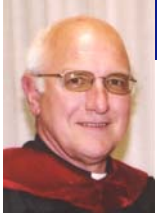


# FROM A LOFT



MARCH 2006



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings to you all.

This newsletter comes to you as another year gets underway. For some of you this will be the first time that you have studied with, or been involved in the life of EIDTS. For others it will be one more year on the pathway to an L.Th.

For many of you EIDTS has become part of your life. Those who fit their studies in over and above their work and other commitments often find that an L.Th is a “long-term” undertaking. I am always impressed by that dedication and persistence. It also means that our Graduation Ceremonies take on a sense of celebration and fulfilment and it often feels as if we are farewelling some old friends.

Our Graduation this year will be held at the Community of the Sacred Name on the corner of Tuam and Barbadoes Streets, Christchurch, at 7.30pm on Friday 21st of April. If any of you are going to be in Christchurch at that time I hope that you will make the effort to join us. The speaker will be Rev Dr Paul Trebilco from the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Otago University .

This year we have 103 students enrolled in 150 courses. Last year our figures were 88 students and 120 courses so it is good to see our numbers rising. However what pleases me most is not just the number of students or the number of graduates, but the sense that at EIDTS we are offering courses of a high quality and of a nature that will better equip people to serve in the Church and in the community.

I trust that you will find that your courses this year meet those same hopes and aspirations.

Bruce Hansen

## ENID BENNETT



We were sorry to hear of the death of Enid Bennett on 21 February after a long illness. Enid has worked with EIDTS in various capacities over a number of years, most recently as Assessor for MM206 “Ministry with Children”. We have valued

her support and interest in EIDTS and in theological education in general. We extend our sympathy to Enid’s family and friends and colleagues who will miss her deeply.

*In a tribute paid to Enid at her funeral at St Francis Anglican Church, Tairua on Saturday 25th February 2006 the Rev Dr Lynne Wall said:*

Enid was the first woman to be appointed to the faculty of Trinity Methodist Theological College as Wesley Lecturer in Systematic Theology from 1986 until 1991 and was recently made a Fellow of the College.

Enid was a strong role model and a passionate advocate for women in ministry, both lay and ordained. She was adventurous and fearless in her thinking, reading and writing, especially in the area of feminist theology. An ecumenical perspective shaped her life and work and she continued to explore new ideas right to the end. (My last conversation with her included a discussion of new hymns and how to introduce them to congregations.)

At the top of her house was a room for prayer and meditation. It seemed to me that in this place she found her source of strength and courage. For hers was a lively Christian faith lived out in a practical ministry of love, compassion and hospitality as she identified with the struggles of people and the earth to find their God-given potential.

Enid was a committed teacher, a wise mentor, a courageous theologian and a gracious pastor. Thanks be to God for the gift of Enid and her life lived so fully amongst us.

**RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS 2006****MM205 Homiletics**

*Nelson Kennedy reflects on his experience at the "Homiletics" Residential School held at the Adcroft Retreat Centre, Christchurch, in January this year.*

I was privileged to attend the 2006 Residential School held from 17 to 20 January under the tutelage of Bishop John Bluck at Adcroft Retreat Centre in a rural setting less than 30 minutes from central Christchurch. I say privileged because these few days proved to be special to me. The opportunity to learn from an acknowledged communicator, and to share that learning process with group members who were highly motivated to improve their preaching skills, was an experience that will stay with me as I engage in sermon preparation. Bishop John's approach was challenging of our traditional views of how to prepare and preach and made good use of contemporary television material which often sets the pattern for how we receive information today. The course was highly participatory and involved the preparation of a short sermon on a set text. We each delivered our sermon to the rest of the group and received written feedback from each person.

There is further work to be done during the year to complete the course credits. After sharing in this Residential School I now feel enthused and equipped to complete the course and to continue my work as a preacher.

Nelson Kennedy  
Christchurch

**MM204 Worship and Liturgy**

*Participants in the "Worship and Liturgy" Residential School held at Adcroft Retreat Centre, Christchurch, on 21 - 25 January reflect on that experience.*

Late afternoon on Saturday 21st of January saw ten course participants, some of whom had flown in from various parts of the North

Island, gather for an evening meal at Adcroft, a retreat centre just beyond the western edges of Christchurch where they were accommodated until Wednesday 25th. Time was spent learning as much as was possible about worship and liturgy so as to enable those who attended to best address the demands during the year of this EIDTS paper. The course was ably lead and directed by Ken Booth. Some comments from course participants follow:

"A wonderful diversity of participants and sharing of experiences.

As always the interdenominational mix has ensured wonderful dialogue. This is one of EIDTS great strengths.

Questions, questions and more questions! For me this course has been about learning how to ask rich questions, how to see the familiar afresh and to reflect on what we do when we gather as church.

Stimulating questions, "unpacking" the well-known statements. Laughter and fellowship.

This course has been thought-provoking and stimulating. My eyes have been opened to looking at liturgy and worship in new ways. Worship at home may not seem the same again!

Doing liturgy was comprehensively experienced during the residential workshop."

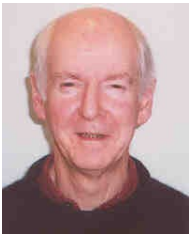
The course concluded with a Eucharist before disbursing back to our various families and homes.



Standing L-R: Margaret Retallick, Henry Resink, Dianne Hawken, Barry Williams, Lynne Horwood, Lynnette Lightfoot, Ruth Smart, Barry Kelk.

Seated L-R: Anne Chrisp, Ken Booth, Marion Partridge.

STAFF NEWS



Our



good



wishes



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Keith  
Carley  
and



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

E r i c e

COURSES COMMENCING  
DURING 2006

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## THANK YOU

In June last year EIDTS was involved in the Governments "Assessment of Strategic Relevance" process. That necessitated our collecting a good deal of data from our students and graduates to support our submissions to the Tertiary Education Commission. We would like to thank all those who answered our questionnaires and provided information that assisted us in that process.

Again in September we had our NZQA Audit and once more a number of our students and tutors were approached to provide information for that audit.

The outcome of both of those "processes" has been positive and affirming. Our thanks go to all of you who assisted in those surveys.

We would also like to thank those who faithfully and regularly complete their mid-year and end-of-year Course Evaluations. This information helps us to assess our material and delivery in each subject and keep up-to-date with our student's needs. It also is helpful information when we come to audits and reviews.