## E-COMMUNICATOR NO. 25 VANDERBILT DIVINITY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER April 11, 2005

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

MONDAY, April 11 12:00 -1:00 pm Praise and Worship UMSA All Faith Chapel

TUESDAY, April 12

WEDNESDAY, April 13

10:10 a.m. Worship Service Service Honoring Graduates All Faith Chapel

11:30 a.m. United Methodist Student Association End of the year party and elections PDR

6:30 p.m. Mary Conference reception

7:15 p.m. Mary Conference Speaker Dr. Vasiliki Limberis Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Franklin Road

## THURSDAY, April 14

8:00 a.m. Community Breakfast Dr. Beverly Gaventa Divinity School Refectory

12:00-1:00 Religious Roundtable Lunch GLBT House (info below)

4:10 Mary Conference Speaker Dr. Anne Clark Divinity G-23

7:15 p.m. Mary Conference Speaker Dr. Beverly Gaventa Westminster Presbyterian Church

FRIDAY, April 15

10:10 Coffee Hour

Commons Room

12:00 – 1:30 Remembering the "Witness Against the Death Penalty" Private Dining Room (info below)

12:30 – 1:30 Personnel and Policy Committee

Tillett Lounge

2:10 p.m. Faculty Meeting

Private Dining Room

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## MARY CONFERENCE INFORMATION

"Mary in Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Tradition" April 13-14, 2005 Conference Sponsored by the Carpenter Foundation, with co-sponsors: The Margaret Cuniggim Women's Center, the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture

Wednesday April 13:

6:30: Light refreshments: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Franklin Road (those who wish are invited to attend the Liturgy of the Presanctified, beginning at 4:30 in the sanctuary)

7:15: Speaker, Dr.. Vasiliki Limberis, "Hymns in Color: Byzantine Liturgical Traditions of the Theotokos"

Thursday, April 14:

8:00 a. m. Community Breakfast (Divinity School Refectory), with Dr.. Beverly Gaventa, "Reclaiming Mary for Protestants"

4:10: Dr. Annie Clark, University of Vermont, "Venerating Mary in the Middle Ages: Seeing, Pleading, Loving" G-23, Vanderbilt University Divinity School Lecture will be followed by brief reception

7:15: Dr. Beverly Gaventa, 'From Conspiracy to Scandal: A Reflection on Mary in Scripture.'

Westminster Presbyterian Church Followed by reception at the church

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THURSDAY APRIL 14th

12:00-1:00pm @ GLBT House

Religious Roundtable Lunch

Come have conversation about GLBT concerns in the church.

Can GLBT people be authentic and find a place in the church? As a GLBT person, Are you able to reconcile your faith with your sexuality?

As a straight person, what are your struggles with GLBT issues in the church? Brown bag lunch, drinks and cookies provided.

Facilitator: Blake Mann, Graduate Student at Vanderbilt Divinity School and participant in the Carpenter Program in Religion, Gender and Sexuality. Sponsored by Vanderbilt University GLBT Office and the Carpenter Program.

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Remembering the 'Witness Against the Death Penalty': 5 years ago this month, a collection of Vanderbilt Divinity school students, staff, and faculty organized and participated in a two week 'Witness Against the Death Penalty' as the state of Tennessee prepared to execute its first death row inmate in over 40 years - Robert Glen Coe. The witness involved, among other things, a daily gathering on the steps of the state capitol, which culminated for some in an act of direct civil disobedience at the governor's mansion the day before Coe's execution (the early morning of April 19, 2000).

Many of those who were involved in this 'witness' are re-gathering this coming Friday and Saturday, April 15-16 to re-narrate for one another the many events of those weeks and to share how those events have impacted who they have become and what they have done with their lives since.

As part of that gathering, on Friday, April 15, from noon to 1:15 in the Private Dining room, several of those former Divinity students would like to share their experiences (and video footage) of that witness and those events with current students, staff, faculty, along with anyone else in the Nashville community who might be interested.

"The death penalty protests in 2000 marked one of the most powerful experiences of my life. We carried the rhetoric we had been using in the classroom out into the streets, even up to the front doors of the Capitol building. We witnessed for justice and compassion and peace. The Holy Spirit made us into a community, and I have carried that experience with me in every moment of my ministry since then."

Rev. Andrew Thompson, MDiv '01

"The most inspiring event in the Divinity School during the 1999-2000 school year was the organized resistance to the death penalty carried out by Divinity School students. It was carefully planned and carried out. The planning meeting was remarkable for its clear thinking, openness and clarity about possible consequences. The demonstration before a door of the State Capitol was marked by depth of commitment and perfect discipline. The blocking of the driveway to the governor's mansion issued in arrests for which the students were prepared. In conversations with participants from the planning stage through the rest of the school year and since, I saw how life-changing the participation was for them. It was a high "moment" in the life of the Divinity School, and in these times of growing hopelessness, it gave me a much needed sense of hope in the rising generation of leadership"

Dr. Jack Forstman, Dean 1999-2000

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1st yr. MTS student seeking 2 female roommates.

2BD/1 Bath available in 3BD duplex

Location: Hillsboro Village (Near corner of 18th & Portland), within walking distance of Vandy

Specifics: Spacious, Clean, hardwood floors, nice kitchen w/dishwasher, laundry room w/2 washers & dryers, porch, A/C & heat, wireless internet. No pets or smoking.

Rent: \$450/month & \$500/month. INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES!!!

Call Lindsey at 218-9790 or email lindsey.j.blackwelder@vanderbilt.edu

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Please take the time to send your information/announcements to be included in the E-Communicator to sherry.willis@vanderbilt.edu All information must be received by noon on Friday for the following week's E-Communicator.