



Intersections

Volume 2, Number 1
Spring 2004

Bringing news and resource information to those seeking to
enrich the religious life of American Christians.

LOUISVILLE INSTITUTE GRANT PROGRAMS EXPAND



Welcome from the Director

Welcome to the fourth issue of *Intersections*! Winter was busy at the Louisville Institute, with three major consultations and numerous grant selection committees. This issue of *Intersections* features an informative interview with Boston University professor and Institute board member, Nancy Ammerman.

As our grant programs expand, many of the application deadlines have changed also. Finally, we've included a complete list of the 2003 SGPL grantees. We hope you enjoy this issue of *Intersections*.

Jim Lewis



As noted in the last issue of *Intersections*, Lilly Endowment, Inc. has made a \$10.5 million grant to Louisville Presbyterian Seminary to support the grantmaking and convening work of the Louisville Institute through 2006. The grant will enable the Louisville Institute to open three of our competitive grant programs to both academic and pastoral leaders, beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year. The Summer Stipend, Christian Faith and Life, and Religious Institutions programs will now be open to pastoral leaders. The Dissertation Fellowship and First Book Grant Program for Minority Scholars will continue to focus on academics. In addition, the Christian Faith and Life and Religious Institutions grant programs now permit variable grant periods, from three months to nine months in length.

It is important to note, however, that the purpose of all of our competitive grantmaking programs remains the same. The Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders Program provides pastors and other religious leaders with six to twelve weeks for time apart for vocational renewal and reflection on their life, ministry, and issues related to

contemporary religious leadership. Five other competitive grant programs seek to support significant research and writing projects by both scholar/educators and scholar/pastors. We hope that these research projects will identify and focus on compelling, important, and fresh issues significant for churches and American Christians. Further, we expect the projects to contribute in some way to the revitalization of the churches and American religious life. We hope that the inclusion of pastoral leaders in these programs will both foster more such proposals and encourage creative collaborations between academic and pastoral leaders on these topics. We want to support serious research that is authentically engaged with North American Christianity.

Our General Grant program has always been open widely to academics, pastors, congregations, and other groups, and that openness will continue.

Additional, more detailed information about the various grant programs of the Louisville Institute is contained in an updated brochure available from our office after May 1 or on our web site.

THE LOUISVILLE INSTITUTE

The Louisville Institute is a Lilly Endowment Program for the Study of American Religion based at Louisville Seminary.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH NANCY AMMERMAN

Nancy Ammerman is currently Professor of Sociology of Religion at Boston University, with appointments in the School of Theology and the Department of Sociology. From 1984-95, she taught the Sociology of Religion at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, and from 1995-2003, she was a member of the Hartford Seminary faculty. She first became a member of the Board of the Louisville Institute in January 1993 and has served in that capacity (with one 30-month break) since that time. Her term on the Board concludes at the end of May 2004.



What we have just been talking about – the expansion of the work to eventually include all of American Christianity, and the gradual expansion of our conversation

partners in terms of disciplines in theology and biblical studies and pastoral practice. Then the effort to bring the leaders and practitioners together. The focus of what we are doing has gotten much clearer – bringing together those who study and those who lead the institutions — even as the scope has expanded dramatically.

Question: When and how did you join the Board of the Louisville Institute?

As I recall, when you and Dorothy Bass met with me, one of the things you had in mind was that the Board needed someone other than a historian, and someone not from LPTS, but also someone sensitive to the evangelical protestant experience. The Board was beginning to get a fair number of proposals in the social sciences and wanted something of an expert eye. In some ways I was the first move in expanding the base of the Board, and I was the first “non-founding” member of the Board.

Question: How would you characterize the most important points in the development of Institute during your time on the Board?

Our expansion to include multiple disciplines and multireligious expressions was really just catching up with where the academy was. But our insistence that as academics it is possible to be faithful to our religious traditions – that is more at the cutting edge. The difference that has made is something we see in our Dissertation Fellowship proposals this year, as the applicants clearly express their own faith commitments. Who would have dreamed 10 years ago that literature, economics, anthropology and other departments come to us with proposals? And what they do is not far-fetched; these changes are both subversive and evangelistic.

The emphasis on pastoral ministry at the Louisville Institute reflects a larger cultural

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trend, one that invites leaders in many areas to be reflective about their professional practice. I'm not sure we have it quite right yet, but the Institute is to be praised for undertaking the formidable task of figuring out how to encourage and describe the sort of wisdom that comes out of the pastoral life.

Question: What is your hope for the future of the Louisville Institute?

I hope that the Louisville Institute will continue to be the kind of place where people who want to find things out about American religion can find information, conversation partners — and money for research!

Question: How does scholarship contribute to the well-being of American religion?

Sometimes people from the outside can see things that those on the inside miss, the “fish in the water” phenomenon. By taking that step back we are able to see patterns and habits that are so fully a part of people’s every day lives *they* can’t imagine how things could be different. The sociological imagination is to help people see the patterns of their lives as they are, not as people trapped in their history, but to see themselves as agents capable of rewriting that history. When I describe back to the mainline their habits of being church, I hope it expands their imagination. When they say for example, “You can’t ask people to come to church more than once a week”- they need to know that they are simply wrong – people will

SGPL PROGRAM CONTINUES TO GROW

The 2003 Sabbatical Grant for Pastoral Leaders (SGPL) competition was a resounding success. 352 completed applications were received, a 12% increase over 2002. Thanks to the generosity of the Institute board, a record 50 grants were awarded. While the vast majority of grantees were parish clergy, college chaplains, women religious, judicatory and para-church executives were also among those selected. See a complete list of grantees on pages 4-5.

From February 16-18, 48 of the 50 grantees gathered in Louisville for the annual SGPL consultation. Featured speakers at the consultation were former SGPL grantee Heidi Neumark (*Breathing Space*), St. John’s Collegeville professor Kathleen Cahalan (*Projects That Matter*) and Wake Forest University Divinity School Dean Bill Leonard (*Baptist Ways*).

Thanks to funding increases in the 2004-06 grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Institute will award 60 SGPL grants in 2004, for sabbaticals taken between March 1, 2005 and August 31, 2006. Applications will be mailed, and available for download from the web site, by May 1, and will be due by September 15.

Changing Application Deadlines

Please note that many of our grant application deadlines have changed. For 2004-2005, the application deadlines for Louisville Institute grant programs are as follows:

**Sabbatical Grants for
Pastoral Leaders**
September 15

Summer Stipend
October 15

Christian Faith and Life
November 15

Religious Institutions
December 1

Dissertation Fellowship
January 15

**First Book Grant Program for
Minority Scholars**
February 15

Rev. Dr. Robert John Andrews

Working
Grove Presbyterian Church
Danville, PA

Rev. Ronald M Bagley

*The Shape of Ministry to Post
Modern Generations*
St. Bonaventure Church
West Seneca, NY

Ms. Gisele Bauche

Integrating Theology and Art
Lacombe Province of Canada
Saskatoon, SK Canada

Chaplain William S Blackerby

*Mentoring Young Adults in the
Episcopal Church*
The Episcopal Church in the
Diocese of Alabama
Birmingham, AL

Rev. Douglas W. Boquist

Rhythms of Renewal
New Hope Community Church
Boardman, OH

Dr. LaTaunya M Bynum

*Revitalization: From Inertia to
Invigorative - How Congregations
Find New Renewed Life*
Broad Street Christian Church
Columbus, OH

Rev. Tim Canniff-Kuhn

Rev. Mary Canniff-Kuhn
*Time and Place Apart: African and
American Outdoor Ministry
Partnership*
Lutheridge+Lutherock Ministries
Arden, NC

Rev. John F. Caplin

*Rejuvenation of Passion - A Journey
in Holistic Self-Leadership*
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
Langley, BC

Rev. Linwood H Chamberlain, Jr.

Learning by Role Reversal
First Lutheran Church
Lorain, OH

Dr. Paul W. Chappell

Crystallizing Our Ministry Vision for 2005-2015
Lancaster Baptist Church
Lancaster, CA

Rev. Gabrielle Fackre Chavez

Community Visions
Christ the Healer UCC
Portland, OR

Rev. Dr. Medardo Teddy Chuquimia

*The Challenge of Building a Bilingual Multiethnic
Church*
Faith Bilingual Presbyterian Church
Stockton, CA

Rev. Kermit Culver

*Renew - Retreat - Retool = Thriving Beyond the
Mid-Point in Ministry*
First United Methodist Church
Bismark, ND

Rev. Scott Dalgarno

Exploring a Call Within the Call to Write
First Presbyterian Church
Ashland, OR

Dr. Allan Figueroa Deck

Latino Religion and Spirituality: A Mature Synthesis
Loyola Institute for Spirituality
Orange, CA

Sr. Rose Mary Dougherty

*Discernment: A Theoretical and Experiential
Exploration*
Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Gregory P Dzwonczyk

Recovering the Holiness of Time
King of Kings Lutheran Church
Middletown, NJ

Rev. David K. Farley

*Hanging with Jesus on the Edge of Babylon:
God's Preferential Option for the Poor and Its
Implications for Pastoral Ministry*
Echo Park United Methodist Church
Los Angeles, CA

Rev. Renee U. Garrett

*Telling the Stories of Jesus - Communicating Jesus'
Message Through Contemporary Stories*
All Souls Congregational Church
Bangor, ME

2003 SABBATICAL GRANT FOR

Rev. Kenneth J Gray

All That Holy Jazz
St. Stephen's Anglican Church
Summerland, BC Canada

Fr. Charles D Hall

*Faith and Science Reconciled in the Experience
of Chaos*
St. Patrick Parish
Portland, MI

Dr. William Griffin Henderson, Jr.

Pastoral Recovery
First Baptist Church
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

Dr. D. Gary Hogue

Christian Ethics in a Global Age of Terror
First Congregational Church, UCC
Traverse City, MI

Rev. H. Sharon Howell

An Immersion to Heal the Wounded Heart
First United Methodist
Lawrence, KS

Rev. Dr. Alvan Nathaniel Johnson, Jr.

Flesh on the Bones
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Bloomfield, CT

Rev. Dr. Nancy Hayes Kilgore

Lifting the Spirits: Reflections on Healing
West Central Behavioral Health
Plainfield, NH

Rev. Michael Kinman

*The Gospel and a Globalized World: Connecting
Local Ministry to the World Arena*
Episcopal Diocese of Missouri
Saint Louis, MO

Dr. Edward J. Laarman

Sacred Storytelling: Stories and the Christian Story
Covenant Christian Reformed Church
Appleton, WI

PASTORAL LEADER GRANTEES

Dr. Joseph W. Lutz

Exploring Multicultural Ministry
First Baptist Church of Riverside
Riverside, CA

Dr. John W. Miller

One Bread, One Body
NorthPark Presbyterian Church
Dallas, TX

Rev. Ronald V. Mills

Teach Me the New Song to Sing: Resting in the Hymns of Charles Wesley
Ivy Creek United Methodist Church
Charlottesville, VA

Rev. Dr. Nobuko Miyake-Stoner

Seeking Wholeness from East Meeting West
Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Lakewood, CO

Rev. RONALDA Ay Nicholas-Frazier

A Time to Rest, Renew, Reflect and Research: Theater of the Living Word
Living Word Community Church
New York, NY

Rev. Troy D Overton

A Canterbury Tale
Province of Our Lady of Consolation
Clarksville, IN

Rev. Jonathan Proctor

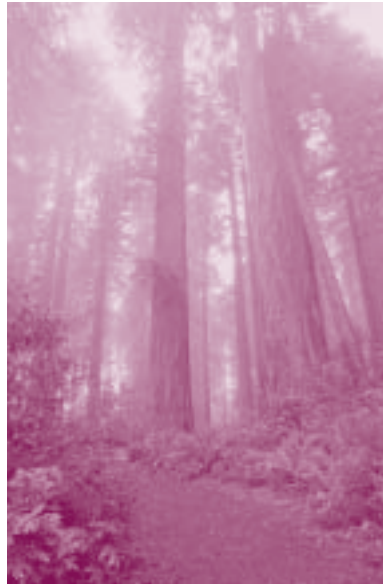
Pastoral Engagement and the Integration of Worlds
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church (O.C.A.)
St Paul, MN

Rev. James S Rauch

The Music of the Spheres
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Escondido, CA

The Rev. Richard C. Rentner

Holy Places: Designing Church Buildings that Transform Lives
Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church
Tecumseh, MI



Sr. Therese Ann Rich

Ursuline Sisters - Apostolic Contemplatives in a Postmodern World
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Aurora, OH/Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown
Canfield, OH

Dr. James E Ross

Strength for the Journey
Madison Baptist Church
Madison, GA

Rev. Msgr. Vincent Rush

Waiting on Both Halves of My Soul
St. Hugh of Lincoln Roman Catholic Church.
Diocese of Rockville Centre
Huntington Station, NY

Rev. Pamela Porter Snare

The Rule of Benedict: Tools for Building Holy Lives and Healthy Communities of Faith
Christ Church
Covington, LA

Rev. Dr. Frederick Jerome Streets

Faith Matters: Some Implications of Religious Pluralism for Christian Identity, Faithful Living and Religious Leadership
Yale University
New Haven, CT

Rev. Dr. Gloria J. Tate

Journaling the Journey
Presbyterian Church Of Teaneck
Teaneck, NJ

Rev. David R. Thomas

Ecclesiola Today
Centenary, A United Methodist Congregation
Lexington, KY

Rev. Dr. Joe M. Thomas

Understanding and Overcoming Crosscultural Barriers of Ministry in Northwestern Ohio
Eagle Creek Church of the Brethren
Findlay, OH 45840

Mr. David D. van Schaik

How Christian Leadership Facilitates Personal and Communal Transformation
L'Arche Stratford
Stratford, ON Canada

Rev. Dr. Maxine Waddell

Homecoming-Coming Home: Spiritual Renewal
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
Decatur, GA

Ms. Regina C. Wilson

Spiritual Renewal in a Latin American Context
Saint Joseph Parish
South Bend, IN

Rev. William Wylie-Kellermann

The Principalities and Pastoral (Self) Care
Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education
Detroit, MI

Rev. John L. Yost

Prison Ministry and Congregational Vitality
Messiah Lutheran Church
Mauldin, SC

Insights available on “InSites”

A new, web-based resource recently debuted that should interest many readers of *Intersections*. “InSites into American Religion” is a quarterly electronic newsletter promoting the work and research of over twenty web sites of religion programs, projects, and institutes (including the Louisville Institute) related to Lilly Endowment’s initiatives in religion. Scott Thumma of Hartford Seminary and Joe Coalter of Louisville Seminary edit the newsletter. In addition to brief summaries of research and guides to the web sites, each issue contains a “Tech tips” section that identifies web resources, techniques for Internet searching and browsing, and other skills to facilitate ministry in a technological world. “InSites into American Religion” is free upon request. An abbreviated version of the e-newsletter is distributed quarterly via email, and the full Adobe pdf version is available online for printing and distributing. [For more information about subscribing to the newsletter send an email to InSites@hartsem.edu.](#)

CF&L CONSULTATION

On February 12-13, 2004, the Louisville Institute and Lilly Endowment sponsored a consultation on Christian Faith and Life at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. The consultation focused on, “The Shape of Christian Living” (borrowing a metaphor from David Ford’s, *The Shape of Living*). Participants included recent grantees from our Christian Faith and Life program, ten pastors from one of our Pastors Working Groups or the Louisville Institute Board, and staff from the Louisville Institute and Lilly Endowment.

Craig Dykstra opened the consultation by noting that the theme of Christian faith and life is central to the work of Lilly Endowment’s Religion Division. Discerning the shape of Christian living, a task shared by pastors and academics alike, requires a deep exploration of the life of Christian faith lived in specific local contexts and in response to the activity of the triune God. How can pastors and academics live out their distinctive but similar tasks in response to this concern?

A lively plenary conversation followed his opening remarks. Tim Clydesdale noted that many contemporary persons have to be taught what to hunger for in their spiritual life. Proposing the metaphor of a cafeteria buffet, he noted that college students especially have

to be encouraged to “eat their spiritual vegetables.” We can no longer assume that their earlier upbringing and education have taught them what they need in order to be nourished for human flourishing. Serene Jones



Above: Tim Clydesdale & William Buchanan. Right: Serene Jones, Bill McConville & Ken Carter

praised the fact that practices, rituals, and patterns are now subject to substantive theological reflection and noted that the wisdom of pastors can contribute a lot to these discussions.

Following small group sessions, in which Christian Faith and Life grantees described their grant projects and pastors responded to them, two panel discussions explored some of the implications of the shape of Christian living for the work of both academics and pastors. In the first panel, Bill McConville noted that David Ford’s notions of multiple overwhelms and the shape of life

accurately describe the experience of people in his parish. Serene Jones suggested that this kind of clergy/scholar conversation could not have occurred ten years ago; shifts on both sides have made it possible. Ken Carter proposed that academics and pastors really do share a common vocation, and that pastors are strategically placed to translate academic work to the parish. He suggested that the notion of practices helps theology “make sense” to a congregation.



Mark McIntosh launched the second panel discussion by emphasizing the fact that God cherishes what we are doing—labor not for ourselves or our congregations but on behalf of “God’s project.” Shawnthea Monroe-Mueller noted that we work with persons who are hungry for narrative and faith. She compared that work to a “drag line” pulled through deep prairie grass so that people know both where they have been and how to find their way forward. Rich faith narratives can do the same thing; unfortunately we have let others take our stories and turn them into entertainment.

Participants found the gathering to be engaging and the conversations to be stimulating, and they expressed the hope that such consultations of pastors and academics might continue.

Consultation participants included the following:

Scott Christopher Bader-Saye
University of Scranton

Jerry Boland
Holy Family Church
Chicago, Illinois

William Buchanan
Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church
Nashville, Tennessee

Ken Carter
Providence United Methodist Church
Charlotte, North Carolina

Timothy T. Clydesdale
The College of New Jersey

Judith Marie Gundry-Volf
Yale Divinity School

Serene Jones
Yale Divinity School

Verity Jones
Disciples World
Indianapolis, Indiana

M. Therese Lysaught
University of Dayton

Bill McConville
Saint Francis of Assisi Church
Raleigh, North Carolina

Joy A. McDougall
Candler School of Theology
Emory University

John McFayden
First Presbyterian Church
Arlington Heights, Illinois

Mark Allen McIntosh
Loyola University Chicago

Shawnthea Monroe-Mueller
First Congregational Church
Moorhead, Minnesota

Michael Mooty
Central Christian Church
Lexington, Kentucky

Cherie Parker
Watkins Memorial United
Methodist Church
Louisville, Kentucky

Lynn Nell Rhodes
Pacific School of Religion

Barbara R. Rossing
Lutheran School of Theology at
Chicago

David Schreiber
Resurrection Lutheran Church
Indianapolis, Indiana

R. Kevin Seasoltz
Saint John’s University

Alum Updates

Jessica Elfenbein (Dissertation Fellowship 1994) has published *The Making of a Modern City: Philanthropy, Civic Culture, and the Baltimore YMCA* (University Press of Florida, 2001). Since 1995, Dr. Elfenbein has taught History and Community Studies at the University of Baltimore where she spearheaded the creation of an innovative interdisciplinary major in Community Studies and Civic Engagement. She also directs the Center for Baltimore and Regional Studies. Dr. Elfenbein is an editor of the new anthology *From Mobtown to Charm City: New Perspectives on Baltimore's Past*. She has received the Board of Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Public Service, the University System of Maryland's highest honor. Dr. Elfenbein is currently at work on two research projects: one on the Fresh Air Fund; and the other a study of the German Jewish experience in Baltimore for the Jewish Museum of Maryland.

David Hein (Summer Stipend Program 1997) has published *The Episcopalians* from Praeger Publishers (2003).

WINTER SEMINAR CONSULTATION: JANUARY 16-17, 2004

The Louisville Institute's Winter Seminar convened in Louisville on January 16-17, 2004. As always, it had three main purposes in mind:

- 1) to provide a hospitable, intergenerational, and interdisciplinary intellectual forum in which grantees can discuss their research;
- 2) to encourage scholars to think about their scholarship in light of the needs of believers and their churches;
- 3) to enable grantees and Louisville Institute Board members to get to know each other.

This year the Winter Seminar included not only grantees in the Dissertation Fellowship and Summer Stipend programs but also the first three grantees in the Louisville Institute's First Book Grant Program for Minority Scholars. In addition, Nancy Ammerman, David Daniels, Kathryn Johnson, and John Kuykendall from the Louisville Institute Board participated.

Grantee participants were as follows:

Sandra Lynn Barnes
Purdue University

Anthea D. Butler
Loyola Marymount University

María Del Socorro Castañeda
University of California, Santa Barbara

David Cortés-Fuentes
San Francisco Theological Seminary

Jonathan H. Ebel
University of Chicago Divinity School

Kathleen M. Garces-Foley
University of California, Santa Barbara

John M. Giggie
University of Texas at San Antonio

Jill K. Gill
Boise State University

Clarence Earl Hardy
Dartmouth College

Miranda K. Hassett
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Matthew Hedstrom
University of Texas, Austin

Robert Paul Hoch
Princeton Theological Seminary

Daniel Hungerman
Duke University

Darlene Hyatt
Asbury Theological Seminary

Derek Scott Jeffreys
University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

Aaron Keith Ketchell
University of Kansas

Arlene L. Macdonald
University of Toronto

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Margarita A. Mooney

Princeton University

Rick Nutt

Muskingum College

Kim Paffenroth

Iona College

Margaret Kim Peterson

Eastern University

Richard Albert Pizzi

Indiana University

Priscilla Pope-Levison

Seattle Pacific University

Ben Witherington

Asbury Theological Seminary

The Seminar provided an opportunity for each grantee to present his or her research project, to respond to another grantee's project, and to participate in a general discussion with the wider group about the various projects represented. According to most participants, this was a valuable experience. Indeed one generous participant described it as "the best academic conference that I have attended."

In the discussion that followed, several general themes or questions were identified which had emerged in the two discussion groups. They included:

1. What constitutes power and how does religion empower and/or disempower persons and communities?

2. The theme of American exceptionalism was noted in several projects. How truly distinctive has American religious experience been? What could we learn by employing a more comparative approach?

3. A related set of issues concerning religious communities and their identity and religious difference and religious unity were articulated.

4. Several participants expressed frustration with the terms "liberal" and "conservative" and the difficulty in discussing religion in America without using them.

To close with another gracious remark from one of the Dissertation Fellowship grantees in attendance: "I thought at first that the funding was the 'main course' and the Winter Seminar the 'gravy' of this fellowship. After participating, I would say that the Seminar deserves equal billing on the menu." It was indeed a wonderful intellectual feast.

Alum Updates

Continued from page 8

Kent Ira Groff (General Grant 2001) has published *What Would I Believe If I Didn't Believe Anything? A Handbook for Spiritual Orphans* (Jossey-Bass, 2004), a book for strugglers both outside and within the church circle. Groff, adjunct professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Pa, is also founding mentor of Oasis Ministries for Spiritual Development, Camp Hill, Pa., whose organization received an Institute grant in 2001 for training based on his earlier book, *The Soul of Tomorrow's Church*. He may be contacted at www.oasismin.org

Jon Pahl (General Grant 1997) teaches at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and has published *Shopping Malls and Other Sacred Spaces: Putting God in Place* from Brazos (2003).

Dr. Anthony W. Alumkal (Dissertation Fellowship 1995) has published *The New Americans: Recent Immigration and American Society* LFB Scholarly Publishing (2003)

Correction

The following grantee was inadvertently omitted from the General Grants list in the Winter 2003 issue of *Intersections*.

Dr. Arthur Farnsley

Columbus, IN

Rugged Orthodoxy: Conservative

Christian Beliefs Among the

Institutionally Unaffiliated

\$47,500.00

AN INTERVIEW WITH NANCY AMMERMAN

Continued from page 3

come more often, and it will not keep them from doing the other good things that they do. Letting mainline leaders see other good ways of doing church, so that they can learn from them and choose how they want to change is an important contribution.

Question: Tell us about your new book, *Pillars of Faith*, that will be published later this year.

It interweaves two stories. One is the story of how the congregational and denominational form shapes what people do in their congregations in American society. There are very predictable kinds of things we find across all kinds of traditions – they get together once a week for worship, they provide some kind of educational resources for their children, if they have even minimal resources they try to do something for the community. The other story that interweaves with that is how seven distinct streams of tradition (mainline, conservative, African American, RC and Orthodox, Jewish, sectarian, other world religions) uniquely fill the organizational form in their own way. Each tradition takes different pieces of the organizational template and fills it in their own way. So we see distinctive and multiple ways of being church. The third underlying current in the book is the question of pluralism – how do we in American society deal with the fact that we have all these different traditions? It makes the

argument that congregations provide the anchoring in something bigger than ourselves that allows us to be both rooted and mobile, grounded and plural. Our way of being religious asks every tradition to recognize its partiality, which I argue is a theological and sociological strength. There is, then, an implied practice of tolerance – whatever the rhetoric to the contrary – that keeps our pluralism healthy. The other piece of the American system is voluntariness, the fact that if people do not choose to carry on the tradition, no religion will survive. The combination of tolerance and voluntarism is the American religious genius.

Question: What is next on your research agenda?

How do people take their religious faith into their everyday lives? I define this quite broadly – practices, rituals, stories, conversations, beliefs – all of the ways they take a sense of the presence of God and stories about who God is into what happens outside their religious communities. In order to understand that I want to observe people within their communities, so I can see what stories (portable narratives) they are being provided. What I hope to be able to do is have a team of researchers who will interview people in various places around the country, follow them to their churches, their schools, jobs, clubs and other places where they are active and observe them there. I also want to try a variation on the time diary technique. For about a month, at a certain time every day

they will talk into a tape recorder about what has happened that day and how, if at all, they understand God or religious traditions and practices to be a part of that. I'm not moving away from the study of congregations, but the focus moves to the person in varying institutional contexts, including congregations. I'd like to eventually do this cross-nationally – Sweden and Germany, Italy or Spain, and especially in Africa, where different histories of globalization, industrialization, established churches, etc. would allow an exploration of how secularization has and hasn't affected people in different contexts.

GRANT-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

The following publications related to Louisville Institute grants have been received since our last newsletter:

Baptist Ways: A History

Bill Leonard
Judson Press (2003)

Beyond Nice: The Spiritual Wisdom of Adolescent Girls

Patricia Davis
Fortress Press (2001)

Beyond the Ordinary: Ten Strengths of U.S. Congregations

Cynthia Woolever
Deborah Bruce
Westminster John Knox Press (2004)

Consuming Religion: Christian Faith and Practice in a Consumer Culture

Vincent Miller
Continuum (2004)

Douglas Horton and the Ecumenical Impulse in American Religion

Theodore Trost
Harvard University Press (2002)

From Meetinghouse to Megachurch: A Material and Cultural History

Anne Loveland
Otis Wheeler
University of Missouri Press (2003)

I Believe

Video
Judy Lankford
Valentine Museum (1991)

Reading the Bible in the Strange World of Medicine

Allen Verhey
William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (2003)

Theology in America: Christian Thought from the Age of the Puritans to the Civil War

E. Brooks Holifield
Yale University Press (2003)

The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation

Barbara Rossing
Westview Press (2004)

They Call Him Pastor: Married Men in Charge of Catholic Parishes

Ruth Wallace
Paulist Press (2003)

Vocation: Discerning Our Callings in Life

Douglas Schuurman
William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. (2004)

Without Benefit of Clergy: Women and the Pastoral Relationship in Nineteenth-Century American Culture

Karin Gedge
Oxford University Press (2003)

Youth Ministry in Modern America: 1930 to the Present

Jon Pahl
Hendrickson Publishers (2000)

Give Us Your Feedback...

The Louisville Institute's

Intersections Newsletter is published three times per year. Your comments or suggestions are greatly appreciated as we continue to improve this publication. Also, if you would like to update your mailing information or be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.

Write us at:

Louisville Institute
Intersections Newsletter
1044 Alta Vista Road
Louisville, KY 40205

Or email us at:

info@louisville-institute.org

Alum News...

If you are a current or former Louisville Institute grantee and have had a significant milestone or achievement in your career or personal life, we want to hear about it. Please email us at info@louisville-institute.org, subject: "Alum News" to include your achievement in upcoming editions of *Intersections*.



Intersections

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The mission of The Louisville Institute is to enrich the religious life of
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