

# The Distinguished Preachers Series

**April 22nd -**

**Rev. Gil Wise, District Superintendent**



Gil is a graduate of Methodist College (1983) and Duke Divinity School (1988). He has served in a variety of ministry settings in our Conference over the past thirty years, most recently as our District Superintendent. It is his

belief that reclaiming the movement of Methodism will reconnect all our churches, regardless of size or location, to a calling that is still deep in our roots. Gil is married to Linda Trudeau Wise, who has been an elementary music teacher in the State of North Carolina for 29 years. They have three children: Joel, Benjamin, and Elizabeth.

**April 29th - David Clift**



David was a much-loved pastor at Duck Church from 1994 to 2007, during a time of great growth. Known throughout the state as a great preacher, David pastored churches in Chapel Hill, Kinston, Tarboro, Duck and Raleigh.

He and his wife Libby have recently moved to Murrells Inlet, SC. David is semi-retired with a consulting position on an Investment Philanthropy team. He is a graduate of Duke Divinity School.

**May 6th - Dr. J. Denise Honeycutt**



Denise is an ordained elder in the Virginia Annual Conference where she has served small and large sized congregations, as well as Conference Director of Mission and Global Justice. She served as a missionary with the Global Board

to Nigeria, where she taught theology and biblical studies at Banyam Theological Seminary. Returning to the US,

she was the mission interpreter for the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC, and the Executive Director of UMCOR. She and her husband, Rev. Pat Watkins, live in Pittsboro, NC.

**May 13th - Kip Robinson**



Kip Robinson is a retired nuclear engineer and United Methodist missionary, having served with his wife Reverend Nancy Robinson in Sierra Leone, West Africa. His role as a missionary was two-fold...serving as the

mission team coordinator for the Sierra Leone Annual Conference and also serving as the Conference Engineer. While there, he helped design and build a primary school as a model for all future Sierra Leone UMC primary schools. He was instrumental in the revitalization of the UMC hospital at Rotifunk, where substantial upgrades were required to place it back in service after years of neglect caused by civil war. The Ebola crisis occurred during their tenure in Sierra Leone. Duck Church supports the hospital in Rotifunk.

**May 20th - Rev. Dr. Laura Early**



Rev. Dr. Laura G. Early is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. She is the Executive Director of The Place of Possibilities, Inc., and has served as the founding and Lead Pastor of All God's Children UMC in Aulander, NC

for over 17 years. In 1997, God called her to Aulander, NC to pastor a community in profound poverty. Using a church building that had been abandoned for years, she launched "All God's Children United Methodist Church," which was birthed in response to the Bishop's Initiative on Children and the Impoverished.

May 27th - Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath,



Dean of Duke Divinity School

Dean Heath's scholarly work integrates systematic, pastoral, and spiritual theology in ways that bridge the gap between academy, church, and world. Her research interests focus on evangelism and

spirituality. Heath is the author of numerous books and monographs, the most recent of which is Five Means of Grace: Experience God's Love the Wesleyan Way (2017). Her other publications include God Unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church (2016), Missional.Monastic.Mainline (co-authored with Larry Duggins, 2014), The Mystic Way of Evangelism, Revised and Updated 2nd Edition (2017), Naked Faith: The Mystical Theology of Phoebe Palmer (2009), Longing for Spring: A New Vision for Wesleyan Communities (co-authored with Scott Kisker, 2010), We Were the Least of These: Reading the Bible with Survivors of Sexual Abuse (2011). Dean Heath is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.

June 3rd - Rev. Dr. J. Denise Honeycutt



Denise is an ordained elder of the Virginia Annual Conference where she has served small and large sized congregations, as well as Conference Director of Mission and Global Justice. She served as a missionary with the Global Board to

Nigeria, where she taught theology and biblical studies at Banyam Theological Seminary. Returning to the US, she was the mission interpreter for the Southeastern Jurisdiction of the UMC, and the Executive Director of UMCOR. She and her husband, Rev. Pat Watkins live in Pittsboro, NC.

*Our Mission :*

*To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the Transformation of the World.*

June 10th - Rev. Dr. Warren Smith



Warren is a professor of historical theology at Duke Divinity School, with degrees from Emory and Yale. He is interested in the lives and teachings of leaders of the early church. His book, Passion and Paradise: Human and Di-

vine Emotion in the Thought of Gregory of Nyssa (Crossroad, 2004) considers the question: how can we live into the reality of Christ's resurrection?

June 17th - Doug Brook



Doug Brook lives in Elon, North Carolina. He and Mariana are long-time non-resident members of Duck Church and they sing in our choir whenever they are in Duck. Doug teaches at the Sanford School of Public Policy at Duke

and is a professor emeritus at the Naval Postgraduate School.

June 24th - Cole Breit



Cole grew up as a member of Duck Church and has been a worship leader and member of the Praise Team since he was 13. Cole is a sophomore at UNCG majoring in music. He intends to attend divinity school after graduating

college. He was blessed with a relationship with Jesus Christ while he struggled with illness when he was 11 years old. In the light of his relationship with Jesus, he still battles with Crohns Disease to this day.

