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Office of Church Relations
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PREVIOUS THEOLOGIANS-IN-RESIDENCE

- 2013 The Rev. Carol Howard Merritt
- 2012 The Rev. Landon Whitsitt
- 2011 The Rev. Gradye Parsons and
The Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick
- 2010 Dr. Al Staggs
- 2009 Dr. Marian McClure
- 2008 Oliver Thomas
- 2007 Dr. Charles Aden Wiley, III
- 2006 Dr. David Hendricksen
- 2005 Gayle White
- 2004 Dr. Joseph D. Small
- 2003 Ervin Barham, Chuck Coker, Michael Smith
and Chuck Bentley
- 2002 Dr. William J. Baker and
Dr. Robert J. "Jack" Higgs
- 2001 Fred Brown, Jeanne McDonald, Loyal Jones,
Dr. Deborah Vansau McCauley and Paul Rader
- 2000 The Rev. Dr. Carnegie Samuel Calian,
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The Rev. Dr. Louis B. Weeks
- 1999 Dr. Robert E. Knott
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- 1997 Dr. James E. Andrews
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- 1995 The Rev. W. Burney Overton
- 1994 The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. John L. Martin
- 1993 The Rev. Dr. Clinton M. Marsh
- 1992 The Rev. Dr. Angus McGregor
- 1991 The Rev. Dr. Robert Johnson

*If you have suggestions for future topics or speakers, please
send your suggestions to Mark Stokes, Director of Religious
Life, Church and Community Relations at Tusculum, at
mstokes@tusculum.edu.*

TUSCULUM COLLEGE



2014 Theologian in Residence

February 4, 11, 18 and 25

The 2014 Theologian-in-Residence series will explore how early Christian identity was formed in response to persecution.

The series, sponsored by Tusculum College with partial funding from Ron Smith, will be led by Dr. Travis B. Williams, assistant professor of religion at Tusculum College. The title of the lecture series will be, "The Situation and Strategy of 1 Peter: Examining the Formative Influence of Persecution on Christian Identity."

Having published numerous essays and articles on 1 Peter, as well as two major monographs, Dr. Williams is one of the leading experts on this often-neglected New Testament epistle. His books include "Persecution in 1 Peter: Differentiating and Contextualizing Early Christian Suffering" and "Good Works in 1 Peter: Negotiating Social Conflict and Christian Identity in the Greco-Roman World."



Dr. Travis Williams

At the moment, he is at work on a major exegetical commentary on 1 Peter, which will appear in the prestigious International Critical Commentary series.

Dr. Williams is a native Tennessean who grew up in a very conservative Christian tradition. Both his undergraduate and graduate studies were carried out at institutions associated with the evangelical movement. It was not until his doctoral studies – which were undertaken at the University of Exeter (United Kingdom) – that his faith and scholarship began to move in another direction. After a period of theological (and denominational) exploration, he finally found a home in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He, along with his wife (Amy) and two sons (Bryce and Trent), are currently members at First Presbyterian Church in Johnson City.

The Situation and Strategy of 1 Peter

For anyone familiar with 1 Peter, it goes without saying that the letter's primary concern is with the persecution affecting its Anatolian readers. Within modern scholarship, there is a general consensus regarding both the nature of this conflict and the epistle's prescribed method of response. In this lecture series, we will challenge this popular understanding, offering a fresh reading of the situation and social strategy of 1 Peter. We will show how the letter seeks to (positively) construct the social identity of a group of marginalized Christian communities. Against the threat of serious mistreatment, 1 Peter provides its readers with an alternative vision of reality, one in which the honor they so desperately desire is finally made available to them "in Christ." Sessions will include:

February 4 – Mirror-Reading the Epistle of 1 Peter
This session will introduce the letter of 1 Peter and will discuss some of the problems with the scholarly consensus on persecution. We will also seek to work out a method by which to "mirror-read" the situation of the epistle.

February 11 – Diagnosing the Nature of Persecution in 1 Peter
In this session, we will attempt to situate the conflict described in 1 Peter within its historical context. It will include an examination of both the cause(s) and form(s) of persecution experienced by the readers.

February 18 – Modern Interpretive Approaches and the Strategy of 1 Peter
This session will discuss the modern consensus on "good works" in 1 Peter, and it will introduce new interpretive methods by which the problem of the letter's social strategy might be resolved.

February 25 – The Social Strategy of Good Works in 1 Peter
In this session, we will explore how 1 Peter intends the "good works" motif to be an appropriate strategic response to the conflict in which its readers are involved.

For more information about the Theologian-in-Residence series, please contact:
Eugenia Estes, Office of Church Relations
Tusculum College P.O. Box 5040
Greeneville, TN 37743
Phone: 1-800-729-0256 ext. 5310 or 423-636-7304
eestes@tusculum.edu

YES!

I wish to attend the 2014 Theologian-in-Residence Series on the Tusculum College campus.

NAME

ADDRESS

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CHURCH

Please reserve a place for me at the following events:

- February 4**
- 10 a.m. Morning Workshop []
 - 12:15 p.m. Luncheon []
 - 1 p.m. Afternoon Wrap-up []
- February 11**
- 10 a.m. Morning Workshop []
 - 12:15 p.m. Luncheon []
 - 1 p.m. Afternoon Wrap-up []
- February 18**
- 10 a.m. Morning Workshop []
 - 12:15 p.m. Luncheon []
 - 1 p.m. Afternoon Wrap-up []
- February 25**
- 10 a.m. Morning Workshop []
 - 12:15 p.m. Luncheon []
 - 1 p.m. Afternoon Wrap-up []

I will be accompanied by

NAME

NAME