Advent 2013

Advent marks the beginning of a new Church year. It is a season of celebration, anticipation, and reflection. We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in his first advent. We anticipate the consummation of all things upon his return. We reflect on the goodness and generosity of a loving God who gave us the greatest gift of all, His Son and our Savior. Here at Reformed Episcopal Seminary we are well-aware of God’s providential care and manifold blessings. He has blessed us with the resources and wherewithal to honor the Great Commission as we endeavor to provide a low cost theological education to all those who seek to know more about Christ and serve Him wherever they may be called.

The Reformed Episcopal Seminary (RES) has a lot for which to be thankful. Let us count some of our blessings. The Friends of Reformed Episcopal Seminary (FORES) has formed combining the old Alumni Association and the Women’s Auxiliary. This new organization held their inaugural banquet on June 8 at the Blue Bell Country Club. Bishop Leonard Riches, Professor of Liturgics and Theology, delivered the address: “Reformed and Still Reforming.” The festivities included a tour of the adjoining property at 831 DeKalb Pike, which the Seminary purchased this past month. All friends of the Seminary are invited to join FORES and participate in annual banquets, picnics, and other activities that make us a stronger community.

The administration and faculty are also proud to announce that we have received full accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools, effective August 8, 2013. This is the fulfillment of a vision that took approximately twenty years to fulfill. Attaining ATS accreditation was a rigorous process. In one sense we have arrived, in another sense we are just beginning a long and demanding academic task. We are in the process of implementing further improvements drawn from the evaluation process that will strengthen and sustain us as a viable theological institution.

In order to meet the challenges of post-accreditation requirements, the acquisition of the new property, and the on-going needs of our
mission, the Seminary needs you. We are asking everyone who has been affiliated with our institution and its rich history to support us as we pursue God’s call to strengthen your Seminary as we serve the Church in these challenging times.

You can help us as we seek to follow God’s call to equip Christian leaders for mission and service in several ways. Pray for RES leadership, faculty, staff, student body, and the future of our institution. Volunteer to tell others about RES, and last, but not least, encourage our hearts with your generous donations. You can support the Seminary’s Building for the Future Campaign to help with the acquisition of the new property and the development of our new campus, to the library, the center of our academic program, or to the General Fund, for our on-going expenses. As we celebrate the past and bring everyone together to strengthen our future, we trust we can count on your faithful support.

Your servant in the gospel ministry,

The Very Rev. Walter L. Hawkins
Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Pastoral Care