



# CandlerNEWS



JANUARY 2026

## **A Call that Transforms: Introducing Candler Changemakers**

When we talk to Candler students and alumni about their call, one thing becomes clear: Their specific calls may be different, shaped by their particular gifts, contexts, and life experiences, but their drive to join God’s work of transforming lives and the world is a constant. Some lead change by leading congregations. Some work for better outcomes for neighbors and more just communities. Some walk alongside those suffering from illness or trauma. And some reimagine what ministry looks like altogether.

This month we’re launching a series called “Candler Changemakers” to highlight the range of fascinating ways our alumni are fueling change as they fulfill their call. Their stories inspire and challenge, expanding our theological imagination and ideas about ministry. [Read them](#)

[here](#). Throughout this year, we'll introduce a featured alum every few weeks on our social media channels. Follow us!

### **Lartey to Preach Spring Convocation Jan. 13**

The Candler community will welcome a new semester with Spring Convocation on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 11:05 a.m. in Cannon Chapel and online. **Emmanuel Y. Lartey**, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Pastoral Theology and Spiritual Care, will give the convocation address. In addition, **Susan E. Hysten** will be installed as Charles Howard Candler Professor of New Testament by Emory University Interim President **Leah Ward Sears** and Provost **Badia Ahad**. [Watch the livestream here](#).

### **Strong Candler Showing on Top Preachers List**

Candler is well-represented on the 2025-2026 list of the 25 Most Effective Christian Biblical Preachers in the Black Preaching Tradition, released in December by the National Black Church Initiative. Among the honorees are Bandy Professor of Preaching and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs **Teresa L. Fry Brown**, along with Candler alumni **William E. Flippin Sr. 82T**, **Charles Goodman Jr. 05T**, and **Reginald Sharpe 18T**. Plus, four Candler alums and one current student received honorable mentions. [Read more and see the full list of pastors](#).

### **Erskine, Johnson are 'Back in the Classroom' with Foundry Courses**

The Candler Foundry opens 2026 with a new slate of online courses. Upcoming offerings include two four-week courses in The Foundry's "Back in the Classroom" series, taught by Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics **Noel Erskine** and Robert W. Woodruff Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Christian Origins **Luke Timothy**

**Johnson**, respectively. Don't miss the opportunity to learn from these Candler greats, again or for the first time! Alumni can receive \$15 off "Back in the Classroom" courses with the discount code CANDLER15 entered at checkout. [See all upcoming Foundry courses and register here.](#)

## **Aquinas Day Lecture to Examine Catholic History as a Call to Action**

Candler's Aquinas Center of Theology will host its 2026 Aquinas Day events on Thursday, January 29. Writer, scholar, and comics creator **Matthew J. Cressler**, chief of staff of the Corporation for Public Interest Technology, will preach in worship and present an afternoon lecture, "Bad Catholics, Good Trouble: Reimagining Catholic History as a Call to Action." [Register to attend Aquinas Day in person or online.](#)

## **Remembering James Abbington**

Associate Professor of Church Music and Worship at Candler from 2005 to 2025, **James Abbington** died on September 27, 2025. Associate Dean of Worship and Spiritual Formation **Khalia J. Williams** [offers this tribute.](#)

## **16th Annual Heritage Ball to Celebrate "Rhythm and Roots"**

Candler's Black Student Caucus (BSC) will present the 16th annual Heritage Ball on Friday, Feb. 27 in partnership with the Office of Advancement and Alumni Engagement. The event supports Candler's Erskine-Smith-Moseley Scholarship Endowment and this year takes the theme "Rhythm and Roots: A Celebration of Music, Legacy, and Culture

at Candler.” [Learn more and register to attend the 2026 Heritage Ball.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Jan. 12, 7:00 p.m.:** [Info Session: The Sacred Arts Collective.](#) Online.

**Jan. 13, 11:05 a.m.:** [Spring Convocation: The Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Lartey, preacher.](#) In person and online.

**Jan. 13-April 21, Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.:** [Candler Foundry Course: “A Theological Introduction to the Old Testament,”](#) with Associate Professor in the Practice of Old Testament **Ryan Bonfiglio.** Online.

**Jan. 15:** [Priority Application Deadline \(MDiv, MTS, MARL\)](#)

**Jan. 15-April 23, Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.:** [Candler Foundry Course: “The Gospel of John,”](#) with Candler Foundry Scholar-in-Residence **Elizabeth Arnold.** Online.

**Jan. 20, 11:05 a.m.:** [King Week Worship: Singing to the Table: The Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown, preacher.](#) In person and online.

**Jan. 22, 11:05 a.m.:** [King Week Worship: Bishop Jack Bomar, preacher.](#) In person and online.

**Jan. 29, 12:00 p.m.:** [Aquinas Day Lecture: “Bad Catholics, Good Trouble: Reimagining Catholic History as a Call to Action.”](#) In person and online.

**Feb. 2:** [Application Deadline: YTI Youth Ministers Training Program.](#)

**Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 6:30 p.m.:** [Candler Foundry Course: "Black Theology and Faith,"](#) with Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics **Noel L. Erskine.** Online.

**Feb. 4-5:** ["Mañana from a New Today: Marking 35 Years of a Groundbreaking Book."](#) In person.

**Feb. 27, 7:00 p.m.:** [The 16th Annual Heritage Ball.](#) In person.

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

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

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NOTES

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