

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS

Fall 2009

On the Side

» **“The Christian religion asks us to place our trust not in ideas, and certainly not in ideologies, but in a God who was vulnerable enough to become human and die, and who desires to be present to us in our everyday circumstances. And because we are human, it is in the realm of the daily and the mundane that we must find our way to God.”**

—KATHLEEN NORRIS

QUOTABLE

“It is through us, if we permit it, that God reaches out to heal our wounds. And it is through our love for one another that he transforms our sadness into joy.”

— ALBERT RABOTEAU



Charles Marsh and Albert Raboteau converse at the 2009 Capps Lecture

Holy Ordinary

Locating the Sacred in Literature and Life



In “Holy Ordinary”, Professor Albert J. Raboteau took the 2009 Capps Lecture in Christian Theology on a more personal bent. “Returns, recollections, and retrospectives loom large in my life these days,” he said. Raboteau used the lecture to reflect upon the meaning of his life as a teacher and scholar by sharing with the audience passages from such authors as James Baldwin, William Faulkner and Flannery O’Connor.

As he discussed the “fictional geography of a Christ-haunted South,” Raboteau discussed the symbolism inherent in these stories, from the natural contemplation of a world charged with the glory of God in William Faulkner’s “The Bear” to Flannery O’Connor’s reevaluation of what it means to live a Christian life in “Revelation”.

In contemporary fiction, Raboteau asserts, the divine, holy or sacred surprisingly emerges amidst the ordinary events of daily life. Faith informs Raboteau’s own day-to-day, whether he’s leading a seminar at Princeton or talking with his friends at Souls In Motion, a daytime rehabilitation and creativity center for Harlem’s mentally ill. “In the end,” the professor says, “what we hold in common is a sense of shared stories.”

Read more at www.theologicalhorizons.org.

WHO WE ARE

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Hi, I'm Kate Lumpkins from Houston and am currently finishing up my last semester at U.Va. as a religious studies major.

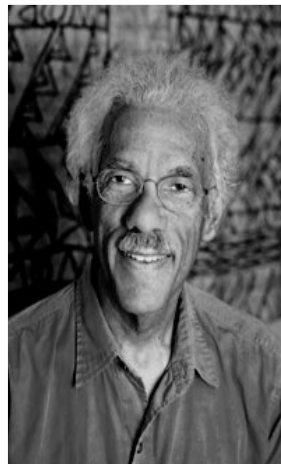
I became acquainted with the Marshes during my third year, when I was taking Professor Marsh's course, "Kingdom of God in America". This turned out to be one of my favorite courses at U.Va! I had many intellectual and spiritual questions at that time and would come to Karen for support and a listening ear. Her wonderful hospitality makes me feel right at home every time I step through the doors of the Bonhoeffer House. Every Friday at noon I can walk right across the street for Vintage, to be greeted by their big friendly dog and the smell of freshly baked goods. At the Bonhoeffer House, I know that I am in a safe place where I can slow down to ponder God. Karen and Professor Marsh create a warm atmosphere in which students feel welcome and at home.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information:

www.theologicalhorizons.org/events.htm

- » Charles Marsh serves as keynote speaker
Engaged Scholars Program
Louisville, Kentucky
November 16-17, 2009
- » Lived Theology Forum
Is Health Care a Human Right?
Theological Reflection
on the Health Care Debate
with Rick Mayes
The Bonhoeffer House
November 19, 2009, 7:30pm
- » End of Semester lunch
The Bonhoeffer House
December 9, 2009, noon-2pm



Albert Jordy Raboteau was invited to deliver the Capps Lecture in Christian theology because of the transformative role of Christian faith in his academic work.

Born in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi and raised Roman Catholic, Raboteau pushed himself in school and became a successful academic. But with success came failure. Caught up in administrative power and prestige, Raboteau neglected his spiritual life, his intellectual life, and his family. As he redirected his focus, creating a new balance between solitude and community, Raboteau was drawn to Eastern Orthodoxy. He was stunned by the affinities between orthodoxy and African-American spirituality, the "sense that life in a minor key is life as it is."

As a scholar, Raboteau examines African-American religious history and the ways in which slaves' suffering tied them to the suffering of Christ. Albert Raboteau is the Henry W. Putnam Professor of Religion at Princeton University. His written works include *Slave Religion: The 'Invisible Institution' in the Antebellum South*, *A Fire in the Bones: Reflections on African-American Religious History*, and *A Sorrowful Joy*.

The 2009 Louise and Richard Goodwin Prize for Excellence in Theological Writing

The Goodwin Prize winners demonstrate creative theological thinking, excellence in scholarship, faithful witness to the Christian tradition, and engagement with the community of faith.

1 Mary Emily Briehl Duba
The Irreducible Image: Finding the Imago Dei in the Aftermath of Genocide

Mary Emily asserts that the image of God is indelibly printed in humanity. “No harm done to our bodies or spirits can claim the truth about who we are,” she says, “because Jesus Christ—the image of the crucified God—stands at the center of each and every human life.” Mary Emily has a Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School and plans to pursue doctoral studies in theological anthropology. She currently lives in Bolivia.



2 Shelli Poe-Messner
To Know and Love God: Charles Hartshorne on the Relation Between God and the World

Shelli is a Ph.D. candidate in Philosophical Theology at the University of Virginia. Shelli says, “I have been thinking about God and about God’s thoughts about humanity since I learned to pray. My academic pursuits in theology are, for me, the way to make prayerful study a full-time occupation.”



Charles Marsh with a Goodwin Prize winner, Shelli Poe-Messner

3 Dennis Feltwell
Go Home and Proclaim: Rediscovering Mark 5:1-20 in Light of a Theology of Ministry

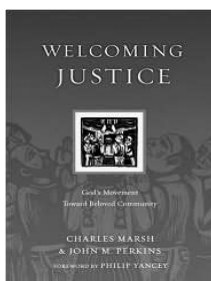
Dennis is a doctoral student in Systematic Theology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This paper connects his personal faith with Christian ministry while honoring a commitment to making theological concepts accessible to a wider audience.

Read interviews with the winners and more about the Goodwin Prize at www.theologicalhorizons.com.

NEW BOOK GROUP

We’re doing something new at the Bonhoeffer House this semester. Karen has started COFFEE+QUESTIONS: A Book Group for Believers and Seekers. “Who decides what’s right and wrong?” “Does going to church matter?” The group wrestles with these tough questions and more by reading *Survival Guide for Christians on Campus*, by Will Willimon and Tony Campolo.

On the Bookshelf



In *Welcoming Justice: God’s Movement Toward Beloved Community*, Charles Marsh partners with veteran pastor and activist John Perkins to chronicle God’s vision for a more equitable and just world. Perkins reflects on his long ministry and continued struggle to be obedient to God and to a gospel that is more powerful than ties of kinship or race. Marsh relates his autobiographical journey as a white academic involved in racial reconciliation and ties his and Perkins’s experiences to American society. Together, they show how abandoned places can be restored, how divisions can be reconciled, and what individuals and communities are doing to welcome peace and justice.

Now until December 31, receive a free signed copy of *Welcoming Justice* with your gift of \$150.

Giving to HORIZONS

Special Gifts to Theological Horizons

A gift has been given in honor of Mary Elizabeth Warren Stone and Carey Louthan

A gift has been given in honor of Jim Johnson by Christian and Jeremy Taylor

A gift has been given in memory of John A. G. Davis by Rev. Fleming Rutledge

A gift has been given in honor of Myra and Bob Marsh

by Maureen and Chuck Darst

Gifts have been given in memory of William Warren Stone

by Susannah Ware and Dr. and Mrs. William Warren IV



**Hymn Sing at the Bonhoeffer House
September 2009**

will you join us at the intersection of faith, thought and life?

For twenty years, friends just like you have invested in Theological Horizons, amidst a competitive landscape and among other worthy causes. You know that what makes Theological Horizons exceptional is our commitment to Christian scholarship and to engaged discipleship at the heart of the university community.

You've seen us demonstrate financial stewardship as we cut our budget by 26% in 2009. We put some programs on hold but still served over 2,000 students, professors, community members and church leaders.

We are moving forward, energized and eager to restore our budget and strengthen our programs. In this often neglected mission field, the need is greater than ever. Please give prayerfully.

God has provided for this small ministry since 1990, faithfully sustaining us by your generosity. We rely on your prayers and your financial gifts to support Christians in academia.

Theological Horizons
Christians Engaged In Ideas and Action

THEOLOGICAL HORIZONS
SUPPORTS
CHRISTIANS IN ACADEMIA

by advancing theological scholarship

by providing a welcoming home for engaging
faith, thought, and life

BONHOEFFER HOUSE

Theological Horizons is centered just steps from the University of Virginia at the Bonhoeffer House, the home of Professor Charles Marsh, Karen Wright Marsh and their family. The Bonhoeffer House is a gathering place for students, professors, community members, and church leaders who come together for rich conversations about integrating the practices of theology into everyday life.

From the Bonhoeffer House kitchen:

Comforting Chicken Noodle Soup

Ingredients:

16 cups low-salt chicken broth	2 tablespoons (1/4 stick) butter
1 3 1/2 pound chicken, cut into pieces	1 cup sliced mushrooms
1/2 cup chopped onion	1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
2 carrots, peeled, thinly sliced	8 ounces dried wide egg noodles
2 celery stalks, sliced	1/2 cup finely chopped fresh parsley

Combine broth and chicken in a pot and bring to boil. Reduce heat, cover partially and simmer till chicken is cooked through, about 20 minutes. Remove chicken, cut meat into bite-sized pieces and reserve. Add onions, carrots and celery. Simmer till vegetables soften, about 8 minutes.

Melt butter in a heavy large skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms and sauté until brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in lemon juice. Add mushrooms to broth, stir in noodles, parsley and reserved chicken. Simmer until noodles are tender, about 5 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste.

Stay in TOUCH

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