

Come and Hear

THESE PLENARY SESSION SPEAKERS:



BILLY NEAL MOORE

Billy Neal Moore spent almost 17 years on Georgia's death row, convicted of the robbery/murder of a 77-year old man. From prison he wrote letters to the victim's family apologizing for his crime; they joined in pleading his case and his sentence was commuted 20 hours before the scheduled execution. He was eventually paroled in 1991, and is now a minister, author, and lecturer against the death penalty.



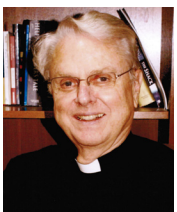
ART LAFFIN

Art's brother Paul was associate director of a homeless shelter in Connecticut for 10 years before he was murdered by a mentally ill man in 1999. Art had been working against the death penalty for many years, but has been even more active since his brother's death. He was arrested in 1997 for unfurling a banner across the steps of the US Supreme Court. That banner said, "Stop Executions."



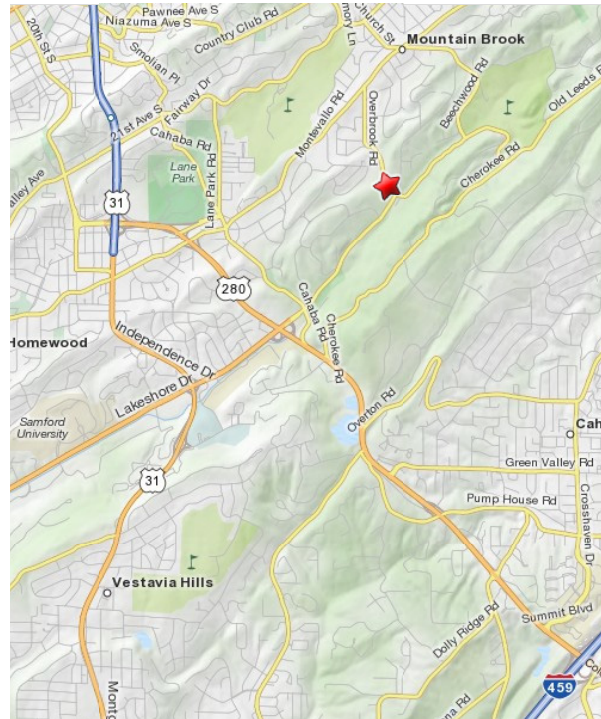
BONNITA SPIKES

Bonnita's husband Michael was shot and killed in New York in 1994, leaving her with four children. She has been involved in social justice issues since his death. She is a board member of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights and is currently working with the Maryland Coalition Against State Executions.



REVEREND DR. WILTON BUNCH, M.D., PH.D.,

is an orthopedic surgeon, an Episcopal priest, a Christian ethicist, and a father whose daughter Brenda was murdered in 1993. He currently serves as rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Birmingham and teaches ethics at Samford University. His sermon is entitled "Closure Comes from Forgiveness, Not Killing."

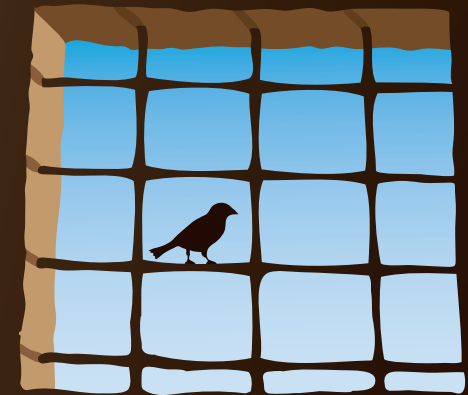


Directions:

From I-65:
Take the Lakeshore exit and travel east toward Homewood/Mountain Brook. After passing Samford University on your left and Brookwood Mall on your right, continue on Mountain Brook Parkway east to Overbrook Road. Turn left. The church will be on your left after approximately 1/2 mile.

From I-459:
Take the 280 West Exit traveling toward Mountain Brook. At Brookwood Mall, take Mountain Brook Parkway/AL Highway 149 east to Overbrook Road. Turn left. The church will be on your left after approximately 1/2 mile.

Matters of Life and Death: Alternatives to the Death Penalty



A gathering for people who want to:

- Learn about the death penalty in Alabama
- Consider faith-based responses
- Hear from victims' families who oppose the death penalty
- Explore restorative justice as an alternative
- Share ideas for further thought and action

February 18 – 19, 2011

**Canterbury United
Methodist Church
Birmingham, Alabama**

Agenda

Friday, February 18

7:00 pm Gathering and Welcome
7:30 pm Billy Neal Moore
8:30 pm Reception & Discussion

Saturday February 19

8:30 am Registration and Welcome
9:00 am Bonita Spikes
10:00 am Workshops
11:00 am Workshops
12:00 noon Lunch
1:00 pm Art Laffin
2:00 pm Workshops
3:00 pm Worship Service led by the Reverend Dr. Wilton Bunch

Reservations

To reserve a place call Ashley Collar at Canterbury United Methodist Church, (205) 871-4695 or e-mail her at Ashley.collar@canterburyumc.org.

Canterbury United Methodist Church is located at 350 Overbrook Road, Mountain Brook, Alabama.

The cost of the conference is \$10.00, payable at the door and includes a box lunch and a copy of *Life and Death Matters: Seeking the Truth about Capital Punishment* by Dr. Robert L. Baldwin. Scholarships are available upon request.

Sponsored by Justice and Mercy for All; Pax Christi Birmingham; Mary's House Catholic Worker; Canterbury United Methodist Church; Advocacy for Social Justice Team, United Methodist Church; Peacemongers Sunday School Class at Baptist Church of the Covenant; Watch with Me One Hour; Peace and Justice Office of the Catholic Diocese of Birmingham; Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty; Oliver Clark and others.

Workshops

Legal Aspects of the Death Penalty in Alabama – William N. Clark and Robert Baldwin

This workshop will review the laws regarding the death penalty in Alabama and compare and contrast them with other states and the rest of the world. Alabama is known as one of the worst states with regard to its death penalty process, and the factors related to this will be discussed. Representative cases from Alabama will be presented to highlight the various topics.

William N. Clark is a lawyer with the lawfirm of Redden, Mills & Clark, LLP, and past President of both the Birmingham and Alabama State Bar Associations. In addition to other areas in his practice, he has represented indigent defendants accused of capital murder and other offenses. He is a past adjunct Professor at the University of Alabama School of Law.

Robert L. Baldwin is a retired physician in Birmingham and author of *Life and Death Matters: Seeking the Truth About Capital Punishment*. He is an anti-death penalty activist and lectures as part of many forums on the topic. He serves as Interim Adjunct Instructor at Birmingham Southern College.

The Death Penalty and Christian Ethics – Tom Duley and Fisher Humphreys

The Bible says "A life for a life," but it also says "Blessed are the merciful." Throughout history some churches have supported the death penalty, and others have opposed it. Today some Christians support the death penalty, and other Christians oppose the death penalty. How are Christians supposed to know what position to take on this important issue?

Rev. Tom Duley is a United Methodist Minister who has a long history of working for social justice in congregational and mission settings.

Fisher Humphreys retired from Samford University in 2008 after having taught Christian theology to ministerial students for 38 years.

What Can We Do? – Esther Brown and Shelley Douglass

How can we educate ourselves and others about the death penalty? What kinds of action can we take? What is already being done, and what more can we do?

Esther Brown is the executive director of Project Hope to Abolish the Death Penalty, an Alabama death row organization. She has over 26 years in active opposition to the death penalty. She is a retired social worker.

Shelley Douglass lives and works at Mary's House Catholic Worker in Birmingham. She has been active in peace and justice issues for over 40 years and currently works with JAM in opposing the death penalty.

Restorative Justice as an Alternative to the Death Penalty – Rev. Janet Wolf

This workshop will explore the concept of restorative justice which helps the community to restore as much as possible the bonds broken by violent crime. This new response to violence carries hope for healing of victim's families and communities, and honoring the memory of those who have been killed.

Janet Wolf is a Methodist minister who teaches at American Baptist College where she is chair of the Church Vocations Department. She has worked extensively in prison ministry and with restorative justice programs. Among the courses she teaches are "Criminal Justice/Restorative Justice," "Social Problems," and "Religion, Politics, and Justice."

