



## Virginia Theological Seminary

# PRESS RELEASE

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### South Carolina Doctor Receives Virginia Seminary's 2009 Lettie Pate Evans Award

**Alexandria, VA** – The Virginia Theological Seminary has awarded the 2009 [Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans \(LPWE\) Award](#) to Dr. Harold G. Morse, a South Carolina physician and active member of [Holy Trinity Episcopal Church](#) in the [Diocese of Upper South Carolina](#). The award is given each year by the Seminary to honor an Episcopal layperson who, over a significant period of time, has given leadership and unique witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ within his or her congregation, community, Diocese and in the world.

“It is the lay people who deliver the mission of the Church,” said the Very Rev. Ian Markham, the Seminary’s dean and president, “their work every day makes Christ known in the world. This year’s award recipient is a good example of ministry in daily life.”

Dr. Morse, who was nominated by his rector, the Rev. John S. Nieman, was selected by the LPWE Committee because of his lifelong dedication to providing medical care to the underprivileged, locally, nationally, and internationally. Early in his career, Morse led the effort to establish the [Anderson Free Clinic](#) which, after 25 years, continues to serve thousands of underprivileged patients. Later, Morse established the Clemson Free Clinic, which provides free essential healthcare services to the indigent and uninsured of Anderson and Pickett Counties. Both clinics continue to be led by Dr. Morse and are run with a staff of dedicated volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists, and pharmacists.

For more than 20 years Dr. Morse has also led a broad project to improve the lives of residents of the small Haitian village of Cange by helping to fund and build a health clinic. Now, Cange has a full-service hospital, whose services include primary care, women's health, surgery, dentistry, ophthalmology, and a treatment center for HIV and TB. After helping to train Haitian medical personnel to run the hospital, Morse focused on broader community efforts including water security and long-term development issues. Morse has been instrumental in helping Cange and other communities in Haiti improve sanitation, farming, and in starting income-producing manufacturing plants, a school, an Episcopal Church, and other projects.

According to Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of [Partners in Health](#), “Harry does whatever it takes to serve the people of Cange, asking how they, too, might benefit from the fruits of modern medicine and technology so that the community can thrive and, in turn, serve its neighbors.”

Established in 1999, the award honors the legacy of Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans, an Episcopal laywoman, philanthropist and friend of Virginia Theological Seminary. In selecting a recipient for this

award, advisory council members considered those who “affirm in their lives that Christian ministry is not limited to the ordained and that the people of God all have crucial roles in witnessing to God’s kingdom.”

Candidates for the award are active laypersons in an Episcopal congregation and must live in Alabama, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia or West Virginia. Nominees for the 2010 award must be submitted to the advisory council by December 15, 2009. [Click here for more information.](#)

Founded in 1823, Virginia Theological Seminary is the largest of the 11 accredited seminaries of the Episcopal Church. The school prepares men and women for service in the Church worldwide, both as ordained and lay ministers, and offers a number of professional degree programs and diplomas. Currently, the Seminary represents more than 40 different dioceses and 5 different countries, for service in the Church.

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