

BOARD MEETING REMINDER

Thursday & Friday,
October 16 & 17
in Collegeville.

If you haven't already reserved your Abbey Guest House Room with Elisa, please call her at 320-363-3366.

INSTITUTE UPDATES

- Workers are currently busy running a power line through the grounds that will feed our new electrical transformer. The work, made possible by our capital campaign, renovates major components of the Institute's 40-year-old electrical service.
- The room once known as the "Gold Room" has been transformed into a practical and user-friendly multi-purpose/computer room.
- Two CSB student workers were with us throughout the summer months — Laura Ruprecht and Kari Schroeder. Their gracious hospitality helped make our summer programs a success. Kari will remain on staff through the academic year.
- Former part-time staff member, Carla Durand-Demerais has accepted our position of Program Coordinator. We are excited to have her now full time in the office.

INSIDE THE

COLLEGEVILLE INSTITUTE

FOR ECUMENICAL & CULTURAL RESEARCH



Volume II, Issue III

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SUMMER WORKSHOP REVIEW

Twelve pastors joined us in early June for our first workshop, **Writing and the Pastoral Life: A Week with Eugene Peterson**. The workshop aims to help pastors integrate writing into their vocational lives. One participant wrote, "This



was the very best, most exceptional, and transformative educational experience of my life.

The hospitality was great. Thank you!"

Putting it on Paper: Effective Writing for Congregational Life. In July, twelve young

pastors from around the country joined workshop facilitator Mary Nilssen in learning ways to



transition from academic writing to writing for a congregation. "This was a wonderful top-notch experience. I am honored to have been chosen and hopeful about a writing career within my call to pastoral leadership," said one participant.

We ended the summer with **Believing in Writing: Poetry, Prose,**

and Prayer. Michael Dennis Browne facilitated the workshop for writers who are exploring religious themes in their work. Each of the twelve participants experienced long stretches of writing time each day, along with group discussion time geared towards individual projects.

Our three writing workshops were part of **Words Making Worlds: The Ecclesial Literature Project,**



funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.



Butler Center Kitchen Remodel

The Institute's new kitchen—attractive and functional—worked great for our summer workshops.

Thanks to Elisa for her planning and coordination of this re-design effort.

FALL RESIDENT SCHOLARS

William C. Placher, Professor of Philosophy and Religion, and LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at Wabash College (Crawfordsville, Indiana), has been named the 2008-09 Kilian McDonnell Writer-in-Residence.

Bill is an Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA), has served on national committees to write a new statement of faith and a series of new catechisms for that denomination, has published over a



dozen books, including *Callings: Twenty Centuries of Christian Wisdom On Vocation*, *Jesus the Savior*, *A History of Christian Theology*, and has advocated for theological work that “reaches an audience beyond the academic world.”

A fellow theologian said of Bill’s most recent publication, *The Triune God*: “If Garrison Keillor had grown up Reformed instead of Lutheran and done serious theology with a light touch rather than serious humor with some light theology, he might have written this book.”

We are preparing for the arrival of our eight incoming scholars and their families for Fall ‘08.

Ane Kvale Fitzgerald

Family Therapist—Glencoe, Minnesota
Project Title: *A Spiritual Narrative of Depression in Women*

Andualem Dagmawi Gobena

Deacon, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church
University of St. Michael’s College—Ethiopia/Toronto, Canada
Project Title: *Soteriology in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church: The Hymnological Exposition of St. Yared in his Didactic Degguu & Its Connection with St. Ephrem in Syrian*

Joseph Hopwood

Vicar, Saints Martha and Mary Episcopal Church—Eagan, Minnesota
Project Title: *Regeneration in Spiritual Journey*

Don Saliers

Distinguished Professor of Theology and Worship
Emory University, Candler School of Theology—Atlanta, Georgia
Project Title: *Theological Aesthetics*

Paul Philibert, OP

Visiting Professor (2004-2007)
University of Fribourg—Switzerland
Project Title: A translation of Roman Catholic Theologian Yves Congar’s *Vraie et Fausse Reforme dans l’Eglise* (*True and False Reforms in the Church*)

Natalia Pecherskaya

Rector, The St. Petersburg School of Religion and Philosophy—St. Petersburg, Russia
Project Title: *Review of the Effect of Scholarly Research in Science and Religion in the System of Higher Education in the USA*

Elaine MacMillan

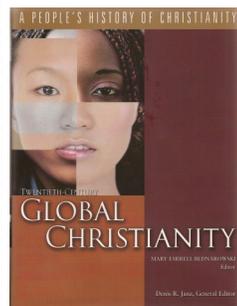
Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology
University of San Diego—San Diego, California
Project Title: *The Nature and Mission of the Church*

Mary van Balen-Holt

Program Director
Department of Theology
Ohio Dominican University—Columbus, Ohio
Project Title: *Practicing Lectio Divina*

THE BOOK NOOK

From global to local, Board Member and religious historian **Mary F. Bednarowski** leads a respected group of scholars in exploring the variety of evolving Christian traditions and practices in the last century. In the book’s introductory chapter Mary stresses that *Global Christianity* is “story-history—not theological abstractions or institutional development and disputes.” Look also for a stellar chapter on ecumenism by Patrick Henry.



In this superbly written book, **Rachel Srubas** welcomes the desert Christians into the swirl of twenty-first century life. Her creative retrieval of a vibrant moment in Christianity’s past helps us grasp why wisdom from the past matters so much to the vitality of our own contemporary lives of faith. Rachel participated in the *Writing and the Pastoral Life: A Week with Eugene Peterson* workshop in Summer ‘07

