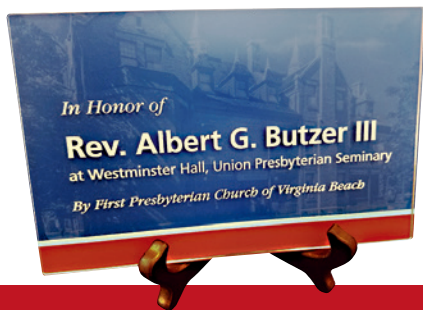




Sprint Lectures Speakers

PAGE 3



Alumni News

PAGE 7



Rev. Butzer Tribute

PAGE 6

APCE

PAGE 7



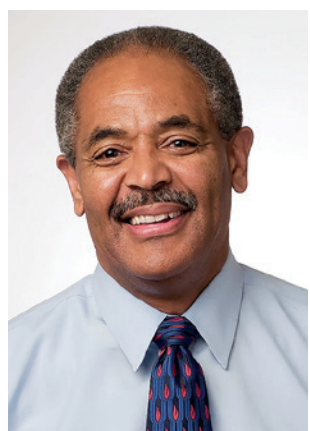
Sharon & Brook

CONNECTING THE UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY COMMUNITY

ISSUE 5 / SPRING 2020

Faith Formation for the Next Generations

2020 Sprint Lectures



Brian K. Blount, President, Union Presbyterian Seminary

When I think of the number 13, I remember back to my growing-up years. Becoming a teenager was a BIG deal. I was little. Even my younger brother, three years my junior, was as tall as I was during most of my youth.

I was self-conscious about being small. I wanted to play football but did not have the skill set. I certainly did not have the size, literally speaking. Metaphorically speaking, though,

turning 13 meant becoming a teenager—and that meant getting closer to being grown up, even if my body refused to grow up!

A little more mature in perspective, size, and age, I find that the number 13 has become important for me once again. This year marks my 13th as president of Union Presbyterian Seminary—my “teenage years” of administrative leadership, so to speak. Hopefully, I’m finally growing into this job.

As I contemplate the events planned for the Sprint Lectures series, my 13th year has been not only a time of recollecting my participation in 13 Sprunts, but also a contemplative window into the theme of our 2020 Sprint Lectures: “Faith formation with children, youth, and young adults in a multi-religious world.”

Growing up. Being educated while growing up. Being educated in the faith. In a pluralistic world of different faiths, what does it mean to form the Christian faith in and with children, teenagers, and young adults?

Of course, across the decades, for more than a century, Union Presbyterian Seminary has concerned itself with the matter of forming the faith in the young and the mature alike. Through its predecessor institutions Assembly Training School and the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Union Presbyterian Seminary has pioneered efforts in faith formation in the church and the world.

During this set of Sprint lectures, we are, so to speak, going back to the future. Our campus scholars, theologians, and educators will, while certainly building from and appreciating educational theories and practices from the past, direct us toward theories, principles, and practices of faith formation for the present and future. In these lectures, I suspect that the legacy of our past will leap to life as we discuss the present challenges and opportunities of Christian education for the young.

Our world is an interfaith world. We form the faith in our young people in a much different, more secularized—though no less spiritual—pluralistic circumstance. Many young people—particularly those who describe themselves as “nones”—may be skeptical about the usefulness of churches, temples, synagogues, and related institutions. Yet they continue to describe themselves as spiritual or spiritually interested.

As young people who come from Christian backgrounds or who are drawn to the Christian traditions appreciate the diversity of other faith perspectives, many are simultaneously passionate about learning more of the particulars of the Christian faith perspective. As the world becomes more technological—and, as a result, considerably smaller—young people interact with other young people across the globe as easily as they encounter those who live on the next block.

How do these encounters shape them and their perspectives on matters of the faith—Christian and otherwise? How do their encounters with Christian institutions invest in them or divest from them a desire to grow into the Christian faith more firmly?

We who are theological educators, church pastors, church educators, and church members have many questions about transmitting the faith to the generations that follow. I think this Sprint Lectures series will be an opportunity to find some answers to those questions or, at the very least, find some wonderful conversation partners with whom to discuss them. Come ask. Come learn.

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Sprunt Lectures

May 4–6, 2020

SCHEDULE

Monday, May 4

- 4:30–5:45 pm Registration & Opening Reception (Holderness Dining Room)
- 6:00–7:00 pm Opening Lecture: Dr. Allan H. Cole Jr. (Watts Chapel)
- 7:30–8:30 pm Evening Concert: Adrienne Williams (Watts Chapel)

Tuesday, May 5

- 8:00–8:45 am Breakfast Conversation with Dr. Rebecca Davis (Holderness Dining Room)
- 9:00–10:00 am Lecture II: Dr. Evelyn L. Parker (Watts Chapel)
- 10:15 am Light Reception (Lawn or Watts Lobby)
- 11:00 am–12:15 pm Worship: Rev. Jessica Tate, preaching (Watts Chapel)
- 12:30–2:00 pm Alumni Luncheon: Rev. Melanie C. Jones, speaking (Holderness Dining Room)
- 2:00 pm Class Photos (Morton Library Steps)
- 2:30 pm Class Reunions (Various Locations)
- 2:30 pm Black Alumni Association Annual Meeting (Congregations Classroom, Early Center, Room 124)
- 4:00–5:45 pm Burgers and Brew: “WKNDR” performing (Seminary Quadrangle)
- 6:00–7:00 pm Lecture III: Dr. Eugene C. Roehlkepartain (Watts Lobby)
- 7:00–7:30 pm Book Signing with the three Sprunt Lecturers (Watts Foyer)
- 7:30–8:15 pm An Evening with Adrienne Williams (Watts Chapel)

Wednesday, May 6

- 8:00–8:45 am Continental Breakfast (Rose Reception, Early Center)
- 9:00–10:15 am Panel Discussion: Dr. Karen-Marie Yust, moderator (Lake Chapel, Early Center)
- 10:30–11:30 am Trailblazer/Distinguished Alum Award Reception (Holderness Dining Room)
- 11:45 am–12:30 pm Closing Worship: Rev. Jessica Tate, preaching (Watts Chapel)
- 12:45 pm Community Lunch (Holderness Dining Room)

Series Fee

A single fee of \$55 includes all meals. There is no à la carte option. There is no meal charge for current students or faculty.

Lectures, worship, and receptions are open to all at no charge.

Hotels

As you make your hotel reservation, please mention you are attending the Sprunt Lectures at Union Presbyterian Seminary for a preferred rate.

Hampton Inn & Suites

Glen Allen / (804) 261-2266
bit.ly/HamptonInnGlenAllen
 \$109 (plus tax)
 Includes complimentary breakfast
 Call by April 13.

SpringHill Suites

Glen Allen / (804) 266-9403
bit.ly/SpringHillSuitesGlenAllen
 Includes complimentary breakfast

Courtyard by Marriott

Glen Allen / (804) 266-6900
bit.ly/CourtyardGlenAllen
 \$124 (plus tax)
 Call by April 4.

Linden Row Inn

100 E. Franklin Street
 Richmond / (804) 783-7000
bit.ly/LindenRowRichmond

To Register

Please visit us online to register.



www.eiseverywhere.com/sp20

Sharon&Brook

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Send us your updated information: Please send us the news of your life and ministry that we may share with others. The Seminary also welcomes updated email and mailing addresses, with current phone numbers.

The Alumni Office would love to hear from you!

Send news and contact updates to Nicole Smith at alumni@upsem.edu or call (804) 278-4228.



OPENING LECTURE

Anxiety & Social Justice: Spiritual Conduits for Young Adults in a Multi-Religious World

Dr. Allan Hugh Cole Jr.

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, and Professor of Psychiatry, Dell Medical School, The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Allan Hugh Cole Jr.'s years of study into how young people find their way to faith has revealed to him that it is not a matter of "If you build it, they will come." Young people today are not drawn to a Sunday School building or to a fixed curriculum.

"They don't 'speak church,'" says Dr. Cole. But, he emphasizes, they are on discernible pathways—what he calls "conduits." His Sprunt Lecture title reveals two of them: "Anxiety and Social Justice: Spiritual Conduits for Young Adults in a Multi-Religious World."

"These are not your grandfather's pathways," he says, "but young people do explore spirituality—in part, because of anxiety—and that's something that goes way back...to the ancients, to the church fathers." Dr. Cole's background has allowed him to consider anxiety from a variety of perspectives.

Dr. Cole is senior associate dean for academic affairs and a professor in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas at Austin. He is also a professor of psychiatry at Dell Medical School. His current research and teaching interests include social work and chronic illness, health humanities, the psycho-social development of boys and men, and social work and religion and spirituality.

Dr. Cole notes that anxiety among young people today is widespread, with one in four young adults struggling enough to meet the clinical definition of anxiety (DSM-5). But just as he has witnessed the prevalence of anxiety, he

has also noticed an orientation toward social justice among young people today—and he believes it offers an opportunity for the church.

"The values of social justice among young people are consistent with the values of Christian faith," he explains, citing environmentalism, inclusivity, systemic poverty, racism, and classism as aspects of social justice of importance to young people. He emphasizes that anxiety and social justice are "not ends in themselves, but pathways or conduits to broader spiritual concerns."

So what is the church to do with these realities—these conduits—of anxiety and social justice? "I'm trying to make the case that the church can be both pragmatic and faithful in responding to this," says Dr. Cole. "First, we need to be aware of it and be able to recognize these opportunities."

"There is the potential for formation of faith—but, not to crassly overstate it, it's not a 'catechism way of thinking' that's needed. We need to be germane to the times we're in—for people not growing up in a church context, for those without experience with Protestant Christianity. We can coalesce around these two experiences, anxiety and social justice, and provide pathways to deeper connections."

"We need to be asking of young people, 'What can the church learn from *you*? How can we tap your experience with anxiety and social justice in ways that the church can benefit *you*?' In a generous sense, this is missional. This is evangelism."



LECTURE II

Tormented, Tangible Grace: Theological & Intersectional Discourse About the Body in Contexts of Teen Dating Violence

Dr. Evelyn L. Parker

Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

Even a cursory glance at the titles of some of Dr. Evelyn L. Parker's past works reveals a scholar whose research has taken her into some of society's most painful and complicated areas. Consider just two titles: "Hungry for Honor: Children in Violent Youth Gangs" (published in Union's *Interpretation* journal in 2001) and her book, *The Sacred Selves of Adolescent Girls* (2006).

The title of her May 2020 Sprunt Lecture, derived from over a decade of work, and with its meaning deepened in 2019 by six months of research in South Africa, where she was a Fulbright Scholar, is no less provocative: "Tormented, Tangible Grace: Theological and Intersectional Discourse About the Body in Contexts of Teen Dating Violence."

Dr. Parker earned her Ph.D. from the Joint Program of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary/Northwestern University in Religious and Theological Studies, with an interdisciplinary emphasis in Christian education, womanist approaches to religion and society, and education and public policy. She describes herself as a "womanist, practical theologian," acknowledging the influence of the late Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, who she says was instrumental in her formation as a teacher and thinker.

Dr. Parker's early research focused on African American adolescent spirituality. Most recently, her work has centered on the spiritual lives of

teenaged girls. Her Fulbright work at the University of Western Cape and the South African Faith and Family Institute in Cape Town, South Africa, was titled, "The Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing and Intervening in Teen Dating Violence in South Africa."

She describes her life's work as centered on "...a concern with race, class, gender, the human body, and sexuality...their intersections...and the effect of oppressive environments, both in a western and global context—specifically in Africa."

Dr. Parker's Sprunt Lecture will be informed by her recent work in South Africa, exploring the critical role of religious leaders in preventing teen dating violence, specifically from ages 15 to 24. When she speaks of "religious leaders," she is speaking not only of ordained clergy, but also of anyone who is "authorized" by young people to assume a position of trust and authority.

In describing the title of her lecture, she says she chose the words "tormented, tangible grace" carefully. "I first wrote about 'tangible grace' and honoring the body—the whole idea of the human body as God's gift to us...God's unmerited, tangible gift—in 2010," Dr. Parker explains. "Ten years hence, I'm still thinking about this idea of 'tangible grace.'"

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“The body is *tormented* in ongoing, agonizing pain. It is tormented through issues of race and gender. The female body is presented as something that patriarchy and white supremacy have a problem with. And that manifests itself in gender-based violence. In my lecture, I’ll look at violence in romantic relationships that girls experience and look at it in

terms of the body that God has given us and the very important intervening role that religious leaders have to play in this.”

Dr. Parker stresses that we need to be aware of young people’s experiences: “We need to be advocates.”



LECTURE III

Intentional Relationships: The Heart of Forming Faith

Dr. Eugene C. Roehlkepartain

Vice President, Research and Development, Search Institute

At the Search Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Dr. Eugene Roehlkepartain occupies what he says is “a unique perch in the adolescent development world.”

Search is a 60-year-old independent nonprofit that studies and works “to strengthen youth success in schools, coalitions, youth and family organizations, and the faith community.” It’s not a religious organization, *per se*, but it is concerned with positive youth development, Dr. Roehlkepartain explains.

What makes his a “unique perch,” he says, is that “it is one of the few secular organizations that takes the faith community and spiritual development seriously as part of kids’ development. We want to understand faith and spiritual development in the whole context of kids’ lives.”

Dr. Roehlkepartain spends most of his time thinking and writing outside of faith communities and considering how kids’ lives intersect with them. “We bring lots of perspectives to this research,” he notes. He identifies the key element in the formation of faith in young people’s lives as “intentional relationships.”

“It’s almost a cliché to say that kids grow through relationships,” he explains, “but what happens when we’re really intentional about it?” That will be the issue he addresses in his Sprunt Lecture, “Intentional Relationships: The Heart of Forming Faith.”

“Our concern is that the church relies too much on programs and curriculum to nurture faith—a set of facts and knowledge—but Christianity is about relationships and community you develop by practicing it, living it.”

So how do we help young people develop those relationships?

Dr. Roehlkepartain cites a framework developed at the Search Institute that lends intentionality to relationships to benefit young people. “We’ve been testing this framework for a few years,” he says. “We ask kids, ‘What are things you experience in relationships that help you grow in your faith?’”

The Search framework comprises five elements: 1. Express Care; 2. Challenge Growth; 3. Provide Support; 4. Share Power; and 5. Expand Possibilities.

“When kids experience expressions of care, when people listen to them, when they’re encouraged to be their best, when we share power with them, they grow and deepen relationships,” says Dr. Roehlkepartain. “We need to listen to kids—to hear the things that matter to them.”

“They like to talk about what they’re good at. Kids need to experience relationships where they’re valued, where they’re heard—by lots of people. Where they show up and feel like they’re recognized. Where they have a voice.”



WORSHIP PREACHER

Rev. Jessica Tate (M.Div., M.A.C.E. '07)

Director for NEXT Church

Rev. Jessica Tate is the first director of NEXT Church (www.nextchurch.net). Called to this work in 2012, she has helped shape NEXT into a relational community of Presbyterian leaders—pastors, elders, church members, youth leaders, seminarians—who believe a vibrant and thriving church shares the good

news of Jesus Christ in ways that transform individual disciples and the communities in which we live and around the world. The congregation of NEXT Church believes God is doing a new thing, and they are deeply invested in (and curious about) how they can be the faithful church in the 21st century.

Prior to joining NEXT, Rev. Tate served as associate pastor at Fairfax Presbyterian Church in Northern Virginia. While there, she worked with the congregation to redevelop the children’s ministry and adult Christian faith formation, designed and co-led innovative worship experiences and traditional Sunday morning services, and helped shift the culture of the

congregation to one focused primarily on deepening relationships.

From 2009–2012, she served as a clergy co-chair of VOICE, a broad-based interfaith community power organization through which she helped develop leaders, recruit institutions, secure dental care for low-income individuals, and create affordable housing options for seniors and the chronically homeless in central Fairfax. In recent years, Rev. Tate has been training to become an International Coach Federation leadership coach.

Rev. Tate is a lifelong Presbyterian and joyful preacher’s kid. She grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina, attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and found her niche in a sea of Carolina blue at the Presbyterian Campus Ministry. Upon graduation, she served as a Young Adult Intern for the PC(USA) at the denomination’s Washington office. She went on to attend Union Presbyterian Seminary and graduated with a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Christian Education.

She and her husband, John, live in Washington, D.C., with their toddler, who keeps them humble with his gregarious nature and independent streak.



2020 BAA TRAILBLAZER

Rev. Richelle B. White, (Ph.D.'11)

Professor of Youth Ministry and Director of Ministry Leadership Internships, Kuyper College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Instructor of Church Education, Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Michigan

A lifelong learner and educator, Rev. Richelle B. White, Ph.D. serves as Professor of Youth Ministry and Director of Ministry Leadership Internships at Kuyper College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She is also a part-time instructor of church education at Calvin Theological Seminary.

Rev. White is an ordained itinerant elder in the Michigan Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and associate minister at First Community A.M.E. Church in Grand Rapids. She is founder and author of the nationally recognized *Daughters of Imani: Christian Rites of Passage for African American Young Women* and *Daughters of Imani: Young Women's Bible Study*.

In addition, Rev. White is creator and director of "In Pursuit of Identity," an after-school program for upper elementary school girls of color at the Gerald R. Ford Academic Center in Grand Rapids. The program emphases include self-esteem-building, identity formation, character education, and leadership development. She is also a regular contributor to Abingdon

Press's intergenerational Vacation Bible School curriculum that utilizes African American culture, history, music, and art to teach biblical truths.

Rev. White has more than 25 years' experience in working with children and youth as a public school teacher, after-school program coordinator, Sunday school teacher, advocate, youth pastor, mentor, teen counselor, program director, workshop leader, curriculum writer, life coach, and ministry consultant. Her latest book, *Repertory with Roots: Black Youth, Black History, Black Culture, Black Music and the Bible*, is a teaching/learning resource that sees, hears, reaches, and engages Black youth in a manner they can understand.

Teaching, preaching, learning, writing, consulting, and mentoring are Rev. White's passions, and she feels fortunate that her passions coincide with her life's calling, work, and ministry. The words of historically renowned educator Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune are foundational in her approach to ministry for, with, and by youth: "We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends."

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

Rev. Mary Jane Winter (M.Div.'76)

Rev. Mary Jane Winter is the former director of alumni and constituency relations at Union Presbyterian Seminary, where she served for 25 years. After accepting the position in March 1983, she left for Central Africa for an intensive spring with the Presbyterian Church. That watershed experience led her to write a proposal for the January term in Ghana, which became the keystone of the Seminary's intercultural program.

A few years later, Rev. Winter led the expansion of the intercultural program to include a Latin America travel seminar and served as adjunct instructor, leading numerous short-term courses and introducing decades of Union and PSCE students to the church's vibrant witness in that part of the world. Her vision and passion for cross-cultural education led her to serve on the globalization taskforce of The Association of Theological Schools to develop accrediting guidelines and integrate globalization into academic curriculum.

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Rev. Winter felt a call to church ministry before women could be ordained, so she focused on Christian education. She eventually became the first woman in her presbytery to become a candidate for ordination and, after graduating with a master's degree from Harvard Divinity School and serving for four years on the faculty of Stuart Hall, she came to Union and graduated in 1976 with an M.Div. degree. She was awarded a graduate fellowship for further study.

Rev. Winter was the first woman ordained by Norfolk Presbytery, where she served as a pastor and led a struggling congregation, Franklin (Virginia) Presbyterian Church, to dramatically increase its membership, Sunday school attendance, and stewardship—with her efforts culminating in a capital campaign that exceeded its goal for building a new fellowship hall. She later returned to small church ministry, serving several congregations that thrived under her leadership.

In 1978, she was elected to serve on the General Assembly's Committee (GAC) on Assembly Operations, and in 1983, she was elected to the new General Assembly Council of the reunited Presbyterian Church (USA). As the GAC organized the new structure, Rev. Winter chaired the worship entity that produced the new *Book of Common Worship* (1993) and the

new *Presbyterian Hymnal* (1990). She led worship at national conferences, preached at Montreat, and wrote liturgical resources for the denomination.

At Union, Rev. Winter focused on promoting the institution, its students, and its alumni. She revived the Caravan program, which built relationships with presbyteries and congregations; directed Sprunt Lecture week, with its numerous events; and guided the Alumni Council to greater involvement. Recognizing the difficulty many recent graduates have in their initial years of ministry, she initiated a program to bring them back to campus for several days of continuing education, renewal, care, and connections. Most important of all, she built lasting relationships with alumni.

Always passionate about the global church, she worked in Louisville for World Mission, serving to connect mission personnel and local churches. In Richmond, she has been a tireless leader, serving as a resource to local churches, and a mission interpreter, grant writer, and trip leader to Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Haiti to foster partnership, understanding, and deeper connections. After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Rev. Winter provided key leadership in developing a partnership with World Mission for a new mission co-worker position and engaging congregations to provide needed support.

In the seminary and the presbytery, in small churches and in the global church, Rev. Winter has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to encourage young pastors and provide leadership opportunities for others.

Rev. Winter has served on the board of trustees for Montreat and Covenant Woods Retirement Community (Richmond, Virginia), and currently serves on the board of CEDEPCA USA, a nonprofit she helped create to serve Guatemala's Center for Pastoral Education in Central America. She is active at Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond, where she is serving part time as a pastoral care minister.

Rev. Winter is married to Ted Winter, a librarian, who served for 25 years in a variety of capacities at the Seminary library. Their daughter, Katherine, lives in Richmond and was recently married at the Labyrinth on the Westwood Tract.

continued on next page

MORE ONLINE

Find Sprunt information, including schedule, speaker bios, and links for registration.



www.upsem.edu/event/2020-sprunt-lectures/



ALUMNI LUNCH SPEAKER

Rev. Melanie C. Jones

Instructor of Ethics, Theology and Culture
 Director, Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership
 Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Virginia

Rev. Melanie C. Jones is a womanist ethicist, millennial preacher, and intellectual activist. She joined the Union Presbyterian Seminary faculty as Instructor of Ethics, Theology and Culture and Inaugural Director of the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership in fall 2019. Formerly, Rev. Jones served as 2018–19 Crump Visiting Professor and Black Religious Scholar-in-Residence at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, and lecturer at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas; American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee; and Chicago Theological Seminary and the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois.

Rev. Jones's research probes the scripting of the body in theology and philosophy that fosters religious, cultural, and moral meaning for the present, with particular attention to Black women's body politics. She engages womanist theological ethics and sacred texts, millennials and faith,

and Black aesthetics and popular culture. For her distinguished research, Melanie has received notable fellowships and scholarships from the The Forum for Theological Exploration, Louisville Institute, Wabash Center, and Villanova University Center for Church Management.

Rev. Jones is a thinking woman of faith embodying radical love and revolutionary justice in the academy, the church, and the global community. She is co-curator of #MillennialWomanism Digital Forum and co-founder of The Millennial Womanism Project (TMWP)—an enterprise committed to enhancing the well-being of Black millennial women of faith and justice and fostering trans-generational womanist dialogue. As a global leader serving professional societies and international boards, she is the chair of the board of directors of the Daughters of the African Atlantic Fund.

A third-generation ordained Baptist preacher and sought-after lecturer, Rev. Jones is an emerging millennial voice who has been featured in noted academic and popular publications as well as on television, radio, and news outlets. Follow her at www.revmelanie.com.



PANEL MODERATOR

Dr. Karen-Marie Yust

Josiah P. and Anne Wilson Rowe Professor of Christian Education
 Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Virginia

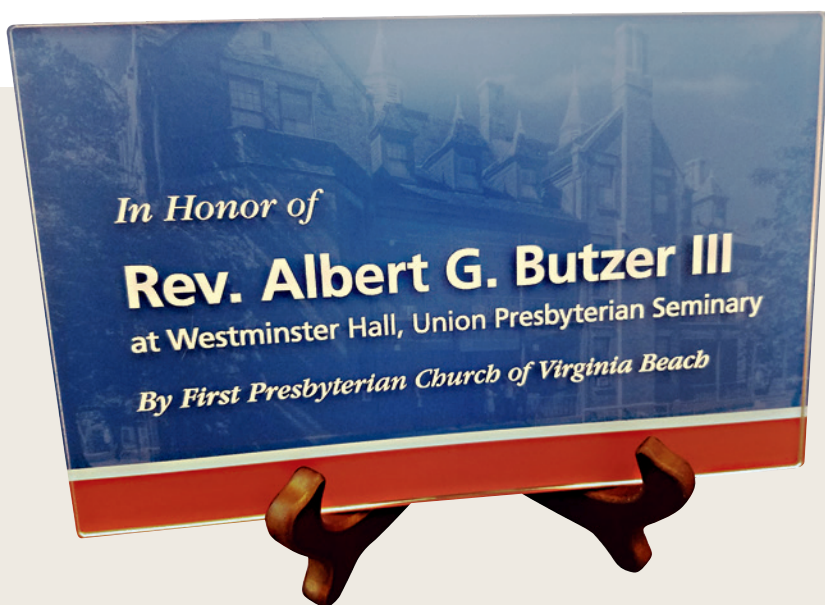
The work of Dr. Yust focuses on nurturing spirituality and encouraging theological reflection intergenerationally and across the lifespan. Her current research explores the effects of digital culture on spirituality, particularly among children, youth, and young adults.

Dr. Yust draws from findings in media studies, developmental psychology, and educational theory to describe how online participation shapes personal identity and communal relationships and then reflect theologically on how the church might respond constructively to the realities of contemporary life. She is interested in new findings in young children's moral development

that suggest infants and toddlers have moral sensibilities that adults can cultivate through encouraging curiosity and expanding social ideals of kinship to better encompass our human diversity.

Dr. Yust is also exploring the changing dynamics of congregational life and asking how these changes offer opportunities to develop new approaches to faith formation and new foci for educational ministries. She is interested in taking Christian education outside of traditional programs to other venues, such as online sites and non-religious gathering spaces.

An experienced pastor and Christian educator, Dr. Yust is ordained with dual standing in the United Church of Christ and Disciples traditions.



Members of First Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach accompanied former pastor Al Butzer and his wife (6th and 7th from left) for a campus visit in Richmond.

Honor Thy Pastor

First Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach will celebrate and honor Rev. Al Butzer, their former pastor, by naming a room for him in the renovated Westminster Hall. A delegation from the church, which included Rev. Butzer and his wife, visited Richmond last summer and, during a tour of the campus, saw firsthand the current condition of Westminster Hall and provided encouragement for our renovation efforts. President Blount presented a room plaque to Rev. Butzer to commemorate the church's gift to honor him.

We welcome creative inspiration from churches wishing to honor their pastors and leaders while also helping to renovate Westminster Hall! Call me to discuss your ideas.

Richard Wong, Vice President, Advancement, (804) 278-4240



GREETINGS

W. Clay Macaulay

Grace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

More than 70 UPSem alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends recently gathered for the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators' annual luncheon and reunion, held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Attendees heard from our faculty and staff on how UPSem is getting "out of the box" with new Christian Education initiatives such as Opening Doors to Discipleship, Presbyterians Supporting Christian Education, and our Global M.A.C.E. Format.

This issue of *Sharon & Brook* focuses on our upcoming Sprunt Lectures, scheduled for May 4–6, 2020, on the Richmond campus. There will be three lectures this year, focusing on the theme "Faith Formation with children, youth, and young adults in a multi-religious world."

Invited to speak on Monday evening is Dr. Allan Hugh Cole Jr., of The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Evelyn L. Parker, of Perkins School of Theology, and Dr. Eugene C. Roehlkepartain, of Search Institute in Minneapolis, will lecture on Tuesday. Sprunts will conclude with a panel discussion with the lecturers and Dr. Karen-Marie Yust on Wednesday morning.

The preacher for Sprunts is Rev. Jessica Tate (M.Div. & M.A.C.E. '07), Director for NEXT Church. Rev. Melanie C. Jones, Instructor of Ethics, Theology and Culture and Director of the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership, will be the speaker for our Alumni Luncheon on Tuesday.

At a reception on Wednesday morning, two alums will be honored: Rev. Richelle B. White (Ph.D.'11) as our 2020 Black Alumni Association Trailblazer of the Year and Rev. Mary Jane Winter (M.Div.'76) as our 2020 Distinguished Alum.

Please register ahead, as we anticipate another large gathering of alumni and friends and want to have space and food ready for those planning to attend. Registration can be completed online at www.eiseverywhere.com/sp20.

Since good food and fellowship are a key part of this annual gathering, you will note that there is a simple flat fee for taking part in any or all meals. Your generous understanding and support of this annual homecoming of those like you, who love and support UPSem, is greatly appreciated. There is no charge, of course, to attend the lectures, worship, or receptions during Sprunts.

We encourage you to send news of your life and ministry to our Alumni Associate, Nicole Smith, at alumni@upsem.edu. We love hearing from you! Also, check out our alumni web page at www.upsem/alumni.

See you in May!

W. Clay Macaulay (D.Min.'85), Director of Alumni Development
cmacaulay@upsem.edu / (804) 278-4382



More than 70 UPSem alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends gathered for the annual APCE luncheon in Little Rock, Arkansas, on January 31, 2020.

Alumni Notes

TRANSITIONS

Jim Ewing (M.Div.'04) was called as Pastor of Avondale Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC, in August 2019.

Ron Gilmer (M.Div.'06) was called as Interim Pastor of Church of Reconciliation, Chapel Hill, NC, in December 2019.

Perry Neel (M.Div.'82) will retire as Adjunct Instructor of Philosophy, Ethics, Humanities, and Religion at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, in May 2020, after 20 years.

Shelly Barrick Parsons (M.A., M.Div.'00, Ph.D.'05) has been called as Director of Children and Family Ministry at River Road Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA.

Timothy J. "TJ" Remaley (M.A., M.Div.'14) has been called as Associate Pastor for Family Ministry at Faith Presbyterian Church, Cape Coral, FL.

William "Will" E. Robinson (Ph.D.'15) is now Pastor-Head of Staff of First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island, SC.

Amy Busse Stoker (M.Div.'95) was called as Head of Staff for First Presbyterian Church, Pulaski, TN, in September 2019.

Martin L. Stokes Jr. (D.Min.'74) retired from the pastorate on December 31, 2014.

Christopher M. Tweel (M.Div.'14) was called as Pastor-Head of Staff at Three Chopt Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, in January 2020.

Matthew White (M.Div.'18) has accepted a one-year position as Lay Preacher and Newcomer Consultant at St. David's Episcopal Church in Chesterfield, VA.

CELEBRATIONS

Annie Franklin Arvin (M.Div., M.A.C.E. '18) and **Thomas Arvin** welcomed Molly Claire Arvin on September 10, 2019. Annie serves on staff of St. Simons Presbyterian Church, St. Simons Island, GA.

Amy Busse (M.Div.'95) married Brent Stoker on August 3, 2019.

Owen J. Gray (M.Div.'17) was installed by Grace Presbytery on Sunday, October 27, 2019, as associate pastor of St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, Richardson, TX.

Emily B. Hook (M.Div.'17) was installed by the Presbytery of Arkansas on Sunday, November 17, 2019, as pastor of Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, Forrest City, AR.

Lyndsey McCall (M.Div.'11) married Dominique Gilliam on November 3, 2019, in Watts Chapel on the Richmond campus.

James "Jay" Morgan (3rd-year M.Div., Richmond) married Rebecca Smyth on October 19, 2019, in Watts Chapel on the Richmond campus.

IN MEMORIAM

J. Gary Campbell (M.Div.'59)
June 24, 2019

Robert H. Crumby (M.Div.'56)
December 24, 2019

Gary H. Hall (Th.D.'80)
June 15, 2019

Jean C. Hess (widow of former Union-PSCE professor Dr. Curtis Hess)
January 31, 2020

Sally Hinchman (M.A.'71)
January 17, 2020

Beverly Ann Davis Johnson (M.A.'60)
January 5, 2020

Winfield R. "Casey" Jones Jr. (D.Min.'79)
June 9, 2019

Katherine Little (M.R.E.'58)
November 9, 2018

Dr. Carl Pernell Losen (Th.D.'66)
January 28, 2020

Jerry C. McCann Sr. (B.D.'52)
December 10, 2019

Charles S. McChesney (B.D.'49)
December 11, 2019

Angus W. McGregor (M.Div.'64)
October 28, 2019

James H. Montgomery (B.D.'58)
December 7, 2019

Kenneth F. Morris (Th.D.'64)
January 31, 2020

Jessica B. Reveley [spouse of Nelson Reveley (M.Div.'10, Th.M.'11)]
November 25, 2019

William F. Summers Sr. (B.D.'45)
July 15, 2019

John D. Turner (B.D.'65)
October 26, 2019

James K. "Jim" Wilson (M.Div.'59, M.C.E.'60, D.Min.'81)
November 8, 2019

Elizabeth Hallett Jones Worrell (B.C.E.'66)
October 30, 2019

Robert L. Yoder (M.Div.'72)
November 12, 2019

AWARDS

Priscilla A. Andre-Colton (M.A.'79) is the recipient of the 2020 SUSTAIN—Life Achievement award from the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE).

Richelle B. White (Ph.D.'11) is Union Presbyterian Seminary's 2020 Black Alumni Association (BAA) Trailblazer of the Year.

Mary Jane Winter (M.Div.'76) is Union Presbyterian Seminary's 2020 Distinguished Alum.

ON THE SHELF

David R. Bauer (Ph.D.'85) is the author of *The Gospel of the Son of God: An Introduction to Matthew*, published by InterVarsity Academic Press.

Curtis Christian IV (D.Min.'86) has released his second book, *The Angels of Hellas*, published in October 2019.

Jill J. Duffield (M.Div.'96) is the author of *Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects*, published by Westminster John Knox Press, 2019.

Gary H. Hall (Th.D.'80) is the co-author of *Jeremiah and Lamentations, Polis Bible Commentary Volume 15*, published in October 2019 by Urban Loft Publishers.

P. Lynn Miller (M.Div.'91) will release a study called "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament" as part of the 2020–2021 PW/Horizons Bible studies in March 2020.

Jeff Paschal (M.Div.'90) is the author of *The Trajectory of Hope—and Other Sermons that Matter*, published in May 2019 by Parson's Porch.

Thomas T. Shields (D.Min.'83) is the author of *Upstream Teaching in the Church: A Transformative Teaching Method*, published by WestBow Press, 2019.

Ellen Crawford True (M.Div.'96) is the author of *And So I Kept Living—and Other Sermons that Matter*, published in 2019 by Parson's Porch.

This list reflects notes received by the Alumni Office as of February 12, 2020.

MORE ONLINE

For a complete and updated listing of transitions, retirements, in memoriam, and publications of our UPSem alums, visit:



upsem.edu/alumni

UPCOMING EVENTS



For the Church in the World

3401 Brook Road Richmond, VA 23227

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
PERMIT NO. 1027

Playology Workshop

March 14, 2020 / 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Early Center, Richmond Campus


Playology is chock-full of interactive training and practical resources to integrate recreation and play into your ministry context. Experienced leaders will conduct a full day of recreation-related workshops. This event is a great resource for children and youth leaders, pastors, worship leaders, camp counselors, educators, recreation leaders, volunteers, and more. Please visit our website for more information.

 bit.ly/playology

Worship & Sacraments: Christian Educator Certification Hybrid Course

April 20, 2020 / at-home work begins
May 19–21 / in-class time
Paisley Hall, Richmond Campus

This class meets the requirements for Christian Education certification in the PC(USA), but is open to anyone interested in the topic. You do not have to be seeking certification to participate in this hybrid course. Please visit our website for more information.

 bit.ly/pchybridcourse

The Sprunt Lectures Issue

[Schedule and Registration](#) PAGE 2 [Speakers](#) PAGE 3

2020 SPRUNT LECTURES

Faith formation with children, youth, and young adults in a multi-religious world

THREE FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Dr. Allan Hugh Cole Jr.

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, and Professor of Psychiatry, Dell Medical School, The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Evelyn L. Parker

Susanna Wesley Centennial Professor of Practical Theology, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

Dr. Eugene C. Roehlkepartain

Vice President, Research and Development, Search Institute

Preacher for Sprunt Lectures

Jessica Tate (Union-PSCE, M.Div. & M.A.C.E. '07)

Director for NEXT Church



2020 SPRUNT LECTURES

MAY 4–6, 2020 / RICHMOND CAMPUS



For the Church in the World