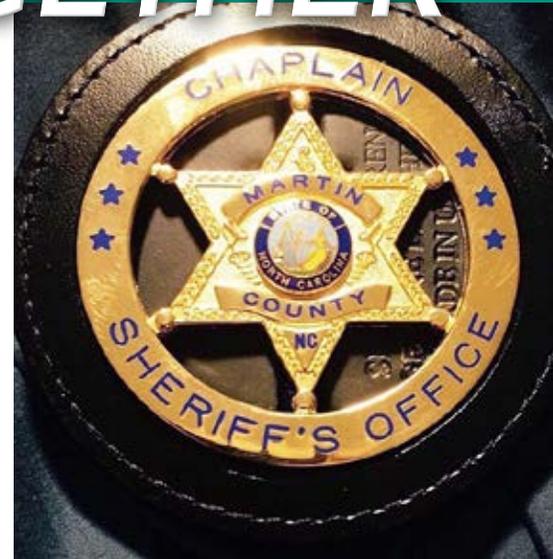




Alumni carry Christ into their communities not only as preachers and youth ministers, but also as health care professionals, law enforcement chaplains, educators, sailors, and financial experts.

FORWARD TOGETHER



INSIDE:

- 3 Thinking Biblically
- 4-7 Forward Together
- 13 Family News

From the Office of the President...

FORWARD TOGETHER

"Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways." (Proverbs 4:25-26)

I WISH YOU could see the breadth of MACU's impact as I do. If you could, you would likely double your efforts in prayer and giving to this fine college. Supporting the work of Mid-Atlantic is a valuable contribution to the Kingdom as we train those who will multiply our gifts exponentially. Your support yields long-term and far-reaching benefits for advancing the cause of Christ.

Our graduates move forward in ministry, advancing the church's mission on many fronts. Tom '94 and Sandie ex'94 Kilian, founders of Mercy Partners, recently published the book *Bridging Cultures for Christ – Alternative Ways for Better Results in Cross-cultural Missions*, serving the Kingdom and advancing the cause

of Christ in writing. Dr Ajai Lall '83 – with his wife, Dr. Indu Lall ex'83, founders of CIGM – was President of the World Convention 2017 in Damoh, India, serving the Kingdom and moving the church's mission forward in leadership on a global stage. Dr. Jay Banks '82 is an educator and entertainer whose work in anti-bullying is nationally recognized. His curriculum – I Am Unafraid (book/dvd/cd) – empowers, equips, and educates children, teachers, and parents. Roger Burns '12 and Bobby Wallace '00 are both planting churches in North Carolina, expanding the numbers of congregations ministering in the name of Christ.

This issue features several alumni who are serving others and sharing Christ in a small rural church as well as in other venues – law enforcement chaplaincy, nursing, fundraising/finances for Christian enterprises, and reaching the lost via boats and small ships.

Indeed, one of the results of an education at Mid-Atlantic is that graduates and alumni understand that together we move forward the cause of Christ in ways that reflect our various callings and gifts. Your prayers empower us. Your giving enables us. Together we are Mid-Atlantic. Thank you.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the MACU Gala February 28 and the MACU Rally March 16-18. Together we move forward with a clear understanding of our purpose to influence the culture for Christ both in the church and in the marketplace. Peace.



Serving those who serve,

Clay

D. Clay Perkins, Ph.D.
President

A Preacher for the Next Generation

CONGRATULATIONS TO SOPHOMORE GARY Robinson (pictured left) for having been chosen as a semi-finalist in the Next Gen Preacher Search. He was notified: "You have been selected as one of the semi-finalists for the 2017 Next Gen Preacher Search. The choices were tough but our team felt you have a special talent that we want to help you develop. You were selected among a group of 24 talented Christian students to attend the NGPS Semi-Finalist Workshop, which will take place on the beautiful campus of Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA, February 2-5, 2017. The workshop will consist of two inspirational days (Thursday and Friday) of coaching and training alongside a team of experienced preachers, including Mike Cope, Dr. Greg Daum, Trevor DeVage, Dr. Dan Rodriguez, and Jeff Walling."

Dr. Claudio Divino is to be commended for his work in leading Kerygma, the campus preaching club, to help raise up the next generation of preachers. Under his leadership, ten men submitted videos for the preacher search. To learn more about Next Gen Preacher Search, visit www.nextgenpreachersearch.com.

THINKING BIBLICALLY



Christmas, Easter, and the Virgin Birth: A Marriage Made in Hebrews

LEE M. FIELDS, PH.D.

CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE BOTH the first coming of Jesus, Christmas, and the reason for his coming, Easter.

The manger scene of virgin and infant is a central symbol. Most treat the story with respect. For some the virgin birth is a myth, a story made up by Bible writers to make Jesus superhuman. Others cite reports that virgins have conceived and therefore Mary's impregnation with Jesus is not a miracle, just a rarity.

For Bible-believing Christians the virgin birth of Jesus is a true miracle. They think it must be believed, because it is in the Bible. Going only this far, though, Christians sometimes overlook the theological importance of the biblical story. There are two reasons why it is essential Christian doctrine.

The Virgin Birth is Essential Christian Teaching Because ...

without Jesus' being born as a human, he cannot substitute for a human. In Hebrews 10:4 we read, "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (NIV; see also verses 1, 10). Then the author quotes Psalm 40:6-8 showing that even the Old Testament itself taught that animal sacrifices were inadequate to pay the penalty for human sin. The quote includes the psalmist's response that he had come to offer what God really wanted: a human sacrifice.

In fact, one reason Jesus is the ideal kind of sacrifice is precisely because he is like us,



human: "For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:17; see also Hebrews 4:14-15).

In other words, Jesus had to be human in order to be a sacrifice for a human. Animals are not suitable substitute to pay the penalty for human sin. Jesus gets his humanness from Mary.

The problem is that if Jesus is only human, then his death can pay for the sins of exactly one human being. This leads to the second theological point.

The Virgin Birth is Essential Christian Teaching Because ...

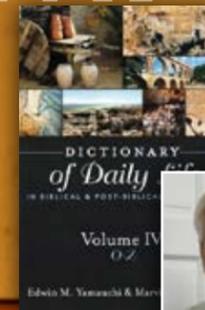
without Jesus' being born from God the Father, he cannot be divine. Hebrews 1:1-2 says that in former days, God had spoken to his people through the prophets, but that "in these last days

he has spoken to us by his Son." As a son, Jesus has all the qualities of divinity. Hebrews 1:5-14 shows how the son is superior and distinct from the angels. Hebrews teaches that the Son is eternal (1:12) and his priestly ministry is therefore eternal (7:3, 24). In fact, his very nature is of the same kind as the Father (1:3) and is involved in creation (1:2, 10) making him distinct from all created beings.

The significance of this for mankind is that because Jesus is infinite God, his suffering was also infinite. Because his suffering is infinite, his death is capable of paying for an infinite number of sins and sinners (Hebrews 7:25).

The virgin birth is not just a sweet Christian story, nor is it myth that can be discarded at will, nor is it a non-miraculous human birth. It is a miraculous act by God with the willing assistance of a virgin Jewish girl that was essential to accomplish the redemption of all mankind. It is the marriage of Christmas and Easter.

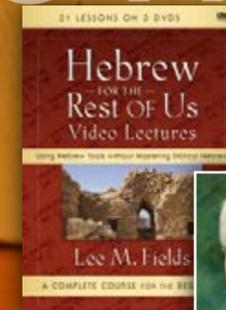
MACU AUTHORS



Robert W. Smith, "Threshing & Winnowing," in vol. 4 of *The Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2016), 254-267.



Robert W. Smith, "Tools & Utensils," in vol. 4 of *The Dictionary of Daily Life in Biblical and Post-Biblical Antiquity* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2016), 281-295.



Lee M. Fields, *Hebrew for the Rest of Us Video Lectures* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017).



Alumni share their varied ministries

WHEN MARY BROWN wrote the hymn "I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go" in 1891, she had no concept of today's modern medical equipment, the intricacies and scope of financial needs churches and Christian organizations would one day face, or the dangers current law enforcement officers face. But she did know that she wanted to be open to God's call when she penned

*There's surely somewhere a lowly place,
In earth's harvest fields so white,
Where I may labor through life's short day,
For Jesus the Crucified;
So trusting my all to Thy tender care,
And knowing Thou lovest me,
I'll do Thy will with a heart sincere,
I'll be what You want me to be.*

REFRAIN:

*I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord,
O'er mountain, or plain, or sea;
I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord,
I'll be what You want me to be.*

(PUBLIC DOMAIN.)

Many students enroll at MACU knowing little else than that they want to be used of God. And that's all it takes. The stories that follow are a few of the many that could be told by alumni who are serving the world around them, bringing the love and message of Christ and His comforting touch to those who need Him, often in their hour of greatest need and vulnerability. While the nature of their service varies widely, it has this in common: we, with your prayers and financial support, have been privileged to help train them. You probably know someone who is eager to be used by God just as these are. Introduce us, please.



Meribeth Holton Patterson '87

Lake Wylie, South Carolina

WITH TONGUE FIRMLY in cheek, my family often describes my job with two words - glorified babysit-

ter. And on a good day, that may seem true. I spend lots of time playing with toys, watching Nick Jr., dancing to Disney, and trying to rescue the princess from the tower on the Ipad. But that's a good day. On a bad day, I transform a child's bedroom into a mini ICU, complete with IV's, oxygen, monitors, a ventilator, feeding tubes, and endless breathing treatments. I am a pediatric home care nurse. For almost 30 years, I have provided one-on-one home care to medically fragile, chronically and sometimes terminally ill children.

Most people ask me how I can take care of these children - it must be so depressing. Unlike adults who have become ill later in life, these kids are usually born with their conditions. They have known no other life, so their disabilities are normal for them. They laugh and giggle and wonder what our problem is!

Their parents and families are not so fortunate. They are overwhelmed with grief, frustration, exhaustion, financial burdens, and a never-ending mess of healthcare red tape. Even after many years, they grieve for the loss of a "normal" child and family. Theirs will never fulfill imagined dreams or futures. There will be no graduations, weddings, or grandchildren.

There is endless frustration as they navigate healthcare and community resources, trying to get even the most basic of care and supplies for their homebound child. What do you do when your insurance company says you can have one box of gauze a month, but the doctor says you need one per week? How do you make a doctor understand you just can't "come in for a visit" to get your prescription renewed? It's even stressful having a nurse in their home to help. There is the loss of privacy, the guilt of not being able to take care of their child themselves, and the constant worry that care will not be delivered adequately. Despite their love and devotion, they are physically, mentally, and emotionally exhausted

with giving the constant care required while still working and taking care of the rest of their family needs. It is a daily battle.

In the center of my client's living room is a huge painting with one word: Faith. That's what these families have to cling to to make it through the day. The week. Their lives. They have learned in the most difficult of ways that God is in control and trust in Him is crucial, even when understanding is at a total loss and prayers seem not to be making it past the ceiling. These kids and families are my heart. I have laughed with them as I helped a little one learn to ride his tricycle with big clumsy braces. I have rejoiced with them as their child improved and "graduated" by having her trach and feeding tube removed. I have cried with them as we sat at a bedside all night watching the struggle to breathe. And I have mourned with them as I listened to the final breath and heartbeat.

Though at times I have questioned my choice of nursing as a career, I have never questioned the role I have played in the lives of "my kids." I know God has used me to show His love, grace, and patience. To offer hope in an often hopeless situation and to show faith in His eternal promises. I know He has entrusted them to my care and I pray that as I continue to serve Him and my families, He will give us all the strength we need - whether it's for a breathing treatment or a Disney dance.



Meribeth and her husband, Scott '87, serve with Gaston Christian Church, Belmont, NC, where Scott is senior minister.

Jay Hardison '95

Plymouth, North Carolina

I WAS SITTING at my desk, looking over my notes one more time. In a few hours, I'd be performing the funeral for one of our church members. My cell phone rang and interrupted my thoughts. When I moved to answer it the voice on the other end was panicked. The words that greeted me would change my day, my life, and plunge me into a new area of ministry: "Charlie has been shot!"

The Charlie in question was Charlie Brown - a member of our church family, a deputy sheriff, and a close personal friend. He was responding to a call when shots were fired and he was hit. The caller was very candid: "It's bad, Jay."

I got to our local hospital as quickly as possible. The halls, parking lot, and waiting room were filled with friends, family members, and other law enforcement officers. As soon as they found out I was Charlie's minister, they took me to the treatment area. Once there, I learned just how badly Charlie had been wounded. The bullet struck him under his armpit: an area not protected by his vest. Charlie was seriously injured, and he needed to be transported to a larger hospital as soon as possible.

Our little hospital was trying desperately to stabilize Charlie so he could be moved to a more capable facility. It was as if the entire hospital was focused on saving Charlie. When I went back, I was asked to pray with his family, his friends, his partner, the sheriff, the doctors, nurses, and with Charlie himself. Praying was the only thing I knew to do. So we prayed for Charlie and we waited, hoping they could load Charlie into the waiting helicopter and get him the treatment he needed.

A few hours later, Deputy Charles Douglas Brown Jr. succumbed to his injuries. End of watch: Tuesday, December 8, 2009.

Charlie's death was my brutal introduction to what our law enforcement officers face every day. His loss opened my eyes and my heart to a world I had never experienced before. Law enforcement officers are a unique group of people with unique needs and challenges. They



Jay Hardison, senior minister for Plymouth Church of Christ, Plymouth, NC, and others were in India in February last year on a mission trip. Standing: Bob Moulden '73, Rocky Allen, Karlee Hardison, Jay, Christopher Williams '12. Kneeling: Scott Askew '08 and Kurt Honican.



Jay poses with one of the boys who attends a church planted by Central India Christian Mission.

are called to work with people in the worst situations imaginable every single day. They put their lives on the line each time they wear the badge. To say it's a high stress job is an understatement. Think of it this way: We simply read the headlines: they have to live them . . . each and every day.

Shortly after Charlie's death, our county sheriff asked me if I would serve as a chaplain. With my eyes opened to what LEO's face and my heart broken over Charlie, I gladly accepted his invitation. It's a responsibility I cherish and an

avenue of ministry I am absolutely passionate about. It's simultaneously one of the most difficult and rewarding areas of ministry I've ever been involved with.

This avenue of ministry is incredibly dynamic and always fluid. Some days are spent simply listening to officers and offering Biblical counsel or encouragement. Others are spent in the passenger seat of a patrol car during a ride along. Those days will definitely change your perspective on law enforcement! I've met and debriefed officers after critical incidents, worked with them and victim families at crime scenes, and I've met with families who have lost loved ones to violent crime. In each instance my purpose is simple: be the light of Christ in a very dark place and time.

Make no mistake: I'm a preacher, not a police officer or sheriff's deputy. I don't arrest people. I don't solve crimes. I can't even help you with a speeding ticket (though a lot of people ask me about this). I'm a preacher who happens to have a passion for law enforcement and their families. Serving them is the very least I can do for all these incredible people do for our communities. I unashamedly Back the Blue, and I'm grateful for the chance to minister to the men and women who protect and serve our community.

ALUMNI: FORWARD TOGETHER

Donald Waltz '16

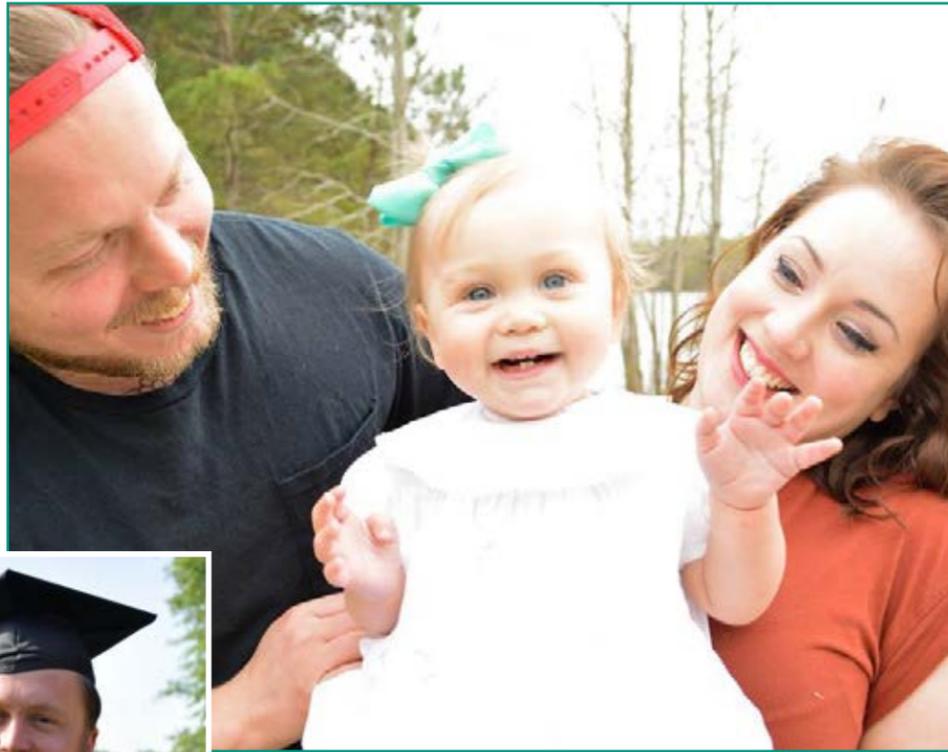
Columbia, North Carolina

BORN AND RAISED in Hampton, VA, I have always been a city boy in every sense of the word. I have never lived in the country and remember thinking Elizabeth City was the country when I first started at MACU. Therefore, it has been quite the culture shock for me – one who has always been used to the big city – to move to an area where there are only a couple of stop lights. Nonetheless, I love living in Columbia, NC.

I graduated from Mid-Atlantic Christian University in 2016. Bethany and I have been happily married for three years and have one beautiful daughter and another baby due this year.

I first received the position of youth/associate minister at Gum Neck Church of Christ in Columbia in September 2015. In June 2016 I was brought on full time after we moved to Columbia from Elizabeth City.

Recently I began a part-time position as a Teacher's Assistant at the elementary school in Tyrrell County. This position has opened a huge door for youth ministry as well as family ministry. One of the



Donald Waltz with daughter Ruby and wife Bethany ex'15.

objectives I had going into ministry was to assimilate myself into the culture and people in order to make and train disciples. Being a teacher's assistant in

the local public school gives me a wonderful opportunity to share my faith and portray it with my actions and speech.

I think it's important we Christian ministers be actively involved in our communities as beacons of light and hope. Our enemy so badly wants to destroy the family any way he possibly can. We can be "family" to those who are longing so desperately for one. We can be Jesus for those who are afraid, confused, and completely lost. I invite you to join me in community service and involvement as a representation of Jesus Christ.



Malcolm Puckett '86

Senior Regional Vice President
Christian Financial Resources

IF YOU HAD more money within your local church, could you accomplish more for the Kingdom?

In 30 years of working in churches, I have yet to find a congregation that has all the money needed to fulfill their ministry vision. Obviously, God provides the blessings and growth within His church. And the local church leaders are tasked with being faithful stewards. But I know many church leaders – myself included – who have wished they had more funds for ministry.

Now imagine a parachurch organization that was founded to partner with Christian Churches and Churches of Christ to help provide more funding for ministry. In 2012, I joined such an organization. Christian Financial Resources is a nonprofit ministry of the Christian church, established 37 years ago in central Florida, today working throughout the eastern and central United States, with over \$300 million deployed in churches of all sizes.

As a Senior Regional Vice President for CFR, I serve over 400 Christian churches in North Carolina and Virginia. Each day brings a new challenge. Whether a small congregation is struggling to develop an annual budget, or a large congregation is seeking to construct a new building for children's ministry, I strive to help each through that process. Our goal is to help each church have a greater impact so more lives

can be changed for eternity with every dollar spent.

I still love located church ministry. That passion instilled by my alma mater has never wavered. Preaching and teaching God's Word in order to help people mature in their relationship with Christ is what it's all about! But when I saw how CFR helps churches grow and reach more people for Christ, I knew I wanted to be part of that story.

CFR finances a variety of expansion projects, such as land purchases, building renovations and improvements, and new facility construction. As a nonprofit organization, CFR can provide financing that often saves a congregation thousands of dollars over traditional bank financing, making growth more affordable. And CFR can structure a loan in flexible ways that greatly benefit the church over the long term.

Another great way CFR helps our churches is through initiatives that result in increased charitable contributions. CFR has developed a biblically-based model for church stewardship that has helped churches bring in millions of new dollars for the expansion of ministry.

CFR also offers excellent investment options

for churches, individuals, and businesses – providing a good return while allowing savings and IRA accounts to fund church growth. CFR investors love to see their savings at work in the local church.

It is exciting to work with diverse churches in my region serve. From Kernersville, NC, to Abingdon, VA, and from Greenville, NC, to Richmond, VA – I'm blessed to see firsthand how God can use a parachurch ministry like CFR to benefit His kingdom. I've seen CFR's mission – funding ministry, changing lives – realized in many churches. For that experience, I'm grateful. I'm also grateful for the influence of MACU, and thankful for the training I received from my alma mater. I'm confident that education helped prepare me for such a ministry as this.

Malcolm and his wife, Debbie, live in Chesapeake, VA, with their son, Tyler. Malcolm is a 1986 graduate of MACU and former director for the MACU Foundation.



Malcolm delivers a \$25,000 check to Dave Hileman and the Virginia Evangelizing Fellowship for a new church plant. (2013)

Dan Smith '15 | MACU Enrollment Director • CEO, Maritime Ministries, Inc.

IMAGINE FOR A moment that God actually put things into your life that brought you great joy and satisfaction; wouldn't that be cool? Imagine, too, if you could use that passion and excitement to make new friends and participate in a community of people that are passionate about this very same thing. There is no doubt in my mind that God uses what we are passionate about as a way to share the gospel.

My name is Dan Smith, and I am a passionate sailor; in fact, I am a missionary sailor for Jesus. I've always loved the water and water sports. I grew up in a southern California beach town where surfing was king and "Beach Activities" was a real course taught

in high school. I was in college when I learned that Youth with a Mission had a small fleet of sailboats doing island outreach in the Pacific... and BOOM, my passion was lit. Yes, God could use sailboats as tools for outreach!

Years later, while on a series of short-term mission trips, I was working on a large mission sailboat in Greece when God demonstrated to me that even though I was getting older, it was still possible to serve Him in this way. Today, I am CEO of Maritime Ministries Inc. based on the MACU campus in Elizabeth City. Our fleet of five boats is home-ported on the lovely new expanded dock that Maritime Ministries built this past summer on the MACU waterfront.

Serving the Lord this way has opened opportunities to share Christ with people who would never follow me to church on a Sunday, but they will allow me, or one of my crewmates, to take them to the grocery or hardware store when they visit our local waterfront. Over the years, we have made friends with and shared the gospel with sailors from Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and Greece without ever leaving the city limits. God has used us to demonstrate His love to those who would not believe that God loves them. This past spring, my crews and I were asked to function as part of Elizabeth City's team of waterfront boat greeters – yes, I am indeed an official "Rose Buddy." We are honored to do this, and we do so in His name.

Besides our two MACU-based crews, Maritime has a crew that is actively serving in several island communities in the Bahamas volunteering as science and math teachers in the local schools and working with local churches presenting growth strategies and offering home Bible studies. Maritime has a third family based in Elizabeth City that is currently building a catamaran that will take all five of them on a mission adventure to the South Pacific. Kathy and I plan to "untie the lines" in a few years and follow the Lord and the wind to Cuba and beyond. Maritime has a long-time partnership with a church plant in Wales, UK. This church sent a team of their teens to Elizabeth City a few years ago to provide VBS to the local MACU

neighborhood. Maritime Ministries is a very small mission, but has a pretty big reach, and an even bigger God.

The next time you have to wait for a bridge to open and for a sailboat to pass, please pray for Maritime Ministries and the millions of sailors, cruisers, and island people who have yet to call Jesus their Lord. We have much work to do!

Interested in a small group sailing retreat? A unique service project perhaps? Do your elders need to get away for a planning meeting and some team building? Let Maritime Ministries help. Please like us on Facebook or check us out at maritime-ministries.org.

Dave '13 and Katie Cooper '13 Broyles are another Maritime crew based in Elizabeth City.

Dan and Kathy Smith by Selah, docked at MACU

Join the MACU community for a
three-day weekend

on our beautiful campus for...

the 69th MACU Rally & Homecoming

FORWARD TOGETHER

March 16 – 18, 2017

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
 Virginia Beach, VA

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!*

Katie Lean Croft '06,
 Alumni Association President

THE RALLY COMMITTEE and I invite all our alumni and friends to campus for this great event, as we move Forward Together! Celebrating our partnership in the Gospel and our common bond through MACU, let us come together with glad and sincere hearts on March 16-18 on MACU's campus. In our planning process we have remained true to our roots while also striving to implement creative and fun ways to engage, equip, and excite those who attend. Whether this is your very first rally or your 69th, the weekend is sure to hold something of value for each individual. If you graduated in the years 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1997, 2007, and the upcoming 2017, your presence is specifically requested as we honor you as a MACU graduate during this Rally and recognize those who entered with you but did not graduate.

Rob Yancey '03, Alumni Association President-elect

FELLOW MACU ALUMNI, I look forward to seeing you this coming March for the annual MACU Rally. As President-elect of the Alumni Association, I'm also looking forward to sharing the theme, worship leader, and keynote speakers of the 2018 MACU Rally – MACU's 70th! – at the conclusion of the 2017 rally. I hope you'll plan to join us in 2018 as we celebrate 70 years

of impacting the world by transforming ordinary people into extraordinary Christian leaders and look forward to continued movement for the Kingdom.

Jessica Crocker '07,
 Run Coordinator

OUR FIRST ANNUAL MACU Mustang 5K and Fun Run is Saturday morning, March 18. The proceeds from this race will go toward alumni association scholarship opportunities for students. The 5K and Fun Run will be for runners and walkers of all ages, and we encourage families to participate!



ANNUAL ARTS AND SCIENCES PRESENTATION

Workshop by Dr. Bob Smith
 Chairman, Department of Arts and Sciences

**BEYOND ATTENDANCE:
 TRACKING SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

Workshop by Dr. Lee M. Fields
 Chairman, Department of Biblical Studies

COMMONLY CHURCHES MEASURE their growth only by the easily obtainable numbers: how many people attend services, how many baptisms and transfers, and how much money was collected. But are these a complete or even a reliable means by themselves of measuring the spiritual growth of a church?

Dr. Fields suggests that winning the lost is only part of the Great Commission, and the easier part at that. Spiritual growth is the other and more involved part. But this is difficult to measure.

What if there was a way to find out how effective a congregation is at developing mature Christians?

The Discipleship Inventory is an easy to use tool to identify strengths and weaknesses and for measuring spiritual growth in a congregation. In this presentation you will learn how to use the Inventory, the reasoning behind it, and how churches can use the results to better see how their people are progressing spiritually, both individually and corporately. With this data, leaders can identify areas of needed spiritual growth in their congregations and plan strategically to meet them.

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

ACADEMICS

Level Change Approved

THE BOARD OF Trustees of The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges has approved MACU to offer masters degrees. MACU is now classified as a level 3 institution with SACSCOC. With this approval, the university will be launching a Graduate Certificate in Church Planting (GCCP) next semester (fall 2017). This certificate is offered in partnership with Passion for Planting and Waypoint Church Partners and is a unique program that will guide students through the nuts and bolts of starting a new church. For more information on the GCCP, visit www.macuniversity.edu/academics/school-of-graduate-studies.

Dig at Ancient Shiloh in Israel This Summer

DR. KEVIN LARSEN is participating in an archaeological expedition to Shiloh in May and June 2017. The expedition could use your help (no experience necessary). You can volunteer one, two, or three weeks during May 26-June 17. If you can carry a bucket of dirt, handle a small trowel, don't mind getting dirty, and are at least a senior in high school with a good manual labor work ethic, you are a great candidate. Contact Dr. Larsen for more information. Call 252.334.2000 or email kevin.larsen@macuniversity.edu. Deposits for the trip are due by March 1.

Shiloh is the place where Joshua set up the tabernacle after the Israelites entered the



MICHELLE SCEARCE WAS recently named Administrative Assistant to the Registrar. Michelle and her family attend

Towne South Church of Christ in Elizabeth City. She follows Kaylin Shields '12, who is enjoying being a stay-at-home mom with the addition of a second child. Welcome, Michelle, and thank you, Kaylin!

promised land (Joshua 18:1). It is also the place where Samuel received his call to be a prophet/judge (1 Sam 3:21.) You couldn't ask for a better experience to get to know the world of the Bible.



New Exam for Teachers; Browne Works to Benefit Students

DR. CHERYL A. LUTON, DIRECTOR OF TEACHER EDUCATION

New Exit Exam for Teacher Education

RECENT POLICY CHANGES at the state level resulting from legislation that was passed last spring have added an exit exam as a requirement for teacher candidates in North Carolina. The PRAXIS Performance Assessment for Teaching (PPAT) is a performance assessment that includes four tasks that are completed during the senior partnership semester. These

tasks assess pedagogical content knowledge and application. Teacher candidates provide evidence of student learning and analytical narratives based on their teaching. They are also required to provide a 15-minute video of themselves teaching. MACU seniors are currently piloting this exam, which will be a requirement for all graduating seniors beginning next year.

Simone Browne '98 Chosen by Fellow Teachers

TEACHERS AT O'CALLAGHAN Middle School in Las Vegas, NV, recently elected Simone Browne '98 as one of the two licensed teachers to serve on the 2017-18 School Operations Team working with administration. This team was generated out of Assembly Bill 394 and the decentralization that will give schools greater local control to positively impact greater student success. The team will make decisions on budget

spending, staffing, and instructional strategies. Simone will be one of six voting members on this team. MACU is proud of Simone, as she has earned the confidence of the faculty who elected her to be their representative on this important team.



MEET SIMONE BROWNE '98

Las Vegas, Nevada

I CAN'T BELIEVE it's been 18 years since I graduated! After I graduated I joined the Air Force and spent 15 years there. What a blessing that was! I loved it. My job in the Air Force was communications and computer networking, and I learned a lot. I was able to use my GI education bill to complete a master's degree in information technology management and education in 2009. I became licensed through the District Alternate Route to Licensure program, and the program helped me to transition from the Air Force to the Clark County School District in 2014 to a job I love. I currently teach seventh and eighth grade robotics, eighth grade introduction to technology, and publications/yearbook. I am also licensed to teach teacher certification courses for license renewal. I am so thankful. God has been so, so good to me.

DEAN'S LIST – FALL 2016

THE DEAN'S LIST IS COMPRISED OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS (12 OR MORE CREDIT HOURS) WHOSE SEMESTER GPAs IS 3.500 OR ABOVE. STUDENTS ACHIEVING A 4.000 ARE INDICATED WITH AN ASTERISK (*).

Fiona Stammers Allain	Taylor Kristyn Carter	Ryan Kelley	Grace Gibson Minter*	Olivia Caroline Maxey Reynolds
Kelly Ann Anders	Jackson Laine Cooper	Thomas Kilian III	Abigail C. Morgret	Jordan Cannon Rimarski
Alyssa Shay Anderson	Matthew Todd Cooper*	Courtney A. Leazer	Jessica Lynne Mundinger	Alexander L. Stanley
Tara Dawn Bird	Joy Corbett*	Sarah Grace Litowski*	Ashlyn Raye Neal	Breanna Lacy Teetor
Cheyenne Brothers	Whitley Rosa-Leigh Davis	Jameson Grey Lowery	Caitlin Elizabeth O'Connor	Brealley Kay-Ann White
Amy L. Bryan	James Lawrence Ellis*	Leah Nicole Maclin	Emily Nicole O'Connor	Pamela L. Wiley
Sarah Lunceford Bueno	Emily Caroline Greene*	Rita Agnes Maclin	Natalie I. Oliver	Olivia Catherine Wilgus
Katherine K. Byrd	Jacqueline Alexis Hiltz	Kendall Brooke Martin	Joshua Paul Phillips	
Sandra Horne Carter	Gabrielle Howlett	LeeAnn Claire McGraw	James R. Putze	

5 ADDITIONAL STUDENTS ACHIEVED DEAN'S LIST BUT REQUESTED NON-DISCLOSURE.

ATHLETICS

Mustang Basketball Teams



MEN'S BASKETBALL 2016-2017. Standing: Head Coach Allan Harris, Team Manager Jackson Cooper, Alex Stanley, Josh Helms, Jeston Thompson, Dixon Ogwo, Joe Hill, Leander Williams, Assistant Coach Charles Sims, Assistant Coach Kenny White. Kneeling: Markel Ming, Colin Cunningham, Jeremy Vincent, Alvin Williams, Kishawn Harris. Not pictured: Angus Spencer, Anthony Daniels.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL 2016-2017. Clockwise: Coach Charles Troxell, Mallary Brogden, Tierra Lester, Eyrka Vincent, Talethia Alexander Aleah McNeal, KaNesha Murray, Montana Moore, Team Manager Kadajah Hinton.

26 Attend ICOM

TWENTY-SIX TRAVELLED 11 hours in 3 vans to Lexington, KY, in November to attend the 2016 International Conference on Missions. They arrived at Rupp Arena just in time for the main session. Afterward, they headed to Hill N Dale Christian Church, which graciously served as their home away from home and where former MACU professor Dr. Robbie Phillips is lead minister.

Throughout the conference, students heard speakers such as Oscar Muriu from Kenya and Yassir E., who was raised as a radical Islamic extremist persecuting Christians but is now a Christian. Kyle Idleman, author of *Not a Fan*, spoke on the final night. He surprised two MACU graduates, Luke '12 and Tiffanie Brickhouse '11 Swain, by wearing their T-shirt on stage promoting their mission to Ireland.

Many students were able to speak with mission groups to find intern opportunities or possible places to serve as missionaries after they graduate. Many found the sessions and especially the prayer room helpful.

One night, international student Chirag Lambert wanted the group to try Indian cuisine. The meal was delicious, the owners of



the restaurant extremely hospitable, and the cultural experience awesome. On Saturday morning seven students went 30 miles north to tour the Ark Encounter, a museum and exhibit that gives answers to questions anyone would have about the Great Flood and the ark built by Noah.

Students expressed gratitude to MACU for the opportunity and for those who helped to make the trip possible.

Sophomore Savannah Blevins Vale, North Carolina



Savannah Blevins

This was the second year that I have been blessed to go to ICOM. Each year is a great experience that gives people the opportunity to worship with others and to learn about all the good others are doing in the Lord's name. ICOM also gives people the opportunity to learn and get involved, whether that's joining in on a mission trip or just giving a small donation so they can continue spreading the gospel.

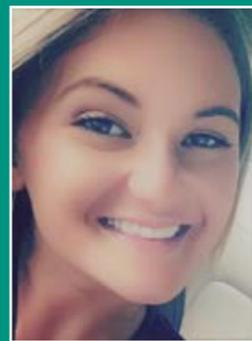
MACU TRAVEL BAND

FEB. 26 Jarvisburg Church of Christ JARVISBURG, NC	MAR. 19 Hickory Ridge Community Church CHESAPEAKE, VA	MAR. 26 Live Oak Grove Christian Church BEAUFORT, NC	APR. 2 Scuppernong Church of Christ CRESWELL, NC	APR. 23 Kitty Hawk Baptist Church KITTY HAWK, NC	APR. 30 Athens Chapel Church of Christ BATH, NC
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Dates & Events

Feb. 17-19	CCYC, Greensboro, NC
Feb. 28	Mid-Atlantic Society Gala VADM William "Dean" Lee
Mar. 16-18	MACU Rally
Mar. 24	Building 429 & Josh Wilson Concert
Mar. 25	Open House for Juniors & Seniors
Apr. 14-17	Easter Break
May 11	Foundation Board meeting, 6:30 pm
May 12	Trustee meeting
May 13	Commencement, 10 am
June 6	Seniors by the Sea

STUDENTS SPEAK



Alyssa
ANDERSON
Freshman from
Galax, Virginia

Any chance I receive I am willing to share my love for Mid-Atlantic Christian University because it is a miracle that I am here and God has blessed me beyond measure! I am in love with MACU. From the dorms to the classrooms, the ball field to the chapel, student to student, I am reminded of Jesus' love and grace. Daily, I am in awe of the focus on Christ as we bow our heads and talk to Jesus Christ before beginning every class. As a student here I am constantly encouraged to serve Christ in all things I do here on campus and across the globe, as are my peers. I have found a true peace at school — something I never would have been able to feel in a secular school or even a larger Christian university.

New Ministries, Service

Joey Brickhouse '88 has been called to serve Maple Grove Christian Church, Jamesville, NC, as senior minister.

Ginny Gibbs Ambrose '94 is teaching third grade at Hertford Grammar School in Hertford, NC. She was also able to renew her National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.

Danny Quidgeon '05 is serving at Marlboro Christian Church in Alliance, OH, as youth/family minister.

Tim Cyphers '05 has been called as youth minister with Pine Lake Christian Church in Sebring, OH.

Brian Harris '06 is lead minister with First Christian Church in West Frankfort, IL.

Becky Hill '08, a board certified Christian counselor, serves in spiritual direction and

formation with New Direction Center, a Soul Care ministry located in Elizabeth City.

Robin Modlin '08 accepted a position with Bradford County Department of Children and Youth Services. Towanda, PA.

Stephanie Lewis Gray '10 is now Children's Program Manager for H.E.R. Shelter in Portsmouth, VA.

Jamie Fulford '12 is youth minister with University Church of Christ in Greenville, NC.

Chris Williams '12 is serving at Maple Grove Christian Church in Jamesville, NC, as youth minister.

Ethan Coltrain '13 is serving at Union Grove Church of Christ in Pantego, NC, as youth minister.

Grace Jolly '15 is working with Eden Counseling Center in Norfolk, VA.

Births

Greg and Krystal Strawderman Fry '09: Zola Madison, Oct. 3

Aaron and Liz Meservy, Resident Hall Directors, Presley Hall: Chara Jane, Oct. 21

Daniel '06 and Rachel Barrett '06 Voris: adoption of their four children finalized, Nov. 7

Glen '09 and Heather '07 Layfield: Selah Lynne, Nov. 4

Matt '05 and Pam McDermott '03 Smith: Reece Thomas, Dec. 14

Notes of Sympathy

Sympathy is expressed to families and friends of the following:

- Patricia Comer Abbott '74, September 13
- Joseph A. Brickhouse ex'56, September 21
- Judy Jones, former employee, November 15
- Howard Waters ex'63, November 15
- Bruce Watson ex'65, November 30

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.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

GENERAL FUND

Lewis and Estelle Allen (Memory)
by Hilda Jones

Bane and Crystal Angles (Honor)
by Shirley Hasty

Amanda Barefoot, Madison Clary, Marian Clary, Daryl Clary, Daniel A. Jones, Teresa Willis (Honor); Kim H. Runion, Allison C. Walker (Memory)
by Rebecca Clary Jones

Denis Crehan (Honor)
by Dorlas L. Riley

Judy Delbridge (Memory)
by John & Sherry Maurice

Brenda Stanley (Memory)
by Haw Pond Church of Christ, Bethlehem Christian Church

FOUNDATION

Neal & Laura Alligood, Brian & Sara Bilodeau, Les & Katie Croft, Kathryn Hackett, Yuga & Christy R. Hisada, Chloe Lackey, Melvin & Debbie Priddy, Patrick & Zuzana Skultety (Honor)
by Rich & Cheryl Lindsley

Jimmy & Shelby Bennett (Honor)
by Avalon Church of Christ

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

Charles L. Braswell (Honor)
by Wayne & Robin Morris

Frankie DeWald (Memory)
by Edna Dewald

Florence Fritz (Memory)
by Denis & Madia Fritz, Ken & Sue Hecht

Ken & Shelley Greene (Honor)
by Robert Allen

Nancy Gwark (Memory)
by Christian Chapel Church of Christ, Larry & Rebecca Woolard

Mildred Hecht (Memory)
by Ken & Sue Hecht

Robert & Margery Johnson (Honor)
by Ladies Love Circle at Draper Christian Church

Christopher Knollenberg (Memory)
by Nicholas & Vicki Simon

Matthew Maurice (Memory)
by Joyce Maurice, John & Sherry Maurice

Frances Mills (Memory)
by Jerelene Richards

Marshall & Viola Murphy (Memory)
by Emmett & Dolores Murphy

Jonathan B. Sawyer (Memory)
by Aubrey & Anne Banks

J.T. & Addie Segroves (Memory)
by Jonita Shoaff

Harley "Tom" Wood (Memory)
by Ruth Wood

MATCHING GIFTS

Abbott Laboratories
for Jean W. Bennett

Eaton Corporation
for Charlene Richards

Cheering for the MACU Team!



BY JOHN W. MAURICE,
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
INSTITUTIONAL
ADVANCEMENT

COACHING LEGEND PHIL

Jackson said, "The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team." Jackson coached some of the best players to ever play the game, including North Carolina star Michael Jordan. During his coaching career he led 11 NBA teams to national championships. If anyone knew how important recruiting, coaching, and building a team to

function together are, it was Coach Jackson.

Professors, administrators, donors, friends, former students, and current students are all part of this amazing team. I am a huge fan of every team member and celebrate their victories. We have superstars that stand out because of their accomplishments and great stats while others are faithful and consistent team members that play hard and make vital contributions in every game.

I also realize that great teams do not win every game – sometimes there are losses and setbacks. Sometimes a player gets injured and has to heal and recover. I pray

for team members going through difficult circumstances and cheer for their recovery. All of you are valuable members of the team. We are better together. We are stronger together. In the infamous words of Michael Jordan, "There is no 'i' in team but there is in win."

We are grateful for the extraordinary Christian leaders that impact the culture for Christ in the marketplace and in vocational ministry, some of whom you have learned about in this issue. Let's continue to grow as a team – because we, and the Kingdom, are stronger when we work together.

Go, Team!

RUSSELL SPEAKING FOR TWO EVENTS IN JUNE

■ An Evening of Encouragement

MONDAY, JUNE 5 | 7:00 P.M. | DAVENPORT CHAPEL
OPEN TO ALL, NO REGISTRATION FEE
A free will offering will be taken

■ Seniors by the Sea – "Finish Strong"

TUESDAY, JUNE 6
MUSIC: BOB MOULDEN '73 AND SERVANT'S SONG
*For more information, visit macuniversity.edu
or contact Nicole Sershen at nicole.sershen@macuniversity.edu*



LISA RUSSELL

On-Campus Learning Opportunities

APRIL 25

Bridging Cultures for Christ

*Presented by Tom Kilian '94
Founder of Mercy Partners*

This workshop explores practical techniques for effective partnership with natives in spreading the gospel that can be used in the United States to bridge cultures within our community.

MAY 1

Christian Extremism: A Life Worth Dying For

*Presented by Dr. Ajai Lall '83
Founder of Central India Christian Mission
For more information, visit macuniversity.edu
or contact Nicole Sershen at
nicole.sershen@macuniversity.edu*

FROM ORDINARY TO EXTRAORDINARY



Mid-Atlantic Foundation News

SANDRA PERKINS, FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Foundation Banquet

THE FOUNDATION HELD its annual banquet October 20 on campus. Students Sarah Bowles and Jackson Osebreh gave testimonies and thanked the donors in attendance for funding scholarships in the endowment. Donors Howard Guidry '08 and Gene Langley spoke about why giving to the Foundation is important to them and encouraged others to become donors. The dinner was donated and served by Thompson Hospitality. Student pianist Symphony Mullins played dinner music during the event.

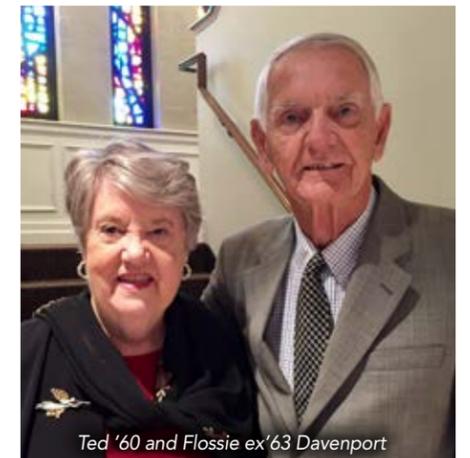


Banquet speakers: Students Jackson Osebreh and Sarah Bowles, Trustee Gene Langley, Howard Guidry '08

FOUR NEW FUNDS: Davenport, Langley, West Park, Wiley

FOUR NEW NAMED student scholarship endowments were started in the fourth quarter of 2016. The West Park Church of Christ Scholarship Fund was started by the congregation, which is located in Portsmouth, Virginia. The Stephen and Roberta Wiley Scholarship Fund will be a student scholarship also. The Truth Seekers Class at West Park Church of Christ started the Dorothy Langley Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor "Miss Dot" after her passing. The Ted Davenport and Flossie Nooney Davenport Scholarship Fund was started by one of the Davenports' children.

It is always humbling to see MACU alumni receiving the honor of a named fund. The Ted Davenport and Flossie Nooney Davenport Scholarship Fund honors their lives and history with the college. Thomas "Ted" graduated from MACU in 1960, and Flossie attended classes during that time period. Ted worked at the college between 1968 and 1972. After many years of ministry, in both the church and the marketplace, the Davenports have shown steadfast commitment to Christ. Congratulations to Ted and Flossie for this new named fund in their honor.



Ted '60 and Flossie ex'63 Davenport

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."

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 retired 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."





MID-ATLANTIC
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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Mid-Atlantic Christian University is accredited by The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award certificates, associate, baccalaureate, and masters 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.

**BUILDING 429
& JOSH WILSON**

Admit One



Friday
MARCH 24
2017

7:30pm

Doors open
at 7:15pm

\$15.00



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2017

MID-ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

MARCH 25, 2017 • 10AM-3PM

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