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## Samuel Christian Schumcker's Christian Vocation

A free lecture sponsored by the Pennsylvania Chautauqua and the Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science

**Featured speaker: Dr. Edward B. Davis, Distinguished Professor of the History of Science, Messiah College**



Eighty years ago **Samuel Christian Schumcker** was one of the most widely known science writers and lecturers in the United States. Born into the most important American Lutheran family of the 19th Century, his grandfather founded the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg and his father founded the competing Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia. Choosing science instead of the church for his own career, S. C. Schumcker wrote five books about evolution, eugenics, religion, and the environment for major publishing houses—including two titles that were used nationally as texts by the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. Although he would become one of the most popular speakers at the original Chautauqua in New York, he actually made his Chautauqua debut at Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania, no later than July 1896. Over the next forty years, Schumcker appeared all across the nation while teaching at West Chester State Normal School (now West Chester University). The comforting message he brought to a very large audience of ordinary people was one of the fundamental harmony of science and religion—a message whose spirit, though not necessarily its specific content, would have pleased the distinguished Lutheran pastors whose name he bore. In short, Schumcker viewed teaching, speaking, and writing about science as a religious vocation.



**Friday, July 16, 2010, at 10:00 am. Location: Chautauqua Hall of Philosophy, Mt Gretna, PA.**

Dr. Edward (“Ted”) Davis is Distinguished Professor of the History of Science at Messiah College. With the English historian Michael Hunter, he edited a complete, 14-volume edition of *The Works of Robert Boyle*. He has also written dozens of articles about important aspects of the history of Christianity and science for academic journals and popular magazines, including an essay on modern Jonah stories has been featured on two radio programs from the British Broadcasting Company. In his spare time, he enjoys cycling, films, and baseball.



The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science is based at Messiah College. For details about all Forum events, please visit <http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/> or contact Dr. Ted Davis ([tdavis@messiah.edu](mailto:tdavis@messiah.edu)), 717-766-2511, ext 6840.

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