

2014–2015 Buechner Lecture Series

The BUECHNER INSTITUTE at King University



Barbara Brown Taylor

August 26

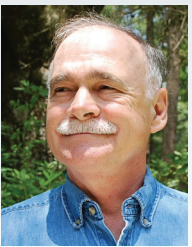
7:00 p.m. | First Presbyterian Church
Bristol, TN

August 27

Opening Convocation

9:15 a.m. | King University
Memorial Chapel

Barbara Brown Taylor is the Butman Professor of Religion at Piedmont College in rural northeast Georgia. An Episcopal priest since 1984, she is the author of 13 books, including the *New York Times* bestsellers *Learning to Walk in the Dark* and *An Altar in the World*. Her first memoir, *Leaving Church*, received a 2006 Author of the Year award from the Georgia Writers Association. Taylor is a Buechner Institute National Advisory Board member. She and her husband live on a working farm in the Appalachian foothills.



Tim Gautreaux

September 1

7:00 p.m. | King University Maclellan
Hall, Widner Lounge

Louisiana writer Tim Gautreaux is the author of critically acclaimed novels and short fiction, often set in the state's bayou country. His first novel, *The Next Step in the Dance*, won the Southeastern Booksellers Association's "Novel of the Year" award in 1999. The short story collection *Welding with Children* was named a *New York Times* notable book of 1999. The Center for the Book at the Louisiana State Library presented him with the 2009 Louisiana Writer Award to honor his outstanding contributions to the state's literary and intellectual life. Gautreaux is a Buechner Institute National Advisory Board member and writer-in-residence and professor emeritus at Southeastern Louisiana University. Co-Sponsored by King's Department of English.

*"The sacred moments, the moments of miracle,
are often the everyday moments."*

—Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*



Frederica Mathewes-Green

September 15

9:15 a.m. | King University
Memorial Chapel

7:00 p.m. | Milligan College
Hyder Auditorium, Johnson City, TN

Frederica Mathewes-Green's work has appeared nationally in such publications as the *Washington Post*, *Christianity Today*, *Smithsonian*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. She has been a commentator on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*, and a columnist for *Religion News Service*, *Beliefnet.com*, and *Christianity Today*. Her books include *The Jesus Prayer: The Ancient Desert Prayer that Tunes the Heart to God*, *Facing East: A Pilgrim's Journey into the Mysteries of Orthodoxy* and *The Illumined Heart: The Ancient Christian Path of Transformation*. Her essays have been selected for *Best Christian Writing* and *Best Spiritual Writing*. Co-Sponsored by Milligan College.



Eugenie Scott | October 13

9:15 a.m. | King University
Memorial Chapel

7:00 p.m. | Bristol Public Library
Bristol, VA

Eugenie C. Scott is the former Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education, Inc. She is an expert on the creationism and evolution controversy and is called upon by the press and other media to explain science to the general public. Scott is the author of *Evolution vs. Creationism: An Introduction* and co-editor with Glenn Branch of *Not in Our Classrooms: Why Intelligent Design is Wrong for our Schools*. She is the recipient of numerous awards from scientists and educators and has been awarded eight honorary degrees.



Sandra McCracken

October 24

7:00 p.m. | King University Hardin
Valley Campus, Knoxville, TN

Sandra McCracken is a Nashville folk singer at the forefront of the revitalized hymn movement. She has written songs for Caedmon's Call and others as well as recording eight albums of her own. Her recent work, *Desire Like Dynamite*, "explores human desire at the most basic level," she says. McCracken lists her musical influences as Joni Mitchell, Neil Finn, David Gray, Emmylou Harris, Bob Dylan, and Johnny Cash. McCracken attended Belmont University before beginning her musical career in 1999. She independently released two albums, *The Crucible* and *Gypsy Flat Road* in 2000 and 2001 respectively. In 2005, Sandra McCracken released *The Builder and the Architect*, an album of hymns. The same team which worked on *Best Laid Plans* came together again in 2006 to record *Gravity / Love*.



Christian Wiman

November 17

9:15 a.m. | King University
Memorial Chapel

7:00 p.m. | Interview with Jane Zwart and
talk/reading to follow at Kingsport Center
for Higher Education, Kingsport, TN

Christian Wiman is Senior Lecturer in Religion and Literature at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and was *Poetry Magazine's* editor for the past decade. He is a recipient of both the Ruth Lilly and Wallace Stegner fellowships and has produced four published books of poetry, two collections of essays, and his most recent work, a memoir, *My Bright Abyss*. In *The New Yorker*, poet and critic Dan Chiasson chose Wiman's *Every Riven Thing* as one of the 11 best poetry collections of 2010. Wiman's other works include *The Long Home* (Nicholas Roerich Prize), *Hard Night* and *Stolen Air*. His latest book is *Once in the West*.



Andrew Delbanco

December 3

7:00 p.m. | King University
Memorial Chapel

December 4

7:00 p.m. | King University
Student Center Board Room

Andrew Delbanco is Mendelson Family Chair of American Studies and Julian Clarence Levi Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University. He was awarded the 2011 National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama "for his writing that spans the literature of Melville and Emerson to contemporary issues in higher education." In 2001, *Time Magazine* named him as "America's Best Social Critic." His many award-winning books include *College: What It Was, Is, and Should Be*, *Melville: His World and Work*, and *The Death of Satan*. Delbanco's essays appear regularly in *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Republic*, and other journals.



William H. Turner

January 19

9:15 a.m. | King University
Memorial Chapel

7:00 p.m. | Bristol Public Library
Bristol, VA

William Turner is an Appalachian region scholar and researcher with an emphasis on the African-American experience. He co-edited the path-breaking textbook, *Blacks in Appalachia*, and his essay on Black Appalachians was published in the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*. He was a research assistant to *Roots* author Alex Haley for a decade and served both as Dean of Arts & Sciences and as Interim President of Kentucky State University. The Appalachian Studies Association honored him for a lifetime of service to the Appalachian region. Until 2012, Turner served as Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Studies and Regional Ambassador at Berea College. Co-Sponsored by Virginia Highlands Community College.



Philip Yancey | February 7

4:00 p.m. | Interview with
Jim Dahlman

First Presbyterian Church, Bristol

7:00 p.m. | First Presbyterian
Church, Bristol, TN

One of the all-time bestselling evangelical writers, Philip Yancey grew up in Atlanta and has lived in Chicago and Colorado. Several of his 25 books have won significant awards, and he has written for many periodicals as well as serving on the editorial board of *Books & Culture*. A popular speaker, Yancey has completed his goal of climbing all 54 of Colorado's 14,000 foot peaks. A graduate of Wheaton College and the University of Chicago, Yancey's writing in such books as *What Good is God?* and *The Question That Never Goes Away* features Buechnerian themes related to matters of faith and doubt.

*"What's lost is nothing to what's found, and all
the death that ever was, set next to life, would
scarcely fill a cup."*

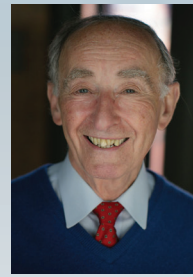
— Frederick Buechner, *Godric*

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buechnerinstitute.org or
The Buechner Institute fan page on Facebook**

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Most of the Buechner Institute events are free of charge, and all are open to the public. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities in our community life.



Martin Weiss

February 16

9:15 a.m. | King University
Memorial Chapel

7:30 p.m. | Emory & Henry College
Van Dyke Commons
Board of Visitors Lounge, Emory, VA

Martin Weiss was born in 1929 to Orthodox Jewish parents in Polana, Czechoslovakia. When Nazi Germany and its allies dismantled Czechoslovakia in 1939, Martin's life changed dramatically. In April 1944 Martin's family was transported to the Munkacs ghetto and then to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, where he was selected for forced labor and his other family members were sent to the gas chambers. Martin was liberated in May 1945, and in 1946 immigrated to the United States. He speaks on behalf of the Holocaust Memorial Museum. Co-Sponsored by Virginia Highlands Community College and Emory & Henry College.



Guy Consolmagno

March 2

9:15 a.m. | King University
Memorial Chapel

7:00 p.m. | Kingsport Center
for Higher Education, Kingsport, TN

Brother Guy Consolmagno SJ, is a native of Detroit, Michigan; he studied planetary sciences at MIT and the University of Arizona (PhD 1978), before entering the Jesuits in 1989. Since 1993 he has served at the Vatican Observatory as an astronomer and curator of meteorites, and in September will become president of the Vatican Observatory Foundation. Along with more than 200 scientific publications, he is the author of several popular astronomy books and writes a monthly astronomy column for *The Tablet*.



Will Willimon | March 16

9:15 a.m. | King University
Memorial Chapel

7:00 p.m. | Milligan College
Gregory Center, Johnson City, TN

Baylor University named William H. Willimon one of the "Twelve Most Effective Preachers in the English-speaking world." He is Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at the Duke University Divinity School and a former Bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church. More than a million copies of his books have been sold including *Worship as Pastoral Care*, which was selected as one of the 10 most useful books for pastors. His articles have appeared in *The Christian Ministry*, *Quarterly Review*, *Liturgy*, *Worship*, and *Christianity Today*. He is Editor-at-Large for *The Christian Century*. Co-Sponsored by Milligan College.



Miroslav Volf | March 31

4:30 p.m. | Emory & Henry College
Van Dyke Commons
Board of Visitors Lounge, Emory, VA

7:30 p.m. | King University Student
Center Board Room

Miroslav Volf is the Founder and Director of Yale Center for Faith and Culture and Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology at Yale University Divinity School. He has written or edited 15 books including *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness and Reconciliation*, which received a Grawemeyer Award in Religion, and was cited as one of *Christianity Today's* 100 most important religious books of the 20th century. He is actively involved in many top-level initiatives concerning Christian-Muslim relations and is a member of the Global Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum. Co-Sponsored by Emory & Henry College.



Andrew Peterson | April 6

9:15 a.m. | King University
Memorial Chapel

7:00 p.m. | Bristol Train Station
Bristol, VA

Andrew Peterson is a singer, author, and a founding member of the Square Peg Alliance, a group of Christian songwriters. His first full-length album, *Carried Along*, was released in 2000. Peterson's second album, *Clear to Venus* came out in 2001. In 2010, Peterson released *Counting Stars*, following with *Light for the Lost Boy* in 2012. Peterson is author of *The Ballad of Matthew's Begats* with illustrator Cory Godbey and of the young adult fantasy/adventure series, *The Wingfeather Saga*. Other novels include *On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness*, *North! Or Be Eaten*, and *The Monster in the Hollows*. His new novel is *The Warden and the Wolf King*. Co-Sponsored by SLACK.



Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

April 20

7:00 p.m. | First Presbyterian
Church, Bristol, TN

Marilyn McEntyre is a writer and professor of medical humanities at UC Davis and the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program. Her writing has appeared in *The Christian Century*, *Weavings*, *Sojourners*, *Prism*, *Conversations*, *Christianity Today*, *Academic Medicine*, *Medical Humanities*, *Literature and Medicine*, and a variety of other publications. A scholar and retreat leader, she has also received numerous teaching awards. Her most recent book is *What's in a Phrase? — Pausing where Scripture Gives You Pause*. *Christ, My Companion* has just been reissued and *Caring for Words in a Culture of Lies* is still available. A frequent lecturer on issues of medicine and literature, McEntyre is a Buechner Institute National Advisory Board member.

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