



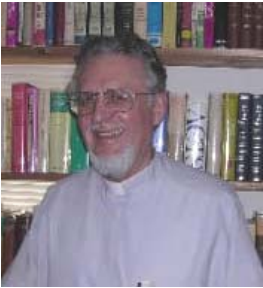
# CRANMER THEOLOGICAL HOUSE UPDATE

*A Reformed Episcopal  
School of Ministry*

[www.cranmerhouse.org](http://www.cranmerhouse.org)

2009 Graduation Issue #2

## From the Dean's Desk CTH Status Report



May has been an exceptionally busy month for the seminary, with preparations for graduation added to the ongoing class schedule, which continues into June.

Don't forget that our 2009 Commencement Service is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on 30 May at The Cathedral of St. Matthias, 4142 Dayflower Dr., Katy, TX 77494. If you are planning to attend and have not yet placed your reservation, please send an email to [cicrenshaw@gmail.com](mailto:cicrenshaw@gmail.com) with the number of persons who will be attending graduation and the luncheon afterward.

This issue of *Update* includes more information about our upcoming graduates, as well as a report from an alumnus who is preparing for a new phase of his ministry.

## Another Way to Donate: Follow-up

In the March issue of *Update* I reported that purchases from Amazon.com can earn money for CTH if you begin at the DMA Women of the Church website ([www.dmawomen.org](http://www.dmawomen.org)) and click on the Amazon Associate link in the left margin. During the first quarter of 2009, enough qualifying purchases were made to earn \$75 for the seminary! Please continue to participate in this easy way to earn free money for CTH.

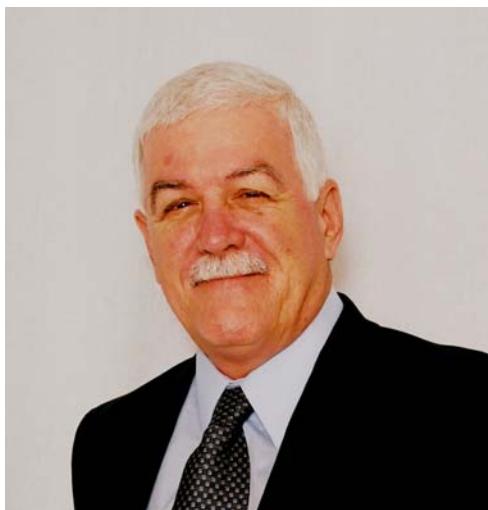
## Prayer Requests

Please consider scheduling one of our professors to visit your parish and present the needs of Cranmer House. Here are our current needs:

- A building in The Woodlands for the seminary
- New students
- Continued financial support, especially in light of the national economic downturn

*The Very Rev Dr Curtis I. Crenshaw, Th.D. Ω*

## Mr. Ed Fowler, M.Div., 2009



### *Biographical Sketch*

Ed Fowler came to saving faith in middle age through no fault of his own but a sovereign act of the Holy Spirit. He began forthwith to attend church and read the Bible and recognized almost immediately a ruptured synapse between the faith described in the Scriptures and that practiced in the contemporary church.

Seeking both to understand and live out this strange new faith, he gave up one job as a talk show host. God intervened and in an act of divine mercy delivered him from his other job as a newspaper columnist via firing. Liberated, he enrolled in Bible college and went to work in missions to Muslims. Completing an associate's degree in biblical studies, he began to comprehend the depths of his ignorance and enrolled in seminary in Houston.

Dissatisfied with the ahistorical approach of the school he was attending, he sought a seminary that taught from a reformed and historical perspective. This quest led him to Cranmer House. He arrived with no intention of seeking ordination but to prepare to write on Christian topics as a livelihood. A growing conviction of the lack of direction in the contemporary American church gave rise to a decision of conscience that he must not snipe from the sideline but enter the fray. He has applied for postulant status in the REC.

**Q. What will you miss most about CTH?**

A. I'll miss the stimulation. In the first place, I'll miss the stimulation of the instruction of godly professors adept in merging theology with pastoral application and challenging my presuppositions. In the second place, I'll miss the stimulation of fellow students whose quick minds and theological insight are exceeded only by their faithfulness to our Lord. I plan not to miss these precious things too much, however; I am already auditing one course for which I transferred in credit and intend to audit others.

**Q. What is the most important thing you learned at CTH?**

A. The most important thing I learned is a body of things about the Trinitarian, sacramental, liturgical nature of worship. I had spent six years in an inner city church of another denomination and served as

an elder and teacher there and I saw service as fundamental to worship. I have not abandoned that conviction of the necessity of service but have come to see faithful service as proceeding from proper worship. If the doctrine is wrong the worship will be wrong and in the end the entire project will collapse. Sound doctrine informs worship acceptable to God and true servanthood flows from that. The theology of ascension drives us to our knees to wash feet.

**Q. What advice would you give those who are considering attending seminary?**

A. This question presumes sagacity so I'll try to muster some. My advice begins with recognizing that the biblical mandate calls all believers to radical discipleship. The ideal of a priesthood of believers does not require that all seek ordination or pursue vocational ministry but it does demand that all equip themselves to give a defense of the faith that is in them. Too many are too quick to bemoan the decay of our culture and too slow to put on the full armor to take a role in reversing it. I have been inspired by a young couple, Damien and Jolie Grout who drive to Houston from Jackson, MS, twice a month to attend classes. What a splendid example.

And I figure I have blown the cover for a lot of people. If an over-the-hill sportswriter can learn theology and biblical languages, surely all are without excuse.

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**The Rev. Stephen E. Stults, M.Div., 2009**

A native of Wisconsin who grew up in Illinois and Tennessee, the Rev. Stephen E. Stults is a graduate of the University of the South, in Tennessee. Fr. Stults also studied *Britain in the Renaissance* and *Reformation Church History* at Oxford University. He and his family joined St. Thomas of Canterbury in Houston, TX, in 1994, while he was still in a career in the insurance and financial services field. He served in many capacities as a layman, including vestryman, lay reader, and youth group sponsor. Fr. Stults later left his career to pursue seminary studies. After over four years of study under the Bishop and Rector, he was made a perpetual Deacon in 2001. He continued his theological studies by enrolling at Cranmer House, and he was ordained as a Priest in October 2006 at St. Thomas of Canterbury.

Father Stults now serves as Vicar of St. Barnabas RE Church in Bellville, TX. He and his wife Della have two children.



## The Rev. Charlie Camlin, Th.M., 2009

The Rev. Charlie Camlin is a native of Georgetown, SC. After 11 years in the business world, Charlie sensed a calling into the ministry of the gospel. He holds a BA in Biblical Studies from Southeastern College at Wake Forest and a Th.M. in Historical and Systematic Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary. Over the past 12 years, Charlie has served in churches in North Carolina, Texas (includ-

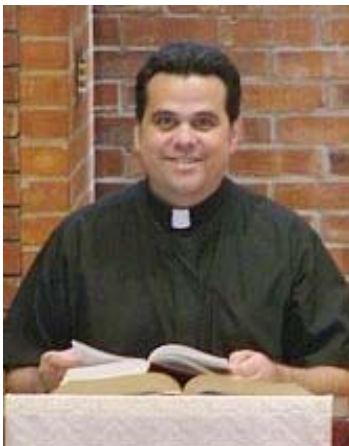
ing 2 years at Church of the Holy Communion in Dallas), and Virginia.

He has been rector of Holy Trinity Church in Fairfax, VA, for the past 4 years and teaches Church History at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax. He and his wife Brett have been married for 16 years and have 3 children, Dell (14), Paige (13), and Cam (8).

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## The Rev. John X. Leal: Britain Bound

*M.Div. 1997, Cranmer Theological House*



In Acts 16:6-10 we read about one of the most amazing events in the history of the Church. This is, of course, the Macedonian call and St Paul's change of direction from Asia Minor to Macedonia. We can see in this wonderful story how God orders our steps and directs our lives even when

conventional wisdom might say otherwise. The Macedonian call is a call for all of us to be careful not to allow our circumstances or our position in life to stop us from doing the will of God. It is still important today for ministers in Christ's Church to be open to the doors God has prepared for them. Sometimes we think they are open, but God has ways of closing doors and preventing us from moving in places he may not have for us. This seems to be the way God has dealt with me over the past 10 years and it still is His way even now.

At the end of 2007, I began to think about my goals as a priest, wondering where I should go. Being bivocational for ten years was a very rewarding journey for me, but I knew it was time for me to be in some type of full-time ministry. My daughter Abriel was graduating from high school and it was time for me to move on and fulfill my desire to place all my energy in serving the Church. I had some different options available here in the States, but I always

remembered my conversation with Bishop John Fenwick of the Free Church of England who was like the man from Macedonia in Paul's vision saying "come over here I have plenty of work, but no money." This need I kept in my heart till the beginning of 2008 when I contacted the good Bishop to tell him I would be in the UK in August 2008 on vacation. During this time God was preparing the road for me in ways that I never imagined. I met an English woman named Heather, who is now my fiancée. She lives only ten minutes from the parish in which Bishop John needed to fill a position, Christ Church, Liscard, Wallasey.

When I went to England in August 2008, I only had one day to visit the Bishop. God truly orchestrated this meeting to the last detail. Then in February 2009, I went back to Christ Church, preached at Morning Prayer and officiated and preached at Evening Prayer. I also visited with the wardens and minister in charge, the Rev George McGeagh (who is 84), and they received me and my fiancée Heather with open arms. The parish is largely an older congregation of about 40 active members and is in need of someone who can carry the duties of parish ministry day in and day out. They don't have a stipend process to support their clergy, and I trust that over time we can become self sufficient. I am now making preparations to move, and my hope is to be in the UK by the beginning of September 2009.

Please pray for me, for Christ Church, and for Bishop Fenwick and The Free Church of England. You may contact me at [jlealx1@yahoo.com](mailto:jlealx1@yahoo.com). Ω