History

Grace Baptist Church started the lectures series in 2002 to offer the community a concentrated study of scripture that includes current topics, serious inquiry and honest dialogue. Dr. Richard T. Davis, a retired minister and chaplain from Durham, led the first series. In honor of his efforts and commitment to the endeavor, the congregation named the series for him and his wife - the Richard and Barbara Davis Lectures Series.

Since that time, the following speakers have participated:

2003	Phyllis Trible, professor and author https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyllis_Trible
2004	Ken Sehested, activist, minister and author https://www.facebook.com/kensehested/
2005	Charles Page, archeologist/historian, minister and author https://www.linkedin.com/in/charles-page-6b233abb/
2006	Charles Kimball, professor and author https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/When_Religion_Becomes_Evil
2007	Mary McClintock Fulkerson, professor and author https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_McClintock_Fulkerson
2008	Dr. Steve Shoemaker, author and minister https://shoemakersstudy.com/
2009	Greg Snyder, professor and author https://www.davidson.edu/people/greg-snyder
2010	Nancy Hastings Sehested, preacher, storyteller and prison chaplain https://www.amazon.com/dp/1626983348?lv=shuf&channelId=500&plpRedirect=mhFallback
2011	John Dominic Crossan, professor and author https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dominic_Crossan
2012	James M. Dunn and Melissa Rogers, professors and authors https://www.facebook.com/wakediv/posts/wakediv-will-never-forget-the-legacy-and-work-of-dr-james-dunn-in-professor-emer/10157658690969203/ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melissa_Rogers
2013	Lauren Winner, author and minister https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lauren_Winner
2014	James Tabor, archeologist, professor and author https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Tabor
2015	Tim Tyson, professor and author https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_Tyson
2016	Judith Schindler, rabbi and professor https://judyschindler.com/
2017	Dr. Steve Shoemaker, author, minister and professor https://shoemakersstudy.com/
2018	Nancy Hastings Sehested, minister, storyteller and teacher https://www.amazon.com/dp/1626983348?lv=shuf&channelId=500&plpRedirect=mhFallback
2019	Dr. Gary West, teacher, preacher, and storyteller https://statesville.com/news/after-15-years-gary-west-retiring-as-pastor-of-grace-baptist/article_7e1dbff8-6473-11e6-9972-4789d738afe4.html
2022	Dr. Jonathan Walton, Dean of the School of Divinity at Wake Forest University https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_L._Walton
2023	Dr. Dianna Butler Bass, author, popular speaker, and commentator on religion https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diana_Butler_Bass
2023	Brian McLaren, author, and leading figure in the emerging church movement https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brian_McLaren
2023	Dr. Bill Leonard, Professor of Divinity Emeritus at Wake Forest University https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_J._Leonard
2024	Dr. Obery Hendricks, foremost commentator of religion and political economy in America, Columbia University https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obery_M._Hendricks_Jr.
2024	Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, distinguished professor of New Testament and Jewish studies
2024	Rev. Dr. Amy Butler - One of the finest preacher in the country, voicing a prophetic and progressive Christian faith deeply relevant to our times https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy_Butler_(minister)
2025	Rev. Dr. Starlette Thomas - Poet, author, activist, and race abolitionist https://www.linkedin.com/in/starlette-thomas-1734321a7/
2025	Dr. Corey D.B. Walker - Acclaimed scholar and academic leader and Dean of WFU School of Divinity https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corey_D._B._Walker
2026	Kristin Kobes Du Mez, New York Times bestselling author speaking on her new book, Live Laugh Love: The Secret History of White Christian Women and the World They Made https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristin_Kobes_Du_Mez
2026	Dr. Omid Safi, professor of Islamic Studies at Duke University https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omid_Safi

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