

**E-COMMUNICATOR NO. 06**  
**VANDERBILT DIVINITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**  
**FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 8, 2006**

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**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**MONDAY, October 9**

**10:10 Divinity Choir Practice (Chris Warren)**

All Faith Chapel

7:00-8:30 p.m. p.m. Relevant Religion Series

Scarritt Bennett (details below)

**TUESDAY, October 10**

11:13 - noon UMSA Worship Service

All Faith Chapel

12:30 Ecumenical mid-day prayer

Benton Chapel

**WEDNESDAY, October 11**

9:00 a.m. Academic Planning Meeting

Tillett Lounge

10:10 a.m. Weekly Worship Service

All Faith Chapel

12:00 Noon Carpenter Program presents “  
Religion, Gender, and Sexuality: Magdalene Perspectives”

Tillett Lounge

12:00 Noon EcoConcerns Empowerment Lunch

139

12:00 noon Field Education Information Session

G-23

5:00 p.m. Field Education Information Session

G-23

**THURSDAY, October 12**

8:00 a.m. Field Education Information Session

G-23

**FRIDAY, October 13**

10:10 a.m. Coffee Hour

Common Room

1:00 Lilly Steering Committee

Tillett

**SATURDAY, October 14**

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## All Faith Chapel Hours Update from the University Chaplain

Because of the number of requests we have had for All Faith Chapel to be open for personal meditation, we are going to have it open between 8:15 in the morning until approximately 8 pm at night. The decision to lock it was made originally because of groups using the chapel without reserving it, leaving the chairs rearranged, leaving food and trash in the room and doing damage to the floors and carpet. THIS ARRANGEMENT IS ON A TRIAL BASIS ONLY. If the chapel is cared for and the regulations are respected, we can leave it open. If not, it will be re-locked.

Please remember that ANY GROUP (recognized student organization) using the chapel must reserve it through the Office of Schedules and Reservations in Sarratt. Reservations for faculty or staff-sponsored also go through that office, and must also have the approval of the Office of Religious Life.

Gay Welch  
University Chaplain

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Relevant Religion Series  
September 25, October 2, 9 16  
Victor Judge, Registrar and Editor of *The Spire*  
The Relevant Religious Questions in the Poetry of Emily Dickinson

Information and registration  
[www.vanderbilt.edu/divinity/rel\\_religion.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/divinity/rel_religion.html)  
[www.scarrittbenett.org/programs/calendar.aspx](http://www.scarrittbenett.org/programs/calendar.aspx)  
936-8453

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Religion, Gender, and Sexuality: Magdalene Perspectives  
  
Wednesday, October 11, 2006  
12:00 pm- 1:00 pm Tillett Lounge  
Pizza Lunch Provided  
RSVP: [emily.r.einstein@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:emily.r.einstein@vanderbilt.edu) by Monday October 9th.

Magdalene is a non-profit organization that rehabilitates women with histories of addictions, prison time, and prostitution. Some of these women are coming to the Divinity School to join us for lunch and to share their stories.

\*Sponsored by the Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality

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On four Thursday nights in October there will be a series of discussions for "spiritual progressives," based on God's Politics by Jim Wallis and The Left Hand of God by

Michael Lerner. The theme is "Doing Justly: Integrating Our Deepest Spiritual Beliefs Into Our Professional and Public Lives."

Discussion will be facilitated by Rabbi Rami Shapiro of Scarritt-Bennett Center, Rev. Judi Hoffman of Edgehill United Methodist Church, Rev. Victor Singletary of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Rev. Charles Strobel of the Campus for Human Development, and Rev. James Lawson, Civil Rights Pioneer.

Sessions are as follows:

October 5, 7-9, The Temple, 5015 Harding Road. "From Prophets to Principles: Is There a Progressive Spiritual Politics and What Does It Look Like?"

October 12, 7-9, Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church, 2708 Jefferson Street. "From Principles to Policies, I."

October 19, 7-9, Cathedral of the Incarnation, 2015 West End Avenue. "From Principles to Policies, II."

October 26, 7-9, Vine Street Christian Church, 4101 Harding Pike. "From Policies to Politics: Enacting Our Agenda."

For more information and to register, go to [www.tennesseeallianceforprogress.org](http://www.tennesseeallianceforprogress.org) and link to the registration page. Or call 888-903-9576

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#### ATTENTION FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS!!

If you want to participate in Field Education next year (2007-08) you must attend an Orientation to Field Education session. Three sessions are scheduled for next week. Come to the one that best suits your schedule.

Wednesday, Oct. 11 at 12:00 noon in G23

Wednesday, Oct 11 at 5:00 p.m. in G23

Thursday, Oct. 12 at 8:00 a.m. in G23

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Eco-Concerns Empowerment Lunches are scheduled for October 11 and November 29. The lunch meetings will be held in room 139 at noon. Contact Megan Severns at [megan.severns@gmail.com](mailto:megan.severns@gmail.com) for more details.

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Stand for ALL Families - October 16th, 6:00pm  
James Dobson is in Nashville this day spreading his message of intolerance and discrimination. Come join us as we counter his message with one of love, and inclusion and most of all,

celebration. This event will take place at Glendale Baptist Church and is presented by Vote No on 1. For more information, visit <http://www.votenoontn.com/standforallfamilies.html>.

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**Vanderbilt University Divinity School announces the 2006**

Cole Lectures to be delivered by Lamin Sanneh

*D. Willis James Professor of Missions & World Christianity and Professor of History, Yale University*

**Thursday, October 19, 2006, 7:00 P.M.**

**Friday, October 20, 2006, 10:00 A.M.**

**Benton Chapel**

**Thursday, October 19, 2006, 7:00 P.M .**

"Has Christianity Outlived the Enlightenment? The Post-Western Resurgence and the Post-Christian West"

**Friday, October 20, 2006, 10:00 A.M .**

"Christianity in the Heart of the Dragon"

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Two forthcoming PowerPoint lectures by Cornelia Wunsch, Research Associate at the University of London, are sponsored the Divinity School, the Classics Department, the Graduate Department of Religion, and the University Lecture Committee.

Dr. Wunsch is one of the foremost young scholars in the culture of Mesopotamia in the first millennium BCE. (See <http://www.islet-verlag.de/autor2.html>).

1. CHILDREN - WANTED & UNWANTED: On Infant Exposure, Foundlings, And Adoption In Neo Babylonian Society (6th Century Bce)

This presentation examines the evidence on child abandonment and adoption from Neo-Babylonian legal records written on clay in comparison with earlier, contemporary and later sources. Cuneiform law provides a well-established framework for the transfer of children under different circumstances and conditions. Examples of legal symbolism and fiction (i.e. placing a child's foot on clay, throwing a child to a dog) are discussed and the position of the child in his or her new household with respect to status and inheritance rights is reviewed.

Wednesday, October 25th

Noon (12pm) Tillet Lounge

\*Bring Your Lunch\*

Drinks Provided

## 2. THE MERCHANTS OF BABYLON: Entrepreneurs in the 6th c. BCE

This PowerPoint presentation focuses on an exceptional family of entrepreneurs for over five generations, in comparison to its contemporaries. In a culture dominated by palace and temple economies, this family's business patterns and strategies, networks of influence, access to institutional resources, political circumstances and kinship alliances, investment patterns and business risks, and relation to the temples-all played a productive role that shaped Neo-Babylonian economic life well after Persia integrated Babylon within its empire.

UNIVERSITY SEMINAR

Center for the Study of Religion and Culture

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 4:10-6:00

LOCATION: 123 Buttrick

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Recycle Reminder - please do not use containers marked recycle for trash.

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### **Discerning the Call: Ordination and Mutual Forbearance**

The Covenant Network of Presbyterians is sponsoring a conference to celebrate 50 years of women's ordination in the PC(USA) and to work for the full participation of LGBTQ Christians in the life and ministries of the church. An exciting line-up of speakers, preachers, and workshop leaders will address both of these struggles for inclusion -- and the connections between them. While the conference is centered in the PC(USA), it will be of interest to anyone who cares about these issues. The conference will be November 9-11 in Columbus, Ohio. Registration is free for divinity students. Scholarships are available to help with expenses. For more details: go to <http://www.covenantnetwork.org/conf06.html> or see Ted Smith.

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**WHAT:** Nashville, Tennessee screening of *Iraq for Sale*

**WHEN:** Monday, October 09 2006 07:00 PM

**TICKET PRICE:** \$7, RSVP required below

After the film, there will be a panel discussion from Nashvillians who have a personal connection with the Iraq occupation, including veterans, Iraqi nationals, and other local experts.

We are asking people to RSVP at the Democracy for America website:

<http://www.dfalink.com/event.php?id=11820>

**HOSTED BY:** Democracy for America/Nashville.

**WHERE:** Watkins Film School

2298 Metrocenter Blvd.  
Nashville, Tennessee 37228

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS IF YOU WISH TO RESERVE A TICKET  
<http://iraqforsale.bravenewtheaters.com/screening/show/5856-nashville>

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29<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Vanderbilt University  
Holocaust Lecture Series  
Against Cultural Genocide  
October - November 2006  
For more information, call 322-2457 or visit [www.vanderbilt.edu/holocaust](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/holocaust)

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The Vote No on 1 campaign needs you! We are in need of volunteers everyday during the week and we are just around the corner on Church Street. This is a project to ensure that a state amendment doesn't not get passed that would define marriage as between one man and one woman. We canvass every Saturday at 9:30AM and we need great people to go door to door with us! Please be a part of this great campaign and important time in Tennessee history! Contact Anne Gregory-Cole at 615.321.8467 or [annemgregory-cole@hotmail.com](mailto:annemgregory-cole@hotmail.com) and go to our campaign website at [www.votenoon1tn.com](http://www.votenoon1tn.com).

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If you have information/ announcements to be included in the E-Communicator please email the information to [sherry.willis@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:sherry.willis@vanderbilt.edu) All information must be received by noon on Thursday for the following week's E-Communicator.