

The Fisk Memorial Chapel

“Her Sons and Daughters Ever on the Altar”

Year in Review

2012-2013



The Fisk Memorial Chapel

Fisk University

1000 Seventeenth Avenue North

Nashville, Tennessee 37208

www.fiskmemorialchapel.com



Mission

Fisk University produces graduates from diverse backgrounds with the integrity and intellect required for substantive contributions to society. Our curriculum is grounded in the liberal arts. Our faculty and administrators emphasize the discovery and advancement of knowledge through research in the natural and social sciences, business and the humanities. We are committed to the success of scholars and leaders with a global perspective.

Vision

To be among the best small liberal arts institutions in America.

Motto

Her sons and daughters ever on the altar.

Religious Life Statement

The Fisk Memorial Chapel is an ecumenical, non-denominational, interdenominational and interfaith arena for learning, worship and public service which overtly seeks to bring hope and healing to the lives of individuals and families throughout our global community.

Vision for the Church within the Chapel

To be a beacon light for Jesus Christ in order that people may experience the love of God and serve a hopeful humanity.

A Prayer by W.E.B. Dubois, Class of 1888

"God bless all schools and forward the great work of education for which we stand. Arouse within us and within our land a deep realization of the seriousness of our problem of training children. On them rests the future work and thought and sentiment and goodness of the world. If here and elsewhere we train the lazy and shallow, the self-indulgent and the frivolous, if we destroy reason and religion and do not rebuild, help us, O God, to realize how heavy is our responsibility and how great the cost. The school of today is the world of tomorrow and today and tomorrow are Thine, O God. Amen." Prayers for Dark People, W. E. B. Dubois, Edited by Herbert Aptheker (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1980), 53.

Dedication of the Fisk Memorial Chapel, July, 1893

"At last Fisk may pride herself upon possessing an audience room suitable for the accommodations of her guests.... In the possession of this beautiful memorial chapel for our Sunday worship and for concerts and anniversary occasions, we are greatly rejoicing and today we say with deeper meaning than ever before, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." The Fisk Herald.



August 6, 2013

Dear Member of the Fisk Family,

I would like to express my gratitude to you for taking a moment to read the 2012-2013 Year in Review for the Fisk Memorial Chapel. Our efforts to realize the mission of the Chapel and to implement our vision to be a “beacon light for Jesus Christ” were a success as a direct result of the selfless efforts and contributions of Family members like you. Thank you! Recently, a person said to me: “But, I am not a graduate of Fisk University. How can I be a member of the Fisk Family?” If you support the mission of our beloved institution, and embrace our vision, then you are a member of the Fisk Family! Indeed, the impetus for producing this Year in Review was to say thank you to Fisk Family members like you for your love and support throughout the past academic year.

The Year in Review represents a literary expression of two fundamental ideas: 1) God is active in the life of our University community, and 2) the Church within the Chapel seeks to go beyond its walls to minister to the needs of a suffering humanity. This brief, pictorial overview of the academic year also seeks to capture these two ideas as they exist among our faculty, administrators, students, alumni, alumnae and friends throughout the nation. Lastly, this publication seeks to detail, in a very concrete way, the Christian themes of love, service and justice as they pertain to our city, state, nation and world. We pray that you may be able to see the hand of God moving in our lives as well as the lives of others as you read our Year in Review.

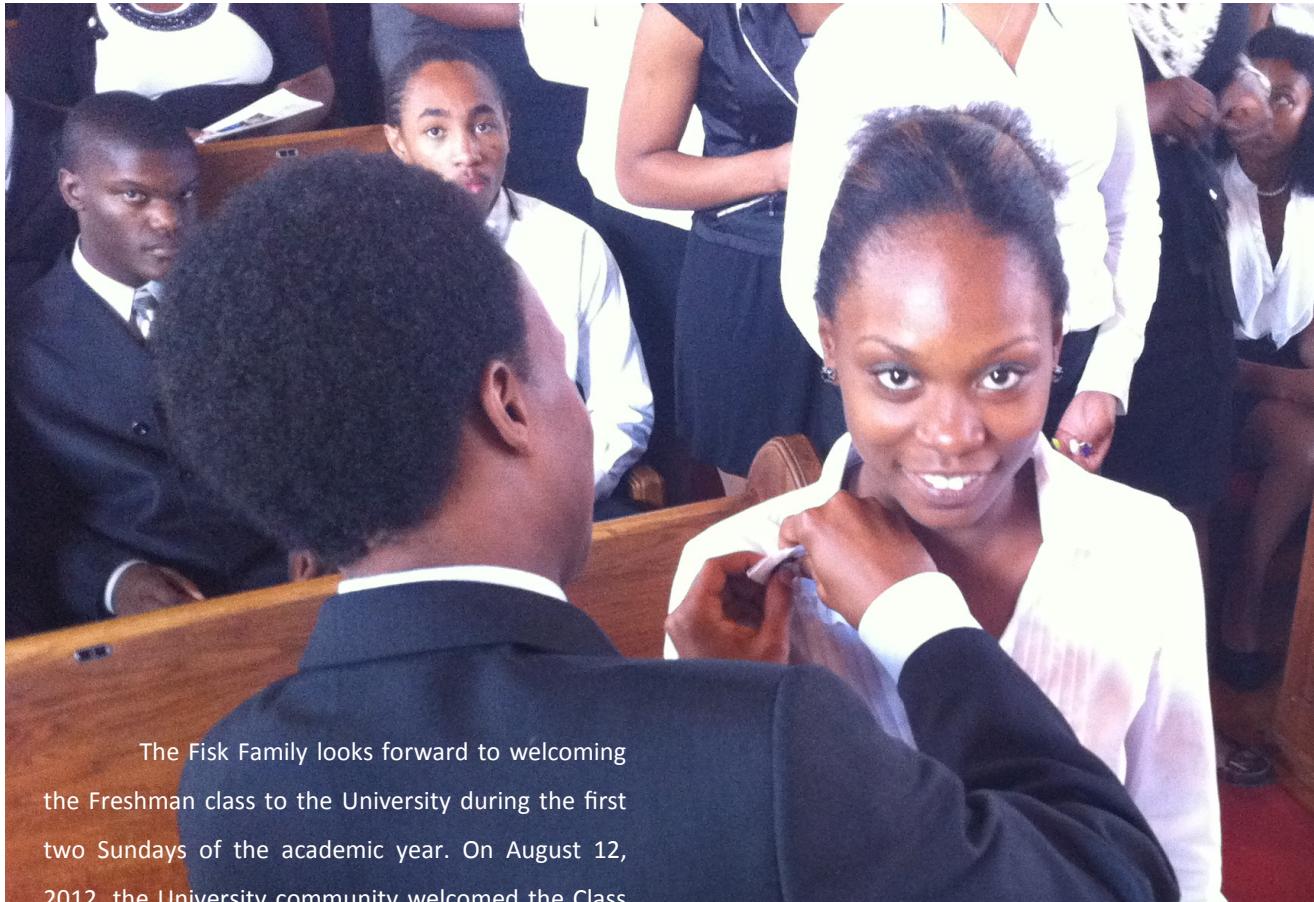
In 2012-2013, the Chapel was involved in social justice ministries with organizations such as Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty and the Children’s Defense Fund (Zero Tolerance Policy), as well as organizations that sought to address the aftermath of the verdict concerning Trayvon Martin. During the past year, we helped to address the plight of hungry people and poor people through Soles4Souls and Bread for the World. Many students participated in the life of the Chapel through the Freshman Pinning Ceremony, the Chapel Assistants program, and the Leaders of the Interfaith Fellowship Team (L.I.F.T.). Members of the Fisk faculty served as mentors for students who chose the church as a career (e.g., Dr. Reavis Mitchell), while other faculty members (e.g., Provost Princilla Evans-Morris) facilitated educational discussions in the Chapel. Throughout the past year, our friends in Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities partnered with us for educational opportunities within and outside of the Chapel. Many alumni also discussed the role that the Chapel occupied and occupies in their lives. John Mbiti’s idea of family is stated in the following terms: “I am because we are; and since we are, therefore I am.” Our Year in Review captures but a glimpse of our Fisk Family from the perspective of the Chapel.

It does not matter where you are in our global community, there is a place for you in the Chapel! We look forward to seeing you, worshipping with you and working with you in person or digitally (in cyberspace) to serve a hopeful humanity. Again, thank you for your interest in and support of the Fisk Memorial Chapel. May God bless you and keep you.

In abiding faith,

The Reverend Jason Richard Curry, Ph.D.

The Class of 2016 Pinning Ceremony



The Fisk Family looks forward to welcoming the Freshman class to the University during the first two Sundays of the academic year. On August 12, 2012, the University community welcomed the Class of 2016 as well as their parents to Fisk University. On August 19, 2012, members of the Class of 2016 participated in a sacred rite of passage ceremony known as the "Freshman Pinning Ceremony." Each member of the entering class received a pin, which bears the insignia of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, from an upper-classman. The University community takes great pride in welcoming our newest brothers and sisters into the Fisk Family! Above, Ms. Shameka Thompson '16 receives her pin from Mr. Mark Crowder '15.



Opening Worship Service on August 12, 2013. Dean Curry, Bishop William Morris, Dr. Princilla Evans-Morris, Provost; Ms. Shalimar Leggett, Miss Fisk University; Ms. Georgetta Bundy, Miss Junior; Ms. Ashley Atkins, Miss Sophomore; Ms. Courtney Macon, President of the Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants, and Minister Philippe Andal, President of the Student Government Association.



Educational Summit in the Fisk Memorial Chapel



On February 16, 2013, Representative Harold Love (Democrat—District 58, far left) convened a cadre of educators as well as a host of leaders in the public and private sector in order to discuss the methods and resources necessary to help the children in Nashville to succeed in educational arenas. Representatives from the following organizations participated in the discussion: The Nashville Chamber of Commerce, SORE, Tennessee Education Association, Tennessee School Board Association, Stand for Children, Charter School Association, Pearl-Cohn Magnet School, League of Women Voters, and Metro Nashville Public Schools.



Provost Princilla Evans-Morris and Representative Love prior to the Summit. Provost Evans-Morris provided the opening remarks for the occasion.



Representative Love moderates the discussion with regard to educational reform in Tennessee.



National Lobby Day

On Capitol Hill, July 11, 2013



Dean Curry and Minister Philippe Andal '13 pictured with members of St. John's United Methodist Church from Memphis Tennessee. The Tennessee delegation was scheduled to speak with staff members from the offices of United States Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn), United States Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn) and United States Representative Jim Cooper (D-Tenn).



breadfortheworld

HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



Dean Curry and Minister Philippe Andal '13 were privileged to talk with Fiskeite and United States Representative John Lewis (D-Ga.).



United States Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn) talks with Ms. Elaine VanCleave, Volunteer District Organizer for Bread for the World.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's leaders to end hunger at home and abroad. The Fisk Memorial Chapel is proud to partner with Bread for the World in a national effort to end hunger. In their effort to end hunger, Bread for the World provides opportunities for concerned citizens to lobby members of congress for the purpose of encouraging them to support legislation which puts a circle of protection around poor and hungry people. Real and proposed budget cuts to program such as SNAP (Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program, formally known as food stamps), Head Start, meals to senior citizens, free lunches for improvised children negatively impact poor and hungry people. Let's continue to do our part in ending poverty and hunger now!



Minister Andal, Ms. VanCleave, Rev. LaMarco Cable, Deputy Director for the Southern Hub of Bread for the World and Dean Curry.



Rev. LaMarco Cable, Rev. David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World, Rev. Sidney F. Bryant and Dean Curry in Nashville.



Rev. LaMarco Cable (far right) poses with the Chapel Assistants after preaching on Bread for the World Day in the Chapel.

International Exposure: The Alumnae of the Chapel Assistants Program



As a Chapel Assistant, Ms. Darria Janey Hudson '10 was extremely active in ministries related to social justice and community outreach. During the 2012-2013 academic year, Ms. Hudson traveled to Mexico to attend the School of Authentic Journalism (SAJ). SAJ is a program of NarcoNews, an independent media site that seeks to authentically tell individual stories of nonviolent resistance to oppression globally, but especially in the ongoing struggle against the Drug War in Latin America. Ms. Hudson, who is currently a student at Vanderbilt Divinity School, is pictured on the right.

Ms. Ronette Hoard '12 was active in the Music Ministry of the Fisk Memorial Chapel. Ms. Hoard was also a soprano with the Fisk Jubilee Singers while she was a student at Fisk. During the 2012-2013, Ms. Hoard visited Thailand. Her recent visit to Thailand proved to be an outstanding experience which also broadened her intellectual and cultural horizons. Ms. Hoard is pictured on the right in yellow.



Ms. Morgan Daniels '07 was an outstanding Chapel Assistant from 2003-2007. As a critical thinker, and life-long learner, Ms. Daniels decided to embark on a cultural and educational excursion which included Naples, Rome, and Pisa, Italy, and Marseille, France. Ms. Daniels is pictured at the Colosseum in Rome.

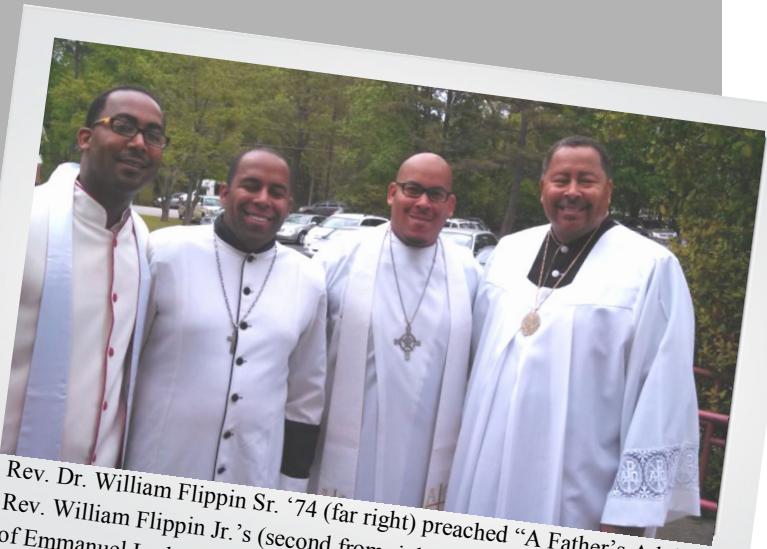


Ms. Taryn Bell '07 was a teacher in Children's Church in the Fisk Memorial Chapel. After graduation, she became a teacher in elementary school at the Joelton Middle School in Tennessee. Currently, Ms. Bell teaches twelfth grade in the school system in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This two-year educational commitment has afforded her the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the Middle East and Europe.

Congratulations to our Fisk Alumni who are Clergy!



Congratulations to Minister Winterbourne Jones '10 who received a Master of Divinity Degree from Colgate Crozer Rochester Divinity School on May 18, 2013! Minister Jones is the Youth Pastor at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church.



Rev. Dr. William Flippin Sr. '74 (far right) preached "A Father's Advice" at Rev. William Flippin Jr.'s (second from right) installation as Pastor Servant of Emmanuel Luther Church. Congratulations to the entire Flippin family!



Congratulations to Evangelist Matasha Allen '05 for earning a certificate in Child Development from Washtenaw Community College!



Congratulations to Pastor Angela Jones '83 (pictured with her family) for being recognized as Gospel Music City Pastor of the Year!



Congratulations to Rev. Corrie D. Shull '09 (center) Pastor of the Burnett Avenue Baptist Church, who led his congregation in the purchasing of an outstanding church edifice!

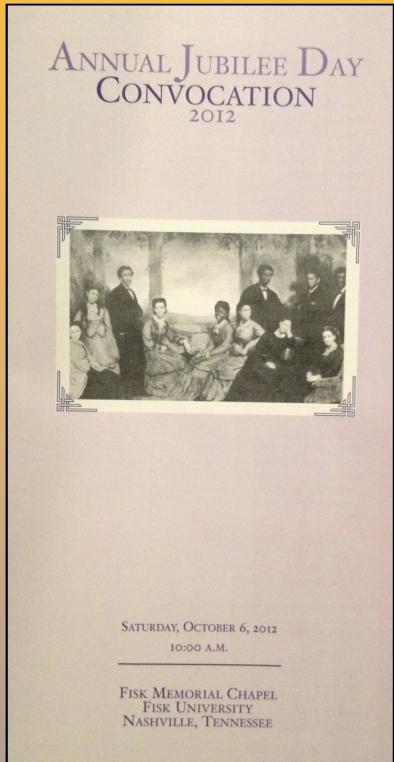


Congratulations to Rev. Jason L. Turner '03 on being called to the position of Senior Pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church in January of 2013! He is pictured with Mrs. Turner and newborn baby!



Congratulations to Rev. Terry Mackey '04, (top row, second from right) Senior Pastor of Richeville Mt. Olive Baptist Church for all of his outstanding ministerial accomplishments in 2013!

Jubilee Day 2012



June Williams-Coleman, MD, is an Obstetrician & Gynecologist. In 1985, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Fisk University, and in 1993, she earned a Doctor of Medicine Degree from Meharry Medical College. Dr. Coleman is a board member of the Provider Advisory Committee of United Healthcare (2009-Present).



The Fisk Jubilee Singers singing during the morning program.



Tenor **JORDAN HOLLAND** hails from Columbus, Ohio, and is the second of three children. Surrounded by music from his mother's side of the family, it is no coincidence that Jordan would pick up the art form of singing.

Jordan began singing in the children's choir at his church. As time progressed he moved on to the youth choir, Nu Voices, where his musical talents began to blossom. He was a part of the choir in middle school. As he transitioned to high school, he joined the Freshmen Male Glee Choir. Jordan was also in the jazz ensemble, Soundsation, for two years, as well as two of the three choirs at his high school.

In 2006, Jordan was selected to be a part of the MTV television series, *Made*. During the filming process, he wrote and recorded the song *King for a Day*. Jordan transferred to Fisk University from North Carolina A&T State University in the fall of 2007. He performed frequently with other organizations and has performed numerous times with ensembles, such as the Fisk University Jazz Ensemble and the Fisk University Choir. Jordan was

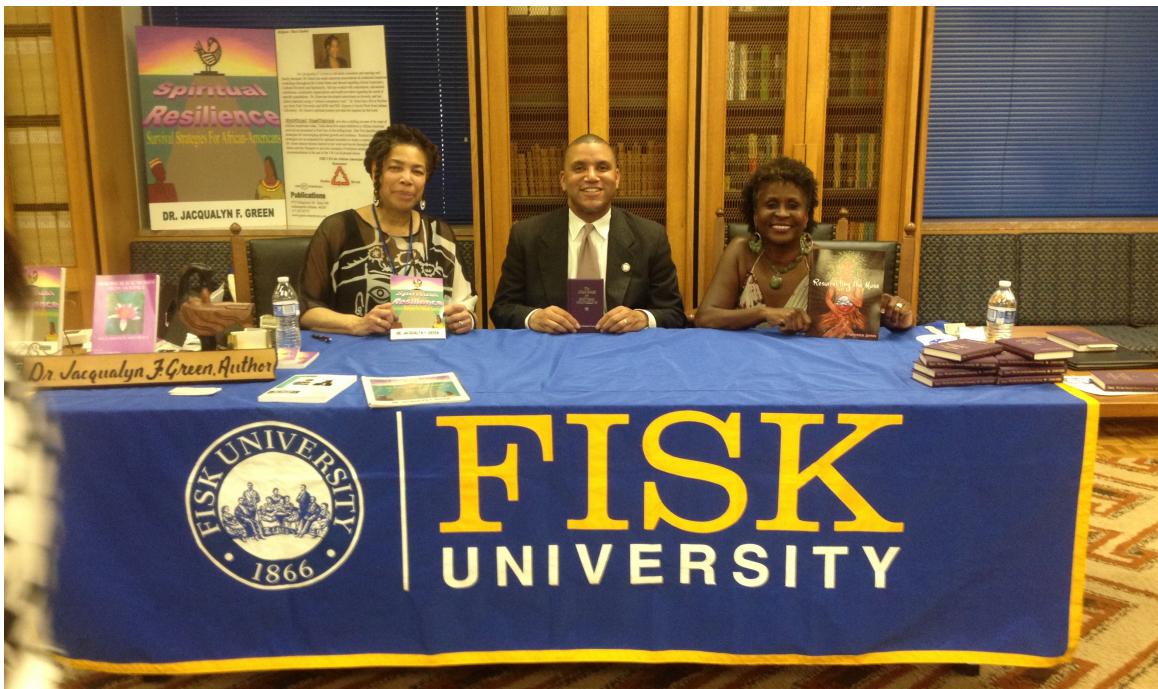
(Continued on back cover)

Mr. Jordon Holland preformed in the evening at the Jubilee Day Concert.

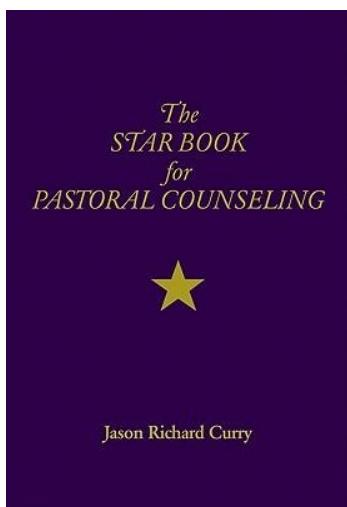


Recognizing and celebrating the contributions of the Fisk Jubilee Singers at Greenwood Cemetery: Fisk University supporters, Minister Philippe Andal, SGA President ; Ms. Shalimar Leggett, Miss Fisk University; Mr. DeAndre Jones, Tenor or with the Fisk Jubilee Singers and Dean Curry.

Fisk Alumni and Friends Author's Panel



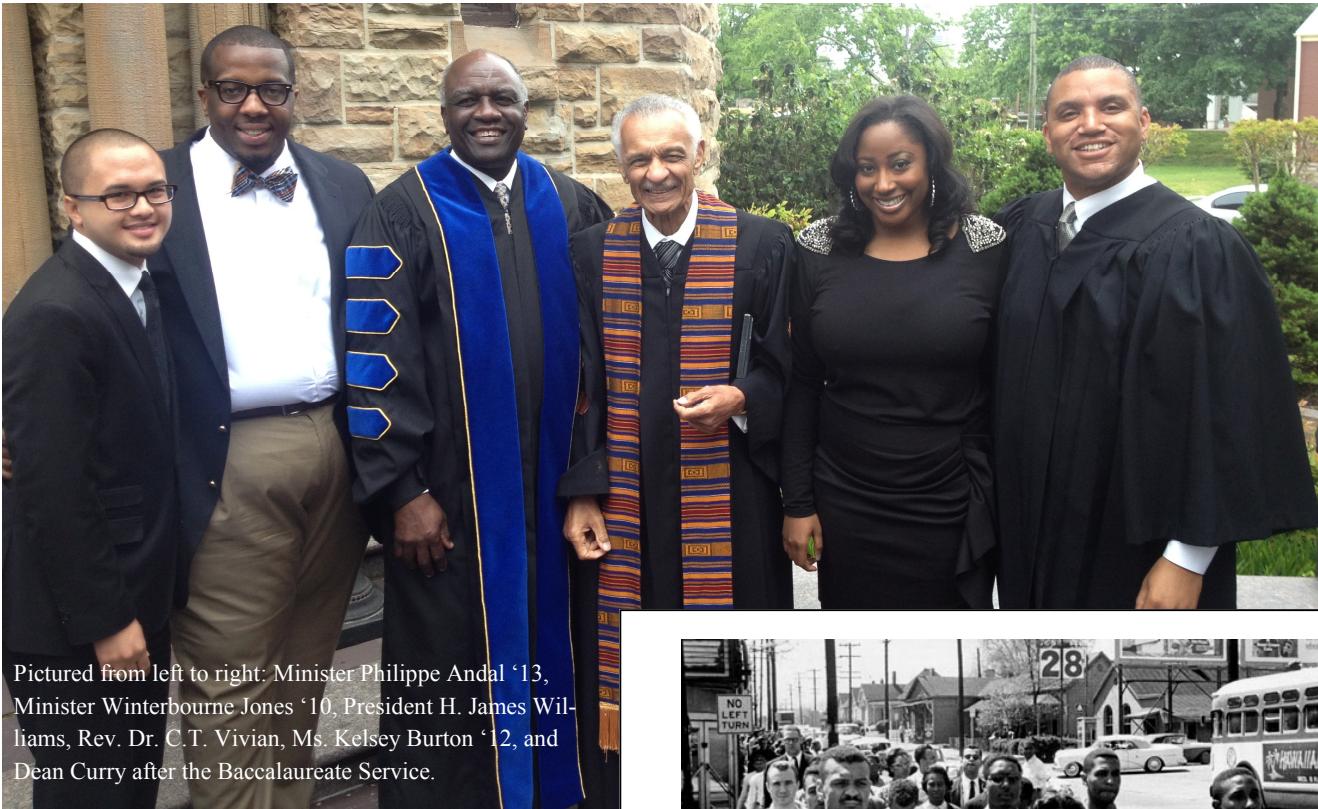
On May 3, 2013, Dean Curry was privileged to discuss his new book, *The Star Book for Pastoral Counseling*, during the Fisk Alumni and Friends Author's Panel at the John Hope and Aurelia Elizabeth Franklin Library at Fisk University. The following authors participated in the event: Dr. Jacquelyn F. Green (left), Ms. Francesca Smith James and Mr. Norwood Holland Jr. (not pictured).



Dean Curry, seated next to Mr. Norwood Holland Jr., signs books at the event.

A practical new volume in the best-selling Star Book series from Judson Press!

Rev. Dr. Jason Curry brings his experience as pastor, Dean of Chapel, and pastoral counselor to bear in offering church leaders a compact and comprehensive overview of pastoral counseling as a critical aspect of pastoral care. Dr. Curry covers topics from a foundational definition of pastoral counseling to the unique considerations in counseling women, African Americans, and others. One chapter is devoted to the most common types of pastoral counseling in the parish setting: premarital, grief, and addictions, while other chapters explore group dynamics in counseling couples and families. This pocket-sized volume provides categories for the intake interview, suggestions for planning the counseling session, instructions for creating a genogram, and brief discussions of legal and ethical issues. The book includes a chapter about designing a pastoral counseling program in your own church!



Pictured from left to right: Minister Philippe Andal '13, Minister Winterbourne Jones '10, President H. James Williams, Rev. Dr. C.T. Vivian, Ms. Kelsey Burton '12, and Dean Curry after the Baccalaureate Service.

**Baccalaureate Sunday
with
Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian
May 6, 2013**



The Reverend C. T. Vivian is a living legend of the Civil Rights Movement, and he continues his activism today, tirelessly working for the progress of African Americans and the civil and political rights of all peoples. An uplifting speaker, and current President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he has addressed audiences in 42 states, 10 countries, and on countless campuses nationwide on the issues of civil rights, non-violence, racism and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with whom he worked for many years.

As a Baptist minister, his first use of non-violent direct action was in 1947, to end Peoria's segregated lunch counters. Later he founded the Nashville Christian Leadership Conference, organizing the first sit-ins there in 1960 and the first civil rights march in 1961. Rev. Vivian was a rider on the first "Freedom Bus" into Jackson, Mississippi, and went on to work along-side Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on his Executive Staff in Birmingham, Selma, Chicago, Nashville, the March on Washington; Danville, Virginia; and St. Augustine, Florida. During the summer following the Selma Movement, Rev. Vivian conceived and directed an educational program, Vision, and put 702 Alabama students in college with scholarships. The program later became Upward Bound.



Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian, Ms. Diane Nash and Rev. Bernard Lafayette, Jr. walking at the head of the march to Nashville courthouse, April 19, 1950.



Student Government Association Vice-President Brooke Davies has a conversation with Rev. Vivian.

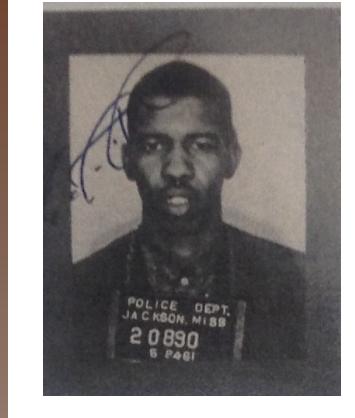
Black History Month Program

With Freedom Rider Earnest “Rip” Patton Jr.



Above: Minister Philippe Andal '13, Ms. Brittney Miles '13, Mr. Earnest "Rip" Patton, Darrin Sims '13 and Dean Curry.

Right: Ms. Miranda McDonald, Mr. Patton and Ms. Jade Harris '13.



The 21-year-old Tennessee State student was the drum major in the University marching band when, in 1961, he became involved in the Nashville Movement. Mr. Patton arrived in Montgomery, AL on Tuesday, May 23 to help reinforce the riders meeting at the home of Dr. Harris after the May 21 firebombing and siege of Montgomery's First Baptist Church.

Ernest "Rip" Patton, Jr. took part in the May 24, 1961 Greyhound Freedom Ride to Jackson, MS, where he was arrested and later transferred to Mississippi's notorious Parchman State Prison Farm.

Mr. Patton was one of 14 Tennessee State University students expelled for participating in the Rides. Following the Freedom Rides, he worked as a jazz musician, and later as a long-distance truck driver and community leader. For the past three years, Mr. Patton has served as the Freedom Rider on an annual university sponsored Civil Rights tour of the Deep South.



Pictured from left to right: Minister Philippe Andal '13, President of the Student Government Association and Minister in the Fisk Memorial Chapel; Representative Harold M. Love, Jr. D-Nashville District 58 and Pastor of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church; Reverend James M. McCarroll Jr., Pastor of First Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, TN; Dean Curry; President H. James Williams; Rev. Dr. Edwin Sanders, Pastor of the Metropolitan Interdenominational Church and Bishop William W. Morris.

Religious Leaders for Fisk University

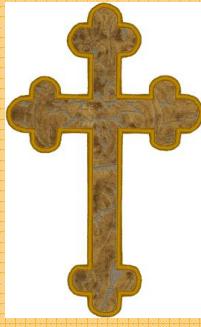


First Row: Mr. Albert Dawson, Rev. Dr. George Brooks, Rev. Dr. July Cummings. Back row: Bishop William Morris, Rev. Barton Harris and Dean Curry

The Religious Leaders for Fisk (RLF) initiative is a collaborative partnership comprised of religious leaders and spiritual laypersons representing diverse denominations and places of worship. This collaborative partnership seeks to increase the levels of advocacy and support for Fisk University from churches and religious organizations. On February 3, 2013, religious institutions throughout the nation donated a portion of their offering to

Fisk Sunday

February 3, 2013



President H. James Williams, Miss Fisk University, Ms. Shalimar Leggett and a few of the Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants in the Chapel following the Fisk Sunday Worship Service.



Reverend Dennis Crowder, Minister Andal, Rev. Pamela Kellar of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church and Dean Curry at the Welcome Luncheon for President Williams.

support Fisk University. RLF raised \$150,361.00 in the 2012-2013 fiscal year. On February 10, 2013, a luncheon was held to welcome President H. James Williams to Fisk University and to thank the religious leaders in the city of Nashville for their diligence and generosity. We are indeed grateful for the generous efforts of everyone associated with the RLF. May God continue to bless them and keep them.

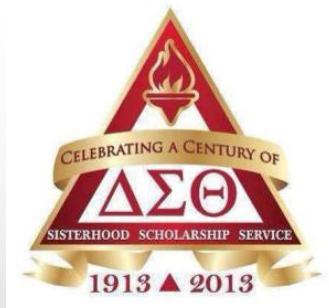
When Greek Life Meets Religious Life at Fisk



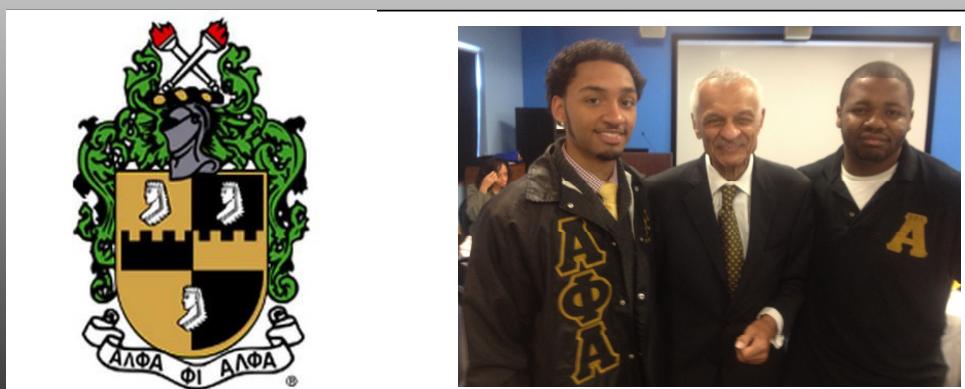
African-American fraternities and sororities have always played a critical role in the success of the Fisk Memorial Chapel. Their presence and influence has impacted every aspect of our University community. On February 24, 2013, members of the Gamma Phi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted the Matthew Kennedy Talent Hunt in the Chapel. Dr. Matthew Kennedy '47 is seated and surround by the participants.



Miss Fisk University, Ms. Shalimar Leggett '13, smiles with a Soror as they prepare to welcome members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. throughout Nashville for a service in the Chapel.



Ms. Ingrid Collier, Director of the Academic Excellence and Student Performance Initiative, is an ardent supporter of prayer services in the Chapel. She is pictured with Mrs. Angela Curry at the Delta Centennial in DC.



Members of Alpha Chi (Fisk University) often support the religious life program at Fisk. Mr. Jeremiah White '14 and Mr. Darrin Sims '13 pose with Rev. Dr. C. T. Vivian, who is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., prior to the Baccalaureate Service.

The Mini College Puppet Show 2013



The Mini College is a six week summer day camp program sponsored by Fisk University. Under the direction of Mrs. Persephone Felder-Fentress, the Mini College offers activities such as African drumming and dance, drama and speech, fitness, Fisk history, life's little lessons, Computer Science, Math, Science, Foreign Language, Music, arts and crafts, heroes and heroines and a variety of fun filled trips. If you would like to learn more about the Mini College, please contact Mrs. Felder-Fentress.

Mr. Lannie Smith '15, John Curry, Mrs. Felder-Fentress and a guest!

BAPTIZING PARISHIONERS IN JESUS' NAME



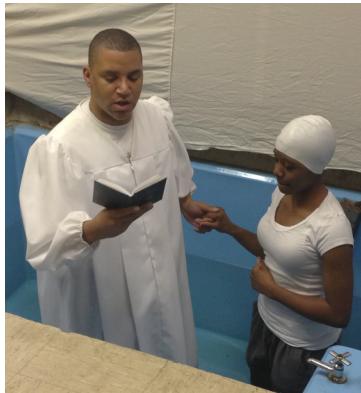
On December 2, 2012, members of the Church within the Chapel gathered at Payne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, where the Rev. Dr. Sidney F. Bryant serves as Pastor, in order to baptize two Fisk University students who recently accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.



Ms. Cierra Lewis '15, Dean Curry and Ms. Marticia Hawkins '16



Dean Curry and Ms. Cierra Lewis '15



Dean Curry and Ms. Marticia Hawkins '16

In the Great Commission, which can be found in Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus gives the following charge to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." In response to the Great Commission, and in service to the spiritual needs of the people who frequent the Church within the Chapel, Dean Curry performed two baptisms on December 2, 2012. Ms. Cierra Lewis '15 and Ms. Marticia Hawkins '16 were baptized at Payne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) in Nashville, Tennessee. Ms. Lewis and Ms. Hawkins accepted Christ as Lord and Savior during the fall semester of 2012. They asked Dean Curry, who is a licensed and ordained Itinerant Elder in the AME Church, if they could be baptized. We are truly grateful that they were baptized, which is an outward expression of an inward transformation.



Dean Curry, Mrs. Curry, Mrs. Bryant and Pastor Bryant



Dean Curry baptizes Ms. Cierra Lewis '15



Dean Curry baptizes Ms. Marticia Hawkins '16

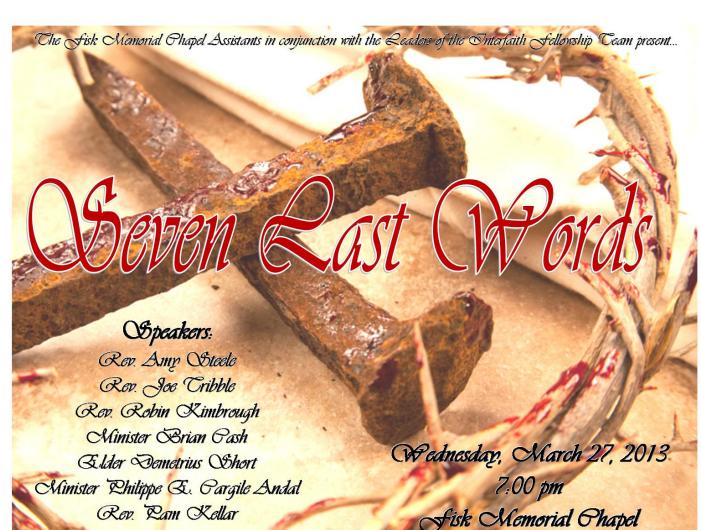
The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me... (Luke 4:18)



Religious Emphasis Week (REW) is both an ecumenical and interfaith endeavor at Fisk University. It is a week which overtly seeks to strengthen the body of Christ while it recognizes and celebrates the diversity of religious experience. Diversity is a Core Value at Fisk, and although the majority of the organized and registered groups on campus have a mission statement which boldly reflects the values of the Church, there are also prominent individuals on campus who proudly embrace the tenants of religions such as Islam and Judaism. Just as Jesus had a meaningful conversation with the Samarian woman at the well about the Living Waters (John 4:1-42), members of the Fisk Family look forward to meaningful dialogue with people of the same faith and different faiths. We are grateful for all of the members of the Fisk Family who helped to make Religious Emphasis Week a huge success!



From left to right: Reverend Joseph Tribble, Reverend Pam Kellar, Rev. Dr. Amy Steele, Minister Philippe Andal, Rev. Dr. Robin Kimbrough, Elder Dametrius Short and Minister Brian Cash.



We were grateful for the presence of Elder Darryl Taliaferro, Executive Pastor Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Nashville, for participating in our Prayer Service. The Chapel Assistants look sharp as they prepare for worship on Easter Sunday.



Religious Emphasis Week 2013



The interfaith panel discussion was led by Ms. Drost Kokoye, who talked about the tenants of Islam, Ms. Batia Epelbaum Karabel, who discussed the significance of Judaism and the meaning of Passover, and Dean Curry who talked about the significance of Christianity.



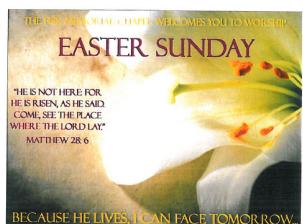
Left: Ms. Alonyia Godfrey '15, Ms. Jade Hendricks '15 and Ms. Cierra Lewis '15 perform liturgical dancing on Palm Sunday.



In an effort to assist members of the University community in helping to determine if they are HIV positive, the First Response Center of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church visited Fisk University during Religious Emphasis Week. Educational materials regarding counseling, treatment and prevention were provided by the Center. We are grateful for the volunteer efforts of the First Response staff!

The Fisk Memorial Chapel
Welcomes You

"Her sons and daughters ever on the alter."



*University Worship Service
Easter Sunday
March 31, 2013
9:30 a.m.*

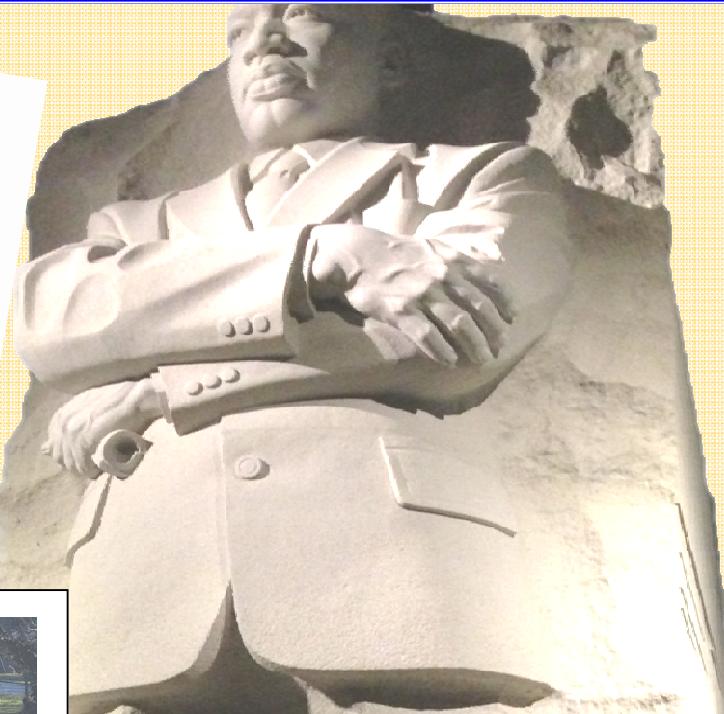
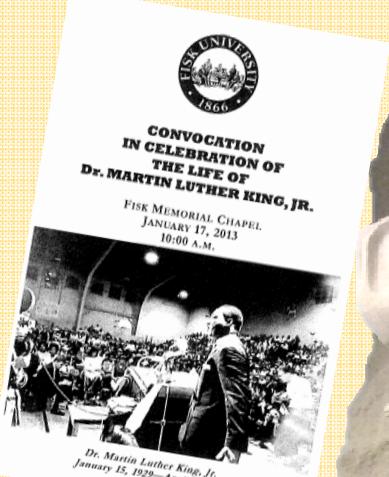
1000 17th Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37208
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www.fiskmemorialchapel.com

The Reverend Jason Richard Curry, Ph.D.
Dean of the Chapel

Fisk University Recognizes and Celebrates the Contributions of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Through the Chapel



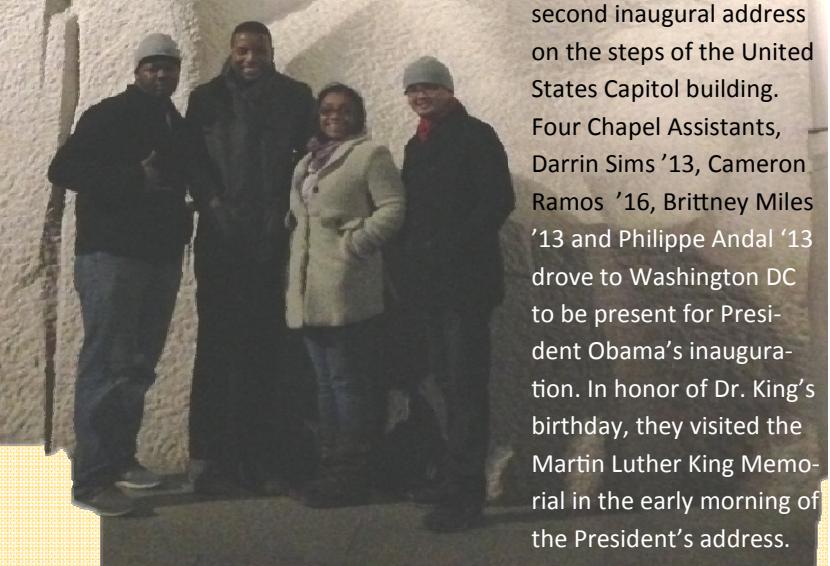
Bishop William Morris, a retired Bishop in the United Methodist Church, delivered the Martin Luther King Convocation address.



Dean Curry and Fisk University students participated in the annual Martin Luther King Day March on January 21, 2013 which concluded at Tennessee State University.



Fisk University students prepare to depart the Chapel in order to participate in the Martin Luther King Day march on Jefferson street.



January 21, 2013 was a special day for two reasons: 1) People from around the world would celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and 2) President Barack Obama, the nation's first African-American President, would deliver his second inaugural address on the steps of the United States Capitol building. Four Chapel Assistants, Darrin Sims '13, Cameron Ramos '16, Brittney Miles '13 and Philippe Andal '13 drove to Washington DC to be present for President Obama's inauguration. In honor of Dr. King's birthday, they visited the Martin Luther King Memorial in the early morning of the President's address.



The Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants have been ardent supporters of Soles4Souls for several years. The sneakers and shoes that were collected for the year were distributed to impoverished families throughout the world. Recently, the Chapel has begun to donate clothing items to one of Soles4Souls' auxiliary services called Clothes4Souls. The sneakers, shoes and clothing items pictured above were collected by students throughout the entire academic year. Pictured from left to right: Dean Curry, Mr. Desmond Collins '16, Ms. Taylor Jackson '16, Ms. Cierra Lewis '15, Ms. Jade Hendricks '15, Ms. Shalimar Leggett '13 and Mr. Cameron Ramos '16.

Making a difference through



Ms. Shalimar Leggett '13, Miss Fisk University and John Curry smile with footwear in the Soles4Souls warehouse in Madison, TN.



The Chapel Assistants sort shoes and sneakers for distribution throughout the world in the warehouse.

We are Family: Faith, Fun and Fellowship in the Chapel



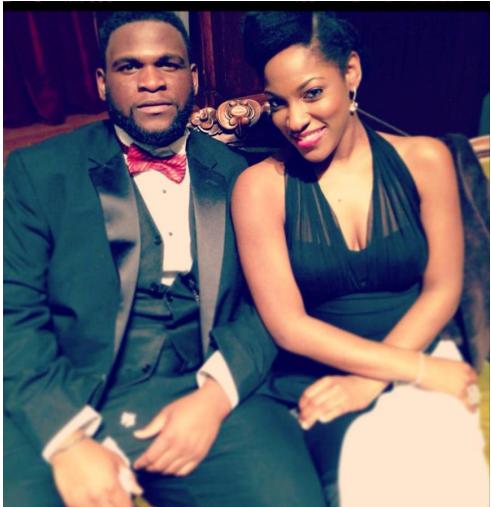
SENIOR RECITALS IN THE FISK MEMORIAL CHAPEL



Mr. Eric Copland '13



Mr. DeAndre Jones '13 and Dean Curry



Mr. Marquis Murphy '13 and Ms. Kelsey Porter '11

Congratulations to our seniors who performed exceptionally well during their Senior Recitals. We wish them much success in their future academic, cultural, spiritual and artistic endeavors. May God bless them and keep them.



Ms. Jody Jones '13

Ministry through Media: The Power of

facebook



Winterbourne LaPucelle Jones
December 14, 2012

Two Distinguished Men who Shaped and Challenged Me — with Fisk Chapel at Fisk University.



Unlike · Comment · Unfollow Post · Share

18 18 18

Joseph Tribble
October 10, 2012 near Nashville

As many of you know I have been surrounded by clergy for all of my life. With that said, there are too many to thank but I've got to shout out my parents and first pastors, Rev. Marilyn Thornton and Rev. Dr. Sherman Tribble, my current pastor and mentor Rev. Dr. William Franklin Buchanan, a man of wise counsel @Rev. Dr. Dean Jason Curry, a man with great insight and listening ear @Rev. Dr. Kennard Murray. To all my friends, colleagues, and older men and women of God who have deposited significantly in my life, thank you. Happy Clergy Appreciation Month!

Unlike · Comment · Share

18 27 6

Fisk Chapel
Yesterday at 8:46 PM

Having a great time with my former Chapel Assistants during Alumni Weekend, May 3, 2013 — with Jazmyn Frye and 4 others.



35 Likes

De'Andre T. Jones
November 8, 2012

Awakened by pure excitement and gratefulness and inspiration. God has been so good to me, he kept me in the midst of it all. I realize that he(God) was there all the time. I will give my performances to his glory. All that I have is because he is! #forward. #1day until Senior Recital. Friday. Fisk Chapel @ 6pm

Unlike · Comment · Share

16 3



Vincent E. Stokes II

June 29



It was a hot humid day in Nashville on Sunday, August 19, 2005. It was my second day on the campus of Umm University (we had to earn the right to say Fisk) and we were beginning Freshmen Orientation week. Chapel was the first thing on the agenda of the day and I was excited because I enjoy worship. My roommate Akin Flood didn't have "proper" clothes for chapel so I told him I'd wear some shorts to chapel with him so he wouldn't feel like he was the only one not "properly dressed". So we went to chapel. My first experience in a chapel on a college campus. We sung What A Fellowship for the congregational hymn as the sun pierced through the windows upon the university choir adorned in their all black attire fanning with the manila Fisk Memorial Chapel program because the then 113 year old chapel had no air. A lady...(President O'Leary) was sitting in a pink sports jacket was sitting in the pulpit beside her was a tall yellow man vested in a black robe with three African chevrons on the arms. I assumed he was the preacher. This tall yellow man approached the pulpit and preaches from a familiar passage of scripture Matthew 16 where Jesus says "upon this rock I build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it" and he tagged the text with the theme "The Church Within the Chapel." I sat and listened to him and while it was not the style of homiletics that I was traditionally used to hearing with a whoop and a Hammond I recall the sermon being challenging to me as a college student and encouraging me as a college student. Nonetheless I found chapel boring and vowed I would never return. But something happened. I was drawn back to chapel each week to hear a good hymn and a good sermon. The things I thought were boring I grew fond of. Chapel convicted me, confronted me, and challenged me to not only talk about Christ but to live out my creed with Christ in tangible ways. Folks might say he's boring or he can't preach because he does not use the sacred desk as a means to entertain but as a means to help formulate and give a foundation to the faith of growing college students in their faith.... Dean Curry exemplifies humility with pride and humbleness with dignity. He challenged me as a professor..., he challenged me as a student leader, and he challenged me as a preacher. He is a man of high moral character as noble as they come and has given his time, talent, and treasure to a university When you have a calling and not a career and (when) you vow not to do things, God has a way of making you do them anyhow, just ask the prophet Jeremiah. Dean Curry gave me my first internship working for the chapel, his character is part of the reason I wanted to become an Omega and he wrote my letter of recommendation, he helped me..., he's the one who helped me think through my call in ministry while at Fisk, he's the reason I went to Yale and not to Howard, he supported me in divinity school when I was going to quit, he's a great preacher, a great mentor, a great father, a great husband, a great servant of God and today is my frat, my professor, my benefactor, my friend, and my mentor the Rev. Jason Richard Curry's, PhD birthday. Thank you Dean Curry for all that you have done to help me and to mold me into the preacher I am today. Happy birthday Buffalo Soldier hope your day is full of the love and joy you bring and share with others! — with Fisk Chapel.

Unlike · Comment · Share



24



7

National Day of Prayer Bus Tour Comes to Fisk



The mission of the National Day of Prayer Task Force is to mobilize prayer in America and to encourage personal repentance and righteousness in the culture.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The *Pray for America Rally Tour*, commissioned by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, began a 23,000 mile, 300-city, 100-day, 37-state tour on May 31 in Pittsburgh, PA. On July 22, 2013, the National Prayer Bus visited Fisk University. Many people in our University community were greatly blessed by the prayers and songs that were led by churches and nonprofit organizations throughout the city, region and nation.



Back row: Pastor Shino Prater, Mr. Dion Elmore, Mr. Ricky Skaggs, Mr. Henry Coles, Jr and Mr. Rick Lowe.

Front row: Vice President Anthony Jones, Ms. Sharon Skaggs, Dr. Jennifer Adabanjo, Ms. Rafaella Coles and Ms. Sarah Lowe.



Back row: Ms. Susan West, Mr. Rick Lowe, Ms. Becki Fortner and Dean Curry .

Front row: Pastor Shino Prater, Dr. Jennifer Adabanjo and Ms. Marlene Tidwell.

Loving Thy Neighbor: The Value



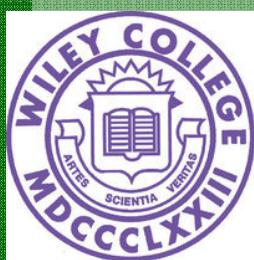
Al Farooq Mosque in Nashville

Dean Curry stood with both members and supporters of the Mosque after it was vandalized on February 11, 2013.



Brentwood Baptist Church

The Chapel welcomed Pastor Mike Glenn to Fisk to lead a devotional service and to discuss his new book [The Gospel of Yes](#).



Wiley College in Texas

Chaplain Michelle Hall (right) welcomed Dean Curry and many other students, chaplains and educators to the Ethical Student Leadership Conference on January 25, 2013.



Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship

Dean Curry delivered the weekly sermon at the Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship meeting.

and Necessity of Community Partners



PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER SERVICE

Wednesday, January 2, 2013
8:00 a.m.

Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church
2708 Jefferson Street
Nashville, TN 37208

Reverend James Thomas, Pastor



Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover

Tennessee State University

The Nashville community came together to welcome and pray for President Glenda Baskin Glover of Tennessee State University.



Faith United Missionary Baptist Church

Dean Curry celebrated the 8th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Roosevelt Walker (far left), former Director of YES Ministries at Fisk University, on July 28, 2013.



Vanderbilt Divinity School
Worship Service
HONORING THE SACRED WITHIN AND BEYOND US



"A Time for New Beginnings"
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9, 2013

Vanderbilt Divinity School

Dean Curry, pictured with Dean Hudnut-Beumler (center) and members of the Vanderbilt Divinity School community, delivered the weekly sermon in Chapel on January 9, 2013.



Lipscomb University

The Chapel continue to support long-time friend and supporter Mr. Randy Crawley (center) who preached his inaugural sermon at Belmont University. He is pictured with Dr. David Fleer and Ms. Kaylina Madison.

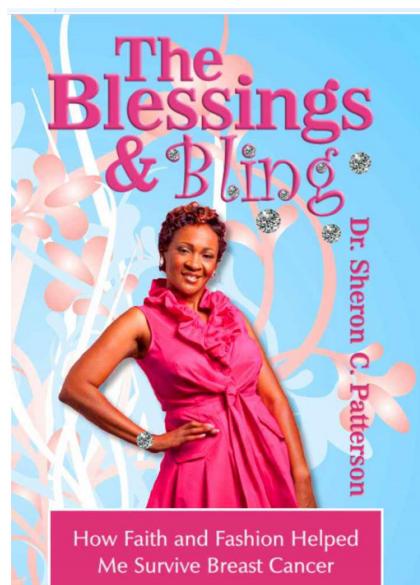
Toward the Formation of a Women's Ministry...*Prov. 31:10-31*



In an effort to raise funds and promote awareness to end breast cancer, the Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants participated in the 5k walk (for the second year) which was sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure October 27, 2012. From left to right: Toi Davenport, Alonyia Godfrey, Shameka Thompson, Cierra Lewis, Courtney Macon, Jade Hendricks, Cynthia Buford, Kiara Jamison, Cameron Ramos and Brittney Miles.



Mrs. Angela Curry, Esq. (far right), wife of Dean Curry and a former Lead Teacher with Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) International, leads the Women's Bible Study Class on Wednesday's at 8:00p.m. in the Chapel. Pictured above: Brittney Miles, Jade Hendricks, Evelyn Jones, Amber McGee, Kaila Jazell, Cirerra Lewis and Mrs. Curry.



How Faith and Fashion Helped Me Survive Breast Cancer

November 4, 2012, Dr. Sheila Peters facilitated a discussion about challenges facing women with Dr. Sheron Patterson.

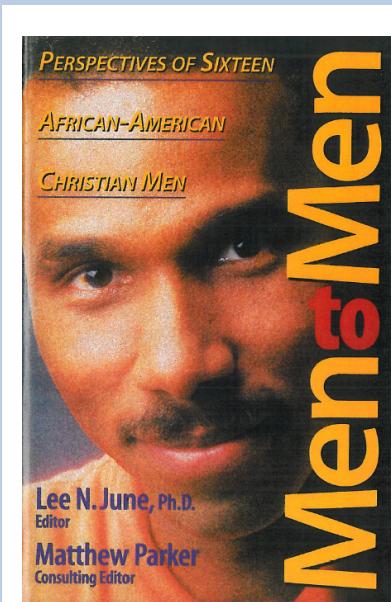
Toward the Formation of a Men's Ministry...Prov. 27:17



Just Men TV is a locally syndicated television program which seeks to highlight the accomplishments and challenges of men throughout the city of Nashville and around the nation. Dean Curry has appeared on Just Men TV on two separate occasions. On April 26, 2013, Mr. Jeff Tate (center right), host of Just Men TV for more than ten years, sponsored the Just Men Conference. Outstanding speakers from around the nation led discussions which focused on addressing challenges that affect African-American men and Christian men. Dean Curry participated on a panel with Mr. Frank Turner (left) and Rev. Dr. Chris Jackson.



Dean Curry leads the Men's Bible Study every Friday at 7:30p.m. Even though the men are often members of various denominations, everyone can agree that Jesus is Lord! The bible study is ongoing; therefore, we hope to see you next year! Picture above: Damon Clemons, Desmond Collins, Samuel Adeogun, Roy Lott, Faith Olatokunbo, Lannie Smith and Dean Curry.



Weekly lessons are sometimes taken from Men to Men by June and Parker.



The Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants were recognized during Senior Appreciation Day on April 28, 2013. Pictured from left to right: Minister Philippe Andal, Darrin Sims, Shalimar Leggett, Brittney Miles and Dean Curry.



Ms. Nikkita Roberts, Student President of the Wesley Foundation at Fisk University and Rev. Marilyn Thornton, Director of the Wesley Foundation at Fisk University attend Project Transformation at the Tennessee Annual Conference (UMC).

The Leaders of the Interfaith Fellowship Team (L.I.F.T.)

The mission of L.I.F.T. is to 1) provide a forum for dialogue among students who are both leaders and representatives of religious denominations or organizations at Fisk, 2) enhance the religious life for students, faculty and administrators, 3) promote tolerance and acceptance of the variety of different religious perspectives, 4) promote interfaith activities (e.g., panel discussions) that stimulate both critical and analytical discussions about issues affecting humanity (e.g., poverty). From left to right: Anjolaoluwa Olayemi, President, Every Nation Campus Ministries; Dominique Elie, President, Brothers & Sisters in Christ; Nikkita Roberts, President, Wesley Foundation; Simona Newman, President, Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Brittney Miles, President, L.I.F.T. and a Chapel Assistant.



Student Ministries at Fisk University



Mr. Lannie Smith '15 of Every Nation Campus Ministries (far right) stands with a staff member at Campus Harvest 2012.



Members of L.I.F.T. and campus advisors (Rev. Marilyn Thornton and Pastor Mike Williams of Every Nation) provide a Thanksgiving meal to the residents of New Livingstone.

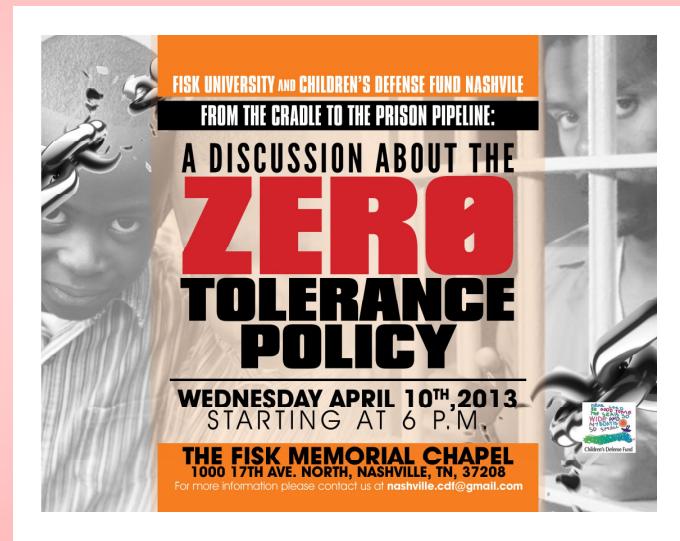
The Children's Defense Fund in the Chapel



On April 10, 2013, the Children's Defense Fund of Nashville led a community-wide discussion about the Cradle to the Prison Pipeline in the Chapel. The panelists discussed ways in which African-American children and young adults are being introduced to the criminal justice system at rates that are not proportionate to children of other ethnic groups. The following professionals participated in the panel discussion: Judge Sheila Calloway, Metropolitan Juvenile Court Magistrate, Rev. Darrell Short, Metropolitan Nashville School Resource Officer, Ms. Shakya Cherry Donaldson, Children's Defense Fund Community Organizer, Ms. Lorraine Stallworth, Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools Community Liaison and Mr. Eric Brown, Defense Fund Community Organizer.



On Thursday, July 25, 2013, the Martha O'Bryan Center held a press conference to announce their formal partnership with the Children's Defense Fund. From left to right: Marsha Edwards, President/CEO of the Martha O'Bryan Center; Eric Brown; Rasheedat A. Fetuga, Gideon's Army; Karl Dean, Mayor of Nashville; Dean Curry and Rev. Janet Wolf, Director, Alex Haley Farm and Nonviolent Organizing, Children's Defense Fund.



Children's Defense Fund Cradle to Prison Pipeline® Health Factsheet Ensure Health Coverage for All Children



FACTS:

- Nine million children – that's one in nine – have no health insurance. A child is born uninsured every 39 seconds. And about 800,000 pregnant women are uninsured, while each year, approximately 28,000 infants die in America before they reach their first birthday.
- Uninsured children are less likely than insured children to get regular health care. Uninsured children are almost nine times as likely to have a medical need that goes unmet than a child with health coverage, and are five times as likely as an insured child to go more than two years without seeing a doctor.
- Uninsured children are more likely than insured children to perform poorly in school. In contrast, enrolling children in health coverage has been associated with greatly improved school performance. For example, for dental-related illness alone, children missed more than 51 million hours of school in a year.
- Health care costs are rising, and that affects everyone – including families with insurance. The average annual premium for employer-sponsored family coverage in 2008 was more than \$12,500. Fewer businesses are able to afford coverage for their employees, and many of those who kept their employer-sponsored or private coverage saw increases in costs and reductions in benefits. As a result, millions of children are underinsured—with health plans that seriously limit their access to critical services such as vision and dental care, prescription drugs and mental health care services. Consequently, they may delay or forgo preventive care and treatment due to cost or other barriers.
- Providing nine million uninsured children with vision, dental, and mental health coverage would cost each person in America less than \$1 each week. That's less than 15¢ a day.

The Tennessee Tribune.com

The Tennessee Tribune

Volume 23, No. 17, 3 Sections THURSDAY, April 26-May 2, 2012 \$1.00

Children of the King: Teaching, Supporting and Protecting African-American Children
A Commentary by Jason Curry

The Reverend Dr. Jason Richard Curry is Deacon at the Fisk Memorial Chapel at Fisk University. He can be reached at jcurry@fisk.edu or www.fiskmemorialchapel.com.

It is not uncommon for men and women who are entering the Christian ministry to serve a pastor and then move on as a youth minister or Director of Young Adult Ministry. I am extremely grateful for the love and support of one of my father's in the ministry, the Reverend Sidney F. Bryant, Pastor of Payne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church for affording me the opportunity to address the spiritual needs of children and young adults as the Youth Minister. I am also grateful for the mentoring and advising of children and young adults in a supportive and Christian atmosphere. It is refreshing to know that churches, non-profits organizations, community based organization (CBO's) and non governmental organizations (NGO's) are continuing to address the holistic needs of children in general and African-American children in particular. As a young adult, I also found value working for a non-profit organization known as Tutoring Plus as the Director who organized

efforts to provide academic instruction to underprivileged children who were and are not in school. The mission statement of many of these organizations boldly declare that children are invaluable resources, and that they should be supported, encouraged, instructed and protected because they are unable to advocate for themselves. Jesus Christ also found value in children for he told his disciples: "Let the children come unto me, do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

One would naturally assume that everyone finds value in teaching, supporting and protecting African-American children. It is a bit disconcerting to know that the Disciples wanted to keep children away from Jesus. Matthew 19:13 states: "Then children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people." According to the 2012 Report of the Children's Defense Fund, "Black children and teens experienced nearly 60

percent of all gun injuries caused by an assault in 2009 while White children and teens account for eight percent." Data from additional sources stated that approximately one-third of all African-American children live below the poverty line. Also, the data suggest that the rate of reported abuse among African-American children is disproportionately higher than that of children of other backgrounds.

Jesus loved children. He took them to his heart and blessed them (Mark 10:13-16). We must work to promote and support programs within and outside of the church which teach, encourage and protect African-American children. Let us continue to partner with recognized and credible CBO's and NGO's which advocate on behalf of African-American children. The children of today are the church of tomorrow; therefore, the teachings and stewardship of Christ must forever serve as our model for helping children who are in need of care.

The Chapel and Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty



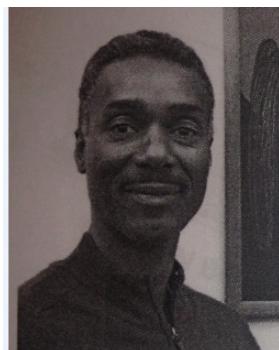
In response to Jesus' mandate to "love your neighbors (Mark 12:31)," and to "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44)," the Chapel Assistants attended a conference regarding the biases and challenges associated with the death penalty on February 23, 2013. Pictured from left to right: Ms. Alonyia Godfrey '16, Ms. Jade Hendricks '16, Reverend Stacy Rector, Executive Director of Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, Dr. Richard Goode, Professor at Lipscomb University, Mr. Lannie Smith '15, Ms. Courntey Macon '14, Mr. Randolph Wilson and Dean Curry.

"ONLY ONE OUT OF EVERY 100 CONVICTED MURDERERS IS SENTENCED TO DEATH. THOSE PERPETRATORS SENTENCED TO DEATH ARE NOT THOSE WHOSE CRIMES WERE THE 'WORST OF THE WORST.' INSTEAD, THEY ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY THE POOR, PEOPLE OF COLOR, THOSE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS, AND THOSE WHOSE VICTIMS ARE WHITE. AROUND 90% OF THOSE ON DEATH ROW WERE FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO HIRE ATTORNEYS TO REPRESENT THEM AT TRIAL."

Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty



The Chapel Assistants and Mr. Ndume Olatushani

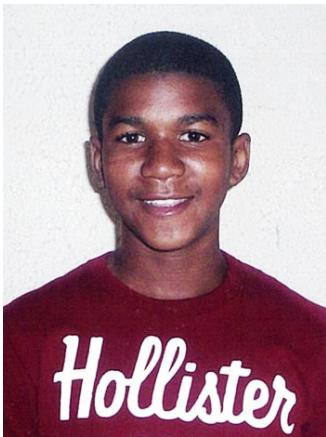


Wrongfully Convicted and No Longer on Death Row

Mr. Ndume Olatushani

Ndume Olatushani spent nearly 27 years in prison, 19 of which were on death row, for the 1983 murder of Joe Belechia in Memphis. Although Ndume had never been to Tennessee and many witnesses put him in St. Louis at his mother's birthday party at the time of the crime, he was convicted and sentenced to death. In 2011, Ndume's conviction was overturned when the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals found that some of the state's witnesses had close ties to other suspects, which could have led them to implicate Ndume. He was awarded a new trial, and later offered an Alford plea, granting him an immediate release, if he pled guilty to second-degree murder and accepted a sentence of time served. Ndume took the deal, maintained his innocence as he always had, and was released on July 1, 2012.

Remembering Trayvon Martin



Trayvon Martin

"When Trayvon Martin was first shot, I said that this could have been my son," President Obama stated on July 19, 2013. "Another way of saying that is Trayvon Martin could have been me 35 years ago."

President Barack Obama



On July 20, 2013, Dean Curry, the Chapel Assistants and members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. stood outside of the Federal building in downtown Nashville seeking an end to racial profiling and Stand Your Ground laws.

The state of Tennessee has a Stand Your Ground law. A significant percentage of students who attend Fisk University, which is located in Tennessee, are African-American males between the ages of eighteen and twenty-two. It is not inconceivable that the same set of circumstances which contributed to the violent and untimely death of Trayvon Martin could one day affect one of our students. We pray that this will never come to fruition. However, racial profiling and Stand Your Ground laws must end because they have the potential to negatively impact African-Americans, in general, and Fisk students in particular. The record states that justice for an unarmed, African-American teenager who was simply walking to his house has not been achieved. As we continue to stand for Trayvon Martin, we continue to stand for ourselves, and the best that is within our American democracy.



On March 24, 2012, hundred of citizens, including Fisk University students, attended a city-wide rally in support of Trayvon Martin across from the Bicentennial Mall in downtown Nashville.

The Tennessee Tribune.com

The Tennessee Tribune

Volume , No. 3 Sections THURSDAY, July 18-July 24, 2013 \$1.00

Trayvon Martin Will Always Matter: Race, Reasonability and Christ's Love
A Commentary by Jason Curry



The Reverend Dr. Jason Richard Curry is the Dean of the Fisk Memorial Chapel at Fisk University. He can be reached at jcurry@fisk.edu or www.fiskmemorialchapel.com.

American institutions that dare to place an emphasis on unification, equality, and justice often do not prepare students, faculty, or other employees for leadership in political and economic arenas. I am a proud graduate (Harvard and Vanderbilt) and current employee (Fisk) of a few of these institutions. Civic, cultural, academic, and religious institutions that have sought to embrace, develop and promote people of all races because of the heart of their work as opposed to the color of the skin, have boldly declared that America can and will move beyond its ugly history of racism. Indeed, the tremendous progress that we have made in this nation in the area of race relations serves as a beacon light to those throughout the world who are seeking to address issues of race, ethnicity, liberty and justice. Unfortunately, the tragedy that claimed the life of Trayvon Martin has undermined some of the tremendous strides that we have made a nation.

We are all familiar with the case of Trayvon Martin, a seventeen year old African-American teen who was killed by an older, heavier Caucasian American man named George Zimmerman. Trayvon Martin was not in the process of committing a crime, nor had he committed any. He was simply walking to his father's house in an affluent, predominantly white neighborhood. Apparently, George Zimmerman identified "walking while African-American" as a crime. The verdict of Not Guilty for Mr. Zimmerman is disturbing because Mr. Zimmerman is symbolic of every African-American teenager who is or was profiled, stalked and/or killed even though they have not committed a crime. As a result of this verdict, and as an African-American who has been somewhat enrolled in a prestigious predominantly white school in Nashville, I will worry about my sons as they run with other young men in a predominantly white neighborhood which sur-

rounds their school. Some of my colleagues have stated that race may not have been the primary factor in this case, however, they cannot seem to ignore an historical precedent in which a middle-class, white male was stalked and killed by an African-American male and the African-American was found "Not Guilty".

I am of the opinion that the initial racial profiling of Trayvon Martin identifies this case as a hate crime. Jesus Christ reminds us that only love (not hate) has a place in our society (Matthew 22:36-40). As citizens, we have a responsibility, indeed a moral obligation, to continue forming a "more perfect union." I look forward to working which those who remain committed to improving our democracy, our country, and our communities, in particular through love, liberty and justice for all.



Minister Brandon J. Perkins '10 (far right) and Rev. Dr. Augustus Curry (middle) discuss Mr. George Zimmerman's verdict on the Religion Roundtable which appeared on Comcast and ATT Uverse on the AIB Television Network. The television program was hosted by Dr. Ralph Basui Watkins (far right).

A Brief History of the Fisk Memorial Chapel



The Fisk Memorial Chapel, with a seating capacity of approximately eight hundred, was designed by William B. Bigelow of New York City and completed in 1892. General Clinton B. Fisk, a founder of the University, left funds for construction to the University in the form of railroad stock. The interior has a high domed ceiling exposing the appealing support structures. A balcony extends on three sides. The Chapel houses an extraordinary 40 rank Holtkamp pipe organ, which is one of the finest examples in the United States of the work of organ-builder, Walter Holtkamp Sr. The organ has an estimated value of over \$2.5 million. It was built especially for the University to be housed in the Chapel. Over the entrance doors is Isaiah 60:1: "Arise shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

The Chapel is the primary assembly area on campus and is rich in intellectual and cultural traditions. Since its construction, it has served as the site for numerous public functions sponsored by the University, including concerts, The Spring Arts Festival, academic convocations, lectures, conferences and graduation exercises. Heads of foreign countries have been received and honored on its platform, and television and movie productions have been staged in the Chapel. Outstanding international concert artists, musical organizations, drama and dance performances, lecturers, ministers and political figures have also appeared in the Chapel.

Included among those who have visited the Chapel, given addresses, performed for students and community members are The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Duke Ellington, Thurgood Marshall, Booker T. Washington, Louis Armstrong, W. C. Handy, Jesse Jackson, Nat King Cole, Eubie Black, Merle Haggard, Robert Altman, John Hope Franklin and Bell Hooks. The Chapel is the home performance site for the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers.

In 1992, the Chapel was restored under the direction of the U. S. Park Service, through an appropriation from the U. S. Congress. A rededication ceremony was held in August 1992, which also marked the 100th anniversary of the building, at which occasion a litany was written by Dr. L. M. Collins. Special awards by The Victorian Society in America, the Tennessee Historical Commission and the American Institution of Architects – Tennessee, have recognized the historic restoration of the building.

In Loving Memory



Ms. Beth Madison Howse '65
September 24, 1943
To
September 26, 2012

We will greatly miss Ms. Howse, our Reference Librarian for the Special Collections at Fisk and Founder and Director of the Mini College. "To me, she was an inspiration, a cheerleader, a believer, a sometimes-taskmaster and always, always, always, a friend."

Dr. Crystal A. de Gregory

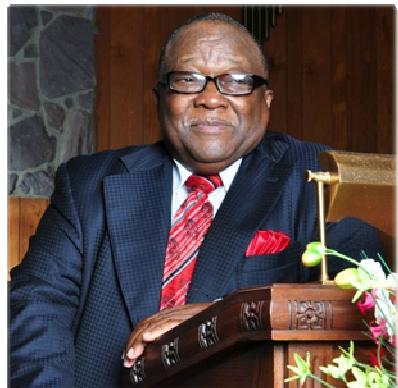


Dr. Diane Stofko was appointed to the Fisk University Faculty as Associate Professor of Music Education and Music History in August 2003. She earned the Bachelor of Music Education from the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music, the Master of Music from the University of Louisville, and the Doctor of Musical Arts from Arizona State University. Dr. Stofko will be greatly missed.



Dr. Diane Louise Stofko
May 24, 1956
To
October 19, 2012

The Reverend James C. Turner served as Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church for forty years. Pastor Turner was a visionary, leader and pillar of the Nashville community. The University was greatly blessed when Reverend Turner chose to serve as co-chair of the Steering Committee for the Religious Leaders for Fisk University. Pastor Turner will be greatly missed.



The Reverend James C. Turner, Sr.
February 2, 1942
To
May 27, 2013

