



ANDERSON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SEMINARY SYNOPSIS

FALL/WINTER 2008

VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 1



Seminary renovation challenge project

Drs. James and Elizabeth York have provided a challenge grant of \$100,000 for the renovation and revitalization of the seminary building. The SOT will have a total of \$200,000 for this project at the end of a successful funding campaign.

The wear and tear of equipping nearly 2,000 students for Christian ministry across 46 years has taken a toll on the building. The renovation project is part of AU's *Dreams. Discovery. Direction.* campaign. The following notes specific items that will receive attention during this revitalization project:

- New watertight roof
- Repair of the chapel spire
- Drainage and water problems in the front of the building
- Repair and painting of walls and ceilings
- New carpet in Warren Lounge
- Replacement of entrance doors and frames
- Replacement of Valley-side doors
- Enhanced lighting
- Replacement of Miller Chapel windows
- Refurbishing of Miller Chapel pews

continued on page 3

In this issue

- p. 2-3** Branson teaching at SOT; endowed scholarships; enrollment rises; milestone certifications; doctrinal dialogue; Mexico intensive
- p. 4-5** Awards & recognitions; new CCL & seminary partnerships; Harp Professor in Residence; Courtney Series; international students
- p. 6-7** WTS conference; women's event sponsored; seminary graduates; ATS self-study; Newell lectures; new CCL enrollments
- p. 8** Serving Outside the Seminary Walls; Center prices increase

Donor gifts make student education affordable

The School of Theology has been blessed this year by generous gifts for scholarships and student financial aid. The following gifts will make seminary education affordable for future students.

An increase to the Vergie S. Bowlby Endowed Scholarship Fund through an estate gift at her passing; the renaming of the Robert Garrett Endowed Scholarship Fund to the Robert and Eva Garrett Endowed Scholarship Fund at Mr. Garrett's passing; an increase to the Odessa Campbell Endowed Scholarship Fund through an estate gift at her passing.

New endowments established:

- The Clarence and Goldie Ellis Preaching Endowment established by Bill and Whitey Ellis
- The Fairfax Community Church of God Doctor of Ministry Scholarship
- The Ralph W. and Mary M. Geeting Endowed Scholarship Fund established by Arlyn and Shirley Engbrecht
- The Dan and Betty Hartman Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Dr. Hulon and Marion Madeley Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Gilbert W. and Darlene D. Stafford Doctor of Ministry Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Glenn O. and Helen L. Taylor Endowed Scholarship Fund established by Pam and Don Taylor
- The Frank A. and Lucile B. Towers Endowed Scholarship Fund
- The Oral Camden and Laura (Benson) Withrow Endowed Scholarship Fund

Branson teaching at seminary

Dr. Robert D. Branson is teaching this fall in the area of New Testament for the seminary. Branson, who received his doctorate from Boston University, taught biblical literature at Olivet Nazarene University from 1992 to 2007. His main area of expertise is Old Testament and he has co-authored the textbook *Discovering the Old Testament* (Beacon Hill Press, 2006). He also taught at Eastern Nazarene College and Warner Southern College and served as a visiting professor at African Nazarene University in Nairobi, Kenya. Branson is an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene, has been a pastor, and served 25 years as an Army Reserve Chaplain, seeing duty in Saudi Arabia and Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. He is a member of the Wesleyan Theological Society, the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Bible Society, and the Chicago Society of Biblical Research.



Creating an endowed scholarship at Anderson University School of Theology

A number of alumni and friends of Anderson University School of Theology have asked how they might be able to make a substantial gift to support students at the Church of God seminary. Establishing an endowed scholarship fund (ESF) will provide financial assistance for students for generations to come. The minimum funding to establish an ESF (named by the donor) is currently \$10,000. This amount may be donated in cash over a period of three years or arranged through any of the creative gift plans outlined below.

A Gift of Securities — In addition to providing for a student's education, a gift of appreciated stock or other securities may provide an additional tax benefit to the donor. Rather than selling the security and paying a capital gains tax on the increase in value, donors can avoid the capital gains tax by donating the security directly to Anderson University. Typically, an income tax deduction can be taken by the donor for the full amount of the security on the date it is donated.

A Gift through a Will — Leaving a gift to Anderson University through the provisions of a will can be a simple way to fund an endowed scholarship for seminary students.

A Gift through a Revocable Living Trust — A properly funded revocable living trust may eliminate the need for probate proceedings while still allowing the grantor to retain lifetime control over his or her assets. As with a will, the living trust agreement may provide that property or funds will be distributed to AU for an endowed scholarship fund at the SOT upon the death of the donor(s).

A Gift of Life Insurance — Donors can make Anderson University the beneficiary or co-beneficiary on an existing life insurance policy. Also, giving a paid-up policy would benefit the mission and ministry of SOT and may provide an immediate income tax benefit.

A Gift of Real Estate — This can be done by giving a home, farm, or other property to AU. As with gifts of stocks, the donor can usually avoid the capital gains tax that would otherwise be imposed on the sale of appreciated real estate. Donors may choose to retain a life estate in a farm or personal residence, which provides for the use of the property for life, as well as the income from the property.

Life-Time Income Gift

One of the simplest and most popular life income gifts is the charitable gift annuity. A single life charitable gift annuity provides a fixed income to the donor for the term of his or her life. A joint and survivor charitable gift annuity is paid during the joint lives of two people and through the life of the survivor.

The charitable gift annuity is established through a lump sum gift(s) of cash, real estate, or securities to Anderson University of at least \$5,000. The older the annuitant, the higher the interest rate. Part of the gift amount will qualify for an income tax deduction, and a portion of the income paid to the annuitant(s) will be tax-free for the life expectancy of the annuitant(s). At the death of the annuitant(s), the balance of the annuity will be used as directed by the donor.

If you have questions or would like more information about how you can make a gift by using one of these methods, please contact David Neidert at the School of Theology or Don Taylor at the Anderson University Development Office.

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continued from page 1

Dr. James Earl Massey, dean emeritus of the School of Theology, commented that a “well-planned architectural setting both assists and advances the learning process. Keeping such facilities up to date is, therefore, a must. I am grateful to Drs. James and Elizabeth York for their many kindnesses and generosity for making this project a reality.”

Measurements, bids, and meetings are already taking place concerning the project. It is hoped the revitalization will be completed by the fall 2009 academic term.

Milestone certifications reached

The Rev. Barbara E. McFarlane of Round Rock, Texas, has completed 100 CEUs. She received a framed Certificate of Excellence from the Center for this significant educational achievement. McFarlane continued her studies by completing many of the elective courses, reading books, and studying the Newell Lectures in Biblical Studies, which are available in audio versions from the Center. Barbara attends the First Church of God in Austin, Texas. A former pastor in Connecticut, Barbara is hoping to begin pastoring in Texas in the future. Barbara enrolled in July 2004.

Sylvia B. McDorman from Staunton, Va., has completed her work for the Certification in Christian Ministry. Sylvia reached the 50 CEU mark during July. Sylvia attends the First Church of God in Staunton, where she serves in a number of capacities. At the time of her enrollment, she hoped the courses would help enrich and deepen her personal spiritual walk with the Lord, better equip her as a leader, and help her to answer God’s calling to ministry and discipleship. Sylvia enrolled in the Center in 2002.

Highest enrollment since 1980s

The seminary continues its growth this year with another increase in enrollment. The opening fall semester witnessed 161 students in all programs, which is the highest enrollment since the 1980s. “This is an exciting time for the SOT,” commented Dr. David Sebastian, seminary dean. “We continue giving attention to scholarship funding, housing, retention, and curricular structure. The combination of these areas is helping us attract and retain a vibrant student body.” Dr. John Aukerman, director of distance learning, noted the largest incoming online class with 12 students. The online Master of Arts in Christian Ministries is now at 75. Those interested in the seminary may contact the Office of Seminary Advancement for materials or see our Web site.

Doctrinal dialogue at NAC

The seminary was pleased with the participation of alumni and conference attendees during the 2008 North American Convention of the Church of God. More than 200 people shared in conference and seminary events. The seminary also hosted the fourth doctrinal dialogue during the convention. The topic this year focused on the “doctrine of creation.” The main paper was delivered by Dr. James Christoph, dean of the School of Humanities at Warner Southern College and adjunct professor at the SOT. Respondents to the paper were Dr. Kimberly Lyle-Ippolito and the Rev. John Birch. For PDF transcripts of the dialogue, see the seminary Web site.

The 2009 doctrinal dialogue will focus on women in ministry, with a paper delivered by Dr. John Stanley, professor of New Testament at Messiah College. Respondents will be the Rev. Diana Swoope (Arlington Church of God, Akron, Ohio) and the Rev. Dr. Randal Huber (Chapel Hill Church of God, York Springs, Pa.).

Mexico intensive in its fourth year

The partnership between La Buena Tierra Bible Training School in Saltillo, Mexico, and the Center completed its fourth year. This year, two courses were taught at the school by David Neidert, the Center director. Thirty pastors and laity attended this three-day program. This intensive and partnership works in conjunction with Vision Ministries, founded and directed by the Rev. Jim Walters of Noblesville. This is the 15th year of the Vision Ministries partnership with La Buena Tierra and the Churches of God in central Mexico. Participants in the program from Mexico will be involved in next year’s intensive, July 13-17, 2009.



President James Edwards with David and Shirley Coolidge



Pictured from left: Dean David Sebastian, John Aukerman, Adrienne Holmes, James Cook, and President James Edwards

Awards and recognitions

The School of Theology honored the Rev. Adrienne Holmes (MDiv '03), James Cook, and Dr. John Aukerman (MDiv '75) during the 2008 North American Convention of the Church of God for their many years of service and ministry to the church and seminary. Holmes received the Distinguished Alumna Award, Cook received the Distinguished Ministries Award, and Aukerman was presented with the Distinguished Service Award.

Longtime seminary donors, Dr. David and Dr. Shirley Coolidge, received the 2008 Anderson University Heritage

Award at its annual dinner in June. This award is presented annually to those who have given significant leadership and who “contribute service, resources, and friendship” to Anderson University during their lifetime.

Additionally, the Rev. Carlton Cumberbatch, the 2004 School of Theology Distinguished Ministries Award recipient, received an honorary Doctor of Divinity, conferred by the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology (Kingston, Jamaica) for his many years of leadership and ministry to the West Indies Theological College and Caribbean area.

Center begins partnerships in aging ministries and leadership training for young adults

The national program Christian Association Serving Adult Ministries (CASA) and the Center have agreed to an educational partnership beginning this fall. CASA is an ecumenical ministry focused on educating and equipping those involved with senior adults in their congregations. The Center will serve as a certification program for those interested in its intensive study in aging ministries. For information about CASA or becoming a member of this organization see www.gocasa.org. For information on the Center's aging certification, see its Web page at the School of Theology.

In addition, an exploratory conversation with the School of Theology and Center concerning its CEU curriculum with Church of God pastors, Kathy and Jason Bergstrom of Houston, Texas, has developed into a partnership for educating young leaders for ministry. Exodus Leadership Development (a program

related to the Houston First Church of God) was birthed out of an earnest desire to develop quality leaders for the American mission field related to youth ministry. The internship program (for those age 18-25) is structured for experiential training. Exodus Leadership Development's main focus is to “equip young people for Christian service, particularly emphasizing ministry to youth.” The program utilizes the CCL's CEU curriculum for exposing its interns to the Church of God doctrine and heritage. These interns receive CEUs for all courses completed with the Center. The interns also work through additional Exodus modules on leadership, conflict resolution, and team building. Eventually, these students are mentored into full-time ministry and employment while attending college. For more information on its history, mission, accountability, and program design, visit www.exodusleaders.org.

Seminary partners with NACOG

The Rev. Charles Myricks, Jr., chief operating and development officer of the National Association of the Church of God and Anderson University trustee, recently announced a NACOG partnership with the School of Theology and the Center for Christian Leadership for the delivery of educational opportunities. The NACOG initiative was established “to enhance the work of the church and to empower the NACOG members.” Dr. Aleza Beverly, dean of the Anderson University School of Adult Learning, serves as the dean of this educational component of NACOG. Beverly shared, “I am excited about the opportunity to assist the NACOG in connecting laypersons and leaders to lifelong learning through Anderson University’s School of Theology CCL study program. As we are all called to study to show ourselves approved, it is my hope that we will be encouraged to increase our knowledge and skills and set goals for certifications and degrees as God leads us to a better understanding of His word and how it is applied to our lives. I am thankful for the vision this partnership represents. It is not to take away from anything that has been done in the past but to add to the opportunities to further God’s kingdom.” Classes will begin in October 2009 for those interested in this partnership.

Second Harp Professor in Residence

Dr. Robert Lang’at is serving this year as the second Harp Professor in Residence. Lang’at is teaching the courses “African Religion and Culture” and “A Biblical Theology of Poverty.” He is also delivering public lectures on cross cultural leadership and poverty.



Lang’at received his PhD from Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver. He currently serves as lecturer and deputy principal at Kenya Highland Bible College (KHBC), Kericho, Kenya. He has served as adjunct lecturer at Kabarak University (Kenya) and African Nazarene University. He has served on various secondary school boards as well as working with hospitals, Bible schools, and the management board of KHBC. Lang’at is also senior pastor of the Chepkuntung’ Local Church.

The Harry and Henrietta Harp Professor in Residence is an appointed faculty position created through an endowment by the Harp and York families to honor the lives of their parents, the Rev. Harry and Mrs. Henrietta Harp. The purpose of the Harry and Henrietta Harp Professor in Residence is to identify and appoint a faculty member with expertise in a field deemed critical to the educational life and instructional programming of the School of Theology.

Courtney series online

The first paper written for the Donald Addison Courtney Series in Christian Education was delivered during the 2008 North American Convention of the Church of God. This series is made possible by the generous gifts of Dan and Don Courtney, sons of the late Donald Addison Courtney. David Aukerman, an MDiv candidate with the seminary, delivered his original research titled, “A History of the Sunday School in the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana).” This paper, PowerPoint slides, and audio recording may be viewed at www.anderson.edu/sot/courtney. The Donald Addison Courtney Series in Christian Education is being developed “for the primary purpose of providing the whole Christian community with sustained and original scholarly research focused on Christian education.” Look for more original research added to the listed Web page in the months ahead.

International students

The seminary is always strengthened by the diversity experienced through international students. This year we are pleased to have join the seminary community the following students:

- Ekatrina Anhkmetova — *Russia*
- Hellen Obwoye Bosibore — *Kenya, Africa*
- Armando Valdes Castillo — *Saltillo, Mexico*
- Bobby Pariat Mihsill — *Shillong, India*
- Jael Tang — *Singapore*
- Nathan Wiebe — *Ontario, Canada*

Wesleyan holiness conference

The 2009 conference of the Wesleyan Theological Society will be hosted at Anderson University, March 5-7. The theme of this conference is: "All the Treasures of Wisdom & Knowledge: The Centrality of Christ." The scheduled plenary speakers are I. Howard Marshall, emeritus professor of New Testament exegesis and honorary research professor (University of Aberdeen, UK); Bruce McCormack, Frederick and Margaret L. Weyerhaeuser professor of systematic theology (Princeton Theological Seminary); and Thomas Jay Oord, professor of theology and philosophy (Northwest Nazarene University).

For information related to this conference, see the Web site at <http://wesley.nnu.edu/wts/index.htm>.

Women in ministry event sponsored

The School of Theology was pleased to sponsor the student reception for the Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy Conference for 2008. More than 100 students attended the Nashville conference, according to Lynn Clouser Holt, conference convenor. The reception was a "great way to jump-start the students' conference experience," Holt added.

Dr. MaryAnn Hawkins, associate professor of Christian mission at the SOT, also became the Church of God's (Anderson) representative on the Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy Board of Directors in April 2008. Hawkins replaces the Rev. Joy Sherman, a graduate of Anderson University School of Theology, as the Church of God's representative.

Seminary graduates 25 students

The seminary graduated 25 students during the May 10, 2008, commencement at Anderson University. Those graduated were:

Mary Elizabeth Baxter (MTS)
David W. Baylor (MTS) — *professional distinction in theology*
Denise Kay Bloodgood (MDiv) — *professional distinction in pastoral care*
Tamara Ann Boggs (MDiv)
Tasha Nichole Tribby DeLaVergne (MAIS)
Jenny Marie Dunbar (MAIS) — *professional distinction in intercultural service*
Kevin Earley (DMin)
Samuel R. Enders (MDiv)
Andrew Barrett Flink (MDiv)
Mark Andrew Gale (MAIS)
David W. Greene, Sr. (MDiv)
Craig A. Haney (MACM)
Mark Anthony Hughes (MDiv)
James D. Huselton (MTS)
Kimberly Lynn Kerr (MDiv) — *professional distinction in pastoral care*
Terry Rebekah Lawson (MDiv)
Caldwell Christopher Manners (MDiv)
Janet Murphy (DMin)
Wilsage Sagesse (MDiv)
Ryan Wayne Shockey (MTS) — *professional distinction in theology*
John Wells Sieg (MTS)
Shannon Leah New Spangler (MDiv) — *professional distinction in preaching*
Kevin D. Summers (DMin)
Josephine Chepwogen Too (MDiv)
Wendy M. Watts (MDiv)

ATS self-study

The on-site accreditation visit from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) will take place Dec. 8-10, 2008. This ATS visit is part of the seminary's reaccreditation process, which takes place every 10 years. The entire seminary faculty participated in the self-study of its programming during the 2007-08 academic year, guided by Dr. John Aukerman and David Neidert. The final self-study report was edited by Dr. Barry Callen, a former dean of the School of Theology. The ATS work on campus will be a joint on-site accreditation visit with the Higher Learning Commission for the entire university.

Kaiser presents 2008 Newell lectures

The 2008 Newell Lectures in Biblical Studies, held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, featured Dr. Walter Kaiser, Jr., president emeritus and Colman M. Mockler distinguished professor of Old Testament, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Kaiser lectured both days on the topic, “The Majesty of God: Expositions from Isaiah 40, Daniel 4, Numbers 20, and Jeremiah 32.” The lectures were well attended by students, pastors, and faculty. These lectures, as previous Newell Lectures, were recorded and are available for purchase through the Center. For more information see the Center’s Web page at www.anderson.edu/ccl.

The seminary is also pleased to announce that Dr. Rodney S. Sadler, Jr., will be the 2009 Newell lecturer. Sadler is associate professor of Bible at Union-PSCE at Charlotte, N.C. Sadler’s teaching experience includes courses in biblical languages, Old and New Testament interpretation, wisdom literature in the Bible, the history and religion of ancient Israel, and African-American biblical interpretation.

Sadler frequently lectures within the church and community on race in the Bible, African-American biblical interpretation, the image of Jesus, biblical archaeology, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. He was also the managing editor of



Walter Kaiser, Jr.

The African-American Devotional Bible. He is also the author of the book *Can A Cushite Change His Skin? An Examination of Race, Ethnicity, and Othering in the Hebrew Bible* (2005).

New Center Enrollments (May 1-Oct. 1, 2008)

For both the Certification in Christian Ministry and Certification in Aging Ministries.

Daila Alexander, Evangelical Church of God, London, UK
Timothy Bariteau, Morningside Community Church,
Brookings, S.D.
Ann Michelle Bigham, Arvada Church of God, Arvada, Colo.
Ted Gee, Bloomington, Ill.
Katharina Gittens, Grace Church of God, Brooklyn, N.Y.
John Grable, First Church of God, Far Rockaway, N.Y.
Alisa Harkless, Salem Church of God, Clayton, Ohio
Ken Hylton, Goodmayes Church of God, London, UK
Diane Iiams, First Church of God, Sidney, Ohio
Timothy Jones, East Campbellville Church of God,
Campbellville, Ky.
Bryan Kelsen, First Church of God, Pueblo, Colo.
Patrick Kriley, Cloverdale Church of God, Boise, Idaho
Donnabelle Landey, First Church of God, Grand Rapids, Minn.
Jonathan McConnell, Ash Avenue Church of God,
Moundsville, W.Va.

Maizle Morris, Church of God at West Broward,
Plantation, Fla.
Melinda Nuhfer, Edinburg First Church of God,
Edinburg, Ohio
Ella Peyton, First Baptist Church (American), Anderson, Ind.
Joyce Pinder, Willow Street Church of God, Long Beach, Calif.
Marie Ramsay, Westbury Divine Congregational Church of
God, Georgia
Nathaniel Richardson, Sheridan Street Church of God,
Tacoma, Wash.
Annette Thomas, Bronx Westchester Community Church,
Mount Vernon, N.Y.
Josephine Walker, First Church of God Ministries,
Raleigh, N.C.
Janet Werdowatz, Clairemont Church of God,
San Diego, Calif.
Douglas Williams, Oak Park Baptist Church, Jeffersonville, Ind.



School of Theology

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SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY WEB SITE:

www.anderson.edu/sot — current seminary news

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP WEB SITE:

www.anderson.edu/ccl — lectures, study programs, and materials

For giving or estate planning information, please contact the Office of Seminary Advancement, (765) 641-4526, or send e-mail to dlneidert@anderson.edu.

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Serving Outside the Seminary Walls

Dr. Barry Ross, professor of Old Testament, taught in Africa from mid-May through mid-August, 2008. Ross taught three Old Testament courses at Pilgrim Wesleyan Bible College in Jembo, Zambia, and two Old Testament courses at Emmanuel Wesleyan Bible College in Xai Xai, Mozambique.

David Neidert, director of seminary advancement, is representing the School of Theology with Indiana Ministries of the Church of God in the pursuit of a Lilly Endowment grant proposal. The grant is for the establishment of a Ministerial Excellence Fund and financial education for pastors and church governance boards related to pastoral compensation.

Neidert had the opportunity to travel to Egypt in June as part of an AU faculty and staff Tri-S trip. While there, the group spent an evening with Church of God pastors from around Egypt at the retreat center located in Alexandria. Neidert also had the privilege of teaching in Mexico during July at the fourth CCL intensive with La Buena Tierra Bible Training School in Saltillo. He also preached at the Mireles Church of God in Saltillo.

Dr. MaryAnn Hawkins, associate professor of Christian mission, led an Anderson University Tri-S group to Egypt in May 2008. The work group painted the Church of God's youth retreat center located in Alexandria. In addition to forging relationships with the Church of God pastors there, the group

toured Egypt and the ancient biblical and historical sites.

Dr. Guy Brewer, associate professor of pastoral theology, has been very busy as a part of his role with the School of Theology. In May 2008, he gave a presentation to the North Indiana Association of the Church of God on spiritual health and wholeness in ministry. Additionally, he was the 2008 keynote speaker for the Wyoming Association of the Church of God Annual Camp Meeting (Bear Mountain). In August 2008, Brewer presented "A Soul Care Model for Christian Stewardship" at an ecumenical gathering of faculty and denominational leaders at the Ecumenical Stewardship Center in Indianapolis.

Brewer is immersed in a book project titled, *Poet-Gardener: A Soul Care Model for Preaching*. This book project (slated for completion in May 2009) is also his PhD dissertation with Graduate Theological Foundation, Oxford University.

Dr. David Sebastian, dean of the seminary, served as the interim pastor for the Chesterfield Church of God from May to August 2008, while the church's pastor, the Rev. Dr. CD Oliver, was on sabbatical. Additionally, Sebastian was the 2008 keynote speaker for the West Virginia Preaching Clinic.

Dr. John Aukerman, professor of Christian education, had a very busy summer in his

work related to the seminary and community. Aukerman helped conduct ministry training for the LOGOS Ministry in both Florida and Ohio. Additionally, Aukerman participated in the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the LOGOS Ministry New Mexico. Aukerman's expertise was also utilized during the 2008 North American Convention of the Church of God as he presented workshops on dealing redemptively with conflict in the local church and helping individuals understand the LOGOS Ministry.

Aukerman and his wife, Brenda, are serving as members of the Board of Directors of Silent Blessings, an international ministry that brings spiritual healing to deaf and hard-of-hearing people and their families. In addition, John continues donating a few hours each week to Operation Love Ministries (a food pantry program) in Anderson.

Center prices increase

The Center is increasing its pricing effective Jan. 1, 2009. The price increase is necessary due to paper and postage increases over the past several years. This price increase is the first in three years, as the Center continues its commitment to affordable continuing education programming. For pricing, see the Center's most current price sheet on the Web after Jan. 1, 2009.