2015

Forster-Smith's "College and University Chaplaincy in the 21st Century" (Book Review)

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College and University Chaplaincy in the 21st Century,
edited by Dr. Lucy A. Forster-Smith. Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths Publishing,

Reviewed by Erin H. McCoy, Librarian for Instruction and Digital Media,
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“Diverse” is the single word to describe this collection of essays put together by Dr.
Forster-Smith. The authors – all practicing university chaplains – offer a range of
perspectives and experience based on institutional affiliation, religious affiliation, and
gender. There is an essay from Reverend Gail Bowman (Dillard University) about
how to “chaplain” during a time of true crisis and displacement from Hurricane
Katrina. There is a section of four essays to explore how to connect with college
students in a multi-faith context and how to balance assumptions about students’
faith journeys. Throughout all 17 essays is the constant refrain of defining what
a chaplain is and does, on any campus and in any context. The book provides a
glimpse into the lives and work of an office on campus whose entire existence is
focused on service, understanding and guidance.

The essays themselves are grouped into five sections: Chaplaincy and the Changing
World; Multifaith Chaplains, Multifaith Campuses; A Heart for the Community;
Caring at the Crossroads; and The Chaplain and the Secular. This collection offers a
unique look into world of higher education, a world where incoming students tend
to identify as “spiritual” but not “religious,” and is a valuable addition to any library’s
higher education collection.

Commentary on Hebrews: Biblical Theology for Christian Proclamation,
ISBN 9780805496130

Reviewed by Mark Sloneker, Associate Library Director, Ozark Christian College, Joplin, MO

Thomas Schreiner, a professor and associate dean of the School of Theology at
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, should be a familiar name among students
of theology and Christianity.

Schreiner states that his purpose in writing the commentary is: “to focus on the
letter’s biblical theology. The emphasis on biblical theology shows up especially in
the introduction and conclusion of this commentary where I consider theological