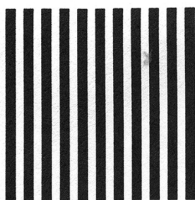


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## TUSCULUM COLLEGE

Office of Church Relations

P.O. Box 5040

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### PREVIOUS THEOLOGIANS-IN-RESIDENCE

- 2007 Dr. Charles Aden Wiley, III, Associate for Theology in the Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (*Reflections on the Trinity*)
- 2006 David Hendricksen, Director of Music Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Greeneville (*Music and Worship*)
- 2005 Gayle White, former religion reporter at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (*Christianity and Popular Culture*)
- 2004 Dr. Joseph D. Small, coordinator of the Office of Theology and Worship, and associate director of Congregational Ministries Division of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). (*Excellent Ministry in an Indifferent Culture*)
- 2003 Ervin Barham, Chuck Coker, Michael Smith, and Chuck Bentley of Crown Financial Ministries. (*Christian Principles for Managing Finances*)
- 2002 Dr. William J. Baker, professor of history at the University of Maine, and Dr. Robert J. "Jack" Higgs, Professor Emeritus of English at East Tennessee State University. (*God and Athletics in the Modern World*)
- 2001 Fred Brown and Jeanne McDonald, journalists, authors, and editors; Loyal Jones, writer, speaker, and educator; Dr. Deborah Vansau McCauley, independent scholar, writer, and editor; Paul Rader, coordinator for Missions of the Coalition for Appalachia Ministry. (*Religion in Appalachia*)
- 2000 The Reverend Dr. Carnegie Samuel Calian, Pittsburg Theological Seminary; The Reverend Dr. John M. Mulder, Louisville Theological Seminary; The Reverend Dr. David L. Wallace, Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary; The Reverend Dr. Louis B. Weeks, Union Theological Seminary. (*21st Century Church Issues*)
- 1999 Dr. Robert E. Knott, then-president of Tusculum College. (*History of Christian Doctrine*)
- 1998 Dr. Donald K. McKim, academic dean and professor of theology at Memphis Theological Seminary. (*John Calvin and the Reformed Tradition*)
- 1997 Dr. James E. Andrews, retired stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). (*Denominational Concerns*)
- 1996 Dr. Tommy Oakes, adjunct professor in storytelling at East Tennessee State University and a traveling evangelist. (*Storytelling in the Ministry*)
- 1995 The Reverend W. Burney Overton, Tusculum College Class of 1939, Shallowford Training and Counseling Service, Shallowford Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia. (*Theology, Relationships, and Communication*)
- 1994 The Reverend Dr. and Mrs. John L. Martin, First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethton. (*Jungian Psychology*)
- 1993 The Reverend Dr. Clinton M. Marsh, of Atlanta, Georgia, former moderator of the United Presbyterian Church. (*Preaching and Evangelism*)
- 1992 The Reverend Dr. Angus McGregor, professor of church and society at Vanderbilt University Divinity School and a former Merrill Scholar at Harvard University. (*Lectionary Texts for Lenten Preaching*)
- 1991 The Reverend Dr. Robert Johnson, retired professor of Theology and Dean of the Yale University Divinity School. (*Karl Barth: Doctrine of Ministry*)

*The Theologian-in-Residence series of lectures is sponsored each year by the Holston Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and Tusculum College. If you have suggestions for future topics or speakers in this series, please send your suggestions to Mark Stokes, Director of Church Relations at Tusculum College, at [mstokes@tusculum.edu](mailto:mstokes@tusculum.edu).*

# TUSCULUM COLLEGE

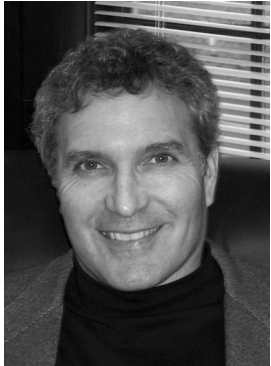
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## 2008 Theologian in Residence

February 5, 12, 19, 26

An author, attorney, educator and minister with notable credentials, whose latest book challenges the modern church to take a fresh look at historically divisive issues, will lead the 2008 Theologian-in-Residence lecture series at Tusculum College in February.

Oliver Thomas is Executive Director of the Niswonger Foundation of Greeneville. Before coming to Greeneville, he served as a minister, attorney, author, teacher and community leader.



Oliver Thomas, J.D.

Mr. Thomas is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Tennessee, where he graduated first in his class. He earned a Master of Divinity from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he also graduated first in his class and was chosen as the school's outstanding divinity student. Mr. Thomas received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee College of Law where he was

Order of the Coif and earned his Master of Law from the University of Virginia. As a minister, Rev. Thomas served churches in Tennessee and Louisiana.

As an attorney, Mr. Thomas has practiced at every level of state and federal courts including the United States Supreme Court. His clients have included the National Council of Churches, Southern Baptist Convention and Children's Defense Fund. He has appeared as an expert witness before the Judiciary Committees of the United States Congress on numerous occasions.

As an educator, Mr. Thomas taught First Amendment Law at Georgetown University Law Center. He also has lectured at such universities as Harvard and Notre Dame. More recently, Mr. Thomas served on the Maryville Board of Education completing three years as its chairman. He has provided training to teachers and administrators from more than five hundred school districts from North Carolina to California.

As an author, Mr. Thomas co-authored *The Right to Religious Liberty*. He also co-authored *Finding Common Ground*, the First Amendment handbook endorsed by the Department of Education and used in many of the nation's public schools. Mr. Thomas's articles have appeared in a variety of national publications, and he has been a guest commentator on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, C-Span, and National Public Radio. He is also a regular contributor to

USA Today.

Mr. Thomas's most recent book is *10 Things Your Minister Wants to Tell You (But Can't Because He Needs the Job)*. Published in 2007 by St. Martin's Press, the book addresses issues including human and world origins, miracles, the nature of the Bible, the place of women and gay individuals in the church, Christianity's relation to other religions, as well as the issues of death and the end of the world.

Mr. Thomas is married to the former Lisa Trammell of Oak Ridge. They have two daughters: Rachel, a graduate of the University of Virginia, and Sarah, a graduate of Tulane University. Rachel is now attending law school, and Sarah is working at Penguin Press in New York.

### SESSION SUMMARIES

#### **Session 1: In the Beginning...**

How did we get here? For what purpose? The answers to these questions form the foundation for all that follows. Without these answers, we cannot know how to live. This first session will also explore the current debate over teaching "intelligent design" in public schools.

#### **Session 2: The Bible: What it is; what it isn't**

At the heart of the Judeo-Christian tradition stands the Bible. No Bible? No Judaism or Christianity? But, what exactly is the Bible, and how should it be studied and used? Is it inerrant as many conservative Christians suggest? Infallible? Or, is it Judaism's and Christianity's witness to the majesty and mystery of God?

#### **Session 3: How should the church treat women and homosexuals?**

For centuries, women have been boxed out of the pulpit and key leadership positions in the church. Gays and lesbians aren't even welcome in many congregations. What if we're wrong? Is the church in danger of losing its moral credibility here? Might science have the final word? This session will explore the most divisive issue to confront American churches since slavery.

#### **Session 4: Death and Beyond**

What happens after we die? How will it all end? The popularity of the *Left Behind* series and Hal Lindsay's *Late Great Planet Earth* before it, compel a closer examination of "last things" and more particularly of the Book of Revelation.

# YES!

I wish to attend the 2008 Theologian-in-Residence Program on the Tusculum College campus.

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NAME

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ADDRESS

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ADDRESS

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CHURCH

Please reserve a place for me at the following events:

#### February 5

- 10 a.m. Morning Workshop
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Afternoon Wrap-up

#### February 12

- 10 a.m. Morning Workshop
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Afternoon Wrap-up

#### February 19

- 10 a.m. Morning Workshop
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Afternoon Wrap-up

#### February 26

- 10 a.m. Morning Workshop
- 12:15 p.m. Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Afternoon Wrap-up

I will be accompanied by

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NAME

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NAME