Presented by

The Willson Lectures
The Public is Welcome

April 6-7, 2009

ESTHER MOMBO
Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics St. Paul’s University, Limuru Kenya

Directions to ESR:
Approach Richmond via Interstate 70, exiting at Williamsburg Pike south, merging after about a mile into Northwest 5th Street. Follow Northwest 5th Street to U.S. 40 (National Road W.). Turn right and prepare to turn left one block later, at College Avenue. Turn left (south) on College Avenue. The ESR Center (stone building) sits on the southwest corner. To reach the parking lot, continue south on College Avenue to the first stop sign, turn right. Turn right again at the next stop sign and take the next right into the large parking lot.

Lectures continued

- Demaris Wehr
- Tatiana Pavlova
- David G. Bloesch
- Rosemary Radford Ruether
- Barbara G. Wheeler
- Marjorie Sachocki
- Daniel Smith-Christopher
- James Walvin
- Margery Post Abbott
- Jim Wallis
- Margaret Kornfeld
- Ted Peters
- Lake Timothy Johnson
- Margaret Benefiel
- José Miquel Torres
- Ann Riggs

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Interfaith Dialogue and Evangelism: Does Either Exclude the Other?

The topic of evangelism is one that makes queasy all but the most zealous Christians. Exclusive versions of Christianity fervently hold to the necessity of evangelism, but many of its adherents find most aggressive methods uncomfortable. Inclusive versions of Christianity are uncomfortable with the idea that anyone should demand change of others. Representing one’s faith with integrity can be a challenge.

One response to this challenge is to heed the call to evangelize all people, with the intention of subjugating all nations and people to the prevailing belief system of the Church. Another is to leave aside interests in evangelizing, believing that many paths lead to the wholeness. Perhaps a third way is to engage one another differently, learning to listen respectfully to differences without compromising the integrity of our beliefs. Such an approach leads us to consider the issues of interfaith dialogue alongside questions of sharing the Good News as we have encountered it.

As our world increasingly acknowledges the diversity of those who reside on this planet and share its resources, and the tendencies toward violence that can erupt from religiously committed individuals, this theme carries a sense of urgency. At the heart of the matter is the question of the Church’s mission in the world today.

This year’s lecturer:

ESTHER MOMBO has deep roots among Friends, raised among African Friends and a 1980 graduate of Friends Theological College. Her graduate degrees include a Ph. D. from the University of Edinburgh and an M. Phil. from the University of Dublin. Esther is currently Academic Dean of St. Paul’s United Theological College, Limuru, Kenya, where she also teaches church history and theologies from women’s perspectives. Dr. Mombo is a member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians. Her writings have been on women’s issues, evangelism, HIV/AIDS, Christian-Muslim relations, and poverty in Africa, including such articles as “Domesticity: Foundation of Christian Mission in Africa?” and “Relationship and Challenge: Christians and Muslims in Kenya.”

Schedule of Events

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<tr>
<td>MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>ESR Center</td>
<td>Lecture I: The History and Development of Interfaith Dialogue and Evangelism</td>
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<td>TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>ESR Center</td>
<td>Lecture II: The Content of Interfaith Dialogue and Evangelism</td>
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<td>11:20 a.m.</td>
<td>Common Meal</td>
<td>ESR Dining Room [Persons wishing to attend Common Meal should contact Rita Cummins at ESR for reservations/payment information.]</td>
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<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>ESR Center</td>
<td>Lecture III: Barriers to Interfaith Dialogue and Evangelism</td>
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Willson Lectures

The Willson Lectureship was established at Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion in 1967 by Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Willson of Floydada, Texas. Previous lecturers are:

- Charles Davis
- Dr. Carl E.H. Henry
- John Sherrill
- Wayne Oates
- Dr. J. Rodman Williams
- Dr. J. Calvin Keene
- David Ensigh
- Langdon Gilkey
- Stephen C. Neill
- Rolf Knierim
- Dr. Martin E. Marty
- Dr. Sidney E. Ahlstrom
- Ross Snyder
- James Fowler
- Krister Stendahl
- James Childress
- Walter Brueggemann
- Schubert M. Ogden
- Elise Boulding
- John Punshon
- John H. Yoder

Continued on next panel