

# Founders' Day Luncheon

## *Fifty Years of Recollection*

with

**Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel**  
**Professor of Old Testament**



Thursday, March 15, 2001

12:30 p.m.

Gordon Baker Dining Hall  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

# Founders' Day Luncheon

March 15, 2001

*"Yahweh bless you and keep you..."*

*- Numbers 6:24*

- Welcome* *R. Scott Rodin*  
*Seminary President*
- Invocation* *Glenn R. Koch*  
*Emeritus Professor of New Testament Studies*
- Buffet Lunch*
- Special Music* *Seminary Singers*  
*Kathie Pownall and Tracy Duncan, Directors*  
*M.Div. Students*
- Scripture* *Romans 1:16-18*  
*Matthew 24:41-46* *Lois Osgood Miltimore*  
*M.Div. Student*
- Prayer and Offering* *Kristin Frederich-Smoot*  
*Dean of Student Formation*
- Hymn* *"Immortal, Invisible"* *Tracy Duncan, piano*
- Address* *Thomas F. McDaniel*  
*Professor of Old Testament Studies*
- Hymn* *"Be Thou My Vision"* *Tracy Duncan, piano*
- Alum of the Year Award* *Paul Melson*  
*President of Alumni/ae Association*
- Solo* *"How Great Thou Art"* *Shirley Mapson*  
*Accounts Assistant*
- Benediction* *Numbers 6:24-26*  
  
*Grant Ward*  
*Adjunct Professor of Old Testament Studies*

**DR. THOMAS FRANCIS McDANIEL**  
**at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**1969-2001**

Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary has been honored and blessed to have had the professorial services of Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel for the past thirty-two years.

Throughout that time, he has brought academic excellence to the position of Professor of Old Testament Studies. Grounded in a solid Ph.D. program and with an ever increasing body of accumulated reflection and writing on the subject, he has provided first-rate instruction in his discipline.

Alums more often remember personal encounters with faculty members than data they shared in the classroom. This scenario has repeatedly been reported by several of Dr. McDaniel's former students. A number of them added that they not only received valuable guidance but were radically changed because of encounters with Dr. McDaniel. Some would not have continued in seminary or in ministry had it not been for his counsel.

These meaningful relations with students appear to be based on a genuine respect for all persons. That is a perspective that is not easily acquired. Yet, Dr. McDaniel has developed it to a high degree.

Respecting all persons has led to inquiring about their circumstances, especially when they have sought him out to share some concerns. When his work was demanding, it was undoubtedly often a struggle to set aside time to enter into the lives of others. Yet, he made the time and has been a great blessing to many.

One may know of others' needs and stop there. Dr. McDaniel, however, has also cared. He has gone beyond simply gathering information and has empathized and sympathized with brothers and sisters who were carrying a burden.

More than that, he has acted on his concern and assisted where possible. That is the test of a servant heart. And Dr. McDaniel has met that test so well that many students and alums are singing his praises for it.

These are marks of Christian love. Most of us strive to attain them, but Dr. McDaniel has mastered the art in genuine Christian maturity. And in doing so he has won the hearts of many students, despite any struggles they may have had with Old Testament methodology.

For these and other reasons, Eastern Seminary and innumerable congregations have been truly honored by his presence and engagement in their life. May God continue to bless him richly for these achievements and grant many opportunities for continued and rewarding service in the years ahead.



## AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE NORTHWEST

*(Idaho, Montana, Utah, Washington)*

409 Third Avenue South, Suite A • Kent, WA 98032-5843  
253/859-2226 • FAX 253/859-1537



March 15, 2001

Dr. Thomas McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood PA 19096

Dear Tom:

As one who seldom turned in papers late, I am ashamed that I am writing this on the day that similar letters are presented to you. Please accept my apologies for the tardiness. I am sure that Ruth will see that it gets to you anyway!

I do want to take this opportunity to say thank you for years of patient teaching and mentoring in ministry. I would have never guessed when I enrolled in seminary that I would want to take Hebrew. One of the first courses I took, "Hermeneutics" introduced me to Hebrew and I got hooked. I am sorry to say that I have not kept proficient in the language. But I was taught more than simply the language in the classes I took from you. I also remember other less "formal" conversations with you and your family since you lived in the apartment in the seminary my first year there.

I now have the privilege in working with a Japanese congregation in Seattle. You are a true Teacher/Elder, "Sensei". Thank you for sharing so generously with me in those beginning years. Thank you for your gentle goodness and leadership throughout the years. Thank you for your scholarship and professional relationship as you inspire students to seek to know God's word. For all the ways you inspired me, I am grateful. For the ways you have touched others (most of whom I do not know), I am thankful.

May God continue to bless you in the days ahead.

Grace and peace,

Marcia J. Patton  
Associate Executive Minister  
[farwest@jps.net](mailto:farwest@jps.net)

**Mary Ann McPherson**

**754 Applegate Lane, Rosemont, Pennsylvania 19010**

March 15, 2001

Dear Dr. McDaniel

Somehow this seems an appropriate time to start to offer you a few of many past-due thanks.

Your open-minded classes were like a breathe of fresh air to me. While I had away at college McIntire-ism had come into full flower in the fine old Presbyterian Church of my youth.. The once loving and accepting atmosphere there had become devisive, defensive, and closed minded. One of the reasons I moved to this area was in order to find a more hospitable church.

Although I first heard the call to ministry at the age of 17, it took many years for God to convince me, through personal Bible Study, that I was not mistaken. You remember the eral By the time God finally did get through to me I had followed my husband into a "good conservative church" where my nomination as elder had been defeated by a nasty telephone campaign and floor battle, admittedly because of my gender. I never needed the fresh air of objectivity more! I found it at EBTS, especially in your classes.

Frankly, I still can't quite understand how you got me through Hebrew--- except gently and patiently! I wouldn't have become who I am without it. And I still like the way you take time to center when you pray.

I also want to thank you for challenging my daughter during the one seminary course she ever took.. Growing up in a closed minded religious environment had --and still has---left its scars; but your classhelped.

And then, of course I am grateful for your willingness to teach repeatedly at Wayne Presbyterian, where I was once on staff; in that I am joined by many many others.

So I wish you well during the next chapter of your life, with faith that you will write it as creatively as you wrote the chapters prior.

Sincerely,



Mary Ann McPherson, M.Div. 1983

Dear Dr. McDaniel,


I am currently a student in your Old Testament class. I consider myself privileged to be a part of that class. Each Tuesday night I drive home mulling over what was discussed in class. I think about the implications of the class discussion on my faith. I ask more questions. Tuesday nights I never sleep well. After the first or second class, I found myself translating Hebrew in a dream. My only contact with Hebrew has been this class. How could I be translating Hebrew? Each Tuesday night I toss and turn as I sleep, going over what we've discussed. On Wednesday mornings I feel like a truck ran over me. And yet, the next Tuesday I am eagerly looking forward to another class with you. I am amazed that I am fascinated by the Old Testament. I have always avoided reading it, because I didn't like the God I saw depicted in those pages. I liked the picture of God in Jesus and the New Testament teachings. You are helping me to gain an appreciation of the Old Testament.

I am still wondering why I am at Eastern. I know one of the things that brought me to seminary was a rebellion against people who wanted to put God in a box. Any person whose concept of God was outside this box, was not a Christian. I found it hard to believe some of the things I was being taught in a specific Bible study course. Rather than being enfolded in grace, I felt myself being somewhat ostracized because of my differing views about God.

God is indeed good. In my two semesters here he has given me grace filled professors. You are a breath of fresh air and a constant reassurance to me that there is room for me and my thinking in God's house. I thank you for your gift of grace and open mindedness. I wholeheartedly agree with your statement about Christians who hate. I can see why many people run screaming from organized religion, possibly never to return again.

I am truly sorry that I will not have the opportunity to take another course with you. My ears perked up when you said you might be convinced to teach Hebrew out of your home. I would definitely sign up for that, although it would be a huge stretch for me. So put my name at the top of that list please.

I wish you the very best in your retirement. I pray you will have many, many years to enjoy your family and your retirement (are you sure retirement is the right word?). I thank you for the opportunity to be a student in your class. I consider your teaching a huge gift!

Sincerely,  
  
Sue Carr

Dr. Mc Daniel,

I'm so glad you love "Be Thou  
My Vision." It was the song they sang  
when I said "yes" to the ministry.

I had you for only one class and  
enjoyed it immensely. You gave me a  
chance to join the internet throng. I was  
overjoyed that you let me read and report  
my 15 articles at my leisure.

God bless you in your "retirement."

Love in Christ,

Dolly Redd, class of 2000  
Now, Pastor of Trinity UMC (Castor Ave)  
Philadelphia

F. C. B. C. S.



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REV. DR. THOMAS MCDANIEL  
C/O RUTH MCFARLAND REGISTRAR  
EASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
6 LANCASTER AVENUE  
WYNNEWOOD PA 190096

Dear Brethren in Christ,

**IN APPRECIATION OF DR. THOMAS McDANIEL**  
**PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT,**  
**EASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

Dr. Thomas McDaniel has been a close friend and a Brother to me in the Lord.

I met Dr. Thomas McDaniel in 1968 when I entered Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He took me as a friend, a brother and an adviser. The more I associated with him the more our friendship intensified while I remained under his tutelage and this molded my life into a worthy Christian worker.

This was exemplified by an incident that occurred when I was at the Seminary. There was the American National Flag hoisted in front of the main building under which everyone had to walk. Not being an American citizen I found this distasteful. Dr. McDaniel respected my views and he, together with some friends, helped me to pull down the flag and we hoisted in its place the American National Flag AND a Christian Flag which I procured with the only amount of \$6.0 (Six dollars) which I had at that time.



**This incident has had a telling effect on me. When by God's grace I have been able to establish a church and a school in my own country, I have maintained the practice of hoisting both the National Flag of my country and a Christian flag of the church at the same place.**

**We are establishing a University which we are naming Eastern University College after Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and College in view of the great impact the Seminary and College has had on me.**

**I am grateful to God for bringing Dr. Thomas McDaniel into my life. We are praying that God will continue to bless him and his family. My children and I salute him for being part of our life.**

**We thank him for his decision to send his own personal library to the Eastern University College which we are establishing shortly. We are most grateful.**

**Our prayers shall always be with him and his family and we shall always love him till the Lord comes.**

**Dear, Brother Tom, we shall always love you and may the Lord bless you.**

**Yours ever in Christ**

**Rev. Dr. John Mensah Oduro  
(Director)**



May 16, 2001

Dear Tom,

*On the occasion of your retirement, we want to thank you for the important part you have played in our lives. You were much more than an ordinary teacher to us. Our eyes were opened to new worlds through your thoughtful class lectures, the opportunities we had for individual discussion with you, and the witness of your daily life. You expanded our horizons, stretched the limitations we came with, and taught by your example.*

*You have exemplified many Christ-like characteristics to both students and colleagues alike. Thank you for "being there" when needed, for challenging our preconceptions, pushing us out of our complacency, but also for giving plenty of room to learn, process, grow and, ultimately to make our own decisions without any sense of judgment on your part. You are a "peace-lover," thoughtful seeker of truth, humble servant, patient listener, and kind defender of those to whom life has not been kind. You are soft-spoken yet firm, unflappable, constant, discerning, wise, quick to laugh, and a loving friend.*

*The EBTS community will miss your smile and gentle wit, the sharing of your vast knowledge and experience, and the encouragement you offer so generously. Your presence will be deeply missed. Thank you for the many years you have given in service, not only at EBTS, but in all areas of ministry in which you have served.*

*We understand the honor we have had to study under and with you, and more importantly, to call you friend. May God bless you in the days and years to follow, and may He fill your days with peace and a sense of "a job well done" in this time of transition.*

*Affectionately and with deep respect,*

*Ruth and Chuck Fox*

**George S. Claghorn**

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411 W. Union Street  
West Chester, PA 19382-3330  
March 19, 2001

**Professor Thomas F. McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary**

Dear Tom:

Again, heartiest congratulations upon the occasion of your Founders Day address and coming retirement from the Seminary faculty!

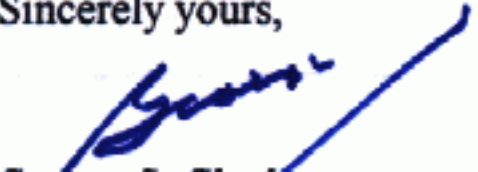
Your remarkable record of service is measured not simply in years, but in insights given, motivations stirred, vistas revealed, and benefits conferred. You have made a wonderful contribution of your own to the intellectual and spiritual life of the Seminary, in the great tradition of Barnard Taylor and Everett Griffiths. By the way, I had the honor of Griff preaching the sermon at my ordination.

I deeply appreciate your Founders Day presentation, with many new and informative angles. The tribute to Clifford Meeden was particularly impressive. I had not known that he was the encourager of so many, whom I knew, to go into the ministry. Your own experiences with him added new luster to an already honored name. I will always remember his ready smile, sonorous voice, and full commitment to the cause of Christ. In turn, I am sure that you have touched countless other lives in a similar, positive way.

I am most grateful to you for the gift of the compact disc. My wife and I (she started her working career as a secretary at the Seminary in 1951) will be savoring it, over and over.

Again, thank you ever so much for all you have done. May the Lord continue to bless and use you in His service, and give you and Doris joys and satisfactions beyond compare. Shirley joins me in sending our best wishes always!

Sincerely yours,

  
George S. Claghorn



*The Marple Presbyterian Church*  
*105 N. Sproul Road*  
*Broomall, Pa. 19008-2023*

610 356-1098

610 356-0687 (fax)

March 14, 2001

Dearest Tom,

You have no idea what an incredibly wonderful influence you have been on my life and my ministry! As an interim pastor, one of the things I first do when I arrive at a new church is contact the local Baptist minister and see if we can start a new branch of the "Tom McDaniel's Fan Club." There are now branches in Riverton and Collingswood, New Jersey, as well as locally!!

Besides teaching me to hishtackawoo (is the spelling anywhere close? My spelling hasn't improved in the last fifteen years!), you taught me about Ezekiel 16:49; about lo and lu, the Hebrew alphabet (which I still remember!), the true meaning of  $\overline{\text{T}} \overline{\text{T}}$ , and the SHEMA (which I still often recite). More importantly, you taught me to take every word I read in the Bible to "the foot of the cross," a concept I continue to teach every adult class I lead.

But most importantly, you taught me, by your gentle and loving example, the depth of God's love for all people, mostly the marginalized. I watched you time and time again argue patiently with students whose views were radically different from your own—but you never lost your cool, you never became angry—love was something you taught by word and example. You empowered me to universalism, to a God without vengeance—but only love, to an eternity without hell. Your influence on my theology and my life is immeasurable!

You truly have no idea how often I quote you—or how many people know about "my favorite seminary professor, Dr. Tom McDaniel." I sincerely try to teach and to minister in the ways you so wonderfully demonstrated—you have made me a better teacher and a better pastor; you might even have made me a better person as well!!

THANK YOU!!!

Lovingly in Christ,

## **Tom McDaniel**

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**From:** "Howard Fritz" <ipccadc@worldnet.att.net>  
**To:** "Tom Mcdaniel" <tmcdaniel@ebts.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 09, 2001 9:31 PM  
**Subject:** Hello from a past student.

You may not remember me. Howard Fritz, Jr. class of '84. I use you often in my current line of work. I have been working with heroin addicts for close to fifteen years, teach counselors seeking certification, am currently embarking on a project to educate batterers and a variety of other things.

I saw that you retired? are retiring?

I chose not to work within the institutional church, was actually approved for ordination working with addicts (Presbyterians), but felt much more drawn to doing the work of my mentor, among others, Jesus. It has been very challenging trying to convince myself that I am still a good person of faith, following Jesus footsteps, without any desire to be part of the church institution. My faith has deepened tremendously and I continue to feel called to minister. I have stayed out of the church for many reasons, and any opportunity to "re-enter the fold", while I have been drawn, has called on more faithfulness to stay out. Strange. But your class and your discussion about the translation of the scribes and the vowels, and how the Old Test. God of Wrath was really how God was viewed . . . perhaps mistakenly, has encouraged me over these years. I have seen alot of death due to addiction, AIDS and other suffering, I have been divorced and remarried and now have two beautiful little girls (2 and 3 yrs old). I have wanted to return to school and study more. I was accepted into the PhD program (Religion and Society) at Drew University. Though their generous 3/4s scholarship was still not enough. When I reapplied for full scholarship, or work to pay my way, I was rejected. I was dismayed.

However, this past weekend I attended a short training on how to treat batterers, men who violate women. The "new" definition of battering has shifted over the years and when they put up the new definition on the overhead it hit me, the definition was very close, if not uidentical, to the traditional god of the old testament. I longed for more of your wisdom, wished I knew how to study the hebrew, many questions to check and verify . . . I remember you said that the Wrathful God of the OT was an interpretation . . . a mis-interpretation (I don't want to mistake what you had said), that is how I remember it. I suddenly felt a need to further investigate and wanted to speak to you, but it has been so long and so many students have come and gone, and such a notion may seem foolish to you, but it moves me deeply. I have wanted to return to school and thought about Eastern and the D.Min program. I fear I need to be part of a church, which I am not, except for a little storefront church in Newark where the ex-inmate/addict pastor has started from scratch to treat addicts, empower a very poor and violent community, and try to make a difference . . . I teach classes the so they can be certified as addictions counselors.

I cannot tell you how deeply I feel called to assist in the suffering experienced by many . . . and it is in the name of Jesus, and the many who have gone on the same path since . . .

I don't know what I want from you, but I thought you'd like to know how deeply you have impacted my life and my faith . . . and we rarely spoke . . . I was always afraid . . . good luck Dr. McDaniel.

Peace

**Howie Fritz**  
[www.ipccaddiction.com](http://www.ipccaddiction.com)

[ipccresearch@att.net](mailto:ipccresearch@att.net)



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March 15, 2001

Tom,

Please receive my acknowledgement and congratulations upon the occasion of your retirement from the faculty of Eastern Baptist Seminary.

As I think of you I of course reflect on your gifted teaching ability, which is only an added dimension to your profound and charismatic capacity to move others to curiosity, wonder and spiritual humility. There is a Zen warning that says "the finger is good for pointing to the moon, just don't mistake the finger for the moon." You always pointed to the moon, and when I didn't see the moon (eg, esoteric Hebrew concepts) I knew and believed it was there because it was you that pointed. When I saw you often you were my mentor and when I see you seldom, reflecting upon you mentors me.

**"Vocatus Atique Non Vocatus  
Deus Aderit"**  
(called and not called God will be there)  
Plaque in Carl Jung's Office in Zurich, Switzerland... and in mine in Horsham

Grace & Peace to you, Tom,  


Peter



March 23, 2001

Professor Thomas F. McDaniel, Ph.D.  
Professor of Old Testament  
The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood PA 19096

Dear Tom,

We recently received word that you are retiring in May. We want to use this occasion to express our appreciation for the thirteen years we shared as colleagues at the Seminary. We appreciated your gracious spirit, your love of the Old Testament, your commitment to scholarship, your devotion to the church, your loyalty to the Seminary in good times and bad, your concern for students and much more.

We trust that your years of retirement will bring new joys that you have not had time to experience while being an active, full-time professor. We wish you good health and God's blessing.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan &amp; Myron Chartier".

Jan and Myron Chartier



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March 26, 2001

Dear Tom,

I regret that, due to traveling, I did not receive notice about the book of remembrances in time for my letter to be included. Nevertheless, I do want to put into words my appreciation for your commitment to theological education and your contribution to my own ministry.

It was my privilege to be a D.Min student at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary from 1976 to 1980. For one of the electives of that program I chose your course in Old Testament preaching. Subsequent to completing my program, I also audited a summer course on the book of Genesis.

In every context, I was grateful for your tenacious commitment to the truth. You were always ready to go beyond what the Bible said to the more difficult task of discovering what the Bible taught. I know that at times this required not only commitment, but courage and tenacity as well, and you always exhibited them in generous supply. Thus your teaching was not only instructive but energizing and empowering as well. Your example has been a source of inspiration and encouragement to me.

I wish you and yours God's richest blessings as you began a new phase in your life. Maybe the memories and remembrances of your time at Eastern be a source of great satisfaction to you as God continues to bless and enrich our lives not only through what you have done but through what you shall do as well. Thank you Tom.

Sincerely,

Carl M. Kleis





# The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

P H I L A D E L P H I A

6 Lancaster Avenue • Wynnewood, Pennsylvania 19096

R. Scott Rodin, Ph.D.  
President

February 21, 2001

Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Dear Tom,

At this time of your retirement from service at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary I wish to convey to you the heartfelt thanks and appreciation on behalf of the Board of Directors, faculty, staff, administration and alumni of the Seminary. This institution owes you a debt of gratitude for the exemplary service that you have given to it over these last 32 years.

A lot could be said regarding your skills in the classroom and your work as a scholar and mentor of students. However, I would like to use my small space here to acknowledge officially the many intangibles that you brought because of your own personal faith and your commitment to the ministry of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. We all know that the contribution any faculty member makes goes far beyond the direct contact with students in the classroom. However, I believe in your case this less tangible aspect to your ministry has been enormous. As I travel around and meet with alumni your name is mentioned more than any other current or recent faculty member as one who has touched and shaped the lives of our graduates. So many of our alums credit you with influencing their lives, calling them into deeper relationships with God and a passion for reading and understanding scripture and applying it to their ministry.

In addition to this you have been a strong and outspoken colleague on the faculty affirming your fellow faculty members and always having words of wisdom and direction for us at significant times in our deliberations. Yours has been a voice of reason and always an advocate for students and the very best in theological education.

Finally, Tom, your more recent contribution in the area of technology was an invaluable gift given to this institution. While we struggled to get up to speed technologically you forged ahead leading by example and always being there with patient instruction and hundreds of hours of volunteer labor for your colleagues. Much credit needs to be given to your work in these early days, which has allowed us to be moving ahead as we are in using information technology on our campus.

Tom, we will greatly miss these and other contributions that you have made to Eastern Seminary. Our prayers are that you will find joy and fulfillment in your retirement and, as God leads you, in new avenues of service for Him. God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

R. Scott Rodin

February 25, 2001

Dr. Tom McDaniels  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Dear Tom,

First, thank you for waiting until I returned before you retired! You always were a person of uncommon grace, and this grace note is appreciated.

Retirement, of course, is not a biblical concept. Moses was 80 before he began to peak. His successor, Joshua, could only hold the title of "emerging leader" until sometime in his 90<sup>th</sup> year. Why you would leave before the real fireworks start is beyond me!

Someone once gave me some great advice concerning institutional administration (unfortunately, long after I left Eastern the first time!). Take all the people that drain energy from you, and have them report to someone else (a Dean, CFO, etc.). Similarly, take all those who give you energy and have them report to you. This is my concept of retirement. Everything you like to do, with everyone you like to do it with: this should fill your days. Everything else? Well, you paid your dues! If anyone can enjoy a guilt-free retirement, it is you.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your intellectual embrace of the Old Testament and your emotional implementation of its truths. Thanks for being such a good friend to someone who was still having trouble figuring out who should report to whom!

Blessings; and may they only increase,



Ambassador Robert A. Seiple  
President

Dear Tom,

*It hardly seems possible that our time together as colleagues at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary is drawing to a close. Our remaining years at this school will most certainly be diminished by your retirement!*

*Over thirty years you have labored in this Seminary, investing your wonderful gifts of heart and mind and spirit unstintingly for the enrichment of this community of faith and learning and in the preparation of our students for the ministries to which God has called them. Your presence and contribution has been characterized by unconditional love and faithfulness, reflecting beautifully through the earthen vessel of your genuine and authentic humanity the character of Yahweh, revealed in the Incarnation.*

*Your stimulating insights -- emerging from your amazing linguistic detective work and shared with faculty and students across many years -- have challenged our minds and deepened our faith. Your teaching has been marked by radical honesty and a passionate commitment to the truths of God's revelation in Scripture. And who among us has not been profoundly touched by those truths as formulated and articulated by you? such as: "Salvation may be instantaneous, but the healing of our scars takes a lifetime" or "Whatever thrives in the light of the cross is authentic revelation of God's purpose; whatever wilts in the light of the cross is revelation of our human pathologies." I suspect that such insights are not only the result of brilliant scholarship and careful reflection, but the evidence of intimate connectedness to the Prince of Peace, the Son of Jesse. An image that will always be deeply engraved on my heart and mind is this: Tom McDaniel in worship, eyes closed, a calm serenity on his countenance, aware that he is in the presence of the Holy One.*

*Thank you, dear friend, for your generous loyalty and your unreserved support in both good and difficult times. A more trustworthy and committed faculty member no dean and president could have had! Marjean joins me in wishing you many more good years of learning and growing and writing, and especially more relaxed and carefree time with your dear Doris and the rest of the McDaniel clan!*

*With great affection,  
Manfred*



**In Recognition of  
DR. THOMAS FRANCIS McDANIEL  
at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary**

Tom, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary has been honored and blessed to have your professorial services for the past thirty-three years.

Throughout that time, you have brought academic excellence to the position of Professor of Old Testament Studies. Based on a solid Ph.D. program and with an ever increasing body of accumulated reflection on the subject, you have provided first-rate instruction in your discipline.

As you know, alums more often remember personal encounters with faculty members than data they shared on a subject. That is what I have heard repeatedly from several of your former students. But a number of them added, not only that they received valuable advice, but that their lives were changed because of encounters with you. Some would not have continued in seminary had it not been for your counsel. This is what we wish to focus on.

Our sense is that these meaningful relations with students were based on a genuine respect for all persons. That is a perspective that is not easily acquired. Yet, you have developed it to a high degree.

Respecting all persons has led to inquiring about their circumstances, especially when they have sought you out to share some concerns. When your work was demanding, it was undoubtedly often a struggle to set aside time to enter into the lives of others. Yet, you made the time and have been a great blessing to many, in some cases contributing to radical changes in their lives.

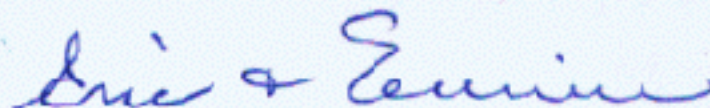
One may know of others' needs and stop there. You, however, have also cared. You have gone beyond simply gathering information and have empathized and sympathized with brothers and sisters who were carrying a burden.

But more than that, you have acted on your concern and assisted where possible. That is the test of a servant heart. And you have met that test so well that many students and alums are singing your praises for it.

For us, these are the marks of Christian love. Most of us strive to attain them, but you have mastered the art in genuine Christian maturity. And in doing so you have won the hearts of many students, despite any struggles they may have had with Old Testament methodology.

For these and other reasons, Eastern Seminary has been truly honored by your presence and engagement in the life of its community. May God continue to bless you richly for these achievements and grant many opportunities for continued and rewarding service in the years ahead.

Cordially, Eric and Eunice Ohlmann



*Glenn and Peggy Koch*  
*1401 Fairview Avenue*  
*Havertown, PA 19083*

Dear Tom,

Congratulations upon joining the ranks of the "retired." You will like it after you get used to it. Being without a daily schedule may cause you to lose track of what day of the week it is. But don't despair; just make sure that your watch has a "day of the week" function. That way you won't have to be embarrassed by asking someone, "Say, what day of the week is this?" If you get a daily newspaper, it will list the day of the week on the masthead. That's another way of keeping track of where you are. Don't read the news, however, because depression will set in.

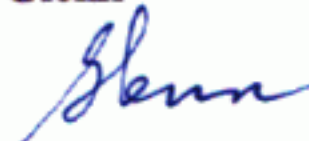
Now, if you should lose track of what week of the month you are in, I would suggest marking off the days on the calendar. Its not unlike a convict marking the wall of his cell keeping track of how many days are left until release. Please don't get me wrong. Its all right to lose track of things; after all, you have become a Senior, and "Senior moments" are expected of us. We wouldn't want to disappoint people, now, would we?

But, of course, there is an easier way in this modern age to keep track of days and weeks; we have a computer which gives us the time of day and, if we can find it, the day of the month, and maybe even the year. But one has to learn to trust the handy gadget. Don't ask whether a virus has messed things up and it is not really telling the right day. We must live by faith, even though that is sometimes hard to come by when dealing with a computer. We both know that, don't we?

The life of a retired professor is great, once you get used to it. No 8:00 o'clocks, no papers to grade, no committees to attend; no faculty meetings to endure; you can sleep-in every day; shop the malls when you want; take out grandchildren to eat at their favorite bistro any day they are available; etc. The sky is the limit; have fun, relax, listen to the birds, enjoy nature, or whatever. You've earned it! And if things get rough for some reason, you can attend Professors Retired Anonymous, and we will send over a person to help you through the withdrawal symptoms.

May God's blessings continue to be with you, my friend and colleague. We should get together soon to compare notes, as we used to do!

Glenn



To The 2001 Alum of the Year:

We had some enjoyable and relaxing games of horseshoe pitching behind the house on Towanda Road, U of R, on warm evenings. Also a few intriguing theological discussions.

Lee and I appreciated your serving as "Best Man" at our wedding in Westhampton Baptist Church where you had a prayer for our future married life.

Your open house hospitality, on the rare occasions I was in Philadelphia, and our breaking of bread together in some of the local bistros, is fondly remembered.

I appreciated your sharing some of your problems and concerns about getting the printer/publisher in Israel to ever respond to you about the status of your manuscript.

It was good of you and Doris to meet us in Baltimore on one of our trips back East.

From personal experience, I found that retirement is wonderful! A chance to perform a variety of volunteer work plus time for exercising and reading.

Sorry I can't be there on March 15<sup>th</sup> but hope you experience a super send-off.

Bob Hays  
Camarillo, California

17 South Childs Street  
Woodbury, New Jersey 08096  
January 29, 2001

Dr. Thomas McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA

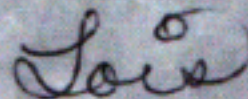
Dear Dr. McDaniel:

It is a great loss to future seminarians that you will not be present to teach, encourage, befriend and model the "Whole Gospel" approach to learning.

Your unique teaching style and method allows the student to choose an area of interest, research and write as much – or as little – as they desire. You simply challenge the preconceived ideas of learners and let the "Light" in. Your encouragement has always been evident for it has been your words to me privately that have affirmed my ability and kept me "on the course." You are the professor who walks through the café, notices students and sits down to join in conversation with them. You are the student's friend. You have modeled love and acceptance when young and older seminarians have challenged your ideas time after time. I have marveled at your ability to provide an arena in all your classes for different views to be set forth. Your response has been calm and composed, even-tempered and unperturbed. You are an excellent rhetorician.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Dr. McDaniel, for being a professor of the highest character who has responded affirmatively to the highest calling.

With sincerity and love,



Lois Osgood Miltimore



# Monumental Baptist Church

4948 Locust Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19139

*Organized in the Year of Our Lord 1826*

Church Office – 215/747-1414

Fax – 215/747-1145

**Reverend J. Wendell Mapson, Jr., Pastor**

January 31, 2001

Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

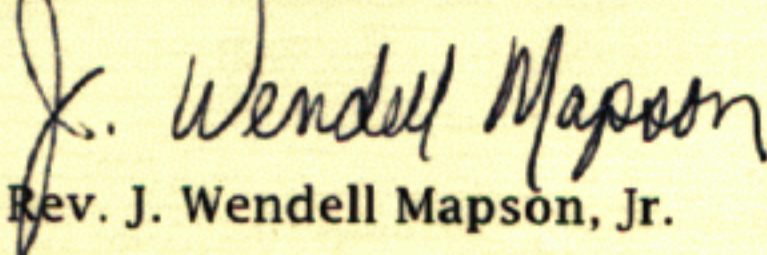
Dear Dr. McDaniel:

I join with others in celebrating your brilliant 32 year teaching career at Eastern. However, you have been more than a seminary professor. You have been a mentor to students, a supporter and advocate of worthy causes.

I will always remember your leadership and support of Eastern's School of Christian Ministry from its inception and your presence in the classroom. You were very supportive and helpful while I was Director of the program. You are well thought of and highly respected by any number of African-American students across the years who found in you an advocate for their struggles and concerns.

As you prepare to enter this transitional period, I pray for good health and a keen mind, and may the Lord of the church who called us to be servants, continue to bless you and your family.

Grace and Peace,

  
Rev. J. Wendell Mapson, Jr.

JWM:dfc





**TOM**

**(Haiku)**

**Gentle, soft-spoken,  
list'ner with a quiet spirit,  
a man whom God loves.**

**Humble and learned,  
pondering outside the box  
as one who loves God.**

**A thoughtful, care-full  
handler of God's Word, he mines  
it, for he loves truth.**

**With eyes that wonder,  
seeing new while holding old,  
he loves sharing life.**

**In sacred moments,  
known and hushed by the holy,  
he loves talks with God.**

**Honest, open, firm,  
gracious with the second chance,  
he loves as does God.**

**In justice, kindness,  
and humble walking with God,  
he loves the oppressed.**

**As gifted teacher  
he asks much and gives in kind,  
for he loves students.**

**A cherished colleague  
who has blessed our common life,  
he is loved by us.**

**Carol and Peter Schreck  
March 15, 2001**

March, 2001

Dear Tom,

Thank you for all you have contributed to Eastern Seminary over these many years: for your scholarship, your quest for truth, and for modeling the spirit of Christ in your words and deeds. I remain especially thankful for the insights and information you graciously provided as I worked on the Seminary's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary history.

I will always remember your telling the story of the paper submitted by a student, how poorly it represented what you'd taught. You gave him F. Still upset and pacing, you returned to the paper to give it an F minus. And I'll remember the testimonies I heard during my time there from minority persons who felt at home at Eastern Seminary because of you and your "proddings" for justice.

Mostly, I'll remember how you challenged your students, upon entering ministry, to stand for what is true and not for what is popular, to favor resources and programs that have integrity, especially with regard to an accurate reading of Scripture. I attempt to rise to this challenge virtually every week in my current role in Christian publishing. Others who have accepted this challenge are represented in the book *Who Killed Goliath?*, dedicated to you and your longtime friend and colleague, Glenn Koch.

Congratulations and may God continue to bless you in your retirement. Thank you for all you have done and all you have meant to untold numbers of people through the years.

Sincerely,

*Randy Frame*

**Randy Frame**  
Acquisitions Editor



# The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

P H I L A D E L P H I A

6 Lancaster Avenue • Wynnewood, Pennsylvania 19096

March 15, 2001

Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Dear Tom:

Since you have been present for my entire twenty-year association with Eastern Seminary it is hard for me to imagine this place without your presence. But time does march on, as they say, and you will soon leave to write the next chapter of God's plan for your life.

I want to take a moment to communicate my thanks to God for your life, which has had such an impact on my own. I have had the privilege of knowing you as my professor, fellow seminary employee, and friend.

As my professor you helped me develop a love for the study of God's word. You challenged me to love the Lord my God with all of my mind and to take personal responsibility for the interpretation of Scripture. You gave me a desire to pursue relentlessly the truth within God's word.

As a seminary employee I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with you on various projects and serve with you on several committees. Your steadfast cooperation and helpfulness have blessed me. Your sense of humor has brought the gift of laughter. It has been a real honor to serve with you as a colleague in ministry.

When I think of my relationship with you over the years, in whatever capacity, there is one constant thought. I will always associate Tom McDaniel with the person in my life who has best exemplified the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." I have been blessed and challenged by the consistent evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in your life.

As the years pass, Tom, I will remember less of the specific lessons you taught me in class. My Hebrew is already questionable and I can only recite one-half of the shema. But very clearly etched in my memory will be the lesson of your Christian witness and life. That lesson, my friend, I will never forget—for which I thank God, and you!

Blessings to you, rabbi. Go forth and embrace this new day that God gives you, and continue to be fruitful, for God's sake.

Sincerely in Christ,

Merrit L. Marsango

March 15, 2001

Dear Tom,

*It is a great joy to be celebrating with you today – celebrating the history of the Seminary we have been called to serve and celebrating your upcoming transition from Professor Friend to Retiree Friend. Thank you for the education you have given me in the time we have worked together. It was a different kind of education than the classroom wisdom you imparted to your students.*

*You have taught me a lot about life and about the passion for living. I have watched in sheer astonishment these past nine years as you have demonstrated time after time your unfailing belief in and commitment to the students of Eastern Seminary. No one who has encountered you in the classroom, in the hallway, in your office, or in the church has been left untouched.*

*My first mentors at Eastern Seminary: Dave, Mary and Beryl, gave me valuable instruction – always ask Tom first when you need help. I know good advice when I hear it! Thank you for coming to my rescue on more than one occasion. The Austen K. deBlois Library is a better place for having had you as one of its chief advocates. It has delighted me beyond measure that no student of yours could complete a course successfully without becoming a patron and user of the library.*

*Thank you for taking such delight in your grandchildren and for sharing that delight with all of us. When I think of you, I always think of the special light in your eyes as you talk about these most special of all children.*

*Tom, I do indeed celebrate with you in these days as you look toward a new chapter in your book of life. May your passion for life grow stronger with each sentence as it is written.*

□□□□

Melody Mazurk

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

One of the greatest blessings of working here at the seminary has been the opportunity to take classes with you. You are the most Christ-like and wisest person I have ever met. Your combination of gentleness and iron-clad integrity, your ability to say always what you think and stick firmly to your convictions while at the same time respecting other people and their opinions stands as a model for me, a benchmark to which I aspire. Your personal witness testifies to the courage you have shown in the face of pressure to conform. You have a truly rare ability to combine the most exacting scholarship with practical and pastoral application to our daily lives. Like Christ, you personify Wisdom, offering her banquet to all for the asking. Countless students have been blessed by your teaching and your example.

On a purely personal level, your example of loving God "with your mind" has helped me accept who I am in relation to God. So often I feel like a doubting Thomas, but yet the mystery of Deity fascinates me and draws me. Many of your remarks and testimony have made me feel less like an oddball in this institution. Your message is one that the world desperately needs to hear, especially those in the intellectual community, who are often turned off by simplistic presentations of Christianity. I hope that in your retirement you will find a wider audience for your ideas and that you will "live long and prosper."

Thank you so much for all you have done,  
Nancy Adams

אֲנִי מְדַבֵּר לְכָל הַיּוֹמִים

(In the English sense of the word)

I am grateful to

אֲנִי מְדַבֵּר לְכָל הַיּוֹמִים

For the

That you have been to me, as to countless other students,

Because you have taught us

אֲנִי מְדַבֵּר לְכָל הַיּוֹמִים אֲנִי מְדַבֵּר לְכָל הַיּוֹמִים אֲנִי מְדַבֵּר לְכָל הַיּוֹמִים

(In the Hebrew sense of the word).

Well and richly do you deserve the title that Christ himself wore in his earthly life:

אֲנִי מְדַבֵּר לְכָל הַיּוֹמִים

As you have blessed

Generation unto generation.

Of students here and elsewhere

May

אֲנִי מְדַבֵּר לְכָל הַיּוֹמִים אֲנִי מְדַבֵּר לְכָל הַיּוֹמִים

Be upon you

From this time forth, forever more.

February 12, 2001

To: The Reverend Doctor Thomas F. McDaniel

This is written to express my sincere congratulations to you on this the occasion of your retirement from professor of Old Testament Studies at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

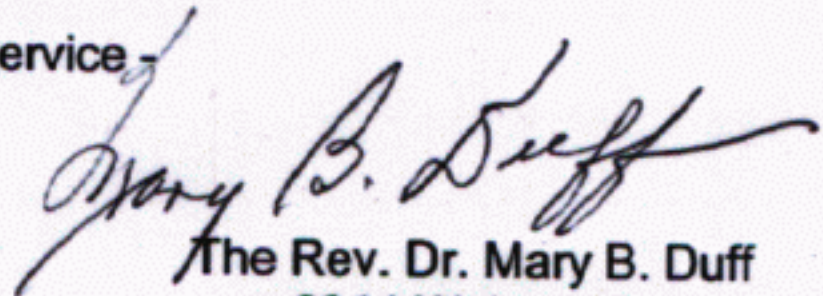
How fortunate that I can be numbered as one of the thousands, who was blessed to have been one of your students.

For this experience, I have been immensely rewarded and blessed. Having completed three decades of public school teaching, answering the "call" to ordained ministry came late in my life. Thank God for you, and "thank you", Dr. McDaniels, and others like you, who made the transition to God's service one for which I am deeply grateful.

For the ensuing years, may you and yours enjoy good health and happiness. As "a good and faithful servant", you have earned time away from the grind and tensions of life and teaching.

May God's blessings be yours for always.

With love and deep appreciation, I am in His service.



The Rev. Dr. Mary B. Duff  
6044 Webster Street  
Philadelphia, Pa (43)

Class of May, 1989

2/12/01

Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel

Dear Tom,

Best wishes for your retirement! It's about time, isn't it, to take a break?

I am very grateful for the enrichment that came through auditing some of your classes at EBTS in the late '70's and early '80's when I was working in Educational Ministries/ABC. These studies were a significant part of my continuing education and very influential in my work (developing Bible study resources for adults in American Baptist Churches). Your ministry continues in my life and surely in the lives of the many others you have taught.

I hope your retirement years will be rich with learning and filled with things you like to do. "Be sure that nothing you do for God is ever lost or wasted." (1 Cor. 15:58, Phillips)

Blessings,

Vergie Gillespie Spiker (Class of '53)

402 Charleston Greene

Malvern, PA 19355

February 8, 2001

To Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel --

Dear Tom:

This letter will inspire no fond reminiscences. Likely, my name will evoke no recollection.

However, I do have reason to write a letter of appreciation. Also, I think my communication will inspire some humor.

First, a little background. I shall mention two professors, well known to you.

During my BD studies at Eastern, 1940-1943, Hebrew was a required subject. Mercifully for some of us, the teacher was W. Everett Griffiths. Two things about Dr. Griffiths were unusual. First, although indeed a competent Hebrew and Old Testament scholar, his heart was in the local church and the pastoral ministry. (I do believe eventually he did go into the pastorate.) Secondly, with WWII raging, Dr. Griffiths (I've long suspected) was not about to lose otherwise promising students to the draft boards.

His Hebrew classes<sup>5</sup> more often became lectures on the basics of a fruitful pastoral ministry. Those who came to class carrying their Scofield Bibles inevitably were engaged in spirited discussions with Dr. Griffiths.

I returned to Eastern for the Th.M. program, which I did complete in 1956. Dr. Edward Dalglish then was professor of Hebrew and Old Testament. He was not another Everett Griffiths.

Somehow in a careless moment, I signed up for a Hebrew language course with him, and on a graduate level no less!

The disparity between Dr. Dalglish' two students could not have been greater. There were two of us in the class, you being the other.

I think the marvel is that Dr. Dalglish did not put me out of the class for wasting his, and your time.

Now to my letter of appreciation to you. You stayed out of it during the imprecations that the professor sometimes heaped upon me. Instead, you looked at me, your countenance conveying a sense of kindly understanding, and mild amusement.

So, years later, Thanks Tom. To rely on a much used expression, "you are a gentleman and a scholar."

Sincerely,

*Denison*

Rev. Denison D. Conner  
404 D St  
Central City, NE 68826-1324



March 8, 2001

Dr. Thomas McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

Thank you for all that you have done to make my time at Eastern a pleasant experience.

Thank you for never being too busy to answer my questions or help me solve a problem with my computer.

Thank you for every kind word and every word of encouragement. It has truly been my pleasure to know you and to be blessed with the little "tidbits" of wisdom you shared with me every now and then.

I pray that you will have many, many years of health and happiness and that each day will be filled with the joy of doing the things you love best with those you love best!

Sincerely,

  
Juanita Hays



## PASTORAL COUNSELING NETWORK

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R. DANDRIDGE COLLINS, Ph.D.  
210 W. Rittenhouse Square  
Suite 408  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Telephone: (215) 790-9718

March 15, 2001

Thomas McDaniel, Ph. D.  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Professor, Old Testament Studies  
6 Lancaster Ave  
Wynnewood, Pa

Dear Tom,

As you transition into a blessed retirement I felt compelled to pause and share with you just how much your ministry of teaching has meant to me. When I came to Eastern in 1978 you became my advisor. And during my tenure at seminary your kind and nurturing style shepherded me through some difficult times. *I never forgot it!*

As an instructor you were in a league of your own. Remember the time when you were addressing some issues of racial injustice, and the class appreciated your lecture so well that you received a standing ovation. *I never forgot that either.*

And how about the time you had the creative vision to have the graduating scripture lesson read from Hebrew and English. *I never forgot that either.*

Your warmth and scholarship, your kindness and your discipline, your friendship and your example, remind me of Jesus. Congratulations on a fruitful career. *Lets stay in touch and never forget the rich history we have shared.*

God Bless You,

R. Dandridge Collins, Ph.D.



March 12, 2001

Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel  
Professor of Old Testament  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

An American Baptist Region in the Delaware Valley

Dear Tom,

Where in the world have all those years gone? At this time when we honor you and thank you for all your years of teaching and ministry at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, I personally extend my gratitude to you for touching my life.

It hardly seems possible that more than 30 years ago I began seminary. As you will recall, the class I entered with was a "different breed of cat" and gave the administration and faculty some real challenges! After all, it was the late sixties!

You inspired and challenged each of us. Your personal testimony gave us insight into the kind of person you truly are. The views and interpretations that you readily presented offered a freshness and open spirit to our shared Christian faith.

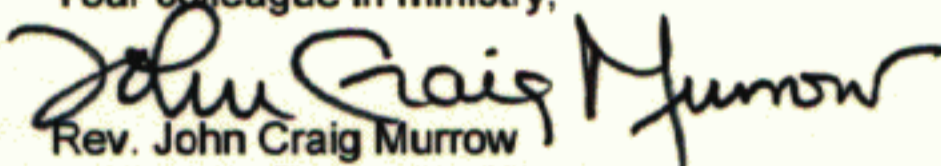
Not only did you take seriously the academic challenges for our life and growth, you showed a genuine interest in each individual. There were the social times that you and your family participated in as well as the ongoing conversations with students and staff.

If I recall, the McDaniel Family lived right there on-site in the early years until you found your home in Narberth. There was Doris and James who added so much to your life but also made our extended seminary family a true family! Not only did you all contribute to our spiritual and social needs, but nurse Doris assisted us in getting well!

So many people and events have passed by. Little did I know so long ago that I would serve churches in Ohio and Wisconsin and then return to Philadelphia in 1989 to serve on the Philadelphia Baptist Association staff. It has been good to see you continuing to serve the Seminary community in so many ways.

My prayer for you and your family is that you will continue to be blessed in so many ways, and that your life of service in ministry will continue to be a rich blessing for others. I am thankful to God for allowing our paths to cross and for significant ways that you have made a difference in my life. God's Shalom!

Your colleague in ministry,

  
Rev. John Craig Murrow  
Associate Executive Minister,  
Congregational Life

JCM: ykb

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100 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2736 Phone: 215-563-7393 Fax: 215-563-7396  
General Email: [contact@philadelphiabaptist.org](mailto:contact@philadelphiabaptist.org) • [www.philadelphiabaptist.org](http://www.philadelphiabaptist.org)

Rev. Larry K. Waltz, Executive Minister

Rev. John Craig Murrow, Congregational Life • Rev. Dr. Leonard Thompson, Sr., Regional Outreach

Rev. Edwin C. Flexer, New Church Ministries • Rev. Lisa R. Harris, Mission Support

Mrs. Mary Beth Rankin Finn, Office Operations

# Zion Baptist Church

*"A People Looking Unto Jesus"*

*Hebrews 12:2*

*219 West Spring Avenue*

*Ardmore, Pennsylvania 19003*

*(corner of Greenfield and Spring Avenues)*

*Rev. James A. Pollard, Sr., Ph.D.*

*Board of Deacons*

*Co-Chairmen - Carlton Hatcher*

*Melvin Walker*

*Chairman Board of Trustees*

*Ronald C. Hays*

February 19, 2001

**Dr. Thomas McDaniel**  
**Professor of Old Testament Studies**  
**Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**6 Lancaster Avenue**  
**Wynnewood, PA 19096**

Dear Dr. McDaniel:

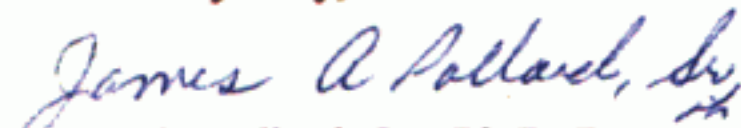
The members of the Zion Baptist Church of Ardmore and I congratulate you on your retirement and commend you for your many, many years of dedicated service.

Because of your love for the Greek & Hebrew languages and your enthusiasm and commitment to teaching, thousands of students have been encouraged to better understand the meaning of God's Word. Those who have studied under you have been blessed, consequently congregations everywhere have benefited from the gift that you have been given and have so freely shared with others.

We are sure that wherever you are, someone will be learning something, but we pray that you will now have lots of time to do some of the things that you enjoy and have been too busy to do all these years.

May God richly bless you and your family with many years of a happy, healthy, retirement.

Yours very truly,

  
**James A. Pollard, Sr., Ph.D. Pastor**

JAP/jh

*Residence Phone: (610) 649-4485*

*Church Phone: (610) 649-1216*

*Fax (610) 649-9116*

*email: zionbc@juno.com*



# The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

P H I L A D E L P H I A

6 Lancaster Avenue • Wynnewood, Pennsylvania 19096

Dr. Stephen S. Hutchison  
*Director of Admissions*

February 14, 2001

Dear Tom:

It is very difficult to find the right words which express my deep appreciation and respect for you.

Thirty-two years ago I was a second-year student in your Old Testament class. For the first time the Hebrew scriptures came alive, and the Bible became more than just the New Testament. During that experience and subsequent encounters, I also learned about your hermeneutical principle which focuses on the cross, and this made a profound impact on my life. Yet, more importantly, it was – and continues to be – your spirit which exudes the presence of Christ that commands the appreciation and respect I have for you. And it is this same spirit that I covet for our students.

Thank you, Tom, for the touch of class you have brought to our community. Thank you for the wisdom you have shared. Eastern Seminary has been blessed to have had you as one of God's choice servants. Yet, I am blessed to have you as a friend.

Shalom, my brother and friend.

Stephen S. Hutchison



*Graduate Business Programs*

11 March 2001

Dear Tom,

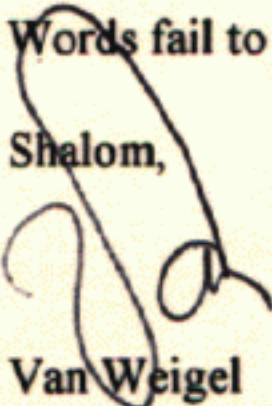
Some years back I was chatting with a graduate from the Seminary. After asking my ritual question—"So did you have the opportunity to take any classes with McDaniel?"—this person responded affirmatively. I then responded, "He's a wonderful human being." After pausing for a moment, he responded "You know, I think that says it all."

I have often thought about that conversation. Why the "human being" language? Why did I not think of you first as a great professor, a fine Christian, or a caring mentor? All of these descriptions are just as accurate and, one would think, more descriptive. But I don't think they capture the essence of Tom McDaniel.

Your gift to Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and its students is nothing less than a gift of humanity. Your personal commitment to a critical yet compassionate approach to faith has opened up new worlds for your students . . . and I am one of those students. Yet I think your most enduring contribution is that you have provided us, in your person, with a kind of model for humanity that combines faith with doubt, critical consciousness with humility, and, above all, an ecumenical concern for all other persons. That gift of humanity is something that no student will forget—long after the last Hebrew root has receded into dark corners of one's consciousness.

Words fail to convey my gratitude for all that you have done over the years.

Shalom,



Van Weigel  
Professor of Ethics and Economic Development

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

On this special occasion of your being honored for your work at EBTS I would like to pen some words of appreciation for what you offered me while I was at Eastern.

I vividly remember sitting in the front row of your Old Testament Study course in the spring of 1992. You were patient with me as I asked numerous questions during every class session. Even my friends made fun of me for asking recurrent questions! That class challenged me and I felt that you primarily sensitized us to issues of justice especially in relation to the “outsiders” of the Hebrew Bible. You had and will always have a special place for the down trodden of the Hebrew Bible and the world we live in.

I took your Isaiah and Jeremiah course in the fall of 1993 and a lot has remained with me from that class too. We dealt with hermeneutical issues, and you emphasized that the manner in which we can best deal with the conflicting universalistic and ethnocentric passages in Isaiah and Jeremiah was through the cross of Jesus Christ—the suffering God was and is the basis of enabling us to grasp and interpret the complexity of the biblical passages we studied. When students questioned your approach to the text you awakened us to the reality of our own ethnocentric selves by sharing your story. You grew up with the view that the “Japs” were the enemy, but when you went to Japan as a missionary God gave you a “new heart” through which you embraced the people of Japan. You shared this story with tears in your eyes and at that moment whether we agreed with you or not became irrelevant—you story was a manifestation of the possibility of conversion even in our own lives. You became vulnerable to help us as we struggled with the text.

I am now in the dissertation phase of my Ph.D. in World Religions at Baylor University in Texas. My dissertation is on Thich Nhat Hanh’s (a Vietnamese Zen Buddhist monk living in exile in France) contribution to inter-religious dialogue and global peace. My entire approach to World Religions, and life, continues to be grounded in a concern for peace and justice in this world. One of the persons who planted this seed in me is Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel; from a Hindu perspective you are one of my gurus. Thank you for the endless effort you put into your teaching. Imagine this—there are many of us who studied under you. We may not move mountains or shake the foundations of the world, but we carry our little flame of passion for peace and justice in this hurting world, and we pass it on to our friends, families, congregations, communities, and students. You were and are one of the sources of this flame in our lives! You challenged us to preach justice.

God be with you as you move into the next stage of your life. I hope you can retire knowing that your message has been received by a few of us.

Words can never express what you mean to me. But at this stage perhaps words will suffice.

Grace, peace, and love.

Laju Balani (class of 1995)

# The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary



CULBERT G. RUTENBER, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy of Religion

5906 Blythewood Dr.  
Austin, TX 78745  
March 6, 2001

Dear Tom:

By way of that mysterious grapevine I understand you are retiring. I can't get over it. These kids retiring. What is the world coming to? I don't know so you'll have to answer that. But I have an inkling of what is in store for you: No classes, no paper-grading, no student griping and of course best of all no income!

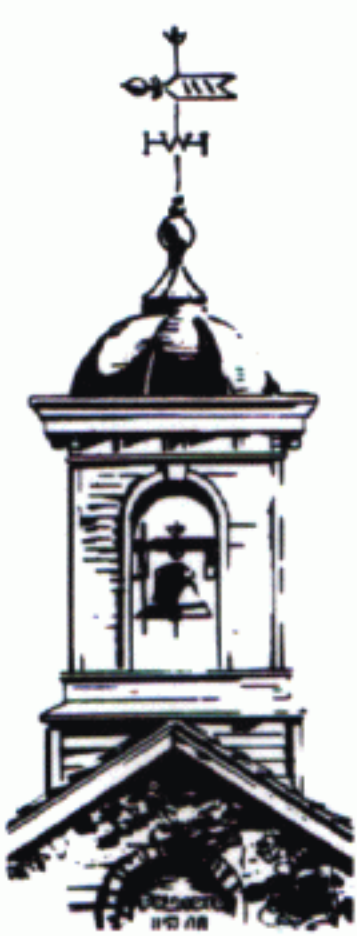
Tom, I would have liked to have had a longer period with you as my colleague. Oh, well...you can't have everything.

I've been under the weather somewhat so I won't drag this out with sweet nothings or anything like that. And of course I wish you etc. etc. etc. There is one nice thing about me: I don't expect any answer from you.

High flying and happy landing,

P.S. We like Texas. I'm not sure why but we like it anyway.





Founded 1771

# The Baptist Church in the Great Valley

945 N. VALLEY FORGE ROAD, DEVON, PENNSYLVANIA 19333  
(610) 688-5445

March 15, 2001

Dear Tom,

Although it hardly seems possible, nearly thirty years have passed since I first walked into your hermeneutics class armed with Claus Westermann's *Essays*... and experiencing more than a little fear and trepidation in the pit of my stomach.

There was a great deal of hostility in those days, as I recall, on the part of students and the "Powers-that-Be" alike. Yet, as always, you remained the voice of reason, of quiet compassion and conviction, reminding us from the pages of your beloved Old Testament that the step between religious ecstasy and sinful frenzy could be all too brief.

The notes from that sometimes-tumultuous hermeneutics class remain with me still – yellowed with age, well thumbed and well loved -- not as a memorial, but as a constant point of scholarly reference and as living testimony to the sheer joy of learning that you instilled within me. More than anything else, however, I shall be forever in your debt for demonstrating, in your life as well as in your classroom, that one's Christian faith and one's intellectual credibility need not be mutually exclusive. I count it a rare privilege to have been one of your students.

But now, as you lay aside the rigors and the rewards of seminary life, and as you contemplate both the unmitigated joys and the psychological burdens of "retirement," it is my earnest prayer that you will consider this event not as an ending but as yet another fruitful beginning.

As Robert Frost once wrote: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep." You, too, dear friend, have miles to go and much to teach us still. Perhaps now you will have more time to devote to your writing, crystallizing and refining the thoughts and ideas that first challenged us in the classroom.

May God grant you peace and health in the years of rich and rewarding labor that lie ahead.

Shalom!

Arthur R. Namendorf  
Class of 1974

*83 Meetinghouse Hill Road  
Franklin, Connecticut 06254*

March 8, 2001

Thomas F. McDaniel  
Professor of Old Testament  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Dear Dr. McDaniel:

As one of your many students, I am, of course, hoping that you will remember me. However, realistically, I know that my face may not appear clearly, after teaching so many students over the years. Therefore, I enclose a recent photograph.

I could not let this special time of recognition for you pass without acknowledging your immense influence on my education at Eastern and in my spiritual life. Your scholarship and pastoral heart have deeply influenced how I present my faith to my church family.

I recall several instances from classes which stand out in my mind. The prayers with which you opened class, held a depth and active spiritual quality that remain with me to this day. Your idea of holding scripture up to a mirror and asking whom it reflects – humanity or God was so simple and so insightful to me that I use it constantly in my adult classes. I remember in “Minor Prophets” your concept of nationalistic theology versus global theology. I remember especially the dignity you gave to questions regarding the relationship of scholarship and faith. I recall one particular question that was asked in which a student wanted to know if God had ceased speaking to us in the same way in which He/She appeared to do so in the past. You replied with a questioning shrug of your shoulders; a solitary gesture indicating that we were to wrestle intellectually from a position of faith.

I recall your remark to us in Hebrew class that previous classes were more serious in their Hebrew studies than was our class. Were we chagrined! Then someone made another joke and we all laughed heartily again! Your patience helped us mature and gave us confidence in staying the course. Your commitment to scholarship and faith is one that has touched many of us who have sat under your lectures.

Thomas F. McDaniel  
March 8, 2001  
Page Two

I wish you many more years of good health and happiness. Thank you for your commitment to your students and especially, your faith in me.

Very truly yours,

*Dale M. Dubina*

Dale M. Dubina  
Class of 1985





# St. Mark's United Methodist Church

100 Peachblossom Road • Easton, MD 21601-2546 • 410-822-0001  
Fax 410-822-0002      E-mail: [stmarksumc@goeaston.net](mailto:stmarksumc@goeaston.net)

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March 8, 2001

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

I met you in the Spring of 1971 when I was looking to transfer seminaries in the Mid-Atlantic area.

I was looking for an experience in Old Testament that was different from the one I had had the previous two years. When I talked with you, I found that your theological position about the Scriptures was very different from what I had known in the past. But I was drawn to your manner and your interest in philology. I came to Eastern and never regretted the decision.

During that year, I heard you being asked about your devotional life. You had said that you repeat the Shema throughout the day with addition of the name of Jesus. I took your practice and incorporated into all my confirmation classes. I have made them memorize the Shema, so that during our visit to Sabbath worship in the Synagogue, they could stand with others and affirm our common faith in God in Hebrew.

You also had us to your apartment for a Japanese-style dinner. And at the conclusion of the year, you wrote a gracious recommendation in my behalf for a church position in the Philadelphia area.

Thank you for taking time for me in 1971. It made a big difference in my life and ministry.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Moore  
Class of 1972



**The Russian-Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Union, USA, Inc.**  
**Русско-Украинский Союз Евангельских Христиан Баптистов в США**

574 Ashford Center Road  
Ashford, CT 06278-1721

"Christ Jesus is Our Peace and Unity" (Ephesians 2:4)

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ph/fax (781) 596-2624  
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Rev. George Harlov, Secretary  
2 Fisher Avenue  
Swampscott, MA 01907  
ph/fax (781) 596-2624  
E-Mail: GeoRU@aol.com

January 31, 2001

Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Wynnewood, PA

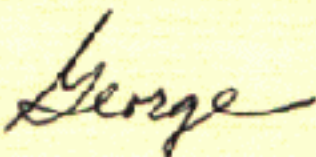
Dear Dr. McDaniel:

It's difficult for me to accept the fact that I will not be able to attend the Founder's Day Celebration during which you will be honored for your 32 years of teaching at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. You were more than just one of my favorite professors. You made me feel that you were my brother in Christ and a true friend.

As Eastern Seminary celebrates your contributions to the kingdom of God and to the lives of so many of God's servants, I will be in Russia teaching at the Moscow Theological Seminary and helping to prepare pastors and leaders for Baptist churches throughout Russia. Consider my teaching in Russia an extension of your teaching because you have always inspired your students to excel in what they do.

May the years of your "retirement" bring you much joy and fulfillment as you look back on a life so generously shared with others and as you look forward to the coming reign of Christ.

Your appreciative student and brother in Christ,

  
George Boltnev



# Marion Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

1050 McGowan Blvd.  
Marion, IA 52302-2400  
(319) 377-7329

Every Member, Ministers  
Robert "Bob" Kunz, Senior Pastor

www.marionchristian.com  
January 31, 2001

Dear Tom,

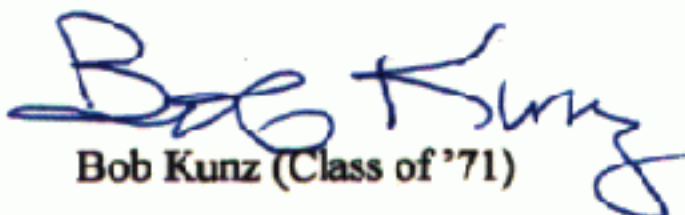
Has it been 32 years already? Hard to believe isn't it. Well, perhaps not for you having to put up with the changing parade of new students marching through the hallowed halls of Eastern Seminary. So many changes, so much growth in knowledge and in grace. In the course of more than a quarter of a century, you've put your mark on Eastern. I'm grateful to God for the impact you've had on me and my ministry.

You gave to me a very high regard for the Old Testament. . .in spite of the fact that I didn't stick with Aramaic in which you were kind enough to begin tutoring me. What you gave me has enriched both my teaching and preaching ministry since I graduated in 1971. As a consequence, it has enriched the congregations and hospitals I've served. Always, there has been a dearth of understanding or interest in the Old Testament. Always, there has been new excitement generated as fellow Christians began to befriend the story of God's action through our "mother", Judaism. The downside is, so many Christians with whom I come in contact still are ignorant and have less time and less interest in coming to a more informed faith. I guess that's what living in the shadow of Babylon does to people of faith.

At any rate, for a time there, we weren't sure you were going to make it. I remember a scene in which you were lying prostrate before the chapel doors—and you weren't in prayer (consciously at least). We thought you were on the verge of death. Thank God our prayers were answered, you began learning how to pace yourself and have had the opportunity to continue to educate pastors and laity alike across the years as well as provide your diplomatic and language skills to help others.

You've been a true blessing in my life and I know in the lives of so many, many people. Thank God for Tom McDaniel! Congratulations on your upcoming retirement. May God's grace and peace continue to go before you.

Sincerely,

  
Bob Kunz (Class of '71)

*The mission of Marion Christian Church is to build a community of faith that confesses Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, and that proclaims Him Lord and Savior. By the Holy Spirit, we will worship God, witness to His love, and minister to any in need.*



# Welcome United Methodist Church

Landingville

Pennsylvania 17942

(717) 366-2046

Box 8  
Orwigsburg, Pa 17961

February 6, 2001

Dear Brother Tom:

Prayerful appreciation of your  
years of nurture and ministry  
at Eastern Seminary are in  
this letter and in our hearts.  
Your training of students in  
the Biblical heritage of the Old  
Testament grounded them for most  
effective proclamation of the  
Gospel.

During my twelve years  
as an Adjunct Professor my  
delight was fellowship with

you in the faculty lunch room  
and other meetings. Always I  
am grateful that your wife was  
a caring nurse at Bryn Mawr  
Hospital. Whose caring touch was  
on Bernice in her need.

Your ministry continues  
to reach out in the world  
through all of your students  
in their parishes.

Eastern Baptist Seminary  
will continue to build and share  
because of your witness.

Blessings on you always,

Peace,

Bill Gurne  
Bill Gurne



*C. J. Orr & Associates*  
ORGANIZATIONAL CONSULTANTS

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March 1, 2001

Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Dear Tom:

Our congratulations on 32 years of teaching! We know you have been a wonderful influence on students, colleagues and friends—not only the information you imparted, but on their thinking and their lives.

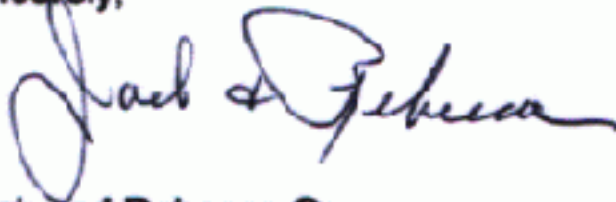
Also, our congratulations on your retirement. You have made that benchmark which all of us eagerly anticipate and we are sure you will make it a rewarding period of your life. You and Doris have sacrificed a great deal for the Church, both professionally and personally, and you both deserve this time for yourselves and your family.

The friendship we shared in the past is remembered with laughter, tears and poignancy. The stories, jokes, discussions about changing the world and organized religion, the beach time, the parties, the mutual friends, and just sharing lives was some of the best times of those early years.

Now that we are both grandparents, it is even more important to maintain that youthful exuberance toward thinking, learning and living. We are sure you agree!

Our love and best wishes to you both!

Sincerely,



Jack and Rebecca Orr

Dr. Thomas F. Mc Daniel,  
Eastern Baptist Theo. Seminary,  
6 Lancaster ave.,  
Wynnwood, Pa. 19096

3111 E 4th St., Apt. 112,  
Tucson, Az. 85715

February 5, 2001

Dear Dr. Mc Daniel:

Christian greetings!

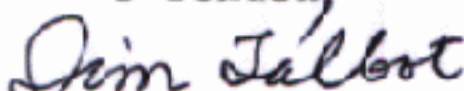
I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of your winning the 2001 Alumnus of the year Award. You are certainly worthy of this honor having taught so faithfully, for so many years, in your chosen field of endeavor. I remember you and your beloved wife so well. I met you first in 1969 having recently immigrated to the United States from Canada to participate in the Th.M. program at Eastern. I was grateful for your classes in Hebrew and Aramaic and your wise counsel in helping me to complete my thesis on A Study of the Root Sedek and its Derivatives in the Old Testament.

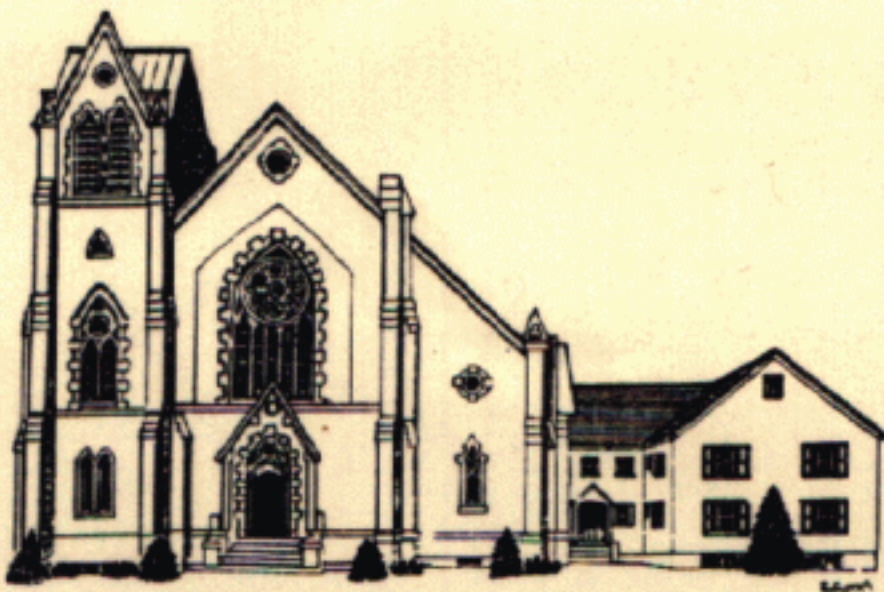
Following my pastorate in the Manoa Baptist Church in Havertown, I served two churches in Ohio, retiring in 1985 to Kent, Ohio. For the next seven years, I did pastoral supply work and studied at the Kent State University where I earned an M.A. in Latin and another M.A. in Modern History. In 1992, I chose to move to Tucson, Arizona to enjoy a milder climate. My wife and I soon joined the First Southern Baptist Church where I have been pleased to serve as a deacon and have been on the Board of the First Southern Christian School as well as working among the Seniors and Native Americans. I regret that on May 2, 1999, my beloved Arlowa passed away. Although I shall be 83 in March, I still retain good health and still teach a Senior Couples Class in Sunday School as well as serving in areas where I am needed.

I am grateful for a loving Heavenly Father who continues to shower His tender mercies upon me and for the many pleasant memories of teachers like yourself who contributed so much to me in my academic pilgrimage. I hope that you will have a most pleasant time of retirement and find areas of service in which you can offer something from your own rich experience.

May God continue to bless you and your wife with continued health, strength and faith. In pleasant memory as your friend,

I remain,

  
Dr. James F. Talbot



*Spreading God's Word to the World*

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# *First Baptist Church*

*118 Main Street  
Hudson Falls, New York 12839  
(518) 747-7036*

March 7, 2001

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

Both Ila and myself wish to extend our appreciation to you for your many years of teaching at Eastern Seminary. We were students there in the mid 90's, and now both pastor churches in upstate New York in the foothills of the Adirondack mountains.

I look back upon my years at Eastern Seminary with great fondness. Though seminary was often demanding, and though I recall sometimes "counting the days" until graduation, I am grateful for the education I obtained at Eastern, and treasure the very many wonderful people we came to know the three years we lived there.

One of my warm memories was taking your Hebrew class during the January term of 1996. As I write this today, we have just shoveled out of a 20 inch snowfall here in the mountains. I recall five years ago, after the "Blizzard of 1996", working on Hebrew with several classmates in one of the empty classrooms. I commend you for the approach you took to teaching such a complicated, but important subject. We studied much, but really had a lot of fun when the lights of understanding started to come on. I appreciate to this day the "pressure free" class format, and how successful it was.

Overall we both enjoyed your presence in the classroom and around campus. Your words of moderation and compassion still echo in my ears, especially whenever I hear harsh words spoken by some in the ministry. You helped many people on their spiritual journeys of truth. Most of all, I am grateful for people like yourself who were not afraid to think for themselves, or to invite others to do so.

May you have a blessed and happy retirement. I am sure that Eastern Seminary will continue to benefit from your knowledge and passion for God's Word, and that your contribution will be remembered for very many years into the future.

Sincerely,

Scott and Ila Smith '97

**1043 NICHOLSON ROAD  
WYNNEWOOD, PA 19096**

March 5, 2001

Dr. Thomas McDaniel  
Professor of Old Testament Studies  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Dear Tom:

It seems hard to believe that so many years have gone by since that day I came into your office, such a troubled student, asking if I had done the right thing in enrolling at Eastern. I was so concerned whether it was ok for a woman to seek ordination, and whether it would damage my relationship with my husband to be doing such a thing. It was your counsel that settled the issue for me in such a wonderfully wise way. I don't think I ever questioned my calling again, except the first time I stood up in the nave of a church as an intern to be the liturgist in the service that day. I remember pleading with God that if I were out of His will in this matter of ordination, that He would correct me. He never did, praise be to God. I also specially remember the day you found me weeping on the steps outside the cafeteria because my only daughter was diagnosed with a brain tumor. I will never forget the tenderness of your comfort, your compassionate caring, your kind words of encouragement.

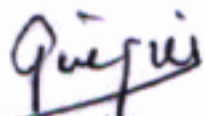
I guess my only regret is that I wasn't a more facile language student, especially where Hebrew is concerned, but even so you made it fun and even fascinating to try to get a grasp of how the language was constituted. How I would love to be able to really translate it. But somewhere the constructs are there in my head and maybe, just maybe, in my retirement I will be able to tackle it again.

For me, however, the most outstanding memory I have is of you rising to honor me, Guigui, at the moment my name was called to come forward to be awarded my M. Div. diploma and to receive the hood representing my degree! That truly was the most outstanding honor I have ever received. And it was you who so honored me, your student and friend.

It has been 19 years since that first day I met you. What glory years they have been, walking with the Lord in His service! Thanks be to God for such wonderful mentors along the way as you were and still are to me. Truly we are surrounded by a wondrous cloud of witnesses, not only in heaven, but right here on earth, and surely you will always be one for me.

May God richly bless you in your next stage of so loyally serving Him.

Your faithful friend,

  
Guigui Roberts, M. Div. and D. Min., thanks to You!



# Hughesville Baptist Church

Pastor Rev. David K. Fishel

Telephone: 570-584-2291

E-mail [hughbapt@sunlink.net](mailto:hughbapt@sunlink.net)

37 North Third Street

Hughesville, PA 17737

Dear Dr. McDaniel

February 15, 2001

I came to Eastern Seminary during the spring semester of 1988 as a student in the M-AR program expecting to train for "Overseas Missions". My advisor was to be Dr. DeGregorius but I asked to switch to Dr. Escobar since his specialty was missiology. It wasn't long however, I believe half way through my first semester, that it was revealed to me that I was going to need more time to study than what I thought was necessary to prepare for the ministry that I believed God was calling me.

I thoroughly enjoyed my classes even when they challenged me sometimes to what I thought were the limits of my capabilities. I learned that the grace of God was sufficient. That perhaps was the greatest lesson I learned at Eastern, as I continued to; commute from Harrisburg, continued my employment with the U.S. Geological Survey, WRD, interned at West Shore Baptist, and was then part-time father to our four children.

My first day of class was with Dr. Duglish in the Introduction to the Old Testament class. I believe that you were on sabbatical at that time, but rumor was that you were an outstanding professor and that I should be sure to schedule a class with you. Since I began in the Spring term rather than the typical Fall term I was always a bit out of sequence with the recommended course schedule for an MDiv student, but gradually I completed the requirements and squeezed in the electives wherever they would fit. My class week was pretty much confined to Tuesday through Thursday at Eastern, and Friday through Monday at Harrisburg with the USGS. On Sundays our family, Carol my wife, Laura, Janelle, Sam, and Dean and I drove to Hanertown to assist Dr. Rev. Ashby Chae with the Korean United Methodist Church.

As I continued studies I always had a nagging that I should take Hebrew, but when. Even to this day I wish I had taken Hebrew with "Dr. Tom McDaniel". Well, now I hear it is too late, but I wanted to let you know that I always appreciated your willingness to answer tough questions when they arose even from students who weren't in your classes.

Now after nearly 10 years at Hughesville Baptist I still feel like there is so much more to learn. I don't know when I will take the opportunity to learn what continues to nag at me. It seems there are so many other things that crowd in and take priority, but I know oh how good it feels when God's revelation breaks through and those new lessons become a part of our very being. Thanks again for being a part of the Eastern experience.

Many blessings to you!

David Fishel

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**Rev. Maynard F. Hatch, Ph.D.**

**Rev. Ruth C. Hatch, Ph.D.**

**House 5**

**5300 W. 96<sup>th</sup> St.**

**Indianapolis, IN 46268**

**(317) 873-0433**

**E-Mail: [penperson@yahoo.com](mailto:penperson@yahoo.com)**

**Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel  
Eastern Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, PA 19096**

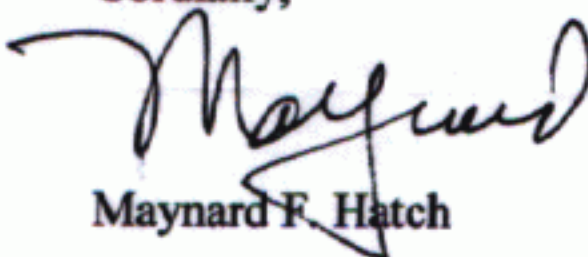
**Dear Tom:**

**Congratulations! Welcome to the wonderful world of retirement. The Seminary has demonstrated great wisdom in presenting you with the 2001 Alum of the Year Award. As I reflect on the time I was privileged to work on faculty with you I particularly remember your willingness to give of yourself in friendship and encouragement. The Levittown church, my own program at NYU, the teaching at EBTS and the frustrations of the field education program combined to make a heavy load. Your words of encouragement were very helpful and I thank you for them.**

**I do remember the time I happened to be in the right place at the right time and caught you when you were heading for the floor. I confess that was one of my better catches in life.**

**May God continue to use you to touch the lives of others as you enter retirement.**

**Cordially,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maynard", written over a horizontal line.

**Maynard F. Hatch**

January 29, 2001

Tom,

Having just received the notice of your pending retirement, I had to write this letter of thanks so that it would be added to the many others I am sure will flow in over the next few weeks.

As I jokingly told you once, you taught me Hebrew so well that I ended up marrying a Jewish woman and living with Jewish stepchildren. I attend a Reform Temple on a regular basis that has student Rabbis come and go every two years. Those Rabbis are shocked when they find out that there is a Christian minister in their midst. My Hebrew has helped me follow those parts of the services and it helped me aid both my boys as they became a Bar Mitzvah when they were 12. Your Hebrew classes are never far from my reality and I think of you often.

That is not where your biggest influence upon my life rests however. Your most important effect on my life touches me in my everyday ministry as a Pastor of a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation here in Williamsport and in my everyday life as a human being striving to follow God's will and direction for my life.

Although I loved all the classes I took from you I learned much more from our times spent talking over coffee and outside the classroom. As your teaching aid for a few years I was able to see your compassion and love for people. You were given the difficult task of opening the eyes of the newer students to encourage them to think about things they thought were already truths from their days in Sunday School and Bible College. Your wisdom and intellect enabled you to hang in there as their arguments came year after year. Your love and patience enabled you to present these difficult issues in a God-like manner.

You have been the subject of many a Bible Study, discussion, and sermon I have led. Your work during the difficult days of a social awakening with Blacks and Whites, through the years of a war torn country, to a seminary setting where you could continue to lead others in God's light, all show the commitment and skill you possess. Your talents are many and you have used them to God's glory so well. I am so much the richer because of our relationship.

I cannot begin to thank you enough for all that you have given to me. As many of us know, we never fully realize the positive effects we have had on people. So many come into our life and then leave it to go on, we can't begin to see the seeds that were planted and the fruit that comes from those seeds.

Retire in the grace and love that you deserve. My prayer is that you have many happy years ahead with friends and family and can reap some of the rewards you so richly deserve. Thank you for being such a good professor, mentor, and friend.

Your former student and life time friend,



Ken Weiss, MDiv. 1986

Howland House  
San Diego, California  
March, 2001

Dear Fraternal Old Friend,

Although our paths in ministry have not crossed since graduation, I nevertheless would not miss this opportunity to congratulate you, Tom, on this auspicious occasion in your journey with the Lord. Your record of diligence and faithfulness to your calling is certainly noteworthy! You clearly are one of the most stellar of my EBTS contemporaries.

I salute you on 32 years of teaching, thanking our God for granting you the opportunity of making significant contributions to the lives of so many ministers and Christian workers. I'm proud to say we were contemporaries.

God's continued best in the next chapter of your life, whatever that may be and wherever it may take you, Tom. As we used to say at Navy retirements, May God grant you fair winds and following seas.

  
joe howland, '54





# The Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal)

Pennswood & New Gulph Roads  
PO Box 1030  
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania  
19010  
(610) 525-2486  
(610) 525-8547 (fax)  
[info@theredeemer.org](mailto:info@theredeemer.org)

February, 2001

Dear Tom,

I will never forget those wonderful and intensive 4 weeks in January (what year, I don't recall – sometime in the early 1980's) when you introduced our class to the Hebrew language. You actually made learning Hebrew fun. And your love for your subject was contagious.

I wish I had been able to keep up with it, but much is now in deep storage somewhere in my brain. Yet a few things remain on the surface. The Shema for instance. We sang the Shema during the Sundays of Lent last year, and when our assistant director of music asked me to translate it for him, I was able to comply without hesitation.

Also remaining is a sense of the ambiguity of many of the original texts. Since Hebrew has no vowels, and scribes sometimes made mistakes, differing translations of one word can change the meaning of a whole passage, as you showed us many times. Reading and understanding the meaning of scripture is not always that simple.

Most importantly, I remember you as a joyful, affirming, insistent teacher, who was convinced that you had something wonderful to teach, and that we could all learn **some** Hebrew. You were right. I still have several books, and know that if I had to, I could, with the help of some dictionaries and texts, read **some** Hebrew or translate a passage. It's not all Greek.

I give thanks for your life and ministry, and for the inspiration you brought me. Y

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Rivers  
(Assistant Rector,  
The Church of the Redeemer,  
Bryn Mawr)



# Calvary Baptist Church

120 West Pennsylvania Avenue  
Towson, Maryland 21204  
Telephone: 410-825-3360

Frederick K. Weimert  
Pastor

Glenn L. Wittstadt, Jr.  
Organist-Choir Director

March 8, 2001

Dr. Thomas McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, Pennsylvania 19096

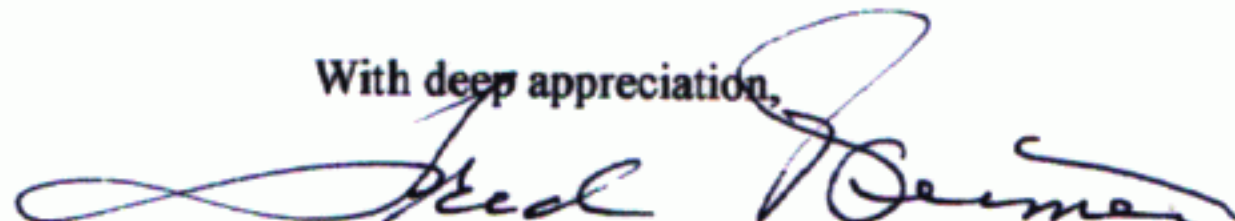
Dear Tom,

One of my favorite memories of you was the day I stopped up for lunch, with two friends, and you had forgotten the date. You were still down at Temple doing some interfaith work there. I liked it, because I forget things all the time... so you gained some human credibility points with me (sometimes you seem a little too super human—maybe alien.) The real reason it is a favorite memory is that when you finally arrived for lunch—you came in full of excitement about something that you had discovered in your recent studies. You said the discovery had confirmed a belief you had had for a long while, but you were happy to find some textual confirmation for your thought. My memories of you are filled with memories of your 'eureka' moments. It has always challenged me to never be satisfied with traditional interpretations or mere personal opinions; if someone as knowledgeable as you needs to look deeper into texts... so do I.

My years at Eastern were a great time of growth for me, because for the first time in my life I experienced mentoring not just teaching. It helped me to grow from closed fundamentalist interpretations to a more open and dynamic understanding of scripture and the working of God's Spirit. You were and continue to be a major contributor to this process in my life. (I still play your tape of your presentation to ABCOTS on the cursing of Ham.)

I know you will never give up learning, and I hope that you will still be available for sharing your wisdom with me and with the members of Calvary Baptist Church. Call me any time you have something that needs to be said.

With deep appreciation,



Frederick K. Weimert

Harold R. Blatt  
20 Goldfinch Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

February 20, 2001

Dr. Thomas F. Mc Daniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
6 Lancaster Ave.  
Wynnewood, PA 19096

Dear Tom:

I regret I won't be present when the Seminary celebrates your retirement. I had hoped that the big event would be held after we returned from Florida. But I will be there in spirit.

Our mutual friendship began while we were students. Although you graduated two years after mine I continued to live on campus as alumni director. After both serving as ABC missionaries we were on campus together again in the early seventies. You as a professor in the Old Testament department and I as director of development. During those years we had at least one fishing trip with the Old Testament professor, Dr. Everett Griffiths. I recall your helpful insights as I was writing my Th.M. thesis.

Our friendship blossomed further when I returned again to Eastern as vice president of development in the eighties. Your encouragement was most helpful. And I owe you a big thank you for your generous help in my many computer problems. Your patience was and is a remarkable attribute of your personality. Although I never had the opportunity to sit under your teaching I can only imagine how helpful and exciting it would be. Your credentials as a scholar are well known and will be attested by many.

My many visits to your seminary office afforded me the opportunity to observe your frequent sessions with students. You seemed to always have the time to give in spite of serious health problems. Visiting in your home gave me further insight into your warm and loving spirit as I became acquainted with Doris and your mother.

I always felt it was most appropriate that the Old and New Testament departments were filled with sons of the seminary. You and Glenn Koch were so similar in many respects. As one who had the responsibility to represent the seminary, I honestly could promote it well knowing at least two key professors personally over many years. Thank you for all that your ministry has meant to the school we all love, and to the Church of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Sincerely,



Harold R. Blatt



# GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

5TH AND WALNUT STS.  
CATASAUQUA, PENNSYLVANIA 18032

1995 grad.

SARAH G. BEAMAN  
PASTOR EMERITA

610-266-6047  
(215) 266-9213

2-5-01

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

The Old Testament came alive for me  
under your tutelage.

I admired your diplomacy and sensitivity  
when students argued with you, sometimes  
aggressively, over questions of inerrancy and  
other theories. You told us to climb with you to  
survey all the different interpretations and keep  
an open mind as we review all the evidence and  
find the truth.

Always kind and merciful to us students,  
you told the class you would not include the  
chapter enumerating the succession of all the  
kings of Judah and Israel. <sup>for the test</sup> I was absent that  
day for a family funeral in northern New York  
(actually it took a week) I made that chapter  
my main focus, even going over my list surreptitiously  
for the three days of viewings. ~~As~~ <sup>we</sup> drove home, I  
recited them to my husband so he wouldn't go  
to sleep! I guess it was good for my soul. As  
I recall I did well on the test anyway.

The kindest thing you did for me was to  
have the essential pages in the Hebrew text  
copied in triple size so I could see the  
dots - formations & be enabled to do the  
course.

After 10 years in ministry (1985-95) I am  
retired. I still preach occasionally & have  
published a few religious articles. I wish you a  
blessed, fulfilling retirement. Sincerely in Christ  
Sarah



# ST. ANDREW'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

327 Marlton Pike West (Route 70), Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002

856/429-4469

Fax 856/427-0383

e-mail [standrewsumc-ch@juno.com](mailto:standrewsumc-ch@juno.com)

ROBERT J. WILLIAMS  
Senior Pastor

BERNADETTE EXLEY  
Program Coordinator

DENNIS W. STEVENS  
Assistant Pastor

FERN ANNETTE FIELDS  
Director of Worship Arts

MEREDITH BLANCHARD  
Secretary

January 30, 2001

Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
Wynnewood, PA

Dear Dr. McDaniel:

I am so please to write this letter reflecting on your impact on my life as you come to the occasion of your retirement after thirty-two years of teaching at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. I was a student in your class on introduction to the Old Testament in the fall of 1970. In a few short weeks you had profoundly impacted my understanding of Scripture and how to read and interpret it. Unfortunately your teaching of the class was cut short by illness and the remainder of the class was taught by Dr. Griffiths. It was the experience that I had with you in those months that made me willing to take introductory Hebrew and then a reading class in Hebrew as we dealt with the stories of Genesis. Even though my first love of learning is church history, you increased my interest in the Old Testament.

Across the years our paths met when we were both doing a class in a United Methodist Church in Fox Chase and most recently when you were willing to come to St. Andrew's to lead a Bible discussion on a Sunday evening. Now I am honored to return to Eastern as adjunct faculty. You have always remained for me a model of study and of spirituality that I seek to emulate, but have not ever attained. You live of what Charles Wesley wrote in one of his hymns, "Unite the pair so long disjoined, Knowledge and vital piety; Learning and holiness combined. And truth and love let mortals see."

May God bless you in your retirement. I know that God will use you in wonderful ways in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Williams

February 24, 2001,

In appreciation to Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel for his years of teaching at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

I began attending Eastern Baptist Seminary in Sept. 1992 and I graduated with a Master Of Divinity degree in May 1995. It was a blessing and a pleasure to have Dr. McDaniel as one of my professor's. He has made a profound impact on my understanding of God in the Old Testament. I would like to list briefly some of the things I learned through Dr. McDaniel including some of his personal traits.

- Angry people want an angry God
  - The primacy and importance of Jesus Christ in relation to the Old Testament
  - Dr. McDaniel's inspiring personal testimony of how he changed from disliking the Japanese in the war time to loving them. He is a professor who can teach academically and intertwine his personal testimony which adds to his giftedness.
  - Dr. McDaniel has an important personal understanding of peace and non-violence through the study of the Old Testament.
  - He is a true scholar of the Hebrew language which allows him to do "ground breaking" Biblical interpretation even when it may be controversial.
  - His scholarship is credible through his many years of study and the desire to be true to God's Word.
  - His willingness to answer questions after class was appreciated.
  - He challenged us as students to learn the original languages of the Bible and to do our own ground breaking biblical interpretation study of the text. I believe he wants to make sure that the next generation of believers continues his work.
  - Go to his class with an open mind. If you don't think he is right, challenge him but he will have a credible response.
  - He keeps a Hebrew Bible next to his reading chair at home so he can continue to study even in his free time at home. Studying God's Word is his lifestyle.
  - To become a scholar is a full time job throughout life.
  - He saw the importance of using the computer to assist biblical studies.
  - Dr. McDaniel does not like poor printer ribbons on class papers submitted to him.
- The retirement of Dr. McDaniel leaves a gap at Eastern Baptist Seminary. But God is faithful and will send another person who can fill the position. Nonetheless, the legacy of Dr. McDaniel will be part of the benchmark for excellence in Biblical scholarship. His personal relationship with Jesus Christ is evident and to me that validates his scholarship. Enjoy your retirement, but don't stop studying.

In Christ,

*Garland L. Meyers*

Garland L. Meyers

44 William Penn Drive

Schwenksville, PA 19473

By the way, will you be a professor in heaven? ☺ I still have some more questions, but at that point we will be able to sit at the feet of The Great Scholar.



Thanks for the education and the many good memories.  
It is my desire to share and implement what I have learned  
from you.

In Christ,

*Garland L. Meyers*  
Garland L. Meyers

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

So you will soon be retiring! I am pleased that you may now have some time to pursue other interests.

I am sure that the seminary wishes they could "clone you" as you have had such a positive influence on many of our lives.

In '82 to '85 you were the professor who opened my eyes and heart to the Hebrew scriptures! You welcomed our female points of view and were an encouraging influence.

**ENJOY!! You have earned it!!!!**

Thank you and  
God bless you... real good!  
Cindy Koski



**REV. DR. RICHARD G. LEAVER**  
**52 CHURCH STREET**  
**BEVERLY, NJ 08010**  
revdrrgl@bellatlantic.net

609.387.2776

609.387.0034

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Dear Professor Mc Daniel,

I just can't imagine Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary without Tom McDaniel. I am happy for you that you are retiring, but sad for myself and Eastern that you will not be with us on a regular basis. I believe your spirit will linger on somewhere in our hallowed halls, but more so in the hearts and minds of all the students whom, like myself you have touched with your scholarly mind, Biblical expertise, and more so with your pastoral heart. It was truly a privilege to have studied with you. (I even remember some of my Hebrew.)

As an older second-career student, who had wrestled with my faith for years before being able to enter seminary, you were a breath of fresh air for me. I would laugh to myself on those days when young students would challenge what they heard as it challenged what they had grown up with in church. You caused them to stretch and to grow in their intellect, knowledge, and in their faith. Hopefully, they are challenging their churches to grow, too.

Our churches have left many of our members feeding on the milk of the Gospel which is good, but has limited spiritual nutrition. Many have failed to present their congregation with the meat. You served it up the meat to your students Kosher style, as it was truly blessed and a blessing to us. Thank you. Thank you for not compromising Thank you too, for being an advocate for peace.

I asked the LORD's blessings upon you and your wife. May God continue to hold you in the palm of His hand. Truly, you have been blessed to be blessing. You have blessed my life. Let me say to you now what Christ will say to you in that day: "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Sincerely Yours,



**Rich Leaver,**  
class of 1987

**Ed & Diane Irvin**

5210 Challis Circle  
Reno, NV 89523

**March 1, 2001**

**Dear Tom,**

**Fifty years! I'm dying to hear what you have to say! Hope it will be taped or printed.**

**Your ministry has drawn our admiration over the years. From student to missionary to professor you have always been a strong colleague in ministry even though the miles have**

**separated us. Diane joins me in thanking you for a quality, devoted career. Now you can tell Doris you're going to catch up on those little jobs around the house...**

**Enjoy Founder's Day! I understand you can take that "Alum of the Year" award to the nearest**

**Jaguar dealer and exchange it for an XKE.**

**I retired in 1998 after forty-four years of preaching. So I can say, "C'mon in, the water's fine!"**

**Hope you have a hobby or interest to enjoy. Mine are photography and fly fishing. Need instruction?**

**We'll be at Providence for the ABC Biennial. See you there?**

**Warmly,**



Dr. McDaniel,

I wanted to write to you because I wanted you to know that though I was challenged academically and emotionally by your classes you have given me a true appreciation for the Hebrew Language and the Hebrew Scriptures. I took your courses because I felt they were important for me to be a good pastor and they were required for graduation or for further study. I stayed in your courses because they were interesting and I needed them to graduate. I thank God for your classes because of the valuable tools I learned there and the fact that I will graduate. But seriously - I will always remember you because you first taught me to think critically. You taught me not to accept everything I read and to be willing to change my position on something. You respected my positions and always listened with interest and in some cases - like Hebrew - empathy. You reminded me of the importance of being excited and passionate about my work whatever that might be. You modeled what that looks like - a picture in my mind I shall endeavor to work towards. At the risk of waxing sentimental, I want you to know (as if others haven't already told you) that you have truly modeled the shema for all of us here at Eastern Seminary. May God richly bless you as you continue in that which you love, namely serving the Lord

אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה  
וּבְכָל-נַפְשׁוֹ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדוֹ:

Suzanne Duchesne

(I finally learned the shema didn't I?!)

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

On this special occasion, it seems fitting to offer this Hebrew blessing.

In God's love,

Diane Burkland

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם  
שֶׁחֵינּוּ וְקִיְמָנוּ וְהַגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמֶן הַזֶּה  
אָמֵן

Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel  
Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
#6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wynnewood, Pa. 19096

Dear Tom:

On your "Fifty Years of Recollection" I could not resist congratulations to you on your retirement from the Seminary. I still remember you well although I graduated a little after you did ('57). I remember looking up to you as an upper classman. What an illustrious career you have had!

Just to think: you were called to Eastern after many years and hard work to be Professor of Old Testament. The Lord certainly rewarded you as an Eastern graduate. I know he will bless you in retirement.

Nell, my wife, and I retired after 33 years at First Baptist Church of Monroe, Louisiana. I am kept busy singing and preaching. There is never a dull moment in serving our Lord and Saviour.

May our gracious Lord bless and keep you in all the days ahead and give you many joyful days in His great service.

In His great love,

*Walt*

Walt

(Rev. Walter G. Mangham)



*Congratulations, Tom!*

*When I entered Eastern after retiring from a long career of teaching in the Philadelphia School System, I wanted only to study the Scriptures a bit further. However, under your instruction, I realized how unprepared I was to come to grips with my narrow and literal approach to the Scriptures.*

*Your teachings have completely revolutionized my spiritual journey! I have even become more computer literate (smile). I am confident that you will both welcome and handle even greater challenges in your retirement.*

*"For God is not unjust; He will not overlook your work, and the love that you showed for His sake in serving the saints" (Hebrews 6:10).*

*Affectionately,  
Eva Bird, '87  
Eva Bird  
Atlanta, Georgia*

# **BARTLETT BAPTIST CHURCH**

**5639 Bartlett Road**

**Rome, NY 13440**

**Pastor Tom Hast**

March 15, 2001

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

I thank you so much for all that you did for me during my student years at EBTS. You were a wonderful teacher, thorough and supportive advisor, and a very special friend.

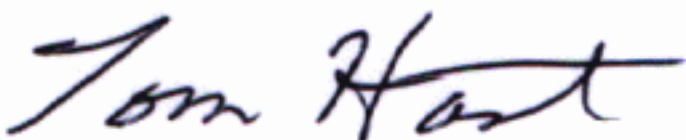
I always looked forward to your classes. I knew, while we might not always cover all the material listed in the catalog, true learning would take place. You always stretched my own theology and gave me new fresh ways of looking at the Bible. You were always willing to openly discuss difficult or controversial issues in a way that allowed the full spectrum of the issue to be revealed. I have often used ideas from your classes in sermons here at Bartlett Baptist.

Despite your busy schedule you always made time to be my advisor. I know at times I must have seemed like a pain in the neck from upstate New York. But when ever I met with you, you made me feel important. Your wisdom, guidance, and creativity were instrumental in my being able to complete my MDiv. in four years. You helped me through the maze of the bureaucracy, always ensuring I received the education I needed.

As much as I appreciated you as a professor and advisor, my fondest memories are of you as a great human being. Your love for our Lord Jesus is reflected in all you do. The times we spend talking of life, ministry, and just random topics always helped me grow, refine what I saw as God's goals for my life, and increased my own spirituality. I was so honored when you traveled all the way to Owego, New York to attend and speak at my ordination.

You have been a great asset to EBTS and your presence will be greatly missed. I am one of the fortunate ones who had such a wonderful influence on my life. I pray that as you retire, God will continue to bless you with wonderful experiences. You have given so much to people you never met, the congregations of your students. Well done faithful servant of God.

In the love of our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hast". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



# The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

P H I L A D E L P H I A

6 Lancaster Avenue • Wynnewood, Pennsylvania 19096

**William R. Thomas, D.Min.**  
On-Site Administrator  
West Virginia Extension

March 15, 2001

Dear Tom:

It is a unique privilege for me to add my letter to the many that you will be receiving on this very special day. You are a very special person, important to many, including me.

I think that it is fair to say that I would have not finished my first semester of Seminary had it not been for you. You instinctively understood the struggle that I was having with the transition to professional/graduate religious studies. You recognized that I was without rudder and sail. You moved in with many kind words, helpful insights, tender guiding and a few swift kicks to help guide me through the maze.

By the time I was a middler I had the privilege of learning from you and the other faculty as I sat in the faculty meeting for that year and the next. Some of the lesson I would have preferred not learning. Some of the lessons were "de-mythologizing." But I think for me the most important was to see how a great man of God could and should endure unkind, unwarranted and unprofessional assaults with the grace that you showed.

You then preached my Ordination Sermon. You told me at the congregation that the pastor was to be a prophet, priest (and then I was hoping that you would say "King") and rabbi. I have taken those three offices very seriously. I have sought to be a disciplined preacher of the word, an administrator of the symbols of the faith and a teacher of Holy Scripture. I discovered, like you said I would, that people in the churches could learn and want to learn about the Word as well as the devotionals from the Word. I have found my greatest joy in Wednesday evening as I engaged the congregation in a dialogical study of the text.

But it is because of a person who chose to be a teacher and under whom I had the great fortune to study. All I can say to you is, "Thank you." You did not donate your life to Eastern for gratitude or praise or recognition but out of a sense of faithful response to the call of God. I think the gratitude has been thin, the praise too mute and the recognition too limited. But the faithfulness has brought honor to God.

Tom, thank you for caring. I am eternally grateful.





# Gilbertsville Baptist Church

P.O. Box 216

Gilbertsville, New York 13776



Church phone: (607) 783-2993

Residence phone: (607) 783-2044

*Rev. Randolph C. Palada, Pastor*

---

March 12, 2001

Dear Tom,

## On Your Retirement,

The words "thank you" hardly seem adequate as you are about to retire from your position as Professor which you have done for the past **32** years. Nor do the words "you've done a great job" convey sufficiently the praise you are due. Yet I want to sincerely express both of those sentiments, for you deserve them, and more.

I want to express to you how much I appreciated your personal and "down-to-earth" style of teaching. Your compassionate understanding of character deeply touched my life and the lives of other students as well. Your supportive words in the midst of cultural adjustments and academic struggles enabled me to finish the courses. I know I do not speak for just myself-many others have expressed the same sentiments to me.

As a friend and as a student of yours I want to let you know that I count you as my favorite Professor at Eastern Seminary. Now, as I have been a pastor for 14 years, you hold a very special place in my heart. I have many wonderful memories of seminary days with fellow classmates like Mary Ling, Ruth Fox, Sunny Dangponpe, Guru, and others. These memories will continue to remind me of how God brought us together for that time and place with a purpose in His kingdom.

Thank you for your many years of service to the many, many students who came across your classroom. May your retirement be a time of joy, health and continued growth in spirit. God Bless You!

Sincerely,

  
Randy Palada

# On Your Retirement

Retirement is one more new beginning.

It's not only a time to harvest the benefits from a life of planting, but a time to sow new seeds.

God has blessed you with the gift of years and by His grace you are beginning one of the most glorious times of your life.

Retirement is a time for looking back on the special memories, and a time for looking forward the special ways God will continue to work in your life.

Now that you don't have to come to the office, attend meetings, meet deadlines, give lectures and exams, make reports and speeches all I can say is....

"You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace...."

Isa. 55:12



My family: Laura<sup>01</sup>  
Khaya & Elaina<sup>3</sup>



It's a beautiful thing to discover that when you turn to the Lord to meet a need in your life, He provides it by working through someone as special as you.<sup>'86</sup>



# Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

## Celebrating 75 years



The Rev. Dr. Thomas McDaniel  
The Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary,  
6 Lancaster Avenue  
Wyanewood PA 19096

Dear Tom,

My wife, Beryl and I find it hard to put in words our feelings at this moment as we thank you and Doris for your support, welcome and acceptance ever since we arrived in Philadelphia. You, Tom were among the first members of the Eastern faculty we met on our arrival. I had met both Drs. Robert Campbell and William Brackney in my work with the Baptist World Alliance. However as with these international contacts they were cordial business like but not very deep. I first met you when as a Visiting Lecturer I participated in the ESCM program at your invitation and discovered in you a gentleman of sound scholarship, genuine faith, approachability and a love for the students. Having just recently been in Andover Newton and the Harvard complex this change was indeed refreshing especially your relationships with the African American constituency, students and administrator. Indeed it broke for me some stereotypes I had come to believe about the relationship between students and professors in the US.

I got to know you better as we became colleagues on the Eastern faculty. You participated with Manfred in my initial interview to become the Dean of Chapel. Over the years your encouragement and support have been greatly appreciated. Not least has been your sensitivity to the Eastern tradition and history and your invitation to the rest of us to share it with you. I shall always remember your encouragement to me in my ecumenical attempts as in my invitation to the Rector of St. Charles Borromeo to preach in Chapel with your comment that "Eastern had turned a corner". It gives me delight to know that you were still here to witness the Cardinal Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia giving the "Robert Torbet Lecture", of all things, in the Chapel where Raymond Brown, the New Testament scholar could not speak. The irony of the situation, I am sure was not lost on you nor did you miss the humor of the Almighty!

Beryl has had the privilege of "sitting at your feet" in OT Theology class and working with you closely in the Library. Your detailed analyses of the work of the Seminary in the "self-study" project is not well known but those of us in the administration have greatly valued it. Your openness to the efforts in West Virginia and your advocacy for the participation of people of African, Hispanic and Asian descent in the faculty are better known and have helped to change the public image of the Seminary. Your well researched and innovative devotions as well as your dignified and gracious spirit have calmed many a faculty meeting and your wisdom, vision and your embrace of current technology as a teaching tool have enhanced the quality of Eastern's life. Further, the community has been challenged and encouraged by the way in which you have faced your health problems with the calm confidence of Christian hope and because of your witness some of us have found courage to face our own personal problems. The Seminary will be the poorer for your going.

We wish you good health and many happy days as you go into a new phase of your life. May you enjoy to the fullest the added time with Doris, the children and grandchildren. Beryl and I are grateful that you will not be leaving <sup>us</sup> and we look forward to seeing you and to receiving your meaningful card at Christmas. Thank you for enriching our lives. May God bless you richly.

West Virginia



Thomas & Doris  
March 2001

Dr. Thomas F. Mc Daniel,  
Eastern Baptist Theo. Seminary,  
6 Lancaster ave.,  
Wynnwood, Pa. 19096

3111 E 4th St., Apt. 112,  
Tucson, Az. 85715

February 5, 2001

Dear Dr. Mc Daniel:

Christian greetings!

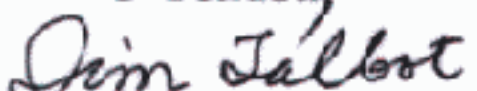
I would like to congratulate you on the occasion of your winning the 2001 Alumnus of the year Award. You are certainly worthy of this honor having taught so faithfully, for so many years, in your chosen field of endeavor. I remember you and your beloved wife so well. I met you first in 1969 having recently immigrated to the United States from Canada to participate in the Th.M. program at Eastern. I was grateful for your classes in Hebrew and Aramaic and your wise counsel in helping me to complete my thesis on A Study of the Root Sedek and its Derivatives in the Old Testament.

Following my pastorate in the Manoa Baptist Church in Havertown, I served two churches in Ohio, retiring in 1985 to Kent, Ohio. For the next seven years, I did pastoral supply work and studied at the Kent State University where I earned an M.A. in Latin and another M.A. in Modern History. In 1992, I chose to move to Tucson, Arizona to enjoy a milder climate. My wife and I soon joined the First Southern Baptist Church where I have been pleased to serve as a deacon and have been on the Board of the First Southern Christian School as well as working among the Seniors and Native Americans. I regret that on May 2, 1999, my beloved Arlowa passed away. Although I shall be 83 in March, I still retain good health and still teach a Senior Couples Class in Sunday School as well as serving in areas where I am needed.

I am grateful for a loving Heavenly Father who continues to shower His tender mercies upon me and for the many pleasant memories of teachers like yourself who contributed so much to me in my academic pilgrimage. I hope that you will have a most pleasant time of retirement and find areas of service in which you can offer something from your own rich experience.

May God continue to bless you and your wife with continued health, strength and faith. In pleasant memory as your friend,

I remain,

  
Dr. James F. Talbot

# Alums in Ministry

## ALUM PERSPECTIVES

### The Mark of a Great Teacher

**W**HEN TOM MCDANIEL GAVE HIS Founders' Day address, an event which also served to recognize his 50-year affiliation with Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and his retirement from its faculty, Tom spoke with affection about his pastor and mentor, Rev. Clifford Meeden. It may well have been that close and caring relationship with Rev. Meeden that helped to condition Tom's heart for teaching. I once asked Tom why he was not more demanding on the students in his classes. He just smiled and said, to the best of my memory, "Most of my students are going to go on to be pastors and not Semitic scholars. I only hope to give them the tools to enable them to approach the text and scholarship with more understanding."

It was a wonderful treat, on Founders' Day, to learn that several alumni/ae have published a *festschrift* in his honor (see page 15). It is nice to know that Tom worked with scholars, but that in the main he helped students like us—people who, in studying for a sermon, take out the Hebrew Bible and lexicon to see if the Hebrew word used here is the same one used in another passage. Most of us will never have Tom's

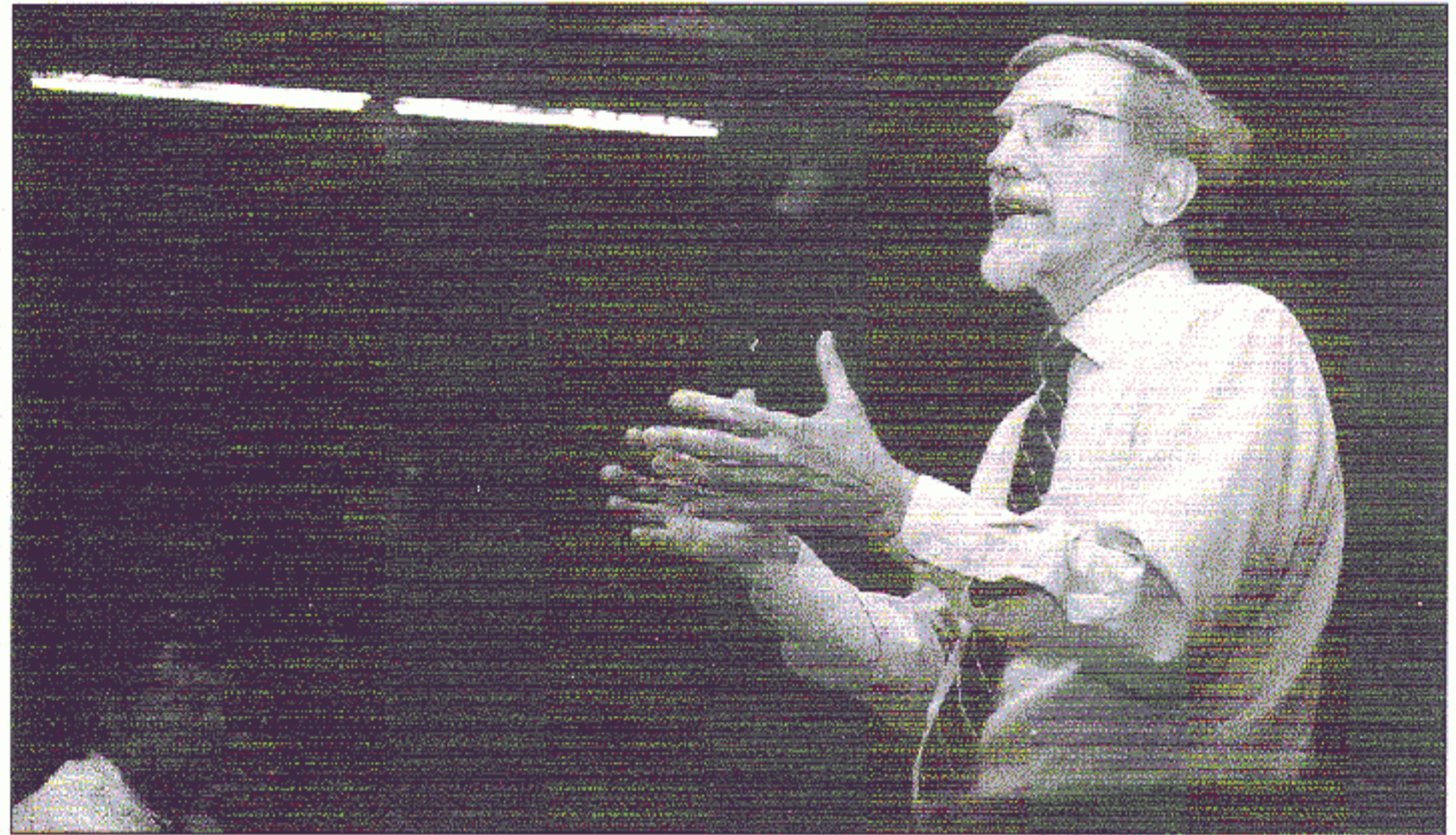


Photo © Christ in Arango

facility with language, but we are fortunate enough to have been mentored by one who loved both scripture and student.

*Frederick K. Weimert, '77*

**D**R. MCDANIEL WAS A GREAT teacher. Not only did he educate me in the Old Testament, theology and the Hebrew language, he also touched my personal life. He encouraged me to believe in myself and directed me onto a path where I experienced things I never could have imagined. For me, his demeanor of humility and sincerity was the power of encouragement for my determination to do my best.

Out of the many lessons Dr. McDaniel taught me, there is one that I reflect upon frequently—that is to remain calm and peaceful while your faith is being tested. I have been truly blessed to have experienced this Christian giant, for his unconditional way of teaching has given me new life and has put me on the path of a new beginning.

*Henry (Hank) Baldwin, '99*

**D**R. TOM MCDANIEL'S PEACE-LOVING spirit has blessed me and I have benefited from his teaching in essential

ways. By modeling a truthful and gracious approach to God's Word, he has given me vision and tools to study the Hebrew Scriptures in ways consistent with how I am coming to understand God at work in the world and in my own life.

In the past, I sometimes allegorized Old Testament stories in order to derive spiritual meaning or principles in keeping with my own ideas of a faithful life. I have come to realize, however, that if someone reduced down the substance of my years of living—days that have included bewilderment, faith and determination—to symbolic meaning, I would feel profoundly ignored and invalidated.

Dr. McDaniel's insistence that believers reckon with the humanness of our predecessors in their faith journeys, and their modes of discerning, telling and transmitting truth, has provoked me to be an involved pathfinder in understanding God's will for human lives. I am indebted to Dr. McDaniel for this gift of wisdom to lead a more honest and "dove-like" life while possessing a more wholesome and winsome faith. As I think he would have it, I will seek to repay the debt in love to those whom God loves.

*Diane M. Vescovi, M.T.S. student*

#### Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni/ae Association Executive Committee

President: Paul A. Melson, '90

Vice President: John W. Doll, '91

Marianne (Ginger) Vance, '89

La Verne Adams, '96

Edna Hopkins Rozier, '00

# Founders Day Celebrates the Gift of Teaching

**O**N MARCH 15, THE SEMINARY family gathered in Gordon Baker Dining Room to celebrate Founders Day with Dr. Thomas F. McDaniel, Professor of Old Testament Studies, whose retirement date in May

Meeden, '38, who deeply impacted his faith by earnestly welcoming him into the church, encouraging his growth in Christ and later helping him make his way to college and into ministry. Dr. McDaniel related that experience to the mission of seminary graduates, who should aim in their ministries to be teachers and guides who help others find their way into appropriate avenues of service.

The presence of many alumni/ae and friends in the packed and overflowing dining room gave testimony to Dr. McDaniel's impact on many lives over 32 years of teaching at Eastern Seminary. As part of the celebration, Paul Melson, '90, President of the Alumni/ae Association, presented him with the Alum of the Year award. Dr. McDaniel—along with Dr. Glenn Koch, Professor Emeritus of New Testament

Studies—was also honored with a *festschrift*—a book written in honor of a person or persons—called *Who Killed Goliath?*, edited by Robert Shedinger, '94, and Deborah Spink, '85 (see page 15). The contributors—all Eastern Seminary alumni/ae—were in attendance to show their appreciation to Drs. Koch and McDaniel whom they credit with



A collage created by Gisele Churn, Assistant to the Registrar, celebrates 32 years of ministry.



Dr. Tom McDaniel served up laughter with the slide show.

was soon approaching. With the aid of an overhead projector and an ample dose of good humor, Dr. McDaniel entertained and informed those gathered by sharing stories from his own life in connection with the seminary, a connection that reaches back some fifty years to his student days.

He spoke of the pastor, Clifford

teaching them “to fully engage their minds as well as their hearts in their study, interpretation, and proclamation of the Scriptures,” according to introductory notes.  $\Delta$



Left: Shirley Mapson (at podium) leads a time of singing. Right: Paul Melson, Alum Association President, presents the Alum of the Year award.