

2011 MAHLE LECTURE IN PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN THOUGHT



# Holy Food & Groceries

How Feeding and Healing Transforms Lives

*guest lecturer* **Sara Miles**

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 7:30 p.m.

Sundin Music Hall, Hamline University, 1531 Hewitt Ave., Saint Paul 55104  
Free to the public. Parking is available in the Drew Lot, one block east of Sundin along Hewitt Avenue.

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Early one morning, for no earthly reason, Sara Miles wandered into a church and received communion. She found herself transformed—embracing a faith she'd once scorned as a skeptic intellectual. A lesbian leftwing journalist who had covered revolutions around the world, Sara didn't discover a religion that was about angels or good behavior or piety; her faith centered on real hunger, real food, and real bodies. Before long, she turned the bread that satisfied her deep hunger into tons of groceries served around the communion table. Launched in 2000, The Food Pantry now registers more than 1,200, serving up to 600 a week and relying only on donations. Since The Food Pantry's founding, Sara and volunteers have launched 18 pantries in the poorest parts of San Francisco.

The Food Pantry continues its mission of "Peace on Earth & Food for All." On Fridays at St. Gregory's, 50 volunteers sit down for a meal together cooked by their priest, Paul Fromberg. Following dinner, they pack up free food for whoever comes through the open church doors. Families select the food they need from a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, bread, rice, pasta, beans, and cereal served farmers-market style. Through this hospitality, the volunteers create a community that shares the unconditional welcome of Jesus' table.

Sara Miles will also present free workshops for clergy and congregations:

**"Glorifying the Stranger: Changing How We See Inside and Outside"**

Sunday, February 27, 5-8 p.m.

**"Bread of Heaven and Daily Bread: The Integral Nature of Worship and Service"**

Wednesday, March 2, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Workshops will be held at Hamline Church, 1514 Englewood Ave., Saint Paul. RSVP to the Wesley Center, 651-523-2878 or wesleycenter.hu@gmail.com.

SARA MILES serves as director of ministry at St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco where she founded The Food Pantry to increase food access for hungry people. In her bestselling memoir, *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*, she tells the story of The Food Pantry and how she "inconveniently" converted to Christianity. Her most recent book, *Jesus Freak: Feeding, Healing, Raising the Dead*, continues the story of, as she says, "holy groceries." Sara speaks, preaches and leads workshops around the country, challenging congregations: "It takes so little to see God in this world. You just have to open the door."

A war correspondent, cook, and poet, Sara also is the author of *How to Hack a Party Line: The Democrats and Silicon Valley* and coeditor of *Directed by Desire: The Collected Poems of June Jordan* and the anthology *Opposite Sex: Gay Men on Lesbians, Lesbians on Gay Men*. Her articles have appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *OUT*, *The Progressive*, *La Jornada*, and *Salon*. She has been an editor and writer for the website of FRONTLINE/World, where she has contributed extensively on military affairs, politics, and culture. Sara lives with her partner and daughter in San Francisco.