



CandlerNEWS



NOVEMBER 2024

A Season of Gratitude

In recent years, the Candler community has observed a “Day of Gratitude” near Thanksgiving, with thoughtful activities planned and led by our Office of Student Life and Office of Worship and Spiritual Formation. One of our favorite activities has become a new Candler tradition: the “Tree of Gratitude” (pictured above), where community members are invited to write things they are thankful for on small leaf cutouts and then tie them to the branches. By the close of the event, the tree is adorned with blessings and our hearts are reoriented toward God's goodness.

2024 Alumni Awards Celebrate Creative Leadership and Service

On October 24, Candler presented two alumni with 2024 Distinguished Alumni Awards—one for outstanding young alumni and one for faithful and creative leadership—an honor recognizing alumni for their work in service to Candler, the church, the academy and/or the community. [Read more about](#)

[our honorees](#), **Stacey Floyd-Thomas 93T** and **Dustin Mailman 21T**.

Ward to Serve as Candler's Next Bishop-in-Residence

Dean Jonathan Strom has announced that retired United Methodist Bishop **Hope Morgan Ward** will serve as Candler's next bishop-in-residence, beginning January 5. Ward succeeds Bishop Larry Goodpaster, who served as Candler's bishop-in-residence from 2016 to 2024. [Read more about Bishop Ward and her new role at Candler.](#)

Thurman Lecture to Explore the 'Ghostly Ideal' of Black Leadership

Candler's Black Church Studies program will host **Kyle Brooks**, assistant professor of theology and religious studies at the University of San Diego, as the presenter for this year's Howard Thurman Lecture. Brooks' lecture, "Specters of Martin: The Haunting Mythology of Black Public Leadership," will take place on Wednesday, November 13 both in person and online. [Learn more and register for the Howard Thurman Lecture.](#)

New Candler Faculty Books

Make more room on your bookshelf for these new books from Candler faculty members! Check out the links to learn more:

- Assistant Professor of Latinx Communities **Jonathan Calvillo** has [two books out this fall](#) exploring how both hip hop music and Pentecostalism have made their mark on Latine communities in the United States.
- Assistant Professor in the Practice of Spiritual Formation and Ministry **Stuart Higginbotham** published the poetry collection [Bones of Light: Poems of Spiritual Imagination](#) (Crossroad Publishing).
- Assistant Professor of New Testament **Jennifer Quigley** recently coedited the volume [Assembling Futures: Economy, Ecology, Democracy, and Religion](#) (Fortress Press).

Remembering Two Candler Faculty Members

The Candler community mourns two members of our faculty who have

recently died, one past and one present. We continue to hold their families and loved ones in our prayers.

- Former Candler faculty member **Richard Bondi**, who served as Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics from 1984–1997, died on August 24. Professor Emeritus in the Practice of Historical Theology and Wesleyan Studies **Rex D. Matthews** shares [this tribute to Bondi](#).

- **Gregory K. Hillis**, executive director of Candler’s Aquinas Center, died on October 8 after being diagnosed with cancer in late 2023. Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies **Brett Opalinski** shares [a remembrance of Hillis](#).

Save the Date: 15th Annual Heritage Ball

Join Candler’s Office of Advancement and Alumni Engagement and Black Church Studies on Friday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m. for the 15th annual Heritage Ball commemorating 60 years of Black student life at Candler. [Stay tuned for more information!](#)

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](#).

November 9: [TheoEd Talks Macon](#). In person or online.

November 13: [Howard Thurman Lecture](#). In person or online.

November 14: [Catholic-Orthodox Community Gathering: “Encountering Christ in Pastoral Relationships”](#). In person.

November 19: [DMin Info Session](#). Online.

December 3: [Advent Worship: Blessing of the Greens](#). In person or online.

January 1: [Deadline for YTI Travel Seminar, “Praying With Our Feet”](#)

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

CLASS
NOTES

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