



A sermon by William C. Turner, Associate Professor of the Practice of Homiletics

Lesson: Romans 8: 9-17

*...<sup>15</sup> For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. <sup>16</sup>The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. <sup>17</sup>And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

Every believer is entitled to celebrate—to remember and to give thanks for their place in the body of Christ. Just like we celebrate our birthday and affirm our rightful place in the family where we have natural kinship, so we can celebrate our adoption into the family of God. We enter this family not by natural birth, but by a wondrous work of the Spirit that is likened to a formal adoption. On this Trinity Sunday we are afforded an unsurpassed moment to celebrate our adoption.

Trinity Sunday! It's like going to a party or a festive occasion. The family of heaven is throwing a gala. That is the language we are given for confessing the mystery of God. It is a loving relationship, where there is an eternal exchange of life among the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

The living God moves around rather than sitting around. Heaven is his throne, earth is his footstool. Through the Spirit the body of obedience was prepared for the Son; upon the completion of the Son's work and his ascension the Spirit is poured out in the earth. Those who respond to the Spirit's wooing and yield to the convicting power are united with Christ and adopted into the family. What a wonderful, gala affair as we welcome additions to the family.

## Celebrating our Adoption

In times like these we need joyful festivals as often as we can have them. I don't suppose this week has been any worse than the rest, but I have had my fill of bad news in the paper, on the television, and even on the internet. It is downright depressing to see one tale of murder after another. But in the midst of it all God invites the church to throw a party to celebrate new adoptions and to invite everyone we can find.

Adoption into the family of God is no light or half-hearted matter. We are not brought in as slaves, servants, exploited workers, or hired help. We are not stepchildren, foster children, or wards of the state. Rather, we are given real standing. Our status is sealed in our spirit, so that it is more than a formal fact. It shapes our consciousness, modifies our behavior, heightens our expectation, and allows us to enter into the festivities. See how the apostle puts it: we have not received the spirit of bondage to fear.



William C. Turner Jr.

Ah, Paul does not seem to get very far away from this image of bondage. Perhaps he knew what it meant to be bound so well until this became a root metaphor for him. What he is dealing with here is not merely the formal facts of bondage, but the spirit of bondage. For just as no person is fully a slave if their spirit is not bound, so one is not free unless their spirit is free. He wants us to not only know our status, but he wants us to act like it.

It is hard to live for God without the Spirit of adoption. The Spirit of adoption changes our identity so we can know ourselves in the same relationship with the Father as we see in the Son. We relate like Jesus did. God is not out yonder,

*continued on page 6*



## Transitions...

By Rev. Tiffney Marley  
Director of the Office of Black Church Studies



**M**any of us are impacted by the transitions of life. For students, you have been relocated from places and people that you know into a new space where your worldview, your theology, your ministry practice is being deconstructed and reconstructed. For clergy, maybe your congregation or your ministry has taken a different turn, one which you never expected. Maybe there has been a change in your health, a change in your family situation, maybe you simply don't feel like the same person that you were 10 or 20 years ago.

Effective ministry requires that we are malleable enough to flow with the movement of the Spirit. As clergy, we must decide whether we want to facilitate static or dynamic ministry. In this day and age, given the fast-pace of the global society, we

must proclaim and model a Gospel that releases the streams of new life onto the dry places of human existence. Paul had a handle on this concept as he aided in the establishment of the Christian Church. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a sense of this as he found himself involved in the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the March on Washington. Desmond Tutu was releasing a tide as he put his life on the line for justice in South Africa.

As you continue to reflect upon your own ministries, my prayer is that the articles contained in this issue of *GATHERINGS* will inspire you as you allow the Holy Spirit to sculpt your ministry into different ways of being. As Christ is pouring "new wine" for all of creation to drink, we need new receptacles, new wine skins to pour from. On one hand while there is nothing new under the sun, at the same time God is continually making all things new within us and around us.

Peace.  
Rev. Tiffney

## Journey with Duke Divinity School to Latin America or Africa

**Brazil Travel Seminar:** May 16-28, 2005, led by Dr. Rosalee (G'03) and Rev. Samuel Ewell (D'00), Duke alumni and faculty at South American Theological Seminary, Londrina, Brazil.

**Uganda/Rwanda Travel Seminar:** July 28-August 10, 2005, led by Dr. Emmanuel Katongole, associate research professor of theology and world Christianity, Duke Divinity School.

Visit important historical, political and ecclesial sites in selected cities in Brazil or Uganda and Rwanda. Hear the story of the church's struggle in these contexts against social injustices and the contemporary challenge to witness to Christ's peace and justice in the global society. Meet living parables of the Gospel, people who, amidst enormous poverty and pain, have found deep joy as agents of transformation.

You will also have the opportunity to see some of the breath-taking beauty and the wild game of Africa and South America. Estimated cost for double occupancy is \$3,250\*, including airfare, bus travel, hotel accommodation and main meals.

Because the seminars are much more than sightseeing trips, participants will be invited to enter a "Covenant," committing themselves to an "inward journey" of personal reflection, shared worship, Bible study, discussion and true engagement with the people they encounter during our journey.

**Continuing education credits are available for both seminars.**

**For an application, contact Rev. Tiffney Marley: [tmarley@div.duke.edu](mailto:tmarley@div.duke.edu) or call 919-660-3444.**

**Applications are due October 15, 2004**

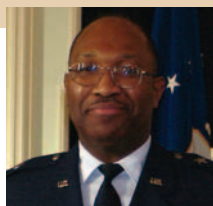
*\*This is a preliminary estimate. Due to the economy, the final cost is subject to change. The final cost will be published in February 2005.*

## Calendar of Events

- September 8** Ph.D. Forum, 12:30 p.m., 110 Old Divinity
- September 10-11** Retreat for Baptist and Freechurch Women, Camp New Hope
- September 18** The Least of These Conference: The Church's Response to HIV/AIDS, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., First Calvary Baptist Church, Free registration
- Sept. 27 – Oct. 1** Study Leave for Ministry Professionals
- October 5-6** Gardner C. Taylor Lecture Series  
Featuring: Rev. Dr. Cleophus J. LaRue
- October 11-13** Convocation and Pastors' School  
**The Art & Craft of Preaching**  
(Open to the entire Divinity Community)  
Featuring Marva Dawn, Tom Long, Peter Gomes and Will Willimon. Complete event information & online registration available at <http://www.divinity.duke.edu/learningforlife/Events/artandcraft/index.htm>

## Alumni Profile: Rev. Dr. Vergel Lattimore D'77

By Richard Hayes D'06



**A**lways read the bulletin boards! That's the lesson Duke divinity alumnus **Dr. Vergel Lattimore D'77** learned many years ago, when as a student this simple rule set him on a fascinating and impressive ministerial journey.

After graduating from Livingstone College in Salisbury, N.C., Lattimore began his studies at the divinity school in January 1975. The next summer, he was one of only 12 students selected for a CPE position at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C.

"That experience made it clear that I wanted to pursue ministry in pastoral counseling and led to post-graduate work and Ph.D. work in pastoral counseling," he says.

With his calling clarified, Lattimore returned to Duke and completed his M. Div. in 1977. One day while on campus, he stopped to read the message boards and noticed a recruitment flyer for U.S. Air Force chaplains. Having enjoyed ROTC in college, Lattimore began thinking about becoming a chaplain and eventually enlisted in 1979.

This year, after almost 25 years as a chaplain, he became the first African-American to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Air National Guard. Over that same period, while serving in the Air Force Reserves and the Air National Guard, he also continued developing his pastoral counseling ministry. After serving as the assistant dean in the Office of Black Affairs at Duke, Lattimore earned a Ph.D. in pastoral counseling from Northwestern University.

After completing his doctorate, Lattimore served as a senior staff member in pastoral counseling at the Onondoga Pastoral Counseling Center and director of the Counseling, Addiction and Psychological Services Program at the Syracuse Community Health Center. Since 1990, he has been on the faculty of the Methodist Theological School in Delaware, Ohio, where he is currently the director of the Master of Arts program in counseling ministries.

Lattimore advises today's divinity school students to "maximize the opportunity to learn from your peers."

"Those relationships are permanent bridges," he says. "Don't take them for granted." ❖

## Black Seminarians Union Officers 2004-2005

**T**he Black Seminarians Union aims to enhance Christian fellowship among the student body and faculty. Its objectives include the enrichment of the divinity school's communal life, the pursuit of academic excellence, the cultivation of spiritual life, advocacy for justice and equity and inclusive fellowship.

### President

Justin Coleman, Middler United Methodist Church

### Vice President

Eugene Hebert, Senior United Methodist Church

### Secretary

Lettye Smith, Middler United Church of Christ

### Treasurer

Amber Baptiste, Middler Non-denominational

### Chaplain

Brian Edmonds, Middler Baptist

### Program Comm. Chair

Aurellia Anderson, Middler United Church of Christ

### Advisor

Rev. Tiffney Marley  
Director, OBCS  
American Baptist

## Contact Us!

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## International Update

**D**uke Divinity School continues building and strengthening its partnership with friends in South Africa. The following are some of the recent programming efforts:

### STUDENT PARTNERSHIPS/EXCHANGES

Each summer the Methodist Church of Southern Africa hosts Duke Divinity School students for a 10-week assignment serving in rural and urban church settings from Capetown to Johannesburg to Pretoria. This summer the following students went to South Africa for the program: **Eugene Hebert, D'05, Molly Tyson, D'04, Carlton Rutherford, D'05, Amy Grissell, D'05** and **Lisa Shubert, D'05**.

### FACULTY PARTNERSHIPS

**Dr. Peter Storey**, the former presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, continues to be a key member of the divinity school faculty. He was recently named the Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry. Additionally, in July, **Dr. Stephen Chapman**, Assistant Professor of Old Testament, taught a two-week seminar at John Wesley College in South Africa.

### PILGRIMAGE OF PAIN & HOPE

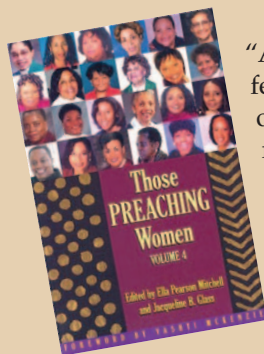
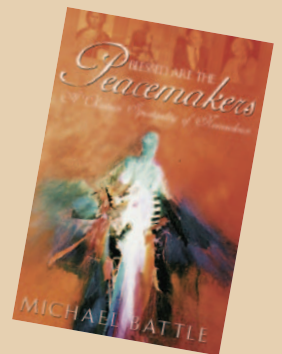
From July 30 to August 12, Duke Divinity School alumni, students and friends journeyed to South Africa to visit important historical, political, and ecclesial sites in Cape Town, Robben Island, Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Soweto. The 2004 South Africa Pilgrims are: **Patrick Hamrick D'90, Laura Beaver, Kenny Walden D'02, Michelle Walden B'01, Elizabeth Storey, Peter Storey, Cathy Gilliard D'97, Donna Claycomb D'00, Diane Christianson D'83, Thomasina Stith D'05, Gloria Holloway D'06, Laurie Coffman D'93, Nancy Rich, Regina Groff D'96, Ann Haywood D'02, Thomas Riley D'98, Lewis Poag D'70, Gerald Sylver D'97, Rick McKinley D'04, Irvin Plowden D'01, Richard Hayes D'06, Jeremy Troxler D'02, R.G. Lyons D'06, Mark Graves D'05** and **Tiffney Marley D'96**.

Please keep our emerging partnerships in Uganda and Brazil in your prayers. **Jay Carney, D'06** served a parish in Uganda and **Ryan Gladwin D'06** served a parish in Brazil as a part of their field education experience this summer.

For more information about these initiatives, contact Rev. Tiffney Marley. ✚

## The Book Center

**Dr. Michael J. Battle's** new book, *Blessed Are the Peacemakers: A Christian Spirituality of Nonviolence*, wrestles with how Christian practices of nonviolence are often neglected. The work, which features a foreword by Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, makes explicit connections between Mahatma Gandhi and Christian spirituality. The book is a must read.



"A Sermonic Melody" by **Rev. Lisa R. Harris, D'97**, is featured in Volume 4 of *Those Preaching Women*, the latest in a series of sermon collections edited by Rev. Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell. Mitchell promotes excellence among women in ministry. It is fitting that Harris' work is highlighted in Mitchell's latest publication, which features a stellar group of dynamic women in the pulpit. Keep your eyes on Harris for she is an emerging leader in American Baptist life and the Body of Christ. She offers a fresh prophetic voice for the contemporary church.

# BSU History Project

By Adrienne Denson, D'06, BSU Historian

In 1970, after a year of serious negotiations, Duke Divinity School officially recognized the Black Seminarians Union (BSU). The black students who fought so dearly for the recognition of the organization eventually became its initial leadership.

While the BSU was formed to provide fellowship and support for the divinity school's black members, the organization's mission and focus extended throughout the entire Duke community. From the outset, the BSU was committed to changing the face of the university and the theological perspective of the divinity school.

In its first years, the organization actively sought the recruitment of black and female students and encouraged the administration to attract and hire black and female professors, administrators, and staff. Additionally, the BSU engaged in conversations on curriculum development, debating the need and benefit of courses that focused on the black church tradition, including its preaching and polity.

The founders of the BSU not only laid the groundwork for future change, but were also able to witness the fruit of their labor. After the organization was created, the divinity school established an Office of Black Church Affairs (now the Office of Black Church Studies), hired the school's first black professor, and introduced a course entitled "Black Power and Black Theology." The early leadership of the BSU attributes the success of their initiatives to the organization's members and to the allies within the divinity school and throughout the university.

If you are interested in participating in the oral history project of the Black Seminarians Union, please contact Adrienne Denson, current historian of the BSU, at the address of this newsletter. ❖

## On The Move...

The Office of Black Church Studies welcomes **Megan McMurtry** as the new staff assistant. She is a 2003 M.T.S. alumna of the divinity school and is currently completing a Th.M. in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. She eventually plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible. If you have any questions about Syriac, Ugaritic, Aramaic, or Hebrew, she is a very good tutor. We are happy to have her on the team. She can be contacted at [mmcmurtry@div.duke.edu](mailto:mmcmurtry@div.duke.edu). ❖

## Duke Divinity School

### Office of Black Church Studies Affiliated Faculty & Staff

**Esther Acolatse, Ph.D.**, Visiting Assistant Professor in Pastoral Theology and World Christianity

**Brian Bantum, M.T.S.**, Research Associate

**Michael Battle, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Spirituality and Black Church Studies

**J. Kameron Carter, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor in Theology and Black Church Studies

**Sylvester Evans**, Housekeeping Staff

**Donald Fogg**, Housekeeping Staff

**Dawn Haughton**, Housekeeping Staff

**Willie Jennings, Ph.D.**, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Assistant Research Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies

**Emmanuel Katongole, Ph.D.**, Associate Research Professor of Theology and World Christianity

**Richard Lischer, Ph.D.**, James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor of Preaching

**Gwendolyn London, D.Min.**, Lecturing Fellow, Institute on Care at the End of Life

**Tiffney Marley, M.Div.**, Director of the Office of Black Church Studies

**Paula Maye**, Housekeeping Staff

**Andrew Mbuvi, Ph.D.**, Post-Doctoral Fellow and Associate in Research

**Marilyn McKinney**, Staff Assistant for the Institute on the Care at the End of Life

**Megan McMurtry**, Assistant for COBHOBSCS

**Enuma Okoro, M.Div.**, Interim Director, Center for Theological Writing

**Richard Payne, M.D.**, Director, Institute on Care at the End of Life

**Christine Perry**, Administrative Secretary for Student Services

**Peter Storey, D.D.**, Ruth W. and A. Morris Williams Jr. Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry

**Delores Taylor, M.B.A.**, Financial Analyst

**William Turner, Jr., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of the Practice of Homiletics

**Adrienne Wesley**, Housekeeping Staff

**Shelia Williams**, Director for Financial Aid

**Tammy Williams, M.Div.**, Ph.D. Candidate, Lecturing Fellow in Theology and Black Church Studies

## Payne Named ICEOL Director

**D**r. Richard Payne, an internationally known expert in oncology, neurology, pain relief, and care for the dying, has been named the Colliflower Director of the Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life.

Payne comes to Duke from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, where he led the Pain and Palliative Care Service since 1998.



The institute, based at the divinity school, was launched in 2000 and has been sustained since then by gifts totaling \$16.5 million arranged by Hugh A. Westbrook, a 1970 divinity school graduate and pioneer in hospice care. The institute works to improve research, education and practice in the care of those near death.

“Richard Payne is extraordinarily well-positioned to lead the Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life,” said Dean L. Gregory Jones in announcing the appointment earlier this year. “He combines the stature, wisdom, creativity, passion and leadership to build on the institute’s current strengths and lead it in exciting new ways. He will continue the institute’s focus on faith communities and on diverse populations, especially African-Americans, while also extending its reach in teaching, research and outreach.”

The institute brings together a variety of disciplines, schools and professions to study how best to care for those at the end of life. It involves physicians and nurses at Duke Medical Center, theologians and ethicists from the divinity school, humanities scholars from Duke’s arts and sciences departments, pastors and other caregivers from across the nation, and social work faculty from UNC Chapel Hill, among others.

“I see this as the opportunity of a lifetime – to build a unique program to create new knowledge about how we understand human suffering and care for the terminally ill, chronically ill and dying,” Payne said. “The enormous intellectual resources of this university will interface with our increasingly sophisticated medical knowledge to create a resource for the world that will improve care for the dying.”

Educated at Yale University and Harvard Medical School, Payne has served on numerous national panels and advisory committees. He has given expert testimony to the Congressional Black Caucus National Brain Trust and the President’s Cancer Panel in the area of healthcare access disparities in cancer care, palliative medicine and end-of-life care. ❖

## Celebrating our Adoption

*continued from page 1*

way off somewhere. God is not a tyrant who is over against us. No, he is Abba—Daddy. Abba is a term of endearment—tenderness, affection. Indeed, in prophetic writ God as Abba is described as a woman who cannot forget the child who nurses at her breast. Slave foreparents got it right when they said, “He’s my mother and my father.” All this tenderness is taken up in Abba, and the Spirit of adoption gives a corresponding affection.

The Spirit of adoption tells us who we are. We need this inward teaching to verify our identity. This is the witness that wins out when the world tries to mess with our minds and tell us lies about who we are. We are not slaves, sharecroppers, or day workers. We are sons and daughters—heirs of God, joint heirs with Christ.

This is the meaning of our baptism: all distinctions between elder and younger, male and female, bond and free, Jew and Gentile have been obliterated. The Spirit is the witness to the full inheritance. Sometimes it is difficult to get our minds wrapped around the meaning of it all.

Those of you who are being baptized, learn to read your identity from your adoption papers—namely Romans 8. Spiritual adoption gives you a standing that makes you second to nobody. This is more than an empty, formal ceremony. Watch the transformation that comes in your attitude—in your home, in school. Don’t let pop culture tell you who you are.

Learn your identity from your adoption papers, not from race theory. The problem with racism is not so much the exalted sense of who the superior race is; the problem is the point of reference. White supremacy fabricates inferior lesser races and suppresses them to boost white egos and economic status. No, this high standing in creation is the inheritance of us all: we are made a little lower than the angels and crowned with glory and honor. By oppressing another, the racist has fallen as low as the one who is despised. Read the papers: all who are baptized into Christ are raised with him to sit in the heavenly places. Mature, sanctified Christians are not better than sinners. Rather, we are sent out with invitations and adoption papers for all who will share the same standing offered to us in Christ. ❖

## On A Personal Note

**Vergel Lattimore D'77** becomes Air Force Chaplain Pioneer. Rev. Dr. Vergel Lattimore, professor of pastoral care and director of the Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries degree program at Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO), has become the first African American to attain the rank of brigadier general in the Air National Guard (ANG) and the United States Air Force. Lattimore is well prepared for the dynamic role as a leader/mentor to other chaplains.

**Myrtle Hatcher D'85** is the new district superintendent for the Peninsula District of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Previously, she was senior pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Hampton, Va.

**Cheryl Moore D'96** is pastor of Zion Temple United Church of Christ in Durham, N.C. Prior to shepherding Zion Temple, she was senior director of youth ministries at Friendship Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C.

**Stephen Howard D'97** is the new senior pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Richmond, Va. Previously, he served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Enfield, N.C. Dr. Howard also recently completed his Ph.D. from a joint program between Oxford University and the University of Notre Dame.

**Gloria Agogah D'99** recently joined the staff at the North Carolina Correction Institute for Women as the Clinical Chaplain II.

**Alvin Harmon D'00** is the new senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Enfield, N.C. Rev. Harmon recently served as the church's director of Christian education at First Baptist and replaces Rev. Stephen Howard.

**Michael Walrond Jr. D'01** is pastor of the First Corinthians Baptist Church in Harlem, N.Y. Previously, Michael served as the pastor of Zion Temple United Church of Christ and director of Black Campus Ministries at Duke University.

**Patrick Thompson D'04** is director of Black Campus Ministries at Duke University Chapel. Rev. Thompson received his M.Div. from Candler School of Theology and recently completed his Th.M. from Duke Divinity School. He is an ordained Baptist Minister.

## Live His Legacy

By *Adrienne Denson, D'06, BSU Historian*

The Duke Divinity School community mourned the loss of one of its members when God called **Charles Harris** home to glory. A second-year M.Div. student, Charles died April 13, 2004, at age 60.



As we reflected upon his life, we remembered Charles' commanding presence, contagious personality, encouraging words, unwavering faith, wide-brimmed hats, and the Panera bagels that he would bring every Wednesday morning.

Charles' legacy, however, requires that we do more than simply remember him. It challenges us to live a balanced life of faith, dedication, service, and love. Charles taught us to value our seminary education. He rarely missed a class, always attempted to finish his assignments early, and often could be found studying in the library during the day and on the weekend.

Charles, however, did not limit his seminary experience to the classroom. He was an active member of Asbury Temple United Methodist Church and a faithful volunteer at Corporate Extension Foundation. Charles' most memorable lesson, however, is one of love. This love, and the friendships that developed out of it, truly transcended race, gender, age, class, and denomination. Charles, therefore, charges us to be studious, Spirit-led, community-minded people who step out of our socially-constructed comfort zones long enough to value and treasure everyone as a precious gift from God.

Charles Harris was one such gift. God gave us the opportunity to know him, to love him, and to minister with him. This gift, however, comes with responsibility (Luke 12:48). As we continue to obtain our education and on our Christian walk, let us remember and honor Charles' life by living his legacy. ✚

**GATHERINGS** is the newsletter of the Office of Black Church Studies at Duke Divinity School. Published twice a year, *GATHERINGS* is a dialogue and information space for students, alumni, churches, faculty and staff affiliated with the Office of Black Church Studies and Duke Divinity School.

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The Office of Black Church Studies and the Black Seminarians Union at Duke Divinity School invite you to attend

## **The 2004 Gardner C. Taylor Lectures**

**October 5-6, 2004  
Duke Divinity School**

### **Featuring:**

#### **The Reverend Dr. Cleophus J. LaRue**

Francis Landey Patton Associate Professor of Homiletics  
Princeton Theological Seminary

### **Community Co-Host**

#### **Covenant Presbyterian Church**

The Reverend Jimmy Hawkins, Pastor  
2620 East Weaver Street

## **Schedule**

### **Monday, October 4**

**6:00 p.m.**

#### **GCT Choral Music and Worship Lecture & Interactive Workshop**

York Chapel

Duke Divinity School

*The Durham community is invited to participate. Workshop choir will provide music at Tuesday's Community Worship Service*

### **Tuesday, October 5**

**2:30 p.m.**

#### **Lecture**

York Chapel

Duke Divinity School

Cleophus J. LaRue

**7:00 p.m.**

#### **Community Worship Service**

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Cleophus J. LaRue, Preaching

GCT Choral Music Worship

Choir to sing

### **Wednesday, October 6**

**10:00 a.m.**

#### **Worship Service**

York Chapel

Duke Divinity School

Cleophus J. LaRue

For more information about the lectures, contact the Office of Black Church Studies at  
**(919) 660-3444.**

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