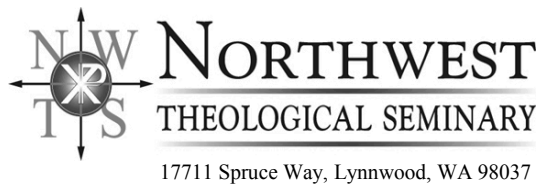


## FALL 2008 SCHEDULE

Classes begin Tuesday, September 2, and end on December 4. All classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with three evening classes offered. **Auditors are welcome to attend any class for \$40 a course.** Please call the Registrar at 425-787-5144 or view our website [www.nwts.edu](http://www.nwts.edu) for more information, textbook lists, and class updates.

DAY/TIME	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
12:45-1:45 PM	PATRISTICS I	PATRISTICS I
2:00-3:30 PM	OLD TESTAMENT INTRO	OLD TESTAMENT INTRO
3:45-4:45 PM	VOS READINGS	VOS READINGS
5:00-6:30 PM	GREEK IA	GREEK IA
7:00-9:30 PM	WESTMINSTER CONFESSION	HOMILETICS IA



Volume 9, Issue 3  
September 2008

NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER



His story is...

# Our Story

## NEW SEMESTER, NEW STUDENTS

Our new academic year opens September 2 with four students. We are delighted to have an M.Div. applicant, David Andrew Tucker, from Renton, Washington. We also have a new M.T.D. applicant, Mrs. Laurie Copeland from Seattle. Returning from last year are two additional M.T.S. students, Greg Joines from Lake Forest, Washington and David McPherson from Bothell. These four represent an OPC, PCA, and two independent churches.



We are deeply grateful to the Lord for these individuals who have been entrusted to us as teachers by His grace and mercy. Please remember them in your prayers as they plumb the depths of the Word of God with us; as they experience the riches of Christ as those treasures, old and new, are unfolded to them in the history of redemption. And pray for us who teach them that we too may marvel anew at the riches of the Word of God and continue to grow with them in love and obedience to the Son of the Father, our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

*“For here have we no continuing city,  
but we seek one to come” Heb. 13:14.*

### Fall Highlights:

- Classes begin Sept. 2. Fall 2008 Schedule on p. 4.
- NT Greek, Westminster Confession, and Homiletics Classes offered Tuesday and Thursday evenings.
- Auditors welcome—only \$40 a class.
- Reformation Day Celebration on Oct. 31.

## “HE CAN’T PREACH”

This refrain, echoing like a chorus, is being heard increasingly in denominational headquarters, pulpit search committees, sessions and consistories, and among ordinary church members. It has even produced a remedial movement in which sessions and congregations send their incompetent pastor-preachers ‘back to school’ for a refresher course. We are in the throes of a famine of the preaching of the Word of God in the Reformed churches. Sadly, as I indirectly assist a congregation in finding a permanent pastor, I too have recently been drawn into the accuracy of the “he can’t preach” frustration. I have listened to numerous sermons from veteran pastors, interns and recent seminary graduates: the refrain *is* true; most of them “can’t preach”.

The failure here must be placed squarely at the doorstep of the Reformed seminaries. For more than twenty years, they have been churning out a product that cannot preach the text of Scripture. At the same time, the church itself has been content to have a body in the pulpit—like a talking bobble-head—no matter how bad he is. On the premise that some preacher is better than no preacher, the church has seconded the motion of the seminaries and (just like the culture) submitted to the dumbing down of Biblical preaching.

NWTS has produced two graduates who have distinguished themselves for their preaching ability: presbyteries have confirmed this; denominations have confirmed this; congregations who have heard them have echoed and reechoed, “Your men can preach! They are different!!” We thank God for that. But that is our purpose in homiletical training, in Biblical content training, in all the training of all our courses—to teach men how to preach *and* to teach them the riches of the text of Scripture so they have treasures to offer the hungry and thirsty people of God. At NWTS, we are bucking the trend. Our graduates “can preach”.

—Jim Dennison

## FACULTY NEWS

Rev. J. Peter Vosteen was the featured preacher at the Sunday evening worship service of the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church at Tacoma, Washington on July 13.

James T. Dennison, Jr. has been made an Honorary Member of the Puritan Research Institute established by Dr. Eve Petrőczy of the Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem in Budapest, Hungary.

Scott Sanborn has been preparing his class lectures on Vos Readings and Ridderbos Readings for distribution on CD or MP3. These class sessions are “close readings” (i.e., line by line with running commentary) of foundational texts from Geerhardus Vos and Herman Ridderbos. These two courses will join the audio versions of the Gospel of John and Reformation History, each of which is available from NWTS for a suggested donation of \$100. Please contact the seminary office if interested (425-787-5144).

## REFORMATION DAY CELEBRATION AND AN HISTORIC FIRST

For the first time since the Protestant Reformation, more than 120 Reformed Confessions of Faith will be made available in English translation. On October 31, 2008, Reformation Heritage Books of Grand Rapids, Michigan will release the first volume of *Reformed Confessions of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries in English Translation*, containing 33 confessions published between 1523 and 1552. At 7:30 pm on that evening, in the Lynnwood Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the compiler and editor of this series, our Academic Dean, James T. Dennison, Jr., will debut the 800-page initial volume. You are warmly invited to join the Faculty and student body for this historic occasion.



You will be able to take home your own personal copy of the book by making a \$50 donation to the work of NWTS. Here are confessions written by Ulrich Zwingli, William Farel, John Calvin, Martin Bucer, Wolfgang Capito, John Oecolampadius, John a Lasco, the Waldensians and many more. Here is not only theological matter for the soul, here is food for the heart gathered from the confessions of believers in Reformed churches in Germany, Switzerland, East Friesland, France, Belgium, Holland and England.

This is a landmark, multi-volume set; so mark your calendar now for this joyous celebration of our Reformation heritage from primary documents in English translation. If you are unable to attend, you may purchase the volume from the publisher: [www.heritagebooks.org](http://www.heritagebooks.org); phone 619-977-0599.

### DONATIONS

Your donations are even more important to us now. We have trimmed our annual budget to temporarily proceed without a Director of Development. Our budget now supports: two professors; a bookkeeper; office supplies; and student services. A recent legacy was God’s gift to carry us through the summer months. But we remain dependent on the generosity and good will of you, our loyal supporters. Please keep us in your prayers and in your giving as we shepherd this new class of students and auditors.

### WEBSITE RESOURCES

The seminary website, [www.nwts.edu](http://www.nwts.edu), has been updated with some new audio presentations. Readers may also be interested in the “List of Bible Commentaries” (or “Preaching Resources”) which provides commentaries for every book of the Bible, indicating whether the book is liberal or conservative, helpful or useless, etc.. This list is updated regularly as new commentaries are published. Pastors and Sunday School teachers may find this resource useful for evaluating materials to use as background studies for sermons and class presentations.