

inSpire is pleased to continue this new feature that invites our readers to share ideas/stories with other readers. For each issue, we will pose a question and give submission details via email. To receive the questions, alums should sign up at <http://www2.ptsem.edu/alumni/change.htm> and non-alums at <http://www.ptsem.edu/read/inspire/subscribe.htm>. We're thankful to those who sent in entries for this issue, and are sorry we could not print all of them.

Who has been an important mentor to you, and why?

Preaching Mentors

Bryant Kirkland was my mentor. His huge reputation, honed on the plains of Oklahoma and brought to flower in the great pulpit of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York, had me in awe when I was invited to be a student assistant in Manhattan during my senior year at Princeton. He became a life-long mentor and friend.

His genuine notes of interest and support over the years carried me through some of the wastelands—spiritual and otherwise—experienced by every parish pastor. Somehow, Dr. Kirkland managed to combine an imperial, almost military, bearing with sermons and pastoral care that were sensitive, encouraging, liberal, and unfailingly biblical.

John L. Munz (M.Div., 1968), Solon, Ohio

One of the big influences on me was Bill Brower of the Speech Department. I'd done a lot of acting and tended to use noise rather than substance when I was a student. Bill wouldn't let me get away with that.

Then, when I was an instructor in homiletics at PTS in the mid-sixties, I was critiquing sermons with Bill one day. It was just a regular sermon (that is, mostly abstract and theoretical). Bill got up and wandered over to look out the window. At last he turned around. "If half of what you say is true," he slowly said to all of us, "then Christianity is the most fascinating religion in the world. What I can't understand is why all of your sermons have to be so dull!"

Don Chatfield (M.Div., 1959), Spring Valley, Illinois



A Patient Tutor

As a young and callow PTS grad, my first job was at the First Presbyterian and Trinity Church in South Orange, New Jersey, as assistant pastor under Dr. Charles L. Mead.

His patient tutoring—and his giving me a sort of parish of my own in a residential building going up in nearby Newark—got me off to a good start in ministry. I called on families as they moved into their units, inviting them to church. I met about 100 people, some of whom I counseled, married, baptized, and befriended, most of them young people from around the country attending corporate training programs in Newark and New York.

Dr. Mead's faith in my ability as a young pastor was responsible for a confident beginning to ministry.

Nelson Horne (M.Div., 1952; D.Min., 1984), Chautauqua, New York



Mentoring by D.Min.

Mentoring happens in a variety of ways. I rejoice that the experience of completing the D.Min. at PTS was one. My time there was much more than the sabbatical that my superior suggested! I had changed careers from being a professor of educational psychology to being a campus minister.

While teaching a course titled "Religious Faith and the Human Experience," I had come across Dr. James Loder's *The Transforming Moment*. The book itself was a mentor, and then having Jim Loder as my D.Min. final project advisor changed the way I approached ministry.

David Turner (D.Min., 1996), Lisle, Illinois



Respecting Difference

I came to PTS from Jamaica via Millikin University, thanks to Dr. William Bodamer, my religion teacher there, who urged me to attend his alma mater. My best teachers at Princeton were also excellent mentors: Bruce Metzger, Bernhard Anderson, Karlfried Froehlich, Freda Gardner, Geddes Hanson, Dan Migliore, and Diogenes Allen, as well as the late Jim Loder, Jim Nichols, George Hendry, and Chris Beker.

These professors reinforced my love of the church and of scholarly pursuits, and helped form me as a person of conviction and integrity. To a person, they listened to others and treated differences with respect, not patronage.

Adrian McFarlane (M.Div., 1974), Oneonta, New York

A Theologian and a Gentleman

Among a host of mentors during my time at PTS, one of the standouts was George Hendry, though he probably would have been surprised to hear it. I took every class from him that I could.

Dr. Hendry made theology intelligible, even amusing. He opened up the Apostles' Creed, introduced the idea of a theology of nature, and always had time for a student with an inquiring mind. He could buttonhole Dr. Dowey on the chapel steps, or stop a class to listen to the sounds of a bagpipe wafting in through the window (upon closing the window, he told us he left Scotland to escape that caterwauling!).

Notebooks from his classes still supply material for Christian education classes and Lenten services 25 years later. He was one of the greats!

Lawrence A. Jones (M.Div., 1978), Marquette, Michigan



Mentoring by Example

I first met Cullen Story more than a quarter century ago. He had been asked to evaluate my facility in reading Greek, prior to my registering for classes. As I stumbled through a few verses, I was struck by his graciousness, erudition, and extraordinary ability as a teacher as he patiently corrected my mistakes and drew out the correct answers from somewhere in my memory.

During those magical years at Princeton, and during the decades that followed, my respect and gratitude for Dr. Story grew. From shooting baskets in his backyard to discussing papers over coffee at a downtown lunchroom (his treat), to agonizing over the future direction of my ministry, he set the highest of standards for me. He exemplified what it meant to love the Lord with all one's heart and soul and mind.

Because he took me into his confidence, freely sharing formative experiences in his own life, this unassuming teacher instilled a confidence in me that I, too, could make a difference in the lives of others.

John J. Hoerich (M.Div., 1979; Th.M., 1982), Stevenson, Maryland