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,
      The Rev. Dr. John M. Mulder,
      The Rev. Dr. David L. Wallace and
      The Rev. Dr. Louis B. Weeks
1999  Dr. Robert E. Knott
1998  Dr. Donald K. McKim
1997  Dr. James E. Andrews
1996  Dr. Tommy Oakes
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.
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.”

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

I will be accompanied by

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

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