

**E-COMMUNICATOR NO. 21
VANDERBILT DIVINITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 30, 2007**

WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, April 30

Exams

TUESDAY, May 1

Exams

WEDNESDAY, May 2

Exams

9:00 Academic Planning
Tillett

THURSDAY, May 3

Exams

9:00 Academic Programs
Tillett

7:00 p.m. Rev. Mark Davis
(info below)

FRIDAY, May 4

12:00 noon Faculty Meeting
Private Dining Room

2:00 p.m. Rev. Mark Davis
(info below)

"Charitable Particularity: Aesthetics and Ethos in
the Reformed Tradition"

Thursday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.

Mark Davis, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Boise, ID, will present an illustrated lecture "Charitable Particularity: Aesthetics and Ethos in the Reformed Tradition" at Second on Thursday night, May 3. Mark is a parish minister who has thought long and hard about how we incorporate the visual and performing arts into worship and how we might do a better job of integrating the two. He is also a bright and charming lecturer who will have us smiling as he helps us think through different peoples' approaches to these sometimes thorny issues.

He writes, "The particular style of worship which each of us cherishes is simply that. It is particular. As is our neighbors'. The emphasis is on

the distinction between the peculiar and the particular. Our preferences are particular . as are our neighbors' desires, nothing more or less. Our preferences do not privilege one means or another of giving glory to God. In short, we are to cherish our particularity and live in genuine charity with the particularity of others. This raises the questions of the boundaries within a faith community; and that, hopefully, we will explore with questions and conversation."

Mark's lecture will include meditations on the music of Mose Allison and the use of floral arrangements in worship. He asks that each of us bring a flower to his lecture, which will begin at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Authentic Patience:
Improvisation and Preaching

Friday, May 4

conversation: 2-3 p.m.

workshop: 3-5 p.m.

Room G-28

Feel free to attend the conversation, the workshop, or both

The Rev. Mark Davis
First Presbyterian Church
Boise, Idaho

The Rev. Mark Davis will be leading a conversation and then a workshop on extemporaneous and impromptu preaching from 2-5 p.m. on Friday, May 4, in room G-28. He'll present the theology and practice of his preaching in an interactive lecture. Then he'll lead a workshop in which individual participants will get a chance to try on improvisational styles with plenty of support and coaching. You are welcome to attend just the first hour, just the workshop, or both events. There is no charge.

The timing is terrible. I know. But the event is worth some special effort. I've never heard anyone else who preaches like Mark. His sermons grow out of long immersion in the text and some sustained theological study, and it shows. He relies on riffs and improvisation like a jazz musician. When it all works, it is some of the best preaching I have ever heard. And sometimes, as with all improv (and all planned preaching, and certainly all of mine), it doesn't quite work. There is no magic method here. But it is always interesting, and he is the best example of this type of preacher that I know of. Full disclosure: he is also the pastor at my spouse's home congregation, and a friend of mine from various "pastor-theologian" events.

I think these sessions will be interesting to all people who want to work on their preaching. Even if you know you don't want to preach in an improv style, you still might pick up some little things to graft into your own style. Besides, Mark combines serious smarts with a dry sense of humor. I recommend the event highly, and I hope you'll be able to attend. Please feel free to contact me with any questions

Isha Yoga - Inner Engineering
May 9 - 15 2007
Scarritt-Bennett Center
Free Intro Talk, Sunday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m.
Brochures available in the administrative office
www.ishayoga.org

If you are to graduate on May 11, you must do an exit interview with Dean Hunt. Please come by the administrative suite and sign up for a time. Angela Dillon will be able to assist you with this process.

If you have information/announcements to be included in the E-Communicator please email the information to sherry.willis@vanderbilt.edu All information must be received by Friday morning for the following week's E-Communicator.