

Bruce Rogers-Vaughn

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Pastoral Psychotherapist
The Pastoral Center for Healing
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Education

Vanderbilt University	1983-91	Doctor of Philosophy
Program Area: Religion and Personality		
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	1979-82	Master of Divinity
Major: Pastoral Care		
Samford University	1974-78	Bachelor of Arts with Honors
Major: Religion	Minor: History	<i>summa cum laude</i>

Teaching and Research

Adjunct Professor, Doctor of Ministry in Integrative Chaplaincy degree program, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee, 2021-Present

Associate Professor of the Practice of Pastoral Theology and Counseling, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee, 2016-2021

Assistant Professor of the Practice of Pastoral Theology and Counseling, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee, 2010-2016

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University (College of Arts and Science), Nashville, Tennessee, 2010-2017

Lecturer in Pastoral Theology, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee, 1998-2010

Instructor in Psychology, Lipscomb University, Nashville, Tennessee, 2008-2010

Clinical Supervisor and Instructor, Training Program, Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee; 1993-1998, 2006-2007

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, Spring, 1992

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Belmont University, Nashville, Tennessee, Spring, 1985

Clinical, Ministry, and Administrative Practice

Co-Founder and Psychotherapist, The Pastoral Center for Healing, Brentwood, Tennessee, 2007-Present

President, The Pastoral Center for Healing, Nashville, Tennessee, 2008-2016.

Director of Education and Training, Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee, 2006-2007

Private Practice in Pastoral Psychotherapy, Brentwood, Tennessee, 2006-2007

Director, The Turning Leaf Pastoral Counseling Service, Brentwood, Tennessee, 1999-2006

Clinical Services Director, Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee, 1996-1998

Director, Pastoral Counseling Center of Brentwood, Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee, Brentwood, Tennessee, 1996-1998

Pastoral Counselor, Pastoral Counseling Centers of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee, 1988-1998

Chaplain, Saint Thomas Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee, 1986-1992

Chaplain, Alive-Hospice of Nashville, Nashville, Tennessee, 1983-86

Pastor, Payneville Baptist Church, Payneville, Kentucky, 1980-83

Publications

Books

Caring for Souls in a Neoliberal Age. (2016). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Book Chapters

“Caring for Souls Within the Dark Web,” (2020). In *Postcolonial Images of Spiritual Care: Challenges of Care in a Neoliberal Age* (Emmanuel Y. Lartey and Hellena Moon, Eds.). Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications.

“Class Power and Human Suffering: Resisting the Idolatry of the Market in Religious Practice and Pastoral Theology.” (2018). In *Pastoral Theology and Care: Critical Trajectories in Theory and Practice* (Nancy J. Ramsay, Ed.). Oxford, UK: Wiley Blackwell.

Articles

“‘I’m the King of Debt’: Pastoral Reflections on Debt in the Age of Trump.” *Pastoral Psychology* 68 (5), (2019), 511-532.

“Powers and Principalities: Initial Reflections Toward a Post-Capitalist Pastoral Theology.” *Journal of Pastoral Theology* 25 (2), (2015), 71-92.

“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn: Depression as Political Resistance.” *Pastoral Psychology*, 63 (4), (2014), 503-522.

“Pastoral Counseling in the Neoliberal Age: Hello Best Practices, Goodbye Theology.” *Sacred Spaces*, 5, (2013), 5-45.

“Best Practices in Pastoral Counseling: Is Theology Necessary?” *Journal of Pastoral Theology*, 23 (1), (2013), 1-24.

“The Social Trifecta of Human Misery and Problematical Constructions of the Self: Implications for Formation and Supervision,” *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*, 32 (2012), 206-223.

“Recovering Grief in the Age of Grief Recovery,” *Journal of Pastoral Theology*, 13 (1), (2003), 36-45.

Book Reviews

Review of Jin Young Choi and Joerg Rieger, eds., *Faith, Class, & Labor: Intersectional Approaches in a Global Context* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2020), *International Journal of Practical Theology*, 26 (2), (2022): 373-376.

Dictionary Entries

"Pastoral Office," *Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, (Rodney J. Hunter, Ed.). Nashville: Abingdon (1990).

"Poimenics," *Dictionary of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, (Rodney J. Hunter, Ed.). Nashville: Abingdon (1990).

Dissertation

"Intersubjectivity as the Ground of Hope: Psychoanalytic and Theological Perspectives" (May, 1991). Vanderbilt University (Committee: Liston Mills, Volney Gay, Edward Farley, Paul Dokecki, Richard Zaner)

Editorial Responsibilities

Guest co-editor for a special issue addressing "political dimensions in pastoral care."
Pastoral Psychology 63 (4), (August 2014).

Editorial Board, *Sacred Spaces: The e-Journal of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors*, 2009-2017.

Media Releases

"Is There No Comfort for the Afflicted? A Response to Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon," *The Bias Magazine*, October 22, 2021
<https://christiansocialism.com/stanley-hauerwas-will-willimon-pastoral-care-capitalism-neoliberalism-church/>

“Depression as Political Resistance,” *Radical Discipleship*, March 15, 2021
<https://radicaldiscipleship.net/2021/03/15/depression-as-political-resistance/#more-18186>

“Soul Talk in a Neoliberal Age” (Five-part series), *Radical Discipleship* August 21-September 18, 2020
<https://radicaldiscipleship.net/2020/08/21/soul-talk-in-a-neoliberal-age-part-1/#more-17397>

“Women in (Class) Conflict,” *Reflections: A Magazine of Theological and Ethical Inquiry*. Yale Divinity School. (Fall 2018), 37-39.
<https://reflections.yale.edu/article/sex-gender-power-reckoning/women-class-conflict-bruce-rogers-vaughn>

Work as a Public Theologian

See personal website at <https://www.brucerogersvaughn.com/>

Podcasts

“Bruce Rogers-Vaughn: Caring for Souls in a Neoliberal Age,” Interviewed by Alison Webster, General Secretary of *Modern Church* (UK), (December 13, 2023)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOFFzKyfr4k>

“Bruce Rogers-Vaughn—Resistance Recovery,” Interviewed by Piers Kaniuka for *Resistance Recovery* (September 1, 2021),
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXGtSFNVIZM&t=49s>

“The Economic Crisis is a Spiritual Crisis,” Interviewed by Tripp Fuller for *Homebrewed Christianity* (April 23, 2021), <https://trippfuller.com/2021/04/23/bruce-rogers-vaughn-the-economic-crisis-is-a-spiritual-crisis/>

“Three Communist Psychotherapists Walk into a Church,” Interviewed by Harriet Fraad and Max Golding for *It’s Not Just in Your Head: A Podcast About Capitalism and Mental Health* (September 29, 2020),
<https://anchor.fm/itsnotjustinyourhead/episodes/017-Three-communist-psychotherapists-walk-into-a-church-ft--Bruce-Rogers-Vaughn-ek8r41>

“The Neo-Liberal Attack on the Soul,” Interview with Tripp Fuller for *Homebrewed Christianity* (June 12, 2019), <https://trippfuller.com/2019/06/12/bruce-rogers-vaughn-the-neo-liberal-attack-on-the-soul/>

Interview with Chris Benda for *Authorial Intentions* (Vanderbilt News, January 24, 2017), upon the initial release of *Caring for Souls in a Neoliberal Age*, <https://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/divinity/faculty-staff/interviews/brucerogersvaughn01242017.mp3>

Presentations

- “Let Psychotherapy Be Therapeutic Again,”** Presentation for the Tennessee Counseling Association’s “Day on The Hill,” Cordell Hull Capitol Building, Nashville, Tennessee, February 14, 2024
- “Do We Support or Subvert? Ministry During the First Global Empire,”** The Scott Lecture, Ministry Week, Brite Divinity School/Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas, February 6, 2024. Videos posted here: <https://youtube.com/live/eWlfXa2i62U> and here: <https://youtube.com/live/y6pTKwKxoe0>
- “When Focusing on Inner Healing Becomes a Problem,”** Address to the Nashville Psychotherapy Institute, Nashville, Tennessee, October 13, 2023.
- “Can These Bones Live?”** Presentation to chaplaincy residents, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee, August 8, 2023
- “Money, Suffering, and Hope,”** Keynote presentation to the Annual Conference of The American Monetary Institute (AMI), October 9, 2022. (An international teleconference) Video posted here: <https://monetary.org/events/2022/2022-ami-monetary-reform-conference/>
- “Liberating Voices/Confronting Coloniality,”** Panel Member for a Roundtable Book Discussion, Liberation Theologies Unit, American Academy of Religion, November 21, 2021 (Virtual Event)
- “You Cannot Serve God and Money’: Today’s Global Debt System as a Moral and Pastoral Emergency,”** Creating Vital Congregations Webinar Series, Lexington Theological Seminary, January 23, 2021. (Video posted here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgMphKWYG0I>)
- “Money Talks, But on Behalf of Whom? Money Walks, But Where Does It Lead Us?”** Part of the “Money Talks, Money Walks” series, hosted by the Cal Turner Program in Moral Leadership, Vanderbilt University, November 6, 2020.
- “Capitalism and the Social Origins of Psychological Distress,”** Theology, Medicine, and Culture Virtual Seminar Series, Duke Divinity School, October 2, 2020. (Video posted here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XchiR9NBio>)

“Capitalism as a Moral Problem,” Presentation for the Vanderbilt University chapter of the Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA), Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, December 4, 2019.

“Neoliberalism: The First Anti-Racist White Supremacy,” Presentation for *The Council on the Way*, a gathering of white male anti-racist activists co-convened by Ruby Sales and Tommy Airey, The United Methodist Building, Washington, D.C., October 20, 2019.

“Capitalism and the Social Origins of Psychological Distress,” Presentation at a conference titled “Confuting the Disrepute of Mental Health and Wellness: The Science, Politics, and Ethics of Psychological Well-Being,” Sponsored by the Center for Biomedical Ethics and Society, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, April 3, 2019.

“The Erosion of Social, Interpersonal, and Psychological Health in the Age of Global Capitalism,” All-day, three-part symposium sponsored by the Mental Health Counseling program of the School of Theology, Belmont University, and the Tennessee Association of Pastoral Therapists, Belmont University, Nashville, TN, September 21, 2018.

“A Cancer in the Heart of Soul: The Transmutations of Capitalism and the Dismemberment of the Image of God,” Keynote presentation for the Minister’s Health Summit, The Divinity School, Campbell University, Buies Creek, NC, June 7, 2018.

“Addressing Social Injustice in the Psychotherapy Session & Beyond,” Panel presentation and discussion for psychotherapists and psychotherapy graduate students, co-sponsored by the Nashville Psychotherapy Institute Social Justice Committee and Vanderbilt Counseling CHI SIGMA IOA Honor Society, Nashville, TN, November 9, 2016.

“Masculinity and the Requirements of Privilege,” Panel presentation for a working group during the 20th Anniversary of the Carpenter Program on Gender and Sexuality, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN, April 2, 2016.

“Comparing Postcolonialism, Globalization, and Neoliberalism as Interpretive Lenses for Pastoral Theology,” Panel presentation for the Postcolonialism, Globalization, and Pastoral Care Study Group of The Society for Pastoral Theology during its annual conference, Denver, CO, June 19, 2015.

“The Neoliberal Unconscious: Psychotherapy in a Traumatogenic Society,” All-day, four-part symposium conducted for the membership of the Nashville Psychotherapy Institute, Nashville, TN, May 2, 2015.

“Capitalism and its Discontents: Care of Souls in a Neoliberal World,” Work in progress presentation delivered to the full membership of The Society for Pastoral Theology during its annual meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, June 20, 2014.

“Measuring Chaplain Efficiency: The End of Pastoral Care?” Presentation to the Tennessee Pastoral Care Association, a subsidiary of the Tennessee Hospital Association, Nashville, TN, October 31, 2013.

“Psychotherapy in the Neoliberal Age: Friend or Foe?” Presentation to the Nashville Psychotherapy Institute, Nashville, TN, August 9, 2013. (The enthusiastic response to this presentation led to an ongoing “salon” group within the Nashville Psychotherapy Institute dedicated to exploring the impact of sociopolitical context for mental health, human relationships, and the conduct of psychotherapy.)

“Ethical Considerations for Pastoral Counseling in the Neoliberal Age,” Workshop presented at the annual meeting of Tennessee Association of Pastoral Therapists, Nashville, TN, August 3, 2013.

“Ethics in Pastoral Counseling: Do We Need a Paradigm Shift?” Two-part workshop presented at the annual meeting of the Southeast Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC, October 26-28, 2012.

“Emergent Trends in Pastoral Care and Counseling,” Keynote address to an annual conference for Presbyterian (PCUSA) clergy responsible for pastoral care, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, January 27, 2011.

“Recovering Grief in the Age of Grief Recovery: Then and Now,” Keynote address to the annual meeting of the Tennessee Association of Pastoral Therapists, Nashville, TN, August 14, 2009.

“Religion and Psychotherapy: Oil and Water?” Panel participant for presentation at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Psychological Association, Nashville, TN, November 4, 2005.

“On the Edge of the Abyss: Mourning Our Way into Life,” Keynote address delivered to the Annual Clergy Conference at the Medical Learning Center, St. Thomas Hospital, Nashville, TN, November 6, 2001.

“Psychotherapy with Fundamentalist Christians,” Seminar presented at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Psychological Association, Nashville, TN, November 14, 1998.

“Locating the Ground of Hope,” Workshop presented at the annual meeting of the Southeast Region of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC, October 24, 1997.

“Does Suffering Build Character?” Presented at the annual meeting of The Society on Aging, Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN, March 22, 1997.

“Toward an Understanding of Spiritual Care for the Terminally Ill,” Presented at an interdisciplinary conference entitled "Treatment of the Patient with a Life-Threatening Illness," Medical Learning Center, St. Thomas Hospital, Nashville, TN, October 25, 1985.

Presentations in Congregations (Since 2012)

“On Being a High Class Church in a Low Society World,” Two-part presentation for the adult education program, Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, February 5 and 12, 2023.

“Christianity versus Capitalism: The Neoliberal Sequel,” Presentation to the adult education program, First Presbyterian Church, Lebanon, TN, May 15, 2022.

“Jesus versus Money: The Neoliberal Sequel,” Presentation to the adult education program, Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, April 3, 2022.

“Christianity versus Capitalism: The Neoliberal Sequel,” Presentation to the adult education program, Second Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, March 27, 2022.

“Individual and Collective Mourning: From the Personal to the Global,” Presentation to the adult education program, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, October 17, 2021.

“Grief and Mental Health During the Great Interruption,” Presentation to the adult education program, West End United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN, September 29, 2021.

“Conversations of the ‘Sandwich Years’,” Presentation to the adult education program, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, October 1 & 8, 2017.

“Strengthening the Connection: Preventative Care for Couples,” Community outreach event, East End United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN, September 9, 2017.

“Render unto God: Does Capitalism Compete with Christian Faith?” First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, TN, January 14, 2015.

“Self-Worth, Faith, and Capitalism,” Presentation for the Wednesday evening adult education series *Current*, West End United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN, October 15, 2015.

“Are We Living in an Addicted World?” Presentation to the adult education program, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN, December 1, 2013

“Is Capitalism Making Us Sick, Selfish, and Anti-Religious? Economics, Politics, and the Care of the Soul,” Two-part presentation to the congregation, Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville, TN, April 3 & 10, 2013.

Courses Taught (Vanderbilt Divinity School)

REL 3760, Clinical Seminar (A practice-oriented, year-long seminar for Ph.D. students in the Religion, Psychology and Culture program)

DIV 7053, Contemporary Psychotherapy and Pastoral Counseling

DIV 7042, Pastoral Theology Seminar: Death and Dying

DIV 7003, Seminar in Theology and Personality: Hope and Despair

DIV 7041, Pastoral Care of Persons with Mental Disorders and Addictions

DIV 7022, Men, Psychology, and Religion

DIV 7002, Pastoral Care and Global Capitalism

RLST 234; DIV 3061, Post Freudian Theories and Religion (Cross-registered with the College of Arts and Sciences, Vanderbilt University)

DIV 7031, Race and Class: Cultivating Radical Care

Academic Awards and Honors

Ph.D.: Qualifying Examinations with Honors, 1986; University Tuition Award, 1983-84

B.A.: Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, 1977-78; Honors Program; Phi Kappa Phi; Phi Eta Sigma

Clinical Certifications and Licensure

Licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapist (TN #CPT0000000034)

Academic, Professional, and Activist Memberships

The Society for Pastoral Theology (Charter member)

International Academy of Practical Theology (Membership by invitation only)

Alliance For Just Money (An organizational member of the International Movement for Monetary Reform) (Board Member, 2022-Present; Vice President, 2023-Present)

Tennessee Association of Pastoral Therapists
(Vice President, 1999-2003; President, 2003-2006)

The American Association of Pastoral Counselors (In 2019, this organization became the psychotherapy division of The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.)

The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (Psychotherapy Member)

Nashville Psychotherapy Institute
(Board Member, 1997-1999)

Vanderbilt University Initiatives

Faculty Collaborator, Vanderbilt Center for Advanced Illness Research, Education, and Support (V-CAIRES), 2019-2020

Religious Participation

Ordained in 1981 in the Free Church tradition (Baptist)

Second Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Nashville, Tennessee (Member 2005-Present; Personnel Committee Member, 2010-2011)

Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood, Tennessee (Member 1999-2005; Consultant to ministry staff, 1999-Present)

Community Activities

Advisory Board, Master of Pastoral Studies in Pastoral Counseling Program,
American Baptist College, Nashville, Tennessee, 2009-2011
(Primarily responsible for designing the curriculum for this program)

Institutional Review Board (IRB), St. Thomas Hospital, Nashville, TN, 1998-2000