



E-Newsletter: September 2024

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Upcoming Events

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### Fall 2024 Bishop Ruben L. Speaks Lecture Series

Hood Theological Seminary will hold its annual Ruben L. Speaks Endowed Memorial Lecture Series in October. **This year's featured presenter is Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer**, who is the former (now retired) Presiding Prelate of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church and, previously, the longest serving active UMC bishop.

AME Zion Bishop Darryl Starnes will be responding to Bishop Palmer's remarks about the most recent UMC General Conference and the future of the UMC.

The lectures, which are free of charge and open to the public, will be held at **6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 4, and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 5**. This year the lecture series will be virtual through Zoom (see Zoom link information by clicking the button below). **\*Please note, there are two Zoom links, one for Friday and one for Saturday.\***



**Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer**

[Zoom Links and More Info](#)

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## **Fall 2024 Messinger-Williams Family Community Education Initiative**

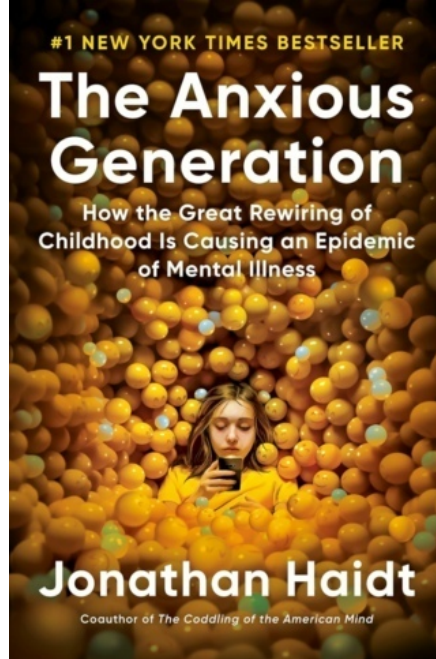
The Messinger-Williams Community Education Initiative is an extension of the Hood Theological Seminary's Messinger and Williams Family Chair in Theology and Ethics. Its mission is to facilitate explorations of topics related to ethics, community, faith, and meaning-in-life for the general public. Courses are free and open to all.

The Fall 2024 Messinger-Williams Community Education Initiative will look at the reading *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness* (Penguin Press, 2024) by Jonathan Haidt.

The Fall 2024 Messinger-Williams Community Education Initiative will be devoted to a six-week study of *The Anxious Generation* starting **October 6 – November 14, 2024**.

**Facilitator: Trevor Eppheimer, Ph.D.** Messinger-Williams Family Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics at Hood Theological Seminary (Salisbury NC). Please contact Dr. Eppheimer for any questions at [teppheimer@hoodseminary.edu](mailto:teppheimer@hoodseminary.edu).

For more information including participation options, schedule, and registration, click on the button below.



[More information and Registration](#)

## Partners in Health and Wholeness Presents Faith and Mental Health Symposium

Partners in Health & Wholeness  
North Carolina Council of Churches

### FAITH & MENTAL HEALTH Symposium

**FEATURED SPEAKER**  
President, Hood Theological Seminary  
Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counseling

**VERGEL L. LATTIMORE**

**PANELISTS**

Keri Gaylord, LCSW  
Therapist  
Brian Combs  
Pastor, Haywood Street Congregation (Asheville)  
Dr. Lisa Curtin  
Clinical Psychology Professor App State

THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 10, 2024  
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
FIRST UMC, HICKORY

REGISTER

healthandwholeness.org

Faith and Mental Health Symposium through Partners in Health and Wholeness will take place Thursday, October 10, 2024, from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00pm at First UMC in Hickory, NC. Hood's President Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore will be the Featured Speaker. For more information, please [CLICK HERE](#).

## ICFSH Fall Conference





The International Center of Faith, Science, and History (ICFSH) at Hood Theological Seminary will host its Fall 2024 Conference, "Soil and Souls in Dialogue" on Friday, October 11, 2024, from 9:00am-1:00pm.

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Stephanie Boddie, Associate Professor of Church and Community Ministries, Baylor University, Waco, Texas

**Workshop Facilitator:** RevDele, Founder, *Soil and Souls*

This event will be virtual. It will be streamed on Facebook live

**Zoom Room:**

<http://zoom.us/j/96275329912>

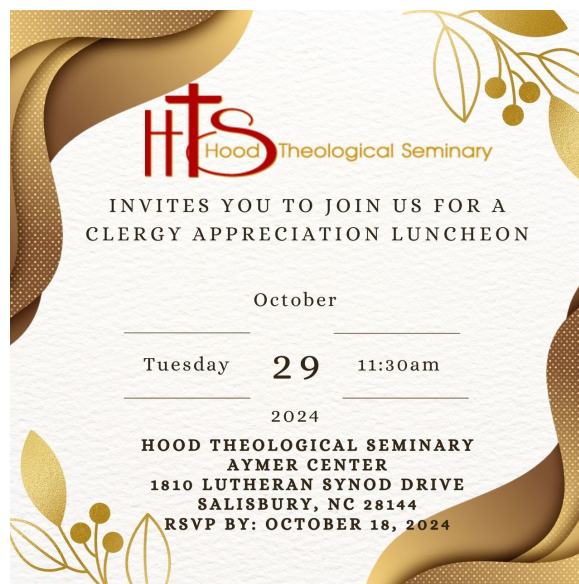
**Meeting ID:** 962 7532 9912

**\*Please register for the event so we know how many people will be attending.\***

For questions, please contact Dr. Sharon Grant at [sgrant@tlu.edu](mailto:sgrant@tlu.edu)

[Register Now](#)

## Clergy Appreciation Luncheon



HTS invites you to a Clergy Appreciation Luncheon on October 29, 11:30am in the Aymer Center! Please register by October 18, 2024. Register by clicking the 'Register Now' button below.

[Register Now](#)

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## Bishop Michael A. Frencher (Retired) Appointed as the A.M.E. Zion Bishop-in-Residence

Bishop Michael A. Frencher (retired) has been appointed to be the A.M.E. Zion Bishop-in-Residence at Hood Theological Seminary, effective September 1, 2024.

As the A.M.E. Zion Bishop-in-Residence, he will teach, preach, advocate for the Seminary, and work with students as required.

For more information, please [CLICK HERE](#)



**Bishop Michael A. Frencher (retired)**

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## In Memoriam



**The father of Dr. Karen Owens, Rev. Chester C. Owens Jr., passed away on August 22, 2024.** More information can be found [HERE](#). Dr. Karen Owen is the Director of Strategic Research and Adjunct Faculty, Spiritual/Pastoral Theology at Hood.



# Hood Travels

## August & September 2024 Hood Travels:

Hood attended College Night Out on August 22, 2024.



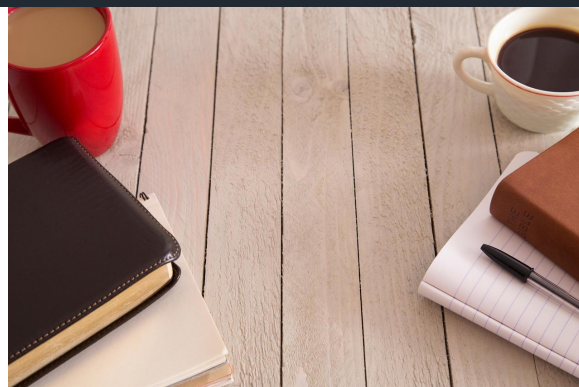
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Hood attended the Benedict College Internship and Graduate School Fair in Columbia, South Carolina on September 13, 2024.





HTS attended the Gardner-Webb University Graduate & Professional School Fair on September 11, 2024.



# Announcing Hood's Newest Degree: Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (MACM)



The **Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree program** is designed for students preparing for ministry in Christian denominations that do not require the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree for ordination. For more information on this degree, please [CLICK HERE](#),

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## Faculty/Staff News

**Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore**  
President and Professor



Dr. Lattimore participated in the Forum on Education sponsored by the Kannapolis African American Museum and Cultural Center in the HTS Aymer Center (9/5/24)



He will preach the sermon – “Holy Work, Holy Ground, Holy People”, Clergy Gathering, Yadkin Valley District of the United Methodist Church, St. Paul UMC, Winston-Salem, NC (9/12-24)

Dr. Lattimore preached the sermon – “Love’s Legacy”, 151st Anniversary, Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church, Spring Lake, NC (9/15/24)

He will attend the First Check-up Meeting, Western N.C. Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church, Steele Creek A.M.E. Zion Church, Charlotte, NC (9/21/24)

Dr. Lattimore will attend the Leadership Institute, Piedmont Episcopal District, A.M.E. Zion Church, convening at the Four Seasons Hotel, Greensboro, NC (9/24 -9/26/24)

## The Rev. Dr. Tori Butler



Hood Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology, The Rev. Dr. Tori Butler has hosted a podcast titled *Hollering for Change*. View the podcast here: <https://ow.ly/wt3t50T4qoJ>

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## Hood Alumni News

The Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Zion Church is excited to welcome Hood Alum MDiv'23, Rev. Joshua Holmes, as the newly appointed pastor of Hood Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in Richmond, VA.



**Rev. Joshua Holmes**

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Congratulations to Hood Alum Angellica S. Sweat, M.Div., Biblical Studies, Preaching and Worship '20, who will be the keynote speaker for KAA-MaCC's 11th Anniversary & Hall of Fame Inductions 2024 - "The Year of the Woman: Empowering Excellence - Honoring Trailblazing Women and Inspiring Future Generations." Angellica is currently the Program Coordinator for the Institute for Youth Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary.



**Angellica S. Sweat**

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Congratulations to Hood Alum Rev. Dr. LaTonya Thorpe, MDiv'09, DMin'19, who completed a Chaplain Residency at Wake Forest Baptist Health on August 23, 2024. LaTonya wishes to express her gratitude to everyone for their unwavering support as she continues her journey toward becoming a Board-Certified Chaplain.



## Faith Learn Thrive News



### **Stronger Churches Conference 2024: Thank You for Your Incredible Support!**

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the Faith Learn Thrive Conference a success. Your participation and energy truly brought our vision to life!

A special shoutout to our Champion Sponsor, ChurchTeams, for their generous support in making this event possible. We're thrilled to share the highlights with you—check out the video reel below for a glimpse into the impactful sessions, dynamic speakers, and inspiring moments we experienced together.

VIDEO LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/zeAHzh9VMDqPtZSR/>

Thank you for being part of this journey with us!

### **Unlock Your Church's Potential: Join the Community Strategy Lab**

Is your church ready to make a lasting impact in your community? The Community Strategy Lab is your gateway to innovative, practical solutions tailored to your congregation's unique needs. Starting September 12th, this hands-on lab will equip you with the tools and strategies to drive meaningful change and foster deeper connections within your community. Don't miss this opportunity to transform your ministry—register today and take the first step towards a stronger, more vibrant church! [REGISTER NOW](https://bit.ly/FLTCommLab) (Full link: <https://bit.ly/FLTCommLab>)

### **Join the 2024 Learning Community: Empower Your Ministry for the Future**

Are you ready to take your ministry to the next level? The 2024 Learning Community is designed to equip church leaders with innovative strategies, practical tools, and deep theological insights. Launching in October, this year-long journey offers immersive training, collaborative learning, and access to a network of like-minded leaders committed to transforming their congregations.

Don't miss this chance to grow, learn, and lead with purpose—apply now and be part of the 2024 Learning Community! Applications close on September 10th. Scholarships Available. Learn More & Apply: <https://faithlearnthrive.org/learning-community/>

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## Center for Bold Leadership News

The Center for Bold Leadership hosted its First Annual Tribe of R.U.T.H. Retreat on Saturday August 3, 2024, to celebrate, support, educate and renew women of color that serve in ministerial and lay leadership! With a dynamic group of celebrated leaders in ministry and wellness, the Tribe was a great success. Guests participated in panels and workshops, listened to a phenomenal guest speaker, all the while networking and participating in an exciting day of learning, joy, worship, and healing.

Opening to a full house of clergy and lay women (and a few men!) from as far as Georgia, Rev. Tammy Ingram, UMC Elder, Hood alumna, and Pastor of Raleigh's Crossroads UMC and Bass Chapel UMC, led powerful and passionate



praise and worship. Following that, our ministry leaders discussed the challenges and joys of being women of color in ministry during two superlative panels which included: Rev. Dr. Hannah Broome, Deaconess Garlinda Burton, Asst. Professor Karon Johnson, Rev. Dr. Tori Butler, Presiding Elder Dr. Laticia Godette, and Dr. Pam Smith.

Guest Speaker Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith, a celebrated pastor, author, musician and activist brought the crowd to its feet with her fiery sermon. Chants of 'G'on Girl!' were still shouted at the end of the retreat.

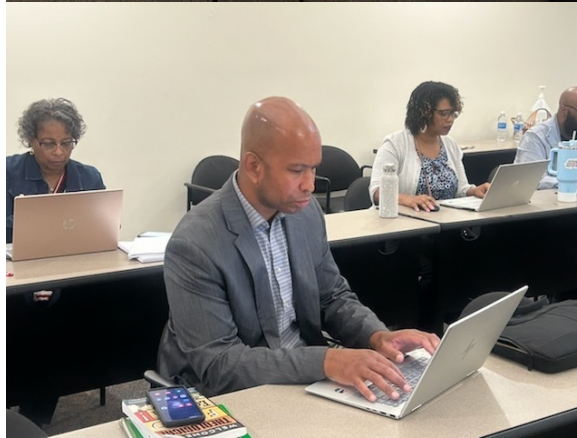
The group also participated in workshops such as Wellness, From Competition to Sisterhood, and Living into your Call.

Next year's Retreat will be a two-day event held on Friday and Saturday, November 7-8, 2025.

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## Did you Know?

You can audit a class at HTS! Learning is a lifelong process; continue the journey with us. For clergy, church professionals, and laypersons. All denominations welcome! Read more [here](#).



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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**

**To all our September Faculty, Staff, Alumni & Donors - A Blessed Birthday with Many More To Come!**



## Planned Giving

Create your legacy through a planned gift by remembering Hood Theological Seminary in a bequest or will with gifts of stocks and bonds, gifts of real estate or personal property, life insurance, charitable trust, retirement funds/IRA or life income gifts. By making a planned gift, you will become a member of the [Hood Legacy Society](#).

- ~ Do you have an IRA?
- ~ Are you at least 70 1/2 years of age?
- ~ Would you like to help HTS in its mission to prepare women and men for bold and creative leadership for the Christian church for a diverse world?

If you answered "Yes" to all three questions, please consider an IRA Charitable Rollover.

In an IRA Charitable Rollover, the distribution of up to \$100,000 annually made directly from the IRA custodian to a qualifying public charity, such as HTS, is excluded from gross income and counts toward the required minimum distribution.

**Contact:**

John Everett

**Director, Institutional Advancement & Enrollment Management**

704.636.6545 [jeverett@hoodseminary.edu](mailto:jeverett@hoodseminary.edu)

Visit our [Planned Giving](#) website for lots of helpful information.



## Monthly Giving

Join the Faithful Friends Partner Recurring Monthly Program!

To become a Faithful Friend Partner, click the link below to donate and become a member for a minimum of \$25 monthly.

[Become A Faithful Friend Partner](#)



Your gift is essential in promoting the mission of the Seminary. Every gift, small and large, is greatly appreciated and stewarded responsibly!

It's so easy to [donate securely online](#) or mail your check directly to the Seminary at 1810 Lutheran Synod Dr., Salisbury, NC 28144.

**Contact:**  
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**Director,**  
**Annual Giving & Donor Relations**  
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[twalker@hoodseminary.edu](mailto:twalker@hoodseminary.edu)





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