

## Preaching the WORD



*Five graduates share thoughts  
on preaching and serving in the  
unique settings God has given them*



**INSIDE:**

**3** Thinking Biblically

**5-9** Preaching the Word

**12** Family News



# From the Office of the President

*“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.” —1 Timothy 4:13 (NIV)*

MID-ATLANTIC TAKES THE education of ministers seriously. Since our founding in 1948, we remain passionate about those who will earn their living by the preaching and teaching of God’s Word. As one who loves to preach, I am honored to serve where the education of preachers is paramount. MACU’s programs and initiatives in preaching have been in flux since 1948, and they will continue to be so. But in our founding was the call for preachers who would preach biblical messages from God’s Word. Our founding president, George BonDurant, came to eastern North Carolina to be the evangelist for the Roanoke District of the Churches of Christ church planting ministry. When he realized that many congregations had only half- or quarter-time preaching, he realized a true-to-the-Bible education was needed to educate faithful ministers of the gospel. The passion to call and to train men to preach in congregations new and old throughout the area has not wavered, but methodology has adapted with each generation.

Currently we have an extracurricular preaching club called Kerygma for men on our campus. Dr. Claudio Divino typically has about 12 students in this volunteer organization. These young men meet regularly to encourage each other and to practice the art of preaching. Last year at their retreat, Josh Childress, lead minister with Kempsville Christian Church in Virginia Beach, VA, spoke and encouraged these young men:

*We need new voices behind the pulpit to speak absolute truth with an unabashed delivery in uncertain times. We need to season our conversation with grace, but we need to be bold and immovable in communicating His loving standards.*

*1 Corinthians 1:21 says, “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.”*

*If God will use the foolishness of your sermon preparation and delivery to bring salvation to someone’s soul and add one more valuable name to the Lamb’s book, then consider this noble calling*



Dennis Crehan ‘93 preaches with Dr. Ajai Lall ‘83 in India.

*worth every bit of sacrifice it deserves. We need new voices that are unashamed.*

MACU Forward has a strong preacher initiative with our Graduate Certificate in Church Planting (pending SACSCOC approval). This initiative will deploy more and more preachers to establish churches. Listen to our graduate and current church planter, Bobby Wallace ‘05:

*I believe that the faithful saints that started some of our churches 50-100 years ago would be crushed if we didn’t maintain their pioneer spirit by training and sending people to start new churches to win people to Jesus.*

Now, to be clear, this passion to educate and send out more preachers will only become a reality through partners like you. We have a symbiotic relationship with churches, ministers, alumni and those who have a similar passion to raise up the next generation of preachers. To be plain spoken, we cannot educate a preacher unless you send us someone. That is why I am thankful for preachers like Greg Hand ‘84, who invests in the lives of young people and sends them to MACU:

*As a minister I openly encourage and invite our young men and women to consider attending MACU where they will be offered opportunities to see fields of service that would speak to their hearts. Our leadership team here at PHCC encourages these individuals and their parents to serve within our church family.*

*I offer our men and boys the opportunity to teach and preach before their church. And the members have openly encouraged them to pursue ministry.*

I am also thankful for local churches that allow our students to preach and gain experience in their congregations. Dennis Crehan ‘93 states:

*We count it a privilege to allow the preaching students to come to Jarvisburg [Church of Christ, Harbinger, NC] and preach. Young men need time in the pulpit to hone their craft. To be great in anything you need skill and confidence that comes with experience gained in the pressure of performance. Also in Jarvisburg’s 123-year history, student preachers and professors have faithfully filled our pulpit, sustaining the church. This is our way of saying, “Thanks, MACU, for all you have done for us.”*

Bob Moulden ‘73, who recently retired from a long and fruitful ministry with Plymouth Church of Christ in Plymouth, NC, describes how he challenges men to ministry:

*I use every scripture that calls us to preaching and spreading the gospel. I intentionally encourage every young man to consider God’s call on his life, especially those who are among the best and brightest. I tell them that if they could be content doing anything else besides ministry, they shouldn’t choose ministry. Paul said, “Woe be unto me if I preach not the gospel of Christ.” Then I try to model Paul’s challenge: “Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.”*

Thank you to all alumni and friends who come alongside us to raise up the next generation of preachers. We are thankful for everyone who ministers in the name of Christ, whether in the marketplace or in the church. We are empowered by your prayers. We are enabled by your giving. Please send us more men to educate to preach the Word!



Serving those who serve,  
*Clay*  
D. Clay Perkins, Ph.D.  
President

## THINKING BIBLICALLY



### God, Government, and Greatness LEE M. FIELDS, PH.D.

*When the righteous triumph, there is great elation; but when the wicked rise to power, people go into hiding. — Proverbs 28:12 (NIV)*

SOMEONE ONCE TOLD me that as a Christian I had no right to get involved in politics. I assume he was saying this under some vague notion of separation of church and state. That fact is that no one, whether a believer in a deity or an atheist, holds political views apart from one’s beliefs about religion.

People who believe the Bible to be the word of God look to the Scriptures for guidance in all matters of life on which it speaks and seek to bring their lives into conformity with it. If the Bible says nothing about a matter directly, then they seek to make decisions based on principles that are supported by Scripture. As it turns out, Scripture does have many things to say applicable to politics. Here are just a few overarching ideas.

#### God’s Purpose for Government

First of all, Scripture does not prescribe any one form of government. Israel in the Old Testament was initially governed by Moses and judges (Exodus 18:13–26), and then changed to a monarchy (1 Samuel 8:1–22) with God as the ultimate king in both cases. In the New Testament period, the church is not a political entity, for God’s kingdom is “not of this world” (John 18:36) and neither are his people (John 17:14).

First Peter 2:14 says that God’s purpose for government is “to punish those who do wrong

and to commend those who do right” (NIV). These very broad categories offer important principles to guide all nations. Governments that strive to violate or overstep these principles deviate from God’s purposes.

So, the Bible neither prescribes nor prohibits a monarchy, socialism, communism, democracy, or representative democracy. We must evaluate what system seems to have the best success at carrying out God’s two principles. Scripture does teach, however, against anarchy and mob rule, which both oppose God’s purposes.

#### God’s Plan for Those Governing

There is an oft quoted saying, “America is great because she is good. If America ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.” Though falsely attributed to Tocqueville, the principle is still valid: unless a nation is morally good, it shall not be truly great. This begins with the leadership.

The Proverbs passage quoted above warns of dire consequences on the people of a nation ruled by the wicked. Governors are to carry out justice for all. This includes justice for both the poor and powerless, who have the least means of protection, and for the wealthy, who can become targeted simply because they are by definition a minority and can become victims of mob rule (Leviticus 19:15). When governors are just, the righteous are joyful and the wrongdoers are in fear (Proverbs 21:15).

#### God’s Plan for Those Governed

Some Christian politicians have not correctly understood biblical principles of government. Some non-Christian politicians have held to these principles, though perhaps unwittingly. In the U.S. we have the privilege and responsibility to vote. People will do well to support leaders whose political philosophy most conforms to biblical teaching.

Scripture teaches that God’s people are to submit to governing authorities and to live righteous lives (Romans 13:1; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:14–17). For a nation to be truly great, its people, including its leaders, need to live according to God’s standards.

### MACU AUTHORS

**Dr. Lee M. Fields**  
“Kisses and Embraces,”  
pages 101–14  
in vol. 3 of  
Dictionary of  
Daily Life in  
Biblical and  
Post-Biblical  
Antiquity



# MACU welcomes newest Mustangs for the 69th year

Pictured are the new students who attended the President’s Lunch during orientation.



ROW 1 (sitting): Brealle White, Lydia Frye, Alyssa Anderson, Kathy Machuca-Gallegos, Ivonne Valle-Lezama, Joy Corbett, Khya Kornegay, James Putze, Amber Goodyear, Ashlyn Harris, RayAnn Ramsey.	ROW 2 (sitting): Brandon Edwards, Lauren Elizabeth Drysdale, Tiffany Love, Lynzee Moore, Eryka Vincent, Kelsie Simmons, Kendall Martin, Tyler Baird, Thomas Horton, James Ellis.	ROW 3 (standing): Aleah McNeal, Alvin Williams, Natalie Oliver, Ryan Kelley, Colin Cunningham, Jeremy Vincent, Chirag Lambert, Michael Reaves, KaNesha Murray, Markel Ming, Breahna Sandlin, Tara Bird, Charlie Wesner, Viviana Morales Alvarez, Gabrielle Howlett, Jessica Munding.	ROW 4 (standing): De’Anthony Harris, Leander Williams, John Riddle, Josh Flewellin, Eric Mikul, Dixon (DJ) Ogwo, Sydney Becker, Amy Bryan, Mallary Brogden, Kishawn Harris, Josh Helms, Malik Galloway, Joseph Akersveen-Davis, Tony Vines.
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**PRELIMINARY FALL ENROLLMENT STATS**  
Full-time: 158 | Part-time: 28 | New: 74 | Total: 193

## Luton, Students Present at Conference



Dr. Cheryl A. Luton, Director of Teacher Education

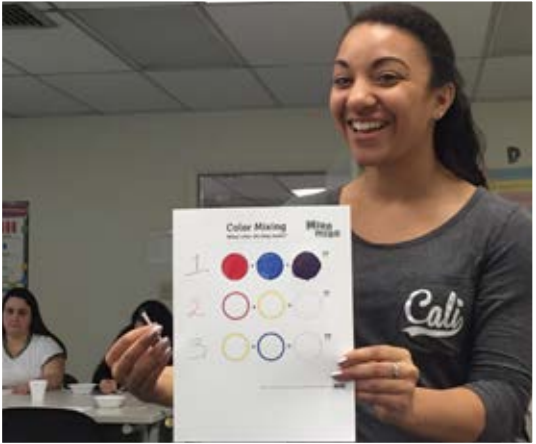
ON SEPTEMBER 21, Dr. Cheryl Luton and two elementary education students, Leah Maclin and Brandon Cabacar, traveled to Raleigh, NC, to present at the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators Fall Forum.

Through this presentation, *Integrating the Arts: University Freshmen Teaching Demonstration Lessons*, they shared how at MACU, the course ED 128 Teaching the Arts in the Classroom prepares freshmen to write and demonstrate integrated lesson plans. In this course, students provide feedback to each other, helping them think like teachers. Leah and Brandon described their own growth during the course, and how they enjoyed integrating the arts into lessons.



Brandon Cabacar teaches a lesson introducing a science lesson.

Leah Maclin teaches a lesson on primary colors.



# Alumni Preachers Look at Preaching and Ministry

FROM THE EARLIEST days of sending young men out to help President BonDurant establish new churches to years of sending “practice preaching” teams to churches in Virginia and North Carolina, to now – offering a Graduate Certificate in Church Planting (pending approval of SACSCOC) – preacher training has

been at the hub of Mid-Atlantic’s purpose and programs.

Following are offerings from five men from among the many trained at MACU who have devoted their lives to preaching. Each one of them is fulfilling his calling to bring the Word of God to the lost for salvation and to the saved

for edification. Although the congregations they serve may differ in the particulars – established or new, rural or urban, contemporary or traditional, large or small, full-time or bi-vocational – they are being fed faithfully by these men that we, with your support, were privileged to help train.

## George POWELL ‘77 Clackamas, Oregon

ABOUT AN HOUR before being asked to submit this article, I had finished preaching my third message of the morning. It was a message on humility from 1 Corinthians 13 where Paul talks about how love doesn’t boast. I felt as though God was giving me a lesson on humility even as I was teaching.

On the front row were an elderly gentleman and his wife that I had not seen before. He looked as if he were fighting to stay awake. I thought to myself, “I’m going to have to work hard and give it all I’ve got to keep this fellow awake for the next 20 minutes.”

This gentleman approached me after the message, and I wasn’t quite sure what was in store. To my surprise the first words out of his mouth, with a wonderful Australian accent, were, “That was the best sermon I have heard in 70 years!” If I wore dentures I think I would have dropped them. He followed his comment with, “Now don’t let that cause you to become proud!” So he was actually paying attention. I responded, “I won’t! In fact, I’m humbled at your gracious compliment.”

My favorite definition of preaching is, “The fine art of talking in someone else’s sleep.” I’m really glad that didn’t end up being the case in this situation.

When God called me to be a Senior Minister, my prayer was, “God, if You’re calling me to preach, please don’t let me be boring!” That mattered to me because growing up in church as a young boy, I watched many a person doze off the moment the sermon started. I didn’t want that to be the case with me!



I’ve been blessed to have served the same church my wife, Ann, and I started in 1989. We’ve had the privilege of seeing the congregation grow to over 4,000 people, now meeting on three campuses.

Through the years, I’ve wrestled with my own issues about preaching. Am I really good enough? Do I have what it takes? Others are more gifted than I am! I’m not that deep, and I’m not very intellectual! And on and on.

So here are three conclusions I’ve come to about preaching.

• **Find your voice.** Preach from the person God made you to be. If God made you a practical, down-to-earth kind of person who likes practical life application, then preach that way. If He made you the deep, intellectual, theologian type, then preach

that way. You don’t have to become someone or something God didn’t design you to be. God can use both and everything in between.

As preachers, we’ve all heard and read that true preaching is this or that. What I’ve come to conclude is God can use many different styles of preaching to accomplish His purposes in the lives of those He has given you to preach to. You can be true to the Word of God without having to preach only one way.

• **You can’t please everyone.** If you’ve preached very long you’ve discovered this. I’ve literally, on the same Sunday, had one person tell me, “Pastor, I’m sorry, but we have decided to go to another church because we’re just not being fed here” . . . and another person say, “I’m so glad we finally found a church that has deep Bible teaching.”

• **Get out of your own way.** Remember, it is not about you. We are God’s servant to His people. Don’t try to be impressive, but work hard to impress upon others the life-changing Good News. We’re all human and love compliments, but rather than aim for, “Wow, you are good!” go for “Preacher, my life has been changed!”

George graduated from Mid-Atlantic Christian University in 1977 with a BA. He and his wife, Ann, have held ministries in North Carolina, Indiana, and Oregon. They planted Abundant Life Church in June of 1989 and continue to lead the church on multiple campuses. George received his Doctor of Ministry from Bakke Graduate University in 1997.



Randy PARKER '79 Gretna, Virginia

WE ALL HOPE to be around a long time. We swallow fish oil, shun red meat, and drink bottled water hoping it will keep us around for a while longer. I came to West End Church the Sunday after Mother’s Day in 1989. I was not really thinking about an extended stay.

But the Lord has a way of placing us and keeping us where He wants us. I really do believe this and – to be honest – it is the main thing that keeps me going regardless of where I am or how long I stay.

Let me share, briefly, a few challenges that I continue to face in the context of long-term ministry.

The “People” challenge ... Time spent in a given place is a definite advantage for the minister. The more we know the area and people the more equipped we are to help them. I also think a church is more inclined to work with a minister that they know and trust. Such trust is built over time. The church, obviously, is the people. Ministry is serving others. It is easy to get sidetracked with “busy work” and forget the real priority in ministry – people.

There’s the “Problem” challenge ... I learned very early on that most churches have problems. Long-term ministry is best suited to help the congregation through difficult times. There were times I felt like stepping out and walking away, but it would have been unfair to my church. The minister who was best suited to help my congregation during a crisis was me! I

don’t say this to brag or sound pious. It is simply the truth, and it is the best solution for most congregations. Sadly, the minister becomes the scapegoat and the easy option out. This doesn’t fix anything long term. I think longevity is possible when the church is willing to work through its problems together with the minister.

Let’s not forget the “Preaching” challenge ... Ministers do many

other things besides preach, but being our best at preaching must be a top priority. God expects it, and the church deserves it. Preaching to the same audience for over 27 years is a real challenge. I have found that we all learn the Scriptures best by preaching through the Bible. I do speak on topics when they are needful and appropriate, but generally, I think it is best to preach using larger sections of Scripture. My aim is to help the listener gain a fuller understanding and view of the whole Bible.

Finally, the “Prayer” challenge ... Ministers are often called on to pray in different places for various occasions. Just because a minister can



say a pretty prayer in public does not mean he has an active prayer life. The minister must be both prayer leader and prayer warrior. President Reagan quoting Abraham Lincoln said this about prayer, “I have often been driven to my knees in prayer, because of the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.” The minister who is honest with God and himself knows that time with God is the absolute essential to effective ministry – short term, mid-term, or long-term.

Diet and exercise may keep a minister longer on the planet, but they don’t guarantee long ministry. I pray that what I have shared in this article will encourage the minister to strongly consider remaining where he is now and asking God to continue to give him strength and wisdom to face the daily challenges of his life and work.

Randy is a 1979 graduate of Mid-Atlantic Christian University. He has held ministries in Virginia and North Carolina. He has been serving the West End Church of Christ since 1989. His wife Valerie (MACU '78, LU '08, '11) is a teacher at Gretna High School. Randy and Valerie have been married for 38 years and have two married sons, Jonathan (wife, Becky), a marketing director for Centra Medical Group and Jordan (wife Connie), a Physical Education teacher at Hurt Elementary School. Randy and Valerie have four grandchildren.



Guy LAYFIELD '09 Scio, New York

I LOVE THE church. Because I love the church I decided to serve it and meet its needs. If you love the church, too, than you may be asking yourself some of the same questions that I have often asked myself. Questions that involve wrestling, wondering, and uncertainty. Questions such as, “Where exactly can I serve in the kingdom to create the highest volume impact for God?”

This question sometimes seems to have obvious answers. For example, one might think, “I will take whatever opportunity gives me the largest audience.” Another person might think, “Where in the world can I go that is least familiar with the Gospel?” These types of simple solutions have no foothold in the mind of someone who realizes the complexity of the initial question.

I love MACU, and I loved being a student at MACU. The people at MACU helped me to discern how I wanted to answer the tough question of how I could most impact the kingdom. Of course, the question is ongoing and has to be answered imperceptibly, but in the formative moments of transition, MACU helped me to realize the answer to this question while I was at an important crossroads.

I grew up in a small town in one of the most unchurched areas in the country – upstate New York. All my life I had learned how to do bi-vocational, rural ministry from my dad in the foothills of Appalachia. Did this training prepare me for a ministry at a mega-church? At a church plant in the inner-city? No.

All of my life, I had been trained to carry a different torch.

Because of my experience, I decided that I needed to find a church to serve that would need my talents. I knew I needed to do youth ministry and that I would need to hone my skills for teaching in ways that would relate to my audience. For this reason, I pursued the degree that I felt most enabled me to communicate with the rural peoples of Appalachia. After graduating from MACU, I completed an M.A. in Storytelling from East Tennessee State University. From there, I returned to New York and began doing youth ministry at the Scio Church of Christ.

In this ministry I have the opportunity to preach bi-weekly, lead worship, lead two adult small groups, and serve as the youth minister. Because of the size of the church and the low-income of the area, the church cannot afford to pay me a salary. Instead they pay for my housing, and I work outside of the church taking the role of bi-vocational ministry that my Dad modeled for me for all of these years. In addition to these tasks I have the opportunity to unite other area churches through our summer camp where I serve as the high school dean and through various trips that I lead in which I am able to collaborate with other youth ministries to enable their students to join mine for a variety of events.



One of my most important functions is developing leaders. Because I work with a small number of students I am able to pour much time and energy into developing them. This has resulted in my sending MACU a small but steady stream of students that desire to become church leaders and personal evangelists.

The point of all of this is not at all me trying to brag about what I am doing. As a matter of fact, from the outside looking in, my ministry might seem something like this... “Remember Guy Layfield? What is he up too? I heard he just went back to his home church and volunteers there because they aren’t even big enough to pay him. It’s too bad. He had so much potential.” Satan is always at our ear trying to convince us, “You are not valuable. What you are doing doesn’t really matter.”

Don’t buy the lies. God can use you. It may be a big audience with a full-time salary or it could be a rural, bi-vocational ministry developing a small number of leaders. Choose your ministry based upon the impact you can make.

Guy Layfield is a '09 MACU graduate and has served in various youth ministries and most recently as evangelist and youth minister of the Scio Church of Christ since 2011 after completing his M.A. in Storytelling.





# Marty ANDERSON '03

Winston-Salem, NC

“AT WESTSIDE CHRISTIAN Church, our music is loud, our preaching is from the Bible, and our dress code is: please wear clothes.” We’ve been saying that since we launched 3 years ago. Our vision is to be a church for people who don’t go to church. A wise preacher said, “The message doesn’t change, but the packaging always should.” How we package the gospel, how we “do church,” and how we preach has everything to do with how Westside addresses that vision.

Preachers have changed my life. Westside is a campus of Jefferson Church of Christ – a 100-plus-year-old church in Rural Hall, NC. Jerry Simpkins retires this October from Jefferson after 36 years of faithful ministry. His preaching grew a church and inspired its members and leaders to actively support church planting throughout the region, which led to my call to Winston-Salem.

From the 90’s when I was a teenager listening to Dave Willis ’90 in Newport News, VA, and later to Dale Minton ’74, who preached to this oft-absent JMU student in Harrisonburg, VA, these men were passionately pointing me to God’s word.

Later as a MACU graduate and husband to Exie ’03, I spent a year training for preaching at Southeast Christian Church with Bob Russell, Dave Stone, and Kyle Idleman. They raised the bar of expectation for my preaching. Preachers must invest in our craft.

In my opinion, if preaching is to be great, including my own, it must lead to life-change. Many of our people range from never-been-in-church to left-the-church, so we’ve got to make

sure our audience not only understands the Bible, but applies it. That takes creativity, cultural references, insight into lost people’s thoughts, and clarity why Jesus makes the difference.

The difference between teaching (information-exchange) and preaching (life-change) is in the application. A preacher’s job is to cross the cultural and historical distance between the scriptures and the audience. And because the un-churched/de-churched people are biblically illiterate, it’s not enough to explain the text. We have to deliver it to them where they live, in language they use. The more I can begin with a problem, tension, or question that my audience is already facing, the more likely they will respond in obedience to Christ. People are hungry for the Bible.

Changed lives make preaching credible. No matter how far culture gets from biblical standards, no one argues with a life altered by Christ. Everyone appreciates a church loving its community in Jesus’ name. And I believe God uses the foolishness of preaching to transform people.

Of course, the truth is not always popular or easy to hear. Even so, even the edgy-new-churches are compelled to preach the whole counsel of God. So, we’re just careful and deliberate with potentially inflammatory topics. We speak the truth in love, softened with humor and fortified by authenticity. If a person rejects God’s message, I want to be certain my delivery wasn’t the culprit.

Life change is also the most frustrating part of preaching professionally because I am unable

to control outcomes. That’s the Holy Spirit’s job (and I’m glad about that). My job is to be faithful to the task, to use my gifts in communication, and God causes the increase. He draws people and helps us be the church.

“I just love how you make the Bible so easy to understand,” a Westside member told me Sunday. Another texted me that after Sunday morning, she’s finally ready to get baptized this week. Then today, a young cohabitating couple decided they need to get married because they want to get right with God. (Okay, this is not a typical week, but I’m pumped!)

I don’t believe preachers are solely responsible for life-change, but the preachers in my life have certainly been the catalyst for many changes in my life. By God’s grace I’d like to leave that kind of legacy, too. With an estimated 200,000+ lost people on the western side of Forsyth County, our prayer is that lives will change by the power of the cross, delivered with fresh packaging.

Marty is Lead Minister for Westside Christian Church in Winston-Salem, NC. Westside is a campus of Jefferson Church of Christ. He preached for Friends in Fellowship Christian Church, Winterville, NC, in 2006-2013 and was a preaching Intern at Southeast Christian Church, Louisville, KY, in 2003-2004. In 2004-2006 he served his alma mater as an admissions counselor. Originally from Newport News, VA, he graduated from James Madison University in 2000, then enrolled in MACU.



# Chris STANLEY '12

Hampton, Virginia

IN JOHN 15:1-8, Jesus gives us a great description of His being “the Vine” and Christians’ being “the branches.” The illustration is beautiful – a garden with a Gardener and a healthy Vine producing an overabundance of fruit. You can almost feel the serenity of nature around you.

Yet in this illustration of health, vibrancy, and growth in Christ, a troubling question arises for our churches: If we grow in our connection to Christ, why are Christianity and church



attendance in decline throughout America? We can always attribute dwindling numbers to shedding nominal Christians, changing times, plurality in American culture, or other factors, but those still don’t account for a lack of growth.

In this passage, two things are needed for growth: a faithful connection to Christ and a willingness to allow the Gardener to prune us. True growth isn’t just knowledge based or exponentially numeric but is a product of a spiritually healthy and vibrant church. Unfortunately, many equate knowledge with spiritual growth, thinking the more a person knows about Jesus and the Bible, the more “spiritual” the person is considered. Sometimes our preaching feeds this mentality by simply teaching new information. We leaders can also become hung up in studying church growth, developing new approaches and organizational structures, and making plans. While each element is important in personal growth and moving a church forward, these are only tools in the tool box.

Revitalization comes in changing hearts and minds – furthering people’s connection and commitment to Christ, challenging them to reconsider their own perspectives, and helping to shape their thoughts to a Christian worldview. As a minister and a preacher, I have realized that much of this can be touched upon during our time of worship each week.

While some feel called to serve in existing churches and others to plant new ones, the Lord has impressed upon me the need to work in church redevelopment and revitalization. When it comes to being His church, the question is never “can we grow?” The key is reshaping paradigms and developing flexibility – focusing more on what Jesus has called us to do and allowing ourselves (personally and congregationally) to be shaped for further growth. To be honest, pruning can be downright painful at times, but when fruit is produced, it makes the trimming worth it.

I have been blessed to serve two great churches, Sheva Church of Christ (Chatham, VA) and now Northampton Christian Church (Hampton VA). While both churches are different demographically, each has great leadership who are dedicated to the Lord and seeking to further God’s kingdom. Currently at Northampton, we’re shifting to engage our

surrounding community, which is multiethnic and largely composed of young families. Northampton’s leaders are passionate about working this “field” in which we have been placed, recognizing that the “harvest is plentiful.” (Matt. 9:37)

It is that same passion which I try to bring to preaching. We have concentrated on three opportunities for connection and growth, each with an intended purpose. One of these opportunities is our time of worship. We say that during worship “Scripture comes alive,” and our focus is to inspire and change. My goal in preaching is to convey God’s Word in a modern understanding, with the same passion and spiritual weight of the passage, into a relevant and practical message. In our time of moral subjectivity, many want to hear and better understand Biblical truth, not just a message to make them feel good about themselves. The book of James describes Scripture as a mirror that reveals not only our beauty, but also our flaws. It’s by looking into and sharing God’s word that I can speak in areas of personal and congregational life – both individual “felt needs” and hope and direction. Preaching connects, conveys, convicts, and inspires. Homiletic structure has a purpose and place, but without passion our words will only move a few to a point of connection and flexibility.

Want to help your church connect and grow? Be passionate about Christ, love His church where you serve, be willing to be pruned in your own life and as a congregation. Then be ready for His working to produce new fruit!

Chris is a 2012 graduate of Mid-Atlantic Christian University, where he majored in Leadership and Non-Profit Administration. He is passionate about connecting with those who don’t know Christ, helping churches engage their surrounding communities, and creating disciples that will continue working to expand God’s Kingdom. Chris and his wife Stephanie ex’11 are from the Richmond, VA, area. They have been married for 16 years and have three children. He previously preached at Sheva Church of Christ in Chatham, VA, and now serves as the Lead Minister at Northampton Christian Church in Hampton, VA.



# Fall Sports Underway

At press time MACU’s soccer team and volleyball team were in action, with the golf team soon to follow. Check here for team schedules if you wish to see a game on campus or in your area:  
[www.GOMACUMustangs.com](http://www.GOMACUMustangs.com)

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[gomacumustangs.com/nation\\_club/mustangnationclubinfo](http://gomacumustangs.com/nation_club/mustangnationclubinfo)



**MUSTANG MEN'S GOLF**  
Ryan Kelley, Matt Cooper, Coach Kendall Williams, Aaron Warwick, Chip Mabe.



**LADY MUSTANG VOLLEYBALL**  
From left: Manager Kadijah Hinton, Sydney Becker, Brealle White, Destini Parker, Leah Maclin, Sarah Bowles, Mallary Brogden, Amy Bryan, Coach Kellie Kessler.



**MUSTANG SOCCER**  
Front Row: Zac Davis, Chris Stowe, Jenilyn Stanton, Tommy Horton, Chris Santoro, Johnell Gibbs. Back Row: Coach Ascencion Gomez, Eric Mikul, Dominic Chasse, Dean Williams, Tony Vines, Josh Helms, Josh Flewwellin, Charlie Wesner, Chirag Lambert, Assistant Coach Angelica Long.



Chirag Lambert frames up the goal



Dean Williams and Zac Davis prepare to to attack the ball



Chris Stowe leads the attack



# Turner Hall Reopens; Williams Returns

TURNER HALL HAS reopened as a residence hall for men. Lisa Williams, assisted by her husband Kendall, is the Resident Hall Director (RHD). Lisa served in the RHD position in Presley Hall for three years and returns to serve following a year's break. Welcome back, Lisa and Kendall.

▼ **RESIDENT ASSISTANTS  
FOR 2016 2017**

*Seated:* Zac Davis (assistant), Whitley Davis, Leah Rudd (assistant). *Standing:* Matt Cooper, T.J. Martin, Destini Parker, Emily Greene, Kristyn Carter, Micaiah Gilkes, Chip Mabe, Adam Pinkham.



# Preach the Word!



BY JOHN W. MAURICE,  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

DR. FRED CRADDOCK once said, "One must not forget that there are two kinds of preaching difficult to hear: poor preaching and good preaching." Most of us have probably heard both poor preaching and good preaching. But when the word of God is proclaimed well by the man of God in the pulpit, the Holy Spirit convicts, challenges, and transforms the lives of non-believers and believers.

In the fall of 1974 I enrolled at MACU because I felt called by God to preach. The preacher in my home church, Bill Sleasman, encouraged young men to preach. He involved us in the life of the church and regularly scheduled "youth nights" where teenage boys would preach. During his ministry many young men attended Bible college and were ordained

into the ministry. I learned that the desire to preach is birthed and nurtured in the local church.

While I was a student, professors made the scriptures come alive. When Mr. B [President BonDurant] taught Gospels, I felt like I was present when Jesus fed the 5,000. Professors cared about me and invested in my education. As a student I had a three-year youth ministry in a church that loved me and a minister that helped mentor me. The education I received at MACU shaped my life and ministry. MACU alumni are well-educated and equipped to serve!

MACU is now in her 69th year of educating preachers. Alumni preach faithfully in mega-churches, rural churches, new churches, historic churches, small town churches and urban churches. They faithfully proclaim the gospel week after week, year after year, to large and small congregations. Not only do preachers "preach," they also study, write,

make hospital visits, conduct weddings and funerals, minister to shut-ins, and work with elders to lead the congregation in making disciples. Some also lead multiple staff members that are engaged in fulfilling the mission and vision of the church. And after all that, they also have to find time to spend with God and to navigate the demands of being husbands and fathers.

MACU has educated and graduated many faithful preachers throughout her history. May God continue to raise up preachers to proclaim the gospel. "For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe" (1 Cor. 1:21).

Pray for more preachers. Encourage and inspire the young men in your congregation to preach. Invest financially in MACU to prepare men who will be "set for the defense of the gospel."



# Mid-Atlantic Society Gala

**FEBRUARY 28, 2017 | 6:30 P.M.**  
**VADM William "Dean" Lee, Speaker**  
VADM LEE SERVES as Commander, Coast Guard Atlantic Area (LANTAREA) as the operational commander for all U.S. Coast Guard missions from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf. He serves concurrently as Commander, Defense Force East and provides Coast Guard mission support to

the Department of Defense and Combatant Commanders. VADM Lee will retire from the USCG in August 2016.

Through his stellar military career he has become known as a leader who listens and cares for the men and women he commands. VADM "Dean" Lee describes himself as "a sinner in a sailor suit...a man of deep and abiding faith." On the area of leadership, he notes, "There are many, many good leadership books and I have read a lot of them. I cannot dispute their validity, or the purpose they were intended. The best book of leadership is this Book right here: the Holy Bible."





New Ministries, Service

**Mike Lynn '85** has been called to preach for Forest Grove Christian Church in Hadensville (Goochland), VA.

**Sam Loveall '89** has been called to minister with Lowland Church of Christ, Lowland, NC.

**Brandon Beauchamp '02** is now youth minister with Cape Fear Christian Church, Wilmington, NC.

**Nathan Bee '03** is the World History teacher at Carver Middle School in Leesburg, FL.

**Josh McDaniels '06** is serving Bethany Christian Church, Bumpass, VA, as youth minister.

**Eric Pruitt '07** has been named lead pastor with Connect Christian Church, Concord, NC.

Notes of Sympathy

*Sympathy is expressed to families and friends of the following:*

Geri Warrington ex'03, June 25

Charles Fisher, husband of Deena Walthall Fisher ex'76, June 24

**Cole Willig ex'09** is Worship Arts Pastor and Programming Director with Mountain Christian Church in Joppa, MD.

**Senior Aaron Warwick** is youth minister at Athens Chapel Church of Christ in Bath, NC.

Births

**Timothy** and **Justine Angell ex'09 Kugel:** LaRue Ransom, June 4

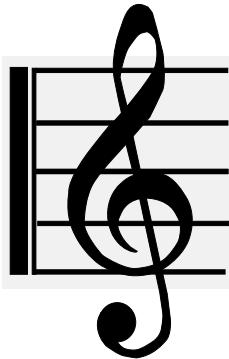
**Chris** and **Sara Biggs Sovo '10:** Thomas Rhett, July 2

**Jonathan '08** and **Aimee Curry '06 Thayer:** Juliana Rayne, Sept. 1

**Autrey ex'15** and **Alexa Jackson:** Emersyn Rose, Sept. 3

**Chris '96** and **Denise Thorton:** Eliana Hope, Sept. 13

**Matt '00** and **Jenny Andrews ex'00 Dahmer:** Ezra Conroy, Sept. 14



Music Coming Your Way

THIS YEAR THE Admissions Office is excited to present a MACU travel band to serve the church and the community. They will be able to lead worship on Sundays (morning, evening); share a devotion, lesson, or sermon; provide support for youth events such as lock-ins. If you are interested in having this group serve your church or community, please contact Admissions at admissions@macuniversity.edu. We are thankful for any opportunities that you allow us to serve you and your community and look forward to talking with you.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

GENERAL FUND

**Steven H. Allen (Memory)**  
*by Frank & Mary Allen*

**Whitney Beville, Wade Bowen, Gloria Brabble, Dustin P. Clary, David A. Jones, Tommy R. Jones, Jr., Angela Page, Jerry & Erlene Wright (Honor); Sterling Clary, Tuckett and Ann Clary (Memory)**  
*by Rebecca Jones*

**Mildred Clark (Memory)**  
*by Steven & Kathy Lobacz*

**Denis & Debbie Crehan (Honor)**  
*by Dorlas Riley*

**Gerald Dye (Memory)**  
*by Gladys Myers-Dye*

**Bill Saunders, William E. Windham (Memory)**  
*by Pete & Nell Lacy*

**Brenda T. Stanley (Memory)**  
*by Donald & Janice Boles, Perry & Brenda Carroll, Charles Davis, Jackie & Lorena DeBerry, Lynn Edmonds, Kathy E. Faucette, Shirley Hasty, Haw Pond Church of Christ, Sharon Holmes, Odis & Linda James, Geoff & Marjorie Krueck, John & Sherry Maurice, Harold & Carolyn Mowbrey, Poplar Springs Church of Christ, Poplar Springs Church of Christ Friendship & Forever Young Classes, Stokes Co. Dpt. Social Services, Marson & Bonnie Sykes, Steve & Wooten Taylor,*

*Bruce Thompson, Nita Thompson, Barbara Trisdale, Gail Vaughan, Chris, Debbie & Caroline Woodson*

**James & Teresa Warren (Honor)**  
*by Kenneth & Meredith Kimmerle*

FOUNDATION

**Carolyn Allen (Memory)**  
*by Robert Allen*

**Jimmy & Shelby Bennett (Honor)**  
*by Avalon Church of Christ, Avalon Church of Christ Ambassador's Class, Jerry & Revota Kerns*

**Odis & Ruby Bennett, John West (Memory)**  
*by Bobby & Jean Higginbotham*

**Albert Blanton (Memory)**  
*by Time Investment Corporation*

**Steve Brookshire (Memory)**  
*by Lowell & Cathy Thornton*

**Brandon & Nicole Craig, Les & Katie Croft, Aaron & Beth Cross, Chloe Lackey, Marty & Vicki Riley, John & Helen Scott, Dan & Kathy Smith, Yolanda Teske (Honor); Al & Ann Clark, Richard Collins, Tommy Leopard, Bill & Wanda McCants, Jonathan Schipper, Grandma & Grandpa Sowder (Memory)**  
*by Rich & Cheryl Lindsley*

**Lee Fields (Honor)**  
*by Robert J. Ourada*

WILL YOU?

Will you remember Mid-Atlantic in your estate plan? Find out how easy it is to leave a legacy. Contact the Office for Institutional Advancement today to learn how you can give... even after you're gone!

CALL 252-334-2034.

**Willard & Florence Fritz (Memory)**  
*by Denis & Madia Fritz, Ken & Sue F. Hecht*

**Jake Griffin, John & Lucille Griffin, John & Janie Swindell (Memory)**  
*by William and Patricia Griffin*

**Mildred Hecht (Memory)**  
*by Ken & Sue F. Hecht*

**Robert & Margery Johnson (Honor)**  
*by Draper Christian Church*

**Christopher Knollenberg (Memory)**  
*by Avalon Church of Christ Ambassador's Class, Nicholas & Vicki Simon*

**John & Sherry Maurice (Honor)**  
*by Michael Maurice*

**Matthew Maurice (Memory)**  
*by Joyce Maurice*

**Frances Mills (Memory)**  
*by Jerelene Richards*

**Robert Moulden (Honor)**  
*by Pleasant Hill Christian Church, Edwina & Lauren Styons*

**Emmett & Dolores Murphy (Honor)**  
*by Stephen & Debbie Hudgins*

**Marshall & Viola Murphy (Memory)**  
*by Floyd & Gail Lane, Emmett & Dolores Murphy*

**Ray Murphy (Memory)**  
*by Floyd & Gail Lane*

**Jonathan B. Sawyer (Memory)**  
*by Curtis & Amy Tillman*

**Donna Scott (Memory)**  
*by Christian Chapel Church of Christ*

**J.T. & Addie Segroves (Memory)**  
*by Jaranell Fritts, Jonita Shoaff*

**Randy Shropshire (Honor)**  
*by David & Linda Cuthbertson*

**Harley "Tom" Wood (Memory)**  
*by Ruth Wood*

MATCHING GIFTS

**Abbott Laboratories**  
*for Jean W. Bennett*

**Bank of America**  
*for Greg Marples, Alan Presley*

**Dominion Foundation**  
*for Jerry Norris*

**Norfolk Southern Foundation**  
*for Donna D. Fisher*

Mid-Atlantic Foundation News

FOUNDATION DONORS SUPPORT PREACHING



SANDRA PERKINS, FOUNDATION DIRECTOR

THE MACU FOUNDATION holds many endowments designated to award scholarships to students who are studying to become preachers. Thank you, alumni and friends who have given to help train future preachers. You know the importance of preparing leaders for the Kingdom. Paul wrote in Romans, "Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ." (Romans 10:17)

Please make a gift today to one of these funds that award scholarships restricted to future preachers studying at MACU. We are so grateful for each of these funds and the people who contribute to them. Thank you!

- Margaret (Jackie) Amick Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Gene Andrews & Lawrence R. Kepler Scholarship Fund

- Donald S. Baker, Sr. & J. Michael Thornton Memorial Married Student Scholarship
- Sarah Presley BonDurant Scholarship
- Ted R. Clifton Scholarship
- Ronnie L. Comstock Fund
- Cooper Ministry Scholarship
- Larry Walter Coyle Memorial Fund
- D.H. & Sue Crowe Scholarship
- Joe D. & Doris W. Eakes Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Eddie & Elsie Forehand Scholarship
- Fritz/Flint Memorial Scholarship
- Frank B. Fuller, Sr. Scholarship Fund
- Loma & Ella Hassell Scholarship Fund
- Ben James Memorial Scholarship
- Robert L. Johnson Fund
- Iola P. Keffer Scholarship Fund
- Langley Scholastic Fund
- Lindsley Scholarship Fund
- The Charles Poindexter & Nelle BonDurant Mabry Scholarship Fund

- Macedonia Christian Church Preaching Scholarship Fund
- Bedford A. Motley, Jr. Scholarship Fund
- Robert W. Moulden Fund
- Mt. Pleasant Christian Church Scholarship Fund
- North Pointe Christian Church Scholarship Fund
- B. Neal & Egypt P. Puckett Scholarship
- Saunders Revels Family Scholarship
- Robert L. Russell Preaching Scholarship
- Jonathan B. Sawyer Memorial Scholarship
- Mildred M. Sechrest Scholarship
- J.T. & Addie Maye Segroves Scholarship
- Russell M. (Russ) & Betty L. (Bet) Smith Preaching Scholarship
- Gerald & Joan Wilgus Scholarship Fund
- Harley T. Wood Scholarship
- Guy & Dot Woolard Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Leroy & Sally Woolard Fund
- Men for Ministry (for preaching program)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MID-ATLANTIC FOUNDATION, PLEASE CONTACT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANDRA PERKINS AT 252-334-2003 OR BY EMAIL AT SANDRA.PERKINS@MACUNIVERSITY.EDU. TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FOUNDATION SIMPLY MARK YOUR GIFT "FOUNDATION."

Be a part of the Mid-Atlantic Society

Members of the Mid-Atlantic Society (MAS) provide sustaining gifts which allow the university to impact the world for Christ. Please partner with MACU by joining one of the societies:

MAS ROPE HOLDER

A Rope Holder helps the university remain steady through consistent financial support and prayer. Rope Holders support the university at a level of \$1 per day or \$365 per year.

MAS ANCHOR PARTNER

The anchor is used to moor a ship to keep it from drifting. The Anchor Partner is committed to the mission of the university to impact the world by transforming ordinary people into extraordinary Christian leaders and commit to support the university with a minimum gift of \$3 a day or \$1,000 per year.

MAS BEACON MEMBER

The beacon has long been a symbol of the light of Christ that Christians use as a guide for life. The Beacon Member is comprised of individuals, businesses, and churches that donate at least \$10,000 per year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ADVANCEMENT@MACUNIVERSITY.EDU OR CALL 252-334-2008.



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Mid-Atlantic Christian University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award certificates and associate and baccalaureate degrees.  
Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Mid-Atlantic Christian University.

## Be ENGAGED

*with MACU friends  
old and new.*

## Be EQUIPPED

*through workshops,  
preaching and worship.*

## Be EXCITED

*to be part of the MACU Alumni  
Association's next chapter!*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**BEN CACHIARAS**  
Baltimore, MD

FEATURED ALUMNI SPEAKER



**PHILLIP MURDOCK '97**  
Toano, VA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**DARYL REED**  
Washington, DC

WORSHIP COORDINATOR



**STEVE JACKSON '86**

Join the MACU community for a  
**three-day weekend** on our beautiful campus for...

the 69<sup>th</sup>

# MACU Rally & Homecoming **FORWARD TOGETHER**

March 16 – 18, 2017

SCHEDULE SNEAK PEEK

**THURSDAY:** Alumni vs Students  
in Women's Volleyball and Men's Basketball

**FRIDAY:** Continental Breakfast  
Morning preaching & worship  
Alumni round tables  
Evening preaching & worship  
*Children's programming and care available*

**SATURDAY:** MACU Family Fun Day  
Family-friendly games, music, and activities  
MACU Alumni Association's First 5k Fun Run