

# CUMMINS

MEMORIAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2 Timothy 2:15

Quarterly

SPRING 2023



## INAUGURAL BISHOP REMBERT LECTURE FEATURES BIBLE SCHOLAR

The Inaugural Bishop Sanko K. Rembert Lecture, held March 23 at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Summerville, offered attendees an opportunity to learn about the life of times of the first African American Bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church. Following reflections voiced by Bishop Rembert's daughter Karol G. Rembert, Delores Gibbs introduced keynote speaker Dr. Bonnie B. Thurston. The noted New Testament scholar and poet examined the teachings of some of Luke's 49 parables. The parables and/or moral lessons, explained the West Virginia native, typically come with a twist in the form of an unexpected occurrence.

Thurston also imparted: "Prayer is the means by which God directs history." For more information on the night's guest of honor, visit

[www.avemariapress.com](http://www.avemariapress.com).

### WHAT'S INSIDE

#### ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

#### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT- REV. FRED GARRETT

#### CUMMINS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT-SADELL SUCKIEL

Learn about one of our seminary students.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for our upcoming seminary events.

# INAUGURAL BISHOP REMBERT LECTURE FEATURING BIBLE SCHOLAR DR. BONNIE B. THURSTON

*March 23, 2023 at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Summerville, SC*



*Dr. Bonnie B. Thurston*



*Dr. Charles Echols &  
Dr. Bonnie B. Thurston*



*Bishop Ordinary Willie Hill, Jr.  
& Dr. Bonnie B. Thurston*



*Dr. John Panagiotou &  
Dr. Bonnie B. Thurston*



*Pictured Left to Right  
Bishop Alphonso Gadsden, Bishop William White, Jr.  
& Bishop Ordinary Willie Hill, Jr.*

## 20th Anniversary Banquet of the Lowcountry Biblical Counseling Center

*April 20, 2023 at Marriott Downtown Charleston*



*Members of the Diocese*



*Rev & Mrs. Breaux*

# UPCOMING EVENTS



CUMMINS MEMORIAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
"Strengthening and Preparing Disciples for the Future."  
*Scholarship Banquet*  
FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023  
7:00PM  
*Silent Auction begins at 6:30pm*  
TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH,  
1915 PINOPOLIS ROAD, PINOPOLIS, SC  
*For questions contact  
Martha Dixon at (843) 873-3451 or via email at  
mdixon@cumminstheoseminary.org*

**PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE**



## ALUMNI'S WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Join the CMTS Alumni Association
- Be an Alumni Spotlight Feature on our Website & Newsletter
- Learn more about our Alumni Association

*click here!*

## CONSIDER JOINING THESE CURRENT COMMITTEES:

The Seminary staff and volunteers are busy planning upcoming events and significant milestones. If you would like to be a part of Cummin's exciting growth and changes, consider joining one of our committees. Contact us for more information at (843) 873-3451.

### **ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

Dr. Anthony Olalere  
Dr. Morris Ravenell  
Dr. Geneva L. Fleming  
Dr. James C. Breau  
Dr. John G. Panagiotou

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Morris Ravenell  
Dr. Geneva L. Fleming  
Dr. Julius Barnes

### **ALUMNI COMMITTEE**

Dr. Delores Gibbs  
Rev. Cornelius White  
Rev. Alfred Addison  
Ms. Alvalene G. Rogers  
Rev. Matthew W. Jeffcoat

# WAYS TO SUPPORT THE SEMINARY

## CLUB 300- CLICK TO JOIN

Your monthly contribution to the 300 Club will help us better serve the students that enter to learn.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

We are seeking students who are not only looking for a degree but also seek lifelong learning opportunities in our continuing education courses.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

We encourage individual churches to provide scholarships for their congregants. Contact us for more information.

## SPONSORSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS

CMTS seeks to connect with area companies and corporate citizens to expand its capacity to better serve our communities.

*Together We  
Can Do So  
Much*



## **MEET CUMMINS MEMORIAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ALUMNI: REVEREND FRED GARNETT**



*The Reverend Fred Garnett*

In the early 1970's, Fred Garnett returned to his hometown of Moncks Corner, South Carolina after living in Boston, Massachusetts. Upon his return and pursuing his love of music, he opened a record shop on Main Street in Moncks Corner. No matter how good the disco life was, Fred faithfully attended his home church, Bethlehem R.E. Church.

One Sunday, the then president of the Sunday School Convention was visiting Fred's church and asked him to be the Lower Berkeley Chairperson. Fred said No! However, the president returned the following week with the same ask and this time, Fred agreed to serve as a chairperson. He began to study the Sunday School lessons to be prepared as he visited the different churches. What became obvious was that there were teachers teaching who did not (as Rev. Garnett puts it), "...know John the Baptist from John the disciple." He thought that if he was going to be apart of this church and leadership, he was going to know what he was talking about. This experience opened the door for him to go to seminary and begin his ministry.

While in seminary, he served as the Sunday School Convention President, Men of the Church President and he was asked to serve as a student minister to Atonement R.E. Church. He served there for two years.

Following Atonement, he was called to Holy Trinity R.E. Church and served there for eight years. The church grew and Rev. Garnett undertook several projects to uplift the church building. He was then called to Good Shepherd R. E. Church and served there for nearly three years. While there, Rev. Garnett was instrumental in leading the church's building of its current fellowship hall.

## **MEET CUMMINS MEMORIAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ALUMNI: REVEREND FRED GARNETT CONTINUED...**

After serving Good Shepherd, Rev. Garnett was called to be the pastor of Grace R.E. Church. He served Grace for 15 years and officially retired as a pastor. While at Grace, Rev. Garnett was an advocate for youth ministry and used his creativity to birth many youth focused initiatives such as the youth talent shows, Joy Night and the many youth fun and educational trips.

In his retirement, Rev. Garnett is still very active in ministry. He was assigned as supply pastor for Redeemer R.E. Church for two Sundays and it turned into three years. Just like Redeemer, he followed the same pattern and was scheduled to serve Holy Comforter R. E. Church for two Sundays and it turned into nearly four years. Rev. Garnett continues to serve as a supply pastor in the Diocese of the Southeast. One year, he served this diocese as a member of the Board of Trustees and Foreign Missions Board.



During all of this, Rev. Garnett has also served as the President of the Berkeley County Ministerial Alliance. This interdenominational organization has and continues to provide vital resources to vulnerable populations in the county. Rev. Garnett has conducted prison ministry, community advocacy and crisis assistance as part of his service with this organization.

Without doubt, Rev. Garnett's ministry is one that inspires us all and serves as an example of what is possible when you keep God first in all things. His wife, friend and biggest supporter throughout his life and ministry, Mrs. Linda Garnett, shines right along with him in this moment...*To God be the Glory!!*

# NEW COURSE ALERT

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN**  
**Classes begin August 2023**

The African American Religious Studies is designed for students to study at a graduate level the African American religious practices through sound theological studies and academic scholarship. These courses will provide students with the tools to better serve the community and sacred space of persons of color.



*"Rev. P."*



**AFRICAN AMERICAN  
RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**



**GET STARTED**

*This course addresses the American culture platform of inclusion, diversity & equality. This course will provide the tools to better serve the community & sacred space of persons of color.*

**CONTACT US  
TO REGISTER:**

@cumminstheoseminary  
info@cumminstheoseminary.org  
www.cumminstheoseminary.org

## MEET DR. JOHN PANAGIOTOU

*Vice President of  
Advancement & Development*

Dr. John G. Panagiotou is the Vice President of Advancement & Development at Cummins Memorial Theological Seminary.

Dr. Panagiotou is a theologian and scholar who has deep experience in pastoral ministry as an Orthodox Christian presbyter, denominational administrator, teacher at the university and seminary levels, preacher, and businessman in a career which has spanned nearly three decades.

# Certificate of Community Service Projects Awards Dinner



**Pictured 1st Row:** Mary N. Walker, Emily J. Brown, Prince E. Dixon, and Geneva L. Fleming;  
**2nd Row:** Alexandria R. Purter, Eleise M. Pack, Alice R. Wilson, and Rev. George C. McCray

The Awards Dinner was **Friday, April 14, 2023**, at JaLiOnna Event Venue, in Moncks Corner, SC.

On the heels of the Black Lives Matter Movement, many persons, communities, and faith-based organizations sought ways to impact their communities positively. South Carolina Lowcountry residences were no exception. After several conversations and meetings, it became evident that specific training was needed to assist communities in accomplishing targeted goals.

The Certificate of Community Service Program was the brainchild of Dr. Rose D. Gibbs. The aim is to train and equip rural women as community facilitators and project managers. Given the family, cultural, historical, and community dynamics, women were the best candidates for this program. The program aimed to train and equip women with the skills needed to develop and sustain specific activities in their rural communities.

Dr. Gibbs and Martha P. Dixon worked together to write the proposal. The proposal outlined the phases of the program, the seminars within each phase, and a budget. In May 2021, Cummins Memorial Theological Seminary (CMTS) applied for a grant from the Spaulding-Paolozzi Foundation. The aim was to train and equip rural women as community facilitators and project managers. During the summer of 2021, we learned that the project was funded. Dr. Julius Barnes allowed the project to be housed at CMTS.

Berkeley County was the targeted area for the project, and we attempted to find interested people throughout the county to complete the application process. Zoom meetings were held on Monday nights for seminars and discussions. Each participant completed a community needs assessment to determine what the community needed. Some participants decided to enhance already established projects; others would create new ones. The training involved public speaking, conducting community needs assessment surveys, writing the needs assessment reports, developing mission and vision statements, creating budgets, creating a timeline, implementing projects, securing funding sources, and evangelism and cross-cultural training, to name a few.



# Community Service Participants & Projects

## **PRINCE E. DIXON**

*The Prince Center Food Distribution  
Cordesville, SC*

The center provides services to improve, uplift, inform, and educate the community. Conducting food giveaways at least once every six weeks is one way to help the surrounding communities.

## **GENEVA L. FLEMING**

*Prospectives on Education:  
Conversations with Black Educators  
in Berkeley County Moncks Corner, SC*

This documentary recognizes the value of education in the Black communities of Berkeley County, highlighting lessons learned from the past while acknowledging current issues and opportunities for future success.

## **REV. GEORGE C. MCCRAY**

*The Pineville/Eadytown Community Park  
Pineville, SC*

This project cleaned the park and prepared it for the three-day Labor Day Weekend Event in 2022. In March, the community's men installed lights in the shelter/pavilion.

## **ELEASE M. PACK**

**ALEXANDRIA R. PURTER**  
**MARY N. WALKER**

*PPW Cooperative Community Garden  
Moncks Corner, SC*

The garden provided opportunities for positive social interaction while obtaining fresh fruits and vegetables for the community to enhance their health.

## **MICHELLE B. TAYLOR**

*God's Gifted Girls (3 G's)  
Moncks Corner, SC*

This program is a summer camp for young girls between the ages of 7 to 12 designed to identify their purpose and maximize their gifts, talents, and passions.

## **ALICE R. WILSON**

*Forty-One/Wilder Community Park  
St. Stephen, SC*

This project's goal was to make the park a safe place for all to enjoy. The committee repaired buildings and cleaned overgrown areas to prepare the park for Easter and Labor Day events in 2022.

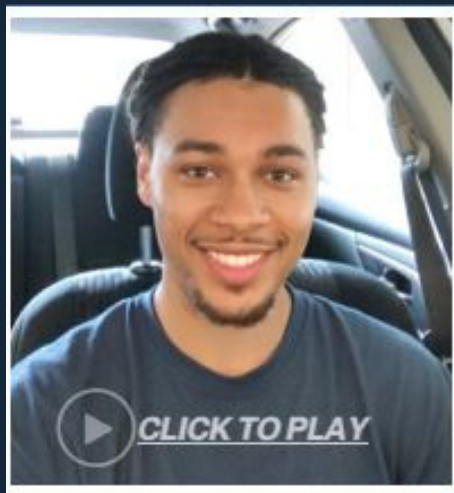


**CUMMINS**  
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*Enter to Learn . . . Live to Serve*

We appreciate the participants' willingness to participate in this endeavor. They worked unselfishly, serving their communities to provide needed services. We pray that they will continue to give back to their communities whenever the opportunities present themselves.

# CUMMINS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**SADELL B. SUCKIEL**



Sadell Suckiel is currently enrolled as a student at Cummins Memorial Theological Seminary preparing for a Master's Degree in Divinity.

The 26-year-old is a member of Nazareth R.E. Church in Moncks Corner, SC, and is excited to be a part of the Seminary.

"I believe there is no better Seminary in the state of South Carolina," says Suckiel. "I have become family attending the Seminary. It is a blessing."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |        |                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| APR 29 | Spring Closing Chapel           |
| MAY 12 | 2023 Alumni Scholarship Banquet |



**CUMMINS**  
MEMORIAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

705 South Main Street Summerville, SC 29483

Telephone: (843) 873-3451

[www.cumminstheoseminary.org](http://www.cumminstheoseminary.org)

ENTER TO LEARN — LIVE TO SERVE

# Registration is OPEN



**CUMMINS**  
MEMORIAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
*"Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve"*

WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOUR

## 2023 FALL REGISTRATION

Classes begin August 2023



CONTACT OUR OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

(843) 873-3451

[MDIXON@CUMMINSTHEOSEMINARY.ORG](mailto:MDIXON@CUMMINSTHEOSEMINARY.ORG)



## 150 Year Celebration



**Cummins Memorial Theological turns 150!**

Founded in 1876 by the Rev. Peter Fayssoux Stevens, CMTS will celebrate 150 years in 2026. Stay tuned for more information about planning for this historic occasion.

*Let's Connect!*

 @cumminstheo

 @cumminstheoseminary