

The Twentieth Annual McPherson Lectureship

Mary Louise (Mel) Bringle

Bringle is Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Brevard College in Brevard, NC. She received her undergraduate degree from Guilford College and her doctorate from the graduate division of religion at Emory University with particular interests in practical and pastoral theology. She served on the faculty at St. Andrews University in Laurinburg from 1983 to 2000 where she taught Philosophy and chaired the Religious Studies department.



Bringle is an award-winning hymn writer whose original texts and translations appear in the hymnals of numerous denominations in North America and Scotland, she has served as President of The Hymn Society in the US and Canada and as chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song, responsible for creating the hymnal *Glory to God*. On weekdays, Bringle can be found in a classroom at Brevard College where she teaches and serves as chair of the Humanities Division. On Sunday mornings, she lectures at her local Presbyterian Church. A teacher at heart and a theologian by training, she has authored an assortment of publications in pastoral theology. She has won hymn-writing competitions, been featured as an "emerging text writer" by The Hymn Society in the US and Canada, and had her first single-author collection (*Joy and Wonder, Love and Longing*) published by GIA.

About the McPherson Lectureship

The McPherson Lectureship is dedicated to enriching the faith and life of First Presbyterian Church and the Durham community. Inaugurated in the year 1999, the Lectureship is made possible through an endowment given by the McPherson family in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel D. McPherson, Sr. and Dr. and Mrs. Samuel D. McPherson, Jr. Former lecturers have been: *John Kuykendall* (1999), *J. Barrie Shepherd* (2001), *Beverly Gaventa* (2002), *Tom Long* (2003), *Joanna Adams* (2004), *Charles Kimball* (2005), *Nicholas Wolterstorff* (2006), *Joseph L. Roberts, Jr.* (2007), *Richard A. Lischer* (2008), *Stephen A. Hayner* (2009), *Barbara Brown Taylor* (2010), *Leighton Ford* (2011), *Martha Moore-Keish* (2012), *Samuel L. Adams* (2013), *Emilie M. Townes* (2014), *Ron Cole-Turner* (2015), *Douglas F. Ottati* (2016), *Miroslav Volf* (2017), and *Starsky D. Wilson* (2018).

Soli Deo Gloria

SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 24

9:45 a.m. - Adult Sunday School

“What’s Behind the Curtain? A Hymnal Exposé”

While Christians have been using hymnals in worship for centuries, few people understand the full array of issues involved in assembling such collections. This presentation will look behind the curtain to explore a number of the complexities and controversies involved in creating *Glory to God* (the PCUSA’s 2013 hymnal). Join us in Watts-Hill Hall.

11:00 a.m. - Worship

Sermon: “Lift Up Your Hearts”

Texts: *Genesis 45:3-11,15; Psalm 37:1-11,39-40; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50; Luke 6:27-38*

When so much in the daily news cycle invites us to despair, and polarization increasingly embitters us against our neighbors, what can we do to "lift up our hearts"- to cultivate the kind of character that empowers us to live more fully as followers of Jesus?

4:00 p.m. – A Conversation with Mel Bringle

“With a Hymnal as Companion, Praying Our Way through Lent”

Join us in Watts-Hill Hall for a conversation and light refreshments with our guest lecturer, Mel Bringle. Childcare will be available for this event.

Monday, February 25

8:00 a.m. – A Conversation over Breakfast

“Multi-Sensory Hymn-Based Practices”

Hymns not only appeal to our musical and verbal intelligences, but also to our concern for nature, passion for art, delight in movement, and fascination with logic, as well as our interpersonal skills and intrapersonal depths. This presentation will explore worship songs appropriate to the scriptural themes of Lent Year C and introduce a variety of multi-sensory practices to bring those songs to life. The breakfast is free to clergy and seminarians. To make a reservation for the breakfast, respond to the EVITE, call the church office at 919-682-5511, or send an email with your name, church name, and number attending to: rsvp@firstpresdurham.org.

All events will be held at First Presbyterian Church, located at 305 E. Main Street, Durham.

Events are free and open to the public.

