On July 1, 2017, the landscape of theological education changed as the BTSR community welcomed Dr. Linda McKinnish Bridges as president of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

Will you consider celebrating the inauguration of Dr. Bridges with a monthly gift to BTSR? Monthly gifts strengthen and sustain the BTSR Annual Fund which offers scholarship assistance, invests in academic excellence, and sustains the overall mission of the seminary.

Visit btsr.edu/onward to make your gift today.

...SO THAT YOU MAY BE A BLESSING.

GENESIS 12:1-3
EVERY YEAR, BTSR CELEBRATES THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH CORPORATE WORSHIP, COMMISSIONING OUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY AS THEY EMBARK ON A NEW ACADEMIC VENTURE.

In addition, several awards and scholarships are presented to our students for outstanding academic performance and leadership. Each of these awards are funded through endowments and the generosity of several organizations and individuals. The 2017 Convocation Award winners are:

**CONVOCATION AWARD WINNERS 2017**

**CHARLIE FLEET**
*The Amy and Clyde Hickerson Greek Award*
Given to the returning student who has demonstrated excellence in the study and use of the Greek language in work at BTSR.

**ROSA CRUMP**
*Barbara Jackson Memorial Book Award*
Given to a female student who demonstrates excellence in scholarship, promise for ministry, financial need and articulate writing.

**CHUCK CROCKER**
*The Elmo Scoggin Hebrew Award*
Given to the student who best exhibits excellence in the study and use of biblical Hebrew.

**DEBORAH WILSON**
*Stephen and Dixie Brachlow Award*
Given to the student engaged in the study of Christian spirituality who best exemplifies the spirit of Stephen and Dixie’s contributions to the life of BTSR.

**COFFEE & CONVERSATION SERIES FEATURING:**

**LERITA COLEMAN BROWN**
*Listening in Silence, Stillness, and Solitude*
Feb 13, 2018

**MICHAEL SCIRETTI**
*Con-Templing Spirituality*
April 10, 2018

Sponsored by Hampton Baptist Church - In Honor of Rev. Chester Brown
Events begin at 11:30 am in the BTSR chapel.

**PASTORS’ SCHOOL**

**MARJORIE THOMPSON**
*The Dance of Personal and Communal Spiritual Practice*
January 18

**DR. RIDGEWAY ADDISON**
will guide a session around the work of Dr. Howard Thurman.

**SUZANNE STOVALL VINSON**
will guide a session around creative spiritual practices.

Pastors’ School sponsored by CBFVA. Event begins at 10:00 am in the BTSR chapel.
“What does servant leadership mean for Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond? What does it mean for BTSR to not only educate people for the towel, but to wear our own towel? As an institution, what is it that we need to do in order to bend the knee, to prepare the basin of water, to stretch out the towel for drying? Might it be to acknowledge that educational delivery is about technology and accessibility is a primary cornerstone of our work? Might it be to reaffirm our commitment to the work of the local congregation? Might it be to serve Richmond? To acknowledge that we are here - right here - in Richmond; not Greenville or Nashville, not Decatur or Louisville... but Richmond, in the great Commonwealth of Virginia? Might it be to acknowledge that the categories of sacred and secular, clergy and laity are truly artificial and maybe even ecclesiastically driven constructs of power?

There is no difference in the one who serves God in the operating room with her skills in medicine, in the one who serves on the courtroom floor, or the one who serves as CEO of the corporation, or the teacher who serves students in his classroom and the one who stands at the pulpit on Sunday. We are all in this together, and we need one another to create a better world for us all.”

“It is this moment to which we have been called, and it is to this place in time and space that we serve. And with a deep sense of call and purpose, we commit ourselves one more time, one more year, one more internal altar call - to the power of the towel.”
ALLAN BURTON  
M. DIV ’98

VALERIE BURTON  
M. DIV ’98

“...we needed a place to be theologically educated and trained that recognized we were equally called – just as we believed. We needed a place that would nurture that calling and then some.

“In our chapter at BTSR, we found a beautifully challenging environment. BTSR was a new skin, an open door, a looking glass where we were being invited to see a much broader vision of ministry, of leadership, of faith communities, of ourselves.”

DANIEL GLAZE  
M. DIV ’04

“Linda, welcome home. Welcome home to the place you helped build. Welcome home to the people who have prayed for you, loved you, and blessed you on your journey of faith and vocation.”

PAT ROGERS  
M. DIV ’17

“Today I say to you, Dr. Bridges, blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord. Dr. Bridges, I believe God has spoken some things to you. I can see them already in motion. They will be fulfilled according to your obedience to His holy plan.”

THOMAS H. GRAVES  
1991-2007, PRESIDENT

“Linda, on this day we confirm God’s blessing upon you. And very importantly on this day we give you our blessing, with a personal commitment and deep dedication to uphold you in our actions, our thoughts, and our prayers. You were taken, broken, blessed, and now you are given, given in service to this community of faith, commissioned to the task of serving as president of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.”

DR. MARK E. BIDDLE  
RUSSELL T. CHERRY PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT

“BTSR came to be in order to nurture rigorous theological inquiry and education; a commitment to the Bible, not to aphorisms about it; a determination to serve God’s Kingdom and God’s people; a conviction that in Christ, all are free and worthy; a rejection of the dichotomies of mind or spirit, scholarly or practical, private or corporate, salvation of souls or social justice that fracture the gospel, damage persons, and disrupt community; instead to embrace holistic discipleship and spirituality.

“Very early in her academic career as a member of its original faculty, Dr. Bridges helped to identify these values and principles for BTSR. The cause of Christ still needs someone faithfully to champion these principles. These values face new challenges every day. BTSR faces new challenges every day. I am confident that, at heart, these values have attracted Linda McKinnish Bridges back to us and that she will lead us as we tell the old story of Jesus and His love in a new vernacular.”
BTSR IS MOVING ONWARD!

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