

THE MOBILE AREA JEWISH-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE

IS PROUD TO PRESENT

KRISTER STENDAHL

Bishop Stendahl is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Divinity Emeritus at Harvard University and Bishop Emeritus of Stockholm, Sweden.

December 5, 1995
Tuesday - 7:30 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
6100 Cottage Hill Road

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on December 5, 1995 as we welcome Bishop Krister Stendahl to Mobile. Bishop Stendahl was born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden and educated at Uppsala University. He finished his Th.D. degree in 1954 with a thesis on the Gospel of Matthew and the Dead Sea Scrolls. He came to Harvard Divinity School that year and remained there for 30 years, 11 of them as Dean. In 1984 he left Harvard to be bishop of his native Church of Sweden in his home town of Stockholm until his retirement in 1988. Back in Cambridge he served as chaplain to Harvard Divinity School from 1989 to 1991 and was the Myra and Robert Kraft and Jacob Hiatt Distinguished Professor of Christian Studies at Brandeis University from 1991-93.

His writings center in Biblical Studies, from which perspective he has addressed various issues of theology, history, the arts of ministry, and contemporary problems in church and society. Ever since his doctoral thesis he has pondered and sought to redefine the relation between Jews and Christians. From 1975-85 he chaired the work on The Church and the Jewish People in the World Council of Churches. Since the early '50s, he has written on the role of women in the Bible. Asked why Jews and women became such a focus for his biblical and theological work, he answered: "The Christian Bible includes sayings that have caused much pain both to Jews and to women. Thus I have felt called to seek forms of interpretation which can counteract such undesirable side effects of the Holy Scriptures."

Such an intention can be found as a red thread in his writings, including The School of Matthew, The Bible and the Role of Women, Holy Week, Paul Among the Jews and Gentiles, and the collection of essays called Meanings in which the diversity within the Bible is celebrated as an asset to the faith and to ecumenical Christianity. So also in Energy for Life, and in his comments on Romans, called Final Account.

Bishop Stendahl is Co-director of the Osher Center for Tolerance and Pluralism at the Shalom-Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. He and his wife Brita reside in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Please join us in welcoming Bishop Stendahl to Mobile.

Shalom,

Mary & Paul Filben