

**PREACHER AND LECTURERS FOR THE SPRING STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING**  
**Vanderbilt University Divinity School - Saturday, May 21, 2016**



Preaching for Morning Worship at our May 21, 2016 Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting will be **the Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill**, Pastor of the New Faith Presbyterian Church of Greenwood, South Carolina. Commissioners, corresponding members and visitors will be called to worship at 9:05 am in Benton Chapel on the campus of the Vanderbilt Divinity School. The scripture text Dr. Ridgill has chosen for this occasion is **Isaiah 43:14-19** and the sermon title is **“A New Thing”**.

*Dr. Alice Ridgill is a native of Manning, South Carolina, and she earned the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine Arts (with a music concentration) from Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. She earned her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Erskine Theological Seminary, and the Certificate in Executive Leadership from McCormick Theological Seminary of Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Ridgill served a prior pastorate in Abbeville, SC and is a Chaplain (candidate) in the United States Air Force Reserves. She will be one of the featured preachers at the 222<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the General Assembly of the PCUSA in Portland, Oregon, this summer.*

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Three Vanderbilt Divinity School Professors in the Reformed Tradition will be presenting abbreviated lectures on favorite topics of their choosing. This is one of the “bangs for our bucks” that we will receive for having scheduled our Spring Stated Presbytery Meeting at the Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Commissioners, corresponding members and visitors will need to sign up for the lecture of their choosing either in the Pre-Registration Process or when Registering the day of the meeting. These lectures will be held concurrently from 11:20 am until the 12 noon lunch in locations to be announced at the Presbytery Meeting. We hope to have commissioner attendance fairly evenly divided among these lectures, so there will be a cut-off number. When you Pre-Register electronically for the Meeting, also sign up for your first and second choice of lectures in order to enhance the likelihood that you will be able to attend the lecture of your first choice.



Presenting on the topic, **“Faith and Phones: Technological Intelligence for Spiritual People,”** will be the **Rev. Dr. Jacob Hamman**, Associate Professor of Religion, Psychology, and Culture. Dr. Hamman will be drawing from his book, now in production, titled, *Growing Down: Human Nature for Virtual People* (Baylor University Press).

Professor Jacob J. Hamman’s research interests include the formation of pastoral leaders, psychology of religion, psychodynamic theory, play studies, and humanity’s deepening relationship with technology. Prior to joining Vanderbilt Divinity School, Dr. Hamman was Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Western Theological Seminary (Holland, Michigan). A native of South Africa, he has completed studies in South Africa, at Princeton Theological Seminary, and at the Blanton-Peale Graduate Institute (New York City). He was the featured Keynote Speaker for the 2013 APCE (Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators) Conference held in Orlando, Florida, on the restorative power of play. At that time he was the only theologian member of the National Institute for Play.



Presenting on the topic, **“Religion and Globalization: Key Dynamics Characterizing Religion in the Global Context,”** will be **Dr. Graham Reside**, Executive Director of the Cal Turner Program in Moral Leadership for the Professions. In this shortened lecture, Dr. Reside will address the rise of Islam, the shift of the center of Gravity of Christianity to the Global South, the “secularization” of the West, and the revitalization of the rest. Utilizing recent studies in global religious demography, Dr. Reside will seek to paint a portrait of the global situation, and reflect on its significance for contemporary Christianity in the United States.

Dr. Graham Reside comes to Vanderbilt University Divinity School with a background in leadership development and academic training in the areas of sociology of religion and morality. His interests include ethics, sociology of culture and religion, sociology of the professions, and the sociology of emotions. Dr. Reside’s research and teaching interests are in the role of social institutions as schools of moral formation. As the director of the Cal Turner Program, he seeks to facilitate discussions across the various professions about their moral purposes and perspectives and to encourage professionals to consider how they contribute to the common good.



Presenting on the topic, **“Reformed Wisdom for a Divisive Season in American Politics”**, will be the **Rev. Dr. James Hudnut-Beumler**, The Anne Potter Wilson Distinguished Professor of American Religious History. Hopefully this subject matter will be found helpful in discovering ways to respond as people of faith amidst all the political and social divides we are experiencing in contemporary American culture. Dr. Hudnut-Beumler is a member of the American Academy of Religion, American Society of Church History, and the Organization of American Historians.

“Dr. H-B” (as he is affectionately called on the Div School campus) served as Dean of the Divinity School from 2000-2013. Prior to coming to Vanderbilt, he was dean of the faculty at Columbia Theological Seminary, a program associate for Lilly Endowment, and director of the undergraduate program in Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. His academic interests include the historiography of religion in the American South, the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century American religious history, the use of non-textual evidence in studying religion, and religion and philanthropy. He is currently working on volumes on the future of mainline Protestantism and the varieties of Christian practice in the South. “Jim” is a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church USA and a member in good standing of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. He recently serve two years as a member of the VISION for 2020 Planning Team of the Presbytery and assisted in drafting its “Leadership Excellence” objectives and goals.