

January 10, 2012  
“The American Prosperity Gospel”  
The Rev. Dr. Kate Bowler



Dr. Bowler specializes in twentieth century North American religion. Her teaching focuses on topics in American Christianity including religion and ethnicity, religion and health, and contemporary popular religion. Her research centers on the American prosperity gospel.

Dr. Bowler is Assistant Professor at Duke Divinity School. Her publications include: “Blessed Bodies: Healing within the African-American Faith Movement,” *Global Pentecostal and Charismatic Healing* and “From Far and Wide, The Canadian Church Faith Movement,” *Church & Faith Trends*. She has a forthcoming book: “Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel.”

January 17, 2012  
“Puzzles, Paradoxes, and Riddles:  
The Parables of Jesus”  
The Rev. Dr. Tom Long



Jesus’ favorite method of teaching was through parables. But what is a parable? How do parables achieve their remarkable power to engage and transform hearers? How can we understand what parables meant to Jesus’ hearers and what they can mean to us

today? In this presentation we will explore these and other questions about the strange and wonderful world of parables.

Dr. Long is the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. He has previously taught preaching at Princeton, Columbia, and Erskine Seminaries. He is the author of several books on preaching and worship as well as biblical commentaries on Matthew and Hebrews. He served as the senior homiletics editor of *The New Interpreter’s Bible*. His latest books are *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral* (2009), *Preaching from Memory to Hope* (2009), and *What Shall We Say? Evil, Suffering, and the Crisis of Faith* (2011). His wife, Kimberly, also a Presbyterian minister, is professor of worship at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta.

January 24, 2012  
“Secularism in the West: Why It Happened  
and How We Should Respond”  
The Rev. Dr. Mark Tranvik



A review of the major reasons why the Western world has become more secular. Some suggestions for how Christians might respond by recovering an understanding of vocation.

Dr. Tranvik is Professor of Religion and Chair of the Department at Augsburg College. He received his B.A. from Luther College, M. Div. from Yale University, Th.D. from Luther Seminary. He was ordained as an ELCA pastor in 1984. He is married and has two children.

January 31, 2012  
“Christians, Jews and Muslims  
Searching for Peace.”  
Dr. Mark Braverman



Author Mark Braverman shows how the Jewish quest for safety and empowerment and the Christian endeavor to atone for centuries of anti-Semitism have combined to suppress the conversations needed to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Holy Land. *Fatal Embrace* charts Braverman’s journey as an American Jew struggling with the difficult realities of modern Israel. Vividly describing the spiritual and psychological forces driving the discourse, Braverman turns to the prophets’ cry for justice and Jesus’ transformative ministry to show the way forward.

Dr. Braverman is a Jewish American with deep family roots in the Holy Land. Trained in clinical psychology and crisis management, Braverman devoted his professional career to working with groups and individuals undergoing traumatic stress. He now dedicates himself full-time to the cause for peace in historic Palestine. In his work he focuses on the role of religious beliefs and theology in the current discourse on Israel/Palestine and on the issue of interfaith relations. Braverman is a co-founder of Friends of Tent of Nations North America. He serves on the advisory board of Friends of Sabeel North America and the Board of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions-USA. He lives in Bethesda, MD. For more information, visit

February 7, 2012  
“God Forbid, Lord!”: How New Testament  
Authors Explain the Cross  
The Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore



Like us, the earliest Christians worked to make sense of Jesus’ death. What did such suffering mean for their view of God, humans, and the world? This lecture reviews how the gospel writers and Paul each answer that question slightly differently & explores how their answers can help us find meaning & hope in the midst of suffering today.

Dr. Shore is Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Dr. Shore is ordained in the ELCA and served congregations in North Dakota before earning a Ph. D. in New Testament and Christian Origins from Duke University. She has taught at Luther Seminary since 1997.

February 14, 2012  
“The Second Mrs. Bach”  
Damaris Peters Pike



The Second Mrs. Bach is a visit with Anna Magdalena Bach, second wife of Johann Sebastian Bach. Brief examples of her husband’s music are heard as she relates events from their life together. Her costume is that of an 18th century German housewife.

Mrs. Pike earned the Bachelor of Music Education from Texas Christian University and the Master of Music in Performance from Kent State University. She is Professor of Music Emerita at Hiram College where she founded the Opera Workshop and directed the Hiram College Madrigals and College Choir.

## Tickets

### Total Package

\$50.00

(Feb. 14th Dinner is included)

### Individual Speaker

\$10.00

(Feb. 14th Dinner—\$10.00)

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contacting the  
Church Office @ 261-0894

A good time to invite a friend!

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