

From the Desk of Rev. Dr. Lamont Foster, President of  
HTSNAA

Happy Holidays alumni, friends and families of Hood Theological Seminary.

It was a well-attended 1885 Society Scholarship Dinner extravaganza held in the Aymer Center on Friday, November 3, 2017, at 7:00 PM. The Reverend Dr. Daran Mitchell, '97 was the Master of Ceremony presiding over the event with humorous wit as we transitioned from the various stages of the program. Reverend Tyquan Alston and Brother Michael Frencher, Jr., the HTS students, tastefully rendered the music and song to mark this auspicious occasion. The Reverends Tonisha Johnson, '15 and Dr. Joshua Arena-Gilliam, '17, led the Invocation and reading of Scripture respectively. In staying with the theme *Keep Shining*, the opening selection was *This Little Light of Mine* was sung in unison. Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore gave a welcome, *Hood Theological Seminary, President*. Reverend Antoinette E. Joiner, *HTS Student Government Association, President*, and Ms. GeoRene Jones, '14, *HTSNAA, Salisbury Chapter Representative* gave the greetings. The Reverend Dr. Grant Harrison, Jr., '98 & '05, *HTSNAA, Past President*, eloquently cited in remembrance the Occasion for the gathering. The blessing of the food by Reverend Dr. David McLean, '08, *HTSNAA, Vice President*.

The exquisite cuisine prepared and served by *Tasty Creations II* and decoration by Dorothy Gill-Smith made the evening that much more enjoyable. The presentation of pins and honorees by Reverend Dr. Lamont Foster, '01 & '15, *HTSNAA, President* with assistance from Reverends Doctors Grant Harrison and Kay Hines, '13 & '15, *HTSNAA, Treasurer* with the legacy award given to Reverend Dr. James W. Ferree, Sr., '55. Those pinned into the 1885 Society for 2017 were Dr. James W. Ferree, Rev. Janet Garner-Mullins, '15, Ms. GeoRene Jones, '14, Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore, and Rev. Patricia C. Turner, '05.

The Reverend Dr. William Jordan, III, '06 & '11, *HTSNAA, Parliamentarian*, presented the speaker. The Right Reverend Dr. Kenneth Monroe of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, gave a powerfully stirring and challenging message to those in attendance with "Getting the Church on Target." In review, Rev. Tamica Robinson wrote, *Praising God for the awesome experience at the HTSNAA 1885 Dinner. Thank you, Bishop Kenneth Monroe, for that inspiring thought-provoking message, "Getting The Church on Target." It is indeed time for transformative ministry!* Reverend Carolyn Bratton echoed similar sentiments; *Bishop Monroe did a superb job. A very relevant, timely, and challenging message.* Reverend Dr. Foster gave words of thanks by asking all faculty and staff to stand and then asked them to look around the room because these in attendance are they the fruits of their labors in preparing transformative leaders for ministry. Bishop Monroe ended this wonderful evening with a closing prayer.

I would like to recognize and thank the Executive Board of HTSNAA for all of their hard work in the promotion of team-spirit to get the job done. Also, a special appreciation to our donor/sponsor Central Carolina Insurance Agency and Coggins Financial Services. I would like to give additional thanks to the HTS Office of Institutional Advancement, Chapter Presidents and

their representatives and you, the Alumni, friends, and families of our beloved Hood Theological Seminary for your support in making this a very successful event.

Your Servant Leader,

*Rev. Dr. Lamont Foster*