

## McClendon Scholar-in-Residence

The McClendon Scholar in Residence Program of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church stands where faith, intellect and justice intersect. Established in 2006, the program reflects the vision and generosity of the late Rev. Dr. Jack E. McClendon, Associate Pastor of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church from 1957 to 1991. Dr. McClendon blended faith and politics throughout his powerful ministry, marching with Dr. Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama and leading the church in advocating for the poor and homeless in the nation's capital.

The Scholar in Residence Program is the fruit of Dr. McClendon's conviction that social action can only be sustained when a congregation is empowered to grapple with profound issues and engage in a deepening of faith. To this end, his gift enables The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church to offer the wider Washington community noted scholars such as Dr. Ellen Davis whose unique gifts, knowledge, and writings inspire both ongoing reflection and action among people of faith. Our scholars have previously included notables such as Walter Brueggemann, Frances Taylor Gench, Ronald C. White, Susan Thistlethwaite, Brian Blount, James Cone, Taylor Branch, Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, Norman Wirzba, Bryan Stevenson, Miroslav Volf, E. J. Dionne, Willie Jennings, Kelly Brown Douglas and Rev. Raphael Warnock.

## Prophetic Possibilities for Contemporary Ministry

People talk a great deal about "prophets" in our society, but what does it really mean to be a prophet or have a prophetic voice? Does it have something to do with being able to see what will happen in the future? Is it mostly about having a certain kind of spiritual insight? For many Christians, being prophetic means "speaking truth to power" and that is certainly part of it. However, there is a biblical understanding of the prophetic that is broader and richer than most of us realize. Dr. Ellen Davis describes what she refers to as "the prophetic perspective" and suggests that there are five essential elements of that perspective as it is represented in the Bible:

- 1) The radical concreteness of prophetic expression which shows God's engagement in the world
- 2) The prophetic demand for moral, economic and religious integrity in human communities
- 3) Prophetic participation in the suffering of the vulnerable
- 4) The prophet as a trusted friend of God with a ministry of protest, prayer, and reconciliation
- 5) Prophetic witness to the theological significance of those who do not worship Israel's God

During her weekend at The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, Dr. Davis will discuss what it means to have a "prophetic perspective" and how it can be applied to contemporary ministry. In particular, she will describe the relevance of prophetic insight as it applies to issues such as immigration, the environment, and relationships between people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds. In doing so, she will help us to understand how the ancient words of Biblical prophets can inspire and empower us today.

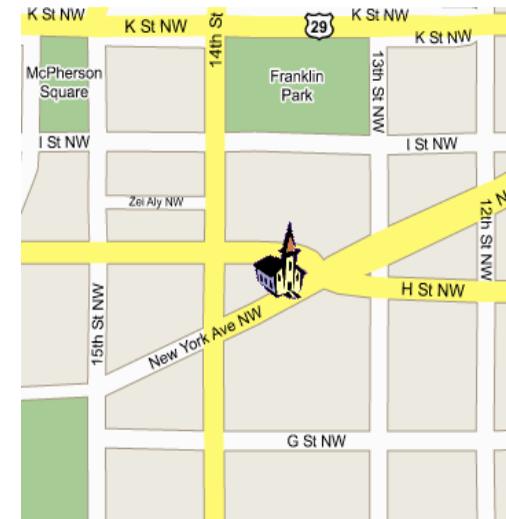
## Parking/Metro Guidance

### The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

On Saturday morning, free parking is available for those attending the program at Green City Parking on H Street between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Street, NW.

On Sunday, street parking is free and the garage at 1399 New York Avenue is also available for free.

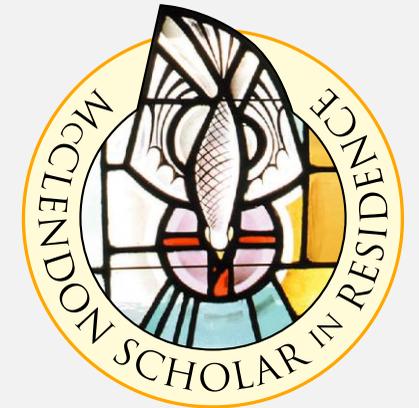
The church is also just blocks from the McPherson Square stop on the Orange/Blue Lines and the Metro Center stop on the Red/Orange/Blue lines.



A Weekend With

## Dr. Ellen Davis

Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of Bible and Practical Theology  
Duke University Divinity School



## "Prophetic Possibilities for Contemporary Ministry"

Saturday, October 20 and  
Sunday, October 21, 2018

### The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

1313 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

(202) 393-3700

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

From *Biblical Prophecy* by Ellen Davis

"Whose voice or action might be termed prophetic? What does "the prophetic" look or sound like in our culture? Forty or fifty years ago, many North American Christians who might have self-identified as political liberals would have had a ready answer to those questions: the prophetic role in this and every time is speaking truth to power. Such a definition of the role is supported by numerous biblical examples, chief among them Moses' first recorded words to Pharaoh: "Thus says YHWH God of Israel, release my people!" Moses is the foremost exemplar of "the prophetic imagination" as it confronts "the royal consciousness," to use terms from Walter Brueggemann's classic study,

In this study, I begin with a different scriptural model of the prophetic role, one that was suggested to me a few years ago when I was asked to speak at a conference titled "The Prophetic Interpreter." That phrase was new to me at the time, but I have come to see it as useful for designating a kind of work that crosses borders between the theological academy, the church, and the wider culture. The notion of the "prophetic interpreter" may help us think about the significance of a variety of leadership roles and modes of service performed in and for the church, including teaching, preaching, writing, and artistic work, as well as public speaking and multiple forms of community service and political work that is done in the service of the church and wider community. People who the Bible designates as prophets or as possessing the gift of prophecy engaged in all these forms of work. In word and deed, they interpreted the faith for their time, and equally, they interpreted the times for the faithful."

Dr. Ellen Davis



Ellen F. Davis is Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of Bible and Practical Theology at Duke Divinity School. She is the author of eleven books and many articles, her research interests focus on how biblical interpretation bears on the life of faith communities and their response to urgent public issues, particularly the ecological crisis and interfaith relations. *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), integrates biblical studies with a critique of industrial agriculture and food production. *Biblical Prophecy: Perspectives for Christian Theology, Discipleship and Ministry* (Westminster John Knox, 2014), explores the prophetic role and word across both Testaments of the Christian Bible. Her most recent books are *Preaching the Luminous Word* (Eerdmans, 2016), a collection of her sermons and essays, and *Opening Israel's Scriptures* (Oxford, forthcoming 2019), a comprehensive theological reading of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.

A lay Episcopalian, she has long been active as a theological consultant within the Anglican Communion. Her current work explores the arts as modes of scriptural interpretation.

Schedule of Events

**Saturday, October 20, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

***"Border Crossing, Hospitality and Community Formation"***

Presentation and Small Group Discussion  
10:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.  
A light breakfast with pastries and fruit will be available at 9:30 a.m.  
Peter Marshall Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

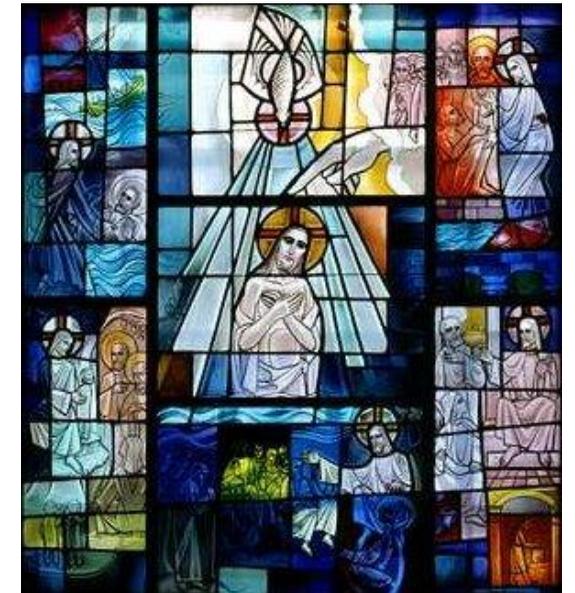
Child care will be provided

**12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Luncheon Dialogue with Dr. Davis**  
RSVP to [dialogdays@aol.com](mailto:dialogdays@aol.com)

**Sunday, October 21, 2018**

**8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**  
Dr. Davis will be preaching at both  
Worship Services at  
The New York Avenue  
Presbyterian Church

**10:00-10:50 a.m.**  
***"Holy Places: Precious, Fragile and Threatened"***  
Presentation by Dr. Davis  
and group discussion  
Radcliffe Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor



All Are Welcome!