

# *An Altar in the World:* *A Geography of Faith* *a book to guide our retreat*

In her critically acclaimed memoir *Leaving Church*, Taylor wrote about leaving parish ministry to become a teacher, a decision that rearranged everything from her wardrobe to her faith. Now in her stunning follow-up, *An Altar in the World*, she reveals how she learned to encounter the God who does not live in church.

Describing spiritual practices as basic as walking, carrying water, being with other people, and saying blessings, she calls conventional distinctions between the sacred and the secular into question. Delving into darker practices of getting lost, falling ill, feeling pain, and grieving loss, she challenges the notion that God does God's best work in the light. Throughout this richly personal narrative, she suggests that no physical act is too earthbound to become a path to the divine. The world is full of altars, she says, for those willing to welcome the truth that comes to them in the flesh.

## **About the Author:**



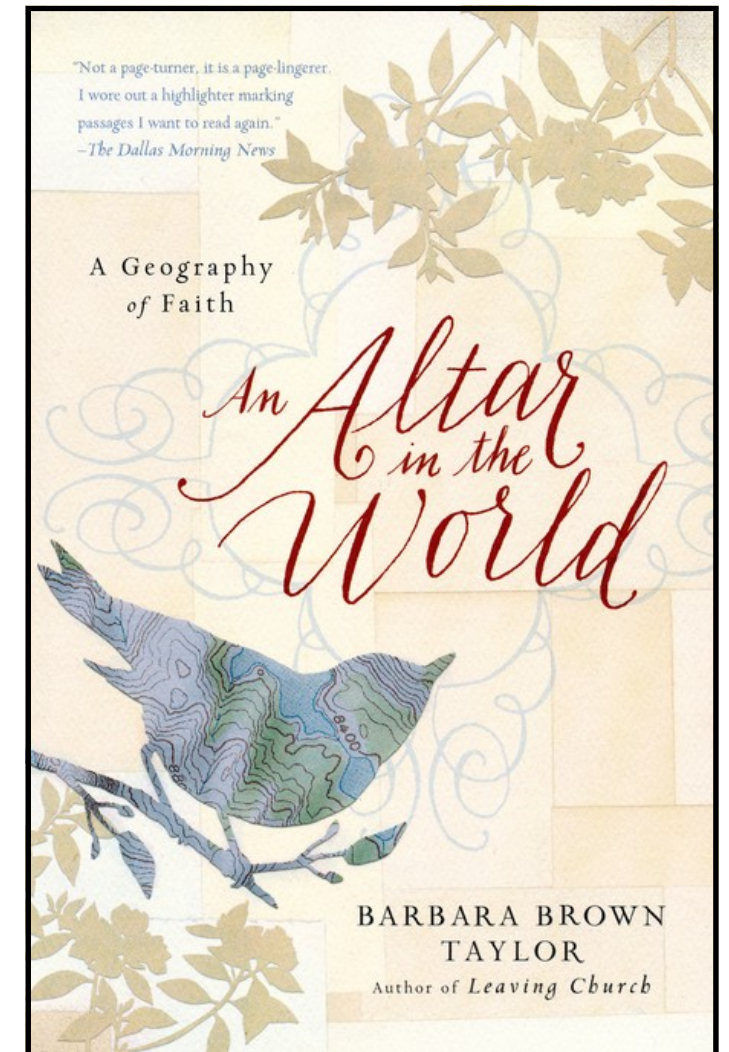
Barbara Brown Taylor teaches religion at Piedmont College in Georgia and is an adjunct professor of spirituality at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur. An Episcopal priest since 1984, she is the author of twelve books. Her first memoir, *Leaving Church*, met with widespread critical acclaim, winning a 2006 Author of the Year award from the Georgia Writers Association. A contributing editor to *Sojourners* and an at-large editor for *The Christian Century*, Taylor and her husband Ed live on a working farm in the foothills of the Appalachians.

*... paying attention requires no equipment, no special clothes . . . You do not even have to be in particularly good shape. All you need is a body on this earth, willing to notice where it is, trusting that even something as small as a hazelnut can become an altar in this world.*



Lake Shore Baptist Church  
5801 Bishop Drive  
Waco, Texas 76710

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## *Women's Retreat* *Lake Shore Baptist Church*

February 17-19, 2012  
Cedarbrake Retreat Center  
Belton, Texas



The invitation to living in the world with all our senses engaged is an invitation to draw closer to the heart of God. When we say “yes” to that invitation and immerse ourselves in daily life, places that otherwise might seem unremarkable shine with the holy. Who knows where we’ll see God?

You are invited to join us for a weekend at Cedarbrake as we look at spiritual practices that ground us in the geographical landmarks of our lives. We’ll pay attention not only to practices that help us *see*, but, most importantly, to those that help us *be* God’s transformed creations.

Lake Shore has a rich history of women’s retreats, with each one providing a chance to rest and attend to the sacred in community, reflection, worship, meals, and friendship. The book *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor will provide wise and authentic counsel on returning to our altars, the places we raise up to mark our experiences of faith.



*The treasure we seek requires  
no lengthy expedition,  
no expensive equipment,  
no superior aptitude  
or special company.*

*All we lack is the willingness to imagine that we  
already have everything we need. The only thing  
missing is our consent to be where we are.*

### Schedule & Cost

1. A non-refundable deposit of \$50, due October 2, will secure your place.
2. The remaining balance is due January 31.
3. Books are not part of the registration cost and paperbacks can be purchased at Barnes & Noble for about \$8.

The retreat begins with supper on Friday night and ends at noon on Sunday. The cost includes two nights’ lodging (linens included), five meals, and program supplies. Cedarbrake provides private or shared rooms, so please indicate your choice on the attached registration form and return it by October 2, along with your payment. You may also print this brochure online at [lakeshorewaco.org](http://lakeshorewaco.org).

### Transportation

Participants can carpool or drive themselves; transportation is not provided by the church. More information and directions to Cedarbrake will be sent just prior to the retreat.



Contact the church office if you have questions  
or would like more information

772-2910 \* [lbaptistchurch@bot.rr.com](mailto:lbaptistchurch@bot.rr.com)

All quotes in brochure from *An Altar in the World*.

# An Altar in the World

## 2012 Women’s Retreat Registration Form

Please return registration form and deposit  
to Lake Shore Baptist Church by October 2, 2011.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



### Choose One:

**Single Room**  
(\$160 total cost; \$50 by Oct 2, \$110 by Jan 31)

**Double Room**  
(\$135 total cost each; \$50 by Oct 2, \$85 by Jan 31)

I will room with \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit (non-refundable due by Oct 2) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 50

Additional Fund Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Initial Payment Amount & Date Paid:

*(You are welcome to pay the total cost now.)*

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

date paid \_\_\_\_\_

Remaining Balance (due by Jan 31) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance Payment Amount & Date Paid:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

date paid \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to Lake Shore Baptist Church.  
Rate includes two nights’ lodging, five meals, and program supplies.*

I require the following dietary restrictions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*When I am fully alert to whatever or  
whoever is right in front of me; when I  
am electrically aware of the tremendous  
gift of being alive; when I am able to give  
myself wholly to the moment I am in, then  
I am in prayer. Prayer is happening, and  
it is not necessarily something that I am  
doing. God is happening, and I am lucky  
enough to know that I am in The Midst.*