

*festival
of faith
&
writing*

APRIL 20-22, 2006
CALVIN COLLEGE
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

9:00 A.M.

📍 registration desk opens
Prince Conference Center Lobby

10:00 – 10:20 A.M.

📍 student chapel service
Chapel (Festival participants welcome)

10:45 – 11:30 A.M.

📍 pre-Festival sessions
In these sessions, we feature several authors who are new to the Festival of Faith and Writing. We hope that you'll enjoy becoming more acquainted with them and their work.

📍 **Susanna Childress**
Hickory Room

📍 **Charles D'Ambrosio**
Prince Board Room

📍 **Leslie Leyland Fields**
Willow Room (East)

📍 **Kristin Ohlson**
Willow Room (West)

📍 **Myles and Sandra Pinkney**
Bytwerk Theatre

NOON – 1:15 P.M.

📍 opening session

The Thumbprint on the Clay
Luci Shaw
Fieldhouse

1:45 – 2:45 P.M.

📍 concurrent sessions

A Reading by Thomas Lynch
Fine Arts Center Auditorium

A Reading by Philip Gulley
Lab Theatre

The Basney Memorial Readings
John Leax and Paul Willis

In honor of the late Lionel Basney, professor of English at Calvin College, Leax and Willis read from their work.
Willow Room



*Read the best books first,
or you may not have a chance
to read them all.* HENRY DAVID THOREAU

I Started Writing Because I Wanted to Murder My High School PE Teacher Gary Schmidt

Schmidt's novels, though set as far back as 1730, often include moments and scenes from his own past and experience. So how does the writer for middle-grade and young-adult readers adapt his or her past to a narrative set in a different time period and to readers who are unfamiliar with both the author and the historical past? And what ethical implications do such uses carry, particularly when they involve issues of faith and meaning?
Chapel

Finding Healing and Restoration Through Writing in Times of Tragedy Patricia Jabbeh Wesley

Wesley, whose family immigrated to the United States in 1991 during the Liberian civil war, discusses how she used writing to help her find healing after that tragedy and how others can do the same.
Alumni Association Board Room

New Media, New Directions

Jody DeNeef, Scott Heagle, and Angela Scheff
Podcasts, blogs, author websites, e-books, downloads, visual editions—what's going on? Why isn't publishing as simple as putting words on paper anymore? Drop in on this session to talk about what authors need to know about new ways to reach the minds and hearts of readers and listeners.
Commons Lecture Hall

Writing Against the Odds

Leslie Leyland Fields, Tom Montgomery-Fate, and Debra Rienstra

Some of us have to carve out time and energy for writing amid demanding jobs, busy families, abundant noise, and lack of space. How do we overcome the practical and intangible obstacles to the writing task?
Prince Board Room

The Art of Playwriting

Laura Maria Censabella
For participants who pre-registered.
President's Dining Room

2:45 – 3:15 P.M.

coffee break

*Fireside Room, Library Lobby,
Fine Arts Center East Lobby*

3:15 – 4:15 P.M.

concurrent sessions

Don't Send It to Me Yet

Virginia Buckley

Buckley discusses her experiences as an editor and offers advice for aspiring children's authors.

Chapel Undercroft

Gershon's Monster: Creating Our Own Horrors

Eric Kimmel

Is evil a function of the natural world? a flaw in creation? or something we create ourselves? Kimmel reveals how a simple tale can plumb deep metaphysical depths.

Bytwerk Theatre

The Feast of Faith and Language

Thomas Lynch

Words can nourish our bodies as well as our souls. Lynch offers a reflection on themes of literature and liturgy, prayer and poetry, meaning and memory.

Chapel

From Naptime to Novel: The Writer as Mom

Lilian Nattel

Becoming a mother changed many things for Nattel. In this session, she offers insights not only into how she changed—but also into how her writing changed, particularly her depiction of mother-daughter relationships.

Willow Room

The Poetics of Faith: A Conversation with Scott Cairns and Daniel Abdal-Hayy Moore

Two poets from different religious backgrounds, Orthodox and Muslim, discuss the ways in which they strive to write about faith.

Lab Theatre

Christian Publishing: Boundaries and Horizons

Bob Hosack, Dave Long, and Jon Pott

Do Christian publishers want a crossover audience? Does theology become diluted when Christian publishers try to reach new audiences? Are the boundaries of Christian publishing changing? Three editors offer their thoughts on the state of the industry and what they see on the horizon of Christian publishing.

Prince Board Room

Can I Make a Living as a Freelance Writer? Four Writers Tell You No (er, "Tell You How")

Cindy Crosby, Andy Crouch, Jana Riess, and Lauren Winner

Four writers give you the dirt on whether it's possible to make a living as a freelancer—and how to go about it. They will discuss the practicalities and finances of carving out a career by writing books, articles, reviews, public relations materials, and catalog copy.

Commons Lecture Hall

The Faith Tradition of the Writer

Angela O'Donnell and Philip Terman

In what ways does the faith tradition of the writer influence his or her work? O'Donnell discusses poet Josephine Jacobsen in a paper titled "Living in the Crevice of Time: The Catholic Art of Josephine Jacobsen," and Terman offers some insights into Jewish writers and their sense of identity in "Writing Jewish."

Meeter Center Lecture Hall

4:30 – 5:15 P.M.

vespers

led by Richard Lischer

Chapel

7:30 – 8:30 P.M.

Faith in Writing

Alice McDermott

The winner of the Paraclete Press Fiction Contest will be announced at this session.

Fieldhouse

8:30 P.M.

reception

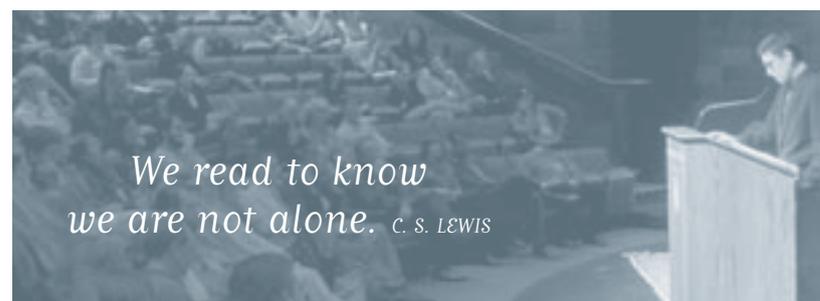
Fieldhouse

9:00 P.M.

poetry readings

These open-microphone readings are limited to ten minutes each. Sign up at the registration desk by 6:00 p.m. on the day of the reading. Listeners are welcome.

Prince Board Room



FRIDAY, APRIL 21

8:00 – 8:15 A.M.

 morning prayers
Chapel

8:30 – 9:30 A.M.

 concurrent sessions

A Reading by Scott Cairns and Andrew Hudgins

Gezon Auditorium

Worship and the Wilderness

Michael Card

Few Christians today seem to understand—or take seriously—what the Bible says about lament. Through a discussion of the Psalms, Card explores the heart of lament and describes how it functions in the life of a believer, the life of a church, and the life of a writer.

Lab Theatre

Mending a Tattered Faith: Devotions with Dickinson

Susan VanZanten Gallagher

Emily Dickinson wrote many poems exploring issues of faith—poems that can assist us in pondering spiritual issues. Gallagher helps readers to consider the contexts of these poems and unpack their meanings as a way to reflect on questions of faith and doubt.

Meeter Center Lecture Hall

Beginning, Middle, and End

John Steven Paul

Plot has been the “soul of drama” for playwrights ever since Aristotle coined the phrase in 325 BC. This nuts-and-bolts session focuses on the invention and structuring of plots as the beginning of the playwright’s work.

Alumni Association Board Room

My Life as a Reader

Lauren Winner

Being a good writer necessitates being a good reader. Winner discusses some of her favorite books and the ways in which reading and writing intersect.

Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Tell Me an Old, Old Story: A Conversation with Eric Kimmel and Jon Muth

How does a writer retell an old story for a new generation? How do stories cross borders of culture and faith and language? What may be changed? What is sacred? In a moderated discussion, two children’s writers engage issues related to the retelling of folk tales and classic stories authored by individual writers.

Prince Board Room

Searching for the Self in Complex Terrains: A Conversation with Lilian Nattel and Mary Doria Russell

In a moderated discussion, historical fiction novelists Lilian Nattel and Mary Doria Russell explore the ways in which their complex uses of space, setting, and narrative try to make sense of specific historical times. How does a character’s search for self and meaning in a past moment of history connect to the present reader’s own searching? Should there be such a connection? And if so, how does the historical novelist write to two time periods: the period of the novel and the present?

Seminary Auditorium

Imaginative Reading for Creative Preaching Hulitt Gloer and Neal Plantinga

The preacher who presumes to speak for God, or even for the church, has to struggle every day to understand human character, divine grace, and the surprises that gather at their intersection. To do so faithfully, most preachers need the kind of vicarious experience that arises from immersion in well-chosen literature. Plantinga and Gloer explore some of the sources and methods as well as the impact of imaginative reading for creative preaching. (This session will be repeated on Saturday at 11:30 a.m.)

Bytwerk Theatre

9:30 – 10:00 A.M.

 coffee break

*Fireside Room, Library Lobby,
Fine Arts Center East Lobby*

10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

 concurrent sessions

An Interview with Lauren Winner

Darlene Meyering interviews Lauren Winner on meeting God, Christian responses to Jewish practices, the meaning of real sex, and the importance of leisure and rest.

Fine Arts Center Auditorium

An Interview with Makoto Fujimura

Phil Schaafsma interviews artist and essayist Fujimura on beauty and brokenness, creativity and faith.

Gezon Auditorium

The Writing of Hymn Texts

Gracia Grindal

The writing of hymn texts is a complicated process involving faithful reading of the Scriptures and an awareness of both the tradition of Christian poetry in English as well as the long tradition of hymnody. Grindal explores various rhetorical and poetic ways to approach the writing of hymn texts—ways that are faithful to Scripture and Christian tradition yet also beautiful and expressive for Christians today.

Hickory Room



What's in a book is only part of what matters; in the right circumstances and with the right history, just about any book can take you where you need to go, even if you could never have found that place on a map. SARA NELSON

Jokes and Jesus

Andrew Hudgins

Hudgins explores religious humor—how it can be understood and how it can be written, and what it can tell us about the gap between believer and non-believer.

Prince Board Room

Writing a Moving Picture

Raymond Singer

What are the particular demands of writing for the movies? What are some of the obstacles—and some of the pleasures—involved in getting a vision from the page to the screen? Singer, a screenwriter, discusses how the words on the page successfully translate to the images on the screen.

Bytwerk Theatre

Laughing in Harmony: A Conversation with Philip Gulley and Tom Mullen

Two friends compare their Quaker influences, share ideas about writing as a form of ministry, and explore the virtues of laughter.

Willow Room

Grace and Fire: Writing Our Lives

Richard Lischer, Jon Sweeney, and John Terpstra

What are the decisions that memoir writers face? What obligations do such writers have to their audiences? Is accuracy the same as truth? Where is the line between narrative strategy and fiction? Three writers tackle these and other issues.

Seminary Auditorium

A Family Legacy

Jerry and Gloria Pinkney, Myles and Sandra Pinkney

Four members of an influential family of children's authors and illustrators—collectively, they've published more than 150 books—talk about the influence of familial relationships on their individual creative expression.

Lab Theatre

11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

concurrent sessions

An Interview with Alice McDermott

Paul Contino interviews novelist McDermott on the challenges and opportunities faced by contemporary Catholic novelists.

Fine Arts Center Auditorium

A Reading by John Terpstra

Seminary Auditorium

"Same! Same!" Pleasures and Purposes of Metaphor

Julia Kasdorf

Kasdorf offers a practical, critical, pedagogical and (potentially) theological meditation on metaphor and its uses in poetry. The session includes playful readings of poems by Kasdorf and others.

Prince Board Room

Tolkien Was No Hobbit: Another Memoir Goes Down

Don Miller

Miller discusses the journey to find his own voice, the difficulty of being completely honest, the struggle with the narcissism of memoir, and the spiritual significance of the genre.

Chapel

Reading to "Become"

Jon J Muth

In writing stories, we invite others to feel the world the way we do. In reading, we participate in a powerful conjuring experience. When these actions are considered in relation to children, there is an added profundity and an important responsibility. It's important that kids read to "become," not just to escape. Muth talks about how he tries to help kids do this through his own work.

Bytwerk Theatre

session listings continue>>

FRIDAY, APRIL 21 (CONTINUED)

11:15 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

(concurrent sessions, continued)

Invisible Books

Lil Copan, Jon Pott, and John Wilson

Sometimes wonderful books don't get the attention they deserve. Three editors single out a few recent attention-starved books and explore the forces within the publishing industry and beyond that contributed to their invisibility.

Willow Room

My People Shall Be Your People

Nikki Grimes, Eric Kimmel, and Gloria Pinkney

Writers often turn to their heritage—historical, cultural, or religious—to develop their work. Why do they do that? And when they do it, how do they fight the temptation to be too didactic or too serious? Three children's authors discuss the challenges and opportunities of mining one's heritage for inspiration.

Lab Theatre

The Art of Fiction Writing

Lawrence Dorr

For participants who pre-registered.

Meeter Center Conference Room

12:15 – 1:45 P.M.

🍴 lunch break

During the lunch break we're offering several informal lunch forums that will enable you to talk with other Festival participants about matters of mutual interest. Check *Festival News* for a list of topics, discussion leaders, and locations; then grab your lunch and join the conversation.

1:45 – 2:45 P.M.

🍴 concurrent sessions

An Interview with Mary Karr

Jon Sweeney interviews poet and memoirist Mary Karr on the life of the writer, the pitfalls of memoir, and the experience of a mid-life conversion.

Chapel

A Reading by Hugh Cook and John Timmerman

Commons Lecture Hall

A Reading by Luci Shaw

Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Christ and Creativity

Michael Card

How can the life of Christ help us to learn more about the subjects of creativity and the imagination? Card offers some answers to that question and guides participants toward a better understanding of the creative life.

Lab Theatre

Retelling the Stories: Dramatizing Texts from the Revised Common Lectionary

John Steven Paul

God has chosen story as the principal mode of divine revelation, and it is the mission of the church to tell and retell those stories. The church has codified the most important stories in the Lectionary. Paul examines the Lectionary as a source of stories, characters, and ideas for plays designed to serve the church.

Alumni Association Board Room

God Is Still Speaking

Gloria Pinkney

In this celebration of faith, Pinkney shares an inspiring personal account of 33 miracles that she has experienced in her life. Through these true narratives, she hopes to inspire readers and writers to search their own "forests of remembrance" and discover the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Prince Board Room

Beyond the Fields We Know: A Conversation with Ellen Kushner and Mary Doria Russell

The creation of alternate worlds poses distinct artistic challenges as well as remarkable rewards for the writer. Whether such novels are categorized as science fiction, fantasy, magical realism, or speculative fiction, it is, well, another world! Kushner and Russell discuss their experiences in the crafting of new realities.

Seminary Auditorium

Trimming the Sails: The Art of the Essay

Tim Bascom, Charles D'Ambrosio, and Paul Willis

Three essayists discuss the rhetorical, spiritual, and moral challenges involved in creating literary non-fiction.

Meeter Center Lecture Hall

I Like This, But . . .

Virginia Buckley, Donald Hettinga, and Gary Schmidt

Two children's writers and their editor talk about how they work together to craft works of fiction and non-fiction for child readers.

Willow Room

2:45 – 3:15 P.M.

🍴 coffee break

*Fireside Room, Library Lobby,
Fine Arts Center East Lobby*

3:15 – 4:15 P.M.

🍴 concurrent sessions

An Interview with Marilynne Robinson

Andy Crouch interviews Robinson on the challenges of writing in different genres, creating distinctive narrative voices, and melding faith and fiction.

Fine Arts Center Auditorium

A Reading by Mary Karr

Seminary Auditorium

Second Beauty

Makoto Fujimura

Borrowing from Dante, this presentation examines the nature of “second beauty,” contrasting biblical beauty with the cosmetic, superficial beauty prevalent in our society today. The presentation will be coupled with Fujimura’s own series of paintings, *Water Flames*, which mirror these aesthetic themes in visual expression.

Lab Theatre

How to Illustrate a Film Trapped in a CD

Zachary Johnson

Johnson explores the process of writing a graphic novella that provided the illustrations for Cinematic Underground’s debut concept record, *Anasthesia*, and discusses the ways in which his writing and artwork help the band present its lyrics.

Alumni Association Board Room

A Sense of Place

Jerry Pinkney

Through a slide presentation, Pinkney shares his working process in creating picture books. He describes how the language of a story inspires pictures and offers examples of how his visual ideas are born. Further, he explains the usage of models to develop characters and the making of finished art.

Willow Room

Inquiring Minds: A Conversation with Kristin Ohlson and Patricia Raybon

Many writers get their start as journalists. What skills should they cultivate if they are to move toward writing books? Two journalists offer some advice.

Prince Board Room

First I Went to College: Writing as a Vocation

Nathan Bierma, Susanna Childress, and Phil Christman

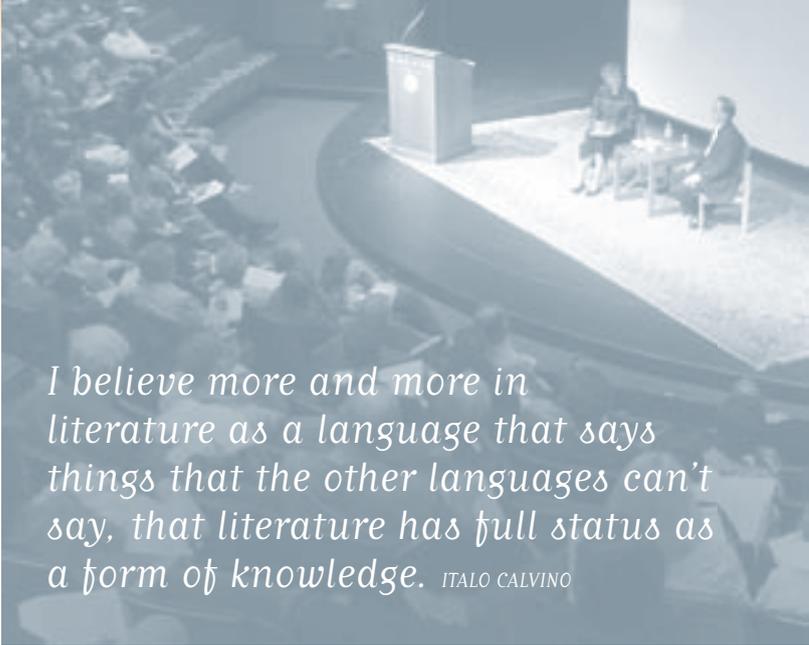
Three young writers discuss how they moved from being college students to being published authors and how they grew to understand their vocation as writers.

Commons Lecture Hall

Reading Rushdie in a Context of Faith Barbara Hampton and Rebekah Trollinger

Hampton and Trollinger present papers that explore Rushdie’s provocative reflections on religion and society. Hampton’s paper is titled “*The Satanic Verses*: Incentive to Dialogue,” and Trollinger’s is “Allegory and Narrative in Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*.”

Meeter Center Lecture Hall



I believe more and more in literature as a language that says things that the other languages can't say, that literature has full status as a form of knowledge. ITALO CALVINO

4:30 – 5:15 P.M.

🎤 Poetry Spoken and Sung

At the close of the day, enjoy the poetry of E. E. Cummings, Andrew Marvell, and several Festival authors. The program features Capella, the concert choir of Calvin College, directed by Joel Navarro.

Chapel

7:30 – 8:30 P.M.

🎤 Step Across This Line

Salman Rushdie

Fieldhouse

8:30 P.M.

🎤 reception

Fieldhouse

9:00 P.M.

🎤 a concert by Cinematic Underground

Organized by the Student Activities Office at Calvin, in conjunction with the Festival of Faith and Writing.

Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Special ticket price for Festival attendees: \$5.00 (Tickets may be purchased at the Calvin Box Office, located on the first floor of the Fine Arts Center.)

poetry readings

These open-microphone readings are limited to ten minutes each. Sign up at the registration desk by 6:00 p.m. on the day of the reading. Listeners are welcome.

Prince Board Room

The principal source of all good writing is wisdom. HORACE

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

8:00 – 8:15 A.M.

 morning prayers
Chapel

8:30 A.M.

 concurrent sessions

An Interview with Charles D'Ambrosio

Brennan O'Donnell interviews essayist and short-story writer D'Ambrosio about finding his way toward writing and faith.

Prince Board Room

A Reading by Susanna Childress, Julia Kasdorf, and Patricia Jabbeh Wesley

Chapel Undercroft

A Reading by Tony Hendra

Lab Theatre

Writing a Film Score with Household Junk and I-Chat

Nathan Johnson

Johnson, a musician, discusses the unconventional making of a film score and the challenges of that process. The presentation includes audio and video samples and comparisons, original notes from the director, and more.

Bytwerk Theatre

How Christians Tell Their Lives

Richard Lischer

What is it about the Christian faith that produces autobiographies and memoirs? When Augustine says in *The Confessions*, "To you, then, Lord, I lie exposed, exactly as I am," was he telling the truth? What is truth in autobiography? In attempting to answer the question, Lischer explores the sources and plots of Christian faith-autobiographies and their relevance for the life of faith today.

Willow Room

Your Story, God's Glory: The Creative Connections to Prayer

Patricia Raybon

Why is writing a great book that people want to read like praying a great prayer that God wants to answer? Raybon—whose most recent book honestly recounts her struggle to learn how to pray—explores the provocative, creative connections between writing and prayer.

Commons Lecture Hall

Whither? Reading and the Future of Literature in a Visual Age

James Schaap

What are lovers of literature—and Christians—to think of the dire predictions of *Reading at Risk*, the recent report from the National Endowment for the Arts? The report claims that fewer than half of American

adults now read literature and that the United States is experiencing a general collapse in advanced literacy. What does this mean for book lovers—and for writers?

Chapel

Where Fiction Meets Religion

Virginia Buckley, Lil Copan, Donna Kehoe, Jana Riess, and Vinita Hampton Wright

Fiction and religion have met in every major publishing house over the past five years. It's a significant time in history to have an interest in religion and spirituality and to be a novelist. General trade houses are exploring spirituality-infused fiction, and religious publishers are cranking up their literary quality to meet the general market's interest and demand. What does all of this mean for writers?

Meeter Center Lecture Hall

Here's How I Do . . .

Nikki Grimes, Han Nolan, and Gary Schmidt

Each writer offers a brief writing tip on one aspect of the writing process. Grimes discusses plot, Nolan discusses character, and Schmidt discusses narration. (Each writer visits every classroom during the hour-long session. Participants remain in the same classroom for the duration of the session.)

Fine Arts Center: Rooms 223, 224, and 226

9:30 – 10:00 A.M.

 coffee break

*Fireside Room, Library Lobby,
Fine Arts Center East Lobby*

10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

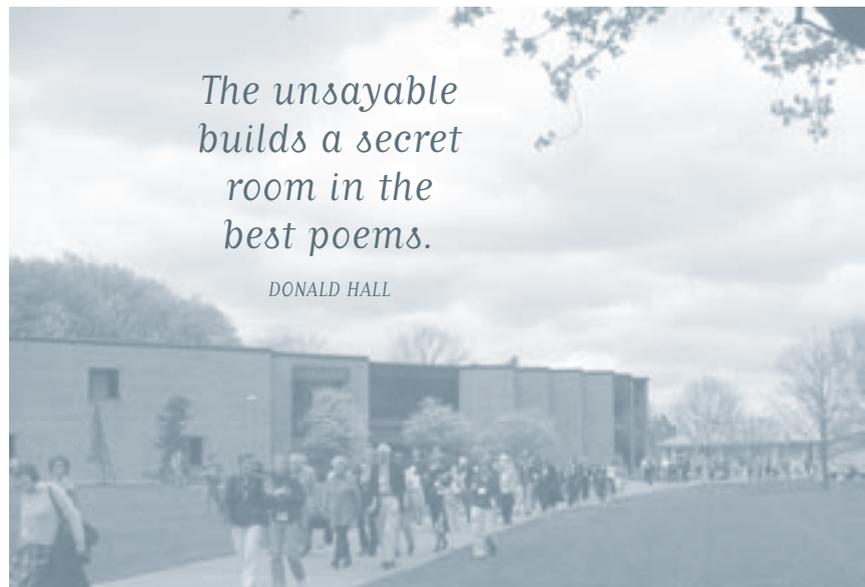
 Good Faith

Marilynne Robinson

Fieldhouse

*The unsayable
builds a secret
room in the
best poems.*

DONALD HALL



11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

concurrent sessions

An Interview with Salman Rushdie

Daniel Taylor interviews novelist, essayist, and social critic Rushdie.

Fine Arts Center Auditorium

The Word Made Stone

Debbie Blue

When we try to make our wild, beautiful, and occasionally outrageous Scripture simple and neatly instructive, we run the risk of killing the text and domesticating the language of faith. In this session Blue looks at what writers and preachers might learn from the ancient rabbis and from a more sensual reading of the text.

Prince Board Room

First Impressions

Hugh Cook

Cook explores how writers can shape the openings of their stories in order to catch the readers' interest.

Commons Lecture Hall

How Far Is Too Far?

Ted Dekker

Dekker reflects on the presentation of morality in fiction—especially Christian fiction. Are there limits as to how far writers can go in characterizing evil? Should there be?

Chapel

Book Covers: Evolution or Intelligent Design?

Barry Moser

Like it or not, people do judge books by their covers. Yet it is precisely this part of a book—which has the potential to impress booksellers and entice readers—over which the author has no control. Moser, an artist who has designed many book covers, shares his perspective on shaping the image of a book.

Willow Room

Laughing Out Loud and Other Religious Experiences

Tom Mullen

Humorous writing has the power to hurt and heal as well as entertain. When readers are encouraged to laugh with the writer, at themselves, and alongside others, a gift of grace can be delivered.

Hickory Room

The Word Becomes Flesh: Transforming the Page to the Stage

John Steven Paul

Plays are completed when they are realized in action before an audience. In that realization is the magic of theatre, as ideas expressed in words are transformed into a visual and aural art form before our eyes. With the help of actors from Soul Purpose, a liturgical drama troupe from Valparaiso University, Paul explores the ways in which a playwright creates art that calls upon all the senses of the audience.

Alumni Association Board Room

Imaginative Reading for Creative Preaching

Hulitt Gloer and Neal Plantinga

The preacher who presumes to speak for God, or even for the church, has to struggle every day to understand human character, divine grace, and the surprises that gather at their intersection. To do so faithfully, most preachers need the kind of vicarious experience that arises from immersion in well-chosen literature. Plantinga and Gloer explore some of the sources and methods as well as the impact of imaginative reading for creative preaching. (This is a repeat of the session offered on Friday at 8:30 a.m.)

Chapel Undercroft

Reality Marketing

Jen Abbas, Ann Byle, Lorilee Craker, and Kelly Hughes

Having a difficult time figuring out how to promote your work? This panel discussion can help you to break through all the noise with strategies on essentials such as creating an effective marketing plan; making the most of online possibilities, from websites to blogging; managing the relationship with your publishing house; placing articles or reviews in newspapers; working with a public-relations firm; and much more.

Meeter Center Lecture Hall

The Art of Fiction Writing

Lawrence Dorr

For participants who pre-registered.

Meeter Center Conference Room

12:30 – 2:00 P.M.

lunch break

During the lunch break we're offering several informal lunch forums that will enable you to talk with other Festival participants about matters of mutual interest. Check *Festival News* for a list of topics, discussion leaders, and locations; then grab your lunch and join the conversation.

Saturday listings continue>>>

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 (CONTINUED)

2:00 – 3:00 P.M.

concurrent sessions

An Interview with Walter Wangerin, Jr.

Karen Saupe interviews Wangerin on sustaining a writing career, retelling biblical stories, and writing as a pastoral act.

Fine Arts Center Auditorium

A Reading by Daniel Abdal-Hayy Moore

Prince Board Room

Writing Ethically

Eleanor Taylor Bland

Bland, a mystery writer, discusses how writers can incorporate Christian values, morals, and ethics into mainstream fiction. Further, she provides some suggestions for creating multi-dimensional characters and plots for general audiences and mainstream markets.

Seminary Auditorium

Fooling the Watcher: How to Write When You're Scared to Write

Ellen Kushner

Writers know that there are a million ways to stop themselves from sitting down and writing. Kushner explores a few of them and talks about tricks writers can use to find their own way past the critical voice inside that tells them to quit when they should be going full-speed ahead.

Chapel Undercroft

Brimstone and Bleeding Earth

Barry Moser

It is a great irony that violence plays such a mighty role in the birth of both Judaism and Christianity, religions that unequivocally espouse peace and love. Too many limners of Holy Writ have shied away from the difficulties of the real text and instead have fed us "Bible Lite." Artist and illustrator Moser discusses why writers and illustrators need to move away from the impulse to "sanitize" the Bible.

Willow Room

The Long Journey: Creating a Novel

Han Nolan

Nolan discusses the trials and tribulations she encountered while writing her award-winning novel *When We Were Saints*. Through sharing what she learned through this process, Nolan provides some universally applicable lessons for aspiring writers and asks whether it is possible for an author to write a religious novel when he or she is spiritually—and otherwise—off center.

Commons Lecture Hall

The New Apologetics: A Conversation with Don Miller and Debra Rienstra

Apologetic writing has changed drastically in the last fifty—or even fifteen—years. What strategies can writers use effectively today to convey the truths of the Gospel and the realities of the Christian life? Miller and Rienstra discuss contemporary audiences and genres, creative approaches, and publishing realities.

Chapel

Writing the Wild

Leslie Leyland Fields and Paul Willis

What kind of writing takes seriously both the presence of God and the presence of nature in our lives? What are the connections and tensions involved? Two writers from the Pacific Rim reflect on serving God and salmon.

Meeter Center Lecture Hall

Reading Catholic Writers

Paul Contino and Brennan O'Donnell

Contino and O'Donnell offer a map to reading and understanding contemporary Catholic writers, including several who are featured speakers at Festival 2006.

Alumni Association Board Room

Three Italian Women (2.5 hours)

Join playwright Laura Maria Censabella for this staged reading of her most recent play, *Three Italian Women*, which traces the legacy of war through three generations of women in one family. After the reading, Censabella will discuss the play with the audience.

Lab Theatre

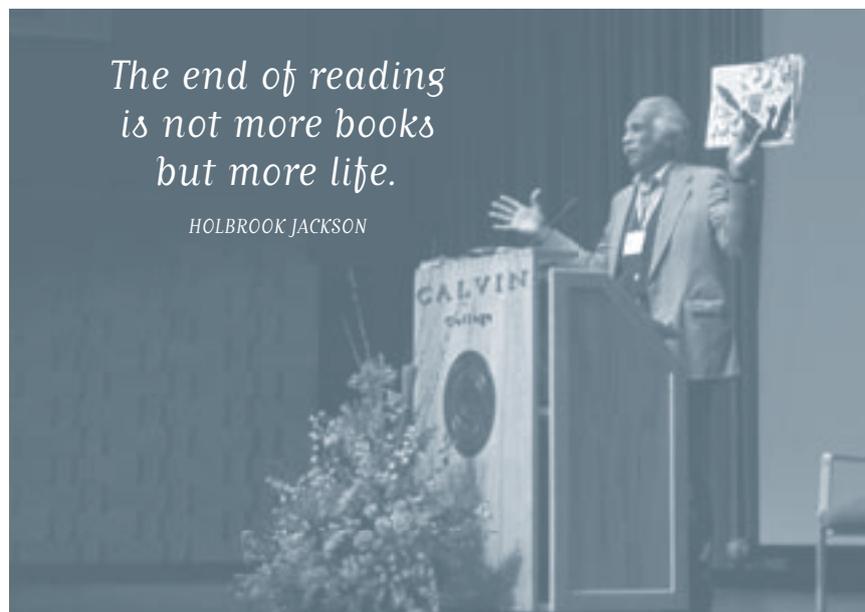
3:00 – 3:30 P.M.

coffee break

*Fireside Room, Library Lobby,
Fine Arts Center East Lobby*

*The end of reading
is not more books
but more life.*

HOLBROOK JACKSON



3:30 – 4:30 P.M.

concurrent sessions

A Reading by James Schaap and William Vande Kopple

Chapel

The Meaning of It All: Writing with Intentionality

Nikki Grimes

What does it mean to be a Christian, and a writer, in the secular marketplace? How does one create literature that incorporates one's faith without moralizing or becoming didactic? Where's the fine line that separates prose and poetry from proselytizing? These are questions that Grimes has wrestled with for years; in this session she explores the answers she's found while navigating this minefield and confronts the questions she's still asking.

Willow Room

Spirituality of Place

Patricia Johnson

Johnson, a poet from Appalachia, discusses how a writer's sense of place can enrich his or her work, how that sense of place can be nurtured and developed, and how it connects to issues of faith and spirituality.

Alumni Association Board Room

Yes, But What Does It Mean? Getting the Theological Rubber to Hit the Road

Molly Wolf

How can writers represent the truth of the Gospel without resorting to "God-talk"? Wolf offers some suggestions and practical advice.

Chapel Undercroft

Avoiding the Feel-Good Holocaust Novel

Mary Doria Russell

Russell's most recent book—*A Thread of Grace*—is a historical novel about the final phase of World War II in Italy. But what are the artistic demands of placing real people's stories of morality and faith in a fictional narrative? Russell discusses the possible answers to that question.

Fine Arts Center Auditorium

Scarier and Scarier: A Conversation with Eleanor Taylor Bland and Ted Dekker

A writer of mysteries and a writer of thrillers talk about the possibilities and limits that these conventional genres provide to the author who is serious about both fiction and faith.

Seminary Auditorium

Friends and Mentors: A Conversation with Tony Hendra and Kristin Ohlson

Writing about people who have influenced your life in profound ways is often challenging. Two writers who have worked in a variety of genres discuss the placement of the line between memoir and reporting.

Prince Board Room

Spirited Traveler: Writing About Journeys, the Soul, and Sacred Places

Tim Bascom and Daniel Taylor

Two writers explore how the very nature of travel can be a catalyst for profound spiritual experience and offer strategies for writing about such things.

Commons Lecture Hall

Literary Representations of the Spiritual

Bradly Fruhauff and Curtis Gruenler

How do writers represent the transcendent in their work? To answer that question, Gruenler presents a paper on "Wendell Berry, Marilynne Robinson, and the Refiguring of Reality." Fruhauff explores this question further by examining the work of Flannery O'Connor and Muriel Spark in a paper titled "Can We Really Represent the Transcendent? The Novel and God."

Meeter Center Lecture Hall

4:45 – 5:15 P.M.

After the Feast

Andy Crouch and Susan VanZanten Gallagher

Crouch and Gallagher reflect on the questions, themes, and issues that have marked this year's Festival of Faith and Writing.

Chapel

7:30 – 8:30 P.M.

A Voice in the Wilderness

Walter Wangerin, Jr.

Fieldhouse

8:30 P.M.

reception

Fieldhouse

9:00 P.M.

poetry slam, led by Patricia Johnson

Fish House

The Complex Simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus

Don Miller

Organized by the Student Life Division and Student Activities Office at Calvin, in conjunction with the Festival of Faith and Writing

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Tickets: \$5.00

(Tickets may be purchased at the Calvin Box Office, located on the first floor of the Fine Arts Center.)