

Dr. Peter R. Gathje

Professor of Christian Ethics and Associate Dean for Curriculum and Instruction
Memphis Theological Seminary
901-334-5832
pgathje@memphisseminary.edu

Education

Ph.D. Division of Religion: Ethics and Society, 1994
Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
Dissertation: *The Cost of Virtue: The Theological Ethics of Daniel and Phillip Berrigan.*
Director: Steven M. Tipton

Master of Theological Studies, 1988, Magna Cum Laude
Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

Bachelor of Arts, Theology, 1979, Cum Laude
St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota

Teaching

Professor of Christian Ethics, 2006- present

Memphis Theological Seminary

Courses Include: Introduction to Christian Ethics; Theology and Practice of Community Organizing; Farming, Food and Faith: A Theology and Ethics of Agriculture, Eating, and Rural Ministry; Jesus was a Carpenter: Faith Perspectives on Labor and Justice; Christian Political Thought; The Church's Call to Radical Hospitality; Contextual Theology and Ethics; Faith at the Borders; Poverty, Imprisonment, and Resistance Theology in Atlanta: The Open Door Community, Spirituality and Social Justice, Spirituality and Social Justice,

Associate Professor of Religion, 1996-2006

Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee

Courses: Christian Ethics; Religion and Nonviolent Social Change; Christianity and Peace; Modern Christian Thought; Religion and Prejudice; New Testament; Paul: His Life and Letters; Race, Resistance and Religion; Honors Seminar: Gandhi and King; A Theology and Politics of Crime and Justice; Honors Integrative Seminar: Imagination and Social Justice; Justice and Society; Business Ethics; Social and Political Philosophy;

Adjunct Faculty, 2003-2005

Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tennessee

Courses: Introduction to Christian Ethics, Christianity and Economic Justice, Social Teachings of Christian Churches,

Assistant Professor of Religion, 1994-1996

Visiting Instructor in Religion, 1992-1994

Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Courses: Theological Ethics; Sexual Ethics; War and Peace in the Christian Tradition; Contemporary Catholic Theology; Classical Christian Thought; Nonviolence in a Violent World; Theological Perspectives in Medical Ethics; Becoming a Character or Becoming an Individual: The Ethics of Aristotle and Kant

Academic Honors

Paul B. Brown Award for Distinguished Teaching, Memphis Theological Seminary, 2008

American Academy of Religion/Lilly Foundation Teaching Workshop: Mining the Motherlode of African American Religion, 1999-2000

Diebold Award for Outstanding Faculty Involvement with Student Life, Kalamazoo College, 1994

Books

Sharing the Bread of Life: Hospitality and Resistance at the Open Door Community, JZ Publishing, Atlanta, Georgia, 2006 (re-published 2012)

Doing Right and Being Good: Catholic and Protestant Readings in Christian Ethics, (editor with David Ahearn), Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, 2005

A Work of Hospitality: The Open Door Reader, JZ Publishing, Atlanta, Georgia, 2002.

Christ Comes in the Stranger's Guise, Open Door Community, Atlanta, 1991.

Articles in Books

"The Cost of Virtue: What Power in the Open Door Community Might Speak to Virtue Ethics," in *Ethnography as Christian Theology & Ethics*, (Continuum, 2011)

"Rituals of Resistance: Seeking Cultural Transformation for Abolition" in Amy Staples and Margaret Vandiver, eds., *Tennessee's New Abolitionists: The Fight Against the Death Penalty in the Volunteer State*, (University of Tennessee Press, 2010).

"With Liberty and Justice For All," in Michael Long and Tracy Wenger Sadd, eds., *God and Country: Diverse Perspectives on Christianity and Patriotism*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

"I Hope Someone Murders Your Mother!: Extreme Support for the Death Penalty," with Margaret Vandiver, and David J. Giacomassi, in Alex Thio and Thomas Calhoun, eds., *Readings in Deviant Behavior*, (Allyn and Bacon, 2006).

"Teaching African American Religions as Learning to Resist Racism," in *Teaching African American Religion: Mining the Motherlode*, Edited by Carolyn M. Jones and Theodore Louis Trost, (Oxford University Press, 2005).

"Gandhi and King: Principles for the Practice of Nonviolent Revolution," in *World Without Violence*, Arun Gandhi, ed., (M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, Memphis, 1999).

"Virtue Ethics and Political Responsibility," in *Living Responsibly in Community: Essays in Honor of E. Clinton Gardner*, Fred Glennon, Gary Hauk, and Darryl Trimiew, eds., (University Press of America, 1997):155-176.

Selected Articles

"Huckabee Calls for Civil Disobedience, Utterly Misreads MLK, Jr.," *Religion Dispatches*, June 28, 2015,

<http://religiondispatches.org/huckabee-calls-for-civil-disobedience-utterly->

“In Death As In Life: St. John’s Abbey Cemetery,” *Bearings for the Life of Faith*, Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research, Autumn (2015): 18-19.

“The Cross and the Resurrection in Serving the Poor,” *The Living Pulpit*, January-March 2008, <http://www.pulpit.org/articles/poor.asp>

“Speaking the Truth to the Power of the Presidency,” *Political Theology*, Volume 8, Number 4 (2007): 483-492

“Shalom and a Consistent Ethic of Life,” *The Living Pulpit*, Volume 15, October-December (2006): 10-12.

“Theological Commentary on Luke 10:1-11, 16-20, Amos 7:7-17, Luke 10:38-42, Hosea 1:2-20,” *Lectionary Homiletics*, July (2004), <http://www.lectionary.com/Journal//04/jul04/0704b.html>.

“Hospitality in the Context of Academic Life,” *Journal of Analytic Teaching*, November (2002):23-27.

“A Contested Classic, Critics ask: Whose Christ? Which Culture?” *The Christian Century*, June 19-26, Volume 119, (2002):28-32.

“I Hope Somebody Murders Your Mother: An Exploration of Extreme Support for the Death Penalty,” with Margaret Vandiver and David Giacopassi, *Journal of Deviant Behavior*, June Volume 23 (2002):385-415.

“Resistance and the Streets,” *Church and Society*, May/June (2001):105-110.

“The Works of Mercy: Sheltering the Homeless.” [Proceedings of the Villanova Theology Institute](#), Volume XXIV (Villanova University Press, 1992):93-125.

On-Line Publication

Radical Hospitality, www.radicalhospitalityblog.wordpress.com

Most Recent Presentations at Professional Meetings

“Communities of Liberation,” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, 2014

“Holiness and Happiness,” Ethics Across the Disciplines Conference, Viterbo University, Lacrosse Wisconsin, 2014

“The Virtue of Hope and the Practice of Hospitality,” Ethics Across the Disciplines Conference, Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 2013

“The Virtue of Love and the Practice of Hospitality,” Ethics Across the Disciplines Conference, Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 2012

“The Virtue of Faith and the Practice of Hospitality,” Ethics Across the Disciplines Conference, Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 2011

“Who Does Service Learning Serve? A Hybrid Workshop with Interactive Dialogue” Panelist, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, 2008

“Courage in the Practice of Hospitality,” Ethics Across the Disciplines Conference, Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin, 2008

“Rituals of Resistance: Creating Conversion and Community for Abolition of the Death Penalty,” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, 2007

“Contested Space and Religious Advocacy: Homelessness, Public Policy, and Faith Communities,” Panel Organizer and Panelist, American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, 2007

“Spirituality in Higher Education,” Panelist, Society of Christian Ethics, Annual Meeting 2007

“The Open Door Community: Radical Religion in the Bible Belt,” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, 2003

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion
Society of Christian Ethics
Catholic Theological Society of America
Peace Studies Association

Community Organizations

Manna House, Co-founder and Board Member, 2006-present
Outreach, Housing, and Community, Board Member, 2016-present
Open Door Community, Board Member, 2016-present
Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, 1996-present
Tennessee Coalition Against State Killing/Tennesseans for Alternative to the Death Penalty.
1996-present