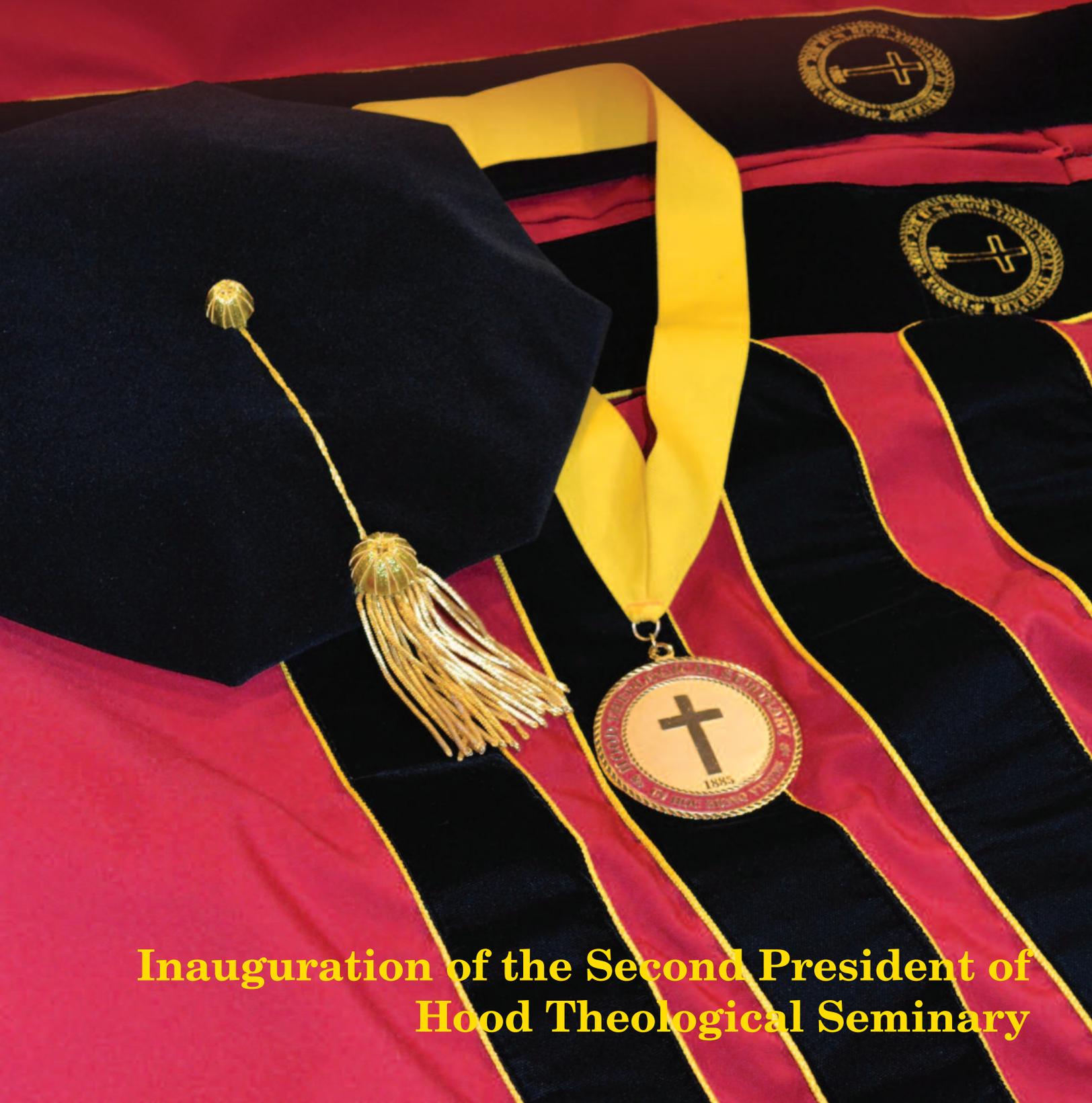


Vol. XIII, No. 1 Winter 2014-15

HOOD'S HERALD

A PUBLICATION OF HOOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



**Inauguration of the Second President of
Hood Theological Seminary**

A Message from the President

Greetings, faithful friends, steadfast supporters, active alumni, and committed colleagues,



One year ago, I wrote to you as President Elect/CEO, but it is now my distinct honor to officially greet you as the Second President of Hood Theological Seminary (HTS). As the new president of the Seminary, I am inspired by the spiritual assertion from Revelation 21: 5 – “Behold, I make all things new.”

At our one-day Annual Faculty-Staff Retreat, we focused on “The Joy of Teaching for Effectiveness in Ministry.” We initiated a new school calendar and new strategic emphases. I have invited our learning community to share my vision: An enlivened faculty, staff and administration; an enriched and excited student body; an active and engaged Alumni Association; and an expanded institutional capacity. We also invite you to join us in this new journey forward!

Hood continues to be a place of rich intellectual exploration, deep spiritual formation and enriching fellowship, community collaboration, and genuine hospitality. In November, the Seminary received positive news from the Religion Program of the Lilly Foundation regarding our grant proposal for the Endowment’s Initiative to Strengthen Fundraising in Historic African-American Theological Schools. In June 2014, the University Senate of the United Methodist Church took action to re-approve HTS for teaching and training United Methodist clergy.

In the area of enrollment, I am pleased to report that Fall 2014 student admissions reflected a significant increase, exceeding the results of the last couple of years. The Seminary now has a Comprehensive Recruitment and Retention Plan. In this regard, we have moved the student computer center into the library. Moreover, with the generous financial support of Trustee Board member, Mrs. Sarah Cook, the Seminary completed a plan to create a Writing Center. In August 2014, the Writing Center/Learning Commons was opened. Students are excited about this new campus resource and space to support their academic studies. To enhance this academic resource, our Development Office received the great news in September 2014 that the Lutheran Synod had awarded HTS a grant to purchase new computers for the library.

The Fall semester was especially busy as we experienced a wonderfully exciting Presidential Inauguration on October 2nd, the Bishop Ruben L. Speaks Lecture Series on October 2nd and 3rd, and the meeting of the Board of Trustees on October 3rd. The Speaks Lecture Series featured Dr. Douglas Meeks, Cal Turner Chancellor Professor of Theology and Wesleyan Studies, and Director, United Methodist Programs at Vanderbilt University. His lectures were entitled – “Wesley, Sanctification, and the Coming Revival” and “Wesley, Poverty, and Civic Discipline.”

The Seminary has been active in the community. On September 26th, HTS was one of the leading sponsors for the Literacy Summit and Community Forum. The Aymer Center hosted an outstanding event for over 150 people from all over Rowan County.

I hope this issue of Hood’s Herald affirms our confidence in the spirit of the words in Jeremiah 29:11— “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you...plans to give you hope...” As you prepare to share Christmas, Hanukah, or Kwanza with loving family and friends, please continue to remember HTS in our Firm Foundation Annual Fund, which assists us in ongoing operating expenses and scholarship supplements to keep our student tuition and fees at a moderate level.

With blessing for health, wellness, and peace in 2015, I remain,

In sincere appreciation,

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

Vergel L. Lattimore
President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2014 - 2015

Bishop Richard K. Thompson, *Chairman*
Bishop Louis Hunter, Sr., *Vice Chairman*
Rev. Dr. Sheldon R. Shipman, *Secretary*
Rev. Dr. Douglas L. Maven, *Assistant Secretary*
Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.
Mrs. Sara Cook
Mr. Charles Davidson
Bishop Michael A. Frencher
Dr. Sandra L. Gadson
Dr. Clifford A. Jones
Rev. Terry L. Jones, Sr.
Bishop Kenneth Monroe
Bishop W. Darin Moore
The Hon. Adele M. Riley
Mr. Robert Roakes
Dr. Brenda L. G. Smith

Members Emeriti

Dr. Janet Ward Black
Dr. Beatrice Asbury Houston
Bishop Joseph Johnson
Dr. Richard Martin
Dr. Ned Storey
Rev. Dr. Curtis T. Walker
Bishop George W. C. Walker, Sr.

Members Ex-Officio

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore, *President*
R. Darrell Hancock, Esq., *Legal Counsel*
Dr. Grant Harrison, Jr., *President,*
HTS Alumni Association

ADMINISTRATION

President

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore

Academic Dean

Dr. Trevor Eppehimer

Dean of Students

Dr. Dora R. Mbuwayesango

Fiscal Officer

Dr. Regina Dancy

Director of Admissions

Ms. Angela Davis-Baxter

**Director of Communication, Information
& Publicity**

Mrs. Carol D. Palmer

Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

Mrs. Margaret H. Kluttz

Director of Financial Aid

Rev. J. Frances King

Director of Library

Mrs. Jess Bellemer

Registrar

Mrs. Nancy Baker

President Emeritus

Dr. Albert J. D. Aymer

CONTENTS

2 A Message from the President

4 The Inauguration

6 New Faculty and Staff

8 Faculty Notes

9 Endowed Scholarship Recipients

10 Commencement 2014

12 Campus News and Events

14 Alumni News

15 Bishop James Walker Hood Awards

16 Honor Roll of Donors

18 Library News

19 One Student's Journey

19 In Memoriam

Back cover: Upcoming events

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.

Hood's Herald is a publication of the Office of Development and Alumni
Affairs of Hood Theological Seminary; Carol Palmer, editor.
Communications regarding *Hood's Herald*, including address changes and
alumni news and updates, may be sent to the editor at Hood Theological
Seminary, 1810 Lutheran Synod Drive, Salisbury, NC 28144 or by email
to cpalmer@hoodseminary.edu. Photography: Gordon Photography; Steve
Norman Photography; Frances King; Carol Palmer; Maria Hall; et al.
Phone 704-636-7611 ❖ Fax 704-636-7685 ❖ www.hoodseminary.edu

The Inauguration of Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore III

Hood Theological Seminary inaugurates its second President

(Reprinted with permission of the Salisbury Post.)



The inauguration of Dr. Vergel Lattimore as President of Hood Theological Seminary (HTS) was held on October 2, 2014 at 2:00 pm on the campus.

With a large body present, including the Board of Trustees of HTS, members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, members of the faith community, the Salisbury community, and family and friends, Dr. Lattimore was inaugurated as the 2nd President of the Seminary with all of the pomp and circumstance that this distinguished honor holds.

During the inauguration, collegial reflections were given by various colleagues who have journeyed with President Lattimore over the course of many years in his ministry of redemptive leadership. The reflections were followed by the Investiture Ceremony which was carried out by Bishop Larry Goodpaster of the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, and Bishop Louis Hunter, Sr, presiding prelate of the Mid-Atlantic I Episcopal District and Vice Chairman Hood Theological Seminary Board of

Trustees. Rev. Dr. Albert J.D. Aymer, outgoing President of Hood Seminary, transferred the official emblems of the presidency to Dr. Lattimore, giving him the official stamp as President.

Charges to the president were given by individuals from the community, the general church, the student body, the academy at large, the alumni, the trustees, the staff, Mr Adam V. Lattimore (President Lattimore's son), and the faculty.

The much anticipated moment finally arrived when the Inaugural Address was given by President Lattimore. In his address, titled "Faith Seeking Knowledge and..." he took the audience on a journey thru his academic and spiritual life giving testament to those who have shaped his character and integrity. He also shared with the audience how his "little red Bible" provided protection for him during some difficult times in life. He stated that HTS was a vehicle for change as well as an extended arm of the church.



Immediately following the ceremony, a wonderful reception was held in the Dr. Albert J.D. Aymer Center for Spiritual Growth and Ministerial Formation, located on the HTS campus, where the president greeted his guests.



Bishop Larry Goodpaster and Bishop Louis Hunter, Sr. conducted the Investiture Ceremony



Rev. Dr. Alice M. Graham, Exec. Dir., MS Coast Interfaith Task Force and Dr. Daniel O. Aleshire, Director, The Association of Theological Schools



Rev. Dr. Henry J. Young, Visiting Professor of Theology and Ethics, shares Collegial Reflections on *Creative Mindfulness*

“Faith Seeking Knowledge and...”
The journey in a ministry of redemptive leadership.



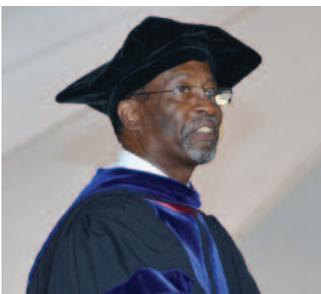
Elder Edna Coleman, Assistant to the Fiscal Officer, delivers a Charge from the Staff



Bishop George E. Battle, Jr., Senior Bishop, A.M.E. Zion Church; Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore; Rev. Dr. Sheldon Shipman, Secretary of the Board of Trustees



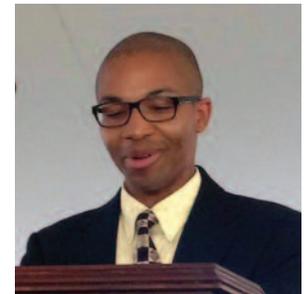
Father R. Paul Mathis, Chaplain, Lt. Colonel, Air National Guard (Ret.) and pastor of St. Bernadette Mission, Constantia, NY, shares a laugh during his Reflection on *Presence*



Dr. William L. Pollard, Founding Dean of the Grambling State University School of Social Work shares a Reflection on *Servant-hood*



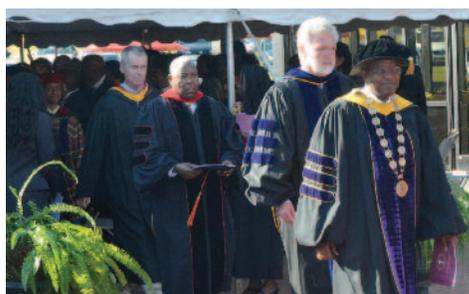
(l to r) A.M.E. Zion Bishops Kenneth Monroe and W. Darin Moore; Bishop Larry Goodpaster of the Western NC Conference, United Methodist Church; Bishop Leonard Bolick, NC Lutheran Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Mr. Adam V. Lattimore, college student, delivers a Charge from Family



Mrs. Shirley McCoy with Mrs. Margaret Kluttz, Development Officer



Institutional delegates join the recessional



Mrs. Joy Lattimore



Mr. Brien Lewis, President of Catawba College and Mrs. Karen Alexander of KKA Architecture



The Hon. Elaine Arch chats with Mrs. Fran Black Holland



President Emeritus Dr. Albert J. D. Aymer with the new President, Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore



Matthew and Nancy Sleeth of Blessed Earth with President Lattimore

Faculty and Staff News

New Faculty Members

Among the new faces on campus at the start of the 2014 - 15 academic year are those of new faculty members Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden, Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Director of Supervised Ministry; Dr. Daran H. Mitchell, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Church Administration and Preaching; Dr. Kim Porter, Adjunct Professor in Biblical Studies; Dr. Staccato Powell, Adjunct Professor of Ministry Revisioning; and new staff members Ms. Stephanie Teasley, Writing Center Coordinator and Learning Commons Librarian; and Mr. Willie Watts, Director of Building and Grounds .

In announcing the appointments of these new faculty and staff members, President Lattimore said, "We are proud to have these scholars and accomplished individuals as the newest members of our distinguished faculty and staff. The new perspectives and new energy they bring to the Seminary strengthen our on-going commitment to excellence. Their primary disciplines will provide important dimensions in the education and preparation of our students as the future leaders of faith communities in today's complex world."

Rev. Dr. Ken J. Walden is a 1999 graduate of The Citadel. He received his Master of Divinity (M.Div.) from Duke University Divinity School, a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) in Ecumenical Ministries from Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Indiana and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Practical Theology: Pastoral Care and Counseling from Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, California. He also completed Officer



Squadron School at the United States Air Force Air University at Montgomery, Alabama and is a Chaplain Major in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. In this service, he teaches and preaches as well as provides pastoral care and counseling and assists military families in preparation for pre-deployment, deployment and post-deployment. Dr. Walden was Chaplain and Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina and most recently worked in the Wounded Warriors Program in Washington, DC, where he provided counseling, led retreats and helped create workshops on marriage and family enrichment as well as spiritual growth. He is the author of 2 books: "A Pastor's Poetry" and "Challenges Faced by Iraq War Reservists and their Families: A Soul Care Approach for Chaplains and Pastors." Dr. Walden is an Elder in the

United Methodist Church and has served as pastor at churches in North Carolina, Michigan and California. He and his wife, Michelle, reside in Salisbury.

Ms. Steph Teasley is the new Writing Coordinator for Hood Theological Seminary. She will be overseeing the new Learning Commons and tutoring students on their writing skills. Ms. Teasley has English degrees from UNC Chapel Hill and UNC Charlotte. She has taught English for community colleges, universities and private institutions. Her specialty is one-on-one instruction. Ms. Teasley is also a wife, mother of two, and a hobby novelist.



Dr. Daran H. Mitchell received a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy from Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida. He received an M.Div. from Hood Theological Seminary and a D.Min. from the Samuel D. Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. He is an Ordained Elder in the A.M.E. Zion Church and has been pastor at churches in Florida, Tennessee, South Carolina, New York and North Carolina. He is currently Pastor of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Greensboro, NC, and President of the Greensboro Chapter of Hood's Alumni Association. Dr. Mitchell has served the A.M.E. Zion Church on numerous committees and boards and is currently Co-Dean of the Piedmont Episcopal District Leadership Training Institute and Chairman/Dean of the Board of Conference Examiners for the West Central NC Annual Conference. He has taught at New Brunswick Theological Seminary (St. John's University Campus) and several colleges in North Carolina. Among the many organizations he has served are the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. as its President, and the National Action Network (Brooklyn Branch) as its Religious Affairs Director. He is the Chairman of the Religious Affairs Committee of the Greensboro Branch of the NAACP. This year, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta. He is the recipient of many other ecumenical and religious leadership and service awards and honors. Dr. Mitchell is married to Reverend Lynn Mitchell and is father to 18 year old, Caylen.

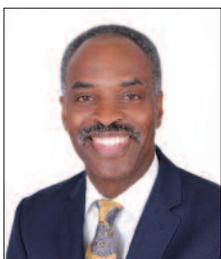


Dr. Kim Porter received a B.S. in Social Work from Florida State University and an M.Div. from Emory University. He earned his Ph.D. in Biblical Studies at University of Glasgow. He has been pastor of United Methodist Churches in Georgia and Florida and is adjunct professor at Duke University Divinity School in pastoral care and Christian education. Dr. Porter has also lectured on Liberation Theology



and the New Testament. As adjunct professor at Winthrop University, he teaches in the Honors Program, the Philosophy/Religion Department and in the core liberal arts curriculum, and is a consultant in the Research Department of the University for Peace, developing a religion focused curriculum for peace education. He has worked with the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center as Director of Development and with a team to create the Philosophy and Religion Department at Florida International University. Dr. Porter was founder and instructor of the Miami Lay School of Theology and was campus minister and instructor Miami-Dade Community College and Florida International University. He has led student delegations to Nicaragua and participated as an international election observer in Haiti and Honduras. After serving in various positions within the Florida community college system, including Dean and Provost, he gained extensive experience with community college administration, human resource development, educational policy and curriculum development. Dr. Porter has presented numerous papers during his career including "Sociology of Religion" at the Conference on Church and Society in Miami and "Impact of Cults on the Western Faith System," also in Miami. He and his wife, Andria Cantrell, live in Salisbury.

Dr. Staccato Powell received a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, an M.Div.



from Duke University Divinity School and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from North Carolina Central University. He is pastor of Grace A.M.E. Zion Church in Raleigh, NC, and is the CEO of Grace in the City Community Development Corporation, an entity dedicated to the redevelopment of the College Park neighborhood. Dr. Powell founded and is President of SP4 and Associates, a consulting firm

which focuses on achieving clear, cogent and concrete objectives for its clients such as The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the British Methodist Church, Lincoln University and the Board of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. He serves in a number of ecumenical capacities: on the Board of Directors for the US Conference of the World Council of Churches; as vice chair of the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical Relations for the Presbyterian Church (USA); and as the Chair and Coordinator of the Great Gathering of the historic African American Methodist communions: the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, and Christian Methodist Episcopal Churches. He also has served pastorates in the A.M.E. Zion Church and has served on the boards of several interdenominational organizations. He was assigned to Grace A.M.E. Zion Church in December 2003 where the congregation has grown from forty-five to twelve hundred. Born in Hallsboro, NC, Dr. Powell now resides in Wake Forest, NC. He is the father of 2 children, Staccato K. Powell and Susan Nicole Powell.

Bishop Joseph Johnson Retires

Bishop Joseph Johnson was honored for his long and distinguished service to Hood with a luncheon in The Aymer Center following Commencement on May 17th. He served as assistant professor of practical theology from 1981-91 and was the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees when Hood became independent in 2001. He later served as adjunct professor of practical theology, director of the Diploma Program and as Bishop in Residence. Many friends, colleagues and family members spoke at the luncheon of his dedicated service to the Seminary and to the A.M.E. Zion Church. Bishop Johnson continues to support the Seminary even in retirement; in October, at the Presidential Inauguration, he announced a generous gift of \$50,000 to support education in Church Administration at the Seminary. The entire Seminary community wishes Bishop Johnson many blessings in his retirement.



Bishop Johnson (*center*) and members of his family gather following the luncheon in his honor on May 17th

Faculty Notes

Dr. Trevor Eppheimer, Academic Dean and Professor of Systematic Theology, presided over a constructive theologies panel, "Ecclesiology Today: The Nature of the Church and Role of Theology," at the AAR Southeast Annual Meeting in March 2014 in Atlanta, GA. He will continue to serve as the Co-Chair of the Constructive Theologies Working Group of the Southeast Commission for the Study of Religion in 2014-15. In April 2014 he lectured on the subject "Commerce without Morality" at the First United Church of Christ (Salisbury, NC) as part of its Lenten Lecture Series. He also led a five week study of C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Salisbury, NC) in March and April of 2014. He taught on the role of Epistle of James in Methodist Christianity at First United Methodist Church (Salisbury, NC) in February 2014 and on the theology of advent at First Presbyterian Church (Salisbury, NC) in December 2013. Dr. Eppheimer delivered the closing convocation address entitled "Testing the Spirits," at HTS on May 16, 2014. He also submitted an essay for publication in a forthcoming Festschrift for Dr. Christopher Morse, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Dr. Dora Mbuwayesango published the article, "Struggling with Content and Methods: Teaching Biblical Exegesis/Interpretation at Hood Theological Seminary" in *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Volume 17, Issue 2, March 2014 (online issue). She recently submitted two essays for publication in the forthcoming *Bible Study Resource on Sexuality* and *The Oxford Handbook of Biblical Narratives* ("Sex and Sexuality in Biblical Narratives"). In addition, Dr. Mbuwayesango wrote a reflection on an essay titled "Faith, Hope, and Love: Theological Resources for Blessing Same-sex Relationships" in *I will Bless You and You will be a Blessing: Resources for the Witnessing and Blessing of Lifelong Covenant in a Same-Sex Relationship*, which was commended for study and use by the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church (July 2012). She also taught an adult education class on the book of Genesis in the Adult Formation program at St Luke's Episcopal Church in Salisbury (February-May 2014).

Dr. Kathy Thomas McFadden, Adjunct Professor of Supervised Ministry at the HTS Extension Campus in Greenville, Alabama, was recently awarded the James A. Auchmuty Congregational Leadership Fellowship from the Resource Center for Pastoral Excellence at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. The Auchmuty Fellowship is awarded periodically to support active ministers and lay leaders for spiritual renewal and for continuing education and leadership skills development. The goal of the Auchmuty Fellowship is to provide resources that help pastoral

leaders experience emotional, spiritual, physical, and intellectual renewal.

Dr. McFadden plans to participate in a coaching program sponsored by Coaching4Clergy, a Christian based coaching program that focuses on coaching and training clergy. The program uses a combination of on-line, telephone and on-site training in the area of coaching. As a result of participating in the coach program Dr. McFadden will receive coaching for professional, spiritual and intellectual renewal and hopes to create a venue whereby she will be available to provide these resources to individuals and groups that desire coaching, creating learning and training opportunities for coaching as well as personal and spiritual development for members of her local church, denomination and the larger community on a regular basis.

Dr. Daran Mitchell joined the HTS faculty as an adjunct member this summer, when he offered PTH 130: Church Administration during the June intensive course session. During the fall 2014 semester Dr. Mitchell taught PTH 220: Preaching in the African American Tradition.

Dr. Staccato Powell joined the HTS faculty as an adjunct member this fall, when he offered DMN 401: Core Seminar I in the D.Min. program.

Dr. André Resner, Professor of Homiletics and Church Worship, was on a sabbatical this fall, 2014. He spent his time studying the Gospel of Mark with a view to publishing a book entitled, *Reading Mark for Preaching Gospel*. As part of his study, Dr. Resner will be participating in a close reading of the Greek text of Mark with Dr. Joel Marcus, Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Duke Divinity School. Dr. Marcus is the author of the two volume commentary on Mark in the Anchor Bible commentaries series. Dr. Marcus and Dr. Resner have known each other since 1985-1988 when they lived across the street from one another while both were at Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Resner has taught "Reading Mark for Preaching Gospel" since 1991 in various universities and seminaries from Texas to Tennessee to New Jersey and at Hood Theological Seminary since 2004.

Dr. Bradley Trick, Assistant Professor in New Testament, now serves on the Discipleship Committee at St. John's Lutheran Church (Salisbury, NC) where he taught a six-week course on 1 Peter January-March 2014.

Dr. Michael K. Turner, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity, received a grant to participate in the 2014 Summer Wesley Studies Seminar at Duke University. At the seminar, he worked on a book project that explores Abraham Lincoln's utilization of religious institutions to help mobilize support for the Union cause during the Civil War era. He has taught Sunday school

Fourteen Endowed Scholarship Recipients Announced for 2014-2015

The Seminary is pleased to announce the recipients of permanently endowed scholarships for 2014-2015. These students are to be congratulated 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 Scholarship Recipients:



Dana Caldwell grew up in a small town in the Midwest and earned a bachelor's degree in History Education at Illinois State University. Over 17 years ago she was called to move to Raleigh, NC. She worked in the mortgage industry for about 26 years balancing career and ministry activity. She is now a full time student, seeking ordination in the United Methodist Church. Dana has two Beagles, Buddy and Abby, who are her companions on this adventure God has called her to. She feels very blessed to be attending Hood Seminary during this season in her life!

Kelly Greene, a UMC student from Mooresville, NC. (Photo not available.)

Kevin Griffin is a native of Augusta, GA. He is married to Angelle Griffin, and they have two daughters, Kyla and Mayah. He is an ordained Baptist minister serving at Chappell Memorial Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC, where Norman E. Kerry Jr. is the pastor. At Chappell, Kevin serves in multiple capacities, including associate minister and Director of Christian Education.



The Bishop George E. and Iris Battle Scholarship Recipients:

Teresa Cromedy was born and raised in Huger, SC, a small town near Charleston, SC. After high school, she served in the U.S. Navy for 11 years specializing in Aviation Electronics and earned a bachelor's degree in Technical Management with a minor in Aviation Safety from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL. She received an MBA from Wingate University in Wingate, NC. Currently, Teresa works in the corporate arena as a Project Manager for InVue Security



Products. Her ministerial journey began in 2011, and she is presently serving at Jonahville A.M.E. Zion Church as a Local Preacher. Teresa was elected Track 1 At-Large SGA Representative for the 2014-2015 academic year. "As a lover of the Lord and the Lord's people, I press toward the mark of the high calling of Jesus Christ with dedication, sincerity, and humility."

Angela Greene, an A.M.E. Zion student from Greensboro, NC. (Photo not available.)

The Dr. Frank and Fletcher Brown Scholarship Recipients:

Clemmie Palmer, III, a student in Hood's Alabama Extension program, has a B.S. in Physical Science from

Auburn University Montgomery and a Medical degree from the University of Alabama Birmingham. He has been a psychiatrist in private practice since 1998. Palmer is certified in General Psychiatry as well as Psychosomatic medicine. He is a member of Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion church in Montgomery, AL. He is married to Veronica and has a son, Clemmie IV, and a daughter, Angel. Social interests include jazz & blues, chess, plays, and mentoring underprivileged youths. Academic interests include Religion & Mental illness, Pastoral Counseling, and the History of Christianity.



The Dr. Robert Harkrader Scholarship Recipient:

Jan Walsh is a Baptist Church student from Rural Hall, NC.

The Thomas William Langford Scholarship Recipient: Theresa Moxley, a UMC student from Kernersville, NC. (Photo not available.)

The Bishop George J. Leake, III Scholarship Recipient:

Warren D. Williams, a student in Hood's Alabama Extension Program, has a B.S. in Computer Science from The University of Alabama. He is currently the pastor of Jerusalem A.M.E. Zion Church in Tuscaloosa, AL. He is also the Information Systems Data Specialist and HIPAA Security Officer at Brewer Porch Children's Center, which provides a model treatment program for Alabama's special needs children, adolescents and their families. He and his wife, Martha, have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.



The Andrew McLean Spaulding Scholarship Recipients:

Andria Cantrell, a UMC student living in Salisbury, NC. (See story on page 19.)

Leo Roy, a UMC student from Kitrell, NC. (Photo not available.)

The Bishop Richard K. Thompson Scholarship Recipient:

Robert Kelley, an A.M.E. Zion student from New Bern, NC. (Photo not available.)

The Jim Arthur Wadford Scholarship Recipient:

Charles Allen, an A.M.E. Zion student, is a 2011 Master of Divinity graduate of Hood Seminary. He is pastor Spaulding Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Taylortown, NC, where he has been for 3 years. He is currently in the 2nd year of the Doctor of Ministry program.



The Margaret C. Woodson Foundation Scholarship Recipient:

Bryle Hatch, an A.M.E. Zion student from Greensboro, NC. (Photo not available.)

Commencement 2014

Graduation Day on Saturday, May 17, was an uplifting day filled with inspirational messages, cheers, tears, and exciting new opportunities.

Family members, friends, and parishioners traveled from all over to celebrate this special day with Hood graduates. Large white tents, set up on Wallace Plaza in front of the new Aymer Center, provided a proud new pomp-and-circumstance venue and picture perfect setting for the commencement activities.

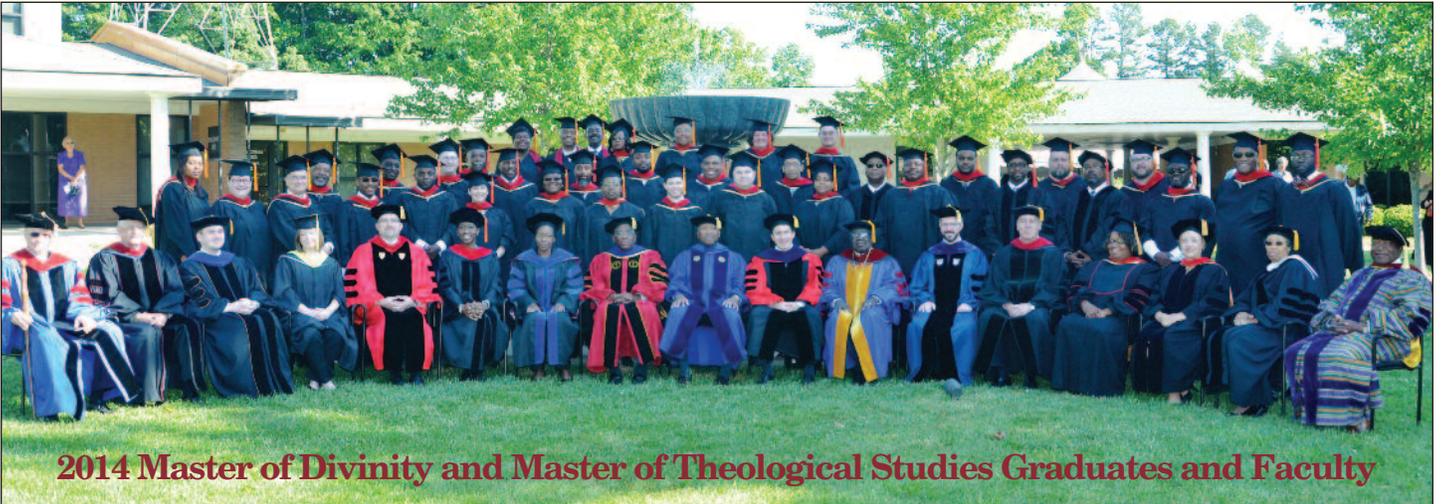
Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer, resident Bishop of the United Methodist Church in the Ohio West Area gave a powerful commencement address entitled "Running to Win" using as his text, 1 Corinthians 9:19 – 27. He cautioned graduates that they were at a crucial intersection in their ministries between danger and opportunity saying "Despite the fact that the Church no longer enjoys the cultural prominence that it once did, there are still exciting opportunities for ministry in the world. There is danger in seeing your degree as a destination or an end unto itself. Your degree, while an important accomplishment, is a mile marker not a destination. It is easy to get stuck at that mile marker and neglect the world which is desperately yearning for the gospel."

While the Bishop affirmed that the graduates should celebrate this accomplishment, he warned against staying in that moment of celebration too long. He said that the goal of ministry should be to engage "in a partnership with God to the end that the world might know the crucified and risen Messiah."

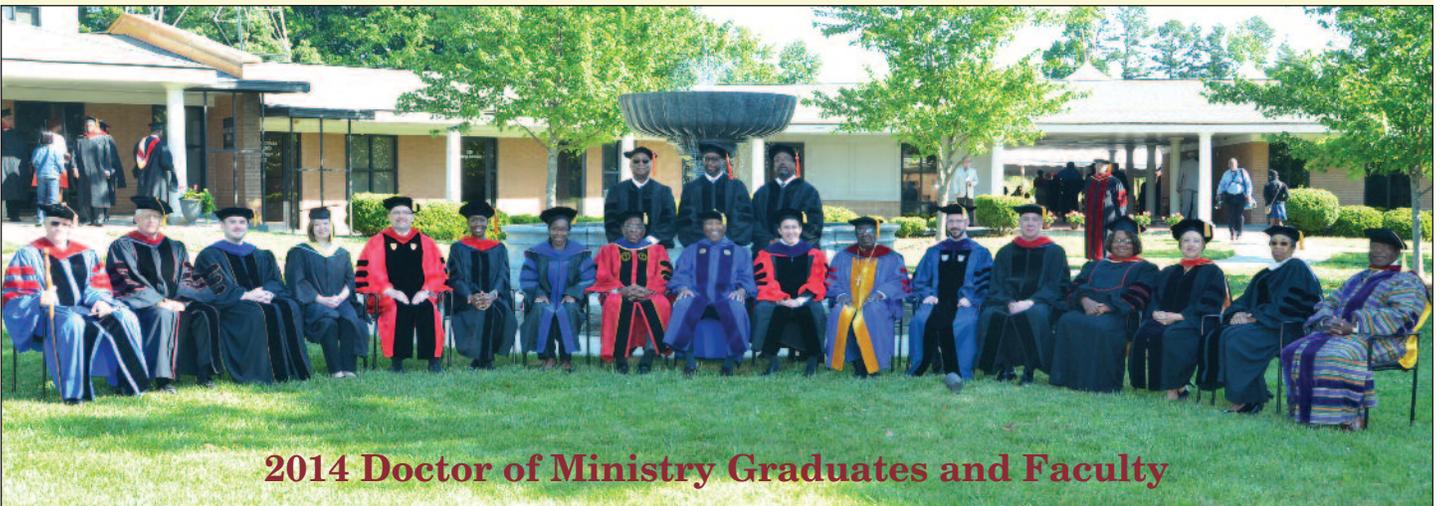


continued on next page





2014 Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies Graduates and Faculty



2014 Doctor of Ministry Graduates and Faculty

The theme “running to win” was drawn from Paul’s illustrations in 1 Corinthians 9. Bishop Palmer argued that Paul’s image of “running” was actually talking about exercising spiritual disciplines. Palmer counseled graduates to exercise the spiritual disciplines they’ve acquired in Seminary.

He lauded Hood as a “center for multi-racial education” that “models what God intends for the world.” He suggested that graduates should take the lessons learned from being involved in that experience into their churches and communities.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters was conferred upon Bishop Palmer by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Bishop Richard K. Thompson, President Elect Vergel Lattimore, and Academic Dean, Dr. Trevor Eppheimer.

The highlight of the graduation service was the conferring of three Doctor of Ministry degrees, thirty-two Master of Divinity degrees, three Master of Theological Studies degrees, and three Diplomas in Christian Ministry.

A poignant moment in the graduation exercises came as Rev. Annie Jones, a critically ill student, was rolled in a wheel chair across the platform by her husband as they both received their Master of Divinity degrees from Hood. The presence of Rev. Jones brought students, faculty, and guests to their feet as she was not expected to be able to attend the ceremony. Her fellow students and professors knew she had worked

continued on page 18

Closing Convocation Ceremony



The annual Closing Convocation and Honors and Awards Ceremony was held Friday, May 16th to recognize students for academic excellence and outstanding

contributions to the life of the Seminary. Dr. Lattimore presented the President’s Award to Juston Smith and Tonya Brittain.

Campus News and Events



The Albert J. D. Aymer Center for Spiritual Growth and Ministerial Formation was officially dedicated on Thursday, March 20th. Dr. Aymer (*above l and r*) thanked the Board of Trustees.



A reception followed the ceremony. Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. and Mrs. Iris Battle (*left*) stand at the entrance to the private conference room named in his honor.



The official **Ribbon Cutting**: Dr. Aymer and Dr. Lattimore did the honors with Trustees, Chamber of Commerce leaders, President's Advisory Council members and Hood staff assisting.



“Celebrating Black History: Moving Our Feet Toward Unity and Community,” a special event on Feb. 27th, was a memorable occasion in Hood’s rich legacy and honorable history. Ote’sha Creative Arts Ensemble performed the Gathering Call. Dr. Stephanie Crumpton performed an African Libation Ceremony. There was also poetry, dance, a re-enacted sermon, and interactive discussion.



C.P.E. Days were held in October to give students a chance to learn about opportunities for Clinical Pastoral Education from representatives of institutions such as Carolinas Medical Center and the NC prison system.



The Bishop White Memorial Heritage Lecture Series, titled “The Historical Significance of the African Methodist Episcopal Church” was presented by the distinguished author and lecturer, Dr. Henry J. Young in February. Dr. Young is Visiting Professor of Theology and Ethics at HTS and Professor Emeritus at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary.



HTS co-hosted a Rowan County Chamber of Commerce **After Hours** event in March in The Aymer Center.

The 2014 -2015 Student Government Association officers (*l to r*): Janet Garner-Mullins, *Secretary*; Teresa Cromedy, *At-Large and Track I Rep.*; Stanley Rivers, *Treasurer*; Charlean (Chuck) Mapson, *Vice-President*; Tonisha Johnson, *President*.



Hood was well represented at the **Seminary Stewardship Alliance (SSA)** annual conference in September. SSA Liaisons Carol Palmer and Dr. Dora Mbuwayesango joined those from the other member seminaries from the U.S., Scotland and Australia when they convened at Centenary United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem. Dr. Vergel Lattimore, one of the keynote speakers, addressed *A Pastoral Care Perspective on Creation and Sabbath: Affirming the Biosphere and the Self*. (*Below l to r*) Mrs. Palmer, Dr. Lattimore, Dr. Matthew Sleeth, Exec. Dir. of Blessed Earth, Dr. Mbuwayesango.



Dr. John Wear, (*above r*) founder and executive director of the Center for the Environment and associate professor of biology and environmental science at Catawba College, spoke in Chapel on creation care and sustainability.



Greenville, Alabama Extension Site students gathered after a chapel service this fall. (Front row l to r) James Richardson, Darryl Ervin, Clemmie Palmer, III, Jestine Sanford, Catrina Waters, Cassandra Fields-Taylor, Dr. Sondra Coleman, Director of the Extension Program. (Back row l to r) Keithon Terry, Sanders Mason, III, Yumato Kelley, Eric Walker, Warren Williams, Thomas Betts, Sr. For Thanksgiving, the students prepared and delivered goody bags to participants of the Lomax-Hannon Adult Daycare.



Day of Service at Rowan Helping Ministries. Students and Faculty prepared the lunchtime meal for guests of RHM in November.



In September, **The Literacy Summit** was held in The Aymer Center. Over 150 educators and leaders from the

Salisbury-Rowan Community attended this event co-hosted by the Seminary.



The Bishop Ruben L. Speaks Memorial Lecture Series, titled "The Future of Pan-Methodist Denominations" was presented in October by the distinguished author, theologian and professor, Dr. M. Douglas Meeks. Meeks is the Cal Turner Chancellor

Professor of Theology and Wesleyan Studies and the Director of United Methodist Programs at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Dr. Meeks is with Dr. Michael Turner, Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and Director of United Methodist Studies at Hood, and Mrs. Stephanie Turner.



Renee Bradshaw, Exec. Dir. of the Family Crisis Council, participated in an **Awareness Service** in October in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.



Students, staff, and alumni let their voices be heard during the first **Social Justice event** of the year. This semester, the dialogue was spurred by the August shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and the injustices that occurred within the case. The Student Government Association hosted the open forum. It was all in an effort to remember those who have suffered and died because of injustice and to create conversations that affect our daily lives and families. Theological conversations about social justice between students and professors will continue throughout the year. It is SGA's hope that lives will be changed for the better along with the Hood community.

Alumni News

1885 Society Banquet

The 1885 Society Banquet of our Hood Theological Seminary Alumni/ae Society (HTSAA) was an historic event, one reviving the banquet fundraiser format of times past and also, breaking new ground on our beautiful campus. On Friday, November 14, 2014, alumni/alumnae, faculty, staff and friends gathered at the Aymer Center to share in this event. The purpose of the 1885 Society is to do targeted fundraising to assist students with their tuition fees. President Vergel Lattimore brought greetings and Rev. Dr. William Jordan, presided. The attendees shared a fine meal and were inspired by the words of former professor, The Right Reverend Joseph Johnson, Bishop (retired). One of the founding members of the 1885 Society, Bishop Johnson encouraged us to “hug Hood,” to show our love for our school in a very tangible way. Rev. Dr. Grant Harrison, Jr., President of the alumni/ae association, presented the very distinguished new 1885 Society pin to fifteen of the twenty-four members of the Society attending. All alumni/ae are invited to join the society. Founding members pay \$1,885.00 and contribution members pay \$188.50 yearly, toward the ten year goal of \$1,885.00.



The Aymer Center was the setting for the first 1885 Society Banquet on November 14th.



HTSAA Officers (l to r) Rev. Dr. William Jordan, Parliamentarian; Rev. Rodvegas Ingram, Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Grant Harrison, Jr., President; Rev. Carolyn Bratton, Secretary; Rev. Tamica Robinson, Ass't. Secretary; Rev. Dr. Wardell Henderson, Chaplain.



HTSAA President Grant Harrison addresses the annual alumni meeting in February.

Congratulations

Rev. Dr. Nilous Avery II, '05, pastor of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Salisbury, NC, was elected as the 32nd president of the 500,000 member General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. The election was held at the convention's 147th annual session in Greenville.

Rev. Janice M. Cooper, '13, was invited to a second year in the Chaplain Residency Program at CMC-North East Hospital.

Dr. MonaLisa Covington, '11, published her new book, *Love is a Desire that Becomes an Appetite*. A resident of Greensboro, NC, Dr. Covington is a Chaplain for Randolph Hospital in Asheboro, NC, and Administrative Assistant at Shaw University Divinity School in High Point, NC. Her 1st book *Tears on My Pillow*, was published in 2009.



Dr. Timothy Freeman, '08 and '14, has been appointed pastor of the historic Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Washington, DC.

A new book by **Dr. Kenneth Q. James**, '84 and '06, was released this summer: *Go Crazy - Just Don't Expect Me To Go With You*. Dr. James is pastor of Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Rochester, New York.

Alumni Dinner at Lake Junaluska



UMC alumni/ae gathered for dinner hosted by HTS at the Terrace Hotel at Lake Junaluska during the WNC-CUMC Conference in June.

The 2014 Bishop James Walker Hood Donor Recognition Dinner

Three Honored by the Seminary for Their Long-time Support

The Tenth Annual Bishop James Walker Hood Donor Appreciation Dinner was held on May 15 in The Aymer Center on the Hood Seminary campus. This annual event was held to thank and recognize those individuals who have given a thousand dollars or more in the last year to the Seminary. "This year Hood has much to celebrate," said President Elect Vergel Lattimore. "Tonight, not only do we celebrate being in this beautiful building and the man it honors, but we celebrate each of you who are here for your on-going support to this graduate school and seminary."

This year's event was attended by about 100 guests. Those gathered for the occasion were also thanked by four Seminary students, Rev. Laticia Godette, Rev. Randell Cain, Tonya Brittain, and Margo Gaddy, who gave moving testimonials on the ministerial preparation and spiritual formation they have received while at Hood.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious Bishop James Walker Hood Awards for Distinguished Service, the highest honor the Seminary bestows on donors, leaders and supporters. Dr. Lattimore, retiring President Albert J.D. Aymer, and Chairman of the Board Bishop Richard K. Thompson thanked this year's recipients for their steadfast support and generous contributions of time and talent to the mission of Hood Theological Seminary since becoming independent 13 years ago.

Darrell Hancock was recognized for his tireless professional generosity as the Seminary's attorney, serving pro bono from the eve of its independence in 2001 to the present, and for his life of service as a jurist, churchman at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, and public servant.

Dr. Ned Storey, active member of First United Methodist Church, community leader, and Board Member Emeritus of the Seminary was recognized for his many years of dedicated leadership, and on-going generosity to the seminary.

Dr. Richard Martin, retired surgeon, community leader and Board Member Emeritus was recognized for his life of service as a dedicated and talented surgeon, as a leader in his church and this community, and for his invaluable contributions on all fronts to Hood Theological Seminary.

Storey and Martin were both instrumental in the relocation of Hood to its present location in the old Days Inn property on Lutheran Synod Drive.

Among the special guests in attendance were Bishop and Mrs. George Battle, Senior Bishop of the AME Zion Church and Bishop Leonard Bolick, Senior Bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Bishop Richard K. Thompson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Vergel Lattimore, Attorney R. Darrell Hancock, Dr. Albert Aymer



Bishop Thompson, Mrs. Pennie Martin, Dr. Richard Martin, Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.



Bishop Thompson, Mrs. Shully Storey, Dr. Ned Storey, Dr. Lattimore



HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

We are deeply grateful for the following individuals, organizations, churches, foundations and businesses who have so generously given financial and in-kind support to this Seminary in the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Visionary Council

\$100,000+

The A. M. E. Zion Church
Mona Lisa and Lee Wallace Foundation, Inc.

President's Council

\$50,000 – \$99,999

Connectional Lay Council - AME Zion Church

James Walker Hood Society

\$10,000 – \$49,000

Anonymous
Belk, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Cook, Jr.
David Boyd Davis Charitable Trust
Dickson Foundation
F&M Bank
First Episcopal District - WNCC - AME Zion Church
J. H. Cook & Sons, Inc.
Mr. David B. Jordan
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Martin
Midwest Area Fund - AME Zion Church
Mr. and Mrs. Edward P. Norvell
Mr. and Mrs. Miles J. Smith, Jr.
Wilson L. Smith Family Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
Margaret Cunningham Woodson Foundation

William Orlando Carrington Club

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Bertram
Central NC Annual Conference - AME Zion Church
Mr. Larry Cloninger
Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie T. Davidson
Delhaize America
Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
Dr. Beatrice Asbury Houston
New Jersey Conference - AME Zion Church
New York Conference - AME Zion Church
North Carolina Conference - AME Zion Church
Philadelphia Baltimore Conference - AME Zion Church
PITA Raleigh, LLC
Mrs. Lois Pruehsner
Storey Family Charitable Fund
Bishop and Mrs. Richard K. Thompson
VA Conference - AME Zion Church
West Central NC Conference - AME Zion Church
Western Episcopal District - AME Zion Church
Western New York Conference - AME Zion Church

W. J. Walls Club

\$1,000 – \$4,999

Alabama Conference - AME Zion Church
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Alcorn
Arkansas Conference - AME Zion Church
Dr. Thomas E. Asbury
Dr. Albert J. D. Aymer

Dr. David R. Baker
Mrs. Nancy R. Baker
Gwin and Matt Barr Family Foundation
Rev. Dr. William Frank Blue
Blue Ridge Conference - AME Zion Church
Mr. Reginald W. Brown
Cape Fear Conference - AME Zion Church
Central Alabama Conference - AME Zion Church
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Coltrain
Concord District - AME Zion Church
Rev. Karen C. Doucette
Gen. Harold C. Earnhardt
Eastern West Africa Episcopal - AME Zion Church
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. James W. Ferree
First United Church of Christ Foundation
First United Methodist Church of Salisbury
Florida Conference - AME Zion Church
Georgia Annual Conference - AME Zion Church
Col. and Mrs. William W. Gore
Greensboro District - AME Zion Church
Mr. Robert R. Harkrader, Jr.
Drs. Grant and Joanne Harrison
Hood Alumni Assoc. - Charlotte Chapter
Hood Theological Seminary Alumni Association
Bishop and Mrs. Louis Hunter, Sr.
Bishop Joseph Johnson
Rev. Cynthia Keever
Mrs. Sarah Kellogg
Mr. and Mrs. George Klutz
Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore
Lincolnton District - AME Zion Church
Mrs. Shirley M. McCoy
Rev. Dr. George H. McNeely
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Messinger
Mrs. Virginia M. Montague
NC Synod - ELCA
NC Synod - ELCA, Bishop's Fund
New England Conference - AME Zion Church
North Alabama Conference - AME Zion Church
Ohio Conference - AME Zion Church
Palmetto Conference - AME Zion Church
Pee Dee Conference - AME Zion Church
Mr. Larry Peeler
Bishop and Mrs. Dennis V. Proctor
Rockingham District - AME Zion Church
Salisbury Community Foundation
Salisbury District - AME Zion Church
Mr. Nelson Schwab, III
South Alabama Conference - AME Zion Church
South Atlantic Episcopal District - AME Zion Church
South Carolina Conference - AME Zion Church
South MS Conference - AME Zion Church
Southwestern Delta Episcopal Dist. - AME Zion Church
Rev. and Mrs. Edward Spence, Jr.
Bishop and Mrs. Darryl B. Starnes, Jr.
Summit Developers, Inc.
Rev. Ada M. Taylor
Wadesboro-Monroe District - AME Zion Church

Dr. and Mrs. Jim R. Wadford
Wells Fargo Educational Matching Gift Program
West Alabama Annual Conference - AME Zion Church
Western NC Lay Council - AME Zion Church
Western NY Conference - AME Zion Church
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Andrew E. Whitted
Mr. James G. Whitton
Rev. Frances Elizabeth Williams
Dr. Trevor Williams

Earthen Vessel

\$500 – \$999

AME Zion Ministers Alliance
Mr. Jonathan Ankney
Bishop and Mrs. George E. Battle, Jr.
Rev. Dr. Margaret Blackmon
Rev. and Mrs. Lee Edward Bynum
Rev. Lonna-Sybil Angel-Jackson Christ
Commission for Global Ministries
Rev. William Draughn
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Alfonza Everett
Fadel's Food Service Equipment & Supplies
Mr. and Mrs. James M. Freeman
Rev. Donna and Mr. Mike Friddle
Rev. Dana L. Fruits
Bishop Mildred B. Hines
Rev. Angela B. Hollar
Hurley Trammell Foundation
Althier and Annie Jones
KKA Architecture
Rev. Dr. Robert Little, Jr.
Louisiana Annual Conference - AME Zion Church
Dr. Mary A. Love
Mrs. Karen R. Lucas
Mr. Larry D. Melton
Ministers & Lay Association
Mr. Gary D. Morgan
North Charlotte District - AME Zion Church
The Hon. Adele M. Riley
Rockwell Farms
Salisbury Management & Consulting, LLC
Rev. Claude Shuford
Rev. Lester E. Smith
Trinity AME Zion Church
Rev. and Mrs. William D. Turner
Mr. and Mrs. E. William Wagoner
Mr. and Mrs. Victor Wallace
Wescott Structures, PA
William M. White, Sr. Foundation

Crimson and Gold Club

\$250 – \$499

Dr. and Mrs. James David Armstrong
Board of Evangelism - AME Zion Church
Rev. Dr. Heath and Rev. Sharon Cheek
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Clement, III
Dr. G. Ray Coleman
Rev. Dr. Sondra M. Coleman

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Rev. Johnnie L. Council
Rev. Dr. Regina Dancy
Alfreda R. and George H. Eddings, Sr.
Dr. Sandra L. Gadson
Mrs. Catherine C. Hall
Dr. and Mrs. Donald Haynes
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Wardell Henderson
Rev. Leroy D Henry
Rev. N. Fred Jordan, Jr.
Rev. Dr. William M. Jordan, III
Rev. Sharon T. Lee
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Lewis
Rev. Sylvia B. Lewis
Lorillard Tobacco Company
Martin Temple AME Zion Church
Dr. Dora R. Mbuwayesango
Mr. John McLaughlin
Mrs. Carol D. Palmer
Mrs. Blanche B. Sherrill
Mr. Eric Slipp
St. Mark AME Zion Church
Mr. Andrew Storey
Dr. Herman E. Thomas
Mrs. Carol Valencourt
Mr. J. Jay Whittington

Heritage Club

\$100 – \$249

American Safety Products
Ms. Courtney Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Barnum, Jr.
Beaufort District - AME Zion Church
Dr. Wilbert W. Blackman
Rev. Debbie Ann Bowens-Davis
Mrs. Tonya Kesler Brittain
Bryants Chapel AME Zion Church
Rev. Carolyn E. Buford
Rev. Dr. David P. Calhoun
Rev. Aldon Alfred Carson
Mr. and Mrs. John Casey
Rev. Dr. Medis W. Cheek
Mr. and Mrs. Conneth L. Clinton
Cloninger Ford-Toyota
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Gene Cobb, Jr.
Rev. and Mrs. Stephen R. Combs
Rev. Janice M Cooper
Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Keith T. Copeland
Rev. Charles N Darden, Jr.
Eva Smith Davis
Rev. Frank W. Davis, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deadwyler
Dept. of Church School Literature - AME Zion Church
Rev. Willie L. Dixon
Rev. Renee K. Easter
Rev. Dr. Michael E. Ellis
Dr. Trevor Epephimer
Rev. George Erwin
Rev. John C. Evans, Jr.
Mrs. Raemi Lancaster Evans
Rev. Dr. Lamont Freeman Foster
Ms. Lillian H. Gascoigne

Rev. Dr. Thelma L. Gattis
Rev. Laticia and Mr. Dante Godette
Dr. Alice M. Graham
Rev. Richard Alexander Graham
James C. Grandison
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Grant
Ms. Lillian D. Graves
Mr. Robert H. Graves
Ms. LaVon D. Gray
Greater Centennial AME Zion Church
Griffin Marketing Group, Inc.
Rev. and Mrs. Thomas L. Griffis
Rev. Fredna B Grimmett
Ms. Faye V. Henry
Rev. M. Luther Hill
Rev. Dr. Mack T. Hines
Mrs. Frances Ward Black Holland
Dr. Roy D. Hudson
Mrs. Geraldine T. Hurley
Rev. Rodvegas M. Ingram
Rev. Franklin H. Johnson
Rev. Alexander Jones, Sr.
Mr. Harold L. Jordan
Mr. Ralph W. Ketner
The Honorables William and Susan Kluttz
Rev. Dr. Eric Leake
Mr. William B. D. Lewis
Liberty Hill AME Zion Church
Rev. Katrina Louise Love
Mr. Xenophone Lutz
M & R Cleaning, Inc.
Mr. Pharaad B. Masah El
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Mast
Rev. Dr. Douglas L. Maven
Rev. Essie M. May
Jerry L. McCombs
Rev. Lester A. McCorn
Rev. Dr. Kathy Thomas McFadden
Rev. Dr. Kevin W. McGill, Sr.
Dr. William McKenith
Rev. Dr. Robert T. McLawhorn
Dr. Otis T. McMillan
Rev. Sandra McNiel
Metropolitan AME Zion Church
Rev. Dr. Calvin and Rev. Sharon Miller
Rev. Raymond D. Mitchell
Dr. Kendal P. Mobley
Rev. Dr. Benjamin L. Morrow
Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Greensboro
Rev. Miles Murphy, Jr.
New Bern District - AME Zion Church
Rev. Jacqueline A. Nolton
Marcus B. Plump
Rev. and Mrs. Silas E. Redd
Rev. Joseph George Reed
Rev. Paul G. Reid, Jr.
Dr. André Resner
Kennita Riddick
Rev. Tamica L. Robinson
Mr. Wade Rouzer
Dr. Wilbert L. Sadler

Rev. Eddie M. Scarborough, Jr.
Ms. Diane K. Scott
Mr. and Mrs. David E. Setzer
Shiloh AME Zion Church
Rev. Sheila Denise Sholes-Ross
Rev. Clarence J. Shuford, Jr.
Rev. Dr. Andrew B. Smoke
Rev. James Preston Tate
Rev. Gloria L. Thomas
Mrs. Melody Anne Troncale
Rev. Thomas E. Tucker, Jr.
Rev. Gary M. Tydus
Rev. Dr. Dwayne A. Walker
Mrs. Beverly Warner
Rev. Herbert R. Warren, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Philip H. Warrick
Rev. Dr. Valerie J. Washington
Weeping Willow AME Zion Church
WH&OMS of the AME Zion Church - Concord District
WH&OMS of the AME Zion Church - Indianapolis District
WH&OMS of the AME Zion Church - North Charlotte
Rev. Henrico D. White
The Hon. and Mrs. Paul B. Woodson
Mrs. Anna L. Wyatt

Dean's List

\$1 – \$99

Rev. Dora Atlas
Rev. Charles E. Allen
Rev. Dr. Mark W. Bass
Ms. Tracey L. Bobbett-Matthews
Rev. Fredrick B. Bowman
Larando Brown
Bishop Warren M. Brown
Gwendolyn B. Brumfield
Mr. Warrie Q. Buggs
Ms. Brenda Renee Bulger-Walker
Rev. Stanley L. Champion
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Clay
Mrs. Edna Coleman
Rev. Tammi Colston
Rodney L. Courtney, Jr.
Dr. MonaLisa Covington
Dr. Stephanie M. Crumpton
Dr. Carolyn Mae Cummings-Worriax
Ms. J. Ruth Davis
Mrs. Angela Davis-Baxter
Rev. Erlinda C. Dobson
Rev. Jacquelyn T. Dove
Mrs. Sonia Edgar
Rev. Laura A. Elliott
Ms. Fay L. Fagan
Rev. Anthony J. Freeman
Rev. Robert O. Freeman
Margo Hood Gaddy
Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church
Lillie Mae Gilchrist
Rev. Terry Gillyard
Godley's Garden Center & Nursery, Inc.
Mrs. Belinda K. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Henderlite, Jr.

continued on page 18

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Dean's List *continued from page 17*

Ms. Adrienne M. Hills
Rev. Timothy L Holmes
Mr. and Mrs. Joel S. Hubbard
Rev. and Mrs. Ricky C Johnson
Mrs. Eva GeoRene Jones
Mark Eugene Jordan
Jeffrey T. Kidd
Rev. Janita Frances King
Mr. Keith L. Lipsey
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mallard
Rev. Robert R. Marshall
Mr. Darek Lamar McCullers
Rev. Edward D. McKinney
Rev. Dr. Michael Eldred McLean

Mr. Jason Ryan Mendenhall
Dr. Daran H. Mitchell
Min. Karen Lenora Owens
Rev. Susie Page
Pfizer Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Don A. Poplin
Mr. Lenton D. Rhodes
Rev. Brenda Smith Richardson
Mrs. John G. Riley
Rev. Angela Roberson
Elizabeth Ann Samuel
Mr. William M. Sherrill
Mgs. Garry M. Slade
Rev. Dr. Glenda Smith
Rev. Juston Ray Smith

Snow Hill AME Zion Church
Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Starbuck
Rev. Willie Lee Swiney
Dr. Bradley Ryan Trick
Rev. Mildred Twitty
Rev. Linda Velto
Rev. Dr. Franklin D. Watkins
Mrs. Phyllis C. Wells
Sheri Yvette White
Rev. Victor Alan Wilfong
Rev. Frederick A. Wilson
Rev. and Mrs. Robert A. Wiltshire
April Anita Marie Wolfe
Mr. Theophilus Woodley
Rev. and Mrs. Rhodes Woolly

Giving to Hood is Easy at www.hoodseminary.edu ("Donate Now!" button)

Library News

Ms. Jess Bellemer, Director of Library, discussed exciting new changes in the Library this fall. "The Library at Hood has been revisioned as a Learning Commons; a space that goes beyond just a collection of books. In this new model, the library plays a more active role in the retention and increased engagement of students at Hood Theological Seminary."

The mission of the library at Hood is to support students on and off campus while they are enrolled at Hood and after they have graduated. The collection has been examined with a greater focus on meeting student needs. The staff provides research, educational technology, and writing support. More technology has been made available to students through a new computer lab created in large part through a grant from the NC Lutheran Synod – ELCA. Students may also borrow other technological tools from the library, including laptops and e-readers.

The library is also a valuable resource for alumni and area clergy. Hours are Monday, Thursday and Saturday 8 am – 5 pm; Tuesday and Wednesday 8 am – 8 pm; and Friday 8 am – 9 pm.

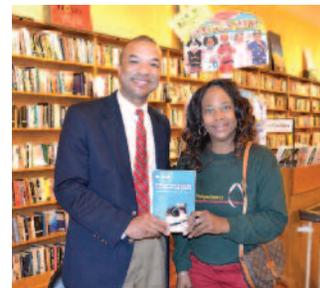
Also new to the library is the Writing Center made possible through generous gifts from Salisbury residents Sara and Bob Cook over the past 3 years. Students can make appointments with Ms. Steph Teasley, the writing instructor, who works with them one-on-one to improve their academic writing skills. By integrating the development of research skills in the library with the building of writing skills, the library staff seeks to strengthen students' confidence and academic abilities.

As a Trustee of the Seminary, Sara Cook has been a strong leader working with many areas of the Seminary. Margaret Kluttz, Development Officer, said "The Seminary is indebted to Sara for her unwavering service to and support of Hood through the years. Whenever she sees a need here, she responds in thoughtful, generous ways that make wonderful things happen to strengthen and enrich the life of the Seminary. Her faithful support promotes Hood's success in carrying out its mission of theological education for effective ministry in a diverse society."

Faculty Notes *continued from page 8*

several times at First United Methodist Church this year and preached there in July 2014. In addition, Dr. Turner preached at First Presbyterian Church (Salisbury, NC) for the month of October 2014 during Rev. Jim Dunkin's sabbatical.

Dr. Ken J. Walden served as HTS's Chapel Director during Dr. Resner's sabbatical in the fall term. Dr. Walden gave a lecture entitled "Poetry and War within Christianity" at First United Methodist Church of Salisbury in August 2014.



HTS student Chenita Frierson stopped by the Literary Book Post to buy Dr. Walden's Book

Afterwards he signed copies of his two books, *A Pastor's Poetry: Volume One* and *Challenges Faced by Iraq War Reservists and Their Families: a Soul Care Approach for Chaplains and Pastors* (Wipf & Stock, 2012). He also held two book signings this fall at Literary Book Post in Salisbury, NC and The Last Word Book Store in Charlotte, NC. ❧

Commencement *continued from page 11*

with great courage and determination to receive her M.Div. degree. Professor Michael Turner said, "To have Rev. Jones here today was inspiring and an extremely emotional moment for us all."

As the ceremony drew to a close, Board Chairman Thompson announced that Dr. Vergel Lattimore will be inaugurated as the Seminary's new president on October 2, 2014. He praised Dr. Albert J. D. Aymer for his remarkable leadership and vision for Hood and for the firm foundation he has laid for President Elect Vergel Lattimore. In his remarks to the graduates, Aymer said "It is my hope that as you leave Hood, each of you and your ministries will embrace and love all races, genders, religions and of course, Jesus Christ." ❧

My Journey at Hood Theological Seminary

by Andria Shores Cantrell



My faith journey is long and convoluted. I was raised in an agnostic home, so I did not come to religion until I was an adult. I wanted to give my children something that I never had growing up, and that was faith in something greater than ourselves. I ended up joining a United Methodist Church, which was just up the street from my home. I slowly began to gain something that I had not expected—the faith that I wanted to give my children had also become my own.

When I came to Hood Theological Seminary in August of 2012, I was a licensed local pastor in the United Methodist Church. I had been a pastor for five years and was attending the Course of Study at Duke Divinity for the previous four years. I felt a need for more depth in my educational growth, so I began visiting Seminaries and decided on Hood. I chose Hood because of its diversity and because I was very impressed by the faculty after sitting in on some classes.

Just prior to my arrival at Hood, my church had become the first Reconciling Congregation in the state of South Carolina. The church was diverse, with different racial, ethnic, and socio-economic groups. There were gay and lesbian couples, families with children, and some children with special needs. It was growing—really growing, both numerically and spiritually and it still is under the new pastor. I began to feel differently about being in the ministry about the same time that I decided to come to Salisbury and Hood. My first year at Hood, I continued as pastor, but it was very challenging, so I decided to resign.

In the fall of my first semester, I had the opportunity to go to Honduras as an International Election Observer. That trip changed my whole life. I felt an awakening of spirit which led me to become an active proponent of justice in the midst of the incredible poverty and oppression which continues relentlessly in Honduras. I was truly shocked and outraged at the role our own country has played in contributing to that oppression by supporting the oppressive government.

An opportunity became available for me to live and study in Costa Rica at the University for Peace. So, I took a leave from Hood for a semester and moved to Ciudad Colon, Costa Rica. I attended classes at Upeace in International Law & Human Rights and in Peace and Gender Studies. It was a fantastic experience, which I will always remember and cherish. There were students

from more than fifty countries at Upeace. Living in another culture is a learning experience like no other. Costa Rica was beautiful, with rainforests, mountains and both a Pacific and an Atlantic Coast. The temperature was always in the 70s, year round. Yet, in this paradise, I found that I really missed being at Hood Seminary. I enjoyed the classes at Upeace, but it was so secular, that I felt out of place.

During my time in Costa Rica, I traveled again to Honduras to monitor another election. Kim Porter, my spouse, and I share a common passion and commitment to the cause of justice for Hondurans. We have made some deep and abiding friendships with priests, human rights workers, peasant farmers, and indigenous people. I felt a deep driving need to do something to advance the cause of justice in Honduras. I came to the conclusion that the first step in that direction would be to return to Hood and finish my Master's Degree. Kim and I returned to Salisbury and he began teaching as an adjunct professor at both Hood and Catawba College. I changed my major to Masters in Theological Studies because I realized that my place was no longer in the pulpit.

If everything goes according to plan, I will graduate in the spring of 2015. Hood has been a true community for me. The faculty is intellectually challenging and yet they also take a genuine interest in the ministries and lives of the students. They are supportive in ways that I never expected. The staff also strives to serve students by creating a caring and compassionate atmosphere. Hood has provided me with a safe haven to explore what the next challenges in life will hold for me. The community at Hood Theological Seminary will remain in my heart for the rest of my life.



“Community is first of all a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive not for ourselves but for one another.” Nouwen, Henri J. *Bread for the Journey*. Upper Room Books, 2010.

In Memoriam

[Mr. Charles Deadwyler](#)

President's Advisory Council member. April 13, 2014

[Rev. Annie Mae Jones '14](#)

Charlotte, NC. July 16, 2014

[Mrs. Annette Whitted](#)

President's Advisory Council member and first Co-Chair, Concord, NC, August 7, 2014



Hood Theological Seminary
1810 Lutheran Synod Drive
Salisbury, NC 28144
704-636-7611
www.hoodseminary.edu

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
CHARLOTTE, NC
PERMIT #3307

Upcoming Events

January

- 10** Orientation and registration for new students
- 20** First day of classes - Track I
- 23** First day of classes - Track II

February

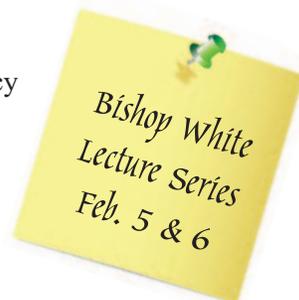
- 4** Endowment Convocation
- 5-6** Bishop White Endowed Heritage Lecture Series

March

- 12** D.Min. Service of Candidacy

May

- 15** Honors Awards and Closing Convocation 7 p.m.
- 16** Commencement 10:30 a.m.



Theological Preparation for Effective Ministry in a Diverse Society

Get Ready to Take Your Ministry to the Next Level

Hood Theological Seminary is committed to providing our students the highest quality seminary experience possible and takes pride in its gender, racial and denominational diversity. Hood offers a unique choice for your ministerial formation and spiritual growth.

Our Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies and Doctor of Ministry degree programs are accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada. Two tracks of classes provide options for flexible, individualized programs of study.

Our world-class faculty, comprised of graduates of premier theological schools across the country, is firmly rooted in the Wesleyan Christian tradition.

Take your mind, ministry and mission to the next level!

Call Admissions at 704-636-6023 or email adavisbaxter@hoodseminary.edu
or click on: <http://www.hoodseminary.edu/admissions.cfm>

For more information, visit our website www.hoodseminary.edu