

Hood's Herald

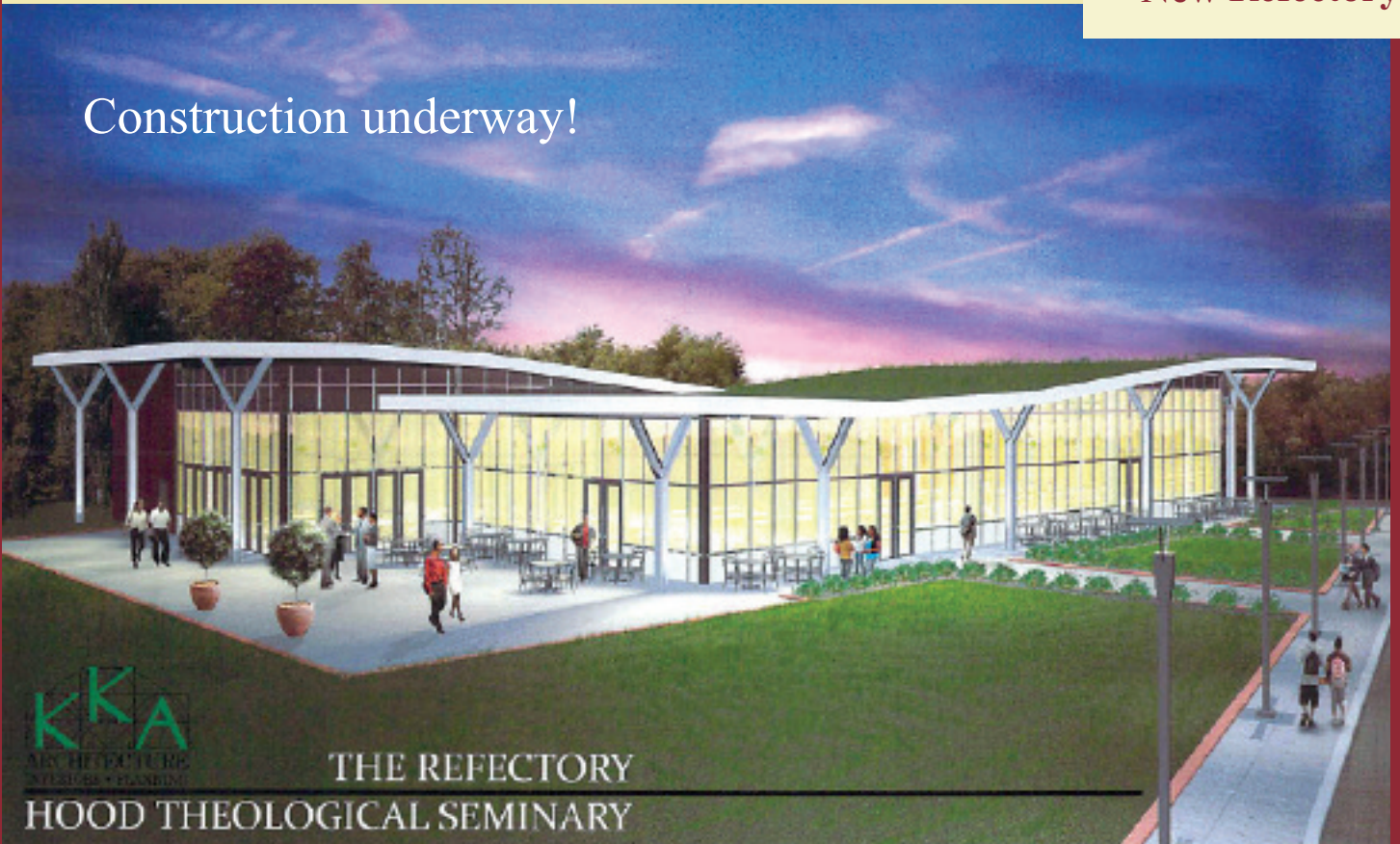
A publication of Hood Theological Seminary

Vol. XI, No. 1 Winter 2012



**Ground Breaking
in July for the
New Refectory**

Construction underway!



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A Message from the President

Dear friends, loyal supporters, alumni and colleagues,
Warmest Holiday greetings to you and your families from Hood Theological Seminary!

As this year draws to a close and we prepare to celebrate the holy seasons of Advent, Hanukkah, and Christmas, I hope you will take a few moments out of your busy holiday schedules to relax and enjoy reading about our outstanding students, the successes of our alumni, and our excellent faculty members. This issue of *Hood's Herald* proudly spotlights several new faces at Hood as well as some very familiar faces.



I am also quite pleased to share with you the following milestones of 2012 which continue to strengthen the reputation of this theological seminary and graduate school.

- Among this year's outstanding team of faculty members are graduates of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Duke, Drew, Emory, Vanderbilt and Union.
- Thanks to your generosity and that of others, the new refectory is soon to be a reality. Construction has begun and we are working steadfastly to complete our fund raising goal of \$2.85m. Many of you have made a generous pledge or gift to the Refectory Campaign and we are eternally grateful to you for those gifts.
- In October, the annual Reuben L. Speaks Lecture Series featured Dr. Martin Marty, one of the most prominent interpreters of religion and culture today, and we had a record number of attendees from outside the seminary community at each of his three lectures.
- The number of individuals entering our Doctor of Ministry program this past semester was the largest in the 12 year history of the doctoral program and the independence of the Seminary.

We do not take for granted these accomplishments. Along with institutional success and excellence comes a major responsibility of continuing that success and maintaining that excellence. It is therefore incumbent on the seminary to reach out at the end of each year to our loyal supporters and friends and ask for donations for the annual fund. In actuality, our Annual Fund Drive is the most important fund-raising effort we do as we do not receive any government funding. We are tuition driven and it is imperative that we keep our tuition and fees at affordable rates for our seminary students in these uncertain economic times. As you look at your end of the year giving, we humbly ask for your thoughtful consideration of helping with the daily operation of the seminary through a generous gift to our annual fund. Please remember, no gift is ever too small and none too large! We pledge to you and all our donors that we will use your gift wisely to enable us to exercise faithfully the ministry of Christ through this seminary. We thank you in anticipation of your partnership with us.

Please accept this copy of our *Hood's Herald* as our 2012 Christmas card and as an expression of appreciation for your love and support of the work we are doing at HTS to prepare men and women for effective ministry.

"Wishing You a Very Blessed Christmas" and much happiness in 2013,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Albert J. D. Aymer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Albert J. D. Aymer
President

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On the cover: (top) President Aymer, members of the Hood Seminary Board of Trustees, members of the A. M. E. Zion Board of Bishops, architect Karen



Alexander and Salisbury Mayor Paul Woodson break ground for the new refectory in July. The ground breaking was scheduled the day before the opening of the A.M.E. Zion Church's Quadrennial General Conference in Charlotte, NC.

(bottom) Architect's rendering of the new refectory.

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Hood Theological Seminary, sponsored by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) and is approved for the preparation of United Methodist clergy by the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Vergel L. Lattimore, Ph.D. is Hood Seminary's First Vice President



Dr. Vergel Lattimore has been appointed the Seminary's first Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counseling. In making the announcement, Dr. Aymer said, "This is an important milestone in the history of this graduate school and seminary as Dr. Lattimore is the first person ever to serve as a Vice President of this institution."

Aymer went on to add, "We are indeed fortunate and proud to have a person with the credentials and reputation of Vergel Lattimore as a member of the Seminary community. He is highly regarded as an outstanding scholar, leader, and pastoral counselor throughout the country within institutions of higher learning, and the AME Zion and United Methodist church communities. Dr. Lattimore strengthens our ability to continue growing the reputation of HTS as one of the most diverse and outstanding seminaries in the country."

Lattimore is a native of Charlotte, NC and received his primary and secondary education in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. In 1975 he received the B.A. from Livingstone College. He was awarded the M. Div. from Duke University Divinity School and holds a Ph.D. in Pastoral Psychology and Counseling from Northwestern University. He is a 1998 graduate of the Air War College, Air University,

Maxwell AFB in Alabama and served in the Air National Guard as Assistant to the Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Air Force, Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, DC from 2003 to 2005. Dr. Lattimore was the first African American chaplain to attain the rank of Brigadier General in the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard.

He is an ordained Elder in the AME Zion Church. He is Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Care and Counseling and former Director of the M.A. in Counseling Ministries, Methodist Theological School in Ohio from 1990-2012.

Lattimore has addressed national professional associations, colleges, seminaries, universities, churches, schools, judicatories, government and community-based agencies, correctional institutions, military groups, and human rights organizations throughout the country. He has participated in the Hartford Seminary Leadership Education Program for Seminary and Ecumenical Executives sponsored by the Lilly Endowment and was the Richard A. Goodling Memorial Lecturer at the Duke University Divinity School.

He is well published and has written articles on community mental health services, pastoral counseling and cultural values, and addiction ministry and social change. He is a published poet in *Beyond the Stars* (1995/96), National Library of Poetry. He served as a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Ministry in Addiction & Recovery* from 1996 to 2004.

Dr. Lattimore is married to the former Joy R. Powell and they have three adult children. His special interests include biking, chess, and jazz.

Seminary Launches New Initiative

Collaborating for Theological Education and Church Leadership for the Future

Hood Theological Seminary (HTS) will launch a new networking and collaborative initiative in January, 2013. The program – *Hood Enrollment Legacy Program (HELP)* is more than a recruitment drive. HELP is focused on building lasting bridges of communication and cooperation to foster interest and awareness of the dynamic fields of ministry vocations and the advantages of a solid theological education. The program is designed to be national in scope and will have the following three emphases:

- 1) Collaborate with Enrollment Staff and alumni/ae in identifying and nurturing future theological scholars and religious leaders for study at HTS;
- 2) Represent HTS at selected Conferences and Graduate School Fairs within a commuting distance in a state or local geographical region; and
- 3) Encourage prospective students to explore ministerial and other religious vocations by directly linking them with HTS faculty or by arranging a personalized campus visit.

Ultimately, the HELP expands the mission of HTS by enlarging the network of individuals who are committed to discipleship for the next generation of spiritual leaders.

For more information about this program and to become an active participant, please contact Angela Davis-Baxter, Director of Admission and Recruitment (Email: adavisbaxter@hoodseminary.edu; Phone: 704-636-6023) or Dr. Vergel Lattimore, Vice President of Academic Affairs/ Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counseling (Email: vlattimore@hoodseminary.edu).

New Life - HTS student profile

Accident victim survives odds, finds joy in leading churches

Excerpts from a story by Annette Spence, reprinted with permission from *The Call*, Holston Conference, United Methodist Church. (Ms. Spence, editor of *The Call*, is not related to the Rev. Scott Spence.)

Scott Spence was a 25 year-old welder when his life was forever changed by a boiler that burst and blew scalding steam into the coal pit where he was working. The force of the blast knocked Spence to the ground, and all of his exposed skin – face, neck, wrists, back of his hands – was instantly burned. The rest of him began to burn when his protective clothing became saturated, cooling and melting on his body.

“I knew my life was in danger,” says Spence, who until then felt he had “the world by the tail.” He cried out to God: “Oh Almighty God, don’t let me die. Not like this.”

Today, people who get close enough can see evidence of the November 1993 accident that left Scott Spence with a five percent chance of survival. “The scars are there, but you don’t see them when you’re with him,” says the Rev. Brenda Carroll. She was Abingdon (Va.) district superintendent when Spence first knew God wanted him to become a pastor. Most people only notice the dark prescription glasses that protect his eyes, Carroll says. Then they notice his humility and depth of faith. “That’s just part of who he is – being humble before God.”

For the last nine years, the former welder has served as pastor at his first appointment, the North Keywood Circuit, which includes Blackwell Chapel United Methodist Church and Mahanaim UMC. Together, the two churches have grown from 60 in total worship attendance to 150.

The parishioners say the pastor has grown along with their churches, while the now 43-year-old pastor says the parishioners have “loved and supported him” all the way. “Scott has a huge place in his life for the holy spirit,” said Carroll. “When you have two churches with spirit, and you put somebody like Scott in there, things are going to happen.”

“If not for his testimony, Scott would be just another victim of a bad accident,” said Tim Kelly, lay leader at Mahanaim. “Not everybody wears his scars as a testimony to the Lord. When you’ve got that kind of leadership and members who are willing to work, people will see the church as active and be drawn to it.”

Burn Survivor

In the instant after he called out to God from a coal chute in 1993, the seriously injured young man felt an unusual calm. He found the strength to climb 15 feet up a

ladder where his screaming, scared co-workers were waiting to help. “I was blind, I couldn’t see, but I could hear voices,” Spence remembers. He lost consciousness and was unresponsive for five days on life support. His 24 year-old wife, Diane, was informed her husband had a minimal chance of living – but needed surgery to survive even a few more days. The couple would endure 18 more surgeries, 176 hours on the operating table, three months in the hospital, and 18 months of physical therapy. Scott survived renal failure, sepsis, pneumonia, and of course, brutal pain from burn treatment and reconstructive surgeries.

Throughout the recovery, several miraculous moments left friends and family convinced of God’s presence – like the day a nurse confirmed, to Scott’s great disappointment, that he would not regain his sight. “When he gets real quiet, I know he’s thinking,” Diane said. “What he was doing was saying a simple prayer for his vision. Scott’s eyes were stitched shut, and they had put a lot of this gooey medicine on them to help them heal,” Diane remembers. At that moment, a stitch broke loose and Scott wiped some of the medicine from his eyes. “Diane, I can read the clock on the wall,” Scott said. “Come over here and let me look at you.”

Discovering Church

As a child, Spence attended a Baptist church but “drifted away from the church as a teenager.” His wife’s parents were members at Mahanaim. Before the accident, the young couple “didn’t make time for church,” Scott admits. After the accident, they visited churches and found a home at Robert’s Chapel UMC in Broadford, Va. There, Scott discovered joy in teaching Sunday school and working with the youth. He used his lay-speaker training to share his story with both religious and secular groups. He was encouraged by his pastors, the Rev. Bill Cahill, and



New Life, continued on page 18

Faculty News

Dr. Trevor Eppheimer named Associate Dean of Academic Affairs



Dr. Trevor Eppheimer has been appointed Associate Academic Dean. When announcing the appointment, President Albert Aymer commented: "Our seminary and graduate school students are fortunate to have had this bright young scholar and theologian as one of their professors for the last five years. Now we are all blessed to have his services as the Associate Academic Dean of the school."

Dr. Eppheimer has been Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Hood Theological Seminary since 2007. Prior to becoming Associate Academic Dean, he served as Director of the Masters of Theological Studies Program at Hood.

A native of Phoenix, AZ, Eppheimer received his bachelor's degree from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN in 1995; a master of divinity degree in 1999 from Yale Divinity School; and a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 2006.

He is a member of First United Methodist Church in Salisbury where he has served as an Adult Education Instructor. He also serves as a member of the Education Committee for the Center for Faith and the Arts.

Dr. Eppheimer and his wife, Victoria, have two children and live in Salisbury.

New Faculty Members

As returning students and new students arrive on campus for the fall semester, among the new faces they'll see are those of faculty members Dr. Eboni Marshall-Turman and Dr. Michael K. Turner. In announcing the addition of the two new faculty members, President Albert Aymer said, "We are very excited to have these two accomplished young professors as members of our distinguished faculty this year. Their primary disciplines will provide important dimensions in the education and preparation of our students as the future leaders of faith communities in today's complex world".

Dr. Eboni Marshall-Turman, Visiting Professor of Christian Ethics for the 2012-13 academic year, comes to us from Union Theological Seminary in New York City, the institution at which she earned her Ph.D. and served as adjunct professor of social ethics from 2010-12. Dr. Marshall-Turman is the youngest woman to be licensed and ordained to the Gospel Ministry by the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York, where she became the second



and youngest woman to preside over the ordinances in Abyssinian's 204-year history.

Prior to joining Abyssinian's ministerial staff, Dr. Marshall-Turman served as Intern Minister at Union Baptist

Church in Montclair, NJ. She was awarded the 2010 Rebirth Renaissance Award by the New York Urban League Young Professionals. In 2009, she was named one of The Network Journal's "40 Under Forty" and was featured in EBONY Magazine as one among Young Leaders under 30 Serving God and the community.

Dr. Marshall-Turman is a native New Yorker and currently resides in both Manhattan and Charlotte with her husband, Rossie E. Turman, III, Esq.

Dr. Michael K. Turner joined Hood's faculty as Associate Professor of the History of Christianity, coming to us from Misericordia University in Dallas, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Emory & Henry College in Emory, Virginia, where he received a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy (double major), magna cum laude, was a member of the Sigma Mu and Blue Keys Honors Fraternities and recipient of several scholarships and Religion and Philosophy awards.



He earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Emory University where he was awarded the Dean's Award (1997-2000). He also earned a Master of Arts in Religious Studies, and a Ph.D. in Religious Studies (Major Area: Historical Studies, Minor Area: Native American Religions) from Vanderbilt University where he was a Teaching Fellow in the History of Christianity. He was awarded full tuition scholarship while at Vanderbilt. In 1996 he was a visiting student at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Keble College, Oxford University.

He has served as pastor of The United Methodist Church in Pittston, PA since 2009 and New Bethel and Centenary United Methodist Churches in Tennessee from 2006-2009.

He and his wife, Stephanie, who is an RN at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro, reside in Salisbury.

Dr. Dora Mbuwayesango, Dean of Students and the George E. Battle Jr. Professor of Old Testament, was appointed during the General Conference of the Episcopal Church held in Indianapolis to serve on the *Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns* by the President of the House Deputies of the Episcopal Church.



Dr. Dora's term on this commission runs through 2018. It is the duty of the Commission to develop recommendations and strategies regarding common ministry opportunities and concerns with other Provinces of the Anglican Communion concerning the work of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion on issues of international peace with justice, and to make recommendations on these issues to the Presiding Bishop, the Executive Council, and the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the USA. Dr. Dora is a member of the Vestry of St. Lukes Episcopal Church in Salisbury.

Faculty Publications and Presentations

Dr. Trevor Eppheimer: On November 18, 2012 Dr. Eppheimer presented a paper titled "Domestic Insurgency or Foreign Invasion? John Milbank and J. Louis Martyn on Redemption and the 'Third Actor,'" at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. On March 5, 2012, he presented his paper "In Defense of Apocalyptic: The Implications of the Work of J. Christiaan Beker for Contemporary Christian Theology," at American Academy of Religion Southeastern Regional Meeting in Atlanta GA. He served as a presenter and panelist at a Catawba College Community Forum on the question "Why Are We Humans Selfish?" on November 15, 2011. At that event he presented a paper called "A Pauline Reflection on Selfishness/Original Sin." His essay on The Difference Heaven Makes: Rehearing the Gospel as News by Christopher Morse was published in *Theology Today* 68, no. 1 (2011).

Dr. Vergel Lattimore: In the short time since coming to Hood in July, Dr. Lattimore has added the following accomplishments to his name: completion of the State of Ohio renewal requirements as a Licensed Independent Marriage & Family Therapist; presentation on August 1, 2012 of a plenary briefing in Charlotte NC, sponsored by the National Association of Children of Alcoholics and the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, titled "Reflections on a Model Addiction Program in a Theological Context"; selection to Who's Who in Black Charlotte (Fourth Edition, 8/16/12); and appointment to the Board of Directors of Rowan Helping Ministries, Salisbury, NC on September 3, 2012. In addition, on September 23, 2012 Dr. Lattimore preached the sermon "Healing: Encountering Jesus on Our Journey to Recovery" and led a workshop entitled "Addictions: Why do We Love Them and Resent Them?!" as part of the Parker Teaching and Preaching Mission at First United Methodist Church in Salisbury. On September 19, 2012 he offered the closing prayer at the ground breaking ceremony for the new site of the Rowan Helping Ministries.

Dr. Dora Mbuwayesango: "Postcolonial Perspectives in African Biblical Interpretations, a 670 page volume co-edited by Dr. Mbuwayesango, has been published by the Society of Biblical Literature. Dr. Mbuwayesango will also participate in two panels at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting in Chicago IL: one on the theme The Bible and Colonialism: Africa and the Middle East, co-sponsored by the Bible in Racial, Ethnic, and Indigenous Communities Group and the SBL Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation Group, and another, sponsored by the Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion, on the theme "Feminist Studies in Religion Across Disciplines and Communities." Her essay, "The Circle's Contribution to HIV Discourse on the Global Level," was published in the

Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion 28, no.2 (2012). In addition, Dean Mbuwayesango was appointed by the President of the House Deputies of the Episcopal Church to serve on the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace and Justice Concerns until the close of the 79th General Convention in 2018.

Dr. Kendal Mobley: On September 14, 2012 Dr. Mobley gave the Opening Convocation Address at Hood Theological Seminary. The title of his address was "The Unhindered Gospel: Reflections on Christian Missions."

Dr. André Resner: Dr. Resner's article "Using Portfolios to Demonstrate Theological Competencies: The Capstone MDiv Course at Hood Theological Seminary," was published in *Teaching Theology and Religion* (Fall 2011). He also has several entries in the forthcoming *Feasting on the Gospels* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013). As Convener for the Pedagogy Work Group of the Academy of Homiletics, Dr. Resner recently completed editing the papers presented at the Annual Meeting of the Academy in Chicago November 15-17, 2012. As a work group convener, he also sits on the Executive Committee of the Academy of Homiletics.

Dr. Bradley Trick: On July 12, 2012 Dr. Trick presented his paper "The Singular Abrahamic Seed in Gal 3:15-4:11: Its Dual Sonship, the Purpose of the Law, and the Pauline Gospel of Interdependence" at the Galatians and Christian Theology Conference at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He also delivered the Closing Convocation Address at Hood Theological Seminary on May 11, 2012, which was titled "Recalibrating the Faith of a Faith-based People." In addition, Dr. Trick led a session at the Greensboro 2012 District Leadership Conference in February titled "Seek the Chaos: A Reading Strategy for Hearing God Speak through the Biblical Texts."

Dr. Eboni Marshall Turman: Dr. Marshall-Turman has a forthcoming book, "Moving the Body: Toward a Womanist Ethic of Incarnation" and is working on a manuscript titled "Prophetic Disruptions: Sexism and the Black Church." In March 2012, she was featured in a segment titled "The Gender Gap in Christian Leadership" on Odyssey Networks. She was also featured speaking about Christian marriage in a 2011 PBS segment of "Need to Know."

Dr. Michael Turner: Dr. Turner's essay "Preaching and Revivalism" will appear in the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to American Methodism* (Cambridge University Press, 2013). Another essay, "'Between God and the Devil': Lorenzo Dow and the Magical Worldview," will appear in the forthcoming *Perfecting Perfection: Studies in Honor of Henry D. Rack* (Wipf and Stock, 2013).

Campus News and Events

Dean's Teas a Popular Tradition at Hood

Each spring and fall, Dean of Students Dr. Dora Mbuwayesango hosts a tea for the Hood community in the Student Lounge. A beautiful assortment of teapots and tea strainers grace the tables and guests are invited to try a number of different teas from around the world. Fellowship and delicious food, from savory to sweet, are in abundance for all to enjoy.



Dr. Dora Mbuwayesango (center) welcomes students, faculty and staff to the spring 2012 Dean's Tea

SGA Focuses on Campus Life for the 2012-13 Academic Year

A Message from Stephanie Wilson, President of the Student Government Association

Greetings my fellow classmates! Your SGA is busy building community here on the Hood Seminary campus. We are always looking for suggestions from you for special events as well as items you would like to see in the student store. We are in the process of negotiating for additional items such as umbrellas, hats, and lapel pins. We also hope to carry alumni items soon.

We need your help with the upcoming food, coat and toy drives and volunteering at one of the shelters. We are reminded that: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" (Matthew 25:40)

We plan to have a winter festival, so put on your thinking caps and give us your ideas. The yearbook committee is gearing up to start taking pictures so **smile**; you never know when they will be watching you.

We are seeking volunteers for committees; if you are interested, please contact one of your representatives.

Come on and Join us and let's keep Building Community!

Greenville Campus Receives Gifts



Dr. Sondra Coleman, Director of the Greenville, Alabama Extension program, was pleased to report that they have received ten new A.M.E. Zion hymnals donated by alumni, students, and faculty. Students Eric Hamilton, Fredna Grimmett, and James Taylor (pictured above), as well as the entire campus, are very grateful for the generosity and support of these good friends of Hood Theological Seminary.



Greenville Campus students participate with Dr. Mbuwayesango's class on the Salisbury Campus thanks to interactive classroom technology



2012-13 SGA Officers (L to R) Stephanie Wilson, President; Shane Steward, Vice-President; Tonya Brittain, Secretary; Juston Smith, Treasurer

2012 Speaks Lecture Series



Dr. Martin E. Marty, one of the most prominent interpreters of religion and culture today, delivered the annual Reuben L. Speaks Memorial Lecture Series in October. Dr. Marty explored the theme “*Uncommon Approaches to the Common Good*” with 3 lectures titled “Because I Am A Citizen/ Because We Are Citizens,” “Be-

cause I Am A Christian/ Because We Are Christians,” and “The Common Good - Individualism vs. Tribalism vs. Totalism.”

An idea-thread that ran through all three lectures was that of risk—risk based upon a sense of vocation or call. “Because I am a citizen,” I risk engaging in relationships and practices that enhance the society and culture of which I am a part. “Because I am a Christian,” I risk engaging in practices that mirror those that we see in Jesus, practices that bring about the kinds of things that Jesus valued most - hospitality, compassion, forgiveness, and the exposure of hypocrisy and unjust

systems, even at the highest level of government and religion. To do these kinds of risky things in such a complicated and crowded time as ours is to become a “clearing in the wood” where light illumines a safe space for community and the cultivation of healthy relationships can take place.



Drawing on his extensive knowledge of history, philosophy and religion, Dr. Marty’s lectures were delivered with an engaging dose of humor and irony. A record number of visitors from the Salisbury-Rowan community attended the lectures over a 2 day period.



Several members of the faculty enjoyed speaking with Dr. Marty in the temporary refectory following the first lecture.

Theological Libraries Month was celebrated at Hood in October in several interesting ways. As in past years, Librarian Rev. Cynthia Kever offered *Amnesty Days for Fines* - one day each for Track I, Track II, and D.Min. students.



Copies of the Faculty Favorites Booklist were made available in the library, bookstore, and on *myHood* on the website. Rev. Kever also sent informative email links about

Saints Jerome and Catherine, patron saints of theological libraries, and even a patron saint of the internet. Saint Isidore, a late 6th - early 7th C. teacher and bishop has been the leading candidate for patron of computer users and the internet since 1999. Also, the Seminary community was invited to pay fines with canned good throughout the month to be donated to Rowan Helping Ministries. Refreshments were provided for the students during one week of the month-long observance.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed in October with a special Awareness Service, “A Call for Justice, Care and Ministry”, conducted by



Hood alumna Dr. Carolyn Buford. The service featured prayers, songs and a unique presentation by Dr. Buford on understanding domestic violence using the movie “The Color Purple”. The “Purple

Shoe Collection”, created by the Spencer Women’s Club, was on display. Each of the 69 pairs of shoes represents a victim of domestic violence in North Carolina in the past 12 months.

Throughout the month, many boxes of supplies were collected for the Women’s Shelter of Rowan County.

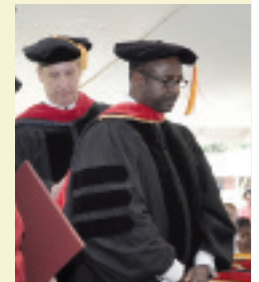


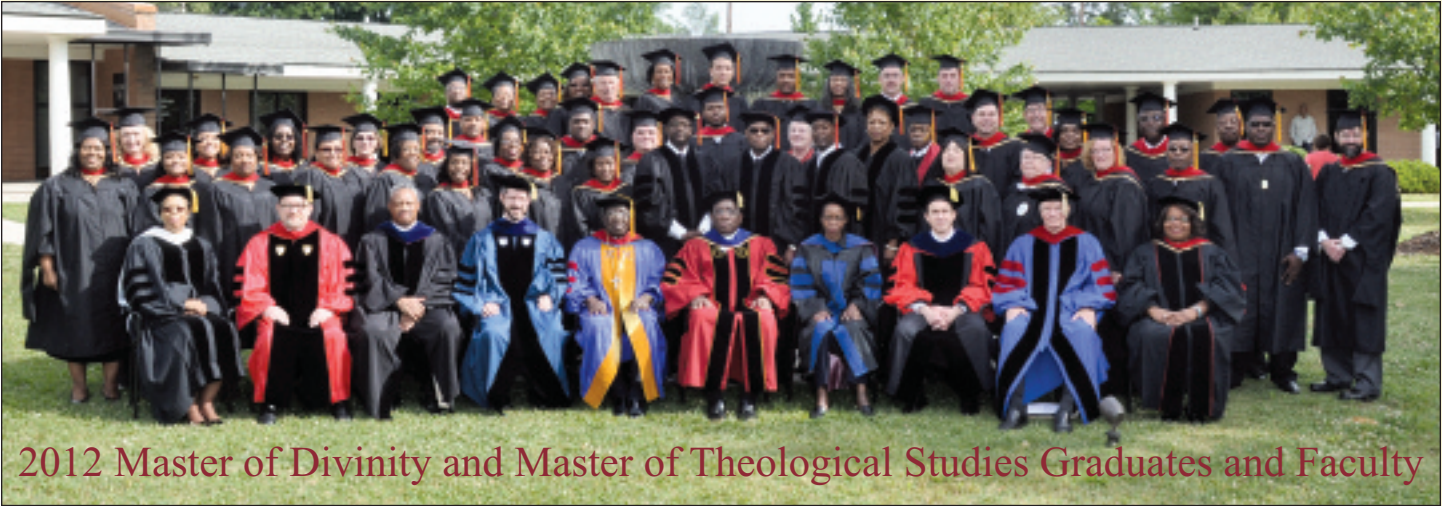
Commencement 2012

May 12, 2012 was a beautiful spring day for Hood Seminary's graduates and their families and friends. Hundreds gathered to honor and celebrate the graduates who received the Doctor of Ministry, the Master of Divinity, the Master of Theology degrees, and the Diploma in Christian Ministry.

Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. was the distinguished commencement speaker and was also recipient of an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II of the African Methodist Episcopal Church also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Bishop Richard K. Thompson, Chairman of the HTS Board of Trustees presented President Aymer with a gift of a mantel clock inscribed in honor of his 50 years in ministry. A very special presentation was made to Hood Seminary by Reverend Gwendolyn Moore. (See article page 11.)





2012 Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies Graduates and Faculty



2012 Doctor of Ministry Graduates and Faculty

The Bishop Alfred E. White Endowed Lecture Series Announced

A highlight of the 2012 Commencement program was the announcement by President Aymer of a \$50,000 bequest to endow the Heritage Lecture Series held annually on the Seminary campus in the spring semester.

The endowment was made possible by an estate gift of Mrs. Mamie Williams White, wife of Hood Seminary alumnus, the late Bishop Alfred E. White, who served as the Presiding Prelate of the Twelfth Episcopal District of the AME Zion Church from 1984 - 1988 and of the Tenth Episcopal District at the time of his death in 1992. Family member, Reverend Gwendolyn Moore, said "This is a memorial tribute for the devout and dedicated ministry of Bishop White. He believed firmly in the training of clergy as was

evidenced by his own academic accomplishments."

In making the announcement, Dr. Aymer said, "This trust directive will ensure the seminary's ability to bring to this campus each year in perpetuity an outstanding churchperson and noted scholar from various backgrounds to deliver our Heritage Lectures. These lectures are truly meaningful for our students, professors, and the community as they broaden our perspectives to scholarship beyond the limitations of our region and heritages. We are extremely grateful, therefore, to the White family for this thoughtful bequest, and have now renamed the series: The Bishop Alfred E. White Lecture Series at Hood Theological Seminary."



Rev. Gwendolyn Moore and her family with Bishop Thompson

Construction of New Refectory Underway



(left) Dr. Aymer, with architect Karen Kirks Alexander, signs the contract with Summit Developers, Inc. for the new refectory, a major turning point in the life of the Seminary since moving to the current campus 7 years ago. *(right)* Work is underway! Dr. Aymer and Development Officer Margaret Kluttz on the construction site.



The Campaign for the New Refectory has reached \$2.6 million in pledges and gifts toward its goal of \$2.85 million. We gratefully acknowledge these individuals, churches, corporations and foundations for their contributions:*

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 The Wells Fargo Foundation (in memory of Jimmy Hurley)
 * Contributions received as of October 31, 2012. Please see pg 19 for gifts given in memory of Bishop McCoy

Twelve Endowed Scholarship Recipients Announced for 2012-2013



Karen Owens

President Aymer was pleased to announce the recipients of permanently endowed scholarships for 2012-2013. He congratulated these students for their academic excellence and great potential as future leaders in their diverse faith communities. Dr. Aymer also thanked the alumni, friends and churches who have made these scholarships possible through their generosity and commitment to Hood.



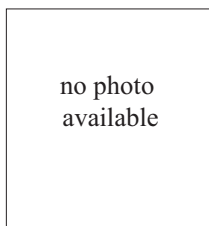
William Wrighten

The Albert Aymer Scholarship was begun from an endowment established by the First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury, NC in honor of Dr. Albert J. D. Aymer, President of Hood Theological Seminary. **Karen Owens**, a Baptist Church student from Charlotte, NC, and **William Wrighten**, a United Methodist Church student from St. Stephen, SC, were awarded Aymer Scholarships.



Gary Moore

The Dr. Frank and Fletcher Brown Scholarship is awarded from an endowment established by their son, Mr. Reginald Brown of Salisbury. Dr. Frank Brown was a former Dean of Hood Seminary and Mrs. Brown taught music at the Seminary. Two AME Zion Church students from Alabama, **Gary Moore**, of Birmingham, and **Catrina Waters**, of Montgomery, were awarded Brown Scholarships.



no photo available

Catrina Waters



Kristina Mares

The Robert Harkrader Scholarship was established anonymously by a friend in the First United Methodist Church of Salisbury. **Kristina Mares**, of Salisbury and **Brian Preveaux** of York, SC, both UMC students, were awarded Harkrader Scholarships.



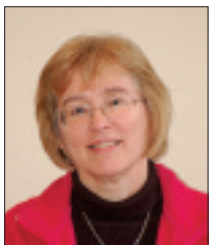
Brian Preveaux

The Robert and Lois Pruehsner Scholarship was established from an endowment by Mrs. Lois and the late Robert Pruehsner, members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Salisbury. This scholarship was awarded to **Sam Lewis**, a UMC student from High Point, NC.



San Lewis

The Thomas and Barbara Langford Scholarship was established with endowment funds given by the Langfords, members of First United Methodist Church, Salisbury. **Jan Walsh**, A Baptist Church student from Rural Hall, NC received the Langford Scholarship.



Jan Walsh

The Margaret C. Woodson Foundation located in Salisbury has endowed a 3 year scholarship which is given to encourage first career, entering students who have a record of academic excellence and show promise for the ministry. **Tangela Linn**, a UMC student from Rockwell, NC received this scholarship.



Tangela Linn

The Andrew McLean Spaulding Scholarship was made possible from an endowment established by his son, Dr. Henry Moses of Nashville, TN. Three students were awarded a Spaulding Scholarship: **Timothy Fitzgerald**, UMC, from Greensboro, NC, **Laticia Godette**, AME Zion Church of New Bern, NC and **Tonisha Johnson**, non-denominational of Charlotte, NC.



Timothy Fitzgerald

Many Thanks to Our Donors

All of our scholarship recipients are so grateful for the endowments that often make the difference in whether they can attend seminary. These heartfelt remarks, in a letter from one of our scholarship students, reflect the feelings of all the recipients:



Laticia Godette

"I am truly humbled by this honor...It is my personal goal to maintain high academic standards...while continuing the pursuit of God's purpose for my life. I am grateful to God for the fine education I am receiving at Hood... Thank you for establishing this scholarship."



Tonisha Johnson

Alumni News

UMC "Cookout Angel" - Stephanie Everett

Stephanie Everett, wife of Rev. Dr. Alphonza Everett, HTS alum (MDiv 2002 and DMin 2006), has become a "behind the scenes angel" for the annual cookout held each June on a Saturday afternoon during the Western NC Conference of the UMC at Lake Junaluska. The event has become a traditional gathering of Hood Theological Seminary UMC alums.



Everett credits Stephanie

with reminding him in January to reserve the picnic area, and soon thereafter to line up the music and to recruit people to help serve. "And it doesn't stop there" says Everett, "she reminds me how much and what to purchase, answers calls and takes messages and reservations. Each year she encourages me to continue organizing this event even when I think...I just don't think I can take it on again. There is no question that without her help the picnic would not be as successful as it is."

Rev. Rod Ingram, who has helped with the cookout for several years says "Someone once said "Behind every good man is a great woman." That statement fits Stephanie to a tee. When it's all said and done, Stephanie is right by Alfonza's side, being the great woman God has made her to be."

Continued on page 18



UMC Alumni gathered for a dinner hosted by Hood on Thursday evening during the Western NC Conference's General Conference at Lake Junaluska in the beautiful NC mountains in June.



AME Zion Alumni enjoyed fellowship at a breakfast hosted by Hood during the 2012 General Conference of the AME Zion Church in Charlotte in July. Dr. Vergel Lattimore, Hood's new Vice President (pictured on the far right) was introduced by Dr. Aymer.

A **Clergy Self-Care Day**, sponsored by the HTS Alumni Association (HTSAA) Executive Board, was hosted in October by Dr. Grant Harrison, President of the HTSAA, at Soldiers Memorial AME Zion Church where he is Pastor. Following a continental breakfast, Dr. Vergel Lattimore, VP and Professor of Pastoral Psychology & Counseling at Hood gave a program focused on ministers and lay leaders as instruments of change which begins with a healthy self-image and the understanding of one's God-given capacities, purposes and limitations. Participants had a chance to win gift certificates for a one-hour or half-hour massage at area spas.



Alumni News continued on page 18

Dr. James Ferree Honored by Hood Theological Seminary

The Eighth Annual Bishop James Walker Hood Donor Appreciation Dinner was held on a beautiful spring evening last May. Seminary friends and supporters gathered by the Johnson Fountain and Reflecting Pool for a reception before being seated under a festive tent located in the heart of the seminary campus. This event is held each year to thank and recognize those individuals who give a thousand dollars or more each year to the seminary. "Hood has been truly blessed by all those here tonight. We want to say thank you for your on-going support and encouragement of this institution", said Dr. Albert Aymer, President of Hood Seminary, as he welcomed over 80 guests in attendance.



Bishop Thompson and Dr. Aymer with Dr. and Mrs. James Ferree



The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious Bishop James Walker Hood Award for Distinguished Service. This is the highest honor Hood Seminary bestows on donors, leaders and supporters. Dr. Aymer presented the 2012 award to Dr. James Ferree for his years of outstanding service to the United Methodist Church and his exemplary generosity to Hood Seminary. Dr. Ferree received his Master of Divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary in 1955 and has maintained close ties to the Seminary for over 57 years.

In recognizing Dr. Ferree, Aymer said, "He has brought great pride to the seminary by his outstanding service to the ministry, and has been steadfast and disciplined in his long standing financial support of his alma mater. Etched in his life of service to his fellow man is a deep commitment and involvement in the cause of Christian unity, social justice, and peace."

Since his graduation from Hood, Dr. Ferree has provided long and distinguished leadership and support to the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church and the North Carolina Council of Churches. He has been an impor-

tant link between the Council and the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. During his career, he pastored numerous congregations and held positions of leadership at various levels in The United Methodist Church and its antecedent denominations. In 1968 he was a major leader during the merger of the Central Jurisdiction and the Southeastern Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. Ferree has been recognized on many occasions for his contributions to the cause of ecumenism in the state of North Carolina and has served on many boards of schools and organizations throughout the state.

Seminary students Greg Plott and Letisha Chapman gave personal and powerful remarks on the meaningful preparation and formation they have received at the seminary and how Hood is preparing them for the ministry in the diverse communities they serve. Shully Storey and Board Member Tony Almeida shared heartwarming testimonies as to why they have chosen to support Hood.

Other special guests in attendance were the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Bishop Richard Thompson and Board Members Dick Martin, Sara Cook, Ned Story, Beatrice Houston, and Trustee Emeritus Bishop Joseph Johnson.



HOOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY DONORS

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

On behalf of the entire Hood Theological Seminary Community, I express profound gratitude to the following individuals, foundations and businesses who have so generously given financial support to this seminary and graduate school in the 2011-12 fiscal year.

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Hood Alumnus Elevated to the Episcopacy

Rt. Rev. Michael Angelo Frencher was elected 101st bishop in line of succession at the 49th Quadrennial Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church in July. He is the Presiding Prelate of the Eastern West Africa Episcopal District. Bishop Frencher received his Master of Divinity from Hood Seminary in 1981. He has pastored churches in the SC Conference, the West Central NC Conference and the Allegheny Conference. He is married to Gelenia Aaron Frencher and they have two children, Michelle and Michael "J."

Hood Alumna Authors New Book



MonaLisa Covington (D.Min. 2011) signs copies of her book *Tears on My Pillow* published in April. The book explores her life's journey of pain and joy, and tells of the emotional dynamics of her healing process through her study of scripture and her relationship with God.

New Life, continued from page 5

later, the Rev. Ray Neese.

"I fell in love with the people. I fell in love with the church," Spence says. When he was invited to speak at an ecumenical revival, the feedback was so positive that Spence spent the next year realizing (and resisting) God's call for him to become a pastor. "I thought my scars would be a hindrance at first," he said. When Brenda Carroll suggested he attend college and seminary, the new pastor balked at first. "I can't do that," Scott said. "That's nine years of my life." In 2011, the pastor graduated from Emory & Henry College with a bachelor's degree in religion and a 3.6 grade point average. He just completed his first year at Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC.

Years ago, as he underwent surgery after surgery, Spence prayed for God to remove his scars. He now realizes that God answered those prayers. "Once people get to know me, my scars are removed and they see my passion for Christ. That's the resurrection story. I'm a resurrection story, and my life is better than it ever was." ❖

"Cookout Angel", continued from page 14

Al, who is quite appreciative of all his wife does to make this event possible says of her, "Although she is not an Alumna of Hood, Stephanie takes a lot of pride in Hood Theological Seminary and the relationship she has with our alumni and Seminary President, Dr. Aymer, whom she adores." It is quite clear however, that Alphonza Everett adores his wife and takes great pride in all she does to ensure that the annual UMC Hood alumni picnic and cookout continues to be a success. ❖

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore to Deliver The Bishop White Endowed Lecture Series - February 2013

Living Pastoral Theology: New Dimensions and Interpretations

The Lectures will critically examine some of the classical approaches of pastoral theology and care in terms of their epistemological orientation to health, healing and holiness. Pastoral theology is too often not associated with the prophetic imperatives to care. The lectures will explore new dimensions, which include varieties of pastoral caring, creative contours of caring, and distinct elements of caring. The lectures will outline some of the hermeneutics in pastoral theology and compare these to some of Dr. Lattimore's recent process-action research with seminarians – *Critically Essential Pastoral Skills for the 21st Century*.

Dr. Lattimore's core spiritual and intellectual principle is grounded by what he describes as his calling to be engaged in the "hard tasks of redemptive relationships." He will relate this core principle to the tasks of theological education and the art of pastoral theology.

*Bishop White
Lecture Series
Feb. 7 & 8*

Staff Update

Carol Palmer joined the Hood administrative staff in January as Assistant to the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs. She came out of a few years' "semi-retirement" after working in a number of business office positions over the years including medical office receptionist, church secretary, and administrative assistant with the tourism authority, and has served on a number of non-profit boards and commissions.

She has also assisted her husband, Franchot, with his antiques business for the past 34 years. Carol and Franchot have 2 daughters and are members of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Salisbury where she is Chairman of the Flower Guild, Secretary of Missions for the Episcopal Church Women and is an Altar Guild Team Captain. She previously served on St. Luke's Vestry. Carol is an avid gardener and also enjoys yoga, reading, crossword puzzles and knitting. She is especially happy to be part of the Hood community.



Calendar of Events

January

- 12 Orientation for new students
- 15 First day of classes in Track I
- 19 First day of classes in Track II

February

- 6 Endowment Convocation
- 7 - 8 Bishop Alfred E. White Endowed Lecture Series

March

- 9 D.Min. Service of Candidacy
- 29 Good Friday (Seminary closed)

April

- 1 Easter Monday (Seminary closed)

May

- 9 9th Annual Bishop James Walker Hood Donor Appreciation Dinner
- 10 Honors Awards and Closing Convocation
- 11 Commencement

We are most grateful to the following individuals and churches who have made contributions to the Seminary's New Refectory Project in memory of our dear friend, Bishop James E. McCoy:

James D. Armstrong
Christian Ed. Dept. - NY Conference of the AME Zion Church
Elaine J. Copeland
Co-workers of Whitney McCoy
Jesse L. Davis
Regina Dancy
Fay L. Fagan
Sandra L. Gadson
Bishop Joseph Johnson
Leake Temple AME Zion Church - Anchorage, AK
Sonja L. Moffett
Gwendolyn L. Moore
North Star AME Zion Church - Newington, NH
Laura Oliver
Raleigh District Missionary Society - AME Zion Church
Kathleen R. Register
St. James AME Zion Church - Kissimmee, FL
St. John AME Zion Church - Wilson, NC
St. Luke AME Zion Church - Grand Rapids, MI
Bishop Richard K. Thompson
Frankie L. Williams
Westchester District - AME Zion Church
Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society of the AME Zion Church - West Montgomery District
Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society of the AME Zion Church - Durham District

In Memoriam

Anthony Gregory Reese, '02 Jan. 21, 2012
George Lincoln Blackwell, '52 Feb. 17, 2012

HTS Mourns Loss of Bishop McCoy

April 16, 1944 - November 13, 2012

Alabama Extension Campus His Vision



Hood Theological Seminary community has lost a beloved friend, steadfast supporter, prominent alumnus, and active member of the Seminary Board of Trustees. Bishop James Elbert McCoy, Presiding Prelate of the Eastern

North Carolina Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Zion Church, and the 94th Bishop in succession, died peacefully on Tuesday, November 13, 2012. Dr. Albert Aymer, Seminary President, said: "It was the vision and leadership of Bishop McCoy that led to the establishment of the extension site of Hood Seminary on the campus of Lomax- Hannon Junior College in Greenville, Alabama. In his passing, I have lost a beloved brother in Christ."

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Shirley M. McCoy, three daughters (Courtney, Christa, and Whitney), and two grandsons. Born April 16, 1944, Bishop McCoy graduated from Livingstone College in 1966. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary in 1969, and a Doctor of Divinity from Livingstone in 1981. His pastorates include First AME Zion Church in Brooklyn, NY; East Stonewall AME Zion Church in Charlotte, NC; Price Memorial AME Zion Church in Concord, NC; and Mt. Zion and Roper Grove AME Zion Circuit in Mt. Gilead, NC. Bishop McCoy has held positions with the AME Zion Connectional Budget Board, the AME Zion Episcopal Committee; Chairman of the New York Conference Board of Trustees; Chairman of the New York Conference Budget Committee; Chairman of the New York City District Finance Committee; and served as a member and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made in the name of Bishop James E. McCoy to the Hood Theological Seminary Refectory Fund - 1810 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144.



In The Spirit of the Season

We wish you the gift of faith,

the blessing of hope

and the peace of His love

at Christmas and always.

Hood Theological Seminary



Hood Theological Seminary

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Salisbury, NC 28144

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