

Laity School of Theology Schedule 2008-2009

Deeper Learning for Everyday Christians

September

Saturday, September 13

Dr. Susan Marie Smith, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship

Consumer or Minister? What Is the Role of the Laity in the World Today?

Worship not only expresses our identity, it forms us to live faithfully in this world. While cultural patterns match Christian patterns less and less, we will consider ways of living and sustaining the radical ways of life in Christ.

October

Saturday, October 11

Dr. Mike Graves, William K. McElvaney Visiting Professor of Preaching and Director of Continuing Education

How to Read the Gospels Like a Scholar

Whenever seminary professors lead Bible studies or preach in various churches, someone usually says, "I've read the Parable of the Good Samaritan my whole life, and I've never thought about it that way. How can I learn to read the Bible like that?" The best answer I know is the response Thomas Foster offers his students, "The same way you get to Carnegie Hall. Practice." In this interactive session we'll explore some of the scholarly lenses for reading the parables, miracle stories, and teachings of Jesus in the Gospels, as we practice our interpretive skills.

November

Saturday, November 15

Angela D. Sims, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics and Black Church Studies

Scripture, Tradition, Reason, Experience and Moral Discernment

Do you have a decision-making process? Who and what influences how you respond to situations? What things do you take into consideration when making a decision? In this interactive presentation, we will explore how Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience function as primary resources for Christian ethics.

February

Saturday, February 21

James M. Brandt, Associate Professor of Historical Theology and Director
Of Contextual Education

Reformations of the 16th Century and the 21st Century Church

The study will consider the various important movements of reformation in the 16th century—Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, Catholic, and “Left Wing,” and will attend to important aspects of each tradition: its history, theology, worship, church government, and its sense of relation to society. Together we will seek for a sympathetic understanding of each tradition and then ask how each tradition might inform faith and church life for the 21st century.

March

Saturday, March 14

Harold C. Washington, Professor of Hebrew Bible

The Bible, War and Peace, and the Church

What does the Bible teach about war and peace? How can Christian history and tradition inform our ethical reflection on warfare and peacemaking? We will explore these questions and consider the Church's response to war and the hope for peace in the 21st century.

April

Saturday, April 18

Henry H. Knight, Donald and Pearl Wright Professor of Wesleyan Studies

Growing Closer to God: Some Advice from John Wesley

The question of how we come to know and love God more deeply, and serve God and our neighbor more fully, has been asked by Christians in every generation. This course examines the response of John Wesley, which has had a significant influence on Christians from his eighteenth century to our own. Through looking at his spiritual struggles, and his teaching and practice as he finds himself leading a movement for spiritual renewal, we can discover resources to aid our own growth in love and faithfulness today.