COS 324: The Practice of Preaching  
Weekend Course of Study Session #2  
Instructor: Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley  
ashleycsduke@gmail.com  
828-230-7484  
24 Ashbrook Meadows, Fletcher, NC 28732

Required Reading: students are to purchase and read the following books:

- *The Preaching Life* by Barbara Brown Taylor
- *Gathering up the Fragments: Preaching as Spiritual Practice* by Mariann Edgar Budde

Pre Course Reading:

- Read *The Preaching Life* by Barbara Brown Taylor and be prepared to discuss it in class.

Due the first week of class (OCTOBER 30, 2015):

Watch the following videos online:

(these sermons were preached at Duke Chapel and can be found on the Duke Chapel website by date)

- Rev. Dr. Alyce McKenzie. April 26, 2015: Lost and Found  
  https://chapel.duke.edu/events/university-worship-1430060400-1430064000

- Rev. Dr. Luke Powery. April 5, 2015, 11am service: Going Ahead  
  https://chapel.duke.edu/events/easter-sunday-service-duke-chapel-1428246000-1428249600

- Rev. Dr. Sam Wells. May 14, 2010: Five Smooth Stones (Baccalaureate service)  
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oMvVtIQuMk

  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMrgK1JG4GA

While you watch & listen to these videos:

1. Outline each sermon and attempt to detect its structure.
2. What do you think the core message of this sermon is?
3. What is the preacher grappling with and how does it relate to the occasion, the current situation and/or setting?
4. Describe the delivery. What worked and what didn’t work?
5. What is “the Good News” in the sermon?
6. Submit your outlines and reflections on each sermon by **OCTOBER 30, 2015**. (One page per sermon).

**Due the second week of class (NOVEMBER 6, 2015):**

- Read pages 7-79 of *Gathering Up the Fragments* by Mariann Edgar Budde and be prepared to discuss it in class.

- Submit a manuscript of a sermon that you preached on one of the lectionary texts assigned for September 27, 2015 Proper 21B/Ordinary 26B/Pentecost 18.

- If you preach from an outline or extemporaneously, record your sermon and then transcribe it. Submit your transcribed manuscript.

- As you prepare your sermon, pay close attention to crafting your introduction/opening. Have an ear to how this introduction will compel your listeners to stay engaged with your sermon as you preach it.

- Submit your exegetical work on the text. Of course, your exegetical work should be done before the sermon is written. Use at least 6 commentaries/resources and list them.

**Due the third week of class (NOVEMBER 13, 2015):**

- Read 2 sermons from each of the 4 sections (a total of 8 sermons) from *A Chorus of Witnesses* and be prepared to discuss in class using the criteria set forth in the first week’s assignment. We will have this discussion in small groups.

- Small group presentations of sermons from 11/6. Be prepared to preach your sermon to a small group of your peers. You may choose to revise your sermon before presenting it based on feedback you received last week.

- A 5-7 page paper on “Preaching: Why I Preach and Why Preaching Matters.”
Course Objectives:

1. Be able to articulate a theology of proclamation
2. Learn the basics of exegesis
3. Acquire and practice skills for sermon preparation and delivery
4. Become a “connoisseur” of fine preaching by reading and listening to excellent sermons
5. Begin to find and claim “your voice” as a preacher

Performance Assessment for Preaching 324 Students:

25% in-class participation
50% sermons and exegesis
25% paper on preaching and assignment #1 on videos

Late papers will result in a penalty, as much as one letter grade for each day the paper is late. No paper submitted after the due date will be eligible for the grade “A.” If a paper is not turned in at all, a “0” will be assigned.

Written Assignments:

Written assignments should be typed and double-spaced, in a 12-point font (Times New Roman) with one-inch margins. Students are expected to keep within the page number requirements set forth by each assignment.

Inclusive Language:

Please respect the guidelines on inclusive language found at:

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to do their own work. Friends and spouses may help with spelling and punctuation and may proofread papers, but should not participate in the research and writing of the papers. Plagiarism, the use of someone else’s work without giving appropriate recognition, is a highly serious matter of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism and other instances of academic dishonesty should be reported to the Director immediately upon discovery, and will be dealt with harshly and may result in the failure of the class involved. It is at the discretion of the Course of Study director whether to report academic dishonesty to the student’s District Superintendent, the Board of Ordained Ministry, and the Bishop.

Submit all work to:

Rev. Ashley Crowder Stanley
ashleycsduke@gmail.com