

Duncan Cameron Murchison, Jr.

Professor of Ministry

Columbia Theological Seminary, P. O. Box 520, Decatur, GA 30031

Family:

Married to Joan Herbert Murchison

Children: Brian Cameron Murchison, born 6/8/71

Anna Louise Murchison, born 8/28/74

Education:Post-Doctoral Scholar in Christian Education,
Center for Congregational Education,
Christian Theological Seminary
Indianapolis, Indiana

1982-83

Yale University, Graduate School, M.Phil,

1968-71, Ph.D., 1974

Union Theological Seminary, B.D.,

1965-1968

Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, B.A.,

1965

Professional Life:

Professor of Ministry, emeritus

2011-

Dean of Faculty and Executive Vice President

2001-2010

Professor of Ministry, Columbia Theological Seminary,
Decatur, GA

1996-2011

Pastor, Blacksburg Presbyterian Church, Blacksburg, VA

1988-1996

Professor, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA

1977-1987

Professor of Pastoral Theology and Education

1986-1987

Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology & Education

1982-1986

Assistant Professor of Theology & Director of Continuing
Education

1977-1982

Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN

1974-1977

Assistant Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA

1971-1974

Other Responsibilities:Associate Editor, *Journal for Preachers*.

1988-date

Co-editor, *Journal for Preachers*.

1977-1988

Chair, Committee of Nine, Presbytery of the Peaks, to recommend reorganization of
Staffing and Structure of Presbytery.

1994-1995

Research Team Member, Auburn Center for the Study of Theological Education, Junior
Faculty Project.

1993-1996

Chair, Shape and Form Task Group, General Assembly Council,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

1992-1993

Member, General Assembly Council, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Assigned to
Congregational Ministries Division

1991-1994

Commissioner, General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Chair of the
Standing Committee on Faith and Discipleship

1991

Consultant to Curriculum Evaluation Committee, Columbia Theological Seminary

	1990-1991
Chair, Professional Staff Search Committee, Presbytery of the Peaks	
	1989-1990
Member, Task force on Confirmation Resources, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	
	1987-1988
Chair, Ad hoc Committee on Christian Marriage and Pastoral Responsibility, Presbytery of Concord	
	1986-1987
Chair, Catholicity and Global Mission of the Church Task Force, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	
	1986-1989
Member, Advisory Council on Church and Society, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	
	1987
Writer for General Assembly "Life and Mission Event," Mo-Ranch	1985
Member, Editorial Board, Interpretation	1984-1987
Board Member, Ecumenical Center for Stewardship Studies	1982-1985
Co-editor, Journal for Preachers	1977-1989
Associate Editor	1990-date
Member, Council on Theology and Culture, PCUS	1977-1983
Chair of Council	1979-1980; 1981-1982
Chair, Committee on Nature and Value of Human Life, Council on Theology and Culture, PCUS	1976-1981

Writings:

Dissertation

Theology and Hermeneutics in the Thought of Karl Barth and Rudolf Bultmann, Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of Religious Studies, The Graduate School, Yale University. 1974

Publications

The Nature and Value of Human Life, written for the Council on Theology and Culture and commended to the church for study by the 1981 General Assembly, Presbyterian Church U. S.

Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture, writer of final draft for the Council on Theology and Culture and adopted by the 1983 General Assembly, Presbyterian Church U. S..

Continuing the Conversation: A Guide for Congregation Study of Issues Related to Human Sexuality, with Carol Wehrheim for Theology and Worship Ministry Unit of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). 1992.

Using the Bible: A Guided Study of Presbyterian Statements on Biblical Authority and

Interpretation, with Lamar Williamson for Theology and Worship Ministry Unit of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). 1993.

A Reformed Understanding of Usury for the 21st Century, written for the Advisory Council on Social Witness Policy, approved by the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) . 2006.

Articles

"A Case for Pious Language," Journal for Preachers, Vol. II, No. 3, Easter 1979.

"The 1980's: A Decade of Lent?," Journal for Preachers, Vol. IV, No. 2, Lent 1981.

"From Theology to Politics by Way of Ethics," Religious Education, Vol. 78, No. 4, Fall 1983.

"Church Growth Challenge to the Mainline," Journal for Preachers, Vol. VII, No. 2, Lent 1984.

"Anger and the Praise of God," Journal for Preachers, Vol. IX, No. 2, Lent 1986.

"Trouble in the Mainline," As I See It Today, Vol. 2, No. 2, March 1988.

"Preaching Eschatology in an Age Agnostic about the Future," Journal for Preachers, Vol. XII, No. 1, Advent 1988.

"Preaching for Conversion," Journal for Preachers, Vol. XV, No. 3, Easter 1992.

"God and Government: Preaching and the Election of '92," Journal for Preachers, Vol. XVI, No. 1, Advent, 1992.

"Acts in a Drama," (Column on Using the Directory for Worship), Reformed Liturgy and Music, Vol. XXVII, No. 1, Winter, 1993.

"Is the Church Too Difficult for God? Preaching in a Time of Denominational Crisis," Journal for Preachers, Vol. XVII, No. 1, Advent, 1993.

"Setting Apart: Who, Where and How," Column on Using the Directory for Worship), Reformed Liturgy and Music, Vol. XXVIII, No. 1, Winter, 1994

"Home Worship," (Column on Using the Directory for Worship), Reformed Liturgy and Music, Vol. XXVIII, No. 2, Spring, 1994

"Worship and the Arts: Sin and Bad Taste," (Column on Using the Directory for Worship), Reformed Liturgy and Music, Vol. XXVIII, No. 3, Summer, 1994.

“Music for Marriage and Mourning,” (Column on Using the Directory for Worship), Reformed Liturgy and Music, Vol. XXVIII, No. 4, Fall, 1994.

“The Place of Prayer,” Journal for Preachers, Vol. XIX, No. 3, Easter 1996.

Critic’s Corner, “An Awful Rowing toward God: A Review of Some Recent Literature from the Church’s Conversation on Homosexuality,” in Theology Today, Vol. 53, No. 4, January, 1997.

“Scripture, Tradition, Knowledge and Experience: A Review of Some Recent Literature from the Church’s Conversation on Homosexuality,” in The Ecumenical Review, Vol. 50, No. 1, January, 1998, WCC. (An adaptation of the *Critic’s Corner* from Theology Today in January 1997 for an ecumenical and worldwide audience.)

Protagonist Corner, “Resident Aliens—Of the First Kind,” in Journal for Preachers, Vol. XXI, No. 2, Lent 1998.

“Corrected Vision: Ministry in Manifold Perspectives,” Inaugural Lecture, Columbia Theological Seminary, March 31, 1998.

Protagonist Corner, “Money and Mission: Getting and Spending and the Reign of God,” in Journal for Preachers, Vol. XXII, No. 1, Advent 1998.

Protagonist Corner, “Easter’s Point of View,” in Journal for Preachers, Vol. XXIII, No. 3, Easter 2000.

“Reformed Resources for Practical Theology: The Christian Life and Consumer Capitalism,” prepared for consultation sponsored by the Center of Theological Inquiry in Stellenbosch, South Africa, March 2004.

“Unsettling Generosity: Fearful Disciples on This Side of the Text,” in The Ending of Mark and the Ends of God: Essays in Memory of Donald Harrisville Juel, Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

“Higher Education and the Church: Reality in the Light of God,” The Presbyterian Outlook, October 26, 2008.

Protagonist Corner, “Toward a Theology of Migration,” in Journal for Preachers, Pentecost 2009.

“Why Presbyterian Colleges Still Matter,” An Address to the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, March 26, 2010.

“Ministry in the Long Emergency,” *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching, and the Arts*, Volume 45.2, 2011.

“Governance and Faculty Leadership: Routine, Complex, Contentious, and

Collaborative," in *C(H)AOS Theory: Reflections on Chief Academic Officers in Theological Institutions*, Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, U.K., William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2011.

Book reviews

Review of Christ in Context: Divine Purpose and Human Possibility by Eugene TeSelle, Interpretation, Vol. XXX, October 1976.

Review of On Being a Christian by Hans Kung, Homiletic, Vol. 2, 1977.

Review of Theology of the Love of God by George Newlands, Interpretation, Vol. XXXVI, January 1982.

Review of The Gift of Administration: Theological Bases for Ministry by Thomas Campbell and Gary B. Reiersen, Saint Luke's Journal of Theology, Vol. 26, Summer 1983.

Reviews of Pastor as Person: Maintaining Personal Integrity in the Choices and Challenges of Ministry by Gary L. Harbaugh and The Pastor as Evangelist by Richard S. Armstrong, Theology Today, Vol. XLII, No. 2, July 1985.

"One New Book for the Preacher," a review of Jesus Through the Centuries by Jaroslav Pelikan, Journal for Preachers, Vol. X, No. 3, Easter 1987.

Major Book Review of The Logic of Evangelism by William J. Abraham, Theology Today, Vol. XLVII, No. 3, October 1990

Review of Patterns of Parish Leadership: Cost and Effectiveness in Four Denominations, by Dean R. Hoge, Jackson W. Carroll, and Francis K. Sheets in Affirmation, Vol. IV, No. 1, Spring, 1991

Major Book Review of The Search for God at Harvard by Ari Goldman, Theology Today, Vol. XLVIII, No. 3, October 1991.

Book Review of U.S. Lifestyles and Mainline Churches: A Key to Reaching People in the 90s by Tex Sample, Vol. 14, No. 3, Easter 1991.

Book Review of Discerning Spirit: A Theology of Revelation by T. J. Gorringer, Interpretation, Vol. XLVI, No. 3, July 1992.

Book Review of Basic Christian Doctrine by John Leith, The Princeton Seminary Bulletin, Vol. XV, No. 1, New Series, February, 1994.

Book Review of Belonging to God: A Commentary on A Brief Statement of Faith by William C. Placher and David Willis-Watkins, Interpretation, Vol. XLVIII, No. 3, July 1994.

Book Review, "Two New Books for the Preacher," Culture Wars and Before the Shooting Begins by James Davison Hunter in Journal for Preachers, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, Advent, 1994.

Book Review, "One New Book for the Preacher," Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation by Jonathan Kozol in Journal for Preachers, Vol. XX, No. 1, Advent, 1996.

Book Review, Christian Confessions: A Historical Introduction by Ted A. Campbell in Interpretation, Vol. 51, No. 2, April, 1997.

Book Review: In Pursuit of the Almighty's Dollar: A History of Money and American Protestantism, by James Hudnut-Beumler in The Presbyterian Outlook, November 5, 2007.

Book Review: Living Christianity: A Pastoral Theology for Today, by Shannon Craigo-Snell and Shawnthea Monroe in Interpretation, Vol. 65, No. 1, January, 2011.