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Office of University Communications, "C.O. and Eliza Greene Lectureship to Feature Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director" (2013). *Gardner-Webb NewsCenter Archive*. 1683.
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C.O. and Eliza Greene Lectureship to Feature Baptist Joint Committee Executive Director

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Office of University Communications

March 5, 2013

Dr. J. Brent Walker to Deliver Lecture on March 25 at Gardner-Webb University

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity will present a unique lecture on religious liberty and church-state separation as part of the annual C.O. and Eliza Greene Endowed Lectureship series, on March 25 from 9:15 a.m. – 3 p.m. in Stewart Hall of Tucker Student Center. Dr. J. Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee, will serve as the keynote speaker for the event.

Walker is the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) in Washington, D.C. A graduate of the University of Florida, and Stetson University College of Law, located in Tampa Bay, Fla., Walker is a member of the Supreme Court Bar and an ordained minister.

The BJC is an organization that fights to uphold the historic Baptist principle of religious freedom that is neither advanced nor inhibited by government. Protecting the liberty of the First Amendment is one of the organization's specific interests.

“Dr. Walker, an attorney and ordained Baptist minister, has worked in the sensitive area of church-state relations for over a generation,” said Rev. John Bridges, GWU Assistant Vice President of Advancement for Religious Studies. “His office literally looks out at the Capitol dome, the Supreme Court, and the Hart Senate office building in downtown Washington. In an era when church-state relations are misunderstood and often misused, Brent Walker's voice is one of clarity amidst the confusion. His teaching will be of significant value, particularly closely following a national election cycle.”

The C.O. and Eliza Greene Endowed Lectureship was established in 1993 in honor of the Reverend and Mrs. C.O. Greene of Lawndale, N.C. C.O. Greene served for 14 years as the director of missions for the Kings Mountain Baptist Association. Prior to that ministry, he served as pastor of six churches, four within Cleveland County and two in North Carolina. The lectureship is administered by the GWU School of Divinity's Center for Congregational Enrichment and is funded by family members, friends, and members of churches where Greene served as pastor. Established to preserve the legacy of excellence that characterized Greene's ministry, the lectureship addresses various dimensions of pastoral ministry.

For additional information or to register for this upcoming event, contact Lisa Hollifield, GWU School of Divinity, at 704-406-3855.

The Pittman Center for Congregational Enrichment aims to offer educational and enrichment opportunities for both laity and clergy who are not enrolled as degree-seeking students in the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity. The Center's goal is to be a full-service provider to the churches by delivering a full range of support services to congregations through classes, seminars, and conferences on the Gardner-Webb University campus, at various off-campus sites, and through online continuing education opportunities for growth in ministry.