

Presentation Description
by
Anna Carter Florence

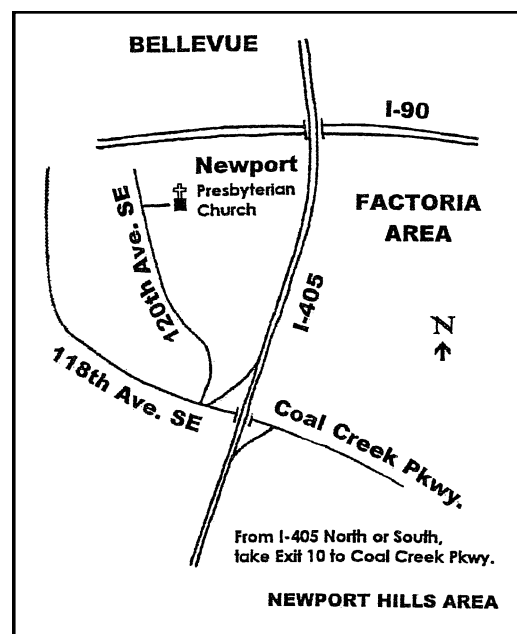
If you do a quick survey of any Bible passage, you'll find that what is true in life is also true in scripture: the verbs dominate. Not adjectives; *verbs*. It's what we *do* and *don't do* that preoccupies human beings. And it's the verbs we cannot imagine for ourselves (*live, liberate, forgive, resurrect*) that the church offers, and that we reach for, week after week.

So what happens when we read scripture and let the verbs lead? This weekend, Anna puts a twist on dramatic theory and invites us to read the biblical "script" by focusing on the verbs that are given and chosen by the characters. What new things will we see and hear in both our sacred text *and* our human drama when we connect the verbs? How can that, in turn, deepen our relationships with God and one another?

This is the 10th in a series of lectures
in memory of
Doreen Brackett Meekhof
1931—1996

Directions to
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2012

Meekhof Lecture

"Speaking of God, Telling the Truth:
Reading Our Story in the
Verbs of the Text"

January 6-8, 2012

Newport Presbyterian Church
Bellevue, Washington



Anna Carter Florence, PhD.
Peter Marshall Associate Professor of Preaching
Columbia Theological Seminary

About the Speaker

Anna Carter Florence is the Peter Marshall Associate Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She spends her days listening to student sermons, talking with pastors and churches about preaching, and thinking about exactly what it is we have all gotten ourselves into. Her first book, *Preaching as Testimony*, was published in 2007 (WJKP); she is currently at work on another one.

Anna has degrees from Yale (B.A.) and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Ph.D.) and is an ordained pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

She and her husband, the Rev. David Carter Florence, have two lacrosse-playing sons, Caleb (20) and Jonah (16). They also have two dogs, two cats, some sheep and a flock of chickens. This is all excellent counterpoint for sermons, and as Anna has learned, you can get a lot of knitting done at sports events.



About the Event

Meekhof Memorial Lecture
January 6-8, 2012

“Speaking of God, Telling the Truth: Reading Our Story in the Verbs of the Text”

Part I

Overview

Part II

Reading a text together

Part III

Speaking about the text

Lecture and Reception

7:30-9:00 p.m.

Friday, January 6

Saturday Brunch

9:30-11:00 a.m.

Saturday, January 7

Sunday Worship with Anna Carter Florence as guest preacher

Sermon text: John 21:1-17

“Jumping In”

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 8

Child Care

Call (425) 746-6111 no later than
Tuesday, January 3 to make a reservation.
Nursery care and children’s worship are
available on Sunday morning.

About Doreen Meekhof

Doreen B. Meekhof came to Newport Presbyterian Church at its establishment in 1960, the wife of founding pastor David Meekhof.

Doreen loved Newport Church. One of the church’s gifts to Doreen, from the beginning, was acceptance of her on her own terms. “She did not play the piano or sing, avoided ‘giving devotions’ at women’s meetings, and seldom expressed her opinion about ‘churchly’ matters,” said her husband. “But she loved the people of the church, children and adults. Her commitments led her to involvements in the care of children, education in the faith, and social witness and action.” Her life-long struggle with depression became a source of care and support for others.



Over the years, in Bellevue and in California before returning to the Pacific Northwest in 1991, her commitment to education in the faith and involvement in social witness and action deepened and broadened.

Doreen’s final struggle with cancer became the occasion for a deepened experience of worship. She made a special effort to be with the people of the church in worship.

And so, this lecture series seeks to honor the memory of Doreen B. Meekhof by a continued expression of her love for the people of Newport Church through attention to these three interests: education in the faith, social witness and action, and worship.