Few people have given more of themselves to Harding School of Theology and to the L. M. Graves Memorial Library than Don and Evelyn Meredith. The Merediths are two of those rare individuals who give generously of their time and resources expecting no recognition in return. They consistently deflect attention away from themselves rather than accept praise for their hard work and countless contributions to the community they serve.

After a combined 87 years of work in the HST library, Don and Evelyn retired at the end of August. The Merediths have worked tirelessly in their support of the school, both on and off the clock, for each one of these 87 years. They are two of the most generous, humble and loving people you will ever meet. They are a true testament to Christ in their lives, work and relationships, and they love each other and the people in their lives with an authentic, selfless love that comes from an outpouring of the heart. It’s the kind of love I imagine God desires of us daily. It’s the kind of love the Merediths have shown to HST, the church and so many others throughout their lives. The Merediths’ manifold contributions to the HST community — past, present and future — cannot be quantified or overstated.

This issue is in honor of the Merediths (pictured on the cover) and their legendary work for the school. One way you may honor Don and Evelyn and their work is through a gift to HST. You may give by calling the Advancement Office at 901-432-7723, giving online at hst.edu/giving, or mailing a gift to 1000 Cherry Road, Memphis, TN 38117. Please note that the gift is in honor of Don and Evelyn.
Don Meredith began working as HST’s assistant librarian 49 years ago in 1968. He had already worked part time in our library for four years while earning his Master of Theology degree. Furthermore, he had done part-time work in libraries every year beginning in eighth grade including his four years at Harding in Searcy. While in library school at the University of North Carolina, he also worked part time at Duke Divinity School Library. It would be difficult to imagine anyone better trained for his life’s work than Don. With 14 years of library experience and his Master of Library Science, he was well equipped to be a librarian. With a bachelor’s in Bible, his master’s, and five years of experience in theological libraries, he was well equipped to be a theological librarian.

Don began working at HST under the tutelage of our legendary first head librarian, Annie May Alston Lewis. She had begun our library in the basement of the mansion with 200 volumes she brought from Searcy. By the time of her retirement, she had built one of the premier Southern theological libraries with 68,000 volumes. She also created the foundational Advanced Theological Research course that teaches our students how to use the library, how to research various theological topics, and how to write academic papers.

Don assumed the head librarian position when Annie May retired in 1983. For the past 34 years, he has built upon and expanded her tradition of excellence. Under Don’s leadership, our library has expanded to close to 147,000 volumes, added nearly 50 percent to its size (2006), and entered the modern world of digital media and distance students (See Bob Turner’s article on page 4). He has steadily updated the ATR course, teaching it 177 times — more times than anyone has taught or probably will teach any one course at HST.

These are a few of the characteristics of Don’s work that stand out to me:

- Don has an incredible depth of knowledge about theological books and research. In the various fields of theology, he is a fountain of knowledge about authors; publishers; and the physical location in the library of books, periodicals, and even unpublished library materials. For example, Don can describe authors, publishers, and the nature of all the significant commentaries on Mark.

- Don is specifically well-versed in materials connected with our Restoration Movement (or Stone-Campbell Movement) heritage. He knows our history and its leaders from the early 19th century forward with even a detailed knowledge of a wide array of now defunct journals and of the many unpublished theological dissertations written by those associated with our movement.

- Don gives freely of his time to students, preachers, writers, etc., to help them track down items they need for their research. He happily drops whatever he is doing to help someone track down an obscure reference, ancient or modern. If Don can’t find it, you know you’re in trouble.

- Don has sacrificed untold hours not only reading more than 1,400 bibliographic essays written for the ATR course but also going over them with a fine-tooth comb to help students build a foundation of skills in research, composition and Turabian style. No one on our faculty reads papers the way Don does, running down and checking many references. He bleeds red all over those initial papers, but his hard work is a foundation for every paper each student writes in later courses.

- Don exemplifies Christian discipleship, living a sacrificial life seeking to follow Christ’s example. He exudes humility (as exemplified by his favorite joke, “I am Don Meredith, and I am standing up,” which plays upon his short physical stature). I have never seen him lose his cool or raise his voice. He lives a very modest lifestyle, living in a modest home and driving his cars until they drop. He has served faithfully as an elder at the Church of Christ at White Station since 1990. He has taught an adult class there for more than 45 years.

As a faculty member who came to the school the year Don assumed the head librarianship, I think I speak for our entire faculty in noting that Don has served us in an extraordinary manner. When I came in 1983, I was on the front end of my dissertation. It was amazing to me that our library had nearly every book or article I needed for my work. On the rare occasion when we did not have an item, Don was quick to order it if it was something we could use or to get it by interlibrary loan if not. That has never changed. He also keeps track of subjects I teach or am especially interested in and sends me references to new things that are available. For example, as I write this, I have received two emails from him in the last week informing me of new materials of interest.

Don followed Annie May, a librarian who is legendary in the HST community. It is not often that one who follows a legend becomes one himself. But this one has. Thank you, Don Meredith, for 49 years of sacrificial service to HST and its library.
The Final Chapter

BY BOB TURNER, LIBRARIAN

Sometimes we walk in libraries and assume they must have always been the way they are: shelves full of books and books with a place — carefully organized according to a classification system. In the same way a child cannot imagine his parents not being the age of parents, we often imagine that library collections must have always existed. Of course, this is not the case. Like everything, libraries have lifespans.

It is doubtful you know anyone who has witnessed the growth of a library collection, from infancy to middle age, the way Don Meredith has during the past half-century. A library that began as a few shelves of books in the basement of the mansion has expanded to become one of the stronger theological libraries in the American South.

Over that time, Don has continued the tradition he inherited with impressive acquisitions in biblical studies, Jewish backgrounds, early Christian history and Christian theology. Since becoming head librarian in 1983, he has increased holdings in these areas while paying significant attention to literature about the Greco-Roman world and the Stone-Campbell Movement, particularly in Canada and the U.K., with a distinct focus on small movements and privately published materials. Aside from his work in collection development, he has overseen the shift from a card catalog to an online catalog; hired and retained a competent staff; expanded the library’s footprint by nearly 50 percent in 2006; increased the quantity and yield of library endowments; produced more than 40 bibliographic research guides, which he updates annually; and digitized key special collections, such as sermons of Harold Hazelip and correspondence and sermons of John Allen Chalk, which is forthcoming. Of course, he did all of this while teaching his Advanced Theological Research course to nearly every M.A., M.Div. and M.A.C.M. student since 1983 — an HST record 177 times, which includes the grading of more than 1,400 bibliographic essays.

The library will continue to walk the trail first blazed by Annie May Alston Lewis and paved by Don. We will continue to:

• Collect print books and journals that support the curriculum while increasing our commitment to digital publications to better serve distance students. This will include current coverage areas (particularly biblical studies) but will utilize new delivery models, such as our recent digital access to *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* and the *Loeb Classical Library*.

• Curate special collections and archives of Stone-Campbell Movement documents to support the ongoing study of our religious heritage. A larger audience will find these collections through *HU ScholarWorks*, a collaborative digital repository of Harding University.

• Configure our current space to meet new needs. In recent years, Don oversaw the remodeling of the reference room into an open floor plan, the elimination of the computer lab in favor of mobile devices; creation of an interactive classroom equipped for live streaming; and small changes like dry-erase-painted walls, standing desks and community tables. The library will continue not only as a collection but also a commons — to foster disciplines of research, study, conversation, fellowship, celebration and renewal.

• Serve students and alumni by making our collections accessible through platforms such as ATLA Serials or by sending print books through mail or scanned articles through email. We will continue to serve ministers and church leaders by offering space for staff meetings, private carrels for sermon preparation, reference services, and book recommendations through online platforms such as Facebook Live.

The library is in a strong place as we look forward. We will build on our historic strengths, while exploring new ways to support the mission of HST. It is impossible to imagine what this library (or any library) will look like in 49 years. But Don has positioned the library in an excellent place to welcome and participate in that future.
**A Job Well Done**

BY BRENDA CURTIS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DEAN/BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER

We all know people who work behind the scenes — doing the work that has to be done but generally staying out of the limelight and avoiding recognition for what they do. Evelyn Meredith is one of those people.

The HST library has a solid reputation of efficient, dependable service, and Evelyn is one of the main reasons for that reputation. For almost 40 years she has handled many of the behind-the-scenes functions of the library — managing periodical collections, handling interlibrary loans, maintaining archives of missionary files and miscellaneous reports, and making sure that filing and shelving are accurate. She gained some of her library experience through earlier jobs at the downtown public library in Memphis while her husband, Don, was in school and at the University of North Carolina library while he worked on his master’s degree.

Evelyn has also been involved in various ministries with the Church of Christ at White Station through the years. After many years of working in the church nursery and the food pantry, she is now serving in the sewing ministry — making child-sized quilts for the Ronald McDonald House and fabric bags to be used on walkers.

As Don and Evelyn both retire from the HST library, she looks back on her time here with many fond memories. She counts the people with whom she has worked, both in the library and other faculty and staff at HST, as one of the greatest blessings of her job. She has also enjoyed the associations she has had with librarians from other schools, and the trips that she and Don have taken for his professional meetings in places like Chicago, Canada and San Francisco. While doing all those behind-the-scenes tasks of her job, she says she has never felt bored but has enjoyed the freedom to do her job in her own way, not feeling chained to a desk.

After retirement, Evelyn expects to spend more time volunteering with the church and may even put her library skills to work in getting the church library more organized.

Evelyn’s work was recognized in April 2017 when she was awarded an Outstanding Staff Award at Harding University’s annual recognition dinner. It was a pleasure for the rest of the HST faculty and staff to see her being honored for a job well done.

**Welcoming Tina Rogers**

BY SHEILA OWEN, ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN

Professors are not the only ones who teach intensive courses at HST: Evelyn Meredith is cramming 38 years of experience into one month of training.

HST is proud to introduce our newest employee, Tina Rogers, who will be taking Evelyn’s place. Tina started working Aug. 1 as the library’s acquisitions and circulation assistant and has quickly become a valuable member of the HST family. Her primary duties are ordering and tracking books, journal subscriptions, and interlibrary loans and assisting library users at the front desk.

We asked Tina a few questions about herself.

**Education?** University of South Carolina in Spartanburg and Freed-Hardeman University

**Home?** Memphis since 1982. “Memphis is not where I grew up, but I’ve lived here longer than anywhere else — Memphis is home.”

**Family?** Husband, Jack and two daughters and two sons

**Church?** Member at Park Avenue Church of Christ since 1982. She has taught Bible classes for 2-year-olds through third-graders. Her favorite age to teach is first-grade.

**Favorite season?** Fall. Because of the colors and temperature.

**Coffee or tea?** Diet Coke!

**Family tradition?** Everyone coming to our house for Christmas.

**Hobbies?** Walking, bicycling and exercise classes.

**Bucket list?** Cruise to Alaska.

**Most surprising things learned since starting at HST:** The size of the cataloging backlog and what a busy place the library is. “There’s truly always something to do.”

The next time you are on campus for an event or to use the library, please make sure to meet Tina and welcome her. We look forward to many years of working with her.
“HST challenges Christian leaders to develop deeper faith in God and higher standards of ministry and scholarship.”

**Ministry HIGHLIGHTS**

**Faculty**  
Dr. Carlus Gupton continued as interim minister and consultant with the Oxford Church of Christ in Mississippi. He also conducted nine consultations on leadership teams, missional strategy and congregational assessment with six churches in three states. He presented “Internet-Based Ministry Resources: Top Selections for Church Leaders” at Harding Lectureship on Sept. 27. Additionally, he delivered a lecture series, “1 Peter – Living Faith When We’re Marginalized and Misunderstood” at the Harvest Fellowship at Weyburn Church of Christ in Saskatchewan, Canada, on Oct. 13-15.  
Dr. Lance Hawley presented “The Taste of the Law: Sweeter Than Honey” at the Midwest Preacher’s Retreat in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, on Sept. 25-27.  
Dr. Evertt W. Huffard spoke at a retreat in Pretoria, South Africa, for 124 church leaders from four southern African nations in August. He also consulted for churches in three states. Additionally, he spoke at retreats in Canada and Germany. He spoke at Harding’s Global Missions Experience on Sept. 21-24. Additionally, he presented three sessions on “Multicultural Conflict in Missions” at Harding Lectureship on Sept. 26.  
Dr. Steve McLeod presented three sessions on “God and the Single Christian” at Harding Lectureship on Sept. 27.  
Dr. Rick Oster presented three sessions on “New Perspectives for Processing Romans” at Harding Lectureship on Sept. 25.

**Staff**  
Matt Carter presented two sessions on “God’s Gift to the Church” at Harding Lectureship on Sept. 27.  
Dr. Jim Martin presented “Preaching Romans 12-16” at the sixth annual Kenneth V. Neller Preachers Workshop during Harding Lectureship on Sept. 26.

**Scholarship HIGHLIGHTS**

**Alumni**  
Dr. Christopher Shrock (M.A., 2007) accepted the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences position at Ohio Valley University in July.  

**Faculty**  
Dr. Carlus Gupton presented workshops on “Strong Leadership in Anxious Times” at the Ohio Valley University Teachers, Elders and Deacons Workshop on Aug. 5 in Vienna, West Virginia. He presented “Creating a Culture of Church Involvement” at the Tennessee State Lectureship of the Churches of Christ in Memphis on Sept. 2. Additionally, he attended The Global Leadership Summit hosted by the Willow Creek Association on Aug. 11-12.  
Dr. Evertt W. Huffard hosted two tour groups and HST’s Archaeology of the Bible class for a six-week period in Israel in June and July.

**Students**  
News & Events

**Notes FROM A Novice**

BY MATT LOVE, M.Div. STUDENT

I wrote the poem “The Librarian’s Books” on the occasion of a chapel talk I gave a few months ago in honor of Don Meredith as he was nearing the end of his time working at HST. What I wanted to say then is what I would like to say now: that I am indebted to and grateful for his lifework.

On one hand, I feel fully unfit to write an article about Don since I know him only a little. My relationship with him consists of a class I took five years ago with him and the weeks’ worth of time I’ve spent in the library since then. Someone who knows him as a church member, colleague, family member or friend would certainly be better suited to write an article about him. But on the other hand, I consider my perspective is truly worth writing about because my perspective is built predominantly on observation.

A person is able to do a lot of observing in a library. With the only occasional, intermittent interaction with other life forms, minds seize upon signs of movement as opportunities to be distracted from white pages and black ink. Don has spent no little time in that library, and as I’ve read Augustine or researched Athens, I’ve also learned a lot watching Don.

I have never seen him too busy to stop whatever he’s doing to help a lost student. I’ve never seen him exasperated by the same dumb questions new students are prone to ask ever and anon. I’ve never seen him put off by finding a book I couldn’t find that is right where the call number says it is. I’ve never seen him be anything but gentle and kind.

He earned a master’s degree at HST and (by the red marks on my Advanced Theological Research paper) has the smarts to have gone on to do anything he could have wanted: ministry or doctoral work. Yet he stayed here and has worked quietly for decades as our librarian.

If ministers are to be servants, then it seems to me that Don Meredith is a servant of servants. His name has not appeared on any book I’ve read nor have I ever quoted him in any sermon, but I owe him an incredible debt. His work stands behind so much good work that has taken place at this school. Without the service in my life of people like Don, how could I serve well? How could any of us?

Thank you, Don, for serving us all so well. Thank you, not only for making sure I know how to footnote or ensuring that the next book I search for will be in the stacks at HST but also for showing me what Christ looks like.

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**News & Events**

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**CHAPEL**

**Law of the Lord**

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
11-11:30 a.m.

BY MATT LOVE, M.Div. STUDENT

**The Librarian’s Books**

Once upon a time I knew a librarian. Well, “know” is too strong a word. He taught me once; I studied him — I learned volumes of his Lord.

His character impressed me so, it was written all over his face: a smile, a laugh, a youthful glow, bespectacled by humble grace.

The thing I pondered most was this: Where had he shelved his book? I searched the stacks, the indexes — none, no matter where I looked.

These curators are curious subjects — they’re read between the lines. Letters, not sentences, are their projects. They say “his” and “hers,” not “mine.”

What type of man gathers such collections, not to place his name upon it? Nor periodically making publications, and content to work in quiet?

But as I say, I met his Lord, and in truth he has much in print: For the students he taught are his word, and he, a servant of every servant.

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Don Meredith working in his office in the library at HUGSR in 1977.

**DEGREE PROGRAMS**

- M.A. Master of Arts
- M.A.C.M. Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
- M.Div. Master of Divinity
- D.Min. Doctor of Ministry
- C.S.L. Certificate in Spiritual Leadership
There are a few ways that you can give to the library:

You can add money to one of our existing endowments. These lasting accounts accrue interest over time and disburse a small percentage to the library each year:

- **Don and Evelyn Meredith Restoration Endowment** (print materials related to the Stone-Campbell Restoration Movement)
- **Mount Pleasant Church of Christ Electronic Library Endowment Fund** (database access, electronic books and digital subscriptions)
- **Pearl G. and Anna E. Lewis Memorial Library Fund** (print books)

You can also support our annual acquisition of materials by making a cash gift. Books purchased in this way receive a customized name plate to recognize the donor and the honoree. This is a fitting way to honor influential people and to commemorate particular occasions.