

Presbytery Life

A Newsletter of the Regional Church of New Jersey in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

April, 2008

Crossroads Community Church Received as a New & Separate Congregation into the PNJ as Grace OPC

A Service of Recognition and Reception was conducted on April 4 for the former Crossroads Community Church of Pennsville as the congregation became Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the newest member of the Presbytery of New Jersey. The service had seven men participating: current pastor and licentiate of the PNJ David Cornette; and elders Kevin Parks and Bruce Fenton, and Rev. Len Chanoux who serve as PNJ appointed session augmentees. The Rev. Jim Cassidy, pastor of Calvary OPC, Ringoes, and current PNJ Moderator reported on the presbytery actions and purpose of the service. Using a question from the Form of Government, Mr. Cassidy obtained an affirmation from the communicant members that he officially recognized them as a new and separate church of the PNJ.

Mr. Claude Taylor, pastor of the New Hope Presbyterian Church in Bridgeton, delivered the charge to the congregation that was based on the text that Christ is the head of the church as well as their church. Rev. David Cummings, Assistant Director of the Center for Urban Theological Studies in Philadelphia delivered the sermon message on the Lord's gracious blessings equally to all His people (Matt 19:27-20: 16).

The history of this congregation began in 1973, when John Cornette moved his wife and five young children from Pontiac, MI to Pennsville, NJ sensing a divine call to church plant. In the summer of that year, Pastor John formed a midweek Bible study in his rented home in Pennsville. On September 9, 1973, 63 people gathered at the Penn Beach Elementary School in Pennsville for the first Sunday worship service of Ambassador Baptist church (ABC). At one point, six ABC bus routes serviced Pennsville and surround towns.

The congregation grew to 200 before purchasing the current property in 1976. By the completion of the new building in 1977, ABC had grown to 400. It also founded and operated Heritage Christian School from 1978-1983. As ABC moved away from its Fundamental Baptist roots over the years, it also faced decline.

In 1998, the name was changed to Crossroads Community Church (CCC), part of a shift in ministry philosophy. In 1999, Pastor John's son, David moved from Chicago after completion of college to become the Associate Pastor. In 2001, amid continued struggles and decline, Pastor John accepted a call to another church, after serving as founding pastor for 28 years. David served as interim pastor until the following year when he was called to be the pastor.

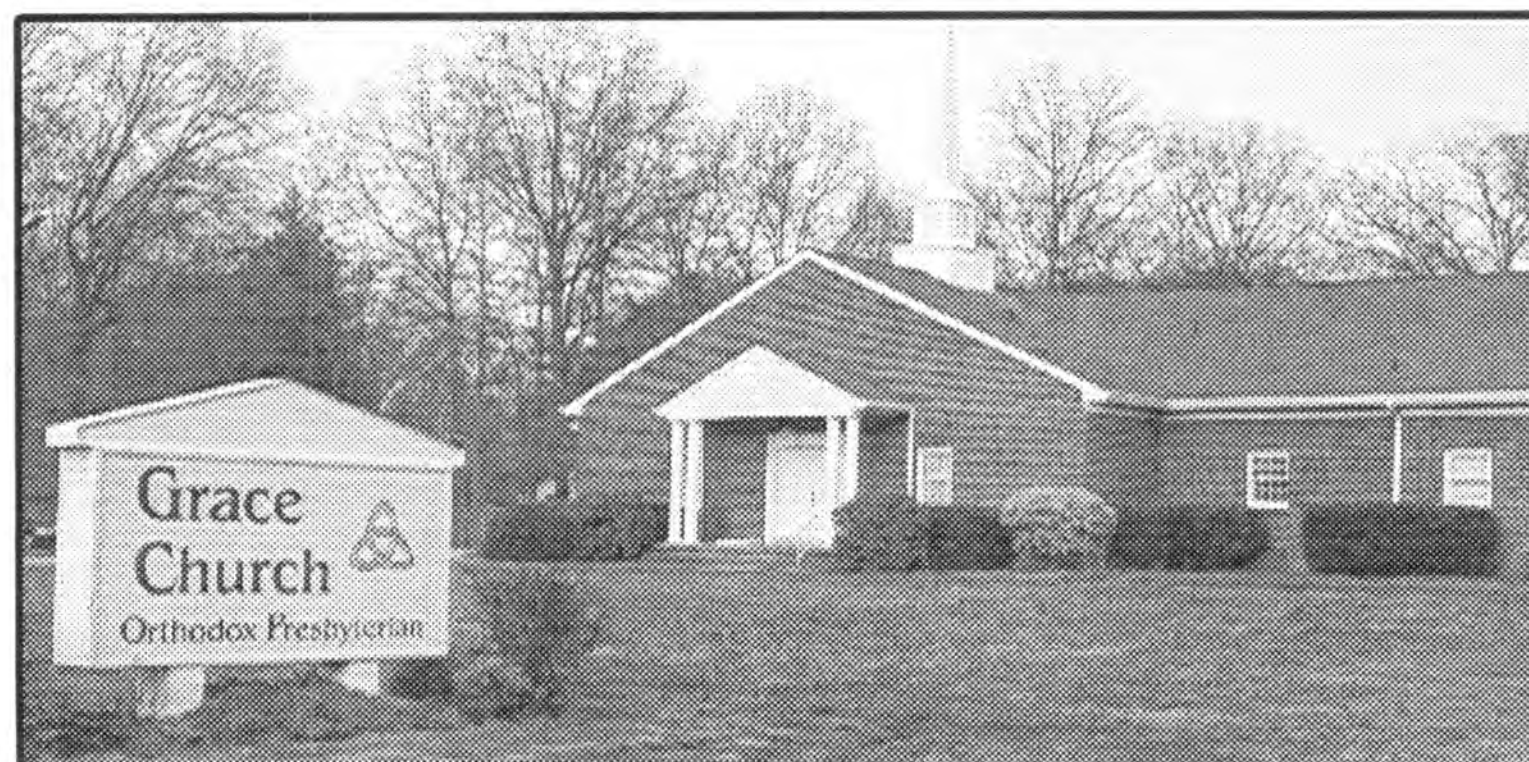
At this time CCC suffered from an "identity crisis", and the future was unclear, but God was gracious. He sustained CCC, and from 2003 onward, began gently building up the congregation in the glorious doctrines of the Reformed faith. He brought her into the company of Orthodox Presbyterian friends and congregations, and to this place today. On February 11, 2008, CCC voted to incorporate as Grace OPC; and on February 23, the PNJ voted Grace into the denomination.

In keeping with that pearl of great price that is the Gospel, the cost has been high; but the faithful must abide hard by the way of the cross and leave the results to the Sovereign King.

There is always hardship when lifting high the cross, but there is also grace upon grace. At the glorious appearing of our strong Savior, may He find this church living by His grace and for His glory. Soli Deo Gloria



Taylor Fenton Parks Cornette Cummings Cassidy Chanoux



News from the Churches

Puerto Rico - Jesus es la Verdad

Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Ortodoxa "Jesús es la Verdad" (First OPC "Jesus is the Truth") of San Juan, Puerto Rico, joined the Presbytery of New Jersey on February 17. Jesús es la Verdad became the Presbytery's third new and separate congregation since October 2007. Fifty-four communicant and four noncommunicant members were on the charter roll.

Almost 200 members, family and friends were present as Rev. Milton Villanueva led the worship service and preached the sermon entitled "Ejercítate para la Piedad," (Train Yourself for Godliness), 1 Timothy 4:7-8.

Rev. Ross Graham moderated the service of recognition and installation, assisted by the Co-moderator, Rev. Benjamin Alvira, who translated from English to Spanish. Rev. Tom Church delivered the charge to the congregation in Spanish. Rev. Graham led in recognizing and receiving the congregation and installing Rev. Villanueva as their Pastor. Rev. Graham then delivered the charge to Pastor Villanueva.



Rev. Alvira officiated as Pedro Lantigua, Osvaldo Martínez, Efraín Ortíz and David Quiñones were ordained and installed as ruling elders.

The service continued entirely in Spanish as Pastor Villanueva and the new ruling elders ordained and installed Julio César Mercedes, Antonio Nazario and Fernando Rodríguez as deacons and Rev. Alvira delivered the charge to the new elders and deacons.

Remarkably, seven Presbytery of New Jersey congregations were represented in the San Juan service, including Iglesia Presbiteriana Reformada del Caribe, San

Juan; Tabernáculo de Gracia, Camden; Nueva Esperanza, Vineland; Immanuel, Bellmawr; Calvary, Wildwood; Immanuel, Medford; and Calvary Community, Phillipsburg (Harmony). As the service ended, worshippers sang "Alabad al Gran Rey," (To God Be The Glory), praising God for His grace in calling His people through Jesus the Son and the privilege of participating in the great things He has done.

Bridgeton

On Good Friday evening, March 21, New Hope Church hosted the traditional annual combined service. Joining the New Hope congregation were members and friends from Faith Church, Pole Tavern; Covenant Church, Vineland; Crossroads Community Church, Pennsville; and Fairfield PCA, Fairton.

The pastor of each congregation participated in the worship service, highlighted by an anthem by the Fairfield Church Choir, a special offering for the Cornerstone Women's Resources, and the Lord's Supper conducted by Rev. Lendall Smith, interim pastor of Faith Church.

The evening message was delivered by special guest, Rev. George Scipione, organizing pastor of the Covenant Community Church (OPC mission work) in Greenville, SC. Mr. Scipione's message based on John 19: 17-30 considered Christ's final words on the cross: "It is finished". After the service, New Hope Church hosted a time of fellowship and refreshments.

In Memoriam

Rev. George Spaulding Christian went to be with the Lord on February 26, 2008. Rev. Christian was ordained June, 1948 (Bible Presbyterian Church) and was received by the New Jersey Presbytery OPC on April 23, 1957. He served as Teaching Elder at Emmanuel OPC Whippany, NJ until 2000. He always was first to greet visitors and never failed to share his faith in Jesus Christ whenever possible. He was a prolific writer on many subjects but his main focus was on the Trinity. He leaves his

wife Martha Virginia (Daumann) of 66 years and two daughters Virginia (Young) and Faith (Schoon). Rev. Christian was 90 years old.



Ringoes

On Friday evening January 11th, 2008 the Presbytery of New Jersey convened to ordain and install Jeffrey C. Waddington as teacher of the congregation at Calvary Presbyterian Church of Amwell in Ringoes, NJ. Ministers and elders from the Presbytery of New Jersey, members of the congregation, family and friends were all in attendance. Rev. James Cassidy, pastor of Calvary and moderator of the Presbytery of New Jersey led the service. Rev. Barry Traver preached on Acts 20:17-32 and spoke on the Apostle Paul as the "Special Agent for the King." Rev. Cassidy then explained the purpose of the service and then administered the vows to the minister and congregation that was followed by the laying on of hands. Rev. Dr. Vern Poythress gave the charge to Mr. Waddington from 2nd Timothy 4 and Rev. Bill Snodgrass gave the charge to the congregation from 1st Corinthians 1. At the conclusion of the service Rev. Jeff Waddington gave the benediction. The service was followed by a period of joyous fellowship. All in all our great Triune God was glorified as the Scriptures were expounded and Christ was proclaimed.



Snodgrass Cassidy Waddington Traver Poythress

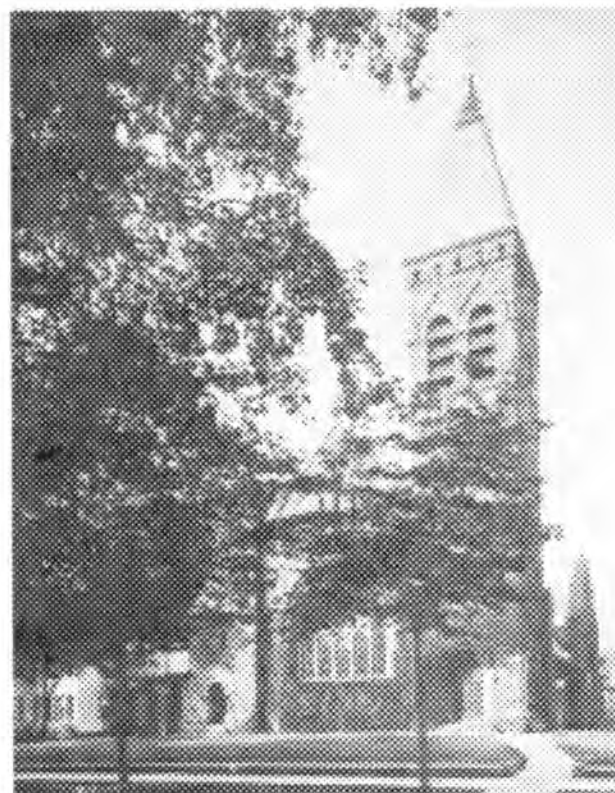
Calvary Church is also thankful for an opportunity to worship and fellowship with Grace OPC in Hamilton Township on Good Friday night. Rev. Jeff Waddington brought the word from Acts 2:20-23 and entitled "The Cross: A Definite Plan". A time of fellowship and goodies were enjoyed afterwards.

News from the Churches

Whippany - Emmanuel Church Celebrates 80 Years

Emmanuel Church traces their history back to the colonial period of the 18th century when Presbyterians began to settle in NJ by people migrating from Scotland, Ireland and England. The Presbyterian Church of Morristown was chartered by King George II of England in 1756. In the early 1800's, liberal "New England" theology prevalent in the denomination caused their pastor Dr. Orlando Kirtland and over 200 members to leave the Presbyterian Church of Morristown to establish the South Street Presbyterian Church. This new congregation preferred the more conservative Presbyterian and Reformed views expressed in the Westminster Standards.

After the Civil War, the PCUSA was formed by the reuniting of the old school/new school Presbyterian churches. In 1869 Dr. Albert Erdman was called to pastor South Street Presbyterian Church. Dr. Erdman is remembered as a strong, conservative leader, who faithfully preached and taught the inspired Word of God and the traditional standards of the church. Dr. Erdman ministered in Morristown for over 38 years. When he retired in 1907 he left a thriving church with over 800 members.



South Street Church

As a result of the famous PCUSA meeting of 150 ministers in Auburn, NY, modernist and liberal views caused turmoil in the South Street Church as it merged with the First Presbyterian Church. However, a group of "minorities" following Dr. Machen led and fought to keep this cancer out of the church. Dr. Machen became a close friend and supporter of this embattled minority congregation. Their group request to worship separately in this old building was denied by the denomination. After meeting in homes for prayer in October 1925, the first worship service was held on December 28, 1925

in Morristown High School. A permanent building was found at 10 Community Place in Morristown in July 1926 and officially became Emmanuel Church, Independent Presbyterian on October 17, 1927. The name Emmanuel was chosen because "only if God is with us will we survive against the mighty PCUSA and the world." Dr. Machen recommended that the Rev. Paul Woolley from Princeton Seminary be called to moderate the session. Dr. Lawrence Gilmore was installed as their first pastor in May 1928. In 1930 a more permanent location was desired to hold the expanding congregation. Consequently the church bought a house at 33 Maple Avenue in Morristown and converted it into a church and manse. Dr. Machen delivered the sermon at the building dedication on Sunday, November 10, 1930.

Dr. Gilmore ministered until 1940 when the Rev. Donald Carlson Graham was called and served through the war years. During that time, Emmanuel Church held many special services and maintained their strong, reformed position in the community with special speakers such as John Murray, Cornelius Van Til, R. B. Kuiper and David Freeman.

The Rev. James Price began his pastorate tenure in June 1945 when the church continued to grow and eventually moved to larger facilities at 33 MacCulloch Avenue. Up to this time, all three pastors were members of the OPC, however Emmanuel remained independent still fearing the heavy handed, unchristian manner it was treated by previous denominations in its earlier years. Rev. Price became a strong advocate to bring the congregation into the OPC. Working with men such as Leroy Oliver and Ed Kellogg, his efforts were rewarded when in 1957, Emmanuel finally became a member of the OPC. Pastor Price at the age of 55 was called home to be with the Lord—just one week before the congregation joined the OPC.

The Rev. Cal Busch was called from Portland, Maine in 1957 and during his tenure the congregation outgrew the building at McCulloch Avenue. In 1968 a new church building and manse was dedicated at the present location on the corner of Park Avenue and Whippany Road in suburban Whippany. Pastor Busch retired in 1978 when the Rev. Larry Morrison was called. He was followed by Revs. Robert Letham, Ivan Davis, George Kostas and their present pastor, Howard Currie.

Toms River (Seaside Heights) - Redeemer Church Creation Conference

On Friday evening, March 28, and Saturday, March 29, Redeemer Orthodox Presbyterian Church (currently meeting in Seaside Heights) hosted a creation mini-conference called "Genesis: A Sure Foundation for Science". This mini-conference featured as its speaker Mr. Timothy L. Eshelman (B.A. in physics; B.S. in electrical engineering; M.S.E.E.). Mr. Eshelman has served as a Ruling Elder at his church (New Life Presbyterian Church [PCA] in North Middletown, NJ) and has been following the creation-evolution debate for over 20 years. About 63 attended the Friday evening sessions, and around 35 attended the Saturday sessions. Many attendees were from other area churches.

On Friday evening Mr. Eshelman began the conference with two presentations, Genesis: A Side Issue? and Evolution: Good Science, Bad Science, or Science Fiction? His presentations were straight forward, down-to-earth, interesting and easy to understand. In these opening presentations he explained why it is important for believers to think foundationally about scientific issues (like evolution) on the basis of Scripture, the inerrant Word of God. He contrasted the evolution model with the creation model. He defined the distinction between operational science (such as the sciences that lie behind medical and technological advances) and origin science (which inevitably involves foundational assumptions and educated guess-work and interpretation of the data on the basis of those assumptions). He expressed his conviction that the evidence is best explained with creation glasses from the standpoint of God's Word, rather than from the standpoint of fallen man's fallible theories.

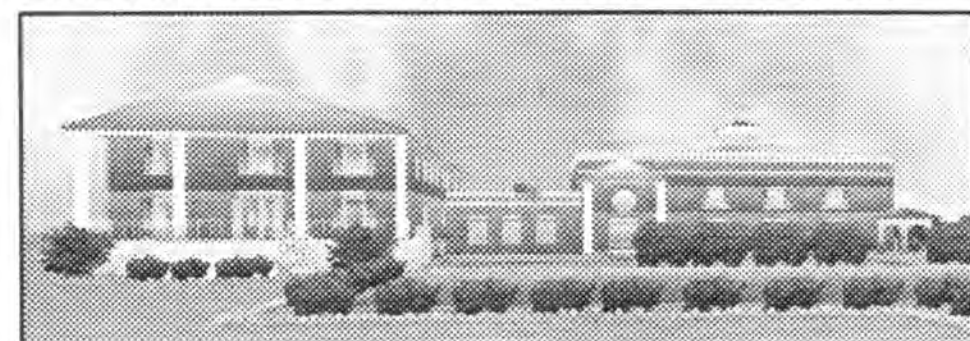
The Friday evening sessions laid the foundation for his four Saturday presentations, which were more technical and scientific in nature. In the first talk of the day, In the Beginning Was Information, Mr. Eshelman showed that the information embedded in the created order (such as in DNA) clearly points to an intelligent Designer, not to random-chance evolution. In Fossils: The Rocks Cry Out! attendees learned that the fossil record supports the biblical account of a catastrophic global flood.

The first afternoon session, Courting Long Ages With Radio-Isotope Dating was the most technical presentation, and in it he showed that these dating methods which are used to calculate millions of years are freighted with highly-questionable assumptions and are often inaccurate. In his final talk, Racism: A Biblical Idea?, he demonstrated the biblical truth that we are all of one blood, and that on a genetic level the differences between the different races of mankind are inconsequential. It is evolutionary assumptions, and not the creation record of Scripture, that lie at the foundation of racist ideas.

From the conference feedback sheets, and also based on comments from attendees, it was clear that Mr. Eshelman's presentations were very well received. As an example of this positive feedback, one attendee wrote: Very helpful - I just wish what I grasped in these hours had a greater half-life than the current retention rate of my poor brain! If you would like to contact Mr. Eshelman to see if he would do a conference at your church, or if you are interested in receiving a CD recording of Mr. Eshelman's presentations, then please contact Pastor Geoff Willour at (732) 458-1119, or e-mail him at gwillour@ropcni.org.

Stratford Church

Stratford OPC held its traditional Maundy Thursday Communion Service. **Please note: Stratford needs an organist. This is a paid position.** Please contact the Pastor at Dawson.1@OPC.org The Stratford Classical Christian Academy (a ministry of Stratford OPC) will have a dedication ceremony for their new campus on May 31st.



News from the Churches

Pole Tavern - 11th Annual Women's Conference

by Elaine Polach

Ecc. 4: 9-12 states that two are better than one. We go on to read that they work better together – being more fruitful; they can help each other when in trouble; they can keep each other warm (physically and spiritually!) and that Christ will hold them together through these times, and will keep them strong. This is a typical verse used in marriage ceremonies. Yet, when searching these scriptures, we found that it applies to friendship as well. 2007 was a very difficult year for our congregation. Yet, through it all, we found that our greatest source of strength came from each other (after the Lord of course). This is what spurred the topic of our 2008 Women's Conference, "It Takes Two- The Value of a Christian Friend". Our Speaker was Dr. Martha Wagar Wright; OPC Missionary to Karamoja, Uganda, who is a member of our own congregation! Martha spoke to us about **what** Christian friendship is – and **why** it is so important. Among some of the topics Martha touched on were: The differences between friendships with believers and unbelievers, how to reach out in friendship across cultures and continents; how to tune in to each other's needs and many more topics.



and were blessed by some of the talented ladies during our "Talent Program" on Saturday Night. During our "FREE" times – there were some mean games of "9-DOWN" being played, some rest and relaxation around the huge indoor pools and hot tub, and some serious outlet and local shopping going on! We also had some GREAT times of fellowship around GREAT food! This year, our food committee was led by the talented Lora Romeo – who, although she works very hard, has such a gift of hospitality that she makes it look easy! Our beautiful nametags, which were a Noah's Ark (the creative theme for the weekend) – were made by Dolores Webb. They were cut out by her son and husband, then painted, names applied, and she even added little animals – a different one for each small group! Our Intern's wife, Rosie Lamme, who is quite talented musically, led our worship in song for the weekend. We were thankful she was able to help out at the last minute! We were guided during the weekend by our MC – Dee Halley, who lets us know

where we need to be and when – as well as inserting her charming humor throughout the weekend. Others that made the weekend special are: Barbara Kuhn – who takes care of the finances and registration information, Jo Schreiner – who was the co-coordinator, and Elaine Polach, who will retire as Coordinator, leaving it in the creative and capable hands of Jo for next year. If you missed our conference this year, Martha is speaking again on this same subject at a Spring Luncheon in May sponsored by the Wildwood OPC! Contact Kris Zozzaro at 609-522-8489 for more details!

SPECIAL NOTE: With a bit of sadness, on Saturday evening, we recognized Elaine Polach for the many years of faithful service directing the Women's Conference at Faith Church. As she leaves this position, she has willingly accepted being our "MC" at next year's conference! Blessings Elaine, and thanks for a job well done...and all the chocolate!!

On Saturday, we had a "Workshop" lead by our "Small Group Leaders". During this time, we discussed practical ways to nurture friendships with our peers, and those who are outside our "comfort" zone. We discussed teaching and ministering to our friends, and to those in different seasons of life. We also discussed accountability!

The lower number of ladies attending this year made for a much more intimate weekend. Although different from what we have been used to – it was thoroughly enjoyable. In God's Sovereignty, He knew what those attending really needed!

Throughout the weekend the teaching and fellowship are something we all look forward to. But, I would be deceiving you if I told you that's all we come for! We had lots of laughs during an "ice breaker" game – learning a lot of interesting facts about each other and learning how to use our "ear plugs",

Harmony - University Outreach

With the unwavering support of Calvary Community Church and the encouragement of the PNJ, Pastor Mike Bobick continues to assist parachurch ministries at Princeton University. The outreach is part of our church's broader collegiate involvement. In addition to having college students in their congregation, he is speaking this semester at Moravian College, Lafayette College, and Cornell University.

From Fall 2004 to Fall 2006, he worked with Manna Christian Fellowship as an auxiliary minister. Manna especially serves Asian and Asian-American students, who comprise over 90% of its membership. During this time he spoke at the fall 2004 retreat, led a Bible study among graduate students, and eventually became the Coordinator for Princeton Evangelical Worship (PEW). PEW continued for three semesters, and provided an occasion for gospel preaching and worship in the University Chapel. On "Gay Pride" Sunday in April 2005, a lesbian minister spoke in the morning service.

That very evening, an OPC minister preached the gospel in the same Chapel!

From Fall 2006 to present, he has been working as a ministry associate with the Princeton Faith and Action (PFA). PFA is an extension of Christian Union (www.christian-union.org), a parachurch ministry involved with each of the eight Ivy League campuses. Christian Union is self-consciously reaching out to future impact leaders. He was the speaker at the 2005 winter retreat, and has been teaching a men's Bible study (now seniors). Lord willing, in Fall 2008 he will start again with freshmen or graduate students.



Princeton Students with Pastor Bobick