



MARCH 2009

Join us for the 2009 Wiseman Lenten Series

Wednesdays at noon in the sanctuary

March 4 Rev. Dr. Henry Lederle

Professor of Religion and Director of Missions, Sterling College, Sterling, KS

Dr. Lederle was born in Durban, South Africa, where he received the majority of his education, receiving his Th.D. from the University of South Africa, Pretoria, in 1985. He has taught at universities in South Africa, Malawi, Germany, in addition to Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, and Sterling College. He served as Theologian-in-Residence and Associate Pastor for Adult Education at First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa from 1995-98. In 2002, Dr. Lederle and family moved to Sterling, Kansas, where he currently serves as Professor of Religion and Philosophy, as well as Director of Missions. He has had numerous essays and articles published throughout his career.

March 11 Rev. Mason Beecroft

Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Tulsa, OK

Since August, 2005, Rev. Mason Beecroft has served as the Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Tulsa. He came to Tulsa from Epiphany Lutheran Church in Houston, TX, where he served as Associate Pastor. He also served the Texas District as circuit counselor. Pastor Beecroft received his Master of Theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and is working on his Doctor of Ministry in Liturgical Studies at the Catholic University of America. He enjoys spending time with his family, following sports, and playing hockey and golf.

March 18 Dr. Jeffrey Francis

Sharp Chaplain, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Francis is the first Sharp Chaplain at the University of Tulsa, an endowed position established in 2005. Prior to this appointment, he served as Associate University Chaplain and Director of Church Relations for T.U. He also spent seventeen years serving churches in Missouri, West Virginia, and Oklahoma. Jeff holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from the University of Tulsa and a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary. He enjoys leading Presbyterian history tours to Scotland.

March 25 Rev. Mateen Elass

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Edmond, OK

What are the odds that a son born to a Muslim father, raised for more than a decade in Saudi Arabia, schooled in western philosophy and psychology, and then trained in eastern mysticism, should become a resolute Christian and a minister of the gospel? But Rev. Mateen Elass sees this prelude to his pastoral ministry as witness to the amazing power of God to find and call his children to service—regardless of the odds. Pastor Mateen's prior ministry includes an associate position for a small-town Presbyterian church in Wyoming, solo pastor of a young suburban church in Arizona, and Minister of Adult Education at First Presbyterian of Colorado Springs, a church of more than five thousand people prior to coming to First Presbyterian, Edmond, in July 2007.

April 1 Dr. Mark Roberts

Senior Director, *Laity Lodge*, Kerrville, TX

The Rev. Dr. Mark D. Roberts is a pastor, author, retreat leader, speaker, and blogger. Since October, 2007, he has been the Senior Director and Scholar-in-Residence for *Laity Lodge*, a multifaceted ministry in the Hill Country of Texas. Before then, he was for sixteen years the Senior Pastor of Irvine Presbyterian Church in Irvine, CA and prior to this, he was Associate Pastor for Education at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, CA. Mark studied at Harvard University, receiving a B.A. in Philosophy, an M.A. in the Study of Religion, and a Ph.D. in New Testament and Christian Origins. He has taught at Fuller and San Francisco Theological Seminaries. He has written several books including, most recently, *Can We Trust the Gospels? Investigating the Reliability of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John* (2007); *No Holds Barred: Wrestling with God in Prayer* (2005); and *Dare to Be True* (2003).