

VITA

John S. McClure

Charles G. Finney Professor of Preaching and Worship
Vanderbilt Divinity School
411 21st Avenue South | Nashville, TN 37240-1121 | Phone: 615.343-3989
john.s.mcclure@vanderbilt.edu

Education, employment, affiliations, memberships:

University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, BA, 1974, (Departmental Honors, English Literature)

M.Phil., University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, 1976, (English Literature)
Thesis Title: "Quest and Question: The Search for Meaning in Samuel Beckett's Trilogy"

M.Div., Fuller Theological Seminary, 1979.

Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 1984 (Theology and Communication in Preaching and Worship)

Thesis Title: "Preaching and the Pragmatics of Human/Divine Communication in The Liturgy of the Word in the Western Church: A Semiotic and Practical Theological Study"

Fellow/Preceptor in Practical Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary 1981-1982

Ordained, Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), June, 1986

Member, Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, 1986 --

Pastor, Ensley Highland Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Alabama, 1983-1986

Member, Economic Justice Committee, Greater Birmingham Ministries, Ecumenical Urban Agency, 1983-1985.

Member, Peacemaking Committee, Birmingham Presbytery, 1984-1986.

President of the Board, Greater Birmingham Ministries, Ecumenical Urban Agency, 1985.

Faculty Representative, Louisville Metroversity, 1987, 1991.

Board member, United Crescent Hill Ministries, 1989. Also: member Peacemaking Committee, Utilities Advocacy Group.

Member: American Academy of Religion, 1999 –

Member: Society of Biblical Literature, 1999 -

Editorial Board, Homiletic, 1993 --

Homiletic book review editor: Philosophy, Culture, Human Sciences, 1993 – 2000.

Board Member, Listening to Listeners to Sermons Project, Lilly Foundation, 2000 – 2004.

Grawmeyer Prize in Religion, selection committee, 1997-1999.

Founder and Director: Homiletic Supervision Program, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary 1998 --

Member, and past President (2003), Academy of Homiletics.

Chair, Graduate Department of Religion, Vanderbilt University, 2004-2010.

Co-director of the Music, Religion and the South Project, Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, Vanderbilt University, 2004-2007. Co-director of the project's semester-long event God in Music City. See: www.godinmusiccity.com

General Editor: Homiletic, 2008 -

Publications

Books

The Four Codes of Preaching: Rhetorical Strategies (Fortress Press, 1991).

Proclamation 5: Aids for Interpreting the Lessons for the Church Year, Pentecost 1 (Fortress Press, 1994).

The Roundtable Pulpit: Where Leadership and Preaching Meet (Abingdon Press, 1995).

Best Advice for Preaching, (ed.) (Fortress Press, 1998).

Telling the Truth: Preaching About Sexual and Domestic Violence ed. with Nancy J. Ramsay (United Church Press, 1999).

Other-wise Preaching: A Postmodern Ethic for Homiletics (Chalice Press, 2001).

Claiming Theology in the Pulpit, with Burton Cooper, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2003)

New Proclamation: Epiphany, Year C (Fortress Press, 2004.)

Listening to Listeners: Homiletical Case Studies, (ed.) (Chalice Press, 2004).

Preaching Words: 144 Key Terms in Homiletics, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2007).

Compact Discs, Web Sites

With Greg Barz, God in Music City, a two CD compilation of religious music in and around Nashville. Includes ethnographic, on site, recordings of individuals, choirs, singer songwriters, bands, and worship leaders. Limp Pulp Records, 2006.

With Greg Barz, and Alison Pingree – God In Music City website: a publication of the semester long events for the God in Music City project. www.godinmusiccity.com

Articles, chapters

"The Folklore of State Socialism: Semiotics and the Study of the Soviet State," with Michael E. Urban, in Soviet Studies, Vol. XXXV, no. 4, (Oct. 1984).

"Narrative and Preaching" a paper presented to the Theology and Preaching Work Group, The Academy of Homiletics, Madison, NJ, Dec. 1988.

"The Other Side of Sermon Illustration," Journal for Preachers, vol. XII, no. 2 (Spring, 1989).

"Changes in Presbyterian Preaching in the Twentieth Century," Reformanda, May, 1989.

"The Narrative Function of Preaching," Liturgy 8, No. 2 (Fall, 1989).

"Preaching, Eschatology and World View," Journal for Preachers, (Fall, 1989).

"Changes in the Authority, Method and Message of Presbyterian Preaching in the 20th Century" in John Mulder, Louis Weeks and Joe Coalter (eds.). The Confessional Mosaic (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1990).

"Narrative and Preaching: Sorting it all Out," Journal for Preachers, (Fall, 1991).

"Discourse, Ideology, and Party Formation on the Democratic Left in the USSR," with Michael E. Urban, in Michael E. Urban, (ed.) Ideology and System Change in the USSR and Eastern Europe (Macmillan Press, 1991).

"Preaching and the Question of Reformed Theology," Journal for Preachers, (Fall, 1992).

"Collaborative Leadership in Preaching," Circuit Rider, (April 1995).

"Expository Preaching," in The Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching (Westminster John Knox, 1995).

"Theories of Language," in The Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching (Westminster John Knox, 1995).

"Collaborative Preaching from the Margins," Journal for Preachers XXII (Pentecost, 1996).

"Conversation and Proclamation: Issues and Resources," Homiletic XXII, No.1, (Summer, 1997).

"Preaching the Lesson: Proper 28: Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time" Lectionary Homiletics, Vol.IX, No.12 (Nov. 1998).

"Sing, Child, Sing!" Church Choral Music and Spiritual Formation," Family Ministry (Winter, 1999).

"Preaching Easter Faith at the Beginning of the New Millennium," Journal For Preachers XXV (Easter, 2000).

"Preaching the Gospel as Good News," Consider This...A Newsletter for Pastors, Vol. 2, Issue 3 (Summer 2000).

"The Ascension: A Promise of Great Things to Come," Presbyterians Today 92, No.4 (May, 2002).

Co-editor with Marie Fortune, First Binational Sermon Contest, Journal of Religion and Abuse 4, No.1, 2002.

"Preaching and the Redemption of Language," in Jana Childers (ed.) Purposes of Preaching, Chalice Press, 2004.

"In Pursuit of Good Theological Judgment: Newman and the Preacher as Theologian," in Michael Welker and Cynthia Jarvis, (ed.) Loving God With our Minds: The Pastor as Theologian, Eerdmans, 2004.

"The Way of Love: Loder, Levinas, and Ethical Transformation through Preaching," chapter in Dana R. Wright and John D. Kuentzel, (ed.) Redemptive Transformation in Practical Theology, Eerdmans, 2004.

"Preaching Theology," Quarterly Review 24, No. 3 (Fall, 2004): 249-261.

"From Resistance to Jubilee: Prophetic Preaching and the Testimony of Love," Yale Institute of Sacred Music Colloquium: Music, Worship, Arts, Vol. 2, Autumn, 2005.

"The Practice of Sermon Listening," Congregations 32, No.1 (2006): 6-9.

“Theologie predigen,” Praktische Theologie, Vol. 2, (May, 2006).

“Collaboration,” “Deconstruction,” in Paul Scott Wilson (ed.) New Interpreters Handbook of Preaching (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008).

“Preacher as Host and Guest,” in Robert Steven Reid (ed.) Slow of Speech and Unclean Lips: Contemporary Images of Preaching Identity (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2010), 119-143.

“Preaching From, With, and For,” in William Carl, Jr. Best Advice : Wisdom on Ministry From 30 Leading Pastors and Preachers (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009).

“Forward,” in Eunjoo Mary Kim, Preaching in an Age of Globalization (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010).

“Preaching as a New Pastor in Times of Congregational Crisis,” in David Mosser (ed.) Preaching Through Transitions (forthcoming, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011).

“Sixth Sunday of Easter,” “Seventh Sunday of Easter,” “Ascension,” Feasting on the Word: Year A. Volume 4 (forthcoming, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011).

“Preaching and Practical Theology,” in Bonnie Miller McLemore (ed.) Blackwell Companion to Practical Theology (forthcoming: London: Blackwell Publishing Co., 2011).

“Pentecost, Year A,” Preaching Social Justice and Transformation: A Lectionary Commentary (forthcoming, Westminster John Knox Press, 2011).

“Pentecost, Year B,” Preaching Social Justice and Transformation: A Lectionary Commentary (forthcoming, Westminster John Knox Press, 2012).

“Pentecost, Year C,” Preaching Social Justice and Transformation: A Lectionary Commentary (forthcoming, Westminster John Knox Press, 2013).

Invited Academic Lectures

“Worship and Practical Theology,” PCUSA Consultation of Teachers of Worship, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA, Aug. 1989.

“The History and Theology of Presbyterian Worship,” (lecture series) First Presbyterian Church, San Angelo, TX., Oct. 1990.

“Theology and Preaching,” Southern Baptist Seminary, Mar. 1991.

Muskingum College Church Leadership Lectures: “Collaborative Preaching and Collaborative Church Leadership,” June, 1994.

Marten Lectures in Preaching, St. Meinrad Seminary. "Critical Homiletics and Collaborative Preaching," Oct., 1999.

Keynote lecture, "Resistance, Jubilee, and Love: Preaching to Redeem Language in a World Shaped by Conflict," Societas Homiletica, Sixth International Conference, June, 2004, Trinity Theological College, Singapore.

Keynote, "Preaching and Worship for the Dropped-Through Church," Worship Matters Conference, United Church of Canada, June, 2004.

"Sermon Sequencing," "The Scriptural Code," and "the Semantic Code," at Presbyterian College and Theological School, Seoul Korea, November, 2006.

Lecture and Rountable discussion. "Roundtable Preaching," Yonsei University, Seoul Korea, November, 2006.

2008 Bogitch Lecture, "Notes from the Field: Music, Religion, and the South," Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, Vanderbilt University, Feb. 12, 2008.

2008 Tollefson Lectures, Buena Vista College, "Listen to the Music: Popular Music and Christian Identity," "Calvin Speaks to Music Row," Oct. 27, 2008.

Papers

"The Empowering Word: Public Theology and Preaching," a paper presented to the Theology and Preaching Work Group, The Academy of Homiletics, Durham, NC, 1994.

"Conversation and Proclamation: Theological Resources and Issues," a paper presented to the Theology and Preaching Work Group, The Academy of Homiletics, Santa Fe, NM, Dec. 1996.

"Preaching and Anamnesis," paper presented at the The Bible in the Church Conference, Center for Theological Inquiry, Princeton, NJ, March, 1998.

"Preaching as Anamnesis," paper delivered to the Theology and Preaching Workgroup at the Academy of Homiletics, Dec. 1999.

"Postmodernity, the Bible, and Proclamation: Some Observations," paper delivered at the Academy of Homiletics, Dec. 1999.

"In Pursuit of Good Theological Judgment: Newman and the Preacher as Theologian," paper delivered to the Theology and Preaching Workgroup at the Academy of Homiletics, Dec. 2003.

"Preaching Theology," paper delivered to the Theology and Preaching Workgroup at the Academy of Homiletics, Dec. 2004.

“What I Now Think vis-à-vis Homiletic Theory,” paper delivered to the Preaching and Social Justice workgroup at the Academy of Homiletics, Dec. 2006.

Sermons

“Alienation>Emptying>Compassion” in Ronald J. Allen,(ed.) Patterns of Preaching: A Sermon Sampler (St. Louis: Chalice Press,1999).

Book Reviews

Richard A. Jensen, The Crucified Ruler: Sermons for Lent and Easter, in Homiletic XIII, no. 1 (Summer, 1988).

Robert Jewett, Paul the Apostle to America: Cultural Trends and Pauline Scholarship. Westminster/John Knox, 1994, in Homiletic XX, No.2 (Winter, 1995).

Terrence W. Tilley (ed.) Postmodern Theologies: The Challenge of Religious Diversity. Orbis, 1995, in Homiletic XXI, no.1, (Summer, 1996).

Alex Garcia-Rivera, St. Martin de Porres: The “Little Stories” and the Semiotics of Culture. Orbis, 1995, in Homiletic XXI, no.1 (Summer, 1996).

Judith Roof and Robyn Wiegman (eds.) Who Can Speak?: Authority and Critical Identity. Univ. of Illinois Press, 1995, in Homiletic XXI, no.2 (Winter, 1996).

Carol J. Adams and Marie M. Fortune (eds.), Violence against Women and Children: A Christian Theological Sourcebook. Continuum, 1995, in Homiletic XXII, No.1 (Summer, 1997).

Allucquere Rosanne Stone, The War of Desire and Technology at the Close of the Mechanical Age. The MIT Press,1996, in Homiletic XXII, No.2 (Winter 1997)

Terry, Eagleton, The Illusions of Postmodernism. Blackwell, 1996, in Homiletic XXIII, no.1 (Summer 1998).

David Batstone, Eduardo Mendieta, Lois Ann Lorentzen, and Dwight N. Hopkins (ed) Liberation Theologies, Postmodernity, and the Americas. Routledge, 1997,in Homiletic XXIII no. 1, (Summer 1998).

Nancey Murphy, Anglo-American Postmodernity: Philosophical Perspectives on Science, Religion and Ethics. Westview Press, 1997, in Homiletic XXIII, No.2. (Winter, 1998).

Graham Ward (ed.)The Postmodern God: A Theological Reader. Blackwell, 1997, in Homiletic XXIII, No.2 (Winter, 1998).

Charles Campbell, Preaching Jesus: New Directions for Homiletics in Hans Frei's Postliberal Theology, Eerdmans, 1998, in Journal for Preachers XXI, No.2 (Lent, 1998).

David Toole, Waiting for Godot in Sarajevo: Theological Reflections on Nihilism, Tragedy, and Apocalypse. Boulder Colorado: Westview Press, in Homiletic XXIV, No.1 (Summer, 1999).

P. Christopher Smith, The Hermeneutics of Original Argument: Demonstration, Dialectic, Rhetoric. Northwestern University Press, 1998, in Homiletic XXIV, No. 2 (Winter, 1999).

Parker Palmer, The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life. San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 1998, in Homiletic XXV, No. 1 (Summer, 2000).

Paul Lakeland, Postmodernity: Christian Identity in a Fragmented Age. Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 1997, in Homiletic XXV, No. 2 (Winter, 2000).

Gianni Vattimo, Beyond Interpretation: The Meaning of Hermeneutics for Philosophy. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997, in Homiletic XXV, No. 2 (Winter, 2000).

Jacques Derrida and Gianni Vattimo, eds., Religion. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998, in Homiletic XXV, No. 2 (Winter, 2000).

Marc P. Lalonde, Critical Theology and the Challenge of Jürgen Habermas: Toward a Critical Theory of Religious Insight. New York: Peter Lang Publishing Inc., 1999, in Homiletic XXVI, No.1 (Summer, 2001).

James R. Nieman and Thomas G. Rogers, Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001, in Homiletic XXVI, No.2 (Winter, 2001).

Jacques Derrida, Adieu: To Emmanuel Levinas. trans. Pascale-Anne Brault and Michael Naas, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999, in Homiletic XXVII, No.1 (Summer, 2002).

Jean-Luc Nancy, Being Singular Plural. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000. in Homiletic XXVII, No. 2 (Winter, 2002).

Dale P. Andrews, Practical Theology for Black Churches: Bridging Black Theology and African Folk Religion. in Family Ministry 18, no. 4 (Winter, 2004).

Robert C. Dykstra, Discovering a Sermon: Personal Pastoral Preaching. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2001, in Family Ministry, Volume 16, No. 3 (Fall, 2002).

Daniel Chandler, Semiotics: The Basics. in Homiletic 29, No. 1 (Summer, 2004).

Chris Altrock, Preaching to Pluralists: How to Proclaim Christ in a Postmodern Age. Chalice Press, 2004, in Homiletic 30, No.2 (Winter, 2005).

Speaking Engagements, Consultations, Workshops, Symposia, other:

Field Education Workshop, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, "Supervising Preaching," Feb. 1988.

Presbytery Workshop: "The Catechumenate and Baptism: The New Presbyterian Resources," First Presbyterian Church, Dayton, OH, Feb. 1988.

Adult Sunday School Series Leader, Calvin Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY, "Worship in the Presbyterian Church," Feb.- Mr. 1989.

Co-Leader: Moveable Feast Lectionary Study Group, Jan. 1990.

Ministry Update Leader, Presbytery of Shepherds and Lapsley, "Theology for Preaching," Mar. 1990.

Consultation, "Studying the St. Mathews Area Ministry Story," St. Mathews Area Ministry, Louisville, KY. Jan. 1991.

Lecture, "What's New in Preaching?" Alumni Board, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Mar. 1991.

Workshop Leader, "The Four Codes of Preaching," Proclamation 91, Cokesbury Conference, Nashville, TN, April, 91.

Focus on Faith Series Preacher, Independent Presbyterian Church, June, 1991.

"An Editorial on Editorial Page Preaching," a paper presented to the Theology and Preaching Work Group, The Academy of Homiletics, Louisville, KY, Dec. 1992.

Lecturer, Columbia Seminary D. Min. Summer Session: "Preaching that Communicates," July, 1993.

PCUSA Consultation on Preaching and Worship, "Practical Theology: The Missing Component?," Dallas, TX, Jan. 1993.

Festival of Arts Speaker, Independent Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL, "Church Choral Music and Spiritual Formation," Jan. 1993.

Leader, Homiletic Feast, "The Four Codes of Preaching," Fort Worth, TX, Jan., 1994.

Leadership Training Event, "Preaching and Worship in the Reformed Traditions," Highland Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY, Feb., 1994.

Director, Symposium on Women and Preaching, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Greenhoe Lectures, 1994.

Lecture, "The Cutting Edge of Preaching," East End Minister's Association, Louisville, KY, Feb. 1995.

Adult Sunday School Lectures, Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY, "Presbyterian Worship: Where Do We Go From Here?" May, 1996.

Symposium participant, "Preaching, Rhetoric, and Persuasion," Rhetoric Workgroup, Academy of Homiletics, Dec. 1996.

Consultation co-planner and co-leader (with Nancy J. Ramsay), "Preaching about Sexual and Domestic Violence," Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Louisville, KY Feb. 1997.

Workshop: "The Four Codes of Preaching," Princeton Theological Seminary, Summer Institute, June, 1997.

Lecture series: "Surviving the Worship Wars," First Presbyterian Church, Bowling Green, KY, Fall, 1998.

Workshop: "Preaching for Adults and Children Alike," Family Ministry Conference, Center for Congregations and Families, Louisville, KY, Mar. 1999.

Participant-observer, evaluator, Louisville Institute Conference, Feb. 1999.

Worship Consultant, Arlington Heights Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Ill. June, 2000.

Conference Worship Leader, Conference on Youth and the Life of Christian Faith, Louisville Center For Congregations and Families, Spring, Oct. 2000.

Preacher, lecturer, "Contemporary Worship?" LEAD conference (Presbytery Leadership Conference), Chicago, Mr. 2000.

Preacher, lecturer, "Communicating the Gospel through Relationships," First Presbyterian Church, Lagrange, GA, Sept. 2001.

Lecture, "What's New in Homiletics?," East End Minister's Association, Louisville, KY, Jan. 2002.

Workshop leader, "Remembering Lament, Listening to Lament, Preaching Lament," Montreat Reclaiming the Text Conference, June, 2002.

Lecture, "What Matters Most for Emerging Worship," PCUSA Emerging Worship Conference, Seattle, Sept. 2002.

Commissioned Lay Pastor Training Programs, 2000-2002, Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, Transylvania Presbytery.

Doctor of Ministry courses taught on “Collaborative Preaching” at Brite Divinity School (1998), Columbia Theological Seminary (1997), and Pittsburgh Seminary (2000).

Workshop: Collaborative Preaching, Charting a New Path, Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa, June, 2003.

Workshop: Claiming Theology in the Pulpit, Minister’s Workgroup, Mobile AL, June, 2003.

Lectures and workshop, Listening to Listeners to Sermons, Huntsville AL ICE Group. Sept., 2004.

Lecturer and guest minister, Monteagle Assembly, Monteagle TN, July, 2005.

Lecture: The Practice of Sermon Listening, Ministry Forum, Vanderbilt, October 14, 2005.

Workshop, Listening to Listeners to Sermons, Nashville ICE Group, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, August, 2006.

Music Coordinator, Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry, Vanderbilt Leows Hotel, Nashville, TN, January, 2007.

Lecture: “Preaching about Sexual and Domestic Violence,” Carpenter event What Ministers Need to Know About Violence Against Women, Feb., 2007.

Conference and workshop leadership, “The Emerging Church,” Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Men’s Retreat, NaCoMe Retreat Center, January, 2007.

“Worship in the Converging Church,” Relevant Religion Series, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Sept. – Oct. 2007.

“Collaborative Preaching,” lecture, and preacher for Carpenter Preaching Conference, Scarritt Bennett Retreat Center, Oct. 31, 2007.

Music Coordinator, Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry, Vanderbilt Leows Hotel, Nashville, TN, January, 9-10, 2008.

(With Allison Pingree), “Using Music to Explore and Expand Religious Identity in Teaching and Preaching.” Presentation at the God in Music City Capstone Conference, April 17, 2008.

Workshop leader: Theology and Preaching, Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, St. Louis, MO, Oct., 8-9, 2008.

Music Coordinator, College Conference, Montreat Assembly, January 2-5, 2009.

“Preacher as DJ?” Re-mixing the Sermon,” lecture for Religion in the Arts and Contemporary Culture Program, Vanderbilt Divinity School, March 6, 2010.

“Re-mixing the Sermon: Song-making and Sermon-making in Conversation,” presentation at the Festival of Homiletics, Nashville, TN, May 19, 2010.