11:10 AM
FEB. 15	Last day to add/drop a course	
FEB 19	Day of Remembrance & Hope: Panel Discussion with Ms. Sharon Alexander, Professor Steve Reid, Rev. Daryl Horton, Rev. Sharon Rischer	McMillan 210, 9:30 – 11 AM
FEB. 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Worship Service, Rev. Daryl Horton preaching & Huston Tillotson Choir singing	Shelton Chapel, 11:10 AM
FEB. 19	Community Lunch	Stotts Fellowship Hall, 12 PM
FEB. 19	Day of Remembrance & Hope: History Presentation, HieraId Osorto (MDiv '18)	McCord 204, 1:00 PM
FEB. 21	Day of Remembrance & Hope: Worship and Community Art Response	Vickery Atrium & Stotts, 2 PM – 6 PM
FEB. 21 – 23	MAYM Weekend	
FEB. 26	Memorial Service for Blair Monie	Shelton Chapel, 11:10 PM
MARCH 2	QA Meeting w/ Brian Ellison from Covenant Network	Location TBD, 10:00 AM
MARCH 5	Transfiguration Service Dr. Cindy Rigby Preaching	Shelton Chapel, 11:10 AM