Barton Clinton Gordey series with world-renown scholar begins next Sunday

Dr. Walter Brueggemann, one of world’s most highly-respected contemporary Bible scholars and theologians, will present the 50th Annual Barton Clinton Gordey Series beginning next Sunday, February 26.

The Reverend Dr. Walter Brueggemann

He will speak at 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday morning, then at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, February 26-28.

Dr. Brueggemann is one of the most highly respected interpreters of Hebrew scripture and is a skilled and beloved preacher. He has written more than sixty books and hundred of articles.

He was the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, for seventeen years until his retirement in 2003. He was named Professor Emeritus at that time.

A graduate of Elmhurst College, he earned his Doctor of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in Education at St. Louis University. He holds numerous honorary doctoral degrees, and was named “Distinguished Alumnus” by Union in 1994.

An ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, his life has been spent in passionate exploration of Old Testament theology, with an emphasis on origins and history of Christian doctrine and the dynamics of Jewish-Christian interaction.


Dr. Brueggemann was Editor of the Overture Series for Fortress Press for 25 years and has served on Editorial Councils for The Journal of Biblical Literature, Theology Today, and Interpretation.

He has been a Rockefeller Fellow and President of the Society of Biblical Literature in 1990, and is a member of the British Society for Old Testament Study.

One scholar writes, “No one writing on the Bible is more consistently provocative, interesting, challenging, and imaginative than Walter Brueggemann. ... For those Christians who yearn for serious, biblically informed engagement with our contemporary world, there is no one more stimulating.

Chili and spaghetti suppers

A Monday evening chili supper and a Tuesday evening spaghetti dinner, February 27 and 28, will provide a quick, convenient meal before each presentation. Tickets will be on sale this Sunday and next or at the door, $5-adults, $3-children, or $14 max per family.

Question and Answer Luncheon

Tickets are also available for a question-and-answer lunch with Dr. Brueggemann on Tuesday, February 28, for $8.00 per person. All are welcome; seating is limited. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

Reception and books

A reception honoring Dr. Brueggemann will follow each evening presentation in the (See “Dr. Brueggemann” on page 4A)

Ash Wednesday services set at 12:05 and 6:00 p.m. to begin season of Lent

The Christian season of Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. Services will be held at 12:05 and 6:00 p.m. this Wednesday, February 22nd, in the sanctuary.

A small ensemble will sing at the 12:05 service and the Chapel Choir will sing at 6:00. The brief service includes hymns, scripture readings, and the imposition of ashes for all who wish to participate.

Upper Room Dean to lead prayer workshop March 2-4

Our Boston Avenue Prayer Ministry will host a prayer and spirituality workshop March 2-4, the weekend after the Barton Clinton Gordey presentations. The Rev. Tom Albin, Dean of the Upper Room Ministries and Ecumenical Relations in Nashville, Tennessee, will lead it.

Rev. Albin is a member of the Oklahoma Annual Conference who was instrumental in starting the Green Country Walk to Emmaus here.

There is no charge for the Friday evening or Saturday sessions. All are invited and encouraged to attend. Each session stands alone, so participants can attend any that fit their schedule.

The schedule is as follows:

Friday, March 2, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. - World Day of Prayer and National Prayer Ministry Training for United Methodists. Come learn how to support the upcoming General Conference, which meets April 24-May 4 in Tampa, in prayer. Learn how to develop a culture of prayer in your church and participate in the prayer ministry in Tampa.

This session only has a $15 fee per person to cover the cost of all materials and lunch at this training session.

7-8:45 p.m. - Prayer: Oxygen for the Soul

Prayer is so simple that the smallest child can do it, yet even the great saints in Christian history have struggled to pray.

This session is for individuals and families who want to gain new insights and experiences in prayer.

March 3, Saturday 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Prayer: Source of all Healing and Health Jesus’ ministry was rooted (See “Prayer” on page 4A)
Again this week we see why our ancestors decided to include four Gospels in the Christian Scriptures.

We are dealing with the second half of Luke’s “Sermon on the Plain.” Luke has only twenty-nine verses in his sermon while Matthew has 111 in his “Sermon on the Mount.”

Matthew concludes his account with the command to “be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.” Luke is writing to Gentiles who have been forever shaped by Greek philosophy. In the days of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, they had been taught that perfection never exists on the earth.

Plato had a three-storied universe. Below his “flat earth” there was a realm of the dead, an abyss. Above his earth was the realm of the heavens. Their stories are dramatic reflections of the times. But the impact of St. Mark’s on the city of New Orleans is immense. Their stories are dramatic reflections of the times. But these stories are more than mere reflections because St. Mark’s has changed the picture, leading the way into different understandings of what urban diversity could and should mean.

Dr. Brueggemann’s books are also available in the library, for those who would like to check one out.

Dr. Brueggemann is in great demand as a and presenter. Our committee has worked for several years to bring him to Boston Avenue. What a great way to celebrate 50 years of this prestigious series!

B.A. family update

Altar Flowers
Happy 75th Wedding Anniversary on February 25th to wonderful parents, Dorothy and E. L. Thomas, from their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Deaths
Homer G. Bailey died February 8, 2012. Services were held February 13 with Dr. Bill Tankersley officiating. Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Alan and Susan Bailey, of Inola.

Births
Hudson David Neel was born February 5, 2012, to Drs. James David and Gwen K. Neel. Proud grandfather is Jim Neel.

Hospitalized Last Week
St. John - Mae Smiley; St. Francis - Kathy Dorshey, Bob Lees, Nancy McDonal; Gene Mills, Janis Williams

Dr. Brueggemann (continued)

parlor. Cokesbury Books will have a display of his books, along with Bibles, lenten devotional books, and other books, available for purchase.

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Bolivia mission trip still open

Applications to serve on the upcoming mission team in Bolivia are still being accepted until March 1. The team will do construction and medical work in San Julian, Bolivia, July 14-22.

Applications are available in Bishops’ Hall. Lodging and meals will be provided by the host church and team members will use sleeping bags.

Cost of the trip is $1,000 for members or $2000 for non-members, thanks to a grant from the Brannin Family Foundation. Team members must attend planning meetings and physical conditioning before the mission.

Sunday School classes are urged to help support the team by assembling health and hygiene kits and providing financial support for medicine, construction supplies, and scholarships.

Prayer ... (continued)

in prayer. It provided the source for his preaching, teaching and healing. This session will focus on spiritual insights and prayer practices for those experiencing illness and terminal conditions and their families. Spiritual healing is not the same as physical curing—come learn and pray.

2:00-4:00 p.m. - Prayer: Hope of the World
Explore insights and prayer practices that help us overcome the “principalities and powers” described in the Bible. Come willing to learn and try new ways to pray.

March 4, Sunday - Rev. Albin will participate in both morning worship services and lead a combined Sunday School class for young people on the power of prayer.

Rev. Albin holds degrees from Oral Roberts University and Fuller Theological Seminary. His academic interests include spiritual formation, Wesley studies, historical theology, mission and evangelism. He is a published author of books and articles in religious publications.

A nursery is available during each workshop session. Call the Rev. Mary Ann Emmons, 918-699-0121 for reservations.

Learning more about prayer is the perfect way to start the Lenten season.

Dr. Ellen Blue to present St. Marks and Social Justice March 6 at 6:30

Dr. Ellen Blue, professor at Phillips Theological Seminary, has spent a great deal of time researching and then writing a book about St. Mark’s Methodist Church and Community Center in New Orleans, a fascinating example of working within the system to bring about social change. She will discuss and show slides of her work on Tuesday, March 6, at 6:30.

The impact of St. Mark’s on the city of New Orleans is immense. Their stories are dramatic reflections of the times. But these stories are more than mere reflections because St. Mark’s changed the picture, leading the way into different understandings of what urban diversity could and should mean.

Dr. Blue’s book looks at the important role played by women (especially deaconesses) as the church confronted social issues through the rise of the social gospel movement and into the modern civil rights era. All are welcome to come learn from her.

Dr. Brueggemann

from the Pastor’s Study
Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

February is Lights On for Cookson

Lights On for Cookson is underway throughout the month of February. The annual effort helps the Cookson Hills Center, a United Methodist mission south of Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

Donation envelopes will be available to pick up as worshippers leave the sanctuary Sunday morning. Filled envelopes can be placed in the offering plate on a Sunday morning or left at the information desk any time throughout the month.

The Cookson Center ministers to Oklahoma’s poorest residents, many of whom are members of the Cherokee tribe. Our church is a vital ministry partner with the Rev. Meri Whitaker, the missionary who runs the mission, and is a covenant relationship with her to support her work there.

Cookson provides nourishing meals for children during the week, then sends backpacks of food home on weekends.

Prayer ... (continued)

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Dr. Brueggemann

(from the Pastor’s Study)

Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

From the Pastor’s Study
Mouzon Biggs, Jr.
**UMW News**

**By Janet McCutchen Graham**

March and April will have several important events to put on our UMW calendar:

- **Sunday March 4** – UMW

  **District UMW Spiritual Evening Together**, Will Rogers UMC, 6:30 p.m. refreshments and 7:00 program with our featured speaker

- **Thursday, April 19** – UMW

  Unit meeting, 6:00 pm in the Asbury Room

- **Friday, April 27-29** – UMW

  - Oklahoma Conference UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat, Camp Egan

**Gifts and Memorials**

BUILDING ENDOWMENT

In memory of Lora Lee Emery, sister of Jean Crowell

By: Martha Jo Bradley and John H. Bradley

Congratulations.. .

to B.A. member Ali Wonderly, who has landed a starring role in Theatre Tulsa’s production of *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Mariogolds.*

The play opens March 9th.

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**Youth News!! . . .**

**Senior High news**

Lent is Coming! Are you ready?

- **Sign up for the Lenten Devotional** text by emailing debbie@bostonavenue.org with your name, cell phone carrier and number. You will receive a response text, answer in the affirmative and then you will begin receiving text devotionalations at 7:00 a.m. for the 40 days of Lent.

- **Attend the Ash Wednesday service** on February 22 at 6:00 p.m. We will worship together. No DTBA. The gym will not be open on this high holy night. You are encouraged to leave quietly following the service.

- **Mark your calendars** to attend the Barton Clinton-Gordey Lectures beginning on Sunday evening, February 26 and continuing through Tuesday, February 28. Walter Bruggemann is a BIG Deal! You will not want to miss his inspiring and challenging words.

- **Make an intentional effort to attend Sunday morning** every week. Our Christian Education team is working to utilize every minute to help you answer questions about faith and understand WHY it matters to your life NOW!

**Teen Triologue** is all-new for 2012. Join us this year for 3 Sunday afternoon experiences from 1:00-3:00 at the different houses of worship.

February 26th - Meet at the Peace Academy for short presentations from teen experts about how food is used in religious traditions and then compete together for LiveEvent Trivia to see which table knows the most!

- On Sunday, March 4th the group moves to Boston Avenue for a Hunger Banquet. Together we will learn how issues of food affect us all.

And finally, On Sunday, March 11 B’nai Emmunah will host us for a tour of a kosher kitchen and time of learning how different faith communities respond to help. Following our final session, groups will have the opportunity to serve side by side at the Eastern Oklahoma Food Bank.

**So...do you want to learn more about your faith?** Opportunities are abundant...but it’s up to you. - Audra

**6th, 7th and 8th Grade**

Thanks to everyone who helped us with our Valentine giving. The boys did a tremendous outreach at the Day Center, serving a meal and giving out Valentine treats. Our trip to Methodist Manor gave us the opportunity to say “hello” and pass out flowers and Valentines to residents in the assisted living, and to some of our own Boston Avenue members. Thank you for showing your love to others.

This Sunday will be our final week of our current 7th and 8th grade Sunday School classes. We will begin our Lenten series on the 26th. Time is flying by.

Be sure and make plans to be at the 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service on the 22nd of February. We will not have DTBA that evening so you can bring your parents and go home with them after the service. It’s the perfect way to begin the season of Lent.

Enjoy your time off from school over the President’s Day holiday and I will see you on Wednesday and Sunday.

Faithfully yours, Debbie

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**Lectionary Readings**

**February 19, 2012**

| Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 |
| Genesis 45:3-11, 15 |
| 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 |

Be sure to look for the special pull-out supplement on our General Board of Global Ministries in this issue. It contains a wealth of information and will be a great resource!

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**Sunday Worship**

February 19, 2012

**The Last Sunday after the Epiphany**

**The Transfiguration of the Lord**

**9:30 a.m. Communion Service**

**9:40 a.m. Sunday School**

**8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship Services**

**Sermon:** “LUKE KNEW WE GENTILES WOULDN’T GET IT!”


 Dr. Mouzon Biggs, Jr.

**Music:**

Prelude: Meditation …………………… Darwin Wolford

 Dr. Susan Panciera, Organist (8:30 & 11:00)

O God, Our Help in Ages Past ..... arr. K McChesney

The Carillon Ringers (11:00)

Anthem: Thy Perfect Love …………………… John Rutter

The Chapel Choir (8:30)

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy .... Maurice Bevan

The Choirister Ringers (8:30)

Voluntary in D Major …………………… John Stanley

Dr. Susan Panciera, Organist (11:00)

Anthem: Love Comes from God …………………… Alan Pote

The Chapel Choir (8:30)

Honor and Glory …………………… Johann Sebastian Bach

The Chancel Choir (11:00)

Postlude: Fanfare .................................. Percy Whitlock

Hymns: 383 This Is a Day of New Beginnings

140 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

121 There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

**12:10 p.m. Holy Communion & Service of Healing**
**Class News this week...**

**College and Career**
Rob Morgan will teach from *The Gospel According to Harry Potter – Book 7*.

**Cornerstone**
This week we will meet again with New Frontiers Class.

**Disciples**
Sunday we will complete our discussion about “The Case for the Creator.”

Thanks to the Harvey’s for our treats last week. The Harvey’s will bring them this week.

**Heritage**
Rev. Ken Tobler will be with us again this week. His lesson Sunday will continue his series on prayer.

Thanks to Evelyn McPherson for our treats. The McPherson’s will bring them this Sunday.

**Homebuilders**
We thank Brenda Reed for her great lesson from Jim Moore’s book on the parables again Sunday. She will be with us again this week.

**Horizons**
There will be a guys’ discussion this Sunday while the girls are on their trip.

The Girls’ Trip to Brandon is this weekend, February 17-19. The Barton-Clinton-Gordley Spaghetti Dinner is Tuesday, February 28. Please sign up to help sell tickets and to work that night.

Thanks to the Collins for our treats. The Grahams are signed up to bring them this Sunday.

**Maranatha**
Chili Supper volunteers are needed on Monday, February 27. Contact the Donleys to find out how you can help.

Thanks to Ed Payton for another great lesson on Dr. Brueggemann and Cornerstone Class will join us.

Our day of bowling is Feb. 25, 2:00 at Sheridan Lanes. We still need a recent 5”x 7” photograph for the family picture wall from some of you.

**Pilgrimage**
Dr. Bill Tankersley will teach again this Sunday.

We are still signing up for food items for when we serve dinner at the Day Center for the Homeless on the 22nd. If you didn’t sign up, let Deidra know what you’ll bring. We’ll go to Charlie Mitchell’s after that meal.

**Roundtable**
Guy Logsdon will teach us again Sundays on “History of Religion in Oklahoma.” We look forward to another great lesson.

**Seek and Discover**
Judy Rowell will continue to teach us Sunday from the book, *Lord Teach Us*. Be sure to come hear her.

**Wesley Fellowship**
We look forward to another great lesson by Dr. Howard Plowman in his series, “Who Is God?” Hope you can join us.

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**Weekly Calendar**

**Sunday - February 19**
9:00 a.m. BAY Troupe rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Invitations to Pamlaws
6:00 p.m. Men’s basketball practice
6:30 p.m. Invitation to John
6:45 p.m. Child SHARE Support Group
7:15 p.m. Troop 20

**Monday - February 20**
9:00 a.m. Weekday School
9:30 a.m. Annual Conference Cmte.
6:00 p.m. Prayer Service
6:30 p.m. Sabbath evening Service
6:45 p.m. Child SHARE Support Group

**Tuesday - February 21**
9:00 a.m. Weekday School
7:00 p.m. Postpartum Support Group
7:15 p.m. Troop 20

**Wednesday - February 22**
9:00 a.m. Weekday School
12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
1:30 p.m. Great Decisions Class
5:00 p.m. Snack Supper

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**Final Trialogue at B.A. Sunday**

The final session of the 2012 Interfaith Trialogue sponsored by the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice (OCCJ) will be held this Sunday, February 19, 2:00-4:00, at Boston Avenue.

This year’s topic has been “Food for Thought: Food, Religion and Community.” This final session will specifically address “Friendship, Enmity, Chaos, Wholeness.” – How can we rebuild community of the table? Join Open Tables coordinator (and B.A. member) Vicky Langston and Wanda Batman of the Masjid Al-Salam Mosque as they discuss this topic.

OCCJ promotes understanding and respect through advocacy, conflict resolution and education. This last session is free and open to the public, as the others have been. Donations are welcome.

**Sunday School at a glance...**

_**Adult Classes for Sunday, February 19, 2012**_
_**Visitors are welcome in all classes.**_

- **Dr. Biggs’ Class** - Greatest Bible stories and passages
- **College & Career** - Rob Morgan, “Gospel of Harry Potter”
- **Cornerstone** - Dr. Bill Crowell, “Walter Brueggemann”
- **Disciples** - “The Case for the Creator”
- **Ephphatha** - to be announced
- **Heritage** - Rev. Ken Tobler, “Prayer”
- **Homebuilders** - Brenda Reed, “Parables”
- **Horizons** - “Gospel of Harry Potter”
- **Maranatha** - Marita Morgan
- **New Covenant** - to be announced
- **New Frontiers** - Dr. Bill Crowell, “Walter Brueggemann”
- **Pilgrimage** - Dr. Bill Tankersley
- **Roundtable** - Guy Logsdon, “Heritage of Religion in Oklahoma”
- **Seek & Discover** - Judy Rowell, “Lord, Teach Us”
- **Wesley Fellowship** - Dr. Howard Plowman