

## Brian Blount on The Book of Revelation

"All the many visions of the Apocalypse testify to this single revelation, which was declared by Jesus and demanded by Jesus of his followers: Jesus Christ is Lord! That declaration of faith has powerful implications for the construction and maintenance of social and political life. In other words, what is revealed in and from heaven dramatically alters how humans should expect to conduct life here on earth."

"Christians intolerantly held to the view that there was only one God, one Lord. When a Christian was so charged, he was brought before government leaders and punished. The sentence could result in loss of social standing, or reputation, or property – even life. John did not want his followers to wait for such a charge to be brought against them. He demanded that the Christ-believers tell on themselves by publicly witnessing to their exclusive belief in the lordship of God and God's Christ."

"For modern readers, the book of Revelation remains a call to nonviolent arms against any and every human person or people who would position themselves as lord over the destinies of others. In our own troubled times, when so many people seek spiritual direction and guidance, those who turn to the book of Revelation should not expect to find a blueprint for constructing a spiritual escape hatch to heaven. John's focus is not on running away from the world but on changing the world by standing up to humankind's most draconian impulses and tendencies and witnessing against them. Revelation is about resistance."

## Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount



Brian K. Blount is president and professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA, and Charlotte, NC. He was called to this position in 2007, after serving for 15 years as the Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament Interpretation at Princeton Theological Seminary. President Blount served as pastor of the Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in Newport News, Virginia, from 1982-1988. Professor Blount's primary academic work has been in the Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation and in the area of cultural studies and hermeneutics. He is the author of five books. His latest, *Revelation: A Commentary*, was voted the 2009 top reference work by the Academy of Parish Clergy. He has written, co-written, edited or co-edited: *Making Room at the Table: An Invitation to Multicultural Worship* (2000); *Struggling With Scripture* (2001); *Preaching The Gospel of Mark in Two Voices* (2002); *The Discipleship Study Bible* (2008); *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*; and *True To Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Professor Blount and his wife, Sharon, are the parents of two children, Joshua and Kaylin.

## Schedule of Events

**March 9 – 11, 2012**

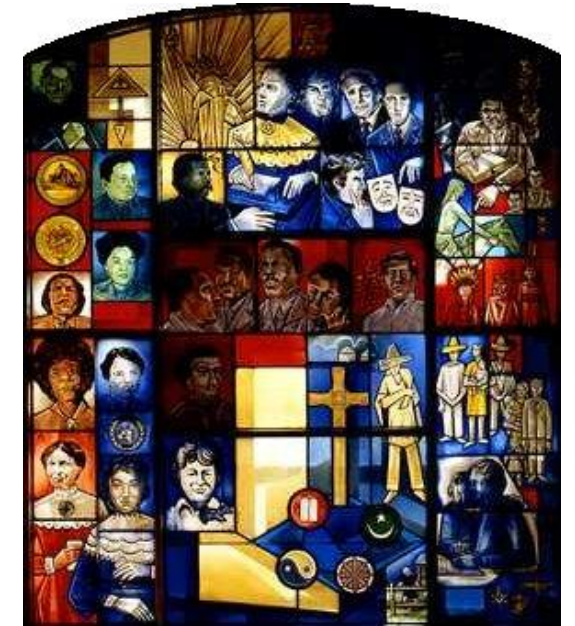
**Friday evening lecture,  
March 9, 7:00 pm  
The New York Avenue  
Presbyterian Church**

"Dawn of the Dead:  
Preaching the Apocalypse"

**Saturday morning lecture,  
March 10, 9:30 am  
8:30 Hospitality  
12 – 2PM Lunch & Conversation  
Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church**

"No Free Pass: An Apocalyptic Call for  
Prophetic Witness in the  
Book of Revelation"

*The Saturday morning session will be held at the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church at 1219 New Jersey Avenue, NW. Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church is three blocks from the Mt. Vernon Place station on the Yellow/Green Metro lines. Street parking is also available. President Blount's weekend with us is co-sponsored by the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, the Emory United Methodist Church and the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church congregations.*



**Sunday morning worship,  
March 11, 8:45 am and 11:00 am  
The New York Avenue  
Presbyterian Church**

Sermon title: "The Bystander Effect"

*The Rev. Dr. Blount preaching.*

**Sunday morning  
Church school class  
March 11, 10:00 am  
The New York Avenue  
Presbyterian Church**

"Introducing the Book  
Of Revelation"  
Dr. Blount

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## McClendon Scholar-in-Residence

The McClendon Scholar-in-Residence Program focuses on the place where faith, intellect, and justice meet. Established in 2006, the program stems from the vision and generosity of the late Rev. Dr. Jack E. McClendon, the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church's Associate Minister from 1957 to 1991. Dr. McClendon blended faith and politics throughout his ministry, marching with Dr. Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama, and leading the church as it advocated for those who are poor and homeless in the nation's capital.

The Scholar-in-Residence Program bears the fruit of Dr. McClendon's conviction that social action can only be sustained when a community grapples with profound issues and is equipped to engage in a deepening of faith. To this end, his gift enables New York Avenue to bring to the church and the wider Washington community noted scholars whose unique gifts, knowledge, and lives inspire ongoing theological reflection and action toward social justice. Our Scholars have so far included Walter Brueggemann, Frances Taylor Gench, Larry Rasmussen, Charles Swezey, Ronald C. White, Jr. and Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite.

## The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

As our mission statement affirms: "In thankfulness for God's infinite love, we, the members of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, believe we are called as individuals to join our separate gifts together as a community of faith in the Reformed Tradition, connected to Presbyterians around God's world, to undertake the task which Jesus Christ has set before us. We seek to recognize God's gifts in others and in ourselves, to discover God's will for our lives, and to do it."

For more than two centuries, the witness of the New York Avenue Church has been uniquely interwoven with the life of Washington, DC, and of our country. Our continued existence is a testament to God's fidelity. Our present attests to God's goodness, and the future holds God's promise.

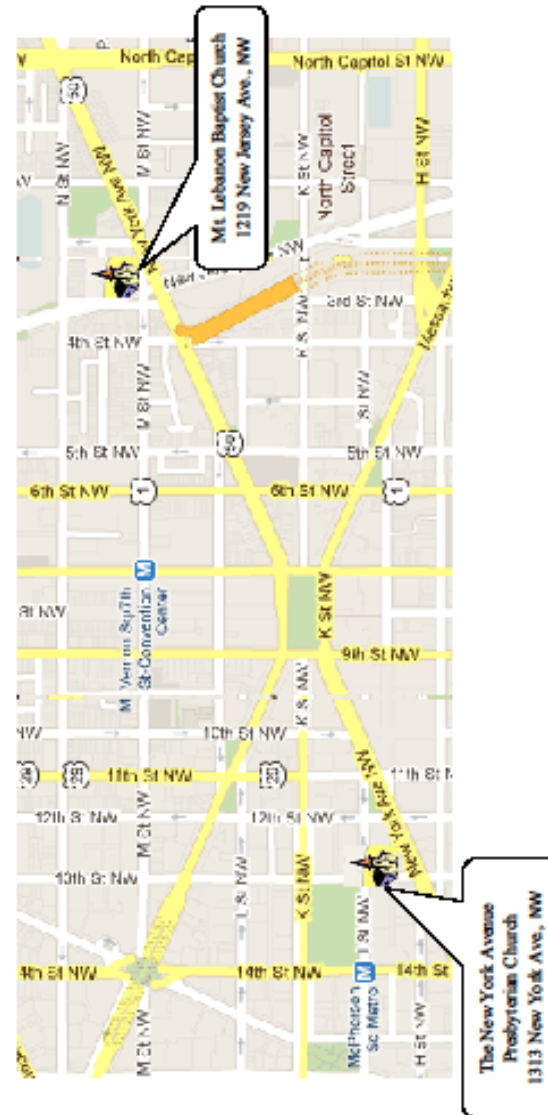
We know that we have been remarkably blessed by our location two blocks east of the White House--near the seats of power not only for this city, but for our nation and world. It is a neighborhood in which each day those with wealth and power and those without pass one another. In that setting we intend to be an inclusive and justice-seeking community.

In that spirit we are pleased to welcome the Reverend Brian K. Blount as the 2012 McClendon Scholar in Residence.

Readily accessible by Metro [Metro Center and McPherson Square for the New York Avenue Church; Mt. Vernon Place for Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church]

Metered and garage parking nearby on Friday evening [at New York Avenue Church]. Free street parking on Saturday [near the Mt. Lebanon Church].

Free on-street and garage parking on Sunday [at the New York Avenue Church].



Welcome to a lecture series with:

**Dr. Brian K. Blount**  
President,  
Union Presbyterian Seminary



**"An Encounter with the  
Apocalypse: Studying  
The Book of Revelation"**

**March 9 – 11, 2012**

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church  
1313 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

(202) 393-3700

[NYAPC.org](http://NYAPC.org)