

E-COMMUNICATOR

NO. 5

VANDERBILT DIVINITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER October 5, 2009

WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, October 5

10:10 am - Monday Forum - Dual Degree Programs

G-27 (details below)

TUESDAY, October 6

10:30 - Noon -- GABLE and the Office of LGBTQI hosting Reverend Mel White

G-20 Arts Room

7:00 pm - Relevant Religion Series with Bishop Joe Pennel

Belmont United Methodist Church (Details Below)

WEDNESDAY, October 7

10:10 am - Weekly Worship Service,

Blessing of Creatures, Feast of St. Francis

Divinity Courtyard

THURSDAY, October 8

7:30 - 9:00 am Cal Turner Program Leadership Development Breakfast

Guest Speaker Kim Masey

Reading Room

7:00 pm -- LOVE YOUR BODY DAY CELEBRATION

Reading room

FRIDAY, October 9

10:10 am - Coffee Hour - Reading Room

3:00 pm - Al's Pub

Reading Room

What is Sukkot? With Rabbi Rami Shapiro (Rescheduled)

Wednesday, October 7 7:00pm-8:00pm

(in the sukkah; if raining, place TBA)

We will have Rabbi Rami Shapiro come explain to our group the meaning of Sukkot, the way it is traditionally observed, what makes a kosher sukkah, and more! Mediterranean dinner will be served.

Friday, October 9 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Al's Pub Happy Hour in the Sukkah with Mosaic

Come wind down in the courtyard with Al's Pub and Mosaic as we make merry in the sukkah!

Sunday, October 25 at 7 pm at Second Presbyterian

What can a pastor, a rabbi and a sheikh teach us about interfaith dialogue? The Islamic Center of Nashville, Congregation Micah and Second Presbyterian Church are co-sponsoring a presentation by three faith leaders from Seattle: the Reverend Don Mackenzie, retired pastor of University Congregational United Church of Christ, Rabbi Ted Falcon, founder of Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, and Sheikh Jamal Rahman, co-founder and Muslim Sufi Minister at the Interfaith Community Church. They are on tour in support of their new book, Getting to the Heart of Interfaith: The Eye-Opening, Hope-Filled Friendship of a Pastor, a Rabbi and a Sheikh. The presentation will be Sunday, October 25 at 7 pm at Second Presbyterian, 3511 Belmont Boulevard, 37215.

SAVE THE DATE - Thursday, October 8 - 7 p.m. - Reading Room

LOVE YOUR BODY DAY CELEBRATION

Wine, Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Cheese, Fruit and Other Treats.

Entertainment includes music, poetry, art and reflection. Stay tuned for more details.

Visit www.loveyourbody.nowfoundation.org for more information about the Love Your Body Campaign.

*Sponsored by Office of Women's Concerns and Religion and Arts

GABLE and the Office of LGBTQI Life are hosting a question and answer session with Reverend Mel White, author of "Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America" and the co-founder of Soulforce, a nonviolent resistance organization dedicated to championing LGBTQI rights and ending political and religious persecution. Rev. White will be delivering the keynote address at Vanderbilt on Monday during National Coming Out Week, but has set aside some time to answer questions of divinity school students, especially those concerned with issues of religion/spirituality in the LGBTQI community. This session will be held in the Arts Room (G20) on Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 10:30AM-noon. We hope to see you there!

Monday Forum

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

October 5 -- Consuela Knox, Senior Associate Director and Diversity Recruiting Manager of MBA Admissions, and Kelly Christie, Director of Academic Programs at Owen, will be hosting an Informational Session regarding our dual degree program with Owen Graduate School of Management. If you are interested in exploring this dual degree program - please attend!

October 12 -- TRANSITION INTO MINISTRY, PDR

Have you heard about "congregational residencies," denominational "first call" programs, or the

Bethany Fellowship? All are part of efforts across denominations to address the difficulty (and the high drop out rate) of the move from school into church. Disciples Divinity House, SGA, and Translation are co-sponsoring a Monday Forum about the many programs funded by Lilly Endowment that aim to improve the quality of that move into congregational ministry for new MDiv graduates.

Disciples Divinity House received a grant from Lilly Endowment in 2006 for its "Congregational Immersion Project." Cara Gilger, Allison Lanza, Diana Batzka-Hodges and Jamie Haskins now serve as two-year pastoral residents. Mark Miller-McLemore, Dean of Disciples House, will bring information about the various programs in the transition initiative. Students especially in their final year should look at these great opportunities to work with excellent pastors in healthy congregations--a great way to begin. Coffee and refreshments will be available.

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.

**Vanderbilt Divinity School
Community Events and Continuing Education Calendar
Fall 2009**

Relevant Religion Series October 6, 13, 20, 2009
Belmont United Methodist Church
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Joe Pennel
Professor of the Practice of Leadership

The Art of Caring for Those Who Suffer

This series will explore practical suggestions for those who care enough to walk alongside those who are traveling the winding path of suffering. It will also provide help for understanding the different responses individuals can have to suffering and address common questions about God during such an experience.

Cole Lectures October 15 & 16, 2009
Vanderbilt Divinity School
Benton Chapel
7:00 p.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 15, 2009, 7:00 P.M.

"Seeking First the Kingdom: The Nashville Story, 1958-1962"

Friday, October 15, 2009, 10:00 A.M.

"Unfettering Jesus"

The Reverend Doctor James M. Lawson Jr., D'60

Community Breakfast November 19, 2009

Vanderbilt Divinity School Refectory

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

M. Douglas Meeks

The Cal Turner Chancellor's Chair in Wesleyan Studies and Theology

Lost in Wonder, Love, and Praise: Worship in the Anglican and Wesleyan Tradition

In May 2009, as they have done every other year since 1999, Prof. Douglas Meeks and writer Blair Gilmer Meeks took Divinity School students to England to study Anglican and Methodist Worship and Spirituality. The students find gracious hospitality for their stay at Sarum College in the Close of Salisbury Cathedral. The immersion experience includes visitation of important historical sites in Bristol, Oxford, and London.

This breakfast presentation will introduce you to the historical settings and rich experiences of the trip. Four students will also talk about their experiences from their various viewpoints. Students come home with a new interest in the roots of our worship practices and a renewed sense of calling as pastors and worship leaders. The blending of time for spiritual reflection, opportunities for communal worship, and a connection to the rich history of worship (starting with the beginnings of modern Western liturgy in the twelfth century at Old Sarum) offers unique possibilities for growth. One student remarked, "My understanding of worship will never be the same; my life has changed."

"The Opportunity for Entrepreneurial Ministry Outside Church Structures" a conversation with The Reverend Doctor Ray Dykes, MDiv'70, DMin'73

Tuesday, October 13, 2009, Tillett Lounge

Join The Reverend Dr. Ray Dykes, MDiv '70, DMin '73, for a conversation on how you can fulfill your call to ministry without the support of the institution. Learn that you *can* have an exciting, wonderful pastoral ministry of loving, teaching, counseling, nurturing and caring for people, and make a better than average salary. If your vision of ministry doesn't include church administration, committee meetings, budgets, building campaigns, staff relationships, church

roll administration, and weekly sermon preparation, Dr. Dykes will show through his experience that there is an alternative journey for ministry.

The Reverend Dr. Ray Dykes received a Master of Divinity degree in 1970, and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 1973 from the Vanderbilt Divinity School. He is the originator, president, and the first Personal Pastor of the Personal Pastor Program. The program provides pastoral services to unchurched households. He is the author of several books including *Mark, Matthew and Luke As You've Never Seen Them Before: a theoretical history of the writing of the Synoptic Gospels*, and *Personal Faith with a Passion: how to know what you really believe*. Ray served within the Presbyterian Church as pastor and as a denominational leader. In 1994, he began his current ministry.

Coffee and donuts will be served.

FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Friday, December 11

Reading Day

Saturday, December 12

Sunday, December 13

No academic obligations

Monday morning, December 14

Formation of the Christian Tradition

10:00 until noon

Mr. Burns

Tuesday morning, December 15

Hebrew Bible

10:00 until noon

Mr. Knight

Wednesday morning, December 16

Jewish and Christian Relations

10:00 until noon

Ms. Levine and Mr. Smith

Thursday morning, December 17

Pastoral Care and Theology

10:00 until 1:00

Ms. McClure

Friday morning, December 18

Biblical Hebrew Ms. McMurtry

Koine Greek Ms. Redman

10:00 until noon

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