



The 2009 Hal Brook Perry Award

C. Douglas Earle

You first met Hal Perry during seminary days when the Earle family lived next to his house on Harris Park Avenue. You and Mary were formed in important ways by that friendship with Hal – his deeply incarnational, deeply Anglican way of living his faith; his commitment to social justice and his care for others; and his delight in the details of your family life from the sidewalk chalk drawings of sons Bryan and Jason to sharing a companionable glass or two of Bushmills.

Following graduation from Southwest in 1984, you served four parishes in South Texas before moving to San Antonio and becoming diocesan college ministry coordinator for West Texas. That ministry was marked with a deft ability of helping college students discern their life vocation and you remain in touch with many. You then joined spouse Mary and friend Jane Patterson at the Church of the Reconciliation where you honored the distinctive traditions and life of that parish known for dedication to the arts and its outreach ministries.

Without any fanfare, your current ministry at deeply Anglo-Catholic St. Paul's Church, San Antonio, has been the catalyst for transformation of the parish by its members. It is a model of Christian formation at every level of parish life.

You helped the congregation realize their vocation to serve the children of their impoverished neighborhood. The church's Montessori School has become exemplary in its early childhood and primary education. Children see how people treat one another in the Kingdom of God during their school days.

You have spent time, imagination and energy in working with parishioners to bring out the original physical beauty of the church buildings – project after project – while looking out for what needs attention next.

As Tish Hinojosa wrote – You have come and with your heart listened – from South Texas to St. Paul's. We are delighted to present you with the 2009 Hal Brook Perry Distinguished Alumni Award.

Douglas Travis
Dean and President

Daryl T. Hay
Alumni Association President



SEMINARY OF THE
SOUTHWEST

AN EPISCOPAL SEMINARY

The 2009 Hal Brook Perry Award

Lacy Largent

With one foot in a freighter ship docked in the Port of Houston and the other planted in the pine forest of Camp Allen, you practice an energetic dual ministry to both international seafarers and guests at the Diocese of Texas conference center with a remarkable “Can Do” attitude.

Following parish work after graduating from Southwest in 1990, you became spiritual director at Camp Allen in 2000. You present imaginative morning and evening services in the newly-refurbished All Saints’ Chapel and offer spiritual advice to the center’s many guests from around the country throughout the week.

Realizing that you were being called to a second ministry that was larger than the center could provide, “Lord, expand my ministry” became your prayer. You told a seminary audience a few years ago that God answered your prayer by “giving me the world.” You have been a chaplain in the Howard Tellepsen Seafarers’ Center in the bustling, international Port of Houston since 2002. Your weekly schedule always includes at least one seventy-eight mile commute between the sites of your ministries.

You and five other chaplains from other faith traditions each board one of more than seventy ships that are docked in the Port every day. Your stay on board ranges from a few hours to most of a day. Port restrictions enacted after 9-11 require sailors to stay on their ship unless they have a current visa so the role of port chaplain has noticeably increased. In addition to providing usual pastoral care, chaplains are helpful liaisons between seafarers and their families throughout the world by providing cell phones to call back home, arranging money transfers through onshore banks and even doing Christmas shopping for the sailors.

A hallmark of Hal Perry’s ministry to our seminary was helping others. You do that constantly whether in the pine forest or onboard an ocean freighter. We are proud to present you with the 2009 Hal Brook Perry Distinguished Alumni Award.

Douglas Travis
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Johnny W. Cook

Like a Bridge Over Troubled Waters, you have been a vital part of the renaissance of three Texas congregations while taking leadership roles in many local and ecumenical initiatives during your ministry of twenty-five years.

Two of these churches were in the Piney Woods of the Diocese of Texas, the first of three dioceses you have served with skill and compassion. The second call of your ministry was to Trinity Church in Jasper, Texas, where you found a congregation that was divided and dispirited. You encouraged parishioners to begin building community anew and the parish was thriving when you left after three years to calm the waters at St. Cyprian Church in Lufkin. That church was in chaos and its school teetered on the brink of bankruptcy. St. Cyprian's went from crisis to growth during your eight years of steady leadership.

You then went to the Diocese of Dallas and St. Luke's Church where the congregation had been split by the departure of the previous rector. Once again choppy waters were smoothed and St. Luke's grew in six years with a refocus on mission ministry – both domestic and foreign – ranging from the Shoshone Bannock Indians in Blackfoot, Idaho, and numerous missions to Honduras to support of the Lost Boys of the Sudan in Dallas – one of whom is now enrolled at Southwest.

You are now in the sixth year as dean of Christ Cathedral in Mobile, Alabama, where attendance has quadrupled and the average age of parishioners is forty after tumultuous times at the beginning of this decade when the majority of the congregation left the Episcopal Church and Hurricane Katrina battered the church four years ago.

Much like the late Hal Perry, your ministry is rooted in a foundation of quiet, competent and diligent service. We thank you for past service on our Alumni Steering Committee and rejoice in awarding you the 2009 Hal Brook Perry Distinguished Alumni Award.

Douglas Travis
Dean and President

Daryl T. Hay
Alumni Association President



SEMINARY OF THE
SOUTHWEST

AN EPISCOPAL SEMINARY

The 2009 Durstan R McDonald Teaching Award

Molly Bennett

Perceptive reader of modern culture, veteran advocate of lay ministry and delightfully witty colleague, you have brought scores of highly committed and energetic Certificate students into the Southwest community.

You came to the seminary in 1999 to develop training programs for working youth ministers and educators after directing the religious education program for adults and children at nearby All Saints' Church for fourteen years. You, then Dean Durstan McDonald and other members of our community created the unique Certificate Program in Youth Ministry and Christian Education so lay educators could come together twice a year for one-week sessions on campus. The program offers instruction, discussion, theological reflection, practical ministry skills and spiritual formation. Certificate participants left the sessions with something they never had – a network of colleagues ready to share advice and offer support year-round, in addition to a solid foundation in theological education.

They also experience the “Wonder That Is Molly.” “In humble friendship, she probes the hearts and minds of her students and leads us to a greater understanding of ourselves and God’s creation,” notes one veteran Certificate participant. Another thanks you for cultivating time and space for all – “She is the rare person who welcomes you – just as you are.” Fatigued souls who wonder how to go on in a life of ministry often ask the question – “Who ministers to the minister?” – Molly does.

It seems definitely Molly-like for you to receive this teaching award named in honor of the seminary dean who hired you. In recognition of all the ministries you continue to enhance throughout the country and in thanks for being such an insightful colleague adept at “reading the wrinkles and bumps of seminary life and puncturing our pomposities with brilliant wit,” we are pleased to present you with the 2009 Durstan R McDonald Teaching Award.

Douglas Travis
Dean and President

Cynthia Kittredge
Secretary of the Faculty