

The Gospel of Matthew:

Challenges and Resources for Preachers Today

About the Leaders:



John T. Carroll is Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament and Director of the Program for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Union Presbyterian Seminary. He was called to the seminary's faculty in 1992, after serving for six years on the faculty at Louisiana State University, teaching religious studies.

John received a B.A. from the University of Tulsa, a Diploma in Theology from Oxford University, and received the M.Div. from Princeton Seminary in 1979, followed by the Ph.D. in New Testament there in 1986. He has served as an associate pastor of a church in Michigan, and as interim pastor of a small congregation in the Baton Rouge area. He has also taught as a visiting professor at Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, the College of William and Mary, and Randolph-Macon College.

John's primary research and teaching interests include the Gospels, the message and ministry of Jesus, early Christian apocalyptic literature, theological interpretation of the Bible, and the intersections between the Bible and contemporary culture and between the Bible and contemporary ethical concerns. He has authored or co-authored five books and edited others. He was associate editor and then co-editor of *Interpretation* from 1996 to 2003, and returned to service as co-editor in January 2014. Professor Carroll is a founding member of the New Testament Library Editorial Advisory Board. He is co-chair of the Gospel of Luke Section for the Society of Biblical Literature.

John enjoys teaching adult education classes in local congregations and has served as minister member of the session at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church. He is married to Maria Ramos, an English professor at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond, and they have a young son, Oscar James. He also has two adult children, Andrew and Anna. A semi-professional musician, he is principal trombonist for the Richmond Philharmonic and the Richmond Brass Consort and also performs with the trombone choir of Virginia Commonwealth University. He retired from a 15-year amateur baseball career after his team won the league championship in 2010 and 2011.



Frances Taylor Gench, Ph.D., is erbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Union Presbyterian Seminary. An ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Frances was on the faculty of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg from 1986 to 1999. She served as a member of the PC(USA) General Assembly's Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church (2001-2006), and is a parish associate at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., where her husband, Roger Gench, is senior pastor.

Frances' research and teaching interests include the Gospels, women in the biblical world and feminist biblical criticism, global and intercultural perspectives on the Bible, and issues of biblical authority and interpretation. The author of six books, her most recent publication is *Encountering God in Tyrannical Texts: Reflections on Paul, Women, and the Authority of Scripture* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2015).



Richard W. Voelz, a seasoned pastor and published scholar, joined the faculty of Union Presbyterian Seminary as assistant professor of preaching and worship on July 1, 2016. He previously served as the senior minister at Johns Creek Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Johns Creek.

Rich received his Ph.D. in Homiletics and Liturgics from Vanderbilt University in 2011. While at Vanderbilt, he served as managing editor for *Homiletic*, the journal of the Academy of Homiletics. He has authored several books, including "Youthful Preaching: Strengthening the Relationship between Youth, Adults, and Preaching," published in the Lloyd John Ogilvie Institute of Preaching Series (Cascade Books, 2016). He also wrote "Tending the Tree of Life: Preaching and Worship through Reproductive Loss and Adoption" (Shook Foil Books, 2015). Other publications include a number of articles and book reviews, and he has entries on passages from the Gospel of Mark in *Feasting on the Gospels*, published by Westminster John Knox Press.

Voelz holds degrees from Milligan College (B.A., 2001) and Emmanuel School of Religion (now Emmanuel Christian Seminary, M.Div., 2005). He is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).