

WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, February 9

10:00 am - P&P Meeting

Tillett Lounge

12:00 noon Dean's Faculty Lunch

Tillett Lounge

TUESDAY, February 10

12:00 - 1:00 - La Mesa

Common Room

4:10 pm - Lecture Michael Marissen, Professor of Music at Swarthmore College

"Rejoicing Against Judaism in Handel's Messiah"

Div. G-23 [details below]

7:00 pm - Wine Tasting 102

Private Dining Room, Div. 129

WEDNESDAY, February 11

10:10 am - Weekly Worship Service

All Faith Chapel

Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center, Auditorium

11:30 -1:00 pm - Financial Literacy Presentation

Alumni Vocational Panel (Trudy Stringer)

G-23

12:00 noon - Worship Committee Meeting

G-28

12:00 noon - Lavendar Lunch

G-29

6:00 - 9:00 pm - OWC Womanism/Feminism Dinner and Discussion

Divinity Reading Room (124)

7:00 - 9:00 pm - One Night, One Voice. Violence Against Women

and the Darfur Genocide

Art Room (G-20), G-23 (details below)

THURSDAY, February 12

12:00 noon - Black Seminarians Lunch Meeting "Politics and Rebuilding New Orleans"

G-29

7:30 - 8:30 am - Community Breakfast with Professor Paul Lim

"Preaching Against Pharaoh: Liberation Theology from the

Puritan Revolution to Reverend Jeremiah Wright"

Divinity Reading Room (124)

FRIDAY, February 13

10:10 a.m. - Coffee Hour - Divinity Reading Room

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. - Eco-Concerns Org. Meeting - Vandy Biodiesel Initiative

Private Dining Room
12:10pm - Eucharist Benton Chapel
1:00 - 2:00 pm - GPAC
Tillett Lounge
1:00 - 3:30 - GDR Faculty Meeting
Private Dining Room (129)

For room reservations within the Divinity School please go to the Divinity portal <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/divinity/p/> and use the on-line room reservation form.

The Center for the Study of Religion and Culture at Vanderbilt is pleased to announce the 2009 Mafoi Carlisle Bogitsh University Seminar in Religion and Culture:

How Many Ultimate Realities Are There? Religious Diversity and The Trinity

John J. Thatamanil

Assistant Professor of Theology, Vanderbilt Divinity School

Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 7:00 pm

Benton Chapel, Vanderbilt Divinity School

Reception to follow in Tillett Lounge

Christian theologians have long sought a way to understand religious diversity without explaining diversity away. In this lecture, John Thatamanil will address religious diversity by arguing for a complex view of ultimate reality. He will appeal to three key terms--Mystery, Contingency, and Relation--and show how this particular "trinity" can help us understand and learn from the differences between Hindu, Christian and Buddhist traditions without erasing difference or dismissing unity.

Over the last two decades, this way of understanding religious difference has come in for severe criticism. In this model, the different experiences of "ultimate reality" or "the really real" do not tell us anything about what the Real is and so unity ultimately trumps diversity.

Two models have come to prominence since: 1) The different religions really have different ultimate realities in view. There is no one reality like God or Brahman behind the different religious traditions. On this view, religious diversity wins out over unity. There are multiple religious ultimates. 2) The ultimate reality is complex: it is neither one nor a sheer many. This particular family of approaches has been especially appealing to Trinitarian theologians for whom God is neither one nor many but one-in-many and many-in-one.

In this lecture, John Thatamanil will argue that this latter kind of approach is most adequate. He will talk about trinity by appealing to three terms--Mystery, Contingency, and Relation--and show how this particular "trinity" can help us understand and learn from the differences between Hindu, Christian and Buddhist traditions without erasing difference or dismissing unity.

Religion in the Arts and Contemporary Culture

Guest Lecture

"Rejoicing Against Judaism in Handel's Messiah"

**Michael Marissen,
Professor of Music at Swarthmore College**

Tuesday, February 10

4:10 p.m.

Divinity School, Room G-23

Surprisingly, questions of religious meaning in Handel's Messiah have been under-explored. This lecture will discuss previously unidentified sources for altered readings in the work's libretto of biblical excerpts, and it will demonstrate how the arrangement of verses and their word choices project a traditional anti-Jewish Christian triumphalism. The lecture will go on to show how Handel's music underscores the anti-Jewish tendencies of the libretto and adds to them, reaching a euphoric climax in the Hallelujah chorus.

CONCERT: *The Enduring Chill: Remembering Flannery O'Connor - featuring Over the Rhine, Mary Gauthier, Minton Sparks, Old Black Kettle, Denice Hicks* Thursday February 19 / 7:30 PM / Mercy Lounge (8th Ave. S.) - \$15 at the door (All proceeds to benefit the Flannery O'Connor-Andalusia Foundation)

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: *"Shadows of the Word: Songwriters and Literary Legacies of Religion and Place"* featuring - Mary Gauthier, Minton Sparks, Linford Detweiler and Karin Berquist, Julie Lee, and Jewly Hight (moderator). Friday February 20 / 1 PM / Divinity Art Room (G-20)

One Night, One Voice. Violence Against Women and the Darfur Genocide

The Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Tennesseans Against Genocide, and STAND invite you to "One Night, One Voice, Violence Against Women and the Darfur Genocide," a nation-wide event in support of the women of Darfur,

Sudan. On Feb. 11 from 7:00 -9:00 pm, we will join with others around the country to watch a documentary followed by an on-line national dialogue with human rights activists and experts including Maria Bello, Niemat Ahmadi, Dr. Kelly Dawn Askin, John Hefferan and Reverend Gloria E. White-Hammond, M.D. The evening will conclude with an opportunity to stand with the women of Darfur through this video link. The event will be held in the Art Room and G-23 in the Divinity School. It is free and open to the public. Free parking is available in parking lots 6, 6A, and 6B located between the Vanderbilt Law School and Divinity School.

For more on the program, please go to:

http://darfur.bluestatedigital.com/pages/one_night_one_voice/

TO RSVP, PLEASE REFER TO THE FOLLOWING LINK:

<http://www.savedarfur.org/page/event/detail/violenceagainstwomenscreening/4vx4l>

Vendredi Gras

The Graduate Department of Religion/Divinity School is hosting a Vendredi Gras Party/Fundraiser for the New Orleans Women's Health and Justice Initiative and Second Harvest of Middle Tennessee.

What: A Mardi Gras themed Fundraiser to benefit Second Harvest Nashville and the continuing Hurricane Katrina recovery effort through the New Orleans Women's Health and Justice Initiative (NOWHJI)

Where: Vanderbilt Divinity School Reading Room (1st floor)

When: February, 20, 2009 from 7-11 pm

How: Transport yourself to New Orleans, Louisiana via the Divinity Reading Room decked out with beads, masks, a glutenous buffet of food and beverages with a coffeehouse/spoken word event and music. There will also be a bake sale that night and the winners of the Second Harvest Food Drive will be announced.

All proceeds go to NOWHJI and Second Harvest Nashville!!!

**Institute for Seminarians and Rabbinical Studies
May 19-21 2009**

Each year the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding (CCJU) of Sacred Heart University welcomes 30 students from Christian and Jewish seminaries across the country for a three-day study institute to prepare the next generation of religious leaders to intelligently and critically carry the dialogue forward.

If you are interested in being considered for one of these positions, please register your interest with the associate dean's office as the first step in the nomination process. The deans will nominate 2 VDS representatives by the close of February.

***Vanderbilt University Divinity School invites you to a
Community Breakfast***
Thursday, February 12, 2009
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Divinity Reading Room
Vanderbilt Divinity School

Featuring
Professor Paul Chang-Ha Lim

"Preaching Against Pharaoh: Liberation Theology from the Puritan Revolution to Reverend Jeremiah Wright"

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Breakfast \$10.00, students \$5.00

Reservations Necessary

Please RSVP to (615) 936-8453 or register online at www.vanderbilt.edu/divinity (click "Events")

by February 9, 2009

Preaching Against Pharaoh: Liberation Theology from the Puritan Revolution to Reverend Jeremiah Wright

What connection is there between a cadre of English Puritans who preached against the reign of Charles I in the 1640s and Jeremiah Wright, popularly known as President Barack Obama's pastor? Most do not see any connection at all between: the "conservative" Puritans (they were most assuredly not!) and the liberal Reverend Wright. During this breakfast presentation, Professor Lim will discuss the theme of "Preaching Against Pharaoh" as an interpretive thread that connects these key "pulpiterring" efforts of some Puritan parliamentary preachers and Jeremiah Wright, both of whose "patriotism" was often questioned, reputations besmirched, and pulpits assailed and misunderstood. Liberation theology, Lim argues, has its origin in the revolutionary period of the 1640s where much of preaching was done "against Pharaoh," and it is this similar tendency that connects the Puritans with Reverend Wright.

Community Breakfast March 12, 2009
Vanderbilt Divinity School Refectory
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Stacey-Floyd-Thomas
Associate Professor of Ethics and Society

"I found God in myself, and I loved her fiercely": Womanist Literature
as a Resource for Ethics

In observance of Women's Month, our time together will focus on a choreopoem performance and discussion taken from Ntozake Shange's *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Unfurled*. With this presentation of vignettes and accompanying conversation, this gathering will address how Black women's fiction aids in advancing the search for the imago Dei via an interlocking race-gender-class analysis that asserts the theological and moral dimensions of their lives in ways that undermine the dominant society's impositions upon them.

Relevant Religion Series

March 24, 31 and April 7, 2009
West End United Methodist Church
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Annalisa Azzoni
Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures

Marriage at the Beginning: Marriage in the Ancient Near East and the Hebrew Bible

This series will examine different aspects (religious, legal, socio-economic) of marriage through a survey of ancient Sumerian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Egyptian sources and the relevant sections of the Hebrew Bible. The variety of literary and historical texts will reveal a complex picture of how this "institution" developed at the very beginning of recorded history.

Antoinette Brown Lecture March 26, 2009
Vanderbilt Divinity School Benton Chapel

Traci C. West
Professor of Ethics and African American Studies, Drew University

Lying on Women: Religion, Race, and Intimate Violence in the African Diaspora

The lecture will address intimate violence against women and girls who are often stymied by cultural myths about women's culpability. These myths work together with the lies the perpetrators tell. Christian religious beliefs can add to this problem or offer truth-telling resources that counter it. This lecture will focus on what it means to cross cultural, national, and historical boundaries to identify Christian activist strategies that confront this deceit as well as the violence, especially sexual violence, against women in Africa and America.
