



E-Newsletter: September 2023

Want to Connect with Hood Even More?

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Facebook: @hoodseminary **Twitter:** @HoodTheoSem **LinkedIn:** Hood Theological Seminary **YouTube:** Hood Theological Seminary **Instagram:** @hoodtheoseminary

Attend the Critical Race Theory Didactic

In this six-week course, we will delve into the fundamentals of Critical Race Theory (CRT) and explore its relevance and application within the context of religious institutions, with a specific focus on the church.



READ MORE

Save the Date: Fall 2023 Virtual Opening Convocation

The Fall 2023 Virtual Opening Convocation will be on Friday, September 15, 2023, 6:00 - 7:15 pm.

The Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Clifford Barnett, Sr., '80, Pastor, Warner Temple A.M.E.



Zion Church, Member, Wilmington, N.C. City Council. More information will be forthcoming.

[READ MORE](#)

Attend the Fall 2023 Messinger-Williams Family Community Education Initiative Book Study



Reading: *Life Worth Living - A Guide to What Matters Most*, (March 28, 2023) by Miroslav Volf, Matthew Croasmun, and Ryan McAnnally-Linz.

The Messinger-Williams Family Community Education Initiative at Hood Theological Seminary Fall 2023 Community Book Study will focus on the reading *Life Worth Living - A Guide to What Matters Most*, (March 28, 2023) by Miroslav Volf, Matthew Croasmun, and Ryan McAnnally-Linz.

Facilitator: Trevor Epehimer, PhD. Messinger-Williams Family Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics at Hood Theological Seminary

For participation options, the reading schedule, registration, and more information [GO HERE](#).

For further questions, please contact Dr. Trevor Epehimer at tepehimer@hoodseminary.edu.

Virtual Speaks Lecture Series

When: Friday, October 6, 2023, 7:00-8:00pm EST and

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 10:00-11:00am EST via Zoom

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Reggie Blount

About the Ruben L. Speaks Lecture Series

The Ruben L. Speaks Lecture Series is named in honor of the late Bishop Ruben Lee Speaks, who served in the A.M.E. Zion Church as bishop, pastor, preacher, teacher, and writer. Bishop Speaks authored *A Handbook for Ministers and Lay Leaders*, *The Minister and His Task*, *The Church and Black Liberation*, *God in an Age of Scarcity*, and *Prelude to Pentecost*. Bishop Speaks received the Chancellor's Award from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Brooklyn Advisory Committee of the New York Urban League. *Ebony Magazine* once named him one of the "100 Most Influential Black Leaders in America." As Bishop, he served in Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States. He was acknowledged on numerous occasions for his leadership and creative engagement in ministry. When he presided over the Liberia Conference, the late President of Liberia, William Tolbert, dubbed him, "Knight of African Redemption."

[Zoom Links and More Information](#)

Check Out Hood's Newest Academic Programs!

Hood Theological Seminary now offers a **Master's in Christian Education (MACE)** and a **Certificate in Christian Education (CCE) Program**.



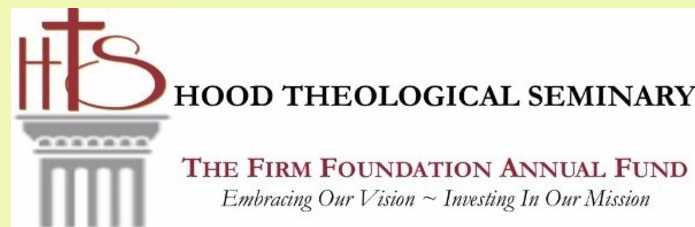
[Learn More](#)

Faithful Friends Partner Program

We are excited to introduce an all-new and impactful initiative at Hood Theological Seminary - the Faithful Friends Partner Recurring Program! As one of our esteemed newsletter subscribers, we want you to be

among the first to know about this incredible opportunity to make a lasting difference in the lives of our students and the community we serve. More information is forthcoming, so stay tuned!

Tyesia Walker - Director,
Annual Giving & Donor
Relations



It's so easy to donate securely online! Or mail your check to the Seminary at 1810 Lutheran Synod Dr., Salisbury, NC 28144.

Your gift to the Annual Fund is essential in promoting the mission of the Seminary and in helping keep tuition as low as possible for our students. Every gift, small and large, is greatly appreciated and stewarded responsibly.

Create Your Legacy with a Planned Gift

- ~ 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.

For more information, contact John Everett at jeverett@hoodseminary.edu or (704) 636-6545, or visit our [Planned Giving](#) website for lots of helpful information.

Foundations for Thriving Learning Community

Foundations for Thriving Learning Community, a program tailor-made for churches like ours. This is not just an invitation but a chance to be part of a transformative journey that bridges faith, learning, and community connection.



Here's what past participants had to say:

"Consider this remarkable opportunity for your congregation. I believe that by participating in the Foundations for Thriving Learning Community, we can not only strengthen the spiritual fabric of our churches but also contribute to the betterment of our neighborhoods and society at large."

To learn more about this program and secure your church's spot, please visit www.faithlearnthrive.org/learning-community.

Learn More About the Stronger Churches Conference!

STRONGER CHURCHES CONFERENCE is an annual conference hosted by FaithLearnThrive, a Thriving Congregations Initiative of Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC.



[Go Here](#) for the video playlist about the Stronger Churches Conference

And [HERE](#) for the Conference Attendee Video Testimonials!

www.faithlearnthrive.org

Blessings from the Haley Farm Experience

2023

Dr. Mary A. Love

The Children's Defense Fund sponsors the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry and the Dale Andrews Freedom Seminary (DAFS) annually in July. The 2023 theme was "Freedom Faith at 50" noting the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the Children's Defense Fund. Hood's involvement began in 2016 under the leadership of Dr. Charlene Sinclair. Our participation continues and grows. This year only one student (Fredrick Cannady-Kelderman) took the course for credit. But the Hood family present included alumni, Steve Dowling and Valtoria Jackson, plus fellow student John Campbell. Dowling brought his family, including his sons Christian and Cameron who participated in the Freedom School for youth.

Reflections from Frederick Cannady-Kelderman

Dale Andrews Freedom Seminary (DAFS) provided an opportunity for me to explore new possibilities and avenues for ministry as I continue to engage in working with the younger generation. The opportunity to meet authors and engage with fellow seminarians was very meaningful. The wealth of resources and wide range of testimonies were quite helpful. A project which I started last semester continues to take new life and direction. I look forward to the outcome of my project this semester and its real impact on the younger generation.

Reflections on the Freedom School from Christian Dowling

"Here are three positives about Freedom School. First, I was able to meet a lot of new people. I also was able to go to a lot of cool places as we went on a few field trips to a museum, a zoo, and the Junior Achievement Center. Lastly, overall, I had a fun time. But I also had some bad experiences on the trip. Like one, there were a lot of flies that kept getting in my food because we ate outside. Another thing was the long walk from the road to the camp. We took this walk over and over and over again; but, overall, I had an okay experience and would want to go again."

Reflections of Freedom School from Cameron Dowling

In this I will give my positive and negative thoughts on Freedom School, 2023.

Positive: I like that a major point of Freedom School is to meet new people and to make a lot of friends. The counselors were not too pushy on making friends, but they made it a safe space to make friends if I was comfortable. I liked the locations we visited (achievement center and Museum.) as they were fun and exciting. I learned a lot from each of the spots we visited. I loved how all the kids, and the people were nice and accepting of everything that I did and nobody there was mean or hostile.

Everything showed that a lot of effort went into planning and nothing seemed low budget whatsoever.

Negative: To be completely honest, I do not really have any negative thoughts but here are a few details that I would like to share. I would love it if there were a few more activities and competitive things to do for the children to do. The second day was a little boring. An event like a scavenger hunt (wink, wink) or something where there is somewhat of a winner, but there does not necessarily have to be a prize, just something that all the kids can participate in together would be super helpful. A team bonding activity so kids can bond with each other would also be good because 90% of the time when kids are together to achieve a task, they start to bond a lot better and quicker, and it also helps kids come out of their shell. On a real note, I absolutely loved it and would love to come back whenever the next event is and cannot wait to come back.

Reflections from Rev. Steve Dowling

Attending the Children's Defense Fund's Proctor Institute this year was again an enjoyable and rewarding experience. There seems to always be so many different perspectives shared to heighten awareness of how to better care for the well-being of children. I gleaned just as much, even more as an alum, than I did on my initial experience as a student in 2022.

From a Hood Community perspective, I wished I could have caravanned with Dr. Love and fellow Hood students, but I was able to travel with my wife and two sons. Of course, Dr. Love made herself available the entire conference for questions and continuous learning but being able to share this community with my young men made this quite the occasion for me. The first day of Proctor was specifically for academia and DAFS, but still my family was able to come along and sit in on a couple of sessions. As soon as those sessions concluded, it was as if my sons attended a conversation starter class. They asked numerous questions, and I loved being a dad who could facilitate the answering sessions over dinner or while we commuted back and forth to the farm.

I continued to feel that the word "intentional" was the theme of what the Proctor Institute desired for the weeklong visitors to receive and retain. As I learned about the work of Marian Wright Edelman and others like Prathia Hall, I kept feeling as if I was not doing enough to care for others. Learning about them creates a very compelling urgency to do whatever you can to consider and promote the wellbeing of others.

I am hopeful that I can continue to take time each year to connect with the Children's Defense Fund and the Proctor Institute. I want to find a way to encourage some of my church members to attend also with this being a very Christian oriented setting. Bringing church members to a place dedicated to caring just feels like a cannot lose partnership to me.

Dr. Love led a workshop entitled "Celebrating the Vision and Legacy of the Children's Defense Fund – 1973-2023." It shared the experiences of Dr. Marian Wright Edelman that provided the motivation to bring about effective change in the lives of children who were living in poverty. Thus, the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) was born with a

mission to ensure that every child has a healthy start, a head start, a fair start, a safe start, and a moral start. It was also an opportunity to look at the milestone accomplishments of CDF and the acquisition of Alex Haley's Farm to become a training ground for child advocacy.



Dowling family with Fred Cannady-Kelderman



Hood's Crew

Hood Travels

Johnson C. Smith University Career Fair, September 13, 2023

Gardner Webb College Fair, September 20, 2023



Pictures from HTS attending College Night Out on August 24, 2023

Alumni News

Congratulations to **LaTonya Thorpe, MDiv'09, DMin'19** on completing Unit 1 of CPE at Wake Forest Baptist Health in Winston-Salem, NC, and being accepted into the Residency Program this fall. She will start the Residency Program on August 28, 2023.



La Tonya Thorpe

Faculty and Staff News

Dr. Vergel Lattimore, President and Professor, will meet with the Board of Directors of The Gift of Black Theological Education and Black Faith Traditions Collaborative (The Collaborative) on September 18, 2023.

He will participate as an Academic Delegate in the Inauguration of Dr. Anthony Davis as the 13th President of Livingstone College on September 22, 2023.

Hood Theological Seminary is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Angela Davis-Baxter** as the Acting Dean of Students, effective for the 2023-2024 academic year. As the Acting Dean of Students, Dr. Davis-Baxter will play a crucial role in overseeing student affairs and enhancing the overall student experience. With her extensive experience in student services, Dr. Davis-Baxter is well-equipped to provide leadership and support to Hood's diverse student body.

Dr. Davis-Baxter holds a Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from Wingate University, a Master of Education Degree in School Administration from Gardner Webb University, Master of Education Degree in Divergent Learning from Columbia College, and a Bachelor of Social Work Degree from Winthrop University.

"I look forward to collaborating with faculty, staff, and students to ensure a well-rounded and enriching seminary experience" (Dr. Angela Davis-Baxter).

Annual Faculty & Staff Retreat Pictures

Hood had their annual Faculty/Staff retreat on August 10, 2023.



The entire Hood community joins together in prayer for and offers sincere condolences to the family and friends of:

Kelly Bryant and her family: Kelly's grandmother Mary Ann (Kelly) Bornheimer passed away peacefully on August 26, 2023.

**Hood's Herald -
Spring 2023 Now
Available Online!**

Read the latest edition now available online! This annual publication includes highlights of the past year, articles of interest, and the Honor Roll of Donors for 2022. Click the button below to view.



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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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