



CandlerNEWS



FEBRUARY 2025

Rollins Family Honors Roots with \$20 Million Gift for Theological Education

Drawing on their family's deep roots in Methodism, the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation has made a historic \$20 million gift to Candler to support master of divinity scholarships. Describing it as "pivotal," Dean **Jonathan Strom** says the gift will enable the school to financially support students pursuing careers in ministry more than ever before. [Read more about the Rollins gift.](#)

Remembering Russ Richey

Bowties. Books. Building bridges. Biking togs. These are just a few of the words that come to a fellow Candlerite's mind with a smile whenever the name **Russell E. Richey** is mentioned. Richey, Candler's Dean Emeritus and William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Church History, was also among his generation's foremost scholars of American Methodism. He died on January 19 at the age of 83. Professor Emeritus in the Practice of

Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies **Rex D. Matthews** shares [this remembrance](#).

Heritage Month, Ball to Celebrate 60 Years of Black Student Life at Candler

Candler's Black Student Caucus (BSC) will celebrate Heritage Month in February with a focus on commemorating six decades of Black student life at the school. The month will culminate with the 15th annual Heritage Ball in partnership with the school's Advancement and Alumni Engagement office to support Candler's Erskine-Smith-Moseley Scholarship Endowment. [Read more about Heritage Month and register to attend the Heritage Ball](#).

Atlanta Congregations: Learn More About Nurturing Children's Faith

[The Sacred Arts Collective](#) (TSAC) at Candler engages Atlanta-area congregations to imagine how to nurture and grow children's faith through the integration of the arts in worship. TSAC is now recruiting congregational teams for its 2025 cohort experience to engage with and hear from children, facilitate intergenerational participation in creative arts, and develop networks for ministry leaders to connect for dialogue and to enrich congregational ministries. Is your congregation interested? [Take part in our online info session on March 6 from 7:00–8:00 p.m.](#)

TheoEd Nashville Takes the Stage—and Screen—Feb. 23

The Candler Foundry is taking [TheoEd Talks on the road to Nashville's Woolworth Theatre](#) on Sunday, February 23—and if you're not nearby, there's also a free livestream option! Attendees will hear from jazz musician and theologian **Julian Davis Reid 19T**, artist-theologian **Lanecia Rouse**, bestselling author and Enneagram teacher **Suzanne Stabile**, and pastor of Nashville's GracePointe Church **Josh Scott**.

For those coming to TheoEd Talks Nashville in person, join Candler's Advancement and Alumni Engagement team for [an exclusive Candler alumni and friends mixer](#) before the show to connect with fellow alums, engage with our staff, and hear from Dean Jonathan Strom.

Register to Attend the Bandy Preaching Conference

Join the Candler community on campus March 25-27 for the Bandy Preaching Conference, "Sacred Symphonies: The Word and Song." Organized by Bandy Professor of Preaching **Teresa Fry Brown**, this three-day event invites you to immerse yourself in sessions that bridge the gap between preaching and music—from an opening concert in Cannon Chapel, the Whiteside Lecture with the Rev. Dr. Lisa Weaver of The Riverside Church, NYC, breakout sessions and a plenary panel with distinguished speakers, and, of course, inspiring worship. Selected sessions will be available online. [Register to attend by March 20.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that events are subject to change. Click on the event title to see more details and registration information. [See a full listing of upcoming Candler events here.](#)

Ongoing: [Courses in the Community from The Candler Foundry](#). In person and online.

February 11: [Major Catholic Speaker Lecture: Anna Rowlands](#). In person.

February 20: [2025 BSC Pre-Heritage Ball Alumni and Student Mixer](#). In person.

February 23: [TheoEd Talks Nashville Alumni and Friends Mixer](#). In person.

February 23: [TheoEd Talks Nashville](#), with Julian Davis Reid 19T, Lanecia Rouse, Suzanne Stabile, and Josh Scott. In person and online.

February 24: [Pitts Theology Library Book Sale](#). In person.

February 28: [15th Annual Heritage Ball](#). In person.

March 1: [Doctor of Ministry Priority Application Deadline](#).

March 1: [Youth Theological Institute Summer Academy Application Deadline](#).

March 6: [Info Session: The Sacred Arts Collective](#). Online.

March 20: [Lecture: "The 'Exceptional' Body of Christ."](#) In person.

March 25-27: [Bandy Preaching Conference, "Sacred Symphonies: The Word and Song."](#) In person, with selected sessions available online.

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NOTES

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