

The 2012 Allen Lectures will explore the ways in which we care for one another and ourselves. Care, in the sense that Dr. Townes will use it, has a strong concern for the mending of body, spirit, and soul so that we live our lives in ways that are healthy and justice-seeking. The lectures approach this topic from the perspectives of spirituality and justice.

The Paul Allen Lectures

The series was made possible by an endowed fund established by the Winnetka Congregational Church in 1992, commemorating the retirement of their pastor, Paul Allen, a student, practitioner and teacher of pastoral care in McCormick's doctor of ministry program. The purpose of the lectureship is to stimulate intellectual discussion of strategies for and applications of effective pastoral care. Dr. Allen delivered the inaugural series of lectures in 1994.

Lecture 1

1:00 PM

“A Womanist Spirituality of Health and Redemption”

How do we develop and practice a spirituality of health and redemption in our lives? In response to this question, Dr. Townes introduces the question, “Does your house have lions?” as a way to help us explore ways to respond with deep analysis, critique and active faith in a world that is molded by care for others and ourselves. And in doing so, we develop daily practices of health and healing which are a profound source of redemption and hope.

Lecture 2

4:00 PM

“Justice Notes”

Provides four justice notes that help frame faithful Christian witness in today's world. These notes help us remember that we are in a world that we have helped make. It is a world that needs a new (or perhaps ancient vision) that is molded by justice and peace rather than winning and losing. The aim of this lecture, as it concludes the series, is to encourage us to seek genuine and deep ethical communities of love and justice.

The Lectures are free and open to the public and of interest to lay persons, clergy and students.

If you are bringing a group, will you please let us know so that we may plan accordingly.

For additional information, contact Martha Brown at 773- 947-6361 or email: mbrown@mccormick.edu

About Dr. Townes...

Dr. Townes's teaching and general research interests focus on Christian ethics, womanist ethics, critical social theory, cultural theory and studies, as well as on postmodernism and social postmodernism. Her specific interests include health and health care; the cultural production of evil; analyzing the linkages among race, gender, class, and other forms of oppression; and developing a network between African American and Afro-Brazilian religious and secular leaders and community-based organizations.

Among her many publications are *Breaking the Fine Rain of Death: African American Health and a Womanist Ethic of Care*; *Womanist Justice, Womanist Hope*; and *In a Blaze of Glory: Womanist Spirituality as Social Witness*.

Prior to her appointment at Yale, Professor Townes was the Carolyn Beard Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York. She served as president of the American Academy of Religion in 2008. Professor Townes is an ordained American Baptist clergywoman.

Education

A.B., University of Chicago
A.M., D. Min. University of Chicago
Divinity School
Ph.D., Northwestern University

On street parking is generally available; additional parking is available at the University of Chicago Garage at 55th and Ellis and there is very limited parking in the McCormick's surface lot. Check CTA and Metra schedules for transit information.

Lunch options include the Refectory at The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago which is immediately adjacent to McCormick or numerous restaurants in the Hyde Park neighborhood.

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McCormick

2012 Allen Lectures



Dr. Emilie M. Townes

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and
Andrew W. Mellon Professor
of African American Religion and
Theology at Yale Divinity School

Does Your House Have Lions?

Monday, February 20, 2012 at
1:00 PM and 4:00 PM