

WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, September 7 [Labor Day]

10:10 am – Monday Forum
G-27 (details below)

TUESDAY, September 8

WEDNESDAY, September 9

9:00 am – Academic Planning Meeting
Tillett Lounge
10:10 am – Weekly Worship Service,
All Faith Chapel

THURSDAY, September 10

7:30 am – Cal Turner Program in Moral Leadership Breakfast
Reading Room (details below)

FRIDAY, September 11

10:10 am – Coffee Hour – Reading Room
12:10 pm – Service of Word and Table
Benton Chapel

As we prepare for flu season, please be informed about the symptoms of seasonal flu and H1N1 flu. This information can be found at <http://emergency.vanderbilt.edu/plans/flu/h1n1virus.htm>, along with news about any actions the University is taking to respond to outbreaks.

Monday Forum

10:10-11:00AM, Room G-27

September 7 - Tricia Dykers Koenig, National Organizer for The Covenant Network of Presbyterians. The Covenant Network is a broad-based, national group of clergy and lay leaders working for a church that is simultaneously faithful, just, and whole. It seeks to support the mission and unity of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in a time of potentially divisive controversy, to articulate and act on the church's historic, progressive vision and to work for a fully inclusive church. Tricia will be in Nashville for the More Light Presbyterian Conference at Second Presbyterian Church, and is available to speak with students about the Network, and about how candidates for ordination and allies in all denominations move through the ordination process.

September 14 – *Marginalia* – To the Least of These

“Bearing witness to the needs and experiences of the Nashville homeless community”

David Hoch, 2nd year MTS student and Brynn White, 2nd year MDV student

September 21 – Contemplative Pedagogy: meditative modes of inquiry that foster holistic learning (mind, body, soul) and attention

Kat Baker, Assistant Director, Center for Teaching; Senior Lecturer, Religious Studies

October 26 – Come hear Trevor Hudson, author of [A Mile in My Shoes](#), and a pastor deeply committed to the spiritual care of the people of Northfield Methodist Church in Benoni, just outside Johannesburg.

Leadership Development Breakfast

Thursday, September 10, 2009 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m

Guest Speaker: Tyler Wigg-Stevenson, Founder & Director, Two Futures Project

“Wooing Strange Bedfellows: Leading the Evangelical Coalition Against the Bomb”

When the Two Futures Project (2FP) launched in April 2009, Michael Sean Winters blogged at America magazine that, “Nothing in recent memory is stranger than the emerging alliance between a group of activist evangelicals and former Cold War statesmen in support of an effort to eliminate nuclear weapons.” Tyler Wigg-Stevenson, founding director of 2FP, will share the behind-the-scenes story of how this alliance came to be, and the leadership lessons that can be derived from uniting unlikely suspects toward a common cause.

Please join us for breakfast with Tyler in Divinity School’s Reading Room from 7:30 am to 9:00 am. Registration fee is free for students and \$10.00 for non-students.

Pre-register: www.vanderbilt.edu/moral_leadership

Or call our office: 615-343-5447

You are cordially invited to the 4th annual children's art show at the Downtown Presbyterian Church featuring the collaborative work of well known Nashville theologians under the age of 12.

Below is a copy of the press release. Hope to see you there.

THE DIVINE WITHIN: Documenting the Secrets of Childhood

At our most artful and receptive moments--Sarah Masen suspects – we all understand that paying close attention to the creative wisdom of a child is every bit as enriching as meditating, reading sacred text, or taking in a good French film. For Masen, the Director of Children’s Education at Downtown Presbyterian Church, moving out of comfort zones and past an easy sentimentality in our openness to what children would show us is probably our best – our only – hope for emotional development. Opening September 5th in collaboration with the first Saturday Art Crawl, The Downtown Presbyterian Church presents: “The Divine Within: Documenting the Secrets of Childhood”.

This years children's art show features works of collaboration which tweak the conventional mentor/mentored model. The guiding vision places a child-artist in the role of instructor and a collaborating adult as the recipient of theological instruction afforded by the child. This partnering flips the script on curriculums often associated with churches (Point #1 "You're a sinner") and presumes, from the outset, what Masen frequently cites as "the already holy spirit" of the child. Prepare your hearts for illumination. Opening begins at 6:00pm. Light fare will be provided for small and grown wayfarers.

"Society of King Charles the Martyr" to Meet

An organizational meeting to form a chapter of the Society of King Charles the Martyr in the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 11:00 AM at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, 419 Woodland Street, Nashville.

Interested persons are invited to attend and learn about this Anglican devotional society. The Society is dedicated to remembering King Charles I of England who died for the faith in defending the Church, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Episcopacy.

For more information contact Greg Smith at (615) 310-4765 or by email: gregsmithdtm@charter.net

For directions to St. Ann's Church visit www.stannsnashville.org

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY Program in Jewish Studies and Department of History present

MARK COHEN

The Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East,
Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University

Thursday, September 10, 2009, 4:00 pm 123 Buttrick Hall

"The New Muslim Anti-Semitism"

Anti-Semitism is rampant today in certain segments of the Muslim communities in the Middle East and Europe. Where does it come from? Is it endemic in the Islamic religion, going back to the Qur'an, as many believe, or is it something new? In his lecture Mark R. Cohen professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University and a noted historian of the Jews in the medieval Islamic world, will explore these questions from a historical perspective.

Following the talk, you are invited to a gathering at the home of Leah and David Marcus, 602 Summerwind Circle 37215

Friday, September 11, 2009
(Brown Bag Lunch)

12:10 pm

123 Buttrick Hall

**"Commercial Law and Practice in Maimonides Code of Jewish Law (*Mishneh Torah*)
in the Light of the Cairo Geniza Documents"**

Moses ben Maimon (1138-1204), Maimonides, the great Jewish philosopher and legislator, composed a massive code of all of Jewish law, called the *Mishneh Torah* [italicize]. In his introduction he claimed that the code contained nothing new, that is was merely a compendium of binding rulings from earlier rabbinic sources. Does the code bear this claim out? Does Maimonides attempt to modify the law in any way? Using the example of commercial law, Professor Cohen will illustrate how Maimonides almost imperceptibly modified and updated ancient Jewish law to accommodate changes in economic circumstances that had taken place in the Islamic world.

Mark R. Cohen is a well known historian of the Jews in Arab lands in the Middle Ages. His publications include nearly 100 articles and reviews and several books, among them, *Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages*, 1994, new edition 2008, which has been translated into Hebrew, Turkish, German, Arabic, and French (Spanish and Romanian forthcoming); and most recently, *Poverty and Charity in the Jewish Community of Medieval Egypt*; and *The Voice of the Poor in the Middle Ages: An Anthology of Documents from the Cairo Geniza*, published by Princeton University Press in 2005. Since 1986 he has been the director of the Princeton Geniza Project, an on-line database of transcriptions of documents from the Cairo Geniza

Cohen has held many fellowships and visiting teaching positions in the United States, Europe, and Israel and has lectured widely in the U.S., Europe, Russia, Japan, Qatar, Egypt, and Israel, before both scholarly and general audiences.

Please send information to be included in the weekly E-Communicator to sherry.willis@vanderbilt.edu by Thursday afternoon of each week.