



**DUKE  
DIVINITY  
SCHOOL**

**LIBRARY**

**CONSECRATION AND RIBBON CUTTING  
CEREMONY**

**FOR THE NEWLY RENOVATED PORTION OF  
THE DIVINITY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2015**

**6: 30 PM**

**6:00-6:30 A BRIEF RECEPTION IN THE JORDAN ROOM  
WITH SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF THE NEW SPACES AND  
GALLERY EXHIBIT PRECEDES THE CEREMONY.**



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REMARKS AND CEREMONY 6:30-6:45 IN THE REFERENCE ROOM

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### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT (LISTED IN PROGRAM)

Dr. Beth M. Sheppard, Associate Professor for the Practice of Theological Bibliography and Director of the Divinity Library

### BRIEF COMMENTS

Richard H. Brodhead, President of Duke University and the William Preston Few Professor of English

Richard B. Hays, Dean of the Divinity School (2010-2015) and the George Washington Ivey Professor of New Testament

Roger Loyd, Emeritus Professor of Theological Bibliography and Director of the Divinity Library 1992-2012

### The Ceremony and Blessing:

#### TRANSFER OF THE SPACE INTO THE CARE OF THE DIVINITY SCHOOL.

**Beth Sheppard, Divinity Library Director:** Dear friends, without a doubt books and the library buildings that house them are repositories for words. Within the context of a theological library, however, we recognize that yes, words are many, but there is one true Word, our lord and savior Jesus Christ. Thus it is fitting and right

that we have gathered together to seek God's blessing upon these newly renovated library rooms, which by the favor of God and human labor have been made ready.

**President Brodhead:** On behalf of Duke University, it is my great pleasure to present these refurbished study and learning spaces to Duke Divinity School that they may serve as a resource as the Divinity School pursues its mission. May the faculty, students, and visitors to the Divinity School Library find opportunities in these spaces to learn, research, grow in community, and be inspired.

**Interim Dean Ellen Davis:** On behalf of Duke Divinity School we accept these transformed library spaces, and give thanks to the glory of almighty God for the mercy and goodness of God's loving care. We pledge to use this reference room, reading lounge, seminar room, gallery, and doctoral suite as spaces in which to cultivate a vibrant community and to engage in spiritually disciplined and academically rigorous education in service and witness to the Triune God in the midst of the church, the academy, and the world.

**Members of the Board of Visitors of the Divinity School:** We rejoice that this section of the library facility has received new life and pray for God's care on all of those who come to the Duke Divinity Library to pursue knowledge and seek to better understand their faith.

**Everyone in Attendance:** We are thankful for God's bounty. We will be good stewards of these spaces and pray that all who use them and also those who are charged with their daily upkeep and maintenance experience our love and support.

**CONSECRATION AND BLESSING OF THE SPACE – MEGHAN BENSON  
(CHAPLAIN, DIVINITY SCHOOL)**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit we consecrate this refurbished portion of the Duke Divinity School Library to the Glory of God.

Let us bow our heads in prayer.

Most loving God, grant to this library the grace of your presence and bless, now, these rooms.

Bless all of those who study, read, learn and socialize here that they may grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we all be teachers and learners together.

Bless also those who clean and care for these spaces. May they know your power and love.

Bless the librarians who administrate and provide programming and services in these spaces and guide them in their work.

Bless each of us gathered here today, may we all be channels of your grace and mercy.

We pray these things through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**RIBBON CUTTING**

**BENEDICTION** Beth M. Sheppard

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A Closed Business Dinner for Members of the Board of Visitors follows in the Reference Room at 7PM.

**Note on the Gallery Exhibit *Illumination of the Psalms* by Natasha Sudderth-Schoonover:** What is it within us that seeks to express with colorful words the condition of what is hidden in our hearts? The goal of this project is to illuminate select Psalms with reference to worship traditions and culture in the Appalachian Mountains.

## **WITH SPECIAL APPRECIATION TO**

- Richard B. Hays
- Deborah Jakubs
- Divinity Library Staff Members: Anne Marie Boyd, Phu Nguyen, Kenneth Woo, Joshua Leto
- Clint Sharp
- Terry Hall
- Roger Loyd
- Jeff Mimnaugh
- Ron Djuren
- A. Ashley Jackson
- Faculty representatives on the Divinity Library Advisory Council for years 2012, 13, 14, and 15.
- Stephen Gunter
- Dan Struble
- Rob Knebel
- Ann Elsner
- Natasha Sudderth-Schoonover
- Shepley-Bulfinch
- LendLease
- Divinity Student Government Officers

Many, many others who contributed in ways large and small to the success of this project. We are grateful.