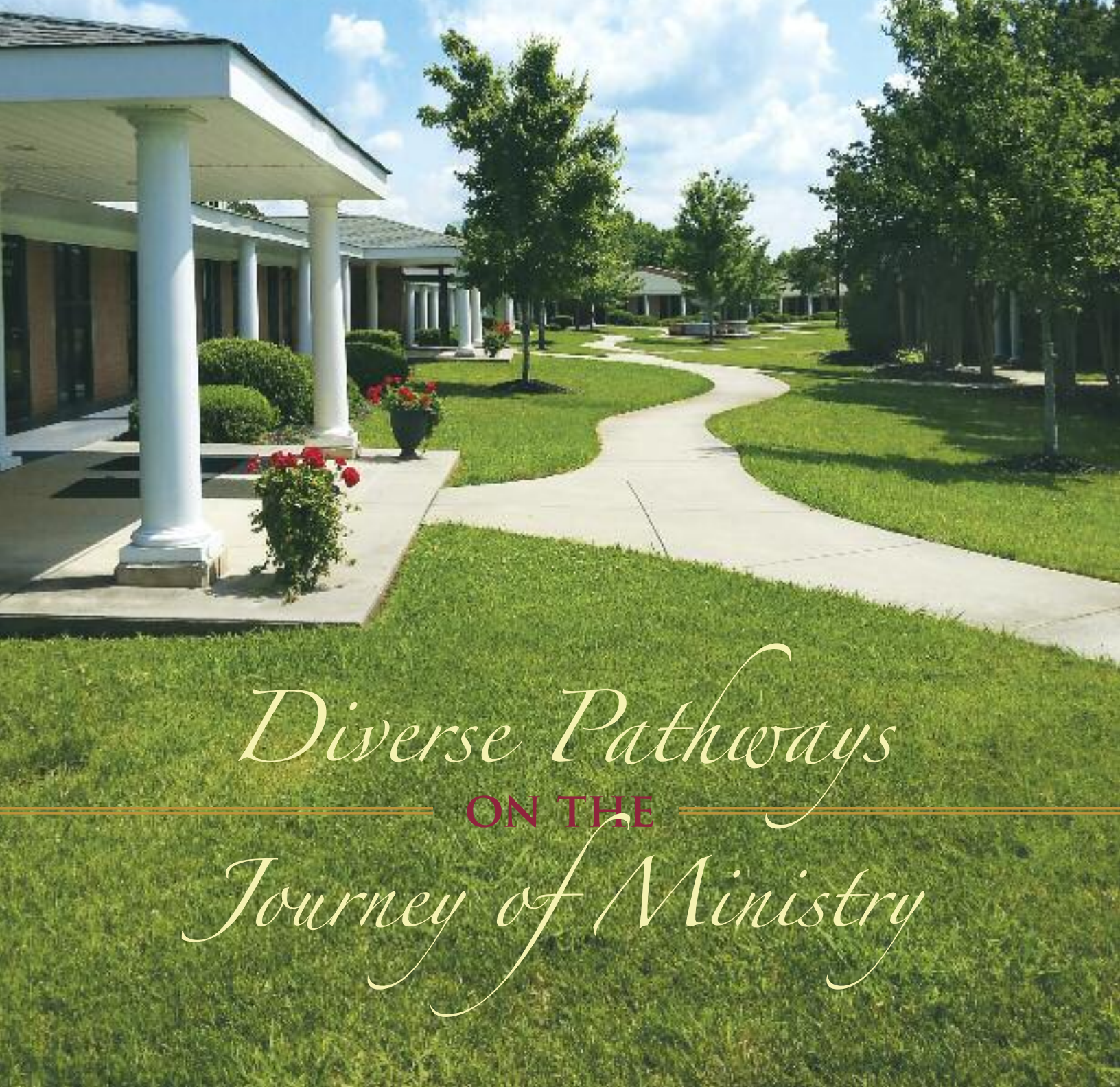


HOOD'S HERALD

A Publication of Hood Theological Seminary

Vol. XV, No. 1 Spring 2017



Diverse Pathways
ON THE
Journey of Ministry

A Message from the President

Greetings, faith partners and friends,



As I move into my third year as the second president of Hood Theological Seminary (HTS), I am tremendously humbled to be the chief servant leader at this exciting and challenging time.

HTS is making vital strides in training pastoral leaders for the 21st century. I hope you are proud to be an essential member of our community of active and generous alumni and friends, who impact our destiny and help our students, staff, and faculty make a difference, locally and globally.

I am writing to share aspects of our work and service and ask you to join me in sharing an annual gift to enlarge our capacity. In this issue you will witness why Hood is attracting modern-day faith leaders from a variety of backgrounds. These include career government workers, educators, retired military, law enforcement professionals, published writers, nurses, youth counselors, entrepreneurs, and community volunteers. Your annual support helps us fulfill our strategic objectives to fully educate persons regardless of their background.

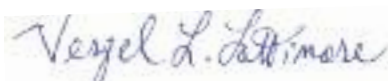
The following are some of the markers of our progress:

- **We are increasing the number of endowed student scholarships and have added our first Premier Scholarship.** Your contribution in this area will enable HTS to become a more attractive place of study in this region.
- **We are unapologetically A.M.E. Zion. Moreover, we are evolving into a seminary of excellence that embodies authentic diversity, which is a reflection of the Kingdom of God.** Annual gifts assist us in maintaining quality skilled faculty and staff who are periodically targeted by area institutions.
- **We are working to reduce energy and resource costs.** Your gifts to this initiative will assist us in converting to LED lighting campus-wide.
- **We are continuing to explore avenues to make our rich curriculum available to a wider audience, geographically.** Your annual gift complements our foundation grant funding for new technology and special programming.

HTS is a place of quality, integrity, and value for spiritual formation and leadership development. As president, it has been my joy to welcome students who have traveled many different roads as they seek a common destination toward a ministry that will make a difference. Bishop James Walker Hood, the founder of this beloved seminary, is the embodiment of ***“Diverse Pathways in the Journey of Ministry.”***

We hope you will continue to partner with us in fulfilling our mission, as we have most recently refined it in the following statement: *Hood Theological Seminary equips leaders to offer liberation, reconciliation, and action in a diverse society.*

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vergel L. Lattimore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vergel Lattimore, Ph.D.

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On the cover: *Diverse Pathways...*

The journey of a seminarian may lead her or him toward diverse paths – a traditional path of pastoring a church, or a non-traditional one, such as prison ministry or non-profit leadership. The diversity of our student body is reflected in the variety of paths they take upon graduation from Hood. Whether you are student, alumnus or alumna, faculty, staff, friend or prospective student, we invite you to join the journey at Hood Theological Seminary. Help us to carry out the mission of the Seminary and to impact the lives of our students and the communities of faith where they serve. ***Join the Journey!***

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.

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Diverse Pathways on the Journey



When the Pew Research Center released the findings of its detailed, 7-year study of the U.S. Religious Landscape in 2015, many clergy serving congregations in the U.S. found confirmation for what they had been witnessing first hand: Between 2007 and 2014 the percentage of Americans identifying

as Christian dropped from 78.4% to 70.6%. At the same time, the number of persons describing themselves as “religiously unaffiliated” (atheist, agnostic, or “nothing in particular”) rose from 16.1% to 22.8%. The report also found that these general trends were more pronounced among the Millennial generation (b. 1981-1996): Just 27% reported attending religious services on a weekly basis. By way of comparison, the number for Baby Boomers (b. 1946-1964) was 38% with both the Silent (b. 1925-1945) and Greatest (b. 1910-1925) Generations at 51%.

Despite the relatively low level of Millennial participation in traditional institutional religious life, the survey found that Millennials were at the same time not indifferent to religious or spiritual matters. 46% reported feeling “a deep sense of wonder about the universe” at least once a week. 55% said that they thought regularly about “the meaning and purpose of life.” 76% also indicated that they felt “a strong sense of gratitude or thankfulness” and 51% “a deep sense of spiritual peace and well-being” on a weekly basis.

One of the questions seminaries and divinity schools in the United States have begun to ask is what data like this portends not only for their individual institutional futures but also for the future of theological education itself.

Back in 2007 the Center for the Study of Theological Education at Auburn Theological Seminary asked some of these questions in a report analyzing data gathered from surveys of seminary and divinity school graduates. The report, entitled “How Are We Doing? The Effectiveness of Theological Schools as Measured by the Vocations and Views of Graduates,” noted a decline in the number of Master of Divinity graduates entering traditional congregational ministry between the years 2000 and

2006. “[C]ategories of students who show less than average interest in congregational ministry,” the report noted, “are an increasingly large portion of the total student body.” The report’s authors warned that these trends, if not addressed, “could lead to shortages in trained congregational leadership, especially young leaders ... in the future.”

While a coming shortage of persons trained for congregational leadership may be an important concern at present, this same data could also lead seminaries and divinity schools to ask whether the education they offer is of value to those who do not plan to serve local congregations as ordained clergy. Can a seminary degree effectively prepare one for career paths other than congregational ministry? What difference does a theological education make for the lives and careers of persons who do not plan to practice ministry in local churches? Is there a need to expand and broaden a too narrow understanding of what has traditionally been thought to qualify as “ministry”?

A recent *Washington Post* article examining the growing relevance of theological education for careers other than

What difference does a theological education make for the lives and careers of persons who do not plan to practice ministry in local churches?

traditional congregational ministry focused on pediatrician Alethea Allen, who went to Wesley Theological Seminary not to change careers but to enrich and deepen the work to which she was already committed. “I see what I’m doing as a form of ministry,” said Allen. “Particularly with parents whose children are dying. I approach the situations more [as a result of my theological training] with my spiritual eyes open. This isn’t just a medical event taking place.” In addition to examining the questions posed by human suffering from a philosophical perspective, Allen also began work, while in seminary, on equally important pragmatic concerns, such as how to mobilize

of Ministry by Trevor Eppheimer, PhD

local congregations to improve health and wellness levels in the greater community. The article noted that she was already working with churches in her neighborhood to implement health programs aimed at reducing childhood obesity rates — an initiative for which her theological education opened the door.

Four recent graduates of Hood Theological Seminary (HTS) — Andi Cantrell, Brenda Walker, GeoRene Jones, and Travis Davis — report similar experiences applying their theological educations to their current positions and work — none of which involve traditional congregational ministry.



Andi Cantrell (MTS '15) recently accepted an offer to serve as Executive Director of the Center for Faith and the Arts, a non-profit organization in Salisbury, North Carolina, dedicated to exploring and enhancing “the close relationship between the arts and one’s spiritual life by heightening the spiritual experience with the power and

meaning of art.” Cantrell writes that her work allows her the opportunity to use her theological education “to explore how creativity and the arts can help heal the broken spaces in our community.”

Brenda Walker (MDiv '15) serves on the communication team of the organization Church Within a Church Movement, a national non-profit that advocates for social justice “at the intersections of oppression.” The organization’s members work for change in relation to issues of racial justice, identity, and equality. “The church leadership training and the Christian education courses I was fortunate to receive in the MDiv program,” Walker writes, “assisted me in discerning the need for my role as a teaching leader in justice work. The Church Within a Church Movement allows me the opportunity to do anti-oppression work around race and gender, and has opened a door for ordination in a non-hierarchical community.”

GeoRene Jones (MTS '14) puts her HTS theological education to work in Rowan County, North Carolina as a Certified Instructor for Bridges out of Poverty, a community support program that empowers employers, community organizations, and individuals to address and reduce poverty in a comprehensive way. In addition, she is a regular facilitator of poverty simulations through the Raleigh, NC-based non-profit

organization Neighbor-to-Neighbor. “My seminary training convinced me,” Jones writes, “that following the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth begins when one first sees the brokenness of all Creation, then starts digging into the rubble until one sees light of God shining through the cracks. Seminary honed my understanding of Jesus’ call to relationship in community: we do not always agree, but we can still move together toward those slivers of Divine light breaking through the cracks in the rubble of society’s brokenness.”



“Loving my neighbor has taken on a new meaning,” writes Travis Davis (MDiv '16). “I care for the souls of persons who may not think like me, look like me, or have had the same experiences I have had.” Davis currently serves as Chaplain Resident for Carolinas Healthcare System. “My congregation constantly changes,”

Davis reports. “It may range from followers of Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, or Hinduism. Some persons may be atheists, agnostic, or humanist. As a Chaplain, I have the opportunity and privilege of being with the sick, the grieving, those rejoicing, and those who are hurting.” In commenting on the ways in which his education at Hood prepared him for this work, Davis writes that he is “currently applying research techniques learned while pursuing my MDiv to enhance spiritual care within the hospital.”

While ordained Christian ministry in a congregational setting continues to be the work of choice for most seminary and divinity school graduates, including Hood Theological Seminary alumni/ae, the experiences of these four recent graduates open windows not only to alternative applications of theological education, but also to a broader, more expansive understanding of Christian ministry. With courses and curricula that prepare students to discern and express their vocations in a variety of ways, Hood Theological Seminary is a place where not only the next generation of church clergypersons are effectively trained and faithfully formed, but also where those seeking to do God’s work in non-traditional ways are equipped to respond to their unique, valued, and equally important calls to ministry.

Trevor Eppheimer, Ph.D., is Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Hood Seminary.

Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President of Hood Theological Seminary, was elected to the Board of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) at its biennial meeting in Pittsburgh in July. He will serve a four year term which may be renewed at the biennial meeting in 2020. President Lattimore was also elected to the boards of the F&M Bank Foundation and the Salisbury Community Foundation.

Dr. Trevor Eppehimer, Academic Dean, collaborated with representatives from Catawba College and Livingstone College on the implementation last summer of a \$600,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s *High School Youth Theology Institutes Initiative*, which seeks to encourage young people to explore theological traditions, ask questions about the moral dimensions of contemporary issues, and examine how their faith calls them to lives of service. He also served as an instructor in this initiative. Dr. Eppehimer led a study on the impact of the Letter to the Romans on the formulation of Christian doctrine last summer at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury. Dean Eppehimer joined President Lattimore in representing the Seminary at the 2016 Annual Gathering of the Seminary Stewardship Alliance in October in Portland, Oregon. The theme of the gathering was "Permaculture: Developing a Creation Care Culture in Higher Ed." Also in October, he represented the Seminary, along with President Lattimore, at the meeting of the Association of Theological Schools Historically Black Schools Peer Group in Raleigh, North Carolina. During the spring 2017 semester he is teaching one of the Seminary's first ever "hybrid courses" (part online, part on-campus), a theology elective entitled "Big Questions."

Dr. Dora R. Mbuwayesango, Dean of Students and Professor of Old Testament and Languages, is serving as the 2017 President of the Board of Directors of Family Crisis Council—the Rape, Child and Family Abuse Council of Salisbury-Rowan, Inc. She was one of the organizers of the December 3 Love March in Salisbury that drew over 350 participants. She is also involved with the Women for Community Justice, a group that is working to change unjust policies in Salisbury and recently co-sponsored the Stop The Violence Summit at Livingstone College.

Professor André Resner helped lead and teach at the Lilly Grant-funded Discover project with faculty from Catawba College, Livingstone College, and Hood Theological Seminary. This was a summer institute designed to introduce Middle School and High School students to theology and religious vocations. Dr. Resner was also a workshop leader at the 2016 George E. Thompson Proclamation Institute in August 2016 at University City United Methodist Church. He taught two sessions on the topic, "Speaking Truth to Power, *Slant: Strategies for Stewarding the Prophetic Word.*" Resner is Professor of Homiletics and Worship.

Dr. Bradley R. Trick's new book, *Abrahamic Descent, Testamentary Adoption, and the Law in Galatians - Differentiating Abraham's Sons, Seed, and Children of Promise*, was published last August by Brill. In this volume, Dr. Trick argues that Hellenistic testamentary adoption provides the key to understanding Abrahamic descent and its implications for the law in Galatians. Trick is Assistant Professor of New Testament.

Rev. Dr. Ken Walden, Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, has preached at a number of churches in the region as well as in several churches on the west coast in the past year. In August, he preached at Wilshire United Methodist Church, Los Angeles, CA, where he held a book-signing following the service for his book *Practical Theology for Church Diversity: A Guide for Clergy and Congregations*. Recently, he preached at Brown Chapel AME Church in Elloree, South Carolina, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend, at Yadkin United Church in Spencer, NC, and taught a class at First United Methodist Church of Salisbury, NC.

Rev. N. Fred Jordan, Adjunct Professor of United Methodist Studies, served as the interim pastor of Salisbury's First United Methodist Church following the sudden death of the senior pastor's father. Last summer, he led the church's youth mission team to Honduras. He also served on the staff of Camp Discovery for inter-city Salisbury elementary age children and led backpacking ministries for

the Mount Shepherd Retreat Center and the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church. In addition to United Methodist Polity, he teaches “The Mission of the Church in the World,” and “History and Foundation of Christian Evangelism.”

Ms. Charlene Sinclair, Visiting Lecturer in Christian Ethics, served on the teaching faculty for a seminar “Mobilizing for Justice: Advocacy Ministry with Children and Youth” in July 2016. Sponsored by the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry and the Children’s Defense Fund, the seminar took place at the Children’s Defense Fund’s Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tennessee. Several Hood students were accepted to participate in this seminar.

Dr. Sharon Grant, Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity, accepted an invitation to become a member of the Editorial Board of the *Methodist History* journal beginning with the October/January 2016-17 issue. *Methodist History* is a peer reviewed scholarly journal for Wesleyan and Methodist Studies published quarterly by The

General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church. Its level of excellence and breadth of subject matter keeps the information flow and academic exchange about Methodism’s rich heritage informed and stimulating.

Dr. Grant attended The 21st World Methodist Conference (WMC) as a delegate from the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. The WMC convened in Houston, Texas, from August 31 – September 3, 2016. The theme for the event was “One” to celebrate the unity of the church amidst diversity of its Wesleyan heritage. She will serve on the Committee of Theological Education for the 2016 -2021 quinquennium. Also attending the conference was **Dr. Sondra Coleman**, Director of the Alabama Extension and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology.

Dr. Mary Love, Adjunct Professor of Christian Education, was honored at the A.M.E. Zion General Conference in July 2016 for her 36 years of service as Editor of the Department of Church School Literature. She is the longest-serving General Officer in the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Faculty/Staff Retreat



In August, **Faculty and Staff** were treated to a wonderful tour of the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte. The Gantt Center’s promise to “ignite engagement and conversations that inspire, empower and enlighten all” was delivered at our

lively afternoon retreat delving into the branding of Hood’s mission, vision and values. Many thanks to President Vergel Lattimore for planning this productive retreat and to Friendship Missionary Baptist Church for hosting us following the tour.

New Faculty and Staff



Rev. Sharon Grant, Ph.D. has joined the full-time faculty at HTS as Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity. Prior to joining the Hood faculty, Dr. Grant served in the Department of Religious Studies at The University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas. She has also taught Doctor of

Ministry courses in the Wesleyan Studies Program at Colgate Rochester Crozer Seminary in Rochester, New York.

Dr. Grant teaches the major required surveys on the History of Christianity and elective courses in the fields of American Religious History, Black Church History and World Religions.

In addition, Dr. Grant is involved in the scholarly conversations taking place in the fields of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies. She has participated in the Wesley Studies Group at the American Academy of Religion, and the Summer Wesley Studies Seminar at Duke Divinity School.

Dr. Grant's current research is focused on Wesleyan studies, Methodist church history, Black church studies in the Americas, and rites of Christian initiation. Her published work includes book reviews and contributions to journals such as *Wesley and Methodist Studies*, *Methodist History* and the *AME Review*. She has contributed to resources such as the Equipping Global Ministry: Wesleyan Studies Project, a digitally recorded lecture series designed to instruct Methodist clergy all over the world. She is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the Southwest Texas Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.



Rev. Thomas Grinter, HTS alumnus, A.M.E. Zion minister, and Ph.D. student, returns to HTS as Visiting Instructor in Biblical Ethics for the spring 2017 semester. Rev. Grinter will teach the Seminary's required Christian Ethics course and serve as Academic Writing Specialist for the Margaret H. Klutzz

Writing Center. Rev. Grinter is an ordained Elder and Member in Full Connection of the Kentucky Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church. He earned the Bachelor of Science Degree from Western Kentucky University, the Master of Divinity Degree from Hood Theological Seminary, and the Master of Theology Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. Currently a Ph.D. student in Bible, Culture, and Hermeneutics at Chicago Theological Seminary, Rev. Grinter serves as an Associate Minister at Martin Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in Chicago, Illinois.



Rev. Laticia Hill Godette is Adjunct Professor of History of Christianity. She is an ordained Elder in the A.M.E. Zion Church, serves as the Pastor of Hyman Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Havelock, NC; and works as the Regional Director of a mental health agency. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2001, with distinction; a Juris Doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law; and a Master of Divinity, *summa cum laude*, from Hood Theological Seminary. Her expertise is in the areas of Ministry and the Black Church, and Women and American Religion.



Dr. Michael J. Gehring is Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology. He is Senior Pastor of Broad Street United Methodist Church in Statesville, NC, and is also a Senior Fellow of the Polycarp Community, Center for Evangelism and Missional Church Studies, Perkins School of Theology, SMU.

Dr. Gehring received a M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary, a Th.M. from Duke University, the D.Min. from Southern Methodist University and the Ph.D. from the University of Manchester (UK).

He has published articles in *The United Methodist Reporter* and book notes and reviews in *Theology Today*, *Witness: Journal of the Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education*, and *Sharing the Practice*. His book, *The Oxbridge Evangelist: Motivations, Practices, and Legacy of C.S. Lewis*, was published in February 2017 by Cascade Books of Wipf and Stock Publishers.



Dr. Reginald Boyd, Jr. has joined the administrative staff as Director of Recruitment and Admissions

Dr. Boyd was born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina and attended Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools throughout the district. While working with Bank of America, he began ministry in 1999 at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte. He received a B.S. in Business Administration from Livingstone College in 2003. He is a double alumnus of Hood Theological

Seminary, where he received the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees in 2008 and 2014, respectively. He also holds a diploma in Retail Management and Small Business Management.

After transferring to the South Atlantic Episcopal District in 2008 he was ordained and appointed to Center Emmanuel A.M.E. Zion Church January 2010. While serving as Pastor of Center Emmanuel, he was elected Conference Secretary of the South Carolina Conference and the first year conference studies teacher. He also led the congregation with the help of God into a new sanctuary in May 2012.

During the convocation of the South Atlantic Episcopal District in January 2013, Rev. Boyd was appointed to Union Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, Bear Creek, NC.

One of Dr. Boyd's favorite Scripture passages is 2 Chronicles 7:14 (King James Version)

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Mr. John C. Everett has joined the Seminary staff as its new Institutional Advancement Officer. Prior to coming to Hood, Everett was the Senior Major Gifts Officer for the Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Wake Forest



School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Previously, he served as Director of Major Gifts at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, where he was also an adjunct professor in the School of Business and Finance. Also in Columbia, he served as Vice President of Finance and Business with The Potter's Christian Life Center and was a Financial Advisor at UBS Financial Services. In addition to his many years' experience in management and leadership in Fortune 100 companies and non-profit organizations, Everett served in the United States Navy where he provided logistical support at the Navy Medical Center in Okinawa, Japan, as Head of Materials Management. He received the Navy Commendation Medal for outstanding leadership and service in that position.

Mr. Everett holds a Bachelor of Science of Public Health in Health Care Administration-Finance Emphasis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Master of Business Administration from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California. Everett also completed the Naval Officer Financial Management School.

He and his wife, Sherry, live in Clemmons, North Carolina, and have two adult sons and one grandchild.

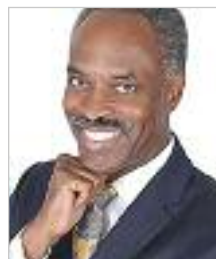
New Trustees Named to HTS Board

Bishop Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Bishop Staccato Powell and **Bishop George Crenshaw** were appointed to the Board of Trustees following the 50th Quadrennial General Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church last July.



Bishop Darryl Starnes graduated from Livingstone College where he received a B.A. degree in history. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama. He held pastorates South Carolina, Tennessee, Connecticut, Alabama and North Carolina. In 1996, he was elected the Director of Evangelism for the A.M.E. Zion Church and served for twelve years. In 2008, he was elected the 96th bishop in the line of succession in the A.M.E. Zion Church and is currently the

Presiding Prelate of the Mid-West Episcopal District, which includes the Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Tennessee, and Trinidad and Tobago Annual Conferences. Bishop Starnes has served as an Adjunct Professor at Hood Seminary and at Beeson Divinity School. Since 2006 he has served as the Secretary of Evangelism for the North American Section of the World Methodist Council and as the Chairman of Wesleyan Commission on Evangelism.



Bishop Staccato Powell holds a Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; Master of Divinity degree from Duke University; and Doctorate of Jurisprudence degree from North Carolina Central University. Prior to being elected to the Episcopacy in 2016, he served as pastor of

Continued on page 10

New Trustees Named to HTS Board

Continued from page 9

Grace A.M.E. Zion Church in Raleigh, NC, beginning in 2004. Previously, he held pastorates in Southport, Clarkton and Wilson, NC, and in St. Louis, MO. He was previously appointed as President and Chief Executive Officer of Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) of America and as Deputy General Secretary of the National Council of Churches. He is also a former member of the National Board of the Interfaith Alliance, Balm in Gilead Religious Advisory Board, the National Conference of Community and Justice, and the World Methodist Council. He is currently a Central Committee member of the World Council of Churches as the A.M.E. Zion representative, as well as an Adjunct Professor in the Doctorate of Ministry Program at Hood Theological Seminary.



Bishop George Crenshaw holds a B.A. from Indiana University and a Master of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary as well as Honorary Doctorate Degrees from both Clinton College and Livingstone College. As a pastor, Bishop Crenshaw served in Alabama, Indiana, and South Carolina. He was elected to the

Episcopacy in 2016 and is Presiding Prelate of the Central Southern Africa District. He is a member of the A.M.E. Zion Connectional Budget Board and served as First Vice President of the Presiding Elder's Council 2001-2005. He is a 2000 James Varick Freedom Medal recipient and is a past President of Hood Theological Seminary Student Government Association. He is the founder of the Zion Center Community Development Cooperation in Cheraw, SC as well as the founder of the Cheraw-Bennettsville District A.M.E Zion Church Mass Choir. Bishop Crenshaw is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is a Life member of both the Connectional Lay Council of the A.M.E. Zion Church and the NAACP. In 2011, he received the Atlanta Gospel Choice Award as one of the "Chosen 10 Pastors" in the State of Georgia.

Rev. Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, and Rev. Dr. Mark J. Key were elected to the Board of Trustees in February 2017.

Dr. Nilous Avery is pastor of the historic Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Salisbury, Inc. where he has served since October 1992. He received a B.A. and Master of Divinity from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and



a Doctor of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary. He was elected President of the General Baptist State Convention of N.C., Inc. (GBSC) in October 2014, one of the largest and oldest African-American organizations in the southeastern United States. He is a native of Asheville, NC, and is a former educator and administrator in the Asheville City Schools. Dr. Avery has served and continues to serve on numerous commissions, community foundations, and boards including the Shaw University Board of Trustees, the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Board, and Salisbury-Rowan County Interdenominational Minister's Fellowship. He served eight years on the Board of Rowan County Department of Social Services. He is married to the former Nicole Denise Hill and has one son, Joshua.



Dr. Mark Key is senior pastor of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, NC, where he has served since 2012. Previously, he served churches in High Point, Trinity and Charlotte, NC and was Director of Congregational Development for the Western NC Conference of the UMC for seven years. He received a B.A. in Religion from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School, and a Doctor of Ministry degree in Congregational Development from Seabury Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. He also studied at New College, Edinburgh University, Scotland. Dr. Key received the Harry Denman Evangelism Award from the Western NC Conference of the UMC. He has served on mission trips to Africa, Central America and the Caribbean. Currently, he serves on the board of the YMCA ((Robinhood Branch) in Winston-Salem and has served on the Asheboro United Way Board and the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Western NC Conference. He and his wife, Joy Anderson Key, have two adult children.

Lewis Professorial Chair in Pastoral Leadership

President Vergel Lattimore and Trustee Mrs. Sara Cook announced plans to launch a 3-year campaign to fund a Professorial Chair in Pastoral Leadership in honor of Dr. Bob



Lewis. Lewis, pictured here with Trevor Eppehimer, Academic Dean, was the first Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Hood. As a highly effective pastor, preacher, and

community leader, Dr. Lewis gave grounding and shape to a program that reflects academic integrity, professional rigor, and pastoral relevance. More information about the campaign will be forthcoming.

Online Education at Hood

Hood Theological Seminary has entered the world of online education with two courses in the 2017 spring semester being offered in a hybrid format. Dean Trevor Eppehimer is offering a course in Systematic Theology entitled “Big Questions,” and Professor André Resner is offering a course in Pastoral Theology entitled “Theological Reflection on Preaching.” The courses have been popular electives so far according to enrollment data. They will use the learning management system, Canvas, to engage students on a weekly basis with readings, quizzes, discussions, video, and other learning strategies. Students in each class will also meet together on campus four times during the semester. President Lattimore has designated Dr. Resner as the Director of Digital Learning and Rev. Kay Hines has been appointed Coordinator of Learning Management System (LMS) Administration

HTS is grateful for a \$25,000 grant from the Woodson



Foundation to help with the implementation of this program. The Woodson Foundation has generously

supported the Seminary in many worthwhile endeavors over the past eight years.

Two New Endowed Scholarships Announced

Hood Theological Seminary is the grateful recipient of two endowed scholarships in the past year. The Bishop Clarence and Barbara S. Carr Endowed Scholarship was awarded in 2016-17 to Jestine Ansley Sanford, an A.M.E. Zion student from Birmingham, Alabama.

The Dr. Trevor Williams Endowed Scholarship, endowed by Trevor Williams and Gail Hounshell, will be awarded to a deserving student who demonstrates promise in the fields of preaching, homiletics and/or worship leadership.

Power Curbers Scholarship

Rev. Michael Angelo Frencher, Jr., (below) an M.Div. student and member of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church,



is the first recipient of The Power Curbers Scholarship. Mr. Dwight “Dyke” Messinger, President of Power Curbers and member of the HTS Board of Trustees, has pledged \$10,000 per year for 5 years to this scholarship - a Premier Scholarship -to be awarded to a student

based on academic merit and financial need. Rev. Frencher was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and grew up in Greensboro, NC. He holds an Associate’s degree in Music from Guilford Technical Community College and a Bachelor’s Degree from Livingstone College, *cum laude*, in Musical Performance.

Friends of Baptist Scholarship Fund Established

The Friends of Baptist at Hood Theological Seminary Scholarship Fund has been established to provide a scholarship for one or more Baptist students seeking the Doctorate of Ministry during their tenure at Hood. Your financial support will allow the Baptist DMin graduates to experience two important benefits:

- Reduced debt upon graduation which will be important as the graduates embark on the journey of spreading the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.
- The ability to focus more attentively in the D.Min. program by not having to contend with school financial issues; thus, potentially improving the overall success for these future Christian leaders.

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Donations may be made by check to *Hood Theological Seminary* and the memo line denoting *Friends of Baptist at HTS Fund*. Donations may also be made securely online at www.hoodseminary.edu. Please click on the “Donate” tab on the Home Page, select “Annual Scholarships” and specify Friends of Baptist at HTS Fund in the space provided.

Should you have questions, please contact Dr. Jim R. Wadford, Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, at 704-636-6487 or Mr. John C. Everett, Institutional Advancement Officer, at 704-636-6545.

Energy Savings Ahead

Mr. Willie Watts, Director of Building and Grounds, installed one of many new programmable thermostats made possible by a grant from the Salisbury Community Foundation. These



funds, along with a grant from the Peeler/Casey Fund of the NC Lutheran Synod, are being used to implement several of the energy-saving recommendations resulting from a campus-wide energy audit last spring. We are so

appreciative of these generous grants!

New Doctor of Ministry Specialization Announced

Hood Theological Seminary is pleased to announce a new Doctor of Ministry degree specialization in Leadership Ministry.



This new area of specialization is designed to provide educational opportunities for pastors, church staff, missionaries, church and other non-profit organization leaders who seek advanced theoretical and theological reflection on the contemporary practices of leadership. The degree is a

thirty-three-hour program comprised of three major components: seminars, supervision, and a ministry project in the area of leadership ministry. Dr. Jim R. Wadford is Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program. He can be reached at 704-636-6962, or interested persons may contact the Director of Recruitment and Admissions, Rev. Dr. Reginald Boyd, at rboyd@hoodseminary.edu or 704-636-6455 for additional information.

Hood Wins Award for The Aymer Center



The Aymer Center for Spiritual Growth and Ministerial Formation at Hood Seminary won the 2016 Award for New Construction given by the City of Salisbury's Community Appearance Commission. Architect for

the project, Karen Alexander of KKA Architecture, and Dr. Vergel Lattimore, accepted the award at the biennial Appearance Commission Awards Program held last March.



Student Government Association (SGA) officers for the 2016-17 academic year (l to r); Antoinette Joiner, Vice President; Leo Roy, Treasurer; Frances Greene, Secretary; Linwood Buford, President. Not pictured: Thomas J. Betts, Sr., and Jestine Sanford, Alabama extension site representatives. The Student Government Association (SGA) administers the affairs of the student body in consultation with the Dean of Students, Dr. Dora Mbuwayesango.



Students Patrick Jones and Rita Briggs spent their 2016 Reading Week on a mission trip to Kenya where they acquired a

beautiful batik depicting the Last Supper which they presented to Dr. Lattimore and the Seminary during Chapel service. This special gift is displayed in the Chapel.



Bishop Michael A. Frencher (above) delivered the sermon entitled “The Wounded Healer” at the 2016 Endowment Convocation. Close to \$180,000 was collected to support the mission of the Seminary. **Bishop Staccato Powell** of the Western Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Zion Church preached at the 2017 Convocation, now named the Firm Foundation Covenant Service. Over \$175,000 was raised! We are truly grateful to all who gave so generously and joyfully!



“Do not preach Amos, be Amos.” **Dr. Dora Mbuwayesango** delivered the address at Opening Convocation on September 16, 2016, reminding us of the relevance of the Book of Amos in today’s world and the critical need to work for social justice.



The Ruben L. Speaks Memorial

Lecture Series was presented October 7 and 8, 2016 by **Dr. Alexandra Brown**, the Fletcher Otey Thomas Professor in Bible at Washington and Lee University. Dr. Brown has a Ph.D. from Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary, a

Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School and an A.B. *cum laude* with distinction in Religion from Duke University. She is the author of *The Cross and Human Transformation: Paul’s Apocalyptic Word in 1 Corinthians* and numerous other publications. Her expertise is in Christianity from its origins to late antiquity; pilgrimage, monasticism, and notions of the body and gender in religious traditions. Friday’s lecture: “The Word of the Cross and Speech-act-ivism, Then and Now.” Saturday’s lecture: “Gathering Time: Sounding Kairos in the Congregation.”



HTS hosted a **Community Prayer Vigil**, “People, Pastors, and Public Servants for Peace,” on July 14, 2016. Dr. Vergel Lattimore, president of the Seminary, said he was inspired to hold this vigil following recent tragic events in Baton Rouge. Concerned citizens in the Salisbury community were invited to come together to pray for healing, peace and justice in our communities, our nation, and the world.

In announcing this event, President Lattimore said, “I believe that authentic prayer-in-community offers opportunity for spiritual and relational growth. Social pain in our society affects us individually and collectively. This prayer vigil is an occasion to hear, respect, affirm the anguish of each other and to embrace the capacity for hope and peace that lives in each of us as human beings.”

“An Evening of Music to Stir the Soul,”



a Black History Month Celebration held on February 28, 2017, featured the Hood Voices, Catawba College Gospel Choir, Livingstone College Gospel Choir (pictured above), UNCC Voices of Eden, and the Soldiers’ Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church Children’s Signing Choir.

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Campus Events

Continued from page 13

A.M.E. Zion General Conference



HTS welcomed alumni, students and prospective students at a reception hosted during the 2016 A.M.E. Zion General Conference in Greensboro in July.



At the 2016 A.M.E. Zion General Conference, **Dr. George Crenshaw**, M.Div, 1996, and **Rev. Dr. Staccato Powell, Sr.**, Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, were

elected 102nd and 103rd Bishops, respectively, in the line of succession.



The Bishop Alfred E. & Mrs. Mamie White Endowed Heritage Lecture Series was presented on February 10 and 11, 2017 by **Dr. Kenyatta R. Gilbert**, Associate Professor of Homiletics at Howard School of Divinity. His lectures

were titled “A Trivocal Hermeneutic for 21st Century Preaching: Justice, Transformation, and Hope.” Dr. Gilbert specializes in the history, theory, and practice of African American preaching. His research focuses on the theology and rhetoric of prophetic preaching, African American religion, hermeneutical theory, and constructive practical theology. He is author of *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching* (Fortress 2011); *A Pursued Justice: Black Preaching from the Great Migration to Civil Rights* (Baylor 2016); and, *Exodus Preaching* (Abingdon 2017).



Is the HOODLines newsletter in your email inbox? This monthly digital publication will keep you up-to-date on the latest news, events, programs and people at HTS. If you would like to receive HOODLines, please Update/Add Your Information on our website (www.hoodseminary.edu) under the Alumni & Friends tab or email cpalmer@hoodseminary.edu.

Eighteen Endowed Scholarship Recipients Announced for 2016-2017

The Seminary is pleased to announce the recipients of permanently endowed scholarships for 2016-2017. We congratulate these students for their academic excellence and great potential as future leaders in their diverse faith communities. We are deeply grateful to the alumni, friends, churches, and foundations who have made these scholarships possible through their generosity and commitment to Hood.

The Dr. Albert J. D. Aymer Endowed Scholarship



Aaron Thomas Duncan was born in Asheville, NC. As the son of a United Methodist Pastor and a Church Administrative Assistant, the Church has always been an important part of his life and has brought him to a number of NC towns. Aaron experienced his call to ministry while serving as care-giver for his 90 year old grandmother. He has a degree in Religion and Philosophy from Pfeiffer University and attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, to study national and international mission work. Since 2007, he has done mission work in Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Haiti. He is a licensed local pastor in The United Methodist Church and served as the Assistant Pastor of four local churches in Franklin, North Carolina. He was the Assistant Pastor of Hispanic Ministry at Unity UMC in Thomasville, North Carolina in 2015. In his spare time, Aaron enjoys being an uncle, spending quality time with my girlfriend, and playing tennis and golf. "God has blessed my arrival to Salisbury as a student of Hood Theological Seminary."



Patrick Jones is a native of Chapel Hill, NC where he and his wife Shannon live on the last few acres of a British Land Grant to his family and where they raise endangered heritage farm animals. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems and

Management from Appalachian State University. Patrick spent nine years working with state and federal contracts focusing on IT security and website accessibility. He is the missions and outreach advocate at Orange United Methodist Church. In this role, Patrick has led or been a part of the leadership teams of multiple mission trips to Eastern Africa as well as a host of other local and domestic missions projects. While serving in this capacity, he experienced the call into full-time ordained ministry.



Vincent Long is a native of Hickory Grove, SC and currently resides in Rock Hill, SC. He earned an Associate in Arts degree from Spartanburg Methodist College and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - Computer Information Systems from Winthrop University. He is currently serving as the pastor of Mt. Nebo A.M.E. Zion Church in Richburg, SC, and he is also a software engineering contractor with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. He has been a volunteer with the York County Detention Center for about 15 years, conducting a weekly life application Bible Study with the inmates. He is married to Rev. Michelle Long and they have two daughters, Natasha and Vinsetta, and one grandson, James McNeil IV. Vincent says, "It is a great honor to have been chosen as this year's recipient of the Dr. Albert J. D. Aymer Scholarship, and I will strive to ensure the investment made by the donors ultimately becomes a worthwhile investment."

The Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. Endowed Scholarship

Antoinette Elizabeth Joiner - an A.M.E. Zion, M.Div. student from Winston-Salem, NC.

Eleanor B. Wilson - an A.M.E. Zion, M.Div. student from Gastonia, NC.

The Dr. Frank and Fletcher Brown Endowed Scholarship



Charles Mathews, born in Los Angeles, California, and raised in Mt. Gilead and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is a man ambitiously striving to achieve the many goals set before him. Charles serves fervently in the Kingdom of God in capacities such as church administrator,

Continued on page 22



2016 Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies Graduates and Faculty



2016 Doctor of Ministry Graduates and Faculty

“With Thankful Hearts”

Hood Theological Seminary graduates go forth to serve in a challenging world

The threat of severe storms could not dampen the excitement of the 39 graduates who celebrated their academic achievements on Saturday, May 20, 2016 during the fifteenth Commencement ceremony, relocated to Livingstone College’s Varick Auditorium.

Commencement speaker, Dr. Matthew Sleeth, told the graduates they would be putting their theological preparation to work in a world where men and women “with thankful hearts” are needed. He said their ultimate mission, regardless of where they work, will be the same as Jesus Christ’s. “Preach the gospel to the poor, heal the broken-hearted, deliver the captives and preach the acceptable year of the Lord,” he said. In spite of the challenges they will encounter, Sleeth encouraged them to stay cheerful and focused on the good.

The seminary also conferred honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees on Sleeth and on Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, resident bishop of the South Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Sleeth, a former medical doctor, is executive director of Blessed Earth, an educational non-profit dedicated to inspiring faithful stewardship of God’s creation. An adult convert to Christianity, he is author of several books, including “Serve God, Save the Planet.”



Dr. Matthew Sleeth (above right), with President Lattimore and Bishop Michael Frencher.



Bishop Jonathan Holston (above center), receives the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from President Lattimore and Bishop Michael Frencher.



Honor Roll of Donors

In grateful recognition of all those whose financial and in-kind gifts given between July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 supported and strengthened the mission of HTS.

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Giving to Hood is Easy at www.hoodseminary.edu! (Click on the Donate tab on the home page.) Did you know you can now set up a recurring gift or a pledge on our website? These options are available on the Donate Now page.

Pacesetters' Club

In 2016, a new giving club was established by graduating seniors who pledged to give to HTS annually for at least 5 years beginning in the year of their graduation. Congratulations and thanks to these pacesetting new alumni for pledging over \$5,700: Sharon Long, Johnny Lord, Stanley Rivers, Monica Sanders, Arthur Waddell, Delton Cooper, Charlrean Mapson, Fredna Grimmet, Catrina Waters and Marseline Musiko.

2016 Bishop James Walker Hood Donor Recognition Dinner



Ms. Janet Ward Black

Attorney Janet Ward Black, of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Dr. Henry A. Moses of Nashville, Tennessee, were honored by Hood Theological Seminary at the twelfth annual Bishop James Walker Hood Donor Appreciation Dinner on May 19, 2016. The theme of this year's event was *The Grace of Generosity*.

Ms. Black is a native of Kannapolis, North Carolina, who has shaped a life dedicated to Christian witness and professional excellence in her work, her church, and her community. She is a graduate, *cum laude*, of Davidson College, where she was a Lunsford Richardson Honors Scholar, a Charles A. Cannon Scholar in Chemistry and Economics, and a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon International Honor Society. She received her law degree from Duke University School of Law in 1985 and is currently the principal owner of Ward Black Law in Greensboro.

As a Charter Trustee of the Hood Theological Seminary Board, Ms. Black served with distinction from 2001-2008. While on the Board, she was a generous contributor to the campaign to renovate the former Days Inn property as a new home for the Seminary, and has continued to be a faithful supporter. She was named Trustee Emerita and awarded the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by the Seminary at its Commencement in 2008.

Dr. Henry A. Moses is a nationally known educator, counselor, and leader who has touched the lives of students, alumni, faculty and staff at a number of institutions throughout his career, including Hood Theological Seminary.



Dr. Henry A. Moses

A graduate of Livingstone College with a degree in chemistry, Dr. Moses received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees at Purdue University.

In 1964 he began his tenure at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, as Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and soon became a full professor. In 1999 he attained the status of Professor Emeritus. He is also the former Director of Continuing



Education and Assistant Vice President for Academic Support at Meharry. In 2007, Dr. Moses became the Executive Director of the Meharry National Alumni Association, Inc., a position he currently holds.

Henry Moses is the son of Rev. Andrew McLean Spaulding and Dr. Olivia T. Spaulding, both long-time faculty members at Hood Theological Seminary of Livingstone College. Dr. Olivia Spaulding also served as Dean of Livingstone College. Through

the establishment of Spaulding scholarships at Fisk University, his father's *alma mater*, and Hood Theological Seminary, Dr. Moses has perpetuated their life-long devotion to education. Last year, he honored his parents by donating their Salisbury home to Hood Seminary. It was dedicated in October 2015 and serves as the Presidential Home. Due to commitments with alumni activities at Meharry, Dr. Moses was unable to be present for the award.



Continued from page 15

praise and worship leader. He is also an ordained minister in A.M.E. Zion Church. He holds a B.A. in Exercise Physiology from UNC-Chapel Hill and a B.S in Nursing, *cum laude* from NC Central University. He presently works as a Clinical Specialist for Johnson & Johnson and assists Cardiologists at Duke and WakeMed Hospitals in the treatment of abnormal arrhythmias of the heart. Highlights from his extensive volunteer trajectory include dedicated service to juvenile offenders in the Alamance Co court system where he is mentor as well as assisting with educational projects in public housing. He also created CMP Media Group, a company that utilizes multimedia and music production to manage artists, create tours, and promote the art of music.

The Bishop Clarence and Mrs. Barbara Carr Endowed Scholarship

Jestine Ansley Sanford – an A.M.E. Zion student from Birmingham, Alabama.

The Dr. Robert Harkrader Endowed Scholarship



Brad Treece, a native of Salisbury, North Carolina, serves as a United Methodist Church Pastor near Denton, North Carolina with members of Piney Grove UMC and Pleasant Grove UMC. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Catawba College in North Carolina, *summa cum*

laude. He and his wife, Cindy, live outside of Salisbury with one daughter, Colbie. Brad has over twenty years of leadership and business experience as controller and a business owner in the Building Supply Industry. Brad spent twelve years as a praise and worship leader prior to answering his call to ministry and began studies at HTS in the fall of 2014. “It has been a privilege and a blessing to have the opportunity to attend HTS and I consider it a great honor to be this year’s recipient of the Dr. Robert Harkrader Scholarship!”

The Ellen and James Robert Keever Endowed Scholarship



Dan Gleason is a second year M.Div. student, originally from Baltimore, Maryland, who lived twenty years near Buffalo, New York, and now resides in Concord, North Carolina. Dan is a retired firefighter, medic and Chaplain. He has been married to his beautiful wife Laurie for 43 years, and has two daughters, Kim and Danielle. Dan keeps busy with school, church, and has had an architectural drafting business for 12 years. Dan is a candidate with the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA Lutheran Church. “I am honored to be considered for and to receive the Ellen and James Robert Keever Scholarship”.

The Thomas William Langford Endowed Scholarship

Cindy Lee Ramirez – a United Methodist, M.Div. student from Thomasville, NC.

The Bishop George Junious Leake, III Endowed Scholarship

Tami Forte-Logan – an A.M.E. Zion, M.Div. student from Forest City, NC.

The Robert and Lois Prueshsner Endowed Scholarship



Kevin Griffin is a native of Augusta, GA. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems from Georgia Southern and a Master of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University. He has over twenty years of leadership and business

experience in the field of Information Technology. He is an ordained Baptist Minister, and is currently serving as the pastor of First Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. Last, but certainly not least, he is married to Angelle Griffin and they are the proud parents of Kyla and Mayah.

The Andrew McLean Spaulding Endowed Scholarship

Rita J. Briggs is a native of Baltimore, MD, who has called Florence, SC, home for 20 years. She earned a Bachelor of Pastoral Ministry, *magna cum laude*, from Morris College, Sumter, SC. She is a 2nd year student in the M. Div. program at Hood. Rita is retired from the Federal Government, after serving 30+ years. She has served for twelve years as a volunteer Guardian *ad Litem*, also known as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), for abused and neglected children in Florence County. She took leave from this program to attend Hood. Rita is a licensed Baptist Minister and is currently serving as an associate minister at the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Florence. She is a breast cancer survivor, a widow, a mother, and the proud grandmother of three wonderful grandchildren. "I count it not only a blessing to be attending Hood, but also an honor to have been selected as a 2016 recipient of the Dr. Andrew McLean Spaulding Scholarship."



The Bishop Richard K. Thompson Endowed Scholarship

Sandra Mahalia Carter – an A.M.E. Zion, M.Div. student from Leland, NC.



Robert N. Kelley, Jr. is a native of Winston-Salem, NC. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Religion from the University of Mount Olive. He retired from the United States Marine Corps in 2005 after serving for 20 years and 1 month. An ordained preacher in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, he is currently the pastor of the St. Peter A.M.E. Zion Church in New Bern, NC. He is married to Lisa Kelley and they have 1 son and 5 daughters.



Maria Bland Lacewell is a native of Bolton, North Carolina, and a 1979 graduate of Livingstone College with a BSW Degree. She is in her second semester at Hood Theological Seminar pursuing a Master of Divinity. Rev. Lacewell serves as the Pastor of Price Cathedral A.M.E. Zion

Church in Wilmington, NC, in the Cape Annual Fear Conference under Bishop Kenneth Monroe. Having been assigned to this charge by the late Bishop Richard K. Thompson in December of 2011, Rev. Lacewell states, "I am humbled and honored to be a recipient of this scholarship from the Bishop Richard Keith Thompson Endowed Scholarship Fund. It was my joy to serve under his leadership for eight fruitful years. I am truly thankful." Rev. Lacewell has been in the ministry for 29 years. She is married to Joe Lacewell and has three wonderful adult children and two adorable grandchildren.

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The Woodson Foundation Endowed Scholarship

David Eugene Cochran, II – a United Methodist, M.Div. student from Locust, NC.

Eleazar L Partida – a United Methodist, M.Div. student from Laurinburg, NC.

Alumni News and Events

Join the Journey!

Alumni gathered in recent months for area meetings in Salisbury, Charlotte, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Fayetteville, North Carolina, as well as Greenville, Alabama, and Columbia, South Carolina.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES
ON ALUMNI EVENTS!
www.hoodseminary.edu

For more information please contact Mrs. Carmen Harper at
704-314-4970 or cwilder@hoodseminary.edu
STAY CONNECTED!



2016 All Hood Alumni Reunion Symposium

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II, Pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church, Goldsboro, NC, and President of the North Carolina state conference of the NAACP, was the keynote speaker in March 2016. The theme of the symposium was “The Pulse of 21st Century Ministry: Integrity, Innovation, and Inclusiveness.”



The first annual Alumni Awards were presented to three distinguished alumni in March 2016: Dr. Grant Harrison, Rev. Dora Atlas, and Rev. Dr. Sidney E. Davis, Sr. They are pictured here with President Vergel Lattimore (left) and Rev. Tony Henderson, President of the HTS Alumni Association, and Ms. Carmen Wilder, Director of Alumni Engagement (right).



Alumni of the SC Conference of The United Methodist Church gathered for dinner and fellowship during the Annual Conference in Florence last June.



Alumni of the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church gathered for the annual dinner reunion and fellowship during the Annual Conference in Lake Junaluska last June.



Congratulations to Hood alumni who were ordained as Elders in full connection at the Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church Annual Conference in June 2016! (Left to right) George Craig Allen, Jr.; Earl Franklin Bradshaw; Darren Lee Crofts; James Brevard Brookshire; George Melvin Coates; Ronald Donall Perry; and Sandra Waddell Ireson.

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2017 All Hood Alumni Reunion Symposium

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, founder and senior pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Georgia, was the keynote speaker for the 2nd annual All Hood Alumni Reunion in March 2017. This year's theme was "Creative Paradigms in Ministry: Compassionate, Contextual, and Constructive."



Three distinguished alumni were presented the 2nd annual Alumni Awards at the 2017 Symposium in March: Rev. Dr. Otto Harris, Rev. Janet Garner-Mullins, and Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman. (Dr. Spearman was unable to be present for the awards.)



Alumni delved into the spectrum of pastoral ministries that impact 21st century needs and social demands at the 2nd annual All Hood Alumni Reunion Symposium & Celebration in March 2017. A Leadership Roundtable provided an opportunity to explore six prototypes of creative approaches to ministry in the 21st century. A celebration luncheon with keynote speech by Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale, followed by the Alumni Awards Ceremony rounded out the day. Thanks to Roundtable presenters, Dr. Clifford Barnett, Dr. Reginald Broadnax, Rev. Janice Cooper, Dr. J.R. Covington, Dr. Daran Mitchell, and Rev. Angela Roberson; Moderator, Dr. Otto Harris; and Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale.

In Memoriam

Dr. Beatrice Asbury Houston, Hood Seminary Trustee *Emerita*, January 10, 2016, Greensboro, NC. Dr. Houston was a charter member of the first Board of Trustees of the free-standing Hood Seminary for two terms from 2001 - 2008 where she served diligently and effectively. In 1985 she established the Adopt-A-Minister Project (AAMP) at Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church to support ministers enrolled at Hood Seminary through payment of all their tuition and books. Dr. Houston was awarded the Bishop James Walker Hood Award in 2008 and was awarded the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 2009. We are profoundly grateful for her contributions and her loving spirit of generosity.

Bishop Richard Keith Thompson, M.Div. '68



With heavy hearts we mourn the passing of Hood's beloved Board Chairman, Bishop Richard K. Thompson, on Saturday, July 16, 2016. Born July 7, 1943, in Kannapolis, NC, Thompson earned an A.B. degree

from Livingstone College in 1965 and a master of divinity degree from Hood Theological Seminary in 1968.

He was elected the 86th bishop in the line of succession during the A.M.E. Zion Church's 44th General Conference in 1992.

Bishop Thompson served with distinction on the HTS Board of Trustees since its inception in 2001. We will miss his strong, quiet leadership which transformed and inspired those who worked with him to strengthen and support the Seminary.

The family has graciously requested that memorials may be made to Hood Theological Seminary for the *Bishop Richard K. Thompson Endowed Scholarship*.

Rev. Freddie Fox, MDiv '11

November 7, 2016, Montgomery, Alabama

Rev. Liston Sellers, MDiv '67

January 16, 2017, Greensboro, NC

A Solid Foundation

I give to HTS due to the fact that HTS is a great school. The courses offered, the knowledge gained, the support



of the President, the professors, the staff, and my fellow students – all of this gave me a solid foundation for fulfilling my call from God to be a Minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I give so other students can receive the same foundation and the experiences that I so much

enjoyed and will never forget.

Rev. Frances E. Williams, M.Div., 2009

To Sustain My Thankfulness

Gratitude; yes, it sounds corny - but the primary goal is to sustain my thankfulness to Hood Seminary for a lifetime. It indicates the love, loyalty, appreciation and life changing growth that Hood Seminary brought about in my life.



It also happens to be a reliable indicator of excellence in my life.

I started giving monthly to Hood when still a student. It was less than a cup of coffee for the days a month that I attended class. It is

automatically withdrawn from my checking account each month. That way it is and was built in to my monthly expenses and became, as I look over my account each month, a reminder of the people and values learned at Hood that changed my life.

Is it a huge amount of money now or then?

No; but as life has settled after seminary and God has lead me to a path I never anticipated, I have been able to increase my giving by small fractions. It is all designated to operating expenses because as all of us who work and attend Hood know it takes money to keep the lights on.

Hood for me was not just book learning but seeing the Face of God in everyone and learning, loving and appreciating others. Knowing that my small monthly donation is helping to keep Hood open for future students of the Lord is a Blessing. May more have eyes to see and open the eyes of more hearts.

Melody Troncale, M.Div., 2015

A Transformative Experience

When I began my journey to fulfill a more informed call to the ministry by seeking to enter seminary, God opened



the door to Hood Theological Seminary. I had not heard very much about Hood; but I liked the distance from my home in Winston-Salem, the flexibility in the class schedules, and the diversity of students and faculty impressed me. I thought that I had made a good decision. My thoughts turned into

reality when I came to campus.

At Hood Theological Seminary, I found my community. I found kinship. I found acceptance. I found challenge. I found help. I found a nirvana-like matriculation. The basis of our commonality was a belief that despite our denominational, racial, gender, and age uniqueness, we were all being excellently trained to be theologically sound, intellectually competent, radical agents of change for God based on our relationship with Jesus the Christ as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Hood prepared me to enter into the world as one confidently bound for the next world and determined to bring as many with me as God gifted me to bring. The transformative experience is one that continues to this day.

As a result, to not give to Hood would be tantamount to 1 Timothy 5:8 which reads, "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (KJV) There is no space in my mind when it comes to Hood Theological Seminary. I am so indebted to Hood that I have to give. It would speak ill of me not to do so.

I pray that for all of those who have benefited from the phenomenal education that we have received at Hood Theological Seminary, it will be as much of a priority to give back, sustain, and nurture Hood as we would any other institution or individual that has made such an indelible impression on our lives in preparation to impact the lives of others.

Rev. Randell A. Cain, Jr., M.Div., 2015



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Upcoming Events

May

19 Alumni Milestone Luncheon
19 Honors Awards and Closing Convocation
20 Commencement

August

11 New student Orientation and Registration
21 First day of classes in Track I
24 First day of classes in Track II

September

14 Opening Convocation

October

5-6 Speaks Lecture Series



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