

FORES NEWS

Friends of Reformed Episcopal Seminary

Epiphany 2019

Faculty Profile

Dr. Skip Blackburn

Chair of Old and New
Testament Theology

Page 2

Welcome!

Meet Dr. Manuel A.
Howard, RES Alumnus and
the new Director of
Development

Page 3

FORES Banquet

Join us for a day of
worship, learning, and
fellowship

Page 5

Heresies, Cults & Counterfeits

An intensive course with Rev. Robert Pardon at RES
February 25 - March 1

Registration is still open for this opportunity to learn more about various Heresies, Cults, and Counterfeits which pose a threat to Christian culture and practice in our modern world. In this course, participants will benefit from the knowledge and experience of Rev. Robert Pardon, who has worked to support those who have left religious, communal groups, many of them destructive. He and his wife Judy serve as directors of MeadowHaven, a residential treatment and support facility for those who have recently left abusive and controlling groups.



Participants can expect to have their understanding of the topic expanded and deepened, their eyes opened to the dangers of these groups, and learn how we can live out our Christian calling as we minister to those who need our compassion and support.

Contact the RES Office at 610-292-9852 to register or for more information.



Welcome Back!

We welcome back the Rev. Shawn Riley to RES. It is a blessing to have Deacon Riley back in the seminary community. Our prayer is that he will be blessed and be a blessing. Rev. Riley will be working in the office and on the grounds.



This quarter's faculty profile is our Professor of Biblical Languages & Literature, the Reverend Dr. Rollin J Blackburn, affectionately known as "Pastor Skip" to his colleagues.

Dr. Blackburn graduated from Reformed Episcopal Seminary with a Diploma in 1979, and a Master of Divinity in 1983. Dr. Blackburn began as a lecturer of Biblical Languages in 1985. While completing his M.A. and PhD from Temple University, Dr. Blackburn began to assume more Old Testament courses from his mentor Dr. Milton Fisher, until Dr. Fisher's retirement, when Dr. Blackburn became the Professor of Biblical Languages & Literature.

While a student at RES, Dr. B (his students' nickname) made some lifelong friends and colleagues. His professors and mentors were encouraging, as well as instructional. Dr. B is known for having the ability to make even the most obscure concept or biblical passage, understandable to any age or educational level. This ability has given Dr. B the privilege of teaching children, youth, mentally and physically disabled, as well graduate students.

Dr. B was ordained by the Woodlyn Baptist Church (WBC) in 1986, after more than 10 years of ministry as a youth pastor, assistant

pastor, camp speaker and preacher. Pastor Skip has continued to minister at WBC as Assistant and then Associate Pastor since 1982. Nancy and Dr. B met while Pastor Skip was helping out with the youth group at WBC.

Every three years Dr. B has the privilege of teaching Poetic Books in Colorado at Sangre De Cristo Seminary. This seminary was started by another of Dr. B's original seminary mentors, Dr. Dwight Zeller. This has been a great time to teach in the rustic mountain air, living simply and fellowshipping with students from many areas of the US. We have created life long relationships with multiple generations of Zellers, students and missionaries.

Dr. B. was raised by a praying Christian mother and Master Chief father in the suburbs of Philadelphia. After graduating high school, Dr. B. headed to college, wanting to be a pastor, but he took a few years to find his way back to God's calling on his life.

Dr. B. has always been known for his love of coffee. He has been sent coffee from around the world, even roasted his own for a short time. This love of coffee started when he was eight years old, sitting in the school bus depot with his mother.

Married for almost 38 years, Dr. B. and his wife (almost Dr.) Nancy have raised two daughters, who are married, with families of their own. Being grandparents has brought great joy in the Blackburns' lives. Having two of the three grandchildren living in Oregon, limits the time spent with their granddaughters, but their grandson spends two days a week with his Pappy.

Nancy H Blackburn



Rev. Dr. Manuel Howard

Director of Development &
Lecturer in Transformational
Leadership and Mission

RE Seminary welcomes back 2013 alumnus Dr. Manuel Howard

Rev. Dr. Manuel A. Howard is devoted to his beautiful family of Five; Vanessa (wife), Marcus (16), Zion (8) and Matthew (Infant). Dr. Howard is a transformational community leader, leadership consultant, nationally recognized speaker, director of development and adjunct faculty member at the Reformed Episcopal Seminary, founder of Dream Leadership Academy, law enforcement chaplain of Delaware county, a graduate of Radnor Township School District, and Senior Chaplain for Radnor Township and Police.

Dr. Manuel A. Howard was born to a fifteen-year-old mother and placed into the foster care system at the tender age of two years old. Dr. Howard is a survivor and overcomer by faith. One who has truly been transformed over the years. He is a Mainline native and resident of Collegeville, Pennsylvania. He has spent his entire life learning, leading, training, teaching, coaching, building bridges, inspiring hope, educating the undereducated and advocating for those in need. Dr. Howard is a leader of leaders who has overcome many obstacles and challenges in life which have shaped his life.

A clergyman, serving as Senior Pastor of



Saint John AME Church of Wayne, PA, Dr. Howard is a scholar in transformational leadership. His academic accomplishments include the completion of his Bachelor of Science degree from West Chester University, his Master of Divinity degree from the Reformed Episcopal Seminary and his Doctoral degree in Transformational Leadership from Payne Theological Seminary. Dr. Howard also holds two certifications from the University of Pennsylvania in Non-Profit and Communities of Faith and End of Life Training; Hospice and Palliative Care. Dr. Howard will continue to use his real-world experience and education to train leaders in the twenty-first century at RES.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15



The Most Rev. Leonard W. Riches, Sr. began teaching at RES in 1965, teaching Greek and Liturgics, when Bishop Theophilus Herter was on sabbatical. Later he taught Homiletics, Apologetics, and English Bible. He was advanced to Professor and took over the Church History department in 1972 when Bishop Higgins retired. In 1981, on the retirement of Dr. Robert K. Rudolph, Riches began serving as the theology Professor. In 1982 he was elected the President of RES. He served in that role until 1989. Riches served as Chancellor until 2008. Riches created the course on the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion in the 1980s, which became a required part of the curriculum, which he continued to teach until his retirement. He retired from active service in 2014, after 50 years of teaching and serving at Reformed Episcopal Seminary, although he continues as Professor Emeritus of Liturgics and Theology.

During his tenure as Presiding Bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church, Bishop Riches led the church to re-embrace its Anglican heritage. He helped reunite the REC in the United States with the Reformed Episcopal Church in Canada, and increased relations with our sister church in England, the Free Church in England. He played an integral part in the formation of the Anglican Church in North America. Our Anglican roots have always held an important place in Bishop Riches' heart. In his honor, an endowment was established for the **Bishop Leonard Riches Chair in Anglican Theology**.

If you would like to support this project, you may send donations, earmarked "Bishop Riches Chair Endowment" to:

Reformed Episcopal Seminary
Building for the Future Campaign
826 Second Ave.
Blue Bell, PA 19422



Farewell & Best Wishes

Mark Cernero has left the seminary and moved to the Buffalo New York area with his family. We give thanks for Mark's service at the seminary and pray that he and his family are blessed in their new surroundings.

Save the dates!

March 18-21

Accreditation visit to RES. Evaluators from the Association for Theological Schools will be on campus to conduct interviews and a site visit. Please pray for the Seminary community and a successful visit.

May 11

FORES Banquet at St. Mark's REC in Rydal, PA

June 1

Commencement - 10 AM
St. Mark's REC, Rydal PA
Speaker:
Rt. Rev. Keith Ackerman

7th Annual Banquet & All Diocesan Holy Communion Service

Join the Friends of RES on
Saturday, May 11, 2019 at
St. Mark's Reformed Episcopal Church
1162 Beverly Rd
Rydal PA 19046

10:30 AM - Fellowship
11:00 - Holy Communion
12:00 - Meetings with Bp. and Mrs. Hicks
12:30 - 3:30 Friends of RES Banquet

Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Robert Pardon

Tickets: \$50
*Includes Lunch Buffet and
1 year membership in FORES*



Please send reservations to:
Reformed Episcopal Seminary
826 Second Ave
Blue Bell, PA 19422

(610) 292-9852

Make checks payable to:
Friends of Reformed Episcopal Seminary
RSVP by: April 26, 2019
Space is limited - Register today!