



March 4, 2013

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Upcoming Student Listening Sessions with BTS Deans

Last month BTS students received an important message from Academic Dean Steve Lewis highlighting the rest of the semester, the seminary's last as a degree-granting institution. Graduating students were reminded of the obligations necessary to fulfill in order to graduate in June 2013, while continuing students were apprised of additional information regarding their transition to Andover Newton Theological School.

Two listening sessions will be held this week, one on each campus, where students will have the opportunity to meet with Steve Lewis and Ron Beard, Dean of Students, to address further concerns.

If you can join us in Bangor on Tuesday, March 5th at 12pm, please RSVP to Trish at pannis@bts.edu, or if you can join us in Portland on Thursday, March 7th at 12pm, please RSVP to Bonnie at bwright@bts.edu. Lunch will be provided.

Healing Service in the Bangor Chapel

For any interested Bangor campus students, faculty, and staff, a healing service will be held in the chapel next Tuesday, March 12th from 12pm–12:45pm. The service will be led by President Bob Grove-Markwood and Dean of Students Ron Beard.

(The chapel is located downstairs in Peabody Hall, beyond the cafeteria area.)

Help Create the Legacy Canvas

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to contribute to a collaborative art piece, a wall-sized canvas comprised of small individual squares, commemorating BTS. Participants will be given the opportunity to express how they feel about the closing of the seminary and what BTS means to them. Once finished, all of the individual pieces will compose a whole tapestry richer than the sum of its parts.

Not only will this healing project help us mourn our loss with the closing of the seminary, it will also serve as a gift to the new BTS Center. Upon completion, the Legacy Canvas will visit each campus for some type of informal memorial service.

Materials and instructions will be provided soon. Please email Ron Beard (rbaard@bts.edu) or Susie Maxwell (sjbmaxwell@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions, and stay tuned for more information.



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Our Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of former BTS staffer Barbara Sargent, who passed February 8th. Barbara was employed as Director of Development at Union Theological Seminary and Hartford Seminary before joining Bangor Theological Seminary in January 1979.

She is remembered by family and friends as a “passionate advocate for justice and human rights,” who “worked tirelessly for a world where openness, inclusion, tolerance and love are the foundations of community life.” Her complete obituary may be found online at <http://tinyurl.com/BarbaraSargent>.

Presentations by Noted Jewish Scholar Dr. Marc Ellis

“Marc Ellis shows that the voice of prophecy has not been silenced in the Jewish community. We will all be the poorer if Ellis’ voice is not heeded but how wonderfully enriched if it is.”

-Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel laureate

This month, distinguished scholar and historian Dr. Marc Ellis will deliver a presentation entitled “Jewish Liberation Theology & the Crisis of Israel-Palestine” at both Bates College and the University of Southern Maine, Thursday the 21st and Friday the 22nd, respectively.

Dr. Ellis was a faculty member at the Maryknoll School of Theology for several years, and a Senior Fellow at Harvard’s *Center for the Study of World Religions* and a visiting scholar at its *Center for Middle Eastern Studies*. Recently, he retired as a professor at Baylor University in Texas where in 1999 he established Baylor’s *Center for American and Jewish Studies*. Dr. Ellis has written extensively on contemporary Judaism and Jewish liberation theology, Jewish-Arab relations, and justice and peace studies. His major works, which have been published in a dozen languages include:

- Encountering the Jewish Future: with Wiesel, Buber, Heschel, Arendt, Levinas
- Toward a Jewish Theology of Liberation: The Challenge of the 21st Century
- Out of the Ashes: The Search for Jewish Identity in the Twenty-first Century
- Beyond Innocence and Redemption: Confronting the Holocaust and Israeli Power: Creating a Moral Future for the Jewish People

Additional details will be forthcoming soon.

Save the Date: Commencement June 2013

Saturday, June 22, 2013 | Gracie Theatre – Bangor, Maine

As we all know, Bangor Theological Seminary will cease granting degrees after June. This year’s commencement will mark the end of one era and the beginning of a new one. Daniel Aleshire, the Executive Director of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, will be our graduation speaker and The Rev. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, will also take part. Please remember to save the date and join us for this, our beloved seminary’s final commencement service.

