



PRESS RELEASE

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(Photos available on request)

THE OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES THE 2007 SLATE OF GUEST PREACHERS

OCEAN PARK, ME – Continuing a 126-year tradition, the Ocean Park Association hosts nationally-recognized and leading regional speakers in the Temple, located at 50 Temple Avenue in Ocean Park. For eleven Sundays each summer, Ocean Parkers and area residents are able to hear these outstanding preachers. The Sunday worship service begins at 10:00 am. A children's program and nursery is available. Ocean Park is open to the public, and there is no admission charge.

JUNE 24 – Rev. Jill Saxby opens the 2007 season in her inaugural guest preaching appearance at Ocean Park. Rev. Saxby is the Executive Director of the Maine Council of Churches, a non-profit ecumenical organization headquartered in Portland. A Unitarian Universalist minister and formerly an attorney, Rev. Saxby served for three years as Associate Minister of the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in South Portland, Maine prior to joining the Council. She is a graduate of Bangor Theological Seminary, The Washington College of Law at the American University, and Michigan State University.

JULY 1 – For the past 16 years, the Rev. James McBride has served as Director of Missions for the Delaware Baptist Association; in this capacity he oversees 37 Southern Baptist Congregations. Rev. McBride founded the Raceway Ministry at Dover Downs and has served as President of the National Raceway Ministry outreach. He holds degrees from Mars Hill College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, both in North Carolina. Rev. McBride is a former President of the Maryland/Delaware Baptist Convention. This season marks his first appearance in Ocean Park.

JULY 8 – Colonel Margaret Hay has traveled widely and undertaken many different forms of service, with Salvation Army appointments taking her from New Zealand to Zambia to Hong Kong. In 1996 Colonel Hay and her husband were appointed to positions at International Headquarters in London. It was during this time that she came to the attention of the media when in 2000 she became the *Times* Preacher of the Year, the first woman and first Salvation Army officer to win this accolade. Radio and television programs and interviews then included a number broadcast nationally by the BBC, as well as by stations in the USA and New Zealand. Colonel Hay also was invited to preach at services in Salisbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey. From 2001 to 2004 Margaret was principal of the Salvation Army International College for Officers in London, before holding an International

Headquarters special services appointment until entering active retirement in March 2006. Colonel Hay is making her first appearance in Ocean Park.

JULY 15 – The **Rev. Dr. Campolo** is the President of the Evangelical Association for the Advancement of Education in St. Davids, Pennsylvania and is a favorite of Ocean Park audiences. Dr. Campolo is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Eastern University in St. Davids, Pennsylvania. He previously served for ten years on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Campolo is a media commentator on religious, social and political matters, having guested on television programs like *Nightline*, *Crossfire*, *Politically Incorrect*, *The Charlie Rose Show* and *CNN News*.

JULY 22 – **The Rev. John Mark Wiggers** is a native of Alabama and is a graduate of Baylor University (Waco, TX) and The General Theological Seminary (NY, NY). While discerning a vocation John Mark paid the rent by working as a radio announcer, cashier, teacher, and perhaps learned the most while working in food service. John Mark currently serves as Canon for Education at The Cathedral of St Philip (Episcopal) in Atlanta, Georgia. Before moving to Atlanta Canon Wiggers served at The Church of the Nativity in Dothan, Alabama, where he was also an adjunct instructor of religion at Wallace Community College. Rev. Wiggers is making his first visit to the state of Maine with his Ocean Park arrival.

July 29 – Since June 2005 **Rev. Tony Pappas** has been the Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts. The Executive Minister is the chief spiritual leader, administrator and representative of the 280 American Baptist churches in Massachusetts. Responsibilities also include directing staff, managing the budget and oversight of two camps and two residential ministries. Prior to June 2005, Tony Pappas was the American Baptist Area Minister for the 50+ American Baptist churches of southeastern Massachusetts. Previously, Pappas pastored the Harbor Church of Block Island (RI) for nearly 20 years. A graduate of Yale College, Pappas received his Master's Degree from Yale Divinity School and his Doctorate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

AUGUST 5 – A perennial favorite, the **Rev. Prof. Peter Gomes** is an annual guest in Ocean Park. Since 1970 he has served in The Memorial Church, Harvard University; and since 1974 as Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in The Memorial Church. A member of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and of the Faculty of Divinity of Harvard University, Prof. Gomes holds degrees from Bates College (A.B., 1965), and from the Harvard Divinity School (S.T.B., 1968); and over thirty honorary degrees. Widely regarded as one of America's most distinguished preachers, Prof. Gomes fulfills preaching and lecturing engagements throughout America and the British Isles. He is the author of several New York *Times* bestselling books and has been profiled in national publications.

AUGUST 12 – **Rev. A. Roy Medley** is general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, the pastoral and administrative leader of the 1.5-million-member denomination, which includes approximately 5,800 churches and 1.5 million members. Previously Medley was executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey and national director of the Neighborhood Action Program of American Baptist National Ministries. Medley has been a member of the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Freedom and Justice and the Church Renewal Committee and served on the faculty for the American Baptist Churches USA Church Planters Institute. He has been a Bible study leader and speaker at numerous gatherings in the U.S., as well as in Haiti, the Philippines, India, Myanmar, Cuba, and Rwanda. A native of Ringgold, GA, Medley holds degrees from the University of Chattanooga and Princeton Theological Seminary. He currently is enrolled in a Doctorate of Ministry program at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA and is making his Ocean Park debut.

AUGUST 19 – **Rev. Dr. Douglas Scalise** has been coming to Ocean Park with his family for 43 years. Since 1995 Douglas Scalise has been the Pastor of Brewster Baptist Church, an American Baptist congregation in Brewster, Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Colby College, Boston University School of Theology, and Northern Baptist Theological Seminary '99. Under his leadership Brewster Baptist Church has grown to over 500 members and raised more than \$2,400,000 to complete a 17,000 square foot addition, offers two different types of worship services each Sunday, developed numerous new ministries, become a leader in mission support and involvement including trips to hurricane damaged communities in places such as Gulfport, MS, Rocky Mount, NC, and Puerto Rico, and used radio and television to reach unchurched people. In 2002, Doug was a recipient of a Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant to help fund a three-and-a-half month sabbatical in the summer of 2003 that included time to study spirituality and ministry as well travel in England, Wales, Scotland, and France.

AUGUST 26 – **Bishop Peter Weaver** was born a parsonage family in Greenville, PA. He holds degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan College, Drew University, and Boston University. He has also received honorary Doctorates from Lebanon Valley College and Albright College. In 2004, Bishop Weaver was assigned to the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, which includes 550 congregations, in five states, committed to a vision of being “Transformed by the Holy Spirit...as we boldly proclaim Christ to the world.” In support of this vision, the Conference has reorganized itself in a more flexible, collaborative way for resourcing congregations and empowering District ministries. Over 15 million dollars has been committed in support of new congregations, the vitality of existing congregations, four camping and retreat centers, care for retired clergy, and international partnerships with West Angola and Nicaragua. Along with a number of boards and committees, Bishop Weaver serves on the Board of Boston University. He is making his Ocean debut this summer.

SEPTEMBER 2 – **Dr. William C. Imes** is the President of Bangor Theological Seminary, with campuses in Bangor and Portland. He has served two parishes in rural Iowa and one in Maine. He came to Maine in 1985, where he served as Pastor of First Parish Church (UCC) in Brunswick until 2001. He is a member of Bangor Rotary, The Bangor Mechanics Association, and the Board of Directors of the United Way of Eastern Maine. He is also a Board Member of the Center for the Prevention of Hate Violence.

In 2007 Ocean Park, a Chautauqua community, marks its 127th season of providing cultural, educational, religious, and recreational programs. Visit the website at www.oceanpark.org.

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