

WEEKLY CALENDAR

**MONDAY, February 23**

10:10 Rabbi Strosberg  
G-23 (details below)

**TUESDAY, February 24**

12:00 - 1:00 - La Mesa  
Common Room

**WEDNESDAY, February 25**

10:10 am - Weekly Worship Service  
All Faith Chapel  
4:00 p.m. -- Colloquium in Religious History  
Tillett Lounge (details below)

**THURSDAY, February 26**

7:30 p.m. Life Abundant Conference - Keynote Lecture  
Charles Marsh, University of Va  
Benton Chapel

**FRIDAY, February 27**

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer - Theological Education for Life Abundant  
Benton Chapel  
9:00 a.m. - Life Abundant - A conference in Christian Practical Theology  
Panels on Teaching for Life Abundant -- Purposes  
G-23  
3:15 p.m. -- Life Abundant - A conference in Christian Practical Theology  
Panels on Teaching for Life Abundant -- Pedagogies  
G-23  
10:10 a.m. - Coffee Hour - Divinity Reading Room

**SATURDAY, February 28**

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer - Theological Education for Life Abundant  
Benton Chapel  
10:15 a.m. - Life Abundant - A conference in Christian Practical Theology  
Panels on Teaching for Life Abundant -- Institutions  
G-23

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

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25 February at 4 pm in Tillett Faculty Lounge.  
Colloquium in Religious History, featuring Professor Erika Hermanowicz of the University of Georgia (Classics Department). She will be presenting a paper "Documents, Imperial Law and Heresy Accusations in the Time of Augustine." Professor Kathy Gaca from Classics will be the Commentator.

Reception to follow at 5:30.

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February 27-28, 2009

The Turner Center is hosting a conference on Congregational Leadership featuring Bishop Robert Schnase, author of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*. On Friday, clergy and lay representatives from the Memphis and Tennessee Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church will engage in presentations and discussion on the practicality, challenges, and hope of the proposed Five Practices. On Saturday, Bishop Schnase will lead a series of lectures and discussions about Leadership in the Fruitful Congregation. Attached is a flier with the conference schedule and more information.

Attendance at the presentations and lectures is FREE. However, advance registration is appreciated. If you would like to attend any part of the conference, please email me your name and contact information. Let me know if you have further questions.

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The Worship Committee invites all in the VDS community to two important dates in the coming week. The first is a time for reflections by and conversations with Rabbi Saul Strosberg of Congregation Sherith Israel. This event will take place Monday, Feb. 23rd, 10:10-11:00am in the Divinity Reading Room. Please join us! The second event is a visit to Congregation Sherith Israel, 3600 West End Ave., for Shabbat services on Saturday, Feb. 28th. Please just meet us there! And please plan to arrive by 9:45 a.m.

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Link to the SGA google calendar

<http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=si59sgmfmkh91ar5s6hdchjll4%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago>

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**Winter Symposium, Christ Church Cathedral  
February 28 – March 1**

As part of its Sacred Space for the City Programming, Christ Church Cathedral is pleased to present a winter symposium, *“Living Our Faith – Creation and Care of the Earth – A Spiritual Approach to Environmental Concerns”*

Friday, February 28, 5:15 pm – 8:30 pm starting with a reception and dinner

Saturday March 1, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon

Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson

Cost \$25 and \$15 for students including the dinner

Reservations and childcare requests are needed by Monday, February 23

[www.christcathedral.org](http://www.christcathedral.org) for online registration

or call Becky Rochford at 615-255-7729

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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*

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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 Enuf*. 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.

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### 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.

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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.

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