

# Understanding

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

1517



2017



# The Reformation

## FROM THE BACKSIDE

*I cannot and  
will not recant  
anything, for  
to go against  
conscience is  
neither right  
nor safe. Here  
I stand, I can  
do no other, so  
help me God.*

*Amen.*

MARTIN LUTHER

During a trip to Germany in 1934, Michael King was so inspired by the founder of the Reformation that he changed his own name and that of his five-year-old son to reflect that respect. In 1934 he certainly could not have imagined the kind of legacy that his little boy would end up having. Five-year-old Martin Luther King, Jr. would—through the next 34 years of his life—show the world again the power of religion to reform.

King's namesake was a 33 year old priest who, 500 years ago, was serving on the theological faculty of the University of Wittenberg. A widely-accepted story envisions Martin Luther nailing his Ninety-five Theses to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany. That image is engrossing, high-octane, and likely apocryphal, but we do know that on October 31, 1517, Luther wrote to his Bishop, Albert of Brandenburg, in a letter that questioned papal indulgences and other practices of the church. What Luther saw as opportunities for change soon resulted in a call for his excommunication. But a worldwide movement followed.

The Reformation dealt with big ideas, but those ideas frequently were communicated in very human ways. Our fall series focuses on "human" elements—from "the backside"—that shaped the Reformation: John Calvin's health; the creation of maps; Martin Luther's use of crass language; and intellectual property rights. Please join us for a unique series.



FRONT COVER: Erhard Schön, *The Devil Playing the Bagpipe* (c.1530)

The advent of the printing press allowed for the spread of Reformation, and anti-Reformation, ideas in the form of pamphlets and propaganda art. Regardless of one's literacy, this irreverent print would have gotten its point across.

All programs are held on Thursdays | 11 AM-12 PM  
BLOCKER HALL AUDITORIUM | FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Support for the series provided by The Lighthouse: Center for Exploration  
& Discovery at Virginia Wesleyan University



### October 19 **Gout, Tuberculosis, and Migraines: The Significance of John Calvin's Body on his Thought**

How might John Calvin's health help us understand how he came to articulate his theology? **Dr. Craig Wansink** shows how the health of John Calvin—the founder of Reformed theology—shaped both his life and theological influence.

Dr. Craig Wansink is the Joan P. and Macon F. Brock, Jr. Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan University, and serves as Senior Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Norfolk. He also has been a Fellow at the H. Henry Meeter Center for Calvin Studies at Calvin College.

### October 26 **Mapmakers of the Reformation: The Ascendancy of Protestant Cartographers in the 17th Century**

From the late 1500s until the late 1600s, the defiantly Protestant Dutch, centered in Amsterdam, led the world in cartographic innovation, artistry, and publishing. Looking at the maps and careers of several Dutch masters, **William C. Wooldridge** discusses how it happened that the greatest mapmakers all adhered to the reformed faith.

Retired Vice President for Norfolk Southern, Bill Wooldridge brought together one of the finest collections of early Virginia-related maps ever assembled (the Wooldridge Collection was recently acquired by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation). His book *Mapping Virginia: From the Age of Exploration to the Civil War* has received wide acclaim. A native of Lynchburg, Virginia, Wooldridge graduated from Harvard College and earned his JD from the University of Virginia School of Law. He has served as president of the Norfolk Historical Society and of the John Marshall Foundation, on the boards of WHRO and the Library of Virginia Foundation, and is currently a trustee of the Virginia Historical Society.



November 9

### **Holy Dung: Comic Signs of Consubstantiality in Martin Luther Films**

Religious movies frequently romanticize, sentimentalize, or idealize the lives of saints. However, the Protestant reformer Martin Luther frequently used crass humor and language that would seem indefensible to many today. Three major film biopics of Luther's life recognize the importance of acknowledging this part of this reformer. **Morgan Stroyeck '15** and **Dr. Terry Lindvall** focus on why and how Luther's humor was communicated in these films.

Morgan Stroyeck '15, graduated summa cum laude from Virginia Wesleyan, having majored in Religious Studies and English, and has taught and lived in South Korea. Dr. Terry Lindvall is Virginia Wesleyan's C.S. Lewis Endowed Chair and Professor in Communication and Christian Thought. Together they have published on Martin Luther and film.

November 16

### **Copyright or Copywrong? How Gutenberg's Printing Press Continues to Spark Church Battles**



The story of the printing press and its contribution to the spread of the Reformation is well known. But that story is incomplete without acknowledging how copyright law emerged from this technological revolution to adjudicate religious ideas as intellectual property. Is the right to such property consistent with or contrary to principles of religious freedom? **J. Andrew Edwards '98** presents multiple case studies that demonstrate how the Reformation's social and religious upheaval is far from over.

J. Andrew Edwards is a managing editor at Liturgical Press, the Benedictine publishing house at Saint John's Abbey, and is an adjunct assistant professor of theology at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Edwards received his BA from Virginia Wesleyan in 1998 and holds a PhD in systematic theology from the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto.



# DYING FOR A CHANCE AT THE FUTURE: NORTH KOREA & the Underground Railroad

As the Pew Research Center has recently highlighted, freedom of worship is increasingly on the decline in many countries. In addition, apostasy and blasphemy laws around the world are leading to the slaughter and forced conversion of religious minorities, and active discriminatory policies limit religious minorities' opportunities for meaningful work or government recognition. Jews, Christians, and Muslims around the globe all have faced increased persecution.

Some of the most egregious examples of religious persecution come from North Korea and Iraq, and are detailed in two very engaging and meaning-filled monographs: Melanie Kirkpatrick's *Escape from North Korea: The Untold Story of Asia's Underground Railroad* and Mindy Belz's *They Say We Are Infidels: On the Run from ISIS with Persecuted Christians in the Middle East*. This semester we are very pleased to share these two lectures, which offer both sobering, personal stories and inspiring visions of the power of faith and hope in the world.

**Thursday, November 30**

7-8 PM | Blocker Hall Auditorium

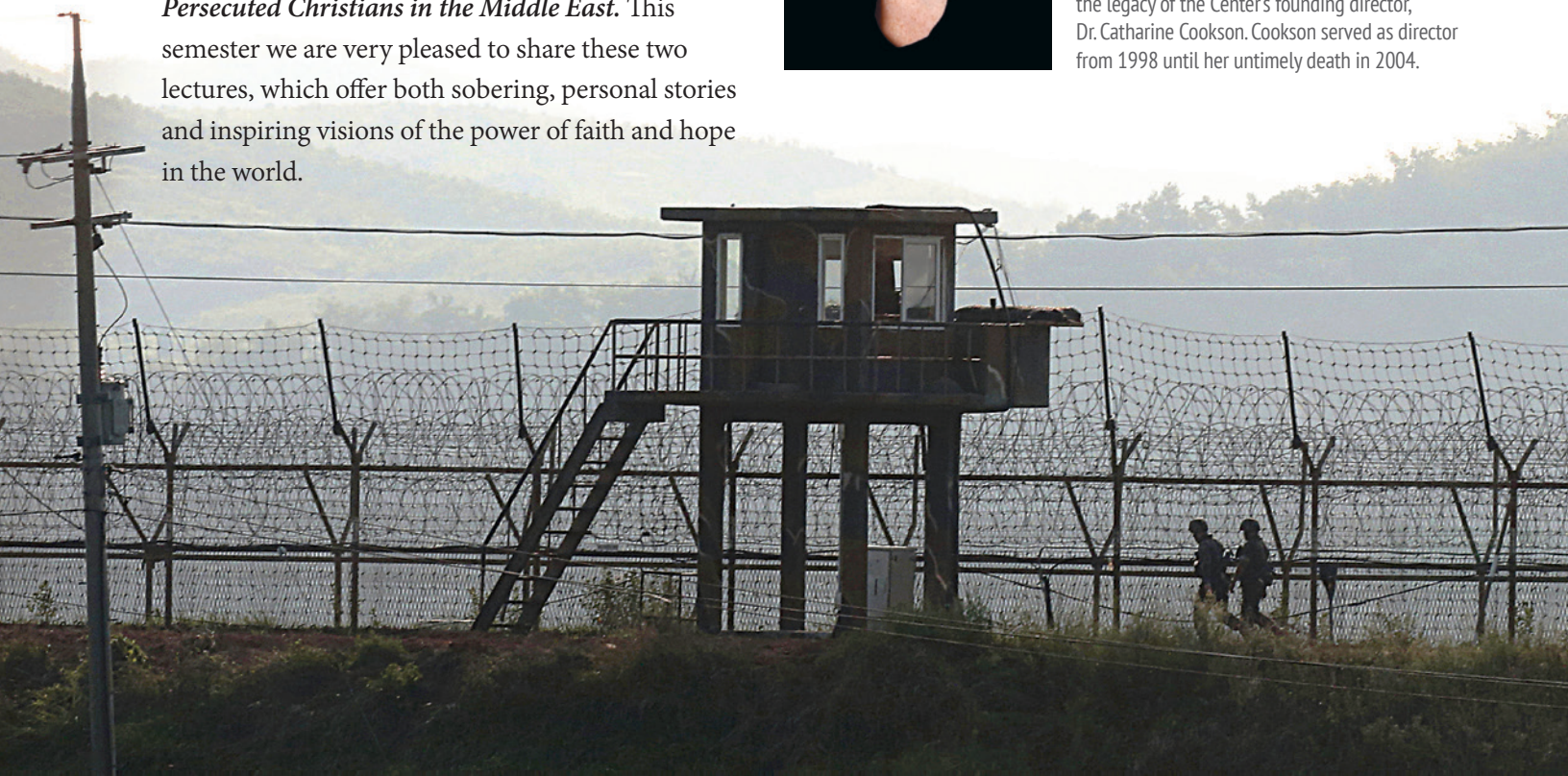
## Escape from North Korea

It is a crime to leave North Korea. Yet every year a small number of desperate North Koreans escape their closed country by traveling along a secret route known as the New Underground Railroad. Journalist-author Melanie Kirkpatrick describes their perilous journey and the rescuers—many of whom are Christian—who help them reach free countries.



This year's Cookson Visiting Scholar, **Melanie Kirkpatrick** is a writer-journalist and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC. She contributes reviews and commentary to various publications, including the opinion pages of *The Wall Street Journal*, for which she worked for 30 years.

The Cookson Religious Freedom Lecture honors the legacy of the Center's founding director, Dr. Catharine Cookson. Cookson served as director from 1998 until her untimely death in 2004.







# IRAQ

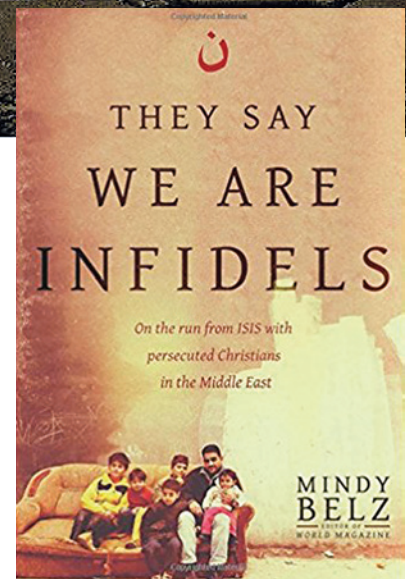
## & THE HUNTING OF CHRISTIANS

Thursday, December 7

7-8 PM | Blocker Hall Auditorium

### **They Say We Are Infidels: On the Run from ISIS with Persecuted Christians in the Middle East**

From Syria into Iraq, Christians are being brutalized and killed by Islamic State fighters (ISIS). Journalist Mindy Belz has spent more than a decade reporting from the ground in the Middle East and has seen first-hand the stark reality of this escalating genocide. Based in part on those personal experiences, Belz explores the complex dynamics at play in war-torn Iraq and Syria and shares stories of Christians who refuse to abandon their faith—even in the face of losing everything, including their lives.



Senior Editor of *WORLD* magazine, **Mindy Belz** has covered war in Africa, the Balkans, Afghanistan, and the Middle East. A widely published journalist, she has appeared on Fox News and ABC News, and is a regular guest on radio talk shows.

Support for the series provided by The Lighthouse: Center for Exploration & Discovery at Virginia Wesleyan University



# ESSENTIAL ISRAEL

What does it mean to be literate  
about Israel in the 21st Century?





# CONSTITUTION DAY

**Thursday, September 14**

12-12:50 PM

PEARCE HOSPITALITY SUITE, BATTEN STUDENT CENTER

## Government Support for Church Playgrounds: A Soft Landing or a Bad Swing?

**Dr. Timothy G. O'Rourke**, Provost and Vice President,  
Virginia Wesleyan University

This examination and discussion focuses on the Supreme Court's consideration of a Missouri case in which the state denied grant funding for playground resurfacing at a religiously-affiliated daycare center. This 2017 case—*Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer*—shares compelling similarities to the 1947 *Everson v. Board of Education* case, and raises important questions about the state, religion, and the challenging intersections of the two.

## LIFE Matters

In "Life Matters," members of the Wesleyan community offer autobiographical reflections on their emotional, intellectual, and spiritual experiences. These deeply personal talks create meaningful opportunities for greater understanding and connection, encouraging each of us to think about what has shaped us and given our own life meaning.

Sponsored in partnership with the Chaplain's Office and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Engaged Learning (INTEL) at VWU.

Bring a bag lunch or purchase lunch in the dining center.



**Thursday, October 19**

**Elaine Aird**, Accounts Payable Coordinator

12-12:50 PM | SHAFER ROOM | BOYD DINING CENTER

**Thursday, November 9**

**Phil Guilfoyle**, Professor of Art

12-12:50 PM | SHAFER ROOM | BOYD DINING CENTER

**Monday, November 13**

7-8 PM | BLOCKER HALL AUDITORIUM

**Dr. Rachel Fish**, Associate Director,  
Schusterman Center for Israel Studies  
at Brandeis University

## How can you engage thoughtfully in the increasingly serious public debates about both Israel as a beleaguered democratic state in the Middle East and its relation to the United States?

Those are the two driving questions behind Rachel Fish and S. Ilan Troen's 2017 book, **Essential Israel**. This presentation focuses on "Israel Literacy" and why it is increasingly important for us today.



Sponsored in partnership with the Community Relations  
Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater





# Healing the Heart of AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

In a time when we are faced with significant cultural and political divides in our country, this series focuses on creating dialogue among people from different identities about the moral and spiritual values that bind us together as a diverse nation. Support for the series is provided by the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) and the Fetzer Institute.

The Nexus Interfaith Dialogue series is sponsored in partnership with the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities

## NEXUS INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

**Monday, September 18** 7-8:30 PM | BOYD DINING CENTER

### **From Kennedy to Sharia: Religious vs. Secular Law in the U.S.**

At different times in U.S. history, notions of “religious law” have resulted in intense discussions. For instance, controversy has surrounded “Sharia” much like it surrounded John Kennedy’s religious convictions. Those controversies have led Americans into active discussion about the role of – and possible conflict between – religious and secular laws in the United States. How are we to understand the similarities and differences between those two kinds of laws?

*Panelists:* **Dr. M’hammed Abdous**, MuslimCommunity of Tidewater; **Father James P. Curran**, Basilica of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception; **Teresa Stanley**, Church of the Holy Apostle and Interspiritual Empowerment Project; **Amy Tschai**, Hampton Roads Muslim Community.

**Monday, October 23** 7-8:30 PM | BOYD DINING CENTER

### **Islam, Christianity, and Judaism as Instruments for Change in Coastal Virginia**

Because society is imperfect, religions obligate followers to uphold and share values that will impact the broader community. In Coastal Virginia, what positive changes result from these efforts? How might such efforts harm public life?

*Panelists:* **Dr. Tahani Amer**, Peninsula Islamic Community Center and Mosque and Islamic Center of Hampton Roads; **Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz**, Congregation Beth El (Conservative); **Rev. Jack Howell**, Trinity Presbyterian (PCA); **Dr. Ahmed Noor**, Mosque and Islamic Center of Hampton Roads; **Rev. Dr. Sharon Riley**, Faith Deliverance Christian Center, Inc.

**Friday, November 3**

12 - 1 PM | THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMONS, CLARKE HALL

### **Study Abroad with Purpose**

As a result of working with refugees and others around the world—in areas ranging from Uganda, to Darfur, to Italy—these Walsh University seniors share reflections on issues of immigration, genocide, nonviolence, and restorative justice, both telling the stories of those individuals who so often go unheard and reflecting on their search for solutions that restore peace and justice to communities.

At Walsh, **Amy Gilmore** is a Philosophy and Government & Foreign Affairs major. Her interests in forced migration and humanitarian action have taken her to Uganda, across Europe, and to Chad this fall. **Katie Paul** majors in Philosophy and Peace Studies at Walsh. Passionate about both the role that health plays in social justice and the traumatizing consequences of conflict, she has traveled to Uganda and throughout Europe, and worked with Leadership Africa USA.





# 12th Annual **ONE LOVE** Festival

*The 12th Annual One Love Festival pays special tribute to retired professor, poet, and peace activist Bob Young who has been a major part of the festival since its inception.*

*As the baton is passed from one generation to the next, the evening concert also pays tribute to Teens with a Purpose, celebrating their dedication to peace and community.*

## **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

**1– 2:20 PM | MONUMENTAL CHAPEL**

### **Overcoming Bias: Building Relationships across Race, Religion, Gender Identity, and other Differences**

**Matthew Freeman**, Founder of TMI Consulting

Sponsored by Bishop Walter F. Sullivan Pax Christi Community of Hampton Roads

**2:30-4 PM | BOYD DINING CENTER**

### **Waging Peace: Beyond Extremism to Our Muslim, American Neighbors**

#### **TOWN HALL DISCUSSION**

Sponsored in partnership with WHRO Public Media

Moderated by **Barbara Hamm Lee**, Host and Executive Producer of *Another View* Radio Program, WHRV 89.5 FM.

Too often, extremists from all sides invade our lives with hateful rhetoric and violent actions. For many of us, safety means isolating ourselves from those with whom we disagree, or from those we do not understand. At the same time, most sacred texts urge adherents to reach out – beyond their own faith tradition – to create community grounded in mutual respect and justice. This town hall discussion focuses on how to wage peace by moving beyond misunderstandings that divide us, and encouraging us to cultivate meaningful relationships across our divides.

This *Town Hall* is part of the “**Race: Let’s Talk About It**” initiative launched by WHRO Public Media in 2015. The *Town Halls* offer safe space for members of the community to have open and honest conversation about important issues related to race. A panel helps to guide the conversation, but the discussion belongs to those in the audience.

**4-5:30 PM**

**BATTEN STUDENT CENTER, MARLIN GRILLE**

### **Largest Drum Circle in the World: For Peace and Global Unity Starting in Our Own Community**

Led by **Arthur Lopez**, Drum Circle/Rhythm Event Facilitator, Organizer, and Hand Drum Instructor for **Drum Your Dream.com**

Everyone is invited to share in this global experience! Hand percussion instruments are available, but participants are encouraged to bring their own non-amplified instruments (i.e. flutes, maracas, djembe, congas, bongos, etc.). Join this fun-filled community drum circle where everyone is welcome.

**7-9:30 PM**

**BATTEN STUDENT CENTER, MARLIN GRILLE**

### **Evening Concert: A Tribute to Bob Young and Teens with a Purpose**

The evening concert includes the Virginia Wesleyan Gospel Choir, Teens with a Purpose, Nathan Richardson as Frederick Douglas, and the Rick Mateo Band.

For more information, visit [vwu.edu/OLF](http://vwu.edu/OLF)  
All CSRF events are free and open to the public.







We recently read a story about a person, who happened to be from Pennsylvania, whose friend had grown up playing chess and who frequently bragged about his level of skill. The Pennsylvanian had never before played chess, but he went to YouTube, saw a few videos about chess openings and, using a tactic learned there, beat his friend in five moves. He wrote, “We don’t speak of chess anymore.”

That was not necessarily a strategic move in terms of their friendship, but it did highlight the difference between daily actions and active learning.

Active learning develops and sharpens necessary skills and strategies. Last year Paul Chappell – a West Point graduate and former Captain in the U.S. Army – spoke at Virginia Wesleyan on the art of waging peace. His experiences, studying at West Point and serving in Iraq, made him particularly aware of the need for active learning, discipline, and strategic thinking in order to effectively wage peace.

We were impressed by his methods, so this July we spent a week with him, participating in a Peace Literacy Workshop. That workshop focused on actively learning skills and strategies that lead to increased empathy and shared purpose, vision, and action.

Our time with Paul Chappell helped us, as did the process of our becoming a Kettering Foundation Center for Public Life. In addition, in July we were pleased to have received a “Healing the Heart of American Democracy” interfaith innovation grant from the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) and the Fetzer Institute. Most significantly, this grant and partnership creates important links for our work with interfaith cooperation and civic engagement work during the upcoming academic year.

We are both 55 years old. Never before have we sensed a greater need for meaningful and civil dialogue in the United States, but protesting is not enough, “Like”ing things on Facebook is not enough. Specific skills and strategies—in listening, dialogue, and conflict mediation—are needed by citizens and civic leaders who want to make positive change today.

We thank you for your support on this journey, as we focus not only on important issues, but on the equipping of students and community members to be engaged citizens.

Thank you,

*Craig and Kelly*



## SEPTEMBER

- 14 **Government Support for Church Playgrounds: A Soft Landing or a Bad Swing?**  
CONSTITUTION DAY  
**Dr. Timothy G. O'Rourke**, Provost & Vice President, VWU  
Thursday, 12-12:50 PM  
Batten Student Center, Pearce Hospitality Suite
- 18 **From Kennedy to Sharia: Religious vs. Secular Law in the U.S.**  
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Panelists: **Dr. M'hammed Abdous**, Muslim Community of Tidewater; **Father James P. Curran**, Basilica of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception; **Teresa Stanley**, Church of the Holy Apostle and Interspiritual Empowerment Project; **Amy Tschai**, Hampton Roads Muslim Community.  
Monday, 7-8:30 PM  
Boyd Dining Center

## OCTOBER

- 19 **Gout, Tuberculosis, and Migraines: The Significance of John Calvin's Body on his Thought**  
**Dr. Craig Wansink**, Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom, VWU  
Thursday, 11 AM-12 PM  
Blocker Hall Auditorium
- 19 **LIFE MATTERS: Elaine Aird**  
*Sponsored in partnership with the Chaplain's Office and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Engaged Learning*  
Thursday, 12-12:50 PM  
Boyd Dining Center, Shafer Room
- 23 **Islam, Christianity, and Judaism as Instruments for Change in Coastal Virginia**  
NEXUS INTERFAITH DIALOGUE  
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Panelists: **Dr. Tahani Amer**, Peninsula Islamic Community Center and Mosque and Islamic Center of Hampton Roads; **Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz**, Congregation Beth El (Conservative); **Rev. Jack Howell**, Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCA); **Dr. Ahmed Noor**, Mosque and Islamic Center of Hampton Roads; **Rev. Dr. Sharon Riley**, Faith Deliverance Christian Center, Inc.  
Monday, 7-8:30 PM, Boyd Dining Center
- 26 **Mapmakers of the Reformation: The Ascendancy of Protestant Cartographers in the 17th Century**  
**William C. Wooldridge**, Vice President of Norfolk Southern (retired)  
Thursday, 11 AM-12 PM, Blocker Hall Auditorium

## NOVEMBER

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**Amy Gilmore and Katie Paul**  
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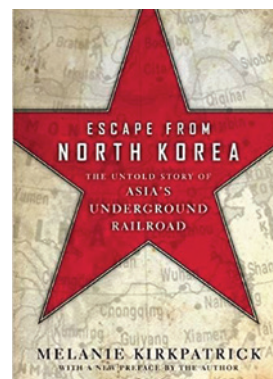


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*Sponsored in partnership with the Chaplain's Office and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Engaged Learning*  
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- 13 **Essential Israel: What Does it Mean to be Literate about Israel in the 21st Century?**  
*Sponsored in partnership with the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater*  
**Dr. Rachel Fish**, Associate Director for the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis University  
Monday, 7-8 PM  
Blocker Hall Auditorium

- 16 **Copyright or Copywrong? How Gutenberg's Printing Press Continues to Spark Church Battles**  
*Support provided by The Lighthouse: Center for Exploration & Discovery*  
**Dr. J. Andrew Edwards '98**  
Managing Editor at Liturgical Press  
Thursday, 11 AM-12 PM  
Blocker Hall Auditorium

- 30 **Escape from North Korea**  
*Support provided by The Lighthouse: Center for Exploration & Discovery*  
**Melanie Kirkpatrick**, Writer-Journalist and Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute  
Thursday, 7-8 PM  
Blocker Hall Auditorium



## DECEMBER

- 7 **They Say We Are Infidels: On the Run from ISIS with Persecuted Christians in the Middle East**  
*Support provided by The Lighthouse: Center for Exploration & Discovery*  
**Mindy Belz**, Senior Editor of WORLD magazine  
Thursday, 7-8 PM  
Blocker Hall Auditorium

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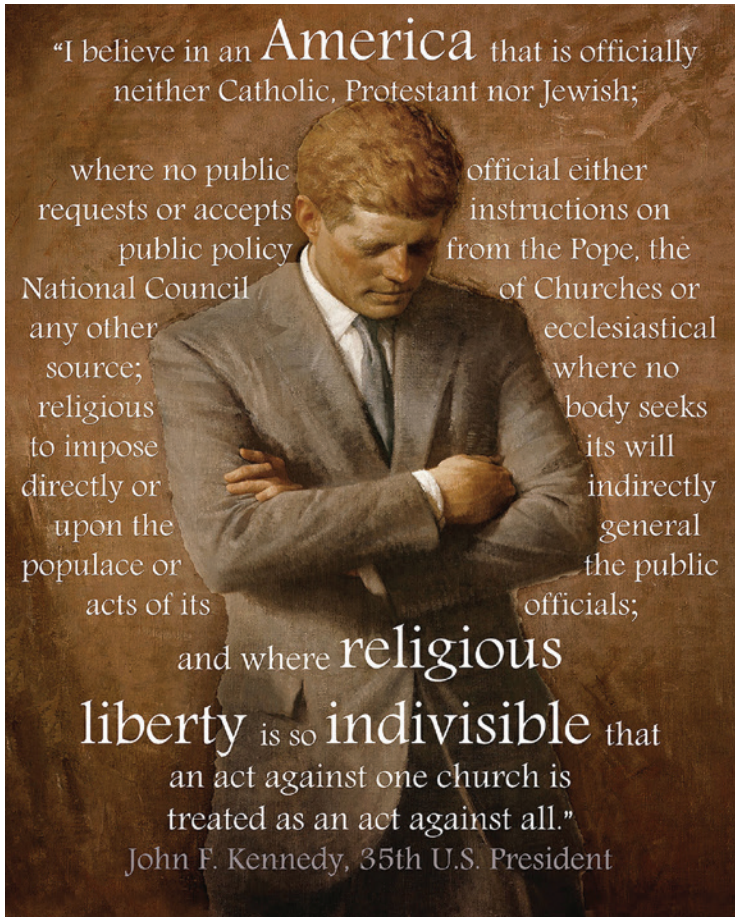


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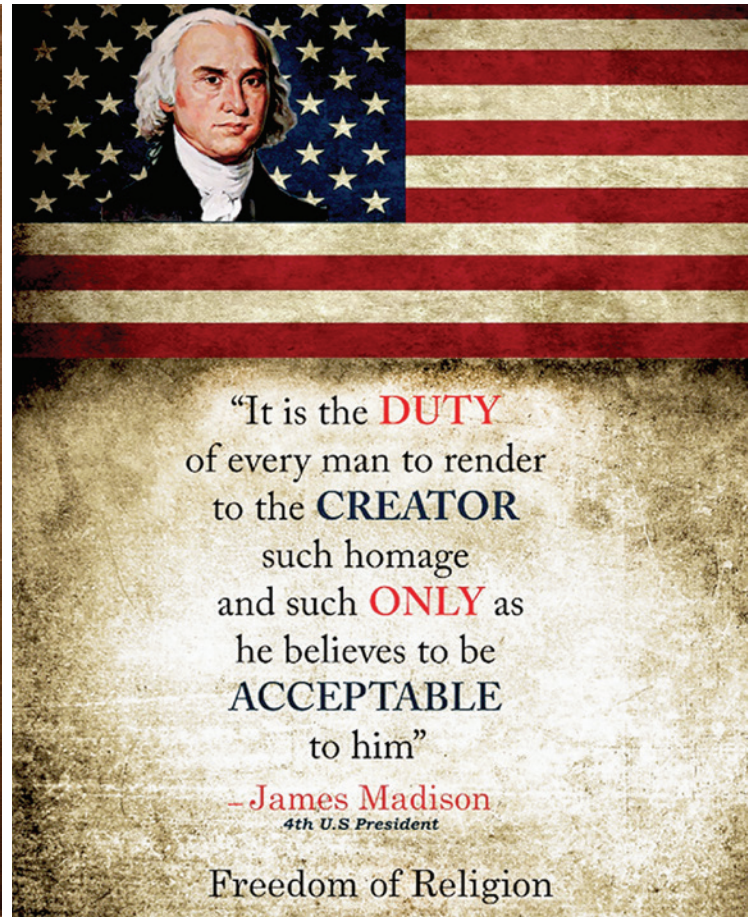
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First Place Winners of Prof. Sharon Swift's ART 204 Graphic Design Contest on United States Presidents & Religious Freedom



**Aaron Aranda '18 : JOHN F. KENNEDY**  
*Criminal Justice Major from Ivor, VA*



**Justin Watson '17 : JAMES MADISON**  
*Communication Major from Suffolk, VA*