New in the Resource Center, 2026-Nov-11 (Southern Shepherds, Savage Wolves – Pickett)

Pickett, Otis Westbrook. ***Southern Shepherds, Savage Wolves: Presbyterian Domestic Missionaries and Race in South Carolina, 1802-1874***. Columbia, SC, University of South Carolina Press, 2025. (266.51757 Pickett)

Presbyterian Church missionaries and the theology of race, enslavement, and Native American removal.

“Otis Westbrook Pickett Sr. examines Presbyterian missionaries' attempts to live up to their understood calling from their God to serve as shepherds for their congregations. These missionaries, Pickett finds, faltered in this duty when faced with the racial hierarchy of an enslaved society. He focuses on individual missionaries, most prominently John Lafayette Girardeau and T.C. Stuart, who attempted to integrate enslaved, and later freed, men and women into the church. By examining these missionaries and mission churches, Pickett sheds new light not only on the complicated role that religion played in shaping slavery and Native American removal in the US South but also the fate of these ideas in the crucible of war and its aftermath."

—Provided by publisher

The author is university historian and clinical assistant professor in the College of Education at Clemson University. He holds an MA from Covenant Theological Seminary, an MA in history from College of Charleston, and a PhD in history from University of Mississippi. He is a member of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church in Clemson.

On October 26, 2025, Dr. Pickett spoke about responding as Christians to his book’s topic. A 49-minute video of his presentation can be viewed on Fort Hill Presbyterian’s YouTube channel.

