



THE MERCER
PREACHING CONSULTATION

The Center for Baptist Studies
Dr. Walter B. Shurden, *Executive Director*

McAfee School of Theology
Dr. R. Alan Culpepper, *Dean*

March 20, 2007

Dear Special Friend,

The Mercer Preaching Consultation 2007 offers an extraordinary lineup of speakers that you will want to hear. Scheduled for September 23-25 at the King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort, St. Simons Island, Georgia, this year's program is expected to be one of our best!

Attendance at this annual event is limited to just 200 participants. Because of your continued support to the McAfee School of Theology and The Center for Baptist Studies, we want to give you the first opportunity to register.

Just look at the speakers we have scheduled for this year!

The Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor will be our main presenter, who will speak each day of the three-day series. An Episcopal priest, she spent 15 years in parish ministry before becoming a full-time teacher of religion in 1997 at Piedmont College in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. In a 2006 profile on PBS's popular "Religion and Ethics" series, she was described as "one of this country's most eloquent preachers." Among her 11 books are *Leaving Church*, 2006; *The Seeds of Heaven*, 2004; *Speaking of Sin*, 2000; *Home By Another Way*, 1999; *When God Is Silent*, 1998, and *The Preaching Life*, 1993.

You will also hear from nine other exceptional speakers:

- **Mr. William D. Underwood**, *President*, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia;
- **The Rev. Charles Foster Johnson**, *visiting instructor of Preaching*, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia;
- **Dr. Peter Rhea Jones**, *professor of Preaching and New Testament*, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia;
- **The Rev. Julie Whidden Long**, *minister of Children and Families*, First Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia;
- **Dr. Jerry Mahan**, *Pastor*, First Baptist Church, Moultrie, Georgia;
- **Dr. William L. Self**, *Pastor*, John's Creek Baptist Church, Alpharetta, Georgia;
- **Dr. Rick Wilson**, *professor and chair*, Department of Christianity, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia
- **Ms. Winnie Williams**, *author and retired professor of Southern Wesleyan University*, Clemson, South Carolina; and
- **Dr. Jim Dant**, *pastor*, Highland Hills Baptist Church, Macon, Georgia.

Following the Sunday evening program, Mercer President William D. Underwood is sponsoring a buffet dinner for everyone attending. It will give us an opportunity to gather and fellowship with one another.

Mr. L. C. Lane of Music Horizons Ministry in Newnan, Georgia, will provide music. For more than 23 years, Mr. Lane was minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Newnan before retiring from his ministry position in 2000 to pursue a successful ministry in singing, playing and composing.

Registration is \$100 per individual (\$200 per couple) and is on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve your seat(s), send a check in the appropriate amount to Terri Massey, University Advancement, Mercer University, 1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, Ga. 31207. Enclosed is the preliminary schedule of the three-day program, along with a registration form and a return envelope. Make your check payable to *The Mercer Preaching Consultation*.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort, 201 Arnold Road, St. Simons Island, Ga. 31522. Rooms begin at \$145 per night, single or double. To reserve your hotel lodging, call (800) 342-0212, ask for The Mercer Preaching Consultation group rates and select the style room and location you prefer. You need to guarantee one night's lodging. Rooms will be reserved on a first-come, first served basis.

We also have reserved rooms at the Hampton Inn, (912) 634-2204, at \$119 per night, and the Holiday Inn Express, (912) 634-2175, at \$88 per night, both of which include breakfast and double occupancy. Call either of these hotels if you prefer this lodging. Again, ask for The Mercer Preaching Consultation group rates. The deadline for room reservations at these special prices at these hotels is August 23.

A golf outing is planned for Monday afternoon at The Hamptons Golf Course. Registration is \$79.50, which includes all taxes and a box lunch. Checks should be made payable to *The Hamptons* at the time of the outing. The first tee time is 1:04 p.m.; then every 8 minutes, with the last tee time being 2:16 p.m. Space is limited, so register early. For more information, contact Allen London at (478) 301-4169 or london_a@mercer.edu.

St. Simons Island is a major vacation spot in Georgia, as well as the southeast. Take this wonderful opportunity to enjoy a short break from family and church responsibilities while soaking up superb presentations from these gifted speakers. The schedule has free time so that you can walk the beach, play some golf or shop in the quaint little village of St. Simons. Also, you will not be at a loss for good seafood and fine restaurants!

It is our sincerest hopes that you will come.

Sincerely,



R. Alan Culpepper

Dean

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