

Proclamation: Problem & Possibility

**Barbara
Brown Taylor**

**Saturday,
January 24, 2009**

7:30 p.m. | First Presbyterian
Church, west end of
the King College campus

The Buechner Lecture



The Spring 2009 Buechner Lecture Series, an annual acknowledgement of the sources and mission of the Buechner Institute, will feature Barbara Brown Taylor and a full day of conversation on "Proclamation: Problem & Possibility." The January 24 gathering will include a look at the preacher in literature and film, a panel discussion by ministers on "The Preaching Life," and specific dialogue about the books of Barbara Brown Taylor. It is an opportunity to think about the power of words, a chance to focus on how faith runs into our everyday, and a moment to meditate on business that matters.

The prequel to Barbara Brown Taylor's evening talk will spotlight film critic and Professor of English, Roy Anker; Professor of Theology and Homiletics, Lee Ramsey; Young Life's Western European Director, Jeff Munroe; and ministers Anne McKee, Elizabeth Patrick, Tim Ross, Gordon Turnbull, and Maggie Zeller. Biographical information on our speakers and a full outline of the events of the day are available at buechnerinstitute.org or by calling 423.652.4156.

To speak of proclamation, of course, is to come very close to such haunting questions as, "What do we have to proclaim to our neighbors?" "What are our neighbors proclaiming to us?" "What is this word business coming to look like in an age of text-messaging and the World Wide Web?"

It's a prospect for us—preachers all—to redeem. Please join us.



Roy Anker

Also featured on January 24:

9:00 a.m. | First Presbyterian Church
Preachers in Film

Roy Anker

Professor of English and Film Studies, Calvin College



G. Lee Ramsey, Jr.

10:30 a.m. | First Presbyterian Church
Preachers in Literature

G. Lee Ramsey, Jr., *Professor of Theology and Homiletics, Memphis Theological Seminary*

2:00 p.m. | First Presbyterian Church
The Preaching Life

Anne McKee, *Maryville College Chaplain, Maryville, Tenn.*

Elizabeth Patrick, *Presbyterian Church (USA) Bristol, Tenn.*

Tim Ross, *Hopwood Christian Church, Elizabethton, Tenn.*

Gordon Turnbull, *First Presbyterian Church, Bristol, Tenn.*

Maggie Zeller, *Saint Christophers Episcopal Church, Kingsport, Tenn.*



Jeff Munroe

3:30 p.m. | First Presbyterian Church
Leaving Church

Jeff Munroe, *Regional Director of Young Life in Western Europe, Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Colloquium Day

**Philip Gulley
&
Carrie Newcomer**

**Wednesday,
March 25, 2009**



10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Words About Words, **Philip Gulley**

2:00 p.m. | Memorial Chapel

When the Soul's Great Joy Meets the the World's Great Need, **Carrie Newcomer**

7:00 p.m. | Memorial Chapel

*In Word and Song: An Evening with Author Philip Gulley
and Musician Carrie Newcomer*



Singer and songwriter Carrie Newcomer and author Philip Gulley will present a day of music and story. Newcomer cuts across secular and spiritual boundaries in *The Geography of Light*, her latest musical release. Gulley's characters and stories grew out of his childhood experiences in the small Midwestern town of Danville, Indiana. *The Wall Street Journal* wrote that "Philip Gulley is a Quaker pastor from Indiana with a charming sense of small-town life—and a shrewd sense of life in general."

7:30 p.m. | First Presbyterian Church, west end of the King College campus
The Buechner Lecture

Barbara Brown Taylor | Saturday, January 24



In *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*, Episcopal priest, author, and scholar Barbara Brown Taylor tells the story of her decision to leave her full time parish ministry after 15 years to teach religion as a college professor. She currently holds the Harry R. Butman Chair in Religion and Philosophy at Georgia's Piedmont College. She also serves as adjunct professor of Christian spirituality at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia and has lectured on preaching at Yale, Princeton and Duke Universities. A columnist for *The Christian Century* and sometime commentator on Georgia Public Broadcasting, she is the author of eleven other books, including *When God is Silent* and *Home By Another Way*. *Leaving Church*, her first memoir, received a 2006 best category award from the Association of Theological Booksellers and a Georgia Author of the Year award from the Georgia Writers. *The Sewanee Theological Review* wrote that Taylor "possesses a gift that is in short supply these days: the gift of conveying a living sense of the transcendent, the holy, and the grace-full in and through the stuff of our lives."

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Surviving the Holocaust

Estelle Laughlin | Monday, February 9



Ellen Blalock, the director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will introduce Estelle Laughlin, a Holocaust survivor. Born in Warsaw, Poland, Laughlin was only 10 years old when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. Four years later, the family was sent to Majdanek concentration camp where her father was killed because he had tuberculosis. Together with her sister and mother, she endured two years of forced labor at Skarzysko and Czeszochowa camps. After the war, Estelle fled Poland with her sister and mother, eventually settling in New York City where she worked in the garment industry, married, and started a family. Today, Laughlin lives in Maryland where she taught sixth grade before retiring. She has been a volunteer at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum since 2007.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
The New World: Progress and Danger at the Intersection of Morality, Faith and Public Life

Michael Gerson | Monday, February 16



Michael Gerson is the Roger Hertog Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a regular contributor for *Newsweek*, a syndicated columnist for the *Washington Post*, and former senior editor for *U.S. News and World Reports*. He is considered by members of both political parties to be one of the most influential White House speechwriters since the Kennedy administration. In addition to serving President George W. Bush, he worked for Presidential candidate Senator Bob Dole, and Senator Dan Coats. In *Heroic Conservatism: Why Republicans Need to Embrace America's Ideals (And Why They Deserve to Fail If They Don't)*, Gerson argues that America needs a conservatism that is heroic in its aspirations and includes "compassionate conservative" proposals to confront global AIDS, combat poverty in America, and promote human rights and dignity abroad.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Why I Care About the Life of the Mind: Stories from My Journey

Richard T. Hughes | Monday, February 23



Richard Hughes is a nationally recognized American religion scholar and an authority on Christian higher education. Before becoming a distinguished professor and senior Boyer Center fellow at Messiah College, Hughes founded and directed the Pepperdine Center for Faith and Learning where the student body selected him as "Faculty Person of the Year." He holds a doctorate in the history of Christianity from the University of Iowa, a master's degree from Abilene Christian University, and a bachelor's degree in Bible and history from Harding University. His most recent books, *The Vocation of a Christian Scholar: How Christian Faith Can Sustain the Life of the Mind*, and *Myths America Lives By*, explore beliefs that have impacted the history of American culture.

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Religion and Science
7:00 p.m. | Board Room, Student Center Complex | *A Scientist's Perspective on the Bible*

Margaret Gray Towne & D. Brian Austin | Monday, March 2



Margaret Gray Towne has taught on the college level for more than 25 years. She is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and co-editor of the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA) newsletter. From 1991-2001, she was a "Distinguished Visiting Professor in Science & Religion" at Juniata College. Towne holds two degrees in biology from the University of Michigan and a theology degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. She earned her doctorate from Montana State University with a dissertation on creationism and evolution. Her most recent publication is *Honest to Genesis: A Biblical and Scientific Challenge to Creationism*, in which she integrates the biblical creation accounts with modern evolutionary theory.



D. Brian Austin taught at the University of Louisville, Indiana University Southeast, St. Catherine College, and Cumberland College before he became an associate professor and Philosophy Department chair at Carson-Newman College in 1995. His most recent book, *The End of Certainty and the Beginning of Faith: Religion and Science for the 21st Century*, examines the intersections of science and religion, which is the focus of his numerous essays and presentations—the most recent of which was for the American Academy of Religion. He earned his undergraduate degree from Samford University and his Master's and Ph.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The BUECHNER INSTITUTE Annual Lectureship 2009

speakers schedule, continued

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
Beyond Band Aids: How to Fix America's Ailing Health Care System

Ezekiel Emanuel | Monday, March 23



Internationally recognized breast oncologist, Ezekiel J. Emanuel, was an associate professor at Harvard Medical School before joining the National Institutes of Health as chair of the Department of Bioethics at The Clinical Center. He developed "The Medical Directive," a comprehensive living will endorsed by *Consumer Reports on Health*, *Harvard Health Letter*, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal* among others. *The Ends of Human Life*, his 1998 book suggesting that dilemmas of medical ethics are created by medical technology, received the Woodrow Wilson Foundation's Rosenhaupt Memorial Book Award's honorable mention. He received his M.Sc. from Oxford University in Biochemistry, his M.D. from Harvard Medical School, and a Ph.D. in political philosophy from Harvard University. His essays have appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet*, and *JAMA*.

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In Word and Song: An Evening with Author Philip Gulley and Musician Carrie Newcomer

Philip Gulley & Carrie Newcomer | Wednesday, March 25 | Colloquium Day



Philip Gulley is a Quaker pastor and the author of *Front Porch Tales*, *Hometown Tales*, and *For Everything a Season*. He also hosts the Emmy award winning television series, *Porch Talk with Phil Gulley* on Indiana PBS affiliate WFYI. In his eight Harmony novels about life in the small town of Harmony, and in his 2007 book, *Porch Talk: Stories of Decency, Common Sense, and Other Endangered Species*, Gulley captures the voice of small-town American life. An observer of humanity without match, his lump-in-the-throat poignancy, and laugh-out-loud humor offer musings on leisure, marriage, faith, family, and enjoying the little things. In a recent *American Profile* interview, Gulley said, "I want to be known as a man who worked hard to bring justice for all people, especially ...the people our society tends to reject."



Carrie Newcomer is an acclaimed singer/songwriter. On her eleventh and newest CD release, *The Geography of Light*, she expresses her belief that life is experienced in the spaces between darkness and light. Newcomer has worked with recording artists like Alison Krauss and Union Station in the U.S. and Europe and recorded the title track of her 2002 *The Gathering of Spirits* album with Krauss. Prior albums include, *The Age of Possibility*, *The Gathering of Spirits*, the *Betty's Diner* collection and *Regulars & Refugees*. At the center of all her music are Newcomer's adept guitar work and resonant voice. Newcomer, a Quaker, believes that "songwriting is not about being clever, flashy or fancy—it is about telling a compelling story in language and music with elegance and clarity."

10:30 a.m. | Memorial Chapel
The Changing Role of Sport in American Culture

Bert Bertelkamp | Monday, April 6



Bert Bertelkamp is the radio color analyst for University of Tennessee Vols games broadcast by the Vol Network and FOX Sports Net South. He was a former UT guard and four-year letterman from 1977–80. He led the Vols team in assists in 1980 and ranks eighth on UT's all-time assists list. He was a member of the 1976–77 SEC championship team and the 1979 SEC Tournament championship squad. The Vols amassed a record of 72–45 and participated in three NCAA tournaments during his playing days.

King College Commencement

Nick Wolterstorff | Saturday, May 2



Nicholas Wolterstorff was Yale's Noah Porter Professor of Philosophical Theology, teaching at the university since 1989. He is the author of: *Religion and the Schools*; *On Universals*; *Reason within the Bounds of Religion*; *Art in Action*; *Works and Worlds of Art*; *Education for Responsible Action*; *Until Justice and Peace Embrace*; *Lament for a Son*; and *Keeping Faith: Talks for New Faculty*. Wolterstorff is past President of the American Philosophical Association (Central Division) and serves on its publication and executive committees. He is on the editorial boards of *Faith and Philosophy*; *Topics in Philosophy*; and is also General Editor of the Supplementary Textbook Project of the Christian College Coalition and a member of the evaluation panels for the NEH. He received his undergraduate degree at Calvin College and his Ph.D., from Harvard University and currently serves as a Visiting Professor at the University of Virginia.