Mark Edmundson | Monday, September 15


Phyllis Tickle | Monday, September 29

Phyllis Tickle is the founding editor of the Religion Department of Publishers Weekly and the author of more than two dozen books, including The Divine Hours series focusing on the practice of fixed-hour prayer. A frequent contributor to the national conversation on faith and culture, she has written God Talk in America and The Great Evangelical Hope: Christianity Is Catching and Why. She is the recipient of the book industry’s Mars Award for lifetime achievements in writing and publishing, and in 2004 received an honorary doctorate from the Berkeley School of Divinity at Yale for her work in bringing mainstream attention to writings dealing with faith. She is a Senior Fellow of Cathedral College of the Washington National Cathedral, a founding member of the Centerfor Readings Roundtable, and a locum in the Episcopal Church.

Daniel Taylor | Monday, October 20

Daniel Taylor is professor of literature and writing at Wellesley University, a contributing editor of Books a Culture, and co-founder of The Legacy Center, an organization that encourages individuals and organizations to identify and communicate the core values and experiences that have given their lives meaning. A popular teacher at writing conferences, Taylor is also a frequent speaker on issues related to religion and education. His books include Tell Me a Story: The Life-Shaping Power of Our Stories, The Myth of Century—The Eclectic Christian at Risk of Commitment, and Is Search of Sacred Places: Learning Wisdom in Celtic Holy Places. He holds a doctorate from Emory University.

Philip Jenkins | Monday, October 27

Philip Jenkins is the Edwin S. Lambert Professor of Humanities at Pennsylvania State University. A major voice in the study of history and religion, Jenkins is the author of more than 20 books and 350 book chapters and articles. His works include The Last History of Christianity, God Centers: Christianity, Islam and Jewish Religions Today, and The Next Christendom, to which he adds attention to the fact that Christianity’s center of gravity is shifting toward Africa. Published in 2002, this book was named one of the top religion books of the year by Theology. The report, The Future of Christianity: Belonging to the Global South further examines this continuing trend. Jenkins holds a doctorate from the University of Cambridge.

James Autry | Monday, November 3

Entrepreneur, journalist, and military veteran, James Autry has led a varied and distinguished career. Prior to his early retirement in 1991, Autry was owner and president of Meredith Corporation and president of its Magazine Group. The group hosts over 900 employees and produces more than 50 publications including Better Homes and Gardens, Ladies’ Home Journal, and Metropolitan. Widely recognized for his commitment to the world of business through a lens of faith, he is a leading consultant who has more than 25 years of experience working with leading church groups. Among many activities he has served as chairman of the board for the Episcopal Foundation of America and participated with the White House Conference on Family. Autry has received many awards for his work in helping shape the field of social journalism. He is the author of 10 books and was a featured speaker at Bell’s Morning Show of the West series, an interview which won an Emmy. His publications include The Seasons Leading: How to Build a Cost-effective Team, Digital Evangelism, and Empower retreat. He is the author of a series on leading and offering a leadership book for God. The Catholic Reference of an Unconventional Christian, co-authored with Bill Moyers.

Ken Wiley | Monday, November 10

A native of Texas and current resident of Mountain City, Tenn., Ken Wiley is a World War II veteran who enlisted with the Coast Guard at a young age and served in the Pacific theater. Wiley’s duties included control of Lucky 13, his own Landing Craft Vehicle for Personnel (LCVP), and to shuttle troops and supplies between the attack transport, Arthur Middlebottom and the shore. His assignments included campaigns in the Marshall Islands, the Marianas, the Philippines, and Okinawa, Japan. After the war, Wiley worked in the fields of construction, and a hydraulics design engineer until his retirement in 1999. He is currently leading the Local Veterans Video Museum project, collecting original interviews of regional veterans to preserve their stories. Wiley is the author of Lucky Thruster D-Days in the Pacific and the forthcoming Golden Star Medal.

Sarah Gordon | Monday, November 17

A widely recognized scholar and commentator on religion and law, Sarah Gordon is the Aline M. Adams Professor of Constitutional Law and professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships and has been a frequent guest on national news and talk shows. Her book, The Marrow Quandary: Hegemony and Constitutional Conflict in Nineteenth-Century America won the American Historical Association’s Best Book award. She has appeared in the Working God and the Chicago Tribune to discuss government dealings with polygamy and to op- en on former presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s Mormon background. Her book, The Spirit of the Law: Religious and Political in the Twentieth-Century is forthcoming from Harvard University Press.

Morten Lauridsen | Monday, December 1

Morten Lauridsen has been called the most frequently performed American choral composer. His numerous award-winning works have been recorded on more than 100 CDs by various ensembles, and musicologists and conductor Nick Strimple describes him as "the only American composer in history who can be called a mystic, (whose) work contains an ethereal and indescribable ingredient which leaves the listener with a sense that the music has been answered..." Lauridsen served as composer-in-residence of the Los Angeles Master Chorale from 1994–2001 and as professor of composition at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music for more than 20 years. His well-known works include O Magnum Mysterium, In Nomine and seven vocal cycles which include the best-selling missa O Magnum Mysterium and the oratorio O Sea Las. His most recent commission has come from the Harvard University, the San Francisco Bay Brass, and the Raymond Brooks Memorial Commission for the American Choral Directors Association. In 2007 he was awarded the National Medal of Arts and is one of only eight classical composers ever to receive the honor.

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