

# The Fisk Memorial Chapel





### **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**

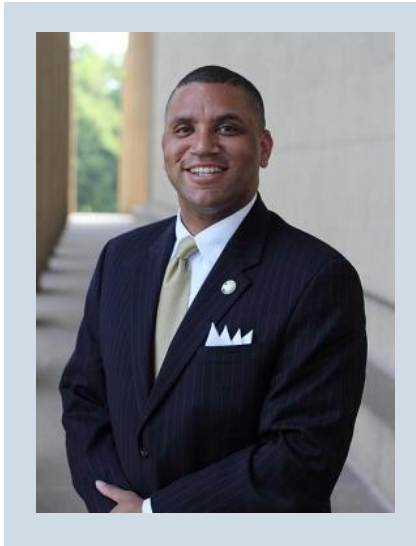
*“God bless all schools and forward the great work of education for which we stand. Arouse within us and within our land a deep realization of the seriousness of our problem of training children. On them rests the future work and thought and sentiment and goodness of the world. If here and elsewhere 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.*



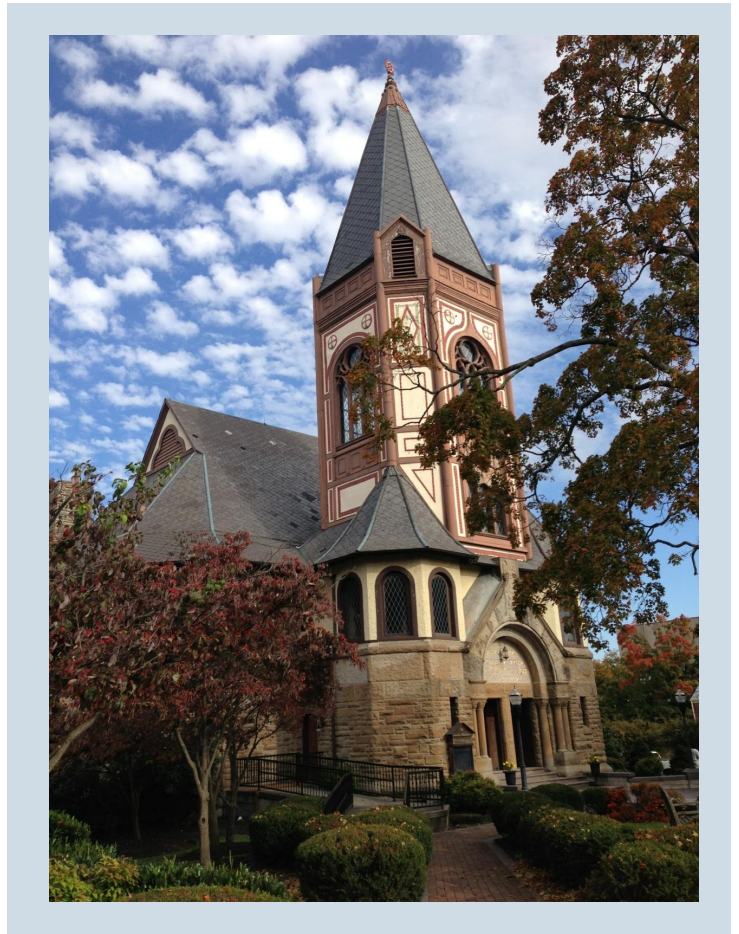
# Welcome to the Chapel



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

God's presence has been apparent and influential at Fisk University since its founding in 1866. The American Missionary Association was instrumental in the establishment of this great institution. In fact, members of the clergy served as Presidents of the institution during its formative years. The historical record further reveals that Fisk University once served as a training ground for students who expressed an interest in becoming Christian missionaries. The Fisk Jubilee Singers furthered the mission of our beloved institution by amassing financial resources by traveling throughout the United States and Europe while singing the Spirituals. Professor Aaron Douglass captured the essence of this Judeo-Christian tradition in his paintings titled "Noah's Ark" and "Building More Stately Mansions." Fisk Professor James Weldon Johnson captured the essence of the Creation Story in his book titled God's Trombones. The prayers of W.E.B. Dubois (class of 1888), Fisk's most recognized alumnus, were published in Prayers for Dark People edited by Herbert Aptheker. In short, God is, was and shall forever be an integral part of the life and legacy of our esteemed institution. The pages that follow capture but a glimpse of God's presence in our University community throughout the previous, academic year.

I remain in awe of the people who have expressed their love for God and humanity through the internal ministries and the external, outreach efforts of the Fisk Memorial Chapel. Their zeal for service, commitment to excellence, willingness to sacrifice and interest in strategic planning are evidence of God's presence in their lives as well as the life of the Chapel. Throughout the past



year, the "Church within the Chapel" has engaged in ministries which concern community outreach, social justice, music, student leadership, alumni, interfaith endeavors, health awareness, ecumenism and fellowship with neighboring colleges and universities. The friends and constituents of the Fisk Memorial Chapel insist that spirituality isn't limited to one's personal relationship with God or limited to a Sunday, morning worship experience. Spirituality often finds expression in community, and it becomes relevant, vibrant and meaningful through the process of loving one's neighbor wherever he or she may be found (Matthew 22:39).

We pray that you will find value in our Year in Review as we have found value in addressing the spiritual and existential concerns of those around us. Also, we look forward to working with you in order to glorify God, to speak for those who have no voice and to minister to the least of these within our global community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to The Reverend Jason Richard Curry, Ph.D.





## Welcome to the Fisk Family: The Pinning Ceremony and the Class of 2015

The idea, significance and sacredness of a rites of passage ceremony has been both practiced and recorded (via the oral tradition) for thousands of years. A rites of passage ceremony signifies to family members, friends and members of the community that people have completed an important phase of their lives, and that they are now embarking upon another important journey in life. A rites of passage ceremony is also fundamental to the existence of human civilization. George G. M. James wrote about its importance in the land of Kemet (Egypt) in Africa in the book titled The Stolen Legacy, and John Mbiti discussed the religious significance of the ceremony in African Religions and Philosophy. The famous psychologist Erik Erikson also discussed the importance of moving from one stage of life to the next in his book titled Childhood and Society. In short, the presence of a meaningful and sacred rites of passage ceremony undoubtedly contributes to the holistic development of people, because it makes use of all of the available cultural, spiritual, academic and familial resources to welcome people to the next phase of life.

On Sunday, August 24, 2011, the Fisk University community welcomed the Class of 2015 into the Fisk Family through a rites of passage ceremony known as the Freshman Pinning Ceremony. At the conclusion of the University Worship Service, members of the Class of 2015 received an official Fisk University pin which bears the insignia of the Fisk Jubilee Singers. The pin was placed on the dress or lapel of the incoming students by members of the Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes at Fisk University. Members of the administration, faculty and community were present, and the members of the Class of 2015 were warmly received by everyone in the Fisk Family. Jennie Wilson reminds us in a famous hymn that "time moves with swift transition;" and, we recognize that the four years of their blessed, Fisk University experience will pass rather quickly. Nevertheless, the Class of 2015 will forever be remembered as our newest brothers and sisters in the Fisk Family.



From left to right: Mr. Kenneth Taylor, Executive Secretary of the Student Government Association (SGA); Dr. Jason Meriwether, Vice President of Student Engagement and Enrollment Management; Ms. Tamara Stallworth, Miss Fisk University; Ms. Shayla Shane, President of the SGA and Dean Curry.



Mr. Najee Clark '15 receives his Fisk University lapel pin from Ms. Ayesha Sease '14.



Our newest Chapel Assistants from the Class of 2015. From left to right: Ms. Cierra Lewis, Ms. Briahna Baskett, Ms. Alonyia Godfrey, Dean Curry, Ms. Ashley Brown and Ms. Jade Hendricks.



Mr. Billy Johnson '15 receives his Fisk University lapel pin from Mr. Kenneth Taylor '13.



# Milestones in Ministry:

## The Alumni of the Chapel Assistants Program



Dr. Marcus Gates '09 and Mrs. Carolyn Gates '09 were married on June 2, 2012. Mrs. Gates was President of the Chapel Assistants from 2006-2008. She is pictured with Pastor Edwin Sanders and Dean Curry.

Minister Winterbourne Jones '10 is the President of the Black Student Caucus at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.



The Reverend Vincent Stokes '09

The President, Faculty, and Graduating Class of Yale University proudly announces that:

the Elder Mr. Vincent E. Stokes, II is a candidate for the degree of Master of Divinity in Christian Ministry at

Commencement Exercises Monday, May 21, 2012 10 O'Clock in the Morning

Since its construction in 1892, the Fisk Memorial Chapel has been the "spiritual home" to countless members of the Fisk University community. Students, faculty, staff, administrators and supporters of the Chapel have received guidance and direction, inspiration and encouragement from the prayers, songs, sermons and fellowship within the Chapel's edifice. Some members of our Fisk Family have benefited from the programmatic thrust of the Chapel for decades, while others speak of the meaningful and wonderful time that they had during their four year matriculation at Fisk. Many of the students who have attended Chapel or served in leadership positions in the Chapel ministry are doing outstanding work in both sacred and secular arenas. Their recent accomplishments serve as testaments to their character, love of God, love of Fisk and commitment to serving this present age. Our lives within this University community have been greatly enriched as a result of their presence, and we are all looking forward to seeing their positive influence within our complex and multifaceted, global community. We extend a hearty congratulations to each and every one of them, and we wish them well in their current and future endeavors.

The Reverend Joseph Tribble '07(below) is a recent graduate of Vanderbilt Divinity School.



Ms. Karla Turner '09 (far right) is a recent graduate of Vanderbilt Law School.

*Kaylina Madison's Graduate Piano Recital*

Sunday, March 18, 2012  
5:00 p.m.

Wright Music Building's HINTON HALL

on the campus of MTSU  
1439 Faulkenberry Dr.  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

For questions call:  
601-631-1052  
or email  
kmadison5588@hotmail.com  
or MTSU Music Office at  
615-898-2469

FREE ADMISSION

Ms. Kaylina Madison '11, the Fisk Memorial Chapel Organist, is a recent graduate of Middle Tennessee State University.



Minister Brandon Perkins '09 is a recent graduate of Travecca Nazarene University.



Photographed by: Evan Weathersby





## Giving Thanks for the Divine Nine: Greek Life in the Fisk Memorial Chapel

The outstanding legacy of the Divine Nine continues to be exhibited in the Fisk Memorial Chapel through student leadership, community events and service projects which seek to improve the lives of citizens in the city of Nashville and throughout our global community. It is widely known that many of the members of African-American fraternities and sororities have been present and active in the programmatic activities of the Chapel for many years, and this past year was no exception to that proud tradition. The cultural, academic and spiritual thrust of the Chapel has always welcomed their enthusiasm for leadership and service, and the bonds that exist between the members of these esteemed organizations continues to foster an environment which is essential for the holistic development of the Fisk Family. In The Divine Nine: The History of African-American Fraternities and Sororities, Lawrence C. Ross, Jr. maintains that “the feeling of belonging to a common cause is almost spiritual....” Spirituality is indeed present among members of these organizations, and, throughout the past year, the constituents of the Chapel were blessed by their presence and greatly inspired by their commitment to God and the betterment of the African-American community.



Dr. Matthew Kennedy '47 was honored by the Gamma Phi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.



The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated worshiped in the Chapel during AKA week



Ms. LaQuasha Logan '12 (DST) and Ms. Beatrice Adams '12 (AKA) were also Chapel Assistants.

This past year, the Fisk Memorial Chapel was fortunate to have members of the Pi Chapter (Fisk University) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated worshipping with us. Also, the members of the Gamma Phi and Omega Lambda Lambda chapters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated held a special celebration in the Chapel in order to recognize and honor Brother Dr. Matthew Kennedy's fiftieth year as a member of the Fraternity. Dr. Kennedy is a nationally renowned pianist and a former Director of the Fisk Jubilee Singers. During the 2010-2011 academic year, the members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity hosted Compassion Sunday in the Chapel; a Sunday in which people within the Fisk University community agree to sponsor a child in the United States or throughout the world. Lastly, the members of our collegiate community were greatly impressed by the outstanding leadership of three Chapel Assistants: Ms. LaQuasha Logan '12, President of the Pan-Hellenic Council; Ms. Beatrice Adams '12, President of Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; and Ms. Shalimar Leggett '13, President of the Alpha Beta chapter (Fisk University) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (DST), Incorporated.



The value of the programs or ministries of the Chapel is often expressed within the overlapping section of two concentric circles: 1) the circle of religion in general and Christ in particular, and 2) the circle of Fisk University. Within the circle of religion, a person may find programs to strengthen his or her understanding of the Christian faith while developing an interest in and appreciation for other faiths throughout the world. Also, within the circle of religion, one may discover and participate in ministries (e.g., dance, singing and preaching) which are designed to inspire human beings as they glorify God within our campus community. Within the circle of Fisk University, we find students, faculty and administrators who are committed to the mission of our beloved institution. As people, they are often in need of hope, help and healing, and through the miraculous power and presence of God, they find their way to the doors and programs of the Fisk Memorial Chapel. We often recognize and celebrate the moment when the mission of Fisk meets the inspiration of Christ through the Special Sundays in the Chapel.

Throughout the past year, the Chapel highlighted the relationship between physical, mental and spiritual health through its annual Health Awareness Day service. Members and supporters of the Fisk-Meharry Medical College (MMC) HBCU Wellness Project, which is directed by Ms. Elizabeth Stewart, both attended and participated in the worship service. In an effort to call attention to the plight of impoverished citizens throughout the world, the Chapel hosted Bread for the World Sunday. The Reverend LaMarco Cable, the Mid-Atlantic and Central Southern Regional Organizer for Bread for the World, preached an outstanding sermon which advocated on behalf of the “least of those” who often lack the resources to advocate for themselves. We were blessed to hear a poem and song from John Curry and Nia Curry on Easter Sunday, and the graduating seniors, who were Chapel Assistants, received awards on Senior Sunday. Lastly, the entire University community was tremendously blessed to hear the Baccalaureate Sermon titled “Words Matter” by the Reverend Dr. Otis Moss Jr., Pastor Emeritus of the Olivet Institutional Baptist Church and former Chair of the Board of Trustees at Morehouse College.

# Special Sundays in the Fisk Memorial Chapel



The Reverend Dr. Otis Moss, Jr., Dean Curry, Ms. Victoria Roach '12 and Ms. Jenise Fredericks '12 after the Baccalaureate Service.



Dean Curry, Ms. Danielle Brown, Ms. Adrienne Wilson, Ms. Elizabeth Stewart, Community Coordinator for Fisk-MMC HBCU Wellness, Ms. Shanda Vereen and a Chapel guest on Health Awareness Sunday.



The Chapel Assistants with the Reverend LaMarco Cable (center) on Bread for the World Sunday.



The graduating seniors of the Chapel Assistants program with Dean Curry on Senior Sunday.





**Soprano:** Ms. Megan Larkin, Ms. Ronetta Hoard, Ms. Audrey Tillis and Ms. Rhea Beckett.

**Alto:** Ms. Miracle Ham, Ms. Kristina Peterson, Ms. Sabrina Walker and Ms. Christina Jackson.

**Tenor:** Mr. Marquis Murphy, Mr. Cameron Clark, Mr. Eric Copeland and Mr. Renaldo Billups.

**Bass:** Mr. DeAndre Jones, Mr. Charles Mitchell, Mr. Antonio Hayes and Mr. Kashun Newson

# The Fisk Jubilee Singers Perform in the Chapel

In reference to the Fisk Jubilee Singers, Andrew Ward writes: "In a tradition that continues to this day, they established the spiritual as a permanent part of the universal liturgy, a staple of religious expression. In their wake has rolled wave after wave of African American song (Preface, X111, Dark Midnight When I Rise)." The profound music and unparalleled legacy of the Fisk Jubilee Singers continues to find expression in the Fisk Memorial Chapel. We are fortunate to hear from the members of this esteemed group on Jubilee Day, during individual senior recitals, at community-wide concerts headlined by accomplished artists who are former Jubilee Singers and during Commencement exercises at the end of the academic year. The Jubilee Singers continue to inspire audiences throughout the nation and the world, and the Chapel continues to serve as the host venue for current and former members of this legendary group. Dr. Paul T. Kwami is the Musical Director and the Curb-Beaman Chair of the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

Throughout the past academic year, many of the Spirituals that were made famous by the Jubilee Singers were sung by Dr. Oral Moses; Professor of Voice and Music Literature at Kennesaw State University and a former Fisk Jubilee Singer. Dr. Moses' deep baritone, voice moved and inspired people in the Chapel which was filled to capacity.

Dean Curry is pictured with Ms. Ronetta Hoard '12, a Soprano for the Fisk Jubilee Singers and a Chapel Assistant. The beauty of Ms. Hoard's voice electrified the crowd at her Senior Recital in the Fisk Memorial Chapel. Also, the annual concert of the Jubilee Singers proved to be a tremendous success.

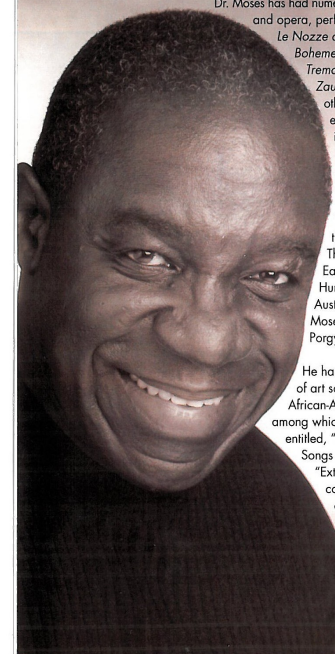


Dean Curry and Ms. Ronetta Hoard '12

**Oral Moses**, a bass-baritone, performs regularly throughout the United States and Europe singing oratorio and recitals with special emphasis on "a wide variety of Negro Spirituals and Art Song repertoire by African-American composers."

Dr. Moses has had numerous successes in oratorio and opera, performing major roles in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Regina, La Bohème*, *Albert Herring*, *Tremonisha*, *Rigoletto* and *Die Zauberflöte* among many others. His symphonic engagements have included works with the Nashville Symphony, the Jackson Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Lansing Symphony, Tacoma Symphony and the Atlanta Symphony. Throughout his tours of Eastern Europe, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Austria and in Berlin, Dr. Moses has sung the role of Porgy in *Porgy and Bess*.

He has recorded several CDs of art songs and spirituals by African-American composers among which is his latest CD entitled, "Oral Moses Sings... Songs of America." His CD, "Extreme Spirituals," is a collaboration with the controversial eclectic rock/classical band Birdsongs of the Mesozoic on the Cuneiform Records label. In 2001 Albany Records released a







# The Religious Leaders for Fisk

## Mission Statement

The Religious Leaders for Fisk 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.

## Vision Statement

The Religious Leaders for Fisk shall assemble for the primary purpose of advocacy and support on behalf of Fisk University and assisting the University in obtaining resources through various initiatives to fulfill its mission and vision.

The Inaugural Luncheon for the Religious Leaders of Fisk was held on February 16, 2012. The Steering Committee for the Religious Leaders for Fisk is planning Fisk Sunday, which will occur on February 3, 2013. Churches throughout the nation will be encouraged to highlight the achievements and mission of Fisk on that day. We thank God for our religious partners throughout the nation who have agreed to support our mission and vision through advocacy as well as through financial contributions.



The Inaugural Luncheon featured several nationally renowned religious leaders. We were pleased to welcome Bishop Vashti McKenzie, Presiding Prelate of the Thirteenth Episcopal District and her spouse, Mr. Stan McKenzie, Supervisor of Missions for the Thirteenth Episcopal District. Pictured from left to right: Provost Princilla Evans-Morris, Bishop Vashti McKenzie, President Hazel R. O'Leary, Supervisor Stan McKenzie and Dean Curry.





*The Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants continue to volunteer at the headquarters of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee.*



## Lending a Helping Hand: The Value of Community Service

Community service is an indispensable aspect of the Christian life. In the book titled [The Meaning of Service](#) by Harry Emerson Fosdick, one of the most prominent pastors and theologians of the twentieth century discussed how the methods and models of Christian service will inevitably change; however, the need for service, as reflected in the life of every disciple of Christ, will never go away. The Chapel was founded in 1892, and it's current constituents continue to foster and develop programs and ministries which are designed to meet the spiritual and existential needs of the members

and friends of the Fisk University community. Service, as expressed in the D.E.T.A.I.L.S., is a Core Value of Fisk University, and the programmatic thrust of the Chapel for the previous academic year both recognizes and celebrates the meaning of service in the life of the University, the nation and the world. In short, we seek to serve the affluent and the indigent, Americans and those from other countries, intellectuals and those who may be functionally illiterate, those who may know about God and those who have yet to find God's love in their lives.

Through the 2011-2012 academic year, the members of the Fisk Memorial Chapel primarily engaged in the following community service projects: 1) The Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, 2) the Soles4Souls community shoe campaign, and 3) the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Awareness Walk in Brentwood, Tennessee. The Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee project consisted of collecting cans of food as well as boxes of dry food goods and donating them to the organization. The Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants also volunteered for several

hours in Second Harvest's warehouse by organizing and sorting food items. The Chapel Assistants collected more than one hundred pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls within the past two years. The shoes continue to be distributed to the victims of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Lastly, members of the Fisk Memorial Chapel participated in Nashville's annual Race for the Cure. The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is both an educational and fundraising event which seeks to eliminate breast cancer throughout the world.



The Chapel Assistants participated in the 5k run with the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.



The Chapel Assistants donated both shoes and volunteer hours to Soles4Souls in order to help the victims of the Earthquake in Haiti.





*Members of the Black Seminarians at Vanderbilt Divinity School (second and third rows) pictured with the Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants and others.*

## Faith and Fellowship with Vanderbilt, TSU and ABC

The outstanding institutions of higher education found in Nashville Tennessee are definitely a factor in Nashville's steady growth and development. The research and teaching agendas of these institutions as well as the strategic collaboration among these esteemed institutions have helped to create a successful and vibrant intellectual and cultural community for administrators, faculty members and students throughout the city. Fisk University is recognized among these noteworthy intuitions, and, throughout the past academic year, members of the religious life community at Fisk as well as other institutions within the city of Nashville met at various locations in order to discuss topics which pertained to our global community.



During the 2011-2012 academic year, Dean Curry was the guest speaker at an event sponsored by the Black Seminarians at Vanderbilt University. Issues

regarding the relationship between the academic study of religion and the parish ministry were discussed among students from the Divinity School as well as Fisk University. Dean Curry was also the keynote speaker at the Breakfast Club at Tennessee State University in order to promote his forthcoming book: [The Star Book on Pastoral Counseling](#). The Breakfast Club is composed of scholars and lay individuals throughout the city of Nashville who are committed to reading and discussing academic books across various disciplines.

Mr. Philippe Andal, Minister in the Fisk Memorial Chapel, President of Mt. Zion Campus Ministries and President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Fisk University was the guest speaker during the Chapel Service at American Baptist College (ABC).



Minister Philippe Andal '13 (center) pictured with family, friends and Chapel Assistants at American Baptist College.



Dean Curry (far right) pictured with members of the Breakfast Club at Tennessee State University.



# Religious Emphasis Week 2012

April 1-8

Theme: *Letters to the Churches at Fisk*

## Palm Sunday, April 1

Ecumenical University Worship Service  
9:30 am  
Fisk Memorial Chapel

## Monday, April 2

Fasting from Sunrise to Sundown  
Prayer Meeting  
7:00 pm  
Fisk Memorial Chapel

## Tuesday, April 3

Roundtable Discussion  
"Loving Thy Neighbor: A Christian, Jewish, & Muslim Perspective"  
7:30 pm  
Fisk Memorial Chapel

## Wednesday, April 4

Seven Last Words Service  
7:00 pm  
Fisk Memorial Chapel

## Maundy Thursday, April 5

Becoming a Couple of Destiny Book Talk  
with Bishop Joseph & Dr. Stephaine Walker  
7:00 pm  
Fisk Memorial Chapel

## Good Friday, April 6

Prayer Walk  
12:00 noon  
Campus

## Holy Saturday, April 7

Community Service: Easter Basket Distribution  
10:00 am - 12:00 noon  
Schrader Lane Retirement Facilities

## Resurrection Sunday, April 8

Ecumenical University Worship Service  
9:30 am  
Fisk Memorial Chapel

Sponsored by the

*Fisk University Leaders of the Interfaith Fellowship Team*

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 expression. 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 Samaritan 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. As a Fisk Family we may disagree about the meaning of God and the significance of the worlds greatest teachers; however, common ground is often achieved within our religious community through 1) a recognition of the sacredness of all human life, 2) a healthy respect for our global environment, 3) a recognition that war is inhumane, 4) a realization that faith can exist with reason, 5) a belief that poverty is a human creation and therefore should be eradicated, and 6) justice for all people can be achieved. Even though REW often occurs during Holy Week, it is more that a time of reflection, devotion, celebration and praise for one particular faith. It is recognition that all people were created in the Imago Dei (in the image of God) and that the normative, theological ethic of agape love is able to provide help, healing and wholeness for people throughout the world.

REW was hosted by the Leaders of the Interfaith Fellowship Team (L.I.F.T.). Dean Curry designed L.I.F.T. in September of 2003. 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 at Fisk, 3) promote tolerance and acceptance of the variety of different religious perspectives that exist at Fisk and 4) promote interfaith activities (e.g., panel discussions) that stimulate both critical and analytical discussions about issues affecting humanity (e.g., poverty).



Members of the 2011-2012 Leaders of the Interfaith Fellowship Team (L.I.F.T.) are pictured above: Minister Philippe Andal (left), President, Mount Zion Campus Ministries and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA); Mr. Daniel Awogbemila (center), President, Every Nation Campus Ministries; Ms. Chelsea Burton (left front), President, Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants and Ms. Nikkita Roberts (right front), President, Wesley Foundation.

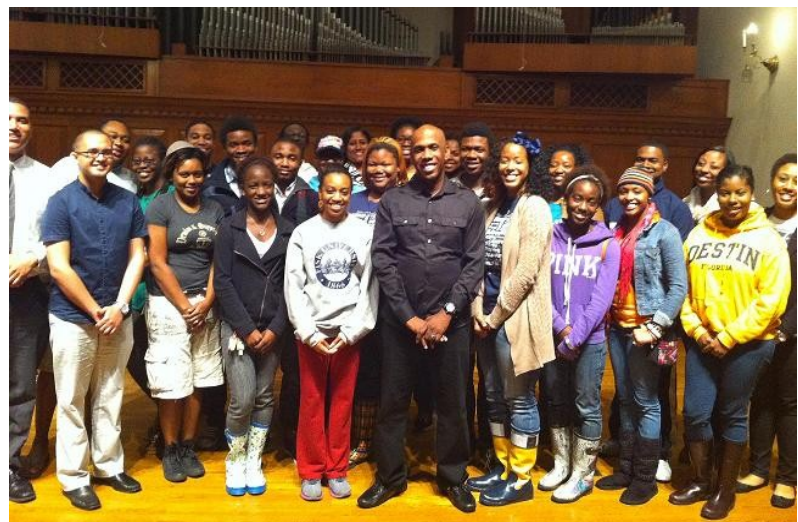
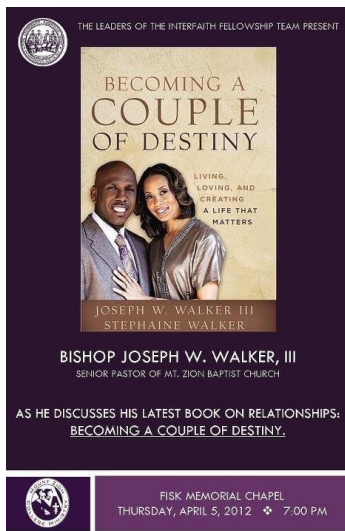


Fisk University students and volunteers visited one of our beloved alumni, Dr. L. M. Collins '37, Professor Emeritus of English, at the Schrader Lane Assisted Living Center during Religious Emphasis Week. Dr. Collins is the author of numerous publications including One Hundred Years of Fisk University Presidents, 1875-1975. Dr. Collins was awarded a Ph.D. in 1945 by the Western Reserve University Department of American Culture.





The interfaith panel discussion was led by Fisk University's Dr. Sajid Hussain (Muslim), Dr. David Popkin (Jewish) and Dean Curry (Christian).



Bishop Joseph Walker III led the study body in a discussion of his new book.



The Seven Last Words service was led by Mr. Quincy Fox '14, Fisk University; Minister Philippe Andar '13, Fisk University; Minister Brandon Perkins '10, Trevecca Nazarene University; Minister Darria Hudson '10, Vanderbilt University; Ms. Shalimar Leggett '13, Fisk University; Rev. Dr. Robin Kimbrough, Meharry Medical College; Rev. Brian Cash, American Baptist College.



It is widely known that the alumni of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in general and the alumni of Fisk University in particular have been at the forefront of issues relating to social justice for more than a century. The publications or audio and video recordings of Civil Rights leaders such as Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Congressman John Lewis and Dr. Diane Nash continue to stand as a testament to Fisk University's outstanding legacy and contribution to the area of social justice as it is expressed in America and throughout the world. As a result of the outstanding leadership of the aforementioned civil rights leaders as well as the contributions of many others, the goals of the Civil Rights Movement have been achieved. However, the statistics and empirical data associated with social problems related to poverty, illiteracy, incarceration without rehabilitation, unequal compensation, immigration and the institution of marriage suggest that there is still a need for moral and political leadership in the area of social justice.

Throughout the previous academic year, the Fisk Memorial Chapel has been involved in a number of programs and activities which were designed to enhance the moral fabric of our society. For example, Dean Curry and other representatives of the Chapel participated in a prayer vigil in support of Troy Davis: an African-American who was sentenced to death even though several witnesses to the events surrounding his crime recanted their stories. The anti-death penalty and Pro-Troy Davis Prayer Vigil was held at Vanderbilt Divinity School and it was supported by many members of the Vanderbilt University community. Members of the Fisk Memorial Chapel also participated in the protest in support of Trayvon Martin; an unarmed African-American teenager who was killed in Florida. The rally in support of Trayvon Martin, which attracted hundreds of people from the Middle Tennessee area, occurred in the downtown area of Nashville. Lastly, the Chapel Assistants participated in the annual Martin Luther King Day march in Nashville, TN which concluded at the campus of Tennessee State University. Over one-thousand people participated in the march.



The Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.



Mr. Troy Davis



Mr. Trayvon Martin

## Social Justice: Enhancing our Moral Fabric



The Chapel Assistants attended the Martin Luther King Day march.



Dean Curry and Vanderbilt University students, who opposed the death penalty, at a prayer vigil for Troy Davis.



The Chapel Assistants attended the Nashville rally in honor of Trayvon Martin and in support of his family.

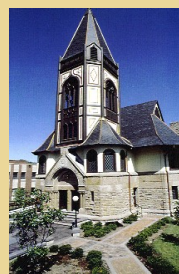


# Religious Organizations at Fisk

The Fisk Memorial Chapel has a relationship with a number of churches throughout Nashville, Tennessee. Churches within the city primarily find expression in our University community through the student religious groups that are registered with and recognized by the Office of Student Engagement. The Fisk Memorial Chapel continues to partner with the Office of Student Engagement in order to provide a holistic, religious and educational experience for the students enrolled at Fisk University. The advisors of these student, religious groups are faculty members, administrators, church members and clergy from the local churches. The criteria for establishing a student, religious organization is listed in the Student Handbook. These organizations often work together, through the Leaders of the Interfaith Fellowship Team (L.I.F.T.) in order to provide the campus community with a series of programs designed to enhance the overall religious life of our university community.



**Wesley Foundation  
At Fisk University**



## The Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants



**EVERY NATION**  
CAMPUS MINISTRIES







# Service to our Global Community through Compassion International



**My Project** Age 3-8

Date August - 1st - 2012  
 Dear Fisk Memorial Chapel

1. My Project's name is Rissa Geba Sefi Bert Full Gospel Believers Child Development Project ET-470

2. The number of children in my Project is ET-270-0243 12461

3. I go to my Project 5 days a Week.

4. My Project is 1 Km from my house.

5. I got to my Project ☒ on foot ☐ by cart ☐ by taxi ☐ other

6. Typical activities I do at my Project are playing foot ball Health education  
tutorial  
Sunday school

7. My favorite activity to do at my Project is Health education

8. My favorite thing about my Project workers is letter writing

Compassion International  
 Helping children from poverty in Jesus' name

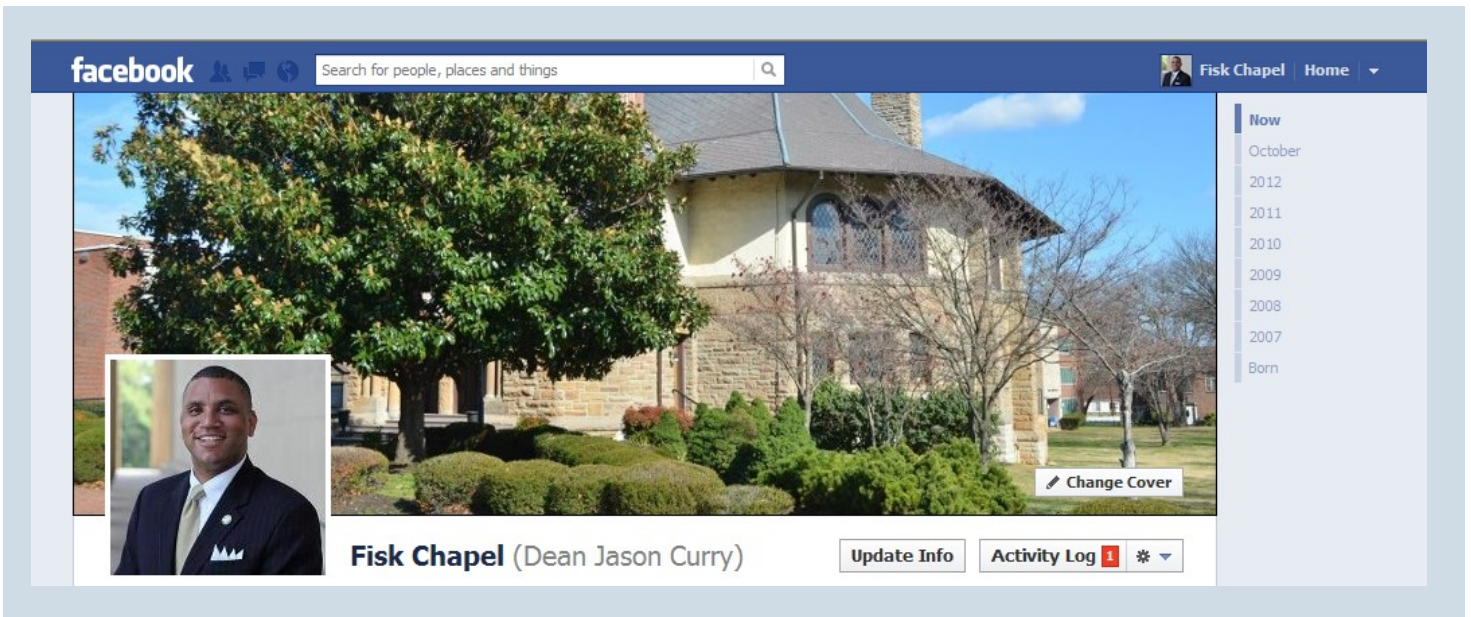
Anything Special you want to Share Thank you very much for all you have done for me because I am a young girl please play about my education & growth.

Writer's Name & Title Daniel Tsegaye P.H.W

Translator's name M. K. J. C.

The Fisk Memorial Chapel has sponsored Ms. Eden Habtamu of Ethiopia through Compassion International for years. She is seven years old and receives services through the Sefi Bert Full Gospel Believers Church Student Center in Ethiopia. We correspond with Eden with the assistance of an international translator. If you are interested in sponsoring a child for approximately \$38.00 per month, please visit the website for Compassion International. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated.





# Ministry and Social Media: Friends and Fellowship on facebook

The biblical mandate to minister to the needs of others finds expression in many places throughout the New Testament. In one passage, Jesus said: “Love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:39).” He also told his disciples that “the greatest among you will be your servant (Matthew 23:11).” The call for service among the body of Christ as well as the larger global community will continue to exist as long as people continue to have unfulfilled physical, spiritual, psychological and emotional needs. The methods for addressing these needs are sure to be varied, complex and more effective from generation to generation to generation. The social media entity known as Facebook represents a new method for addressing the educational, recreational and entrepreneurial needs of people throughout the United States and the world. However, the Chapel Assistants, Fisk University alumni, friends and constituents of Fisk proudly use the “Fisk Chapel” Facebook page as a method for addressing the multifaceted spiritual and existential needs of our entire community.

The comments on the Fisk Chapel page continue to proclaim that the Chapel is as relevant to the religious life of Fisk today as it has been for over one hundred years. We are indebted to all of our Facebook friends for the love and support that they have shown the Chapel since the creation of our page. We pray that our posts will continue to inspire and inform others as they address both personal and professional challenges in lives of our “friends.” If you have not become our “friend” on Facebook, please send us a friend request. We look forward to partnering with you as we work to do ministry in our world.







# Cultivating Scholars and Leaders One by One

Fisk University is committed to the task of Cultivating Scholars and Leaders One by One. The vision and strategic goals of the University, which are expressed by this eloquent statement, are also reflected in the intellectual aptitude of students that are recruited, the exceptional students that we nurture throughout their four-year matriculation and by the outstanding graduates that are making tremendous contributions to our global community. Our commitment to cultivating scholars and leaders is further reflected in the research opportunities that we provide for ordinary citizens and recognized scholars throughout the world through our Special Collections department. Also, the University continues to promote the richness of the Judeo-Christian tradition as it appears in art, science, history and music for scholars, students and citizens throughout the city. The Chapel serves as a host to a variety of initiatives within and outside of the field of religion which help to cultivate scholars and leaders throughout our world.

Throughout the past academic year, the Chapel provided resources for Mr. Randy Crawley, a member of the Bethesda Original Church of God and Master of Divinity Degree Candidate at Lipscomb University, to conduct an interview with Deacon John Nichols of the 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue Original Church of God. The purpose of the interview was to discuss Deacon Nichols' childhood memories of Charles W. Gray, the founder of the Original Church of God or the Sanctified Church. The Chapel also hosted Teach for America's Southern Educational Equity Summit; a regional event which allowed experts in the field of education to discuss educational reform. Many of the Chapel Assistants contributed to a cultural and academic program which recognized and celebrated the birthday of W.E.B. DuBois, Class of 1888. Several of Dr. DuBois' prayers are captured in the publication Prayers for Dark People. The Chapel hosted the annual Martin Luther King Convocation as the University community listened to the wisdom of Elder Darryl Taliaferro, Executive Overseer of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church. Lastly, in order to promote the value scholarship in the greater Nashville community, Dean Curry publishes a monthly newsletter and a weekly column in the Tennessee Tribune newspaper.



Mr. John Curry, Mr. Randy Crawley and Deacon John Nichols after the interview and video recording.

Dean Curry and Elder Darryl Taliaferro at the Martin Luther King Convocation.

## Students and administrators affiliated with Teach for America host the Southern Educational Equity Summit in the Fisk Memorial Chapel.

The Tennessee Tribune.com

### The Tennessee Tribune

Volume 22, No. 8, 3 Sections THURSDAY, February 24-March 2, 2011 \$1.00

Seeing Our Divine Potential Through the Lenses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities

The eighteenth chapter of the gospel according to St. Luke is indubitable evidence of God's love for humanity. In this particular passage of scripture, we are presented with a picture in which Jesus the Christ encounters a man who does not possess the ability to see. The man could not see, but he wanted to see for the text says he shouted "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" It was at that moment, that Jesus reached down with power in his hands and compassion in his heart and entered the sight of the man to see. Jesus said, "Rise, your right eye, your faith has saved you." The text says that the blind man immediately regained his sight and followed Jesus and glorifying God. As students here we need that the idea of "blindness" mentioned in the text is not only a reference to physical blindness, it is also symbolic of our human tendency to ignore or overlook the potential, relevance and influence of God. For example, as a graduate of a Historically Black College, I would submit that HBCU's are relevant because they help African-American students to "see" and realize their divine potential. There are many people who assert that HBCU's have outlived their relevance; however, many of the African-American leaders of our nation are and have been graduates of HBCU's. On occasion, I remind students what God has brought them to Fisk University so that the cobwebs of ignorance might be removed, so that the dust of discouragement might be blown away, and so that the ignorance of indifference might not blind them to the miraculous power of God and the words of those whom we call our neighbor. Yes, I believe that God wants them to "see." Like James W. Johnson, who through divine inspiration penned the majestic verses of the Black National Anthem. Yes, his eloquence ensured that this generation and generations yet unborn might know that God is the reason that we as a people have made it thus far. See like Nkomo Clinton, whose brilliant literary contributions in poetry and fiction have shaped the thought of both American and African-American thinkers. See like Aaron Douglas, a wonderful painter who influenced given form on campus renaissance movements even among the world's best artistic expressions of the African-American experience. See like John Hope Franklin who majestic passage down the corridors of this nation's history has enabled humanity to read a sacred history so that we might know our struggle and our triumphs as a people. As Black History Month comes to a close, we give thanks HBCU's, for they are still in the business of helping people to see.

October 2010

### The E-Newsletter of the Fisk Memorial Chapel

**President of Chapel Assistants Completes Internship with the US Department of Agriculture**

As the President of the Fisk Memorial Chapel Assistants, Mr. Chelsea Burton 11 participates in the weekly liturgy and helps to manage the affairs of many of the ministries within the Chapel. This past summer, Ms. Burton (and her twin sister Kelly) completed an internship with the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. As a biology pre-med major, Ms. Burton believes that our physical health should complement our spiritual health. Her leadership among the Chapel Assistants is invaluable, and we look forward to seeing her serve as a leader in the fields of religion and medicine.

**The United Methodist Church Appoints New Director of the Wesley Foundation**

The entire Fisk University community would like to welcome the Reverend Marilyn Thornton as the incoming Director of the Wesley Foundation (a campus ministry) at Fisk University. Reverend Thornton has earned a BA from Howard University, a MA in Theology from Johns Hopkins and the M.Div. from Vanderbilt. Reverend Thornton is also the Lead Editor of African-American resources at the UCM Publishing House. Welcome Reverend Thornton!

**Celebrating the Leadership of Women in Ministry at Fisk University**

Much has been written about the visionary leadership as well as the narrative contributions of women in the academy, the parish ministry and the global community. Texts such as *72 Women's Journeys* by the Reverend Dr. Cheryl Townsend Gilkes, *Leadership Development for Women* by Bishop Yvonne McKnight, and *Those Preaching Women* by Ella Mitchell and Jacqueline Glass chronicle and highlight the courage, spiritual-discernment, steadfastness, faith and intelligence of women who have helped families, congregations and members of a given community address and overcome challenges throughout their lives. At a time when many of those within the mainstream culture as well as those within various academic and religious subcultures have consistently questioned the authenticity of their "divine-call" narrative, women have displayed and continue to display effective and bold leadership in ecclesiastical circles as well as the academic study of religion. Just like the women in Matthew 28:1-9 who were among the first to proclaim the resurrection of our Lord and Savior from the grave, women continue to be both pioneers and leaders in the temporal and eternal work that God has placed upon the hearts of human beings throughout the world.

Thank you for taking the time to recognize those who have mentored and continue to mean so much to so many within our school, country and global community. May God bless you. Dean Curry

**Alumni Spotlight: The Reverend Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson 85 brings message of hope from the Children's Defense Fund of New York City and the Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York.**

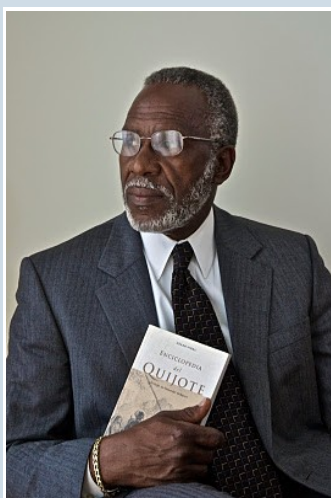
Christ in Brooklyn, New York. On October 6, 2010, Dr. Jordan-Simpson delivered an outstanding message as the 2010 Jubilee Day Speaker. Throughout the course of her message, Dr. Simpson cited statistics which detail the plight of some of the most vulnerable citizens of our democracy. According to Dr. Jordan-Simpson: "Nationally, black juveniles are about 4 times as likely to be incarcerated as their white peers. In NYC, a black child is 32 times more likely to be incarcerated than a white child." Dr. Jordan-Simpson also left us with a blessing of hope: "May God bless you to be bold, to honor your race, to honor your legacy and to be unafraid to walk in the dark places with songs of light, with songs of struggle, with songs of mourning that turn into victory." We thank God for the ministry of Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson.

Christen Ben led to right by Mr. Adrien Lathan, Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson, Dean Curry and Dr. Linda Brown Calhoun.

The Fisk Memorial Chapel, Fisk University, 1000 University Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208  
www.fiskmemorialchapel.org (615) 324-6552



# In Memorium



June 24, 1941 -  
January 19, 2012

Dr. Marcellus Brooks was born on June 24, 1941 to the late Roosevelt Brooks and Beatrice Hibler Brooks.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 38 years, Lula Vaughn Brooks, son Marcellus Vaughn Brooks, sisters, Elnora Hill, Corean Jackson and his “brother from another mother”, and main “road dog”, Dr. Lucius Turner Outlaw, Jr.

Dr. Brooks’ attended Hamilton High School (Memphis), Fisk University, graduating in 1964 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish; The University of New York in

conjunction with the University of Madrid with a Master of Arts degree. He continued his studies toward a Ph.D. at the University of Illinois and Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Brooks’ entire professional career was at Fisk University as Assistant Professor of Spanish, Chair of the Modern Language Department and Director of the Division of the Humanities and Fine Arts and, for a number of years, University Marshall. During his tenure at Fisk, he developed the Fisk Study Abroad Program in 1974 by taking students to Mexico City. The Program continued with students going to Africa, Dominican Republic, South America, Egypt, Italy, and Estudio Sampere in Salamanca, Spain. Dr. Brooks was a true son of Fisk, “ever on the altar.”

Dr. Brooks’ involvement did not end at Fisk, it continued in the community. He assisted in developing the North Edgefield Organized Neighbors (NEON) that included tutoring, art programs, summer job programs and outreach programs for youth. He also served as Board Chair. In addition, Dr. Brooks was a Cub Master for a Cub Scout troop at NEON. He held memberships in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, The Agora Assembly, The Optimist Club, The Nashville Sons of Africa, and the Meharry, Fisk, and TSU Faculty Breakfast Club.



March 25, 1926 -  
March 15, 2012

Mr. Newton S. Holiday, Jr. was born on March 25, 1926 in Fort Worth, Texas to Newton Sarailia Holiday and the former Louise Evelyn Scruggs Holiday. He later moved with his family to his mother’s hometown of Nashville, TN. He died on March 15, 2012 at Centennial Medical Center.

Mr. Holiday received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Fisk University in 1949 where he studied under Aaron Douglass, famed artist-illustrator of the Harlem Renaissance. Mr. Holiday assisted in the installation of the international-

ly-acclaimed Alfred Stieglitz Collection of Modern American and European Art at the Carl Van Vechten Gallery. He later briefly left Nashville for New York where he received the Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1956.

Mr. Holiday served as an art instructor at Tennessee State University for several decades, as well as an instructor of art and photography at Fisk University.

A lifelong member of the Howard United Church of Christ (Congregational), Mr. Holiday was instrumental in the concept and design of the current building. He was a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and was past President of the Tau Lambda Chapter. A member of the Fisk University Alumni Association, Mr. Holiday had been named a Golden Son of the University and was a previous class alumni president. He was also a member and a past president of the Nashville Fisk Club and the Nashville Jubilee Singers. An accomplished musician, he played the piano and the organ for many years— and continued to enjoy classical concerts, as well as listen to the works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Chopin, and Handel during his leisure time.

Mr. Holiday is survived by his wife of nearly 57 years, Ernestine Holiday of Nashville as well as additional family members.