Spring 2025

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KAIROS

The Voice of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Students and Community



Special Issue

This edition of Kairos is celebrating all our APTS graduates & saying “see ya later” to our beloved community members that will be embarking on a new journey:)

Blessings on your way!

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- Congratulations Graduating Seniors
- Congrats To Our International Grads
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Student Creative Submissions



The world has been covered by a deep shadow.
Its darkness has touched every place.
Yet the light of hope, love and compassion never fail.
It endures the test of time and space even in an unlikely space.
Brokenness will be mended; the scars will tell the story
of redemption beyond words imagined.
Joy and Peace will have the last word.
Alleluia, Praise be to God.

Blessings
Taína

The Ash

Let the ashes cry out their misery
Let the ashes cry out the injustices
Let the ashes cry out against hatred
Let the ashes cry out for mercy
Let the ashes cry out for love unending
Let the ashes cry out for healing
Let the cries of the ashes be turned to joy

Taína

Taína Specie, MDiv Middler

Speech from a Graduating MDiv Senior,
Ms. Caroline Grace Eader
given at the MidWinters Alumni Dinner

Good evening, everyone!
Thank you, Gary, for inviting me to speak on behalf of the student body.
My name is Caroline Eader, and I have the privilege of serving
as one of the Co-Student Body Presidents.
My partner in crime is Ryan Obray, a middler MDiv student
who unfortunately couldn't be here tonight because he's
attending the APCE conference in Memphis. He sends his warm greetings to you all!

Gary asked me to give you a glimpse into our student body and
the gifts we bring to the church. Let me tell you, we have a
wonderfully diverse community. Our students come from all over the country and the globe,
representing a variety of denominations. This diversity makes for rich and insightful
classroom discussions, where we learn not only from our professors
but also from one another's unique perspectives.
It's a gift that keeps expanding our understanding of the church.

Our student body is also deeply community-focused.
I've witnessed—and personally experienced—the care, compassion,
and support we offer one another. In times of need, we step up
for each other, creating what can only be described as a beloved community.
This network of mutual care is something we carry with us, modeling the type of community
we hope to build in the church. We are a curious bunch—both in and out of the classroom.
I'm reminded of Dr. Caruthers, who often starts his classes by saying,
"You may not leave with answers to your questions, but
you'll leave knowing the right questions to ask." That spirit of
curiosity helps us dig deep into faith, theology, and how we
engage with the world around us.

One of the things I love most about this community is its
creativity. I've never been surrounded by so many imaginative,
resourceful people. Whether it's crafting meaningful chapel
services, collaborating on innovative class projects, or even
hosting a gnome-themed party (yes, we all dressed as garden
gnomes and gathered around the table—it was as hilarious as it

Speech Continued...

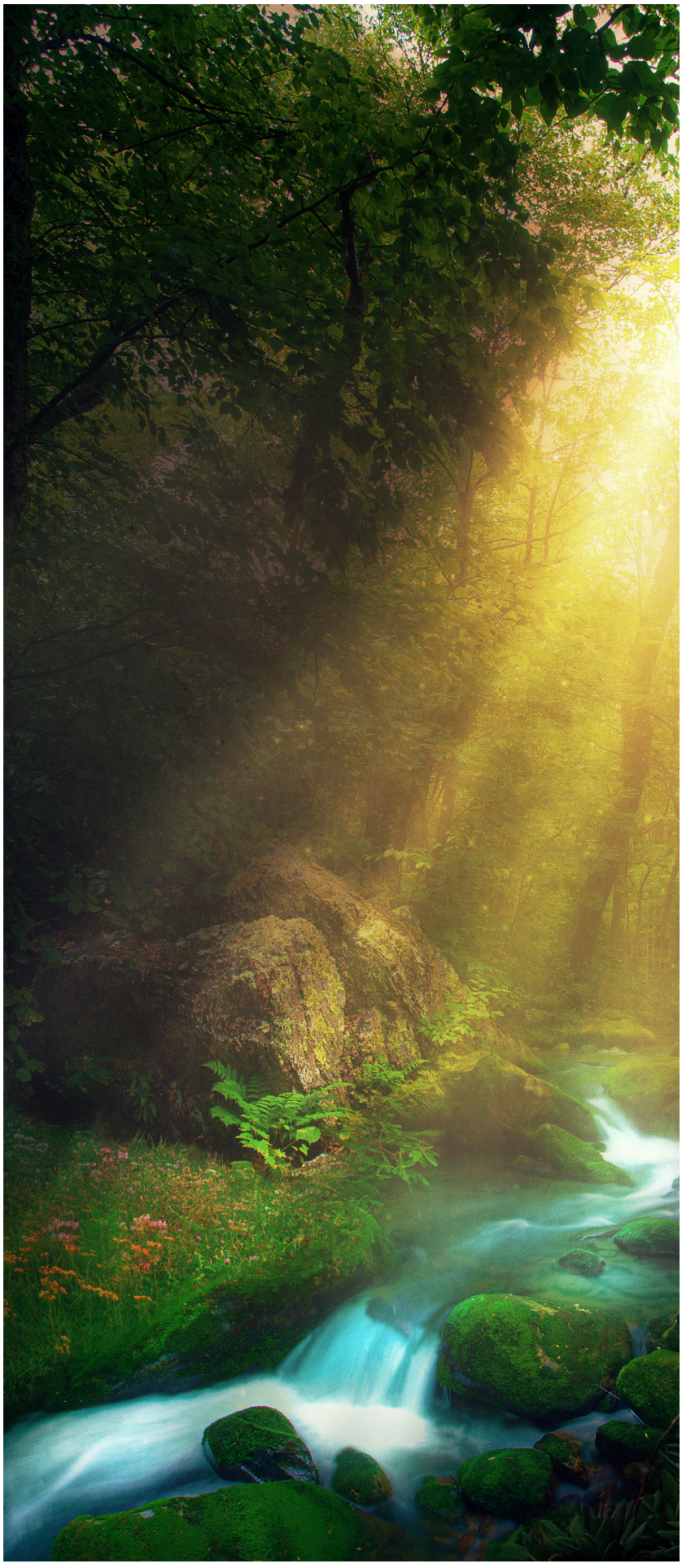
sounds!), this creativity inspires me. I am so hopeful about how this energy and innovation will benefit the church in the years to come.

We also bring a bold sense of care and commitment to the church and the communities we serve. I've seen my peers wrestle with hard and courageous questions, the kind that push us to confront what it means to lead faithfully. And along with that boldness, there's an incredible spirit of hospitality—a genuine welcome—that infuses all we do.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we are a people of hope.
In a time when the church faces complex challenges, we are dreaming big. We are discerning new ways to connect with others, bridge divides, and build communities of faith that are rooted in justice, compassion, and love.
This deep hope, combined with the gifts I've shared tonight, is what makes us excited and ready to step into the work of ministry.

Thank you for supporting us and believing in us as we prepare to serve the church. We are grateful for this community and for the ways it equips us to live out our callings.





Remember the Martyrs

Voices cry out remember the martyrs!
But their voices are not their own
They have not made peace with death
Voices cry out remember the martyrs!
But their voices are not their own
Their words are empty
Voices cry out remember the martyrs!
But their voices are not their own
Death and theology are not in reality
Voices cry out remember the martyrs!
But their voices are not their own

Voices cry out remember the martyrs!
But their voices are not their own
When body
When mind
When spirit
When soul
When they are one in action
Voices cry out remember the martyrs!
And their voices are their own
Voices United and whole
Voices cry out remember the martyrs!
And their voices are their own

-Taína

Judas was a betrayer of Jesus
A falsifier, a weaponized, a liar
Known by a few but not the many
Cause they knew.

Parting the Red Seas of an illusion
But for Jesus there was no confusion
Once a liar, twice a liar, three
Can a leopard change their stripes
And turn into a honey bee?

Yeah Judas was a betrayer
A falsifier, a weaponized, a liar
Known by a few but not the many
Cause they knew.

Judas was a soldier for the Lord
So he pretends
Falsifying them gun marks
Pretending with a grin

Two faces, three, maybe even four
When the mask slipped down
It fell to the floor
Judas can't take it back now
It's dirty and torn.

Yeah Judas was a betrayer
A falsifier, a weaponized, a liar
known by a few but not the many
Cause they knew.

Old Judas was on the run
With them gold chipped lies
No time to conversate, ingratiate
Cause she just committed a rape
Fake apology to compensate
Your love was never love
It was hate.

Against the wall with no grip
Judas denies whats true
Lacks follow through
Now blue.

But Judas did it to Judas
Whom to blame?
Now wallow in shame
Judas pretends, Judas hides
Judas chides
Now everyone knows
Judas lies.

**Judas, by Rochelle "ThePoet" Henderson, MDiv Middler*
**this poem has a trigger word that some may find offensive but the same is in our Bible.*



Congratulations to our 2025 International Graduates!



Chelsea Jasmine Williams,
Master of Arts in Religion
Cape Town, South Africa



Ochuba Okam Ochuba,
Master of Arts in Theological Studies
Abia State, Nigeria



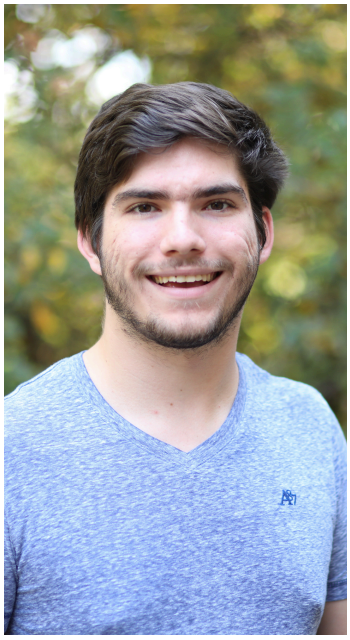
Dickson Tembo, Master of Arts in Religion
Hofmeyr, Nyima, Eastern Province, Zambia

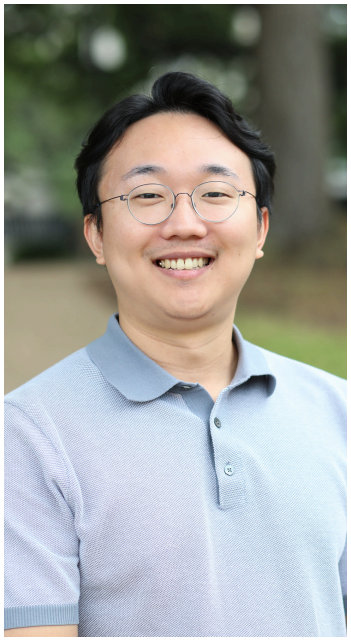
Congratulations to all 2025 Graduates!











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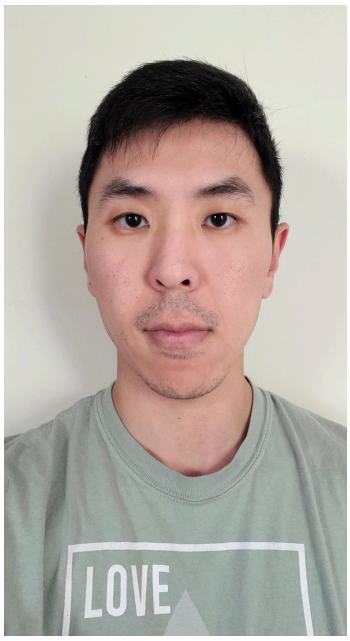


Congratulations to all 2025 Graduates!











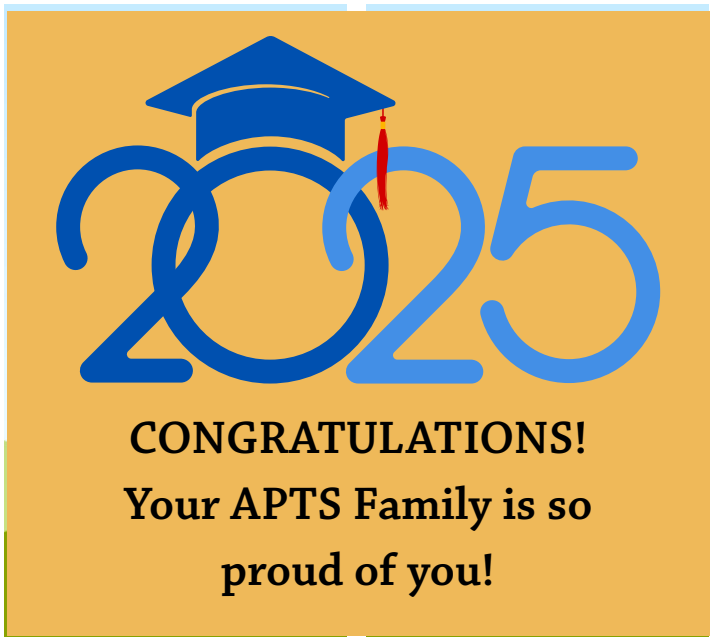








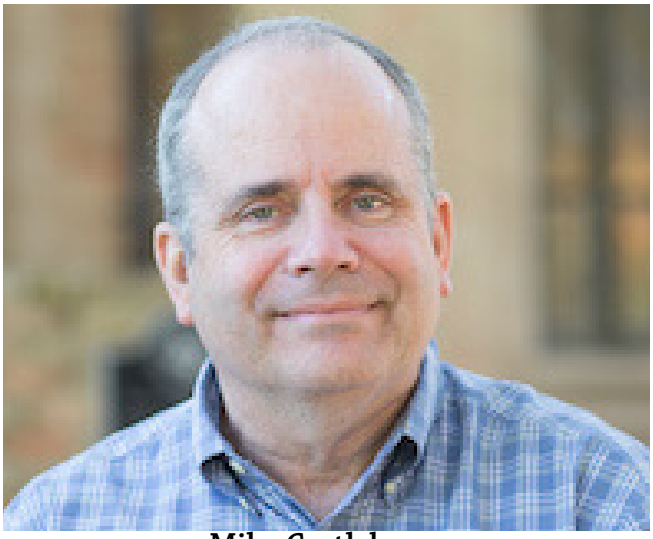




Beloved Community Members Moving On...You will be missed. We wish you well!! And never forget you are always a part of the APTS family :)



Rev. Andrew Frazier
Recruitment Associate



Mike Castleberry
Director of Financial Services



Rodrigo Rosales, Maintenance Staff



Mike Pence, IT Director



David Hill, Maintenance Supervisor



Mary Wall, Registrar &
Dean of Enrollment

Blessings to all.



Eric Wall, Professor of Sacred Music
& Dean of the Chapel

AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

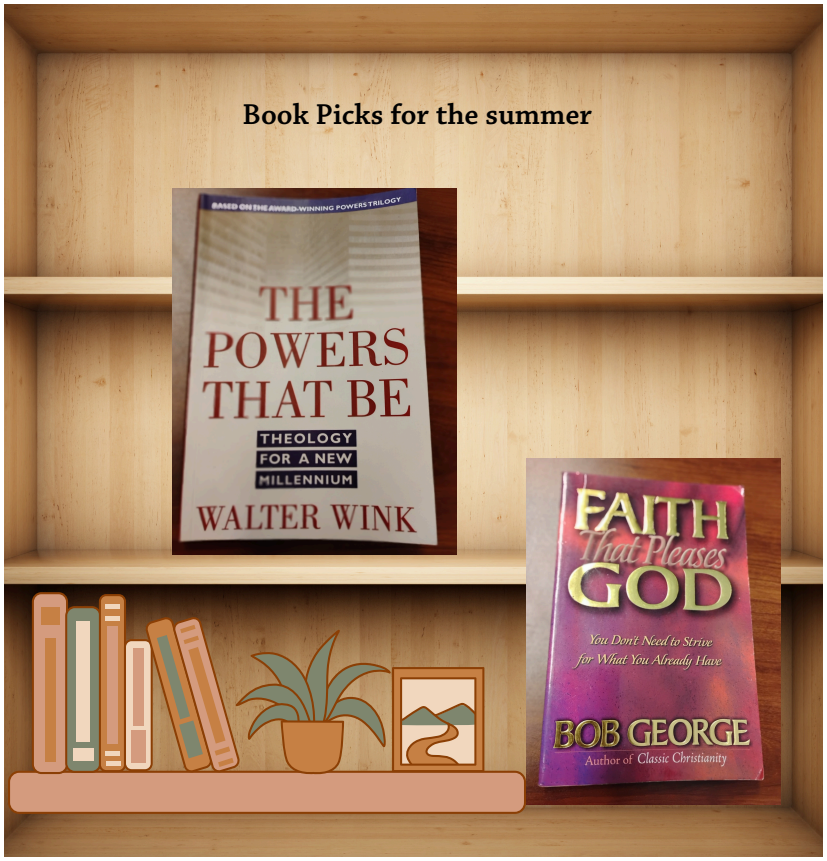
Note from the Editor



The Curve Ball

What are we to do when we are thrown a curve ball in life? Some may duck. Others may attempt to outrun it. Still others will stand, and when we have done all we can, we stand in the storm and pray. Ponder Romans 8:31 "What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"(NRSV) May we all have a summer filled with grace and the power to stand because we know God is for us.

--Rochelle



The Editor would like to thank Usama & Maryelle for everything Kairos :) BUT also, this editor owes a debt of gratitude to every student, professor, administrator, dean and beloved community member who helped with Jayden & Brianna. THANK YOU.

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.
Submissions for Kairos are accepted ongoing throughout Fall & Spring semester only. Themes will be posted periodically. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss ideas.

Rochelle Henderson, a Middler MDiv student, is the editor of Kairos. You can reach her by emailing kairos@student.austinseminary.edu