



# Candler NEWS



*As we approach the upper room, sit at the foot of the cross, and prepare for the joy of Easter morning, may blessings seen and unseen abound.*

APRIL 2026

## **Emory Day of Giving: Thank You!**

No matter where you live, we hope you can feel our gratitude beaming forth from Atlanta as we celebrate the wonderful success of this year's Emory Day of Giving! Thanks to your incredible generosity, **Candler raised \$55,000 from nearly 300 donors**, supporting students and programs whose impacts are felt far beyond the classroom. Thank you for this and the many ways you continue to help power Candler's future.

## **Immigration Advocate Sister Norma Pimentel to Address Faith, Dignity at April 14 Lecture**

The Aquinas Center of Theology and La Mesa Academy of Theological

Studies will welcome **Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ**, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley on Tuesday, April 14 to present the center's annual St. Catherine of Siena Lecture. Recently named one of TIME Magazine's 2026 Women of the Year, Pimentel will offer reflections on the intersection of immigration, faith, and human dignity that stem from her decades of ministry. [Register to attend the St. Catherine of Siena Lecture in person or online.](#)

### **Fry Brown Honored by Morehouse, Seminary of the Southwest**

A portrait of Bandy Professor of Preaching and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs **Teresa L. Fry Brown** has been added to the International Hall of Honor in the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel at Morehouse College. The oil painting was unveiled on March 29 during the college's Women's History Month Vesper Hour. Fry Brown is the first womanist scholar to be included in the Hall of Honor, which was established in 1979 by Lawrence Carter Sr., founding dean of the chapel. [Read more about Fry Brown's recent accolades,](#) including one from Seminary of the Southwest.

### **Kristine Suna-Koro to Join Candler Faculty**

Dean Jonathan Strom has announced that **Kristine Suna-Koro 10G** will join the Candler faculty this fall as associate professor of worship. A Latvian-American theologian with research interests in postcolonialism, migration, and sacramental and liturgical studies, Suna-Koro comes to Candler from Xavier University, where she has served on the theology faculty since 2010 and as chair of the department of theology since 2023. [Read more about Prof. Suna-Koro.](#)

### **Go 'Back in the Classroom' with Prof. Luke Johnson in May**

Robert W. Woodruff Professor Emeritus of New Testament and Christian

Origins **Luke Timothy Johnson** will teach a four-week online course on “Paul’s Vision of the Church” beginning May 6. The course is part of The Candler Foundry’s “Back in the Classroom” series. Alumni: Use the code CANDLER15 at checkout to get \$15 off the course fee! [Learn more and register for "Paul's Vision of the Church."](#)

## **Support Senior Class Vision of "One Candler"**

Candler's Class of 2026 will be the first to celebrate both hybrid and residential graduates—a reflection of how the school is growing to make a Candler education accessible to more students called to serve. This year's Senior Class Gift Committee wants to give back to fellow and future students by creating opportunities to foster deeper connections no matter where they live. Your gift to their “One Candler” campaign will support events and hospitality to cultivate connection across degree programs and formats. Please make a gift to build community and contribute to students’ success in ministry and life! They’re 43 percent to their goal of \$2,026, and a gift of any size will make a difference. [Give to "One Candler" by April 15.](#)

## **Womack Edits New Volume on Middle Eastern Christianity**

Associate Professor of History of Religions and Interfaith Studies **Deanna F. Womack** has edited a new scholarly volume focusing on how Christian communities in the Middle East negotiate identity amid socio-political turmoil. [Read more about \*Christianity in the Contemporary Middle East: Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Communities in Context\*.](#)

## **Remembering Bernard LaFayette Jr.**

The Candler and Emory communities join in mourning the death of civil rights leader **Bernard LaFayette Jr.** and celebrating the powerful legacy he leaves behind. LaFayette, who died on March 5 at age 85,

served on the Candler faculty as distinguished senior scholar-in-residence from 2009 to 2015. [Read a tribute to LaFayette by Candler faculty member Nichole Phillips.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**April 13, 3:00 p.m.:** [Workshop: "Library Resources for Alumni."](#)Online.

**April 14, 7:30 p.m.:** [St. Catherine of Siena Lecture: An Evening with Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ.](#) In person and online.

**April 23, 11:05 a.m.:** [Honors Day Convocation.](#) In person and online.

**April 25, 6:00 p.m.:** [Worship Spring Concert.](#) In person.

**May 6, 12:00 p.m.:** [Course: "Paul's Vision of the Church" with Luke Timothy Johnson.](#) Wednesdays through May 27. Online.

**May 9:** [Candler Graduate Recognition Ceremony.](#) In person and online.

CLASS  
NOTES

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