The Cairn Fund supports the University’s highest priorities and key values:

- improving student affordability
- continuing a tradition of Christ-centered faculty and academic excellence
- providing student development resources
- sustaining campus facilities

Investing in The Cairn Fund is an investment in every student at Cairn University.
How to Build an Academic Program

This coming spring, Cairn University’s first pre-med student will graduate—and to many of our alumni that may seem almost unbelievable. So if you’re wondering how the institution of your college memories can offer such a vast array of majors, we have the answer for you.
there has been plenty written in plenty of places about 2020. It will no doubt be a year we will not forget, and it is not over yet. Recently, as I was thinking over the past academic year for my role in formalizing some reports and assessments at the University, I was struck by how distant a memory January and February (let alone the Fall 2019 semester) actually are. The course of events that have unfolded since March and the onset of the impact of the pandemic in the United States—as well as those that are still unfolding and those that will unfold in the months to come—have not only overshadowed the months preceding but have many of us grieving and feeling weary, anxious, discouraged, angry, and confused.

In conversations with friends and colleagues, students and their parents, and leaders from other organizations and ministries, I have clearly seen the weight of all that we are experiencing bearing down on folks. It has prompted me to pray more often; it has also prompted me to reflect not only on the issues but on the dimension of our emotional and spiritual resilience and our readiness for hard times. From the social and economic impact of the pandemic, to the grievous racial issues and resulting social tensions that have gripped the nation, to the political divides that are exacerbated by the contentiousness of the looming presidential election (not to mention the ever-present realities of geopolitical instability and the threats that carries with it), we have had our minds and hearts inundated with complex and difficult realities that ultimately stem from the pervasive implications of sin and the fall. In light of all of this, I’ve had people ask me straightforwardly, “What are we to do?”

It’s a perfectly understandable question, one I ask myself often. But to my own self and to those who ask me, my first response is, “Steady. Remember who we are.”

This past summer I spoke at CAMP-of-the-WOODS and preached from Paul’s letter to the Philippians. I entitled the series, “How Should We Live When Life is Not Kind?” I have always been struck by the consistent way in which the Apostle Paul begins his letters to the early church, a church facing sometimes dire circumstances and incredible pressure from within and without. First century Christians faced divisions and factious allegiances within the body; the pernicious impact of false teaching was ever-present; and the dangers of persecution that threatened not their pride and social standing but life and limb were real. It is striking that Paul always starts his communications by reminding Christians who they are, rehearsing for them the goodness and grace of God made known to them through Jesus Christ, and often reasserting the basics of the gospel and outlining all that is ours in and through it. This orients his readers.

We all need this kind of reminder to point us in the right direction. We are human. Our flesh is weak and our faith often falters. We get overwhelmed. We get discouraged. We get angry. We want to fight, or we want to quit. There is grace, mercy, and peace for us as the tenderness of God...
“One of the important ways we can be steady and remember who we are is to remain biblical. As you read this issue of the magazine, my hope is that you will see our earnest efforts to do just that. Cairn University is emphatic and unequivocal in our commitment to keep the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Word of God at the center of all we do. It is more than a line in our literature. It is a conviction consistent with and born out of our mission and our beliefs. It is an expression ever on our minds. On any and all of the critical issues facing us—issues requiring our attention, issues requiring honest self-examination individually and institutionally, issues requiring us to strengthen some things and change others—we must endeavor to be intentionally and explicitly biblical and consistently Christian. The assumptions that guide our analysis and inform our courses of action regarding the issues and challenges we face, the hardships we encounter, and the divisions that arise in our midst must be according to this core value and not rooted in secularism or the sensibilities of the world around us. This is true not only for organizations and institutions like Cairn but also for us as individuals. We must hold our course as followers of Christ. We cannot shrink back, quit, or lash out. We cannot lose hope. We cannot panic. We must push on, keep striving, and keep at it. And this can only be our way if we remember that we must be “steady.”

Dr. Todd J. Williams has been the president of Cairn University since January 2008. He served on the faculty and administration from 1996 to 2001, and then returned as provost in 2005. He can be reached by emailing president@cairn.edu.
Facility Receive Training and Converse about Race, Diversity, and Cultural Awareness

A significant portion of this year's two-day faculty workshop was devoted to the topics of race, diversity, and cultural awareness. To keep within COVID-19 related restrictions, the faculty were divided into three groups, all of which engaged with the same subject matter on a rotating basis. Dr. Plummer, dean of the School of Divinity, summarizes below what was covered over those two days.

Central to this year's training was interaction with Jael K.D.L.V. Chambers, founder of "Cultured Enuf," a Christian organization focused on helping leaders cultivate and thrive in diverse settings. Via Zoom, Jael led our faculty in a consideration of a variety of forms of bias. One expression that he said is rarely discussed is affinity bias: our tendency to gravitate toward people who are similar to us whether that be in appearances, beliefs, or backgrounds.

Jael also described two kinds of "brains" or mindsets from which we can operate. The first, "survival brain," has a heightened focus on threats, is uncomfortable with uncertainty, thinks in black and white terms, doesn't like making mistakes, and is not open to learning new things. Such a mindset is obviously not conducive to a diversity of thought and people.

"Learning brain," on the other hand, is willing to learn new information, is OK with uncertainty, sees the big picture, is excited and curious about learning, and is not afraid of making mistakes.

Part of each group's time with Jael consisted of breaking up into small groups to discuss the fears, discomforts, and/or concerns that students, the institution, and we personally might have about conversations regarding race, racism, and cultural diversity.

Dr. Jason VanBilliard, senior vice president and provost, also asked three Cairn faculty members to make brief presentations. Professor Kim Jetter, director of Oasis Counseling Services and assistant professor in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, talked about psychological safety, implicit and explicit bias, and how we can unknowingly bring beliefs and preconceived notions to our students. Offering illustrations from her own life at various stages of being a student, she called us to strive to become more aware of our own biases and to ask, "What are some ways I may have unwittingly contributed to disconnection?"

Dr. Juliet Campbell-Farrell, professor in the School of Social Work, offered a presentation on institutional considerations for creating an environment marked by cultural competence, an intolerance of racism in all forms, and an intentionality about ethnic diversity in faculty and course materials.

Finally, I presented some theological considerations on race and ethnicity, expressing my concern that in our highly polarized moment, Christians must be on guard against being discipled by political narratives about race and racism more than the Scriptures, which, while acknowledging the differences between us, tend to focus much more on our commonality in creation, falleness, and redemption.

Talking about such sensitive subjects is not easy or comfortable. But if anyone should model how to have discussions, it should be the people of God."
Cairn Online Launched, 20 Undergraduate Programs Offered This Fall

For the first time, Cairn University is offering fully online undergraduate programs.

Following the successful execution of online graduate programs since 2013, the Fall 2020 launch of Cairn Online includes one associate’s degree program and 12 bachelor’s degree programs in divinity, business, and liberal arts and sciences. Several dual-level programs—where students can earn both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in as few as five years—have also been approved for online delivery.

The Cairn Online Task Force assembled in Summer 2019 to begin to research, assess, and plan the implementation of undergraduate online programs for Fall 2021. However, due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the Board of Trustees and the Cabinet voted to expedite this process to launch the programs in Fall 2020.

With these fully online undergraduate programs, the University plans to recruit mission-fit students who are better served in an online format. Asynchronous online delivery accommodates students with busy schedules; coursework can be completed whenever and wherever students have time to dedicate to study throughout the week.

“We are committed to making sure these programs maintain the Cairn distinctives, and we know that an online undergraduate education that is centered on Christ and His Word will be a blessing to many.”
President Todd J. Williams

All of the online undergraduate programs included in the Cairn Online launch are popular existing programs that could be adapted to online delivery. Other majors may be offered fully online in the coming years.

**Associate’s Programs**
- Biblical Studies (AA)

**Bachelor’s Programs**
- Biblical Studies (BS)
- Christian Studies
- Pastoral Ministries
- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Finance
- Healthcare Management
- Marketing
- Sport Management
- Liberal Arts
- Psychology
- Criminal Justice

**Dual-level Programs**
- Christian Studies + MA (Religion)
- Accounting + MBA
- Business Administration + MBA
- Business Administration + MS in Nonprofit Leadership
- Business Administration + MS in Organizational Development
- Finance + MBA
- Sport Management + MBA

Do you know students who would benefit from a Christ-centered, online learning environment? Encourage them to learn more at cairn.edu/online.
Men’s Basketball Wins First CSAC Championship in Program History

Last season, they sat defeated—falling to Rosemont College in the home court CSAC championship game. Instead of just sitting back and enjoying one of the greatest winning seasons in the history of Cairn University, the Highlanders and their six seniors put their heads down and went to work.

A season marked by such a singular focus could only happily end in one way, and the Highlanders experienced the ultimate euphoria when they won the title on the road in front of a capacity crowd at Centenary University. The years of recruiting for Coach Jason O’Connell, the thousands of reps in the gym for the Highlanders’ six seniors, and the countless weightlifting and summer sessions from sophomores Kameron Clark and Jesse Rivera all culminated in one unbelievable game and joyous celebration on the gym floor at Centenary University as the Highlanders hoisted the CSAC Championship banner for the first time.

In a perfectly fitting stat line for the Highlanders’ season, Jeremiah Harris led with 25 points; Malachi Hall contributed in numerous ways with 24 points and 9 rebounds; Kameron Clark notched another huge double-double with 21 points and 12 rebounds; and Julian Collazo finished with 21 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists and the CSAC Championship MVP trophy.

The Highlanders later traveled to Ohio for their first NCAA tournament appearance. Despite their season ending when they fell to #5 ranked Mount Union University in the first round, the Highlanders have much to celebrate in this historic season.
Mark Jalovick Named University Chaplain

In preparation for the 2020–21 academic year, the University appointed Mark Jalovick to the role of chaplain in the Office of Student Life. The reinstatement of this role in the life of the University resulted from the direction of President Todd J. Williams and his goal to center the students’ spiritual formation around a discipleship model.

Mark comes into this role with over 30 years of institutional experience. For most of that time, Mark served as the director of the Wisconsin Wilderness Campus (WWC), the University’s first year program from 1988–2013. His responsibilities at WWC were varied, but his role as a discipler and mentor to the first year students was paramount in their transition to college and adulthood. It is for these reasons that Scott Cawood, senior vice president for student affairs and administration, notes that Mark is “the logical choice to lead our students as chaplain.”

The vision for the University chaplaincy is to create a center for both the corporate and personal aspects of discipleship and spiritual formation. Specifically, this includes overseeing the chapel schedule to maintain a common message of biblical truth; shaping the ministry credit program to make an impact in our churches and the local community; and developing discipleship, prayer, and Bible study groups among the incoming students and the remainder of the student body. Mark will also continue to teach courses through the School of Divinity such as the new Life and Calling freshman course, which focuses on what it means to live faithfully as a servant of God.

“In my previous roles, I was involved with students in areas of their lives beyond the classroom, and that experience was not just beneficial to many students’ personal growth but to mine as well. If I am calling students to be disciples of Jesus, I need to be one first.” – Mark Jalovick

New Deans Appointed to Schools of Divinity, Education, and Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dr. Keith Plummer is the new dean of the School of Divinity. Dr. Plummer has been at the University since 2010, primarily teaching courses in biblical hermeneutics, pastoral counseling, and his personal favorite—apologetics. Dr. Plummer takes the place of Dr. Jonathan Master, who is now president of Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Read Dr. Plummer’s article, “Who is My Neighbor?” on page 22.

The new dean of the School of Education is Dr. Stacey Bose. Dr. Bose is new to the University and transitioned from her former role as director of accreditation in Liberty University’s School of Education. Dr. Bose takes the place of Dr. Dianne Alexander, who served as interim dean for the 2019–20 academic year. Learn more about Dr. Bose’s multicultural educational expertise in her Office Hours interview on page 15.

Dr. Aneesh Khushman, professor of biology, is the new dean of the School of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Dr. Khushman takes the place of Dr. Brenda Mellon, who has moved to the Office of the Provost to begin her new role as director of educational partnerships. Learn more about Dr. Khushman’s passion for educating the next generation of Christian health care workers on page 16.
Virtual Hymn Sing Draws Over 2,000 Participants

On Wednesday, May 13, over 2,000 individuals joined us for our annual Hymn Sing. Although this Hymn Sing looked different than it has in previous years, we enjoyed the great opportunity to sing and give praise to God from our living rooms. We also had the privilege of singing with those who wouldn’t normally be able to attend, including individuals from New Hampshire, California, Colorado, Florida, and the Philippines!

If you missed the virtual hymn sing, or would like to watch again, you can view the event recording at youtube.com/cairnu.

Women’s Volleyball Earns National Award for Academic Excellence

In addition to earning the CSAC Academic Award, the Highlanders received the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Volleyball Team Academic Award for the second consecutive year. Amidst a disrupted semester due to COVID-19, these stellar student-athletes maintained a collective 3.43 GPA.

New Programs in Art, Education, Business, and Ministry for Fall 2020

Special Education PK–12 major: For future educators who specifically want to teach students with special needs.

TESOL (BA) major: Students will learn how to properly teach English to those who are not fluent through a study of linguistics, culture and community, grammar, and pronunciation.

BA in Studio Art and MS in Education dual-level program: This five-year program offers a course load that both feeds artistic passions and develops the skills needed to teach art to others.

Finance major: Students gain essential financial management skills in a field projected to grow by the US Department of Labor.

Finance (BS) + MBA dual-level program: Students can earn both a Finance (BS) and an MBA in just five years.

BS in Youth and Family Ministry + MDiv dual-level program: Students can study youth ministry and simultaneously complete the MDiv in just five years.

Down to the Core (with Jean Minto, Keith Plummer, and Matt McAlack)

The incoming freshman of 2020 have begun a new core curriculum at Cairn. Hear from three of the key voices who spoke into the new core—Drs. Jean Minto, Keith Plummer, and Matt McAlack—and learn why the changes were made and what students can expect. See the new core curriculum on page 14.
Bouncing from activity to activity, fine arts major Meg Gabriels has made her mark on Cairn’s campus. From the Arts & Culture First Year Program, to cross country and volleyball, to involvement in clubs like Mu Kappa and Student Visual Arts Society, and even a couple years spent as an RA, Meg has done a little bit of everything that Cairn has to offer.

Since the COVID-19 crisis uprooted her normally busy routine, one might assume that she had a difficult time transitioning. While she faced initial disappointment, Meg found the social distancing practices to be a welcome change of pace. Without the restrictions of her typical schedule, Meg had more time last semester to explore her personal passions—particularly art.

Passionate about art from an early age, Meg often felt that she lacked the dedicated time to create with all her beloved extracurriculars. Throughout her time as a student, Meg has struggled to find the right balance between participating in campus life and dedicating time to her art. She said that despite her love for all her extracurriculars, “it’s been a tug-of-war of wanting to be involved in everything and wanting to be a master at everything. But that’s just not possible.”

Since her schedule opened up, Meg said that her creative process was “so much easier, since I can work uninterrupted for hours.” In her free time she managed not only to create for her classes, but also create for herself and explore new mediums. She has turned to digital art in her free time: “I feel like I can be a lot more experimental with digital art, and I’m not afraid of moving forward and trying new things.”

Social distancing did not restrict Meg, but gave her opportunities to expand her creativity. While she is happy to be back on campus for a hopefully more normal senior year, she values the time this season gave her to cultivate her creative passions and create more balance in her life at Cairn.

Kaitlin Hakes ’20

A Welcome Change of Paint
Amidst a disrupted semester, Meghan Gabriels ’21 finds more time to create.

Meg’s Favorites

Favorite Food: bai sach chrouk (a Khmer breakfast dish)
Favorite Thing to Sketch: scenes and forms from far away, especially if there’s something large nearby to scale them down next to.
Favorite Bible Verse: Job 38 (the whole chapter!)
Because of your generosity, we raised over $140,000 for The Cairn Fund, surpassing our $100,000 goal.

**Matching Gift Week 2020**

**Number of Donations** 307
**Average Gift** $165
**Amount Raised** $140K+

**Introducing the President’s Circle**

President’s Circle partners are alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of the University who are committed to advancing the mission of Cairn University through their generous annual support.

We desire to keep President’s Circle partners engaged with the University through consistent communication and updates, prayer requests from the President’s Office, and invitations to exclusive events. Learn more at cairn.edu/circle.

**Day of Giving**

On Thursday, November 19, we will be raising money to support our students and their impact on the local community. Keep your eye out for more information in the coming weeks, and be sure to turn your attention to social media on November 19.

**A DONOR WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE**

**Margaret Louise “Lu” Henry**

September 14, 1926–April 23, 2020

So much of what makes Cairn University what it is comes from generous donors. Margaret Louise Henry, more commonly known as “Lu,” was one such friend of the University. Throughout her life, she and her husband, Roland, were University supporters in more ways than one. They made regular generous financial donations to Cairn University for 37 consecutive years, in addition to their faithful prayer for the institution and its students.

Behind Lu’s support was her firm belief in the importance of Christian education. Though she did not attend college herself, Lu exhibited a love for lifelong learning and biblical study. To her, Christian higher education was essential. Lu and her husband started supporting the institution through their friendship with Eugene Vickers, a longtime administrator for the University. This initial connection led to years of faithful giving to the University, benefitting year after year of students pursuing an education centered on Christ and His Word.

In April 2020, Lu went to be with the Lord. She will be remembered as an accomplished storyteller, a go-getter, and a generous giver. Lois Henry, Lu’s daughter, explained, “All the things my parents did, they did without looking for anything in return except to please the Lord and to help some students along the way. I’m glad that it has helped.”
Masland Library Renovations Completed on Mezzanine Level

The annual Golf Classic set for May 11 was postponed due to COVID-19, but 152 golfers hit the course at the Philadelphia Cricket Club for the rescheduled Golf Classic on Monday, September 28, 2020. This year’s event raised over $140,000. All proceeds from this event support our students, faculty, and facilities through The Cairn Fund.

Golf Classic 2020

First Annual Gratitude & Impact Report

Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of our students and our entire campus community. See the impact of your donations in our 2019–2020 Gratitude & Impact Report at cairn.edu/impact2020.

The Masland Library reopened with beautiful new renovations and upgrades to the mezzanine level. It was painted from floor to rafters, and new carpeting was installed throughout. The changes all contribute to a focused academic space that premiers Cairn’s commitment to providing students with a top-notch learning environment. The color scheme and carpeting compliment newly installed wooden shelving. New furniture was added for increased functionality and flexibility. The curriculum lab materials were relocated to make room for the Academic Resource Center, which has moved from its original location to the library mezzanine. The new ambiance has been an overwhelming success as student use of the library space and resources has already increased. We are grateful to the donors and the architect for making this renovation a success.
Move-in Day

Masks, social distancing, and fist bumps—it was a different kind of move-in day. While it looked different than a typical year, students were welcomed back for the Fall 2020 semester with the exact same excitement (perhaps even more excitement than usual). In the midst of significant COVID-19 protocols, Cairn students are grateful to have the opportunity to call campus “home” once again.
The Core Curriculum: What Is It & Why Does It Matter?

The Core Curriculum is the University's answer to the question: “What do we want every Cairn student to know?” The University’s core curriculum is a collection of courses common to all majors that help students critically engage with new ideas and compel them to display virtues that are consistent with biblical teaching.

The University recently revised the core curriculum, and the new core (shown right) is now in use. The Core Curriculum Committee reviewed the current core in light of societal and cultural forces and the particular nuances of the present generation of students. As a result, all previous core courses were revisited. Overall, the Liberal Arts and Sciences courses have been repositioned to strengthen their focus on who we are as humans and our responsibilities to others. The Divinity courses have been resequenced and modified to help students engage more deeply with the issues facing them today.

Some changes at the orientation level include Life Management Seminar, which introduces topics relevant to the first year college student including wellness, time management, and personal finance. In Life and Calling students are introduced to what it means to live faithfully as servants of God. Speech has been upgraded to Introduction to Communications, which prepares students to effectively and professionally communicate across many mediums such as public speaking, emails, social media, and more.

Two new courses provide additional breadth to students’ understanding of the world. US Government and Civics provides a foundational understanding of the US government and the corresponding political processes and dynamics. Biblical Perspectives on Contemporary Issues is designed to help students address contemporary issues in our world with a biblical worldview. This theology course directly takes on the issues of the day such as sexuality, gender identity, and race.

Read more about the new core at cairn.edu/new-core.
Dr. Stacey Bose is the dean of the School of Education. She holds an EdD from Lehigh University specializing in Educational Leadership. With a wide array of experiences teaching in Christian international schools around the world, Dr. Bose teaches educators to think differently and learn from their students.

What made you pursue the position of Dean of the School of Education?
When I saw the job, I was really excited about an opportunity to move a bit closer to home and family. But I'm also really excited to be a part of what's going on at Cairn. It's a smaller institution and it seems to be a great place where students are really loved and cared for. Because of the smaller community, there are lots of ways to interact with students. That's something that really interests me: that whole discipleship aspect and getting to meet and be a part of students' lives.

You're very well-traveled. How has this affected the way you think about education?
I've learned that people all around the world do things differently. You can learn things from other people. Sometimes, even though you might be the teacher, there's a whole lot you can learn from your students by understanding who they are, their families, and their culture.

What's your philosophy for being an educational administrator?
My heart is in being a leader who is teaching the teachers. I like the opportunity to shape teachers and have an impact on what they do in the classroom. I view being a leader as being a servant, and you're there to help other people become the best that they can be.

What makes an ideal student?
I think the things that are ideal for a college student are ideal for anybody. It's important to be a lifelong learner, to never stop learning no matter what age you are. There are always new things to learn and new ways you can think about things that you haven't considered before. It's important to be spiritually sensitive and be in God's word and in prayer every day. Also, be willing to work hard. It's important as a college student to learn those skills of hard work as you're preparing for exams and projects. That really helps prepare you for your career.

What do you like to do for fun?
My kids would say I don't do anything for fun, but I definitely like to be outside, to walk and exercise, and jog a little bit. I love the beach and nature. Literacy is one of my passions, and I like to read when I have the opportunity.
Dr. Aneesh Khushman began teaching at Cairn in 2019. He holds an MD from Xavier University and has worked in health care in rural central India, not far from where his parents emigrated to the US. With these experiences and a passion for discussing science and faith, Dr. Khushman teaches science courses. He is dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

How does your experience working in India inform your approach to life and education?
I use my experiences in India to teach and motivate students. I hope health science students see what it means to be a Christian who is a health care provider. You don’t have to be a missionary who flies the globe to present the gospel. You can work in a clinic in North Philadelphia or a hospital on a Native American reservation. You can reach people where you are using the gifts that you’ve been given and the education you’ve received.

Can you tell me about your family farm in India?
It’s a farm that’s been in our family for several generations. We have a deal with local folks where they farm the land and then we split the proceeds. We mostly farm rice because it grows well. We use very few pesticides and as much manual labor as possible so we can hire the local population. It’s really more a labor of love than anything else: to give employment to people in the area and keep that property within our family. I’ve been part of the harvesting process, the selling process, the curing of seeds, and all that kind of stuff. So I got my hands dirty with it when I was there.

Do you have any classes you hope to keep teaching as dean?
Anatomy and Physiology has been like breathing in and out for me. I intend to continue teaching that. Also, a new joy that I found is teaching genetics to upper-level biology students.
Old Testament Use of Old Testament
by Dr. Gary Schnittjer. professor of Old Testament
(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic: May 2021)
This book surveys the thousands of Old Testament allusions within the Old Testament and provides hermeneutical guidance for interpreting these interrelated scriptures. The handbook takes an easy to navigate book-by-book approach. Schnittjer provides a list of Scripture allusions for each book and follows with an interpretive profile of how that book uses passages from elsewhere in the Old Testament. Specific criteria are applied to each allusion, providing readers with a categorical “label” that sorts each allusion into a general type. Minor allusions caused by style, figures of speech, and other minor elements are not included. Responsible exegesis requires careful attention to interrelated scriptures, yet there is a host of interpretive difficulties related to Scripture’s use of Scripture. Designed for ease of use for any serious student of the Bible, Old Testament Use of Old Testament offers a thorough, systematic tool to aid in intertextual interpretation.
This dynamic tool equips students of the Bible to:
• Understand how the Old Testament uses the Old Testament
• Easily find the most important Old Testament allusions
• Grasp the complexity of Scripture’s use of Scripture
• Categorize specific allusions into categories
• Gain exegetical insight into the study of interrelated

The Dad Difference: The Four Most Important Gifts You Can Give Your Kids by Bryan Loritts ’95
(Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers: June 2020)
The world is full of examples of men who weren’t there for their kids. But there are good and even great dads out there who inspire their children and the men around them to reach for more. How do you become a dad like that—even if your own dad wasn’t such a good example?

In The Dad Difference, Bryan Loritts explores the four gifts every kid needs from a dad: relationship, integrity, teaching, and experiences. He walks you through what each of these mean and how to put them into practice. He also shares stories of fathers, including his own dad, who were examples of this to him. Full of biblical wisdom, simple truths, and practical advice, this book will empower you to become a dad who makes a difference in the lives of your children.

The Sacrifice of Praise
by Herman Bavinck; translated and edited by Cameron Clausing and Gregory Parker ’13
(Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers: June 2019)
In The Sacrifice of Praise, Herman Bavinck pastorally guides the reader through the importance of the public profession of faith. Bavinck’s careful treatment includes explorations of the unifying power of a common (ecumenical) confession of faith, the blessing of the diversity of believers, and reasonable instruction for those facing persecution for publicly identifying with Christ. Theological, practical, straightforward, and devotional, The Sacrifice of Praise gives readers a fresh appreciation for the importance of confessing one’s faith.

Surveying the Pentateuch
by Paul Weaver; Stephen Bramer; Dick Emmons, professor emeritus, School of Divinity; Ed Glasscock; and Mark Strout
(Learn the Word Publishing: December 2019)
This volume provides a big picture overview of the Pentateuch, giving one chapter for each book. Each chapter begins with a concise introduction, followed by a carefully constructed outline and survey of each respective book. This survey highlights the most important concepts and explains the most difficult passages. Dr. Dick Emmons specifically wrote on Genesis 12–50.

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK!
To feature your publication in Cairn Magazine, send the title, cover image (at least 1MB), and a brief synopsis to magazine@cairn.edu. Submissions may appear in either Fresh Ink or the Alumni Arena, depending on space availability.
From Failure to Fruitfulness *a study of John 21:15–17*

“So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Tend My lambs.’ He said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Shepherd My sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And He said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend My sheep.’”

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples numerous times over a period of 40 days. John 21 records one of those appearances, the infamous “Peter, do you love me?” dialogue between Jesus and Peter. Peter had failed deeply in a way he never thought he would, but Jesus never gives up on His elect and dearly beloved children. He began a work in us and He wants to bless us and use us to be fruitful in this life. When He sees one of His own swallowed up by failure, He seeks us out to restore us and prepare us for future ministry. Today was Peter’s day.

The chapter begins with Jesus appearing to His disciples and providing breakfast and an abundant catch of fish. He was literally feeding His own flock—an object lesson for Peter—as Jesus was about to command him to “feed my sheep.” Jesus had already met with Peter privately after His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:5). Now it was time to “publicly” restore and recommission Peter.

Commenting on the need for “public restoration,” D.A. Carson notes, “The opening words, ‘When they had finished eating,’ establish the connection . . . The link is important: as Peter had boasted of his reliability in the presence of his fellow disciples (John 13:8, 37–38; cf. 18:10–11), so this restoration to public ministry is effected in a similarly public environment.”

Earlier, Peter had exalted himself above the rest of the disciples. Jesus told His disciples they would all fall away, but Peter thought he was better than that. He was prideful. Matthew 26:33–35 records Peter’s words: “Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away.” We all know what happened next. He denied Jesus three times.

Jesus knows that we all fail. Jesus even predicted Peter’s failure. But He also promised Peter’s restoration and recommissioning. In Luke 22:31–32 Jesus said, “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Notice how Jesus predicted not only that He would sustain Peter’s faith but He would actually use him to strengthen his brothers.
God longs to restore His children. “No condemnation” is the heart of the gospel. Peter had recently failed—big time—and he now felt condemned. In one way or another, we all have failed the Lord at times. Sometimes our failures are deep and wide, and the pain and remorse for those failures haunt and cripple us. It is in these feelings of condemnation that we must remember the gospel and that Jesus knows our failure and longs to bring us back to wholeness.

But to be restored, we must repent. Repentance can be difficult, but it leads to being fruitful. Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him. We read in verse 17 that “Peter was grieved.” Being asked the same question three times hurt; it no doubt reminded him that he denied Jesus three times. It was painful. Like Peter, we must genuinely own our failure and the pride or foolishness that led to it.

Some believe the key to this exchange is in the different words for love used by Peter and Jesus. Scholars have long discussed the fact that Jesus and Peter used different Greek words for love here. C.G. Kruse notes, “It has often been noted that the verb ‘to love’ (agapaō) used in Jesus’ first two questions is different from the verb ‘to love’ (phileō) used in Peter’s first two answers... Sometimes a lot has been made of these differences, but the fact is that agapaō and phileō are used synonymously in the Fourth Gospel. For example, both agapaō and phileō are used of the Father’s love for the Son (10:17; 15:9; 17:23, 24, 26/5:20) ... and the Father’s love for the disciples (14:23/16:27).” In light of this it seems wise not to make too much of the use of these two different words for love.

We can’t say for sure why Peter was grieved, but it seems that the reason he was grieved was because he really wanted Jesus to know that he sincerely repented and did love Him. C.G. Kruse notes:

“Why he was hurt is not explained... In response, He said, ‘Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.’ Peter’s answer was the same as before, except that he prefaced it with the words ‘you know all things’ to stress that he really meant it when he said ‘you know that I love you,’ and that Jesus who knew all things knew the state of Peter’s heart.”

Peter had learned his lesson. It was time for his recommissioning. Three times here Jesus commanded and commissioned Peter to tend His lambs and feed His sheep. Restoration led to recommissioning. Jesus gave Peter a job. It was time to serve Jesus again by serving His people. It was time to move past failure to fruitfulness. Restoration from former failure is great preparation for future service.

Peter went on to lead a life of fruitful service. The book of Acts and Peter’s two epistles are a testimony to just how fruitful Peter became. Here at Cairn it is our desire to train our students and prepare them to do the same. Thank you so much for your prayers, service, and gifts that assist us in this noble task. May the Lord bless you and if you are grieving any former failures may He restore you as well and cause you to live a life of fruitful service for Christ.

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ON MY MIND  Nathan G. Wambold, MS
Our Deepest Fears and Greatest Hope

I have long been amazed at those in military operations, those able to quell their fears and remain reasonably calm during hostile encounters as the chaos of war unfolds. From my armchair observation (and I welcome correction!), I suspect these warriors do fear, but they are trained to recognize, embrace, and manage that fear in order to carry on.

The COVID-19 pandemic has elicited a collective fear unlike that seen for some time. An invisible (to the naked eye), motiveless, biological terrorist was on the loose, but about its origins, power, and capacity, we had few answers. Even as more information unfolds at the time of this writing, there are still many questions left lingering.

Perhaps the most significant part of this world event is the effect it has had on our society. It may not be an overstatement to suggest that a good piece of human history has been permanently altered—in a rather all-encompassing way—in a period of three to four months. Indeed, the meaning of the word “pandemic” is roughly “all (pan) people (demos)”; therefore, nobody escapes the effects, regardless of infection or not. And just what are these effects?

First, we have seen a broad experiment in human conformity. Americans (and probably those affected around the world) were glued to their media outlets, awaiting a cataclysmic apocalypse. To address the crisis, orders (and probably those affected around the world) were decreed, in glory.

The pandemic, secondly, has lead to questions of the individual and conscience.

Thirdly, and most significantly, fear has taken center stage: fear of losing one’s freedom, fear of an economy turned to rubble, fear of politicians seizing new power, fear of the virus spreading, fear of what the future will be, fear that people are not taking human life seriously, fear that all of this really was never necessary—even fear that our leaders know far less than we had ever assumed, or maybe worse, far more.

This, I believe, is the main effect of the pandemic: not a study of virus, but a study of people and their fear. What is the Christian to do? Get educated? Get prepped on tactical fear control? Talk with trusted friends and advisors? Be patient? Wait on the Lord? Pray?

Each of these responses has merit (some more than others), but I believe that most of all this should cause us to direct our eyes to Christ and serve to remind us of what a Christian already knows: God is sovereign, and we are not. Scripture shows this.

Did King David know fear? A Sunday school flannelgraph would suggest the Jewish son of Jesse was a ruddy and robust warrior who never felt a hint of fear; he just gathered his smooth stones quietly. Indeed, one can read the Psalms this way, but what if (from time to time) we read them not as poetry replete with calm, assertive statements of one who never felt fear, but as if the writer was (from time to time) terrified.

In Psalm 31:14 and following, David pens, “But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God’. My times are in your hand; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me . . . Let me not be ashamed, O Lord.” What if we read this not as words from a king confident, warm, and well-fed, but from a king freezing, fleeing, and clinging to his very existence, like a man injured and alone in the woods, told by a friend who goes for help, “I will come back for you; I won’t leave you.” He lays alone, his fear full before him, repeating dubiously but faithfully, over and over: “Let me not be put to shame; let me not be put to shame; save me in your unfailing love.” The flannelgraph image changes slightly, does it not?

And so it is with our fears of the pandemic, whatever they may be. We must recognize them and realize them, and call upon the Lord—however fearful we may be (and regardless of what we fear). We must ask for wisdom and grace to show love and charity and to accept that behind every mask (or no mask) is either a soul in need of the saving gospel of Jesus (with implications far more serious than COVID-19) or a brother or sister in Christ who ought to be preaching the gospel to himself or herself: “Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.”

And what if we fear we will not be spared of death or suffering? Then this: “The body they may kill; God’s truth abideth still; His Kingdom is forever.” This is how Christians overcome fear; with the expectant hope of biblical promise that will be fulfilled, as He has decreed, in glory.

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FEATURE STORY  Keith W. Plummer, PhD
The first question comes when a man stands up and asks Jesus, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” We could restate the question, “What does God require?” Luke tells us that the questioner is a lawyer: a man whose expertise is in the interpretation and application of the Law of Moses. He decides to put Jesus’ knowledge to the test, asking him what he must do to participate in the life of the Kingdom to come. Jesus responds to this question the way he often does: with another question. He never did this as mere avoidance, nor was he ignorant or unequipped. As we have here, he asked questions to expose motives and to instruct. He knew that a well-placed question is often more effective than a direct answer.

Jesus turns the question back on the lawyer. “You’re an expert in God’s law,” he says, “How do you understand it?” Appropriately, the lawyer recites two familiar passages from the Mosaic law. The first comes from Deuteronomy 6:4–5: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is One. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” Secondly, he refers to the latter half of Leviticus 19:18: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” He answered correctly. The answer to the question, “What does God require?” is summed up in these two commands. Love God with your whole self; love your neighbor as yourself. That’s pretty concise and succinct, but don’t be fooled by the brevity of the answer. What is so easily stated is not so easily lived out when we understand it properly.

We tend to sentimentalize these commands, diluting and weakening their force. We miss the implicit demands if we think all they require are warm feelings toward God and other people. We are also prone to define love as seems best to us. That won’t do. The God who commands love also defines it.

“Who is My Neighbor?”
And The Question We Should Be Asking Instead

I really like questions. I like to ask them, and if it’s something that I’m knowledgeable of, I like trying to answer them. Questions possess fascinating potential. Luke 10:25–37, what is probably most familiar to us as the parable of the Good Samaritan, is full of questions, and I don’t mean that it’s full of mysteries or unknowns. Here, we see a give-and-take of questions with serious implications.
What does it mean to love God? The verb that is translated as “love” in Deuteronomy 6 doesn’t communicate so much an emotional response as it does one of covenantal commitment, of lived out loyalty. It means to honor God, to obey Him with all of my faculties. It’s whole-person obedience with my body, my will, my affections, and my mind.

“Love your neighbor as yourself” is closely related to the command to love God. In Leviticus 19, the imperative to love your neighbor as yourself is followed by God’s declaration, “I am the Lord.” In other words, to love my neighbor as myself is in some way to acknowledge the lordship of God.

Still, what does it mean to love my neighbor as myself? There has been a lot of confusion about this. Some have sought to find in these words an implicit demand to first love oneself, and then after having “mastered” that, to love one’s neighbor. I’m convinced that is completely wrong. The command assumes that self-love already exists and that it should be used as a standard of measurement by which I love my neighbor. To love my neighbor as myself is to exert the same energy and determination that I spend pursuing my own wellbeing in seeking the wellbeing of my neighbor.

Martin Luther put it this way in his commentary on Galatians: “If you want to know how you ought to love your neighbor, ask yourself how much you love yourself. . . You do not need any book of instructions to teach you how to love your neighbor; all you have to do is look into your own heart, and it will tell you how you ought to love your neighbor as yourself.”

Having answered His question, Jesus commends the lawyer, saying, “You’ve answered well. Go do it.” With this response, was Jesus suggesting that eternal life could be gained by law-keeping? No. The weighty demand of the Law must always be experienced if we are to cry out for the mercy of God and flee to Christ for salvation. But we see this was not the lawyer’s reaction.

The lawyer instead asks another follow-up question: “Who is my neighbor?”

“Like the lawyer, we are prone to divvy up the pie of humanity and determine which slices are okay not to love. But that’s not the way of Jesus.”

If we considered this question by itself, it could almost seem that the lawyer had an eager heart to obey God’s commands. Yet Luke makes it clear this is not the case. This is no innocent inquiry; there is a self-seeking, sinister motive underlying the question.

Notice what is going on here. Faced with the obligation to love his neighbor as himself, he wants to somehow narrow the field of those to whom he is responsible to exercise such love. He wants some criteria by which he can determine which human beings he is responsible to love and which he is not. To put it plainly, he is seeking to rationalize his prejudices and indifference toward certain others, to limit the scope of those to whom this obligation of neighborly love is due.

Oh, how I want to wag my finger at this lawyer and side with Jesus against him! But, if I’m painfully honest, I have much more in common with the lawyer than is comfortable to admit. Even at this stage in my Christian life, I have much more in common with him than I do with Jesus. I wish to strain people through a mental sieve, separating those I must care for from those I’m free to pass over. I want to be the one to determine who’s deserving of my time and attention. Who can I ignore? Whose eyes can I avoid making contact with today? Whose needs can I pretend not to see? Who counts? Who doesn’t?

Whom do you tend to place outside the boundaries of “neighbor?” The person whose politics are diametrically opposed to your own? People who process ideas differently than you, perhaps faster or slower? People who are more or less educated than you? People who just aren’t into what you’re into? Those whom you deem, for whatever reason, as not “cool?” People who don’t speak the same language as you do, or at least, not as well? People from a different socioeconomic level? People who are homeless or impoverished, maybe having a criminal past? People who are ethnically different?

Like the lawyer, we are prone to divvy up the pie of humanity and determine which slices are okay not to love. But that’s not the way of Jesus. That’s a question He won’t entertain.
To this question, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus doesn’t give an answer. In fact, He appears to dismiss it. He denies the lawyer’s attempt to specify whom he has to love. Instead, Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan.

In this well-known story, we read that a man, presumably a Jew traveling down a treacherous road, is beaten by robbers and left for dead. Two travelers, both of whom are the religious elite of Israel, pass him by. Yet a third traveler arrives, a Samaritan, and it is he who ministers to the man. Through the attitude and actions of the Samaritan, Jesus teaches us that if our focus is on determining which humans we are bound to love and which we are not, we’ve got it all wrong. Rather than debating who counts as our neighbor, we are called to become a neighbor to anyone on our path, even those whom we might think are unworthy of our compassion. Jesus destroys our selfish attempts to narrow the field of those we must love. He demands that we widen the field to include those we would otherwise overlook, especially those who are defenseless, weak, and subject to the exploitation of others. Rather than asking, “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus says we should be asking, “Am I being a neighbor?”

There is intentional shock value in Jesus’ use of the Samaritan. When the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom, they colonized the area by settling it with pagans from other nations. The Samaritans intermarried with the pagan nations and were therefore regarded by the Jews as half-breed traitors unfaithful to the nation of Israel. If He were speaking today to an audience to the nation of Israel. If He were making fun of Jews as half-breed traitors unfaithful to other nations and were therefore regarded by Samaritans intermarried with the pagan nations. When the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom, they colonized the area by settling it with pagans from other nations. The Samaritans intermarried with the pagan nations and were therefore regarded by the Jews as half-breed traitors unfaithful to the nation of Israel. If He were making the same point today to an audience of Democrats, the Samaritan would be a Republican. If it were a crowd of Republicans, the Samaritan would be a Democrat. You can detect the revulsion that the lawyer had for Jesus’ choice.

“Faced with the obligation to love his neighbor as himself, he wants to somehow narrow the field of those to whom he is responsible to exercise such love.”

of exemplar. Jesus asks him at the end of His parable, “Which man proved himself to be a neighbor to the man who had fallen among robbers?” The lawyer can’t even bring himself to say, “the Samaritan.” He only says, “the one who showed mercy.”

This is where Jesus makes His point most clear: It was only the Samaritan, a foreigner looked upon with contempt, who saw the man and responded as a neighbor. “When he saw him, he had compassion” (10:33). The word “compassion” here is the same word used so frequently to describe Jesus’ own motivation in doing good works. It’s the word used in Luke 15 of the prodigal son’s father when he saw him from a distance and ran to him. It connotes, “to be deeply moved inwardly.” In our efforts to uphold the truth that biblical love is more than a feeling, we need to be careful that we don’t totally divest love of all feelings whatsoever. The Samaritan is presented as one whose merciful action was prompted by compassion.

Not only does becoming a neighbor involve compassion, it also involves cost. Think about what it cost the Samaritan to be a neighbor. Being a neighbor costs precious time; he was on a journey, with his own destination and schedule when he stopped to help. Being a neighbor costs possessions; he spent his own oil and wine to dress a stranger’s wounds. Being a neighbor costs convenience and comfort; he put the weak man on his animal, requiring that he walk the rest of the way. Being a neighbor costs finances; the Samaritan spent his own money to see that the man would have a place to stay, and he committed to pay for the care he required.

Loving God with one’s whole self and being a neighbor who exercises costly compassion to those in need—that’s what God requires. If my hope of eternal life hinged on how well I did that, I would have no reason for hope at all. But there is one who, like the Samaritan, was despised and rejected, one who flawlessly loved His Father and who saw our dire spiritual need and gave not only what He had, but His very self for us. One greater than the Samaritan has come and paid a price to rescue and restore those ruined, not by thieves, but by their own waywardness. Moved by a profound love for God the Father and deep compassion for us who were His enemies, He gave His life for us. Yes, to pardon us for our failure to love God and our neighbor. But even more—to cause His Spirit to live in us, transforming us into people no longer preoccupied with the question, “Who is my neighbor?” but with the question, “To whom can I be a neighbor—for their good and to the glory of God?”

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How to Build an Academic Program

Cairn University has a long history of preparing pastors, social workers, teachers, and musicians to serve Christ in the church, society, and the world. However, many alumni and friends of the University have recognized that Cairn now has students majoring in graphic design, pre-med, psychology, information systems, finance, and politics, among other new options. New majors such as these have afforded alumni new opportunities to impact the world for Christ. Cairn students are entering internships and job placements in industries and settings that were, until
recently, unexplored for the University. Our institution is seeing God use our alumni in new and exciting fields. These alumni studied under experienced and effective faculty who delivered a high quality education.

We have developed dozens of new majors over the past 10 years. As a result, members of the Cairn community often learn of a new program or meet a student from a major that they did not realize was offered. By that time, the program has been fully developed and launched; however, we rarely take a look behind the scenes to see what transpired to get to that point. This article provides a brief glimpse into the program development process, answering the question, “How does Cairn start a new program?”
The Blueprints

The first phase of the academic program development process is dominated by research and planning. We need to know what majors are in demand, decide which fit our mission, and determine the resources and requirements needed to make it happen.

Identify a program to develop.
Programs are selected based on their fit with the mission of the University and the three-year strategic plan to grow the University in specific areas. A clear rationale for the expansion must be established at the start of the exploration.

Frame the program goals.
Preliminary student outcomes guide program needs such as facility and faculty requirements to help delimit the scope of the program.

Establish the target market.
The viability of a program depends on market research that indicates students will populate the program. Likely pools of mission-fit students must be identified before an investment in program development occurs.

Determine the relevant accreditation requirements.
In addition to regional accreditation with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, many programs have a programmatic accrediting body. Each accrediting body has similar but also vastly different requirements related to their area of accreditation. The requirements and expenses related to those requirements must be understood early in the process.

Build a budget.
The budget is based on the capacity of the current faculty, technology, marketing, admissions, library resources, and facilities. Once the scope of the program is understood, a preliminary budget that addresses both expenses and revenue is developed for review.

The Build
After a series of reviews and approvals, the second phase builds out all of the components of the proposal. We need to unpack details of the curriculum and develop marketing and recruitment strategies.

Develop program objectives and assessment plans.
Detailed learning targets and the corresponding assessments guide detailed course development.

Build courses.
New programs are designed using a combination of existing courses and courses that need to be developed.

Define admissions and enrollment processes.
Prospective students need to meet the entry requirements of both university and programmatic accreditation bodies.

Develop marketing strategy and materials.
Marketing materials are developed. Academic leaders and marketing specialists cooperate to develop strategy and create electronic and print materials for recruitment.
Update and purchase library resources.
As the University expands into new programmatic areas, the library collection expands with it. In addition to print and eBooks, new databases are acquired that provide students with access to the latest research in the field.

Update back-end systems.
All electronic platforms need to be prepared to recognize the existence of the new program so students can be properly assigned.

Pursue accreditation processes.
Following up on the accreditation requirements, initial program approval documents are submitted and site visits are scheduled as needed.

Identify faculty internally or externally.
When a new program is closely related to an existing program, minimal hiring takes place. However, programs that stretch the University in a completely new direction often require multiple new hires. In this stage, faculty are recruited using multiple platforms.

Acquire equipment or technology.
Students need to work with the latest technologies in the discipline as they prepare to serve.

Approve the program.
Final approval of the program is completed by the school sponsoring the program, the Academic Leadership Team, and the President’s Cabinet.

The Beginning
Finally, the program launches. In this third phase, future students are recruited, faculty are structured to lead and advise, and both program effectiveness and educational requirements are assessed and maintained.

Market the program and recruit students.
Admissions is tasked with recruiting mission-fit students who have an interest in the new program.

Hire new or assign current faculty.
In addition to teaching faculty, program advisors or department chairs are formally assigned to lead, maintain, and improve the program.

Continually assess and refine the program.
Program evaluation and improvement continues both informally and formally throughout the life of the program. Some accreditation processes cannot be completed until students successfully complete the new program.

Adding academic programs at Cairn ultimately comes down to accomplishing our mission: to educate students to serve Christ in the church, society, and the world. An essential part of that mission is equipping students to be biblically minded, well-educated, and professionally competent in a broad range of important and developing fields. See our growing number of programs at cairn.edu/academics.

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FEATURE STORY Lydia Garrison, BA
He’s done work for Disney, Twitch, Warner Brothers, and eBay, but what he’s really interested in, is you.

“I HAD SIX MONTHS TO MAKE IT WORK.”

It’s commonly said: “Necessity is the mother of invention.” But in this case, it could be better phrased, “need is the catalyst for a solution.” With a young (and growing) family, Tim Schmoyer ’02 knew that he only had six months before he was out of a job. Six months until his income dried up. Six months until he would have to rely on welfare and WIC again. Six months to decide whether they should move to another state again for work.

The spoiler for the story is, he did make it work. But if you’re interested in finding out how a supposed-to-be “lifer” in youth ministry ends up supporting his 9-person family by making YouTube videos—well, as Tim describes it, “that’s the long story.”
TIM THOUGHT HE WOULD BE A LIFER.

Tim grew up in the back row pew of his father’s church, shaking hands at the front door with all of the congregants who would say, “You’re going to be a great pastor, just like your dad” as they pinched his cheek on their way out of church each Sunday. Knowing the unique challenges of being a pastor (and a pastor’s kid), Tim wasn’t convinced that he wanted to become one. Despite his apprehension, Tim found that when he did do ministry, he actually enjoyed it.

In high school, his mentor, Bob, often pushed him to pursue discipling relationships with younger students in the youth group. And while he didn’t initially feel comfortable doing so, Tim and Bob both began to notice that Tim exhibited a giftedness in pastoring and shepherding. Tim noted that he saw Bob’s passion for “reaching people and changing lives,” and that was ultimately what led Tim to want to do the same.

Tim graduated from Cairn University in 2002 with a degree in youth ministry. After serving in Pennsylvania for a few years as a youth pastor, he decided to follow his father’s footsteps one step further and study at Dallas Theological Seminary. While in Dallas, Tim filled his schedule with seminary studies, ministry, and internet-based video games, figuring out exactly how the internet worked along the way. Before long, he became a self-taught internet strategist, of sorts.

ONE NIGHT, HE DISCOVERED THAT THE WEB DOMAIN “TIMSCHMOYER.COM” WAS AVAILABLE.

He didn’t know what to do with it at the time, but “it was only eight bucks, so I got it.” Over the course of a few weeks, Tim figured out how to build out his website. It was the days before Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, but timschmoyer.com was the home of Tim’s personal social media: a running series of posts for his family to read about what he was up to in Dallas. This platform also gave him a space to write about youth ministry. And as he wrote about ministry, he realized that it wasn’t just his family who were paying attention. His website started to receive traffic from all over the country, encouraging him to put out more stories, advice, and other content. Timschmoyer.com eventually evolved into studentministry.org, a home for youth ministry resources that Tim used in his own church.

Despite the growing interest in his youth ministry content, his family still found interest in what food he managed to whip up for dinner. Behind a password wall, Tim posted personal updates for his family, and those updates soon began to include a very special lady. While in Dallas, Tim met his wife, Dana. And while he could write long, poetic ramblings about why he thought she was so special, he thought that videos would be the best way to communicate this to his loved ones back in Philadelphia. That’s when Tim first discovered YouTube.

For many, it’s hard to imagine a world without YouTube. YouTube is home to seemingly endless amounts of content; it’s even where many churches have begun housing their live streamed services. But before October 2005, this video sharing platform, which can now send someone into celebrity stardom overnight, was nonexistent.

TIM ENTERED YOUTUBE ON THE GROUND FLOOR WHEN HE PUBLISHED HIS FIRST VIDEO JUST SIX MONTHS AFTER ITS LAUNCH:

“Well this is my first attempt at a video blog. I’ve never done this kind of thing before, so I’m not really sure what to expect. I just thought I’d try that once and see if it’s really a lot of work getting this thing published or not. If it turns out to be pretty simple, I just might do it more than once—who knows. I’ll admit though, it kind of feels like I’m having a conversation with the fire hydrant or something. I could get not so used to this—I’m not really sure—but we’ll see how it works and we’ll find out!”


His “Test Video” was just that—a test—but the videos that followed were vlogs (video blogs) of his dates with Dana, the night he proposed, their wedding, and the day they bought their first house. Interspersed between these Dana videos were also pieces of youth ministry content that were later uploaded to his student ministry blog. “I realized I could make a video for the blog in two minutes versus sit down and take all afternoon to wordsmith a 600-word post—and people actually seem to prefer it.”

TIM AND DANA MOVED TO MINNESOTA FOR A YOUTH MINISTRY JOB; IT DIDN’T END WELL.

His time at that church was unjustly cut short. But despite the hardships they knew would ensue, Tim and Dana felt that God called them to stay in that small Minnesota town.

“Our four weeks of severance pay expired on Christmas Day. We had...
nothing, but we didn’t feel like we were called away, so we stayed there for two years without a job.”

The day after Christmas, Tim directed all of his efforts toward his youth ministry blog. Through website advertisements, speaking, consulting, and training, he was able to support his family on a meager but sustainable income. After publishing his first book on youth ministry with Zondervan, he thought that his life direction was set. But what he didn’t expect was that it was his YouTube channel, not his blog, that would be the foundation for his career.

TIM’S YOUTUBE CHANNEL WAS GROWING.

Each week, Tim and Dana would upload videos documenting the everyday life of their family. The birth of their son, going for a family walk, and shooting basketball with his brother are just a few of the moments that made it to the channel. As they uploaded new content, their viewers increased—viewers they had never met. Those new viewers began to comment on their videos, leaving messages such as: “My marriage has been struggling, but my husband and I watched this video of you and Dana talking about how you’re learning to love each other better, and it has given us hope again for our marriage.” Another viewer wrote: “I didn’t grow up with a mom, but I’ve been watching your videos for over a year, elated to finally have a steady

“BREAKTHROUGH.”

income. His coworkers were like-minded people with previous ministry experience who valued Tim, his time, and his work. Unfortunately, the company started to move in another direction within a year, and Tim received the news that he would be out of a job—again—in just six months. That’s when Tim decided to be his own boss.

WITH THE HIGH TRAFFIC HIS CHANNEL WAS RECEIVING (UP TO ONE MILLION VIEWS PER MONTH), HIS YOUTUBE KNOW-HOW GREW EXPONENTIALLY.

It grew so much that YouTube contracted Tim to teach their own staff how it worked! Through the Youtubiverse (a rather unused term that really should get more traction), Tim connected with Epipheo, a small company who was in the business of making animated explainer videos for businesses and startups. Impressed with his knowledge of the YouTube platform, they hired Tim to begin offering his expertise to their client base.

Tim relocated his family to Cincinnati, elated to finally have a steady

income. His coworkers were like-minded people with previous ministry experience who valued Tim, his time, and his work. Unfortunately, the company started to move in another direction within a year, and Tim received the news that he would be out of a job—again—in just six months. That’s when Tim decided to be his own boss.

“REALIZED I COULD MAKE A VIDEO FOR THE BLOG IN TWO MINUTES VERSUS SIT DOWN AND TAKE ALL AFTERNOON TO WORDSMITH A 600-WORD POST—AND PEOPLE ACTUALLY SEEM TO PREFER IT.”

“On the day that I thought my life was set, I thought that my life direction was set. But what I didn’t expect was that it was his YouTube channel, not his blog, that would be the foundation for his career.

AFTER 7 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH WITH YOUTUBE, TIM LAUNCHED VIDEO CREATORS:

Video Creators launched on January 2, 2013. By June 15, 2013—Tim’s last day with Epipheo—the channel was making $10K a month.

Tim will be the first to say that the initial success didn’t stick; the business had lost its shares of ups and downs. “I had no business experience, no business background, but I also had no other alternative.” To run his business well, Tim traded YouTube strategy consultations for simple business advice. Seven years later, Video Creators is a thriving, YouTube Certified business with a 10-person staff and half a million subscribers. On the Video Creators channel, Tim publishes weekly videos of tips and tricks to grow your YouTube channel’s audience. Tim and his team generate revenue through online courses, one-on-one consultations, and YouTube strategy work for clients.

ALL KINDS OF CHANNELS HAVE REACHED OUT TO TIM FOR CONSULTATIONS.

Disney, Twitch, Warner Brothers, and eBay are a few of the large corporations for which Video Creators has developed comprehensive reports and strategies. Although these big names bolster his business’ reputation, Tim’s favorite clients to work with are the true YouTubers: individuals who are committed to growing their channel so that they can reach more people and change their lives. Educational children’s content, gaming channels, day-in-the-life vlogs, antique sock collectors—Tim enjoys working with all kinds of creatives to help their channels succeed.

“This isn’t about mastering YouTube so you can feel more popular or make more money. I believe that money and popularity are very important, but if you make them your goal they will ruin your life. But they do make for amazing tools that we can use to grow our channels, reach more people, and change their lives.”
Tim’s shepherding spirit continues to influence his videos and conversations with clients:

“I was meeting with a video producer from Hollywood to discuss how the entertainment industry on YouTube is growing, even surpassing the TV/movie industry. The conversation started with business like it always does, but then it turned. By the end of the lunch, he’s telling me about how his wife recently left him, he’s sleeping with another woman half his age, and he’s wondering if he should pursue a relationship with his wife again. I said, Yes! Of course!”

Conversations like this are examples of the opportunities God continues to give Tim to offer advice and share his faith with people he meets through his channel.

“People with pastor/shepherd giftings are good at making people feel like they actually care—because they actually do care. And most people don’t receive that type of care anywhere else. That obviously is really good for business, because great customer service makes them want to come back and refer other customers. And good business becomes a really powerful tool to lead others to Christ.”

Through both Video Creators and his family’s video vlog channel (now called Reclaiming Motherhood), Tim is influencing more people than he ever thought possible. The difficult journey between that back church pew and his current career reminded him that his goal was never to be a “lifer,” but to be a life-changer. And if he is reaching more people than ever before and changing their lives through making YouTube videos—well, as Tim says, “this is where God has called me to be.”

Lydia Garrison ’18 is the communications specialist at Cairn. She can be reached by emailing lgarrison@cairn.edu.
Stay up to date on alumni news! From weddings, new arrivals, and anniversaries to career changes and ministry opportunities, find out what Cairn alumni are up to all around the world.

Emily Laudenslager ’12/G’12 is the youth director at First Baptist Church of Savoy, IL. She has been in the position for over a year, and although she misses the cheesesteaks and Philly sports teams, “the sunsets and the people have been pretty great.” She says that “God has been good to me and has greatly blessed me with an amazing group of students and a wonderful team of youth leaders. Together we strive to love people like family, pursue Jesus and be on mission. I would not have ever imagined this when I graduated in 2012, but I am so thankful that God’s plans were better than mine.”

1940s
Kenneth Shriver ’48 recently celebrated his 93rd birthday on May 9, 2020. In his 93 years, Kenneth was actively involved with his late wife, Winifred ’48, in the Little White Church of Conklin, NY, for 28 years and in the ministry of the Twin Orchards (now Grace Point Church) of Vestal, NY, for 43 years. Kenneth was the manager of marketing at IBM Oswego, NY, for 29 years (he retired in 1984).

1950s
Richard Kenney ’50 recently celebrated his 90th birthday and considers himself “reasonably active” in Penney Retirement Community.

1960s
John ’69 and Kathleen (Huff) Transue ’69 are moving to Evans, GA, where they will be only eight blocks away from their son, daughter-in-love, and four grandchildren.

1970s
Thomas Carson ’70 was ordained in the Anglican Communion to the priesthood on October 5, 2019, and began to serve as an assisting priest at Christ the King Anglican Church in Ocala, FL.

Paul Williams ’71, through the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit, was able to earn a Doctor of Education in Religious Studies in 2014. He is currently pastor emeritus of Bible Baptist Church in Southampton, PA.
He and his wife, Esther, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

1 John Schaffer ’79 is the executive director of Capital Area Pregnancy Centers.

2 Jacquetta (Anderson) Davis ’79 was listed in Marquis Who’s Who Humanitarian: worldwidehumanitarian.com/2020/01/07/jacquetta-davis. She was also listed in Marquis Who’s Who Professional Women: whoswhoofprofessionalwomen.com/listee-features/jacquetta-davis.

1980s

Rob Kaiser ’82 feels that he “genuinely got saved a year ago at age 62. I feel I was a head knowledge Christian for decades. I feel, according to the story of the Prodigal Son, we need to exoerientially come to the end of ourselves and literally see our inability to keep ourselves from sinning. Then we come to our senses and are ready to cry out to Jesus to save us. I read a tract years ago and prayed the prayer in the back, but that didn’t cut it. Just like the two guys who prayed in the temple, one prayed the fasted and tithed and was glad he wasn’t like that other guy, and then the other guy prayed, “God, be merciful to me as a sinner” while beating his breast. That was me. I used to be the other guy. I also prayed to receive the Spirit, which I have never done, I have never given the Spirit the time of day. According to Luke 11:13, it says we need to ask the Father to receive the Spirit. Now I am walking with the Spirit.”

Thomas Larmore ’83 is finishing up his 20th year of founding and developing Christ’s Bible Fellowship Ministries on the U.S. territory of Guam in the Western Pacific Rim region. Beginning with 10 people, CBF is now a thriving Bible-teaching church of approximately 800 people (attending and extended media outlets stateside and in other various countries). CBF has established ministries and many Bible-teaching churches in the Philippines, Myanmar, and India. Outreach is through two local cable television stations, radio stations, and online streaming ministries both locally and internationally. As senior pastor of CBF for 20 years and ministries in New Jersey for 12 years and in the Marianas Islands for 7 years previous to CBF, Thomas is prayerfully seeking a part-time interim or associate pastor role stateside U.S.A. He is looking forward to using his Cairn education and 42 years of pastoral experience in building up the body of Christ stateside.

1990s

Esther (Barber) Zimmerman ’92 recently passed her dissertation defense for her PhD in Leadership with an emphasis in child and family development. Her research looked at how children with adverse childhood experiences think and feel about God. Esther currently teaches full-time at Lancaster Bible College/ Capital Seminary where she directs the children and family ministry and women in ministry leadership degree programs.

3 Bethany LaShell ’92 recently purchased a townhouse in South Carolina near her job at Inspiration Ministries, where she is an editor and a writer. She attends Grace Covenant Church in Charlotte, NC, where she is involved in the music ministry. Incidentally, that church building is where Billy Graham attended as a child.

4 Michael Williams ’94/G’00 is a Christian therapist working with survivors of trauma and men with sexual behavior problems such as sex and pornography addiction. He is also the associate pastor of CareView Community Church in Lansdowne, PA.

5 Bonnie (Keller) Walborn ’95 is living in Oklahoma and working as a special education teacher. She is married with five boys.

6 Sherry (Oberholzer) Miles ’95 wrote in to share the death of her grandmother, Edna Picking, who entered her heavenly home on March 17, 2020, at the ripe, old age of 107! Amazingly, she was the same age as the college. She wrote, “my grandma lived her life to the fullest and was a wonderful, godly inspiration to me. I thoroughly enjoyed assisting with her care until God called her home, which was thankfully at the onset of the coronavirus outbreak!” The photo is of them celebrating her final birthday on earth on November 16, 2019.

7 Nathan Jones ’96 recently published his second book The Mighty Angels of Revelation. In the book, travel along with a man called the Elder and his angelic guide as the end times are revealed throughout the book of Revelation in stunning detail. Along the way, meet 72 of God’s mighty angels as they proclaim God’s messages of warning and hope to a lost world.

Darren Livie ’98 is the pastor at Relevant Church in Allentown, PA.

Knowing When to Retire

Pastors often put a lot of effort into serving their churches, but they don’t always consider how to leave their churches effectively. As Pastor Jonathan Yoder approached 40 years in ministry, 50 years since attending Cairn in 1970, and 19 years at Pinegrove Church, he wanted to make sure his church in Bowmansville, PA, would continue on healthily as he entered retirement.

Having seen churches struggle through difficult transitions, Jonathan proactively approached Pinegrove’s leadership in 2015 about beginning the pastoral transition process. He wanted to make sure his church would be ready for his eventual exit; rather, he wanted to be ready himself. “The way the transition will go really depends on the pastor who’s leaving,” he explained. “There’s a lot of responsibility on our shoulders to make sure it’s smooth, and it begins with a humble spirit.”

In June 2019, Jonathan humbly welcomed his successor for a six-month overlap transition. Then in January 2020, he officially stepped down to pursue other opportunities. “We as pastors sometimes hold on to the ministry too tightly,” he said. “We need to realize the church existed before we were there, and it will exist after we’re gone.” Now, he’s involved in several jobs, including refereing high school basketball, serving as chaplain for a hospice center, and serving as executive director for the Alliance of Mennonite Evangelical Congregations. “There’s so much to do in this part of life,” he said. “Don’t stay too long in your pastoral position. Be ready to go.”
Sang Pak ‘99 is currently serving as an instructor of world religions at the Command & General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, KS. His job is to educate army officers on the importance religion has in the world and its potential impact to army operations. In order to fill this position, the army had sent him to Princeton Theological Seminary to acquire a ThM with a concentration in the history of religion.

Matthew Lynch ’01 has been living in the UK for the past seven years with his wife, Abi, and their two kids, working as academic dean and lecturer in the Old Testament at Westminster Theological Centre. In August 2020, they will be moving to Regent College, Vancouver, where he will work as assistant professor of Old Testament.

Sabaw Hanson Lat ’02 is serving as a pastor in Du Mare Baptist Church, which is in his hometown.

Mary Martin G’02 was named head of school at Burlington Christian Academy.

Jeff Eads ’02/G’04,’08 recently co-founded Muncie Fellows (munciefellows.com) in Muncie, IN. The Muncie Fellows program is a nine-month leadership program that equips college graduates to live out their faith in every area of life. Muncie Fellows officially launched in the Fall 2019 as part of The Fellows Initiative network (thefellowsinitiative.org). Jeff continues to work bi-vocationally in higher education and campus ministry. He and his wife, Andrea, and their four kids reside in Muncie.

Jill Freymuller ’09 is currently working at Regulatory Affairs International as
is what Frieda calls a “third career” after being a tending just one year prior. Becoming a counselor daughter counseling program at Cairn—the same school her Frieda decided to enroll in the MS in Coun—ing in a role she hadn’t expected to fill. as they grew spiritually, they began to share with their things they had never told anyone, things like grief, abuse, and trauma. She quickly found herself serving this congregation and want to give God the glory for leading us here.”

Christopher Shelly ’10 serves as the lead pastor of Lampeter Church of the Brethren in Lampeter, PA, the same church where he served as the youth pastor for almost nine years. He married his best friend in June 2010 and worked as a missionary loading package cars at UPS from 2010-2019. In 2019, he received his Master of Divinity from Moody Theological Seminary in May; he and his wife were graced by their third child in July; he took the role of lead pastor in September; and he quit his ministry at UPS in October. He writes, “We feel blessed to serve this congregation and want to give God’s undeniable calling on his heart to use the outdoors as a platform for making Him known and encouraging others in their faith. This calling began to take root back in 2008 when Drew attended Wisconsin Wilderness Campus and continued to grow as he spent his summers during college working as a camp counselor and program director at Moose River Outpost, a Christian outdoor adventure camp in Jackman, MN.

While teaching, Drew and Trish began to pursue opportunities for involvement at different outdoor ministries, one of which was Loon Mountain Ministry. They spent the summer of 2015 volunteering at LMM and quickly fell in love with the mission and vision, as well as the people who live, work, and play in that beautiful place. They left at the end of that summer and began to pray that God would open a door for them to be increasingly involved with His work in the White Mountains. God continued to open those doors, and one year later, they moved to New Hampshire and Drew stepped into the role of assistant chaplain and operations director of Loon Mountain Ministry. They absolutely love living and serving in Lincoln.

Loon Mountain Ministry’s mission is to love God, serve community, and enjoy mountains. Founded almost 30 years ago, LMM began by providing mountaintop worship services in the summer for vacationers and tourists and in the winter for skiers and snowboarders. Since then, God has blessed them with a thrift store and local church ministry, which all play an important role in building God’s kingdom there in in the White Mountains.

Counseling in Amish Country

In 2011, Frieda Graber G’17 began discipling Amish women in her Lancaster county home. Frieda’s unique connection to these people (her grandparents on both sides were Amish) allowed her to build strong relationships with the women. As they grew spiritually, they began to share with her things they had never told anyone, things like grief, abuse, and trauma. She quickly found herself in a role she hadn’t expected to fill.

Frieda decided to enroll in the MS in Counseling program at Cairn—the same school her daughter Rebecca Graber ’18 had begun attending just one year prior. Becoming a counselor is what Frieda calls a “third career” after being a registered nurse and then homeschooling five kids.

Graduating in 2017, she then started a practice as a spiritual life counselor and is now serving nearly 30 clients, the majority of whom are Amish.

“I do a lot of psychoeducation: helping people become aware of what they’re feeling and thinking, and how that all relates to their beliefs,” she explained. She’s seen great results: “Because of their foundation of faith, just giving them spiritual tools and helping them understand the gospel more fully has led to enormous growth.” Through conveying the gospel and encouraging self-awareness, Frieda is helping this unique community of people experience healing and growth in their relationships with God and others.
Christian Kim ’14 is a senior auditor at Grant Thornton. He used to work at Tait, Weller, & Baker LLP on a mutual fund side. Wanting to switch it up a little bit and try something new, he switched to GT and is now working mostly on CIP (Consumer Industrial Products) clients. He really enjoys his time at GT so far, as he has to learn a lot about a new industry and work on bigger public and private clients.

Stacey (Kraus) Merritt ’14 married her husband, Bradley, on June 6, 2020, in Scott Township, PA.

Christa Joy (Ciotta) Kirkland ’15 gave birth to her second child, Hope Taylor Kirtland, on October 9, 2019.

Sarah Breyer ’15 completed a master’s in exercise science in human performance, became a certified strength and conditioning specialist, and is now working with Liberty University as an interim strength and conditioning coach with Women’s Division I Lacrosse and Field Hockey. She wrote, “As I look back at my time at Cairn, I am incredibly grateful for my collegiate experience as an athlete on Cairn’s tennis and softball teams.”

Caleb Lang ’16 completed a two-year grad assistantship at Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, MA, where he served as a hitting coach. He then served as assistant baseball coach at NCAA Division II Flagler College (FL); he has recently transitioned from that role to assistant baseball coach for NAIA Concordia University (NE). He is taking over the role vacated by Bryce Berg, who now works within the Minnesota Twins organization as a hitting coach.
Ken Pe G’18 is working for Toronto Dominion (TD) Wealth as a financial planner, where he takes care of high net worth clients. His daughter is graduating high school and will be going to university this fall.

Retta Hanna G’18 recently graduated with her MSW from the University of Albany and obtained a position at AIM Services as a behavior intervention specialist. On May 16, 2020, she said yes to marry her best friend of six years. Their wedding is set for September 25, 2021. She is currently waiting for her test date for her licensing exam for social work and study.

Katie Grindle G’19 is currently working for Young Life Philadelphia as part-time mission staff in North Philly, a part-time social worker at Vocatio Career Prep High school in Hunting Park, and an assistant project manager with Cultured Enuf Racial Diversity Consulting Group.

Kate Kempf G’19 has been working as therapeutic support staff for elementary students in West Philly (before COVID-19 closures), helping them reach their emotional and behavioral goals. She is also working with youth and women’s ministry at her church, Tenth Fries. She says that “God’s been blessing us with creativity and virtual resources to continue prayer, fellowship, and community-building together. Having these three part-time jobs has been an unexpected blessing from the Lord during the pandemic, allowing me to continue my work from home.”

Timothy Smith G’20 and his wife welcomed their first daughter, Nora Grace Smith, into the world on March 31, 2020.

Carlos Matos G’20 graduated with his Master of Arts (Religion) degree in May 2020.

SEND US YOUR ALUMNI NEWS

We love hearing from our alumnus! Share your news and updates with the Cairn community.

cairn.edu/update
Cairn University
Alumni Office
200 Manor Ave
Langhorne, PA 19047-2990

Our space is limited, so class notes are edited to include as many as possible.

Leading Change in Higher Education

Gregory Dyson G’16 has been named vice president for intercultural leadership and church relations at Taylor University. This promotion comes after two years serving as the special assistant to the president for intercultural initiatives. According to Taylor University, Greg will continue “the creation and implementation of a strategic plan for diversity and intercultural initiatives” in his new role. These responsibilities will be carried out alongside his oversight of Taylor’s Office of Intercultural Programs and Office for Church Relations.

Greg’s varied career in higher education and pastoral leadership makes him perfectly suited for his new role. He brings his previous leadership experience from Cedarville University, Springfield College, and Word of Life Bible Institute. He is a former pastor, former member of the strategic team for the Luis Palau Evangelistic Association, and founder of Lions Den Youth Outreach Center of Indian Orchard, MA, now known as the Hope for Kids Den—a faith-based, nonprofit organization that exists “to meet the physical, spiritual, and relational needs of children in need in the greater Springfield, MA, area.”

Greg earned his MS in Organizational Leadership from the University in 2016. According to Greg, the study of “the complexity of organizational change and the depth of the change process” has helped him the most throughout his career and his personal life.

“Higher education is a natural outlet for my gifts and abilities,” Greg explained. “Education provides a door for students to learn and greatly impact the world. I enjoy serving with world changers, and I look forward to working with the Taylor University faculty, students, and staff for a strong and hopeful tomorrow.”
IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Raymond A. Acker ’59
died on August 15, 2019
Mrs. Marion L. Anderson ’56
died on November 15, 2019
Mrs. Violetta Archer ’42
died on April 4, 2020
Mrs. Edna K. Berson-James ’54
died on August 6, 2019
Mrs. Rose A. Brandenstein ’54
died on February 11, 2020
Mrs. Barbara J. Carvill ’02
died on May 11, 2020
Mr. David B. Denyer ’53
died on October 10, 2019
Rev. Richmond I. Donaldson ’56
died on August 28, 2019
Pastor James E. Fitten ’70
died on January 24, 2020
Ms. Karen J. Gibson ’06
died on January 6, 2020
Dr. Carolyn J. Griess ’93
died on February 20, 2020
Mrs. Betty E. Hickman ’48
died on September 2019
Chap. A. Benson Holcombe ’54
died on August 30, 2019
Mr. William E. Hough III ’52
died on February 21, 2020
Rev. Dr. Joseph C. Jeter ’64
died on August 25, 2019
Rev. Donald A. Lyon ’66
died on October 27, 2019
Miss Betty V. Petsis ’52
died on October 2019
Ms. Karen J. Gibson ’06
died on January 6, 2020
Dr. Carolyn J. Griess ’93
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These lists include gifts received from August 1, 2019, through May 31, 2020.

Dr. Jean Minto Passes Away at Age 66

Dr. Jean Minto, professor at the University for nearly 30 years, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on October 4, 2020. Dr. Minto served in various capacities at the University since she first began teaching in 1991, but she often mentioned that she felt most at home whenever she was in the classroom. Alumni and current students spanning those three decades commonly shared how integral Dr. Minto was to both their success and enjoyment of their Cairn education. From encouraging conversations and advice to book swaps and reading recommendations, Dr. Minto’s legacy at the University cannot be underestimated.

“Jean was a dear friend, trusted colleague, and exemplary teacher,” said President Todd J. Williams. “She taught many of us who serve at the University presently. Her impact on Cairn was profound. Her love for the Lord and for the students was demonstrated in the way she practiced her craft as a teacher and in the interest she showed in us both in and out of the classroom. She will be greatly missed.”
No stranger to hard work, this Highlander was the women’s basketball coach and is an inductee in Cairn’s Athletic Hall of Honor. Not only did she serve the Cairn community as a coach, she also initiated and administered Cairn’s School of Education for over 30 years. During her time as dean, she led the development of 17 different state- and ACSI-certified teacher education programs, as well as to three ACSI-only programs.

Dr. Larry McKinney
Dean of Students

The mystery Highlander in the Winter/Spring 2020 issue is Dr. Larry McKinney. Dr. McKinney was dean of students during my time in college. My favorite memory is that he liked the word “behoove.” I had not ever heard that word before attending college, and, as a word nerd, added it to my collection of favorite words. My roommates and I would insert “behoove” into conversations whenever we could. It remains in my vocabulary to this day.

Mary Lou (Shell) Menning ’91

Dean McKinney! So my hubby, Steve Kikendall ’97, had some run-ins with this dean. The night a duck went missing, Dean McKinney found him at the lunch table and asked if he knew about the missing duck. All Steve ever says is how well classmate Charles Ebron roasted that duck. Also Steve wasn’t allowed to take a final exam until he cut his hair. It was touching his collar and that was a no-no and he was given a pink slip for that. And the trash bag that happened to fly out of the 3rd floor window at Pennidel and land on his RA’s windshield while his girlfriend was breaking up with him—Dean McKinney dealt with that too. Great memories.

Alison Kikendall

I had the privilege of being on the Cross Country restart. I remember him approaching me and asking me to be part of the team for one race that first year, to which I finally relented and said if I can still run 5 miles without stopping I’ll do it. Little did I know we would be running up mountains at what is now Clarks Summit University! Thanks, Coach!

Curtiss Kanagy ’90

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Larry McKinney was the fearless leader of the Student Development Department when I was a trustee member. Since we knew one another as students, did he wonder “Why in the world would they let this guy on this committee? Maybe was they thought he had a lot of firsthand experience visiting the Dean of Men?”

Robert Reid ’70

I remember him well and shared time at Cairn as students with him. No Larry McKinney, it was not me who threw the water out of the 15th floor window of the dorm!

Keith Johnson ’75

Dean McKinney was so patient with all of us knuckleheads trying to exasperate him by bending so many rules. I really grew to appreciate him and his infectious love for Jesus Christ. I still am saddened by his strange love for Pittsburgh sports teams.

Steve Brunner ’87

If you have a memory you would like to share, please share your favorite memories of this mystery Highlander by emailing magazine@cairn.edu or by writing to:
Cairn Magazine
200 Manor Ave
Langhorne, PA 19047

Tell Us What You Think!

Opinions should be a maximum of 200 words and include full name, city and state, and class year (if applicable). They may be edited for length and clarity.

email: magazine@cairn.edu
online: magazine.cairn.edu
mail: Cairn Magazine
200 Manor Ave
Langhorne PA 19047

We’d Like to Hear From You Too!

Share your alumni news, change of address, or updated contact info via cairn.edu/update or by emailing alumni@cairn.edu.
Prayer & Praise is a weekly calendar of prayer topics for Cairn University and our events, students, faculty, staff, and administration. Join us as we pray for God’s provision and praise Him for His faithfulness.

Note: For your convenience, we have perforated the following pages.
October

October 1–10: Praise God for the hardworking staff in financial aid, campus services, and technology services.

October 11–17: Pray for students as midterms approach.

October 18–24: Pray students enjoy a safe and restful fall break as the middle of the semester draws near.

October 25–31: Praise God for the fruits of His goodness.

November

November 1–7: Pray for wisdom as students register for courses for the spring semester.

November 8–14: Praise God for our veterans and all they have done to protect the United States.

November 15–21: Pray for the ARC as they provide important aid to students who need academic help.

November 22–30: Pray students may have a restful Thanksgiving break and dwell on the blessings of the Lord.

December

December 1–5: Praise God for the endurance of the seniors preparing to graduate.

December 6–12: Pray for strength and perseverance for students as they conclude the fall semester and prepare for finals.

December 13–19: Pray for safe travels as students journey home for winter break.

December 20–26: Praise God for the birth and life of His Son, Jesus Christ.

December 27–31: Pray for a peaceful break for the students and staff.
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<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
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<td><strong>JANUARY 1–9:</strong> Pray for students as they prepare to return for the spring semester.</td>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY 1–6:</strong> Praise God for our faculty and staff as they spiritually and personally invest in students’ lives.</td>
<td><strong>MARCH 1–6:</strong> Praise God for His faithfulness, wisdom, and guidance.</td>
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<td><strong>JANUARY 10–16:</strong> Pray for students traveling this semester for various study-abroad programs.</td>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY 7–13:</strong> Pray for students’ mental and physical health as they endure difficult winter weeks.</td>
<td><strong>MARCH 7–13:</strong> Pray that students will have a restful spring break.</td>
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<td><strong>JANUARY 17–23:</strong> Praise God for the hardworking cafeteria and security staff.</td>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY 14–20:</strong> Pray that Cairn will embody loving community and friendship in our life together.</td>
<td><strong>MARCH 14–20:</strong> Pray for the athletic department, coaches, and student-athletes.</td>
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<td><strong>JANUARY 24–31:</strong> Praise God for the opportunity students have to learn about world missions during World Reach Week.</td>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY 21–28:</strong> Pray for senior music majors as they prepare for their senior recitals.</td>
<td><strong>MARCH 21–27:</strong> Praise God for technology services and all they do for faculty, staff, and students.</td>
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<td><strong>MARCH 28–31:</strong> Praise God for our custodial staff and their diligent work in keeping our campus clean.</td>
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Cairn University’s Day of Giving encourages the Cairn community to raise support for initiatives that directly advance the mission of the University. This year’s Day of Giving will give you a closer look at how your generosity impacts our students and the ways they embody the love of Christ in our local community.

Thursday, November 19

To give or learn more about these initiatives, go to cairn.edu/day-of-giving.