



2019 Sprunt Lectures  
Speakers  
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# Sharon & Brook

CONNECTING THE UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY COMMUNITY

ISSUE 2 / WINTER 2018–19

# What Are Biblical Values?

## 2019 Sprunt Lectures

### An Interview with John Collins

Six years ago, John J. Collins, Holmes Professor of Old Testament Criticism and Interpretation at Yale Divinity School, heard a presidential election ad urging listeners to vote according to “biblical values.” In that instance, the biblical values had to do with right to life and the definition of marriage as between a man and a woman.

“It was a fair indication of the kind of problem you get with popular discourse—particularly political discourse—when you talk about biblical values,” says Collins.

The problem, he explains, is that when it comes to a host of social and political issues, the Bible has much less to say than is generally supposed.

The election ad was troubling enough to Collins that he launched a course that year titled “What Are Biblical Values?” It is also the theme of the Sprunt Lectures he will deliver May 6–8, 2019, at Union Presbyterian Seminary.

The easy and unfounded application of scripture to political viewpoints is as prevalent today as at any time in history, according to Collins. “One of the most flagrant recent examples is (former) Attorney General Jeff Sessions’ June 2018 defense of the current administration’s family separation policies as reflecting the ‘biblical view’ of Romans 13 (obedience to authority).”

“A lot of people in antiquity and in modern times have assumed that their traditional values are in the Bible,” says Collins. “But if you actually *read* it, they’re not.”

“In the church itself, you have the flip side of political discourse,” he explains. “You have two widely different takes—the classic liberal/conservative split that we see in society as a whole. For conservatives, ‘biblical values’ become narrowly focused on such issues as homosexuality and abortion. On the liberal end, it’s more toward concern for the environment and social justice.”

“I’m not saying a given issue is not important,” says Collins. “But if you claim biblical authority, be clear: The Bible may say nothing on that issue.”

Collins will speak in his Sprunt Lectures about four of those issues—and the absence or scant amount of attention paid to them—in both the Old and New Testaments.

#### Right to Life

“You would think, from the public discourse, that the whole criterion Christianity stands or falls on is the right to life,” says Collins. “The Jewish historian Josephus said at the end of the first century that the Law of Moses forbids abortion. It doesn’t. The Bible says nothing on that topic.”

“In the Old Testament, the penalty for almost everything is death. They boast of that: zero tolerance. That’s not a right to life.” In fact, adds the scholar, “...in the Bible, we do not have ‘rights.’ The Bible does not speak in terms of rights. And it cuts both ways: Social justice in

“I’m not saying a given issue is not important,” says Collins. “But if you claim biblical authority, be clear: The Bible may say nothing on that issue.”

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## THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND THE CHURCH

# Thinking Biblically, Theologically

### An Interview with Willie Thompson

Though he could not know what lay ahead after graduation, Willie Thompson (B.D.'61; Th.M.'62; D.Min.'92) can look back now and see that Union Presbyterian Seminary was "...preparing us in ways that we didn't realize."

"My generation was not very politically astute," says Thompson, who, in 1958, graduated from Davidson College and entered what was then Union Theological Seminary. "By the time I finished, I was 25 years of age and I was turned out into the church. I had not had much of what you'd call 'life experience.' It never occurred to me in my growing-up years that I might have to take a stand against some people in my own church. After all, 15 of 63 members of my seminary class were children of pastors and denominational officials whose community leadership and moral authority had always been assumed and accepted."

#### **"My generation had to wake up in a hurry."**

The civil rights movement, which was gripping the nation, was the alarm bell for that awakening. Federal troops had enforced integration in Little Rock, Arkansas. Public schools were shut down in Prince Edward County and Norfolk, Virginia. "Massive Resistance" to integration was the response from Virginia's white political establishment.

At the same time, Thompson says, "...a new kind of force was forming in a new generation of political leaders." He cites as evidence of that new force the 1960 election of John Kennedy, a candidate he and fellow Seminary students had gone to see during a campaign stop at Richmond's airport.

For Thompson, the growing national turbulence quickly became personal and urgent. During his first pastorate, at Second Presbyterian Church in



Rocky Mount, North Carolina, he was known as a civil rights proponent who clashed with the community's arch-conservative newspaper editor, had Ku Klux Klansmen attend his services, and had a cross burned in his yard. Vandals spray-painted the word "zebra" on his car. He accepted the insult as a badge of honor. (His email address contains the word "zebraman" to this day.)

He drew strength from the teachings and support of Seminary faculty members like John Leith, Balmer Kelly, Donald Miller, Ben Rose, E.T. Thompson, and others. "We learned from them that the church would not always be a comfortable place and that we would have to stand up for our convictions," says Thompson.

The 1960s are often remembered of as a time of extraordinary, perhaps unique, social activism—at the Seminary and around the country—but Thompson says students then were not so different from students now. What he does emphasize are the differences in a minister's life that are caused by greater cultural change.

"We, in my generation at seminary, did not realize we were riding a wave of church attendance being a popular thing and the impact Christianity had in shaping society. We assumed church was a powerful force in culture. That's no longer true for any part of life. Church is a minority institution now, and the nurturing force of church is limited."

#### **"It's an uphill battle for the seminary today."**

"My educational experience at the Seminary in the late 1950s and early 1960s hopefully enabled me, primarily through the teaching of Donald Miller, to 'think biblically' about relevant ethics for today's society, and also, through the teaching of John Leith, to 'think theologically' about the same."

"The world needs the activism of the church," Thompson says, and "...we need to address issues, not from a position of 'we know best' or by being part of a popular cultural movement, but from the basis of our Reformed theology and the biblical word."

For Thompson, the underpinning that has strengthened his ministry, dating especially from the turbulent 1960s, is his education at Union. "I always felt Union Seminary was my greatest pastor," he says. "The people there: administration, faculty, students... If I was challenged, I felt supported."

### READ MORE

The history of Union Presbyterian Seminary is a chronicle of change—of God changing people, of God's changed people changing the Seminary, and of the Seminary changing a little piece of our world. William B. Sweetser Jr. (Ph.D.'00) has traced the story of the Seminary from its earliest beginnings in his book *A Copious Fountain: A History of Union Presbyterian Seminary, 1812–2012* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2016). A paper on *Union, Race, and Slavery* has been compiled to capture the changes in our society and how they affected Union. You can view a copy of this paper at:



[bit.ly/Race-Slavery-Paper](http://bit.ly/Race-Slavery-Paper)

## What Are Biblical Values? *continued from previous page*

modern discourse tends to be grounded in human rights. But in the Bible, it's not. The Bible is theocentric, grounded in commandments."

### Gender

Collins observes that the cultural gender wars have been waged primarily over homosexuality. "But the Bible doesn't say much about this," he says.

Does the Bible forbid sexual relations between people of the same sex? "The answer is yes, but it's very seldom mentioned," says Collins, citing two verses in Leviticus.

He points out that the priestly authors of Leviticus were more concerned with "improper mixing." They were obsessed, he says, with clean distinctions and abhorred things that were not neatly categorized. This is the root of much kosher law. "They were bothered by anomaly."

"In the Old Testament," says Collins, "it [homosexuality] is mentioned in only one or two places. In the New Testament, there are a couple of passages from Paul. Jesus never mentions it."

### The Environment

"The Old Testament gets bad press on the environment," says Collins, referring to often-misinterpreted scripture that speaks about subduing and having dominion over the earth. "On the whole, the ethos of the Old Testament is to preserve the earth."

He cites references to the sabbatical year (sowing for six years and letting the soil rest for the seventh), not cutting down trees unnecessarily, and leaving the mother bird alone if taking an egg as a "kind of a basic concern to let things live."

In the Gospels, he says, no one talked of preserving the environment, but there is instruction to "take only what you need."

### Social Justice

"The Bible does not say as much as is generally thought," says Collins about this topic, although he believes justice is the most compelling reason to cite the Bible.

Despite the references to women's status in the Bible and the fact that tolerance of slavery is never revoked, justice is the value on which the Bible stands or falls. Matthew speaks of failure to feed the hungry. "That is the bottom line of it," says Collins.

"For me, social justice is the central biblical value," he says. "In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, how you treat your fellow human being is fundamental."

# Sprunt Lectures

May 6–8, 2019



Brian K. Blount

## SCHEDULE

### Monday, May 6

- 4:30–5:45 pm Registration & Opening Reception (Holderness Dining Room)
- 6:00–7:00 pm Opening Lecture: "Does the Bible Affirm a Right to Life?" (Watts Chapel)
- 7:30 pm Local Microbrewery Tour (Location TBD)

### Tuesday, May 7

- 8:00–8:45 am Breakfast Conversation with Samuel Adams (Holderness Dining Room)
- 9:00–10:00 am Lecture: "The Bible and Gender" (Watts Chapel)
- 10:15–11:15 am Trailblazer/Distinguished Alumni Award Reception (Lake Chapel)
- 11:15 am–12:15 pm Worship (Watts Chapel)
- 12:30–2:00 pm Alumni Luncheon with Speaker Dr. Lewis Galloway (D.Min.'77, Th.M.'79) (Holderness Dining Room)
- 2:00–2:15 pm Class Photos (Morton Library Steps)
- 2:30–2:45 pm Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon Portrait Dedication (Rose Reception, Early Center)
- 3:00–4:15 pm BAA Annual Meeting (EC-125), Class Reunions (Early Center)
- 4:30–5:45 pm Cookout on the Quad with Entertainment
- 6:00–7:00 pm Lecture: "The Bible and the Environment" (Watts Chapel)
- 7:00–7:30 pm Book Signing (Watts Foyer)

### Wednesday, May 8

- 8:00–8:45 am Breakfast (Rose Hall or Lake Chapel)
- 9:00–10:15 am Lecture with Q&A: "Social Justice in the Shadow of the Apocalypse" (Lake Chapel)
- 10:30–11:30 am Closing Worship (Westminster Lawn or Watts Chapel)
- 11:45 am Lunch (Holderness Dining Room)

## Series Fee

Alumni: \$55

BAA Member: \$40

(Alumni Lunch on 5/7 is paid for with dues)

Friend: \$55

Faculty/Staff: \$55

Student: Free

Spouse: \$55

## Hotels

Hampton Inn & Suites / (804) 261-2266  
\$99.00 (plus tax)  
complimentary breakfast included

SpringHill Suites / (804) 266-9403  
\$96.00 (plus tax)  
complimentary breakfast included

Courtyard by Marriott / (804) 266-6900  
\$124.00 (plus tax)

*Cutoff Date: Friday, April 19, 2019  
(room blocks and special pricing  
will be released after this date).*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Sprunt Lectures are some of my favorite dates on the Union Presbyterian Seminary calendar. I remember the very first time I was here for the lectures as president-elect of the Seminary. The opportunity to meet alumni from all across the country—indeed, the world—who treasured memories of their years as seminary students and celebrated hopeful messages about the coming years and future students who would follow in their footsteps gave me chills of excitement about my calling and the alumni, students, faculty, staff, and trustees with whom I would share it.

Now, as I anticipate my 12th Sprunt Lectures as president, I can honestly say that my excitement for these wonderful three days in the life of the Seminary has not diminished one bit. The lectures stimulate me. I feel like a student in the classroom again—hanging on every word, trying not just to understand what is being shared, but also to determine how what I hear can transform how I think and how I live. Over these past 12 years, we have been fortunate to learn from engaging speakers. I am certain that this year's lecturer, John Collins, will prove equally challenging and exciting. He is a magnificent scholar whose lectures and writings expand thought horizons about matters of Bible, faith, and culture. I cannot wait to listen and take note of his word to us.

I am equally excited about this year's preacher: one of our own, Dr. Lance Watson of St. Paul's Baptist Church here in RVA. Dr. Watson is a powerful preacher whose interpretation of the text will not only nourish our spirits; it will also awaken our hearts and minds to the ways in which we can represent the movement of God's reign in our midst. When he preaches and his choir sings, I expect we will be moved to go out and do some moving for God.

Join us for this year's Sprunt Lectures. Come recall past memories. Come make some new memories. Come learn. Come be inspired.

See you on campus.

## TO REGISTER

Please visit us online to register or fill out and return the attached registration envelope.



[www.etouches.com/sp19](http://www.etouches.com/sp19)



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### John J. Collins

Holmes Professor of Old Testament Criticism and Interpretation  
Yale Divinity School

#### Education

B.A., M.A. – University College Dublin  
Ph.D. – Harvard University  
D.Litt. (Hon.) – University College Dublin

A native of Ireland, Professor Collins was a professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of Chicago from 1991 before taking on his current role at Yale Divinity School in 2000. He previously taught at the University of Notre Dame. He has published widely on the subjects of apocalypticism, wisdom, Hellenistic Judaism, and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

His books include *The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Biography; Early Judaism: A Comprehensive Overview*; the commentary on Daniel in the Hermeneia series; *The Scepter and the Star: The Messiahs of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Other Ancient Literature; Apocalypticism in the Dead Sea Scrolls; Jewish Wisdom in the Hellenistic Age; The Apocalyptic Imagination; Between Athens and Jerusalem: Jewish Identity in the Hellenistic Diaspora; Introduction to the Hebrew Bible with CD-ROM; Does the Bible Justify Violence?; Jewish Cult and Hellenistic Culture; Encounters with Biblical Theology; The Bible after*

*Babel: Historical Criticism in a Postmodern Age; King and Messiah as Son of God (with Adela Yarbro Collins); and Beyond the Qumran Community: The Sectarian Movement of the Dead Sea Scrolls.*

Dr. Collins is co-editor of the three-volume *Encyclopedia of Apocalypticism*, *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism*, and *The Oxford Handbook of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, and has participated in the editing of the Dead Sea Scrolls. He is also general editor of the Yale Anchor Bible series. He has served as editor of the *Journal for the Study of Judaism Supplement Series, Dead Sea Discoveries*, and the *Journal of Biblical Literature*, and as president of both the Catholic Biblical Association and the Society of Biblical Literature. He holds an honorary D.Litt. from University College Dublin and an honorary Th.D. from the University of Zurich. Professor Collins is a fellow of Trumbull College. (For a complete list of publications, visit [bit.ly/JohnCollinsYDS](http://bit.ly/JohnCollinsYDS).)



## WORSHIP PREACHER

### Dr. Lance D. Watson

Dr. Lance D. Watson is a three-time *summa cum laude* graduate of Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, from which he holds a B.S. in Psychology, a B.A. in Philosophy, and an M.A. in Guidance and Counseling.

He is a *magna cum laude* graduate of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, from which he holds an M.Div., and a *summa cum laude* graduate

of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. He completed his doctoral studies at United Theological Seminary, earning the D.Min. degree.

Dr. Watson's achievements and recognitions are noteworthy. He has been honored as an Outstanding Community Leader, an Outstanding Contributor to Education, and Minister of the Year by several organizations. He is listed in *Who's Who in Religion* and is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

For over 30 years, he has served as senior pastor of Saint Paul's Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, and chief visionary for its corporate affiliates. He is host of the telecast "Positive Power," seen globally at [myspbc.org](http://myspbc.org).

Saint Paul's is a progressive, forward-looking, outreach-oriented congregation for "People On the Grow" and serves as the spiritual home for almost 12,000 people meeting across three locations in three different counties. It supports mission and ministry causes around the globe.

A fierce proponent of spiritual and economic development, Saint Paul's has acquired more than 330 acres of land as part of its plan to construct The City of Possibility, a master-planned community that will provide more than 120 acres of housing, commercial, and retail spaces; a park; an elementary school; a performing arts academy; a retreat and conference center; an urgent care facility; an assisted living and memory care community; and an urban farm and community gardens.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Watson is married to Rosemary Wilder, a noted and world-traveled singer, producer, and entrepreneur. Together, they parent three children and five grandchildren. A gifted communicator, pastor, ideapreneur, television personality, and cultural architect, Dr. Watson is the author of three books and numerous social media publications available for viewing at [lancewatson.org](http://lancewatson.org).



## WORSHIP LEADER

### Rev. Anna George Traynham

Anna George Traynham (M.Div.'14) is as an associate pastor at Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, where she has been serving since graduating from Union Presbyterian Seminary in 2014. While at Union, she was the winner of one of Union's annual excellence in preaching and worship awards and a recipient of the Sallie Shepherd Perkins Graduate Fellowship.

Her published writings include four prayers in the *Book of Common Worship* (2018 edition), all of the liturgy in the 2018–2019 issue of the denominational publication *Call to Worship*, and three essays in the new Connections commentary series, in addition to online publications through Presbyterian Outlook and various online liturgy resources. She frequently writes liturgy for Presbyterian conferences, and she often shares her liturgy with the world through her blog, [andalsowithyou.blog](http://andalsowithyou.blog).

## MORE ONLINE

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



[www.etouches.com/sp19](http://www.etouches.com/sp19)



## 2019 BAA TRAILBLAZER

### Rev. Dr. Harry Eugene Simmons

Harry Eugene Simmons (M.A.'84) currently serves as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University (STVU) in Richmond, Virginia. He has been employed since 1991 by the Department of Veterans Affairs Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center as Staff Chaplain and as an ACPE Certified Educator.

Dr. Simmons earned his D.Min. and M.Div. degrees from STVU. He also received an Ed.D. in Higher Education and Organizational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He is currently matriculating in Capella University's online Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree program.

He is a Board-Certified Chaplain, as approved by the Association of Certified Professional Chaplains, Inc., and a Certified CPE Educator, as

approved by the Association of Certified Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.

He is also a fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and completed the Pastoral Counselor-in-Training program at Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care (VIP Care), approved by the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. He is pursuing licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor with the Commonwealth of Virginia Board of Counseling.

Dr. Simmons has served as a leader for various ACPE National Commissions and Committees, including the ACPE Certification Commission, Board of Representatives, and Foundation for Clinical Pastoral Education, and as president of the ACPE Racial Ethnic Multicultural Network. He is also Past Chair of the Committee for Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors of the American Baptist Churches, USA.

Dr. Simmons is a member of the Black Alumni Association of Union Presbyterian Seminary.



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

### Dean K. Thompson

Rev. Dr. Dean K. Thompson is former president and Professor of Ministry Emeritus at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He graduated from Marshall University in 1965 and received three degrees from Union Presbyterian Seminary: B.D.'69; Th.M.'70; and Ph.D., Church History, '74. He received the D.D. from Centre College in 2005 and from Hanover College in 2007.

Rev. Thompson undertook formative internships at the East Harlem Protestant Parish in New York City in 1966 and at First Presbyterian Church in Hickory, North Carolina, from 1967 to 1968. Following his theological education, he served as pastor at Montgomery Presbyterian Church in Montgomery, West Virginia, from 1973 to 1979; at Central Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, from 1979 to 1984; at Pasadena Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, California, from 1984 to 1995; and at First Presbyterian Church in Charleston, West Virginia, from 1995 to 2004. He served as the eighth president of Louisville Seminary from 2004 to 2010.

Rev. Thompson served as a trustee at San Francisco Theological Seminary and at Union Presbyterian Seminary, and as a visiting lecturer at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He also served on the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Committee on Theological Education (COTE) and was a trustee at Montreat Conference Center from 2010 to 2016. His major vocational commitments have focused on issues of justice and mercy such as civil rights and racial issues, and anti-war and anti-death-penalty concerns. The state of West Virginia presented Rev. Thompson with its Martin Luther King Jr. Living the Dream Award in 2004.

Thompson is co-author of *Go Therefore: 150 Years of Presbyterians in Global Mission* (Presbyterian Publishing House, 1987) and *Virginia Presbyterians in American Life: Hanover Presbytery (1755–1980)*, and co-editor of "Essays on the History of the Household of Faith," a collection of writings in honor of James Hutchinson Smylie in *Affirmation* (Fall, 1993). He is co-editor of *Mentoring: Biblical, Theological, and Practical Perspectives* (Eerdmans, 2018).

*Profiles in Prophetic Leadership* is Rev. Thompson's current work in progress. Grounded in lectures given at the Chautauqua Institution, the work will examine the lives of five uncontestedly great 20th-century visionaries: Mohandas Gandhi, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pearl S. Buck, Reinhold Niebuhr, and Martin Luther King Jr.

Thompson is married to Rebecca Azile McDaniel Thompson, a nationally recognized musician and conductor who specializes in choral work with children and youth. She is the founding director of the Los Angeles Children's Chorus. The Thompsons live in Pasadena, California. Their adult children are Nathan Brian Thompson and Genevieve Thompson Apelian.



## ALUMNI LUNCH SPEAKER

### Dr. Lewis F. Galloway

Dr. Lewis Galloway is a graduate of Davidson College and Union Presbyterian Seminary (D.Min.'77, Th.M.'79). He is married to Dr. Eleanor (Bunny) Alexander, who is also a Union graduate, a PCUSA pastor, and a pastoral counselor. They are the parents of three grown children and have two grandchildren, and they recently moved to Black Mountain, North Carolina, after serving in Indianapolis for 14 years.

Dr. Galloway served as senior pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, and Dr. Alexander worked as a pastoral counselor at CenterPoint Counseling Center. While at Second Indianapolis, Dr. Galloway served as program director of the Lake Fellow Residency Program in parish ministry and as chair of the Interfaith Hunger Initiative.

Prior to moving to Indianapolis, Dr. Galloway served churches in eastern North Carolina; Norfolk, Virginia; and Columbia, South Carolina. While serving as pastor of Shandon Presbyterian Church in Columbia, he was active in racial reconciliation ministries, social justice issues, and helping the area's homeless. He was also the president of the South Carolina Council of Churches and chair of the mayor's task force on homelessness.

Dr. Galloway has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Union Presbyterian Seminary and is currently on the board of Davidson College.



## PROFESSOR OF OLD TESTAMENT

### Dr. Samuel L. Adams

Samuel L. Adams' interests include the wisdom literature of the Bible and beyond, wealth and poverty in the biblical world, apocalypticism, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Egyptology, biblical theology, and the Bible and film. He published the monograph *Social and Economic Life in Second Temple Judea* (Westminster John Knox, 2014). His first book, *Wisdom in Transition: Act and Consequence in Second Temple Instructions* (Brill, 2008), addresses ancient conceptions of retribution and the possibility of an afterlife. Current book projects include a commentary on the Jewish sage Ben Sira (Anchor Yale Bible) and editing a comprehensive introduction to wisdom literature.

As an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), he has served churches in New Haven, Connecticut, Chicago, Illinois, and Richmond, Virginia. He is also a regular blogger for The Huffington Post.

## Alumni Notes

### TRANSITIONS

**Dr. Eleanor (Bunny) Alexander (D.Min.'79)** retired as pastoral counselor, CenterPoint Counseling, Indianapolis, IN.

**Merriam Alexander (M.Div.'13)** is serving as transitional pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Morristown, TN.

**Jay Atkinson (M.Div.'14)** accepted a position as director of leadership giving at the Blue Ridge School in Saint George, VA.

**Elizabeth Baril (M.Div.'18)** began serving as director of youth and families at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, MD.

**Andrew Blackwelder (M.A.C.E.'11, M.Div.'18)** is serving as director of children and youth ministries at Greeneville Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Greeneville, TN.

**Andrew Bowman (M.Div.'18)** has been called as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Somerset, KY.

**Peter Bynum (M.Div.'09)** was called to serve as pastor and head of staff at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church in Mount Pleasant, SC.

**Jordan Buck Davis (M.Div.'14)** accepted a call as associate pastor of Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church in Cary, NC.

**Nadine Ellsworth-Moran (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'11)** was called to serve as associate pastor of Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church in Augusta, GA.

**Daniel Ervin (M.Div.'14, Th.M.'15)** is serving as pastor of LoveJoy United Presbyterian Church in Wood River, IL.

**Crystal Fallesen (M.A.C.E.'18)** has accepted a call as the director of Christian education at Harrison United Methodist Church in Harrison, TN.

**Douglas Harr (M.Div.'18)** is serving as pastor of Riverside United Methodist Church in New Bern, NC.

**Sally Herlong (M.Div.'18)** has accepted a part-time position at Unity Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, SC.

**Amanda Hill (M.Div.'17)** began serving as chaplain at the Mary Babb Randolph Cancer Center at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, WV.

**Fred Holbrook (D.Min.S.'82)** has been called by the Presbytery of the James as interim presbyter and stated clerk.

**Jan Holton (M.Div.'99)** began serving as associate professor of pastoral theology and care at Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC.

**Russell Kerr (M.Div.'18)** is serving as interim director of children's ministry at Rivermont Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, TN.

**Sonja Lee (M.A.C.E.'18)** is serving as pastor of Unity Fellowship Church Charlotte in Charlotte, NC.

**Joshua Lewis (M.Div.'18)** is serving as interim pastor at Indian View Baptist Church in King William, VA.

**Chad McCain (M.Div.'09)** was called as associate pastor for service and outreach at First Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, VA.

**John McCrosky (M.A.'95)** is serving as director of children and youth ministries at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Tucker, GA.

**Travis Milam (M.Div.'18)** is serving as supply pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Pilot Mountain, NC.

**Sara Pantazes (M.A.C.E.'18)** has been called to serve as director of Christian education at First Presbyterian Church of West Chester in West Chester, PA.

**Barbara Smith (M.A.C.E.'18)** is serving as pastor of The Grove Church in Charlotte, NC.

**Andrew Taylor-Troutman (M.Div.'09)** is serving as pastor of Chapel in the Pines in Chapel Hill, NC.

**Cam Thomas (M.Div.'14)** was installed as solo pastor of Topsail Presbyterian Church in Hampstead, NC.

**David F. Walton Jr. (M.Div.'99)** has been called as senior pastor of Bedford Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Bedford, VA.

**Samuel T. Weddington (M.Div.'06)** was called as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Bristol, TN.

**Joan Wooten (Ph.D.'18)** is serving as parish associate at First Presbyterian Church in Pensacola, FL, and as adjunct D.Min. instructor at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA.

### CELEBRATIONS

**Annie Franklin Arvin (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'18)** was ordained and installed as associate pastor of youth and mission at St. Simons Presbyterian Church in St. Simons Island, GA.

**Caitlyn F. Bailey (M.Div.'13)** was ordained into the ministry by the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and is serving as chaplain and associate certified educator at VCU Health Systems in Richmond, VA.

**Matthew Copple (M.Div.'17)** was ordained as minister of the word and sacrament by the Presbytery of New Hope in Raleigh, NC, and installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Henderson, NC.

**Alex Fischer (M.Div.'18)** was ordained as minister of the word and sacrament by the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. He is serving as UKirk campus minister with Second Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA.

**David T. Frost (M.Div.'18)** was ordained as minister of the word and sacrament by the Presbytery of the James and installed as senior pastor of Swift Creek Presbyterian Church in Moseley, VA.

**Lewis Galloway (D.Min.S.'77, Th.M.'79)** was honorably retired by Whitewater Valley Presbytery in Indianapolis, IN.

**Diane Giannola (M.Div.'17)** was ordained as minister of the word and sacrament by the Presbytery of Charlotte and is serving as chaplain of the Charlotte campus of Union Presbyterian Seminary.

**Sandra Kay Goehring (Ph.D.'18)** was ordained as minister of the word and sacrament by the Presbytery of the James and installed as pastor of Louisa Presbyterian Church in Louisa, VA.

**Amy Grant (M.Div.'14)** was ordained into the ministry by the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church and began serving as associate pastor at Fairfax United Methodist Church in Fairfax, VA.

**Rebecca Heilman (M.Div.'18)** was ordained as minister of the word and sacrament by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and is serving as pastoral resident at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York, NY.

**Caleb McClure (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'15)** was ordained and installed as solo pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Cambridge, OH.

**Bruce McVey (M.Div.'18)** was ordained and is serving as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, TN.

**Sarah Pugh Morgan (M.Div.'13)** was ordained and installed as designated associate pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, TN.

### MORE ONLINE

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



[bit.ly/upsem-alumni-notes](http://bit.ly/upsem-alumni-notes)



## GREETINGS

### W. Clay Macaulay

Blessings to you in this new year before us. And what a year it promises to be for Union Presbyterian Seminary—our community, our alumni, and our friends!

This issue of *Sharon & Brook* focuses on our upcoming 2019 Sprunt Lectures. Our Sprunt lecturer is Dr. John J. Collins, Holmes Professor of Old Testament Criticism and Interpretation at Yale Divinity School. Please read the interview with Dr. Collins on the front page. All the speakers are listed on pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

Two alumni and a professor will be honored and remembered this year: Dr. Harry Simmons (M.A.'84) as our 2019 Black Alumni Association Trailblazer of the Year and Dr. Dean Thompson (B.D.'69, Th.M.'70, Ph.D.'74) as our 2019 Distinguished Alum. A portrait of the late Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, our beloved professor will be dedicated at an afternoon reception.

Since good food and fellowship are a key part of this annual event, you will note that there is a simple flat fee for attending Sprunt to cover all meals and receptions. Your understanding and support of this annual homecoming is greatly appreciated. You may use the enclosed reply envelope to register, as we anticipate another large gathering of alumni and friends and want to have spaces and food ready. Or register online at [www.etouches.com/sp19](http://www.etouches.com/sp19).

We encourage you to send news of your life and ministry to Jill Wright at [alumni@upsem.edu](mailto:alumni@upsem.edu). Or call 804-278-4228 and leave a message.

We hope you will enjoy the reading here! See you in May!

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

**Jacklyn Putnam (M.Div.'18)** was ordained and is serving as associate pastor for discipleship and mission at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC.

**Rosy Robson (M.Div./M.A.C.E.'18)** was ordained and is serving as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Richardson, TX.

**Charmaine Smith-Miles (M.Div.'17)** was ordained and is serving as pastor of Little Mountain Presbyterian Church in Abbeville, SC.

**Lauren Voyles (M.Div.'17)** was ordained as minister of the word and sacrament.

### IN MEMORIAM

Lee William Adkins (B.D.'57) July 21, 2018

Doris C. Brown (wife of Angus T. Brown, B.C.E.'60) August 29, 2018

Katie Geneva Cannon (Union Presbyterian Seminary faculty) August 12, 2018

George C. Carpenter (D.Min.M.'77) July 27, 2018

Grace Chung (PSCE'60) October 2, 2018

Charles C. Cowser Jr. (B.D.'41) August 23, 2018

Nancy W. Darter (PSCE'46-'47) July 28, 2018

Sara Amelia Dixon (M.R.E.'48) August 25, 2018

W. Glenn Dorris (Th.M.'56) October 11, 2017

S. Spencer "Buddy" Edmunds (former PSCE trustee) October 7, 2018

Lois Anne Dryden Hasty (M.A.'56) September 18, 2018

Jane Browder Hines (B.R.E.'50) April 22, 2018

Susan Dieterich Holland (M.Div.'99) September 25, 2018

John M. Irvine IV (B.D.'56, Th.M.'57, M.C.E.'61) September 1, 2018

William H. Jordan Jr. (M.Div.'69) September 11, 2018

Herbert "Lew" Lewis (Certificate'58) September 7, 2018

W. Robert Martin Jr. (B.D.'60) September 7, 2018

Charlene S. McKeithen (wife of J. Harold McKeithen, B.D.'59) July 12, 2018

Joseph W. McLaney Jr. (UTS'61-'62) October 20, 2018

**Charlotte R. Mecum (M.A.'72)**

September 2, 2018

**M. Rene Minshew (D.Min.M.'81)**

February 7, 2018

**Elizabeth D. Mullin (wife of Joseph B. Mullin, D.Min.'76)** August 7, 2018

**George Preston Nowlin Jr. (M.Div.'71)**

August 17, 2018

**Scott McNair Poole (B.D.'50)**

October 1, 2018

**Burwell Shore III (B.D.'63)**

September 10, 2018

**Kenneth E. Stagg (B.C.E.'60)**

November 1, 2018

**Alfred Ervin Thomas (B.D.'54)**

July 24, 2018

**Mary Taylor Todd (wife of Wayne P. Todd Sr., B.D.'56, Th.M.'59)** October 17, 2018

### AWARDS

**Jim Atwood (M.Div.'59)** received the 2018 David Steele Distinguished Writer Award from the Presbyterian Writers Guild.

**Ophelia Garmon-Brown (M.Div.'08)** received the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award, the highest honor a civilian can receive in the state of North Carolina, for her work as a physician, minister, volunteer, advocate, and community leader.

### ON THE SHELF

**Cary Ashby (M.A.C.E.'99)** has published *Colt Maverick* (Drinian Press). The mystery novel follows an ex-Marine sniper and retired NFL-player-turned-private-investigator.

**James R. Black (M.Div.'63, D.Min.M.'73)** is the author of *What I Wish I had Learned in Seminary* (Page Publishing).

**Nancy Duff (M.Div.'77)** is the author of *Making Faithful Decisions at the End of Life* (Westminster John Knox Press).

**Eric J. Douglass (M.Div.'03, Th.M.'05)** has published *Interpreting New Testament Narratives: Recovering the Author's Voice* (Brill Publishing).

**Dan C. West (B.D.'65)** has published his memoir, *Causeway to a Bigger World* (Mountain Arbor Press).

All retirement announcements will be featured in the summer issue.

## GIVING BACK

### Gordon and Doris Garlington Parish Ministry Scholarship



Born on January 15, 1915, in Hendersonville, North Carolina, Gordon Fleming Garlington Jr. grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he received his B.A. from the University of Tennessee in 1936. He professed his faith in Christ at First Presbyterian Church of Knoxville, where his parents were active members. It was a congregation that produced several leaders for ministry, including the late Fred Stair, president of UTS from 1967 to 1981.

Gordon received his B.D. from UTS in 1939, surrounded by classmates like Ben Lacy Rose and Balmer Kelly, who would eventually become UTS professors.

Upon leaving seminary, Gordon was called to a national mission position in West Virginia. Working with a Christian educator from First Presbyterian Church of Charleston, he served congregations in the coal mining communities of Maxine and Prenter. In Prenter, a young woman singing in the choir caught his eye.

Born on January 9, 1921, in Seth, West Virginia, Doris O'Dell Keeney was one of nine children born to Dell and Erna Hopkins Keeney. After graduating with honors from Sherman High School, she worked as an administrative assistant for the Red Parrot Coal Company. After a courtship interrupted by the outbreak of WWII and Gordon's enlistment in the Navy, Gordon and Doris were married in Prenter on June 16, 1942. Their 68-year partnership ended only upon Doris' death in 2010.

Attaining the rank of lieutenant commander, Gordon served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946, with most of that time spent as a chaplain on troop transport ships in the Pacific. At war's end, he enrolled in Princeton Theological Seminary, where, in 1947, he earned his Master of Theology. Gordon then served congregations in Matthews, North Carolina (1947–1950), Chattanooga, Tennessee (1950–1954), Lovington, New Mexico (1954–1965), Pecos, Texas (1965–1970), Eldorado, Texas (1970–1977), and Mangum, Oklahoma (1977–1980).

During Gordon's service in the Navy, Doris studied at the ATS in Richmond, Virginia, before

moving to San Francisco, California, where she was employed by the American Red Cross. After the couple's time in Princeton, Doris served alongside her husband for four decades as he pastored congregations in five states. She built a reputation as a champion of the underdog and those who were less fortunate.

From Appalachian coal mining communities to suburban Southeastern congregations, to small-town churches on the western edge of the PCUS, Rev. Gordon Garlington was a journeyman pastor—preaching, teaching, and offering pastoral care week in and week out. Through his decades of ministry, he and his clergy colleagues weathered many storms: the Cold War and the McCarthy era—during which one congregant was convinced the new RSV Bible was part of a Communist plot; the struggle for Civil Rights; the uproar surrounding Vietnam; and the tensions surrounding the rapidly changing roles of women in society and the church.

Like most ministers, Gordon was beloved by most under his care, but also worked with congregations through difficulties. A faithful pastor, he took to heart the importance in our Reformed tradition of “the life of the mind” as a vital aspect of our Christian stewardship. A lifelong learner, he was alert, reading and studying theology and other disciplines, until the end of his life.

On Gordon's retirement in 1980, he and Doris moved to Cameron, Texas, where they lived for 28 years before moving to West Hills, California, where Gordon died on May 15, 2015, at 100 years of age. Partners in ministry, education, and family, Gordon and Doris were loving, encouraging spirits who are missed by all who knew them.

Grateful for their parents' lives and service to Christ and the church, the Garlings' sons and daughters-in-law—John C. and Pat Garlington of Canoga Park, California, and Rev. Gordon F. and Shirley Garlington III (M.Div.'72, D.Min.'76) of North Little Rock, Arkansas—established the Garlington Parish Ministry scholarship at the Seminary in 2017.

## FACULTY IN ACTION

### Publications

**Samuel L. Adams**, Professor of Biblical Studies, is currently working on a book project, *Ben Sira: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, with Eric Reymond that is under contract for the Anchor Bible series with Yale University Press. Expected completion date for Volume 1 is spring 2019.

**Samuel E. Balentine**, Professor of Old Testament, published *Wisdom Literature* (Abingdon Press, July 2018) and “Sagacious Divine Judgment: Jeremiah’s Use of Proverbs to Construct an Ethos and Ethics of Divine Epistemology” in *The Book of Jeremiah* (eds., C. Evans, J. Lundbom, B. Anderson), part of the *Vetus Testamentum, Supplements* series (Leiden: Brill, in press).

**John T. Carroll**, Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament, published *Holy Spirit in the New Testament* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2018).

**Paul Galbreath**, Professor of Theology, anticipates publication in 2019 of *Re-Forming the Liturgy: Past, Present, and Future* (Cascade Books).

**Frances Taylor Gench**, Herbert Worth and Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation, has begun work on a commentary-writing project, *Gospel of John for Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching* (revitalized series; Westminster John Knox Press).

**Christine Luckritz Marquis**, Assistant Professor of Church History, is in the process of writing *Death of the Desert: Monastic Memory and the Loss of Egypt’s Golden Age* (anticipated submission to University of Pennsylvania Press).

**Rodney S. Sadler Jr.**, Associate Professor of Bible, is in the process of writing *The Sardis Sermons: Black Preacher in a White Southern Church, Judgment of the Nations, and The Bible and Race*.

**Carol L. Schnabl Schweitzer**, Associate Professor of Pastoral Care, is continuing her work on a manuscript *Music as a Resource for Pastoral Care Ministry (The Art of Accompanying)*.

**Stanley H. Skreslet**, F.S. Royster Professor of Christian Missions, is currently working on a book project, *Assertion and Performance in the History of Modern Missions*.

**John W. Vest**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Evangelism, is under contract with Fortress Press for a book currently titled *Into the Deep: Escaping the Shallows of Consumer Christianity*.

**Richard W. Voelz**, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship, is under contract with a manuscript in process currently titled *The Tongue of a Teacher: Reconsidering the Image of the Preacher as Teacher* (Abingdon Press).

**Karen-Marie Yust**, Josiah P. and Anne Wilson Rowe Professor of Christian Education, applied for and received a grant from the Religion Division of Lilly Endowment to fund a project titled *Mapping Children’s Faith Formation: Identifying Practices, Resources, Needs, and New Possibilities*.

## Sharon&Brook

Sharon & Brook is published by Union Presbyterian Seminary for alumni and friends of the Seminary.

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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 Jill Wright at [alumni@upsem.edu](mailto:alumni@upsem.edu) or call (804) 278-4228.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## High and Holy Places: A Spiritual Journey to the Highlands and Cathedrals of Scotland

June 6–17, 2019  
Scotland

The 11-day tour begins in Glasgow and moves to the Scottish Highlands and coastal cities to explore the spiritual and historic roots of the Christian faith. Itinerary includes Stirling, Loch Lomond, Glencoe, Inverness, Aberdeen, St. Andrews, and Edinburgh.

Cost: (all inclusive except airfare and airport transit) \$4,700 per person, double occupancy. Single room, add \$1,530

June 17–21, 2019  
*Optional Tour Extension*

A 4-day spiritual renewal retreat in the Celtic Christian tradition on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne at the Open Gate Retreat Center. Cost: \$500

Union Presbyterian Seminary is partnering with Academy International Travel Services to provide a professional tour guide and an exceptional travel experience. The tour is open to all supporters, alumni, and friends of the Seminary. Space is limited.

For more information, please contact:

 Tim Moore: [tmoore@upsem.edu](mailto:tmoore@upsem.edu) or  
Clay Macaulay: [cmaulay@upsem.edu](mailto:cmaulay@upsem.edu)

To learn more or book your trip, visit:

 [www.aitsatl.com](http://www.aitsatl.com)  
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2019 SPRUNT LECTURES

## What Are Biblical Values?

Dr. John J. Collins

- 1: Does the Bible Affirm a Right to Life?
- 2: The Bible and Gender
- 3: The Bible and the Environment
- 4: Social Justice in the Shadow of the Apocalypse



## 2019 SPRUNT LECTURES

MAY 6–8, 2019  
RICHMOND CAMPUS

To register, visit [www.etouches.com/sp19](http://www.etouches.com/sp19)



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