

Creating unity through worship

Expanding chapel program teaches students how to worship in a variety of styles



Students enjoy a variety of speakers during chapel services, including author James McBride, who spoke at this alternate chapel during the September launch of the College's new common reading program.

Students at Messiah College represent about 15 different Christian denominations, ranging from Mennonite to Roman

Catholic and from Pentecostal to Reformed Presbyterian. Yet many students are surprised when they realize that people on a Christian campus express one faith in so many different ways.

To embrace this eclectic mix of traditions while encouraging common worship, the College recently expanded its semi-weekly chapel program to provide a broader spectrum of services that blend a shared Trinitarian theology with various worship styles.

"The central challenge of chapel at Messiah — for those who plan chapel and for those who attend — is that we try both to stretch people and to give them a little taste of home," said Interim College Pastor Evie Teller.

The point is to educate students toward personal and corporate wholeness — toward a faith that embraces their minds, their emotions, their actions, and the whole body of believers,

explained Messiah's Minister of Worship Douglas Curry.

Supporting this mission, The Calvin Institute of Christian Worship last year awarded Messiah College a Lilly Endowment grant, enabling the College Ministries Office to expand and develop its chapel program. Specifically, these funds have allowed Messiah to enhance sacred space with tapestries for services and icons for the student prayer chapel, as well as to offer more opportunities for students and staff to attend retreats and symposiums that explore the nature and theology of Christian worship.

Twice a week, the student body gathers for Common Chapel, where guest and campus speakers talk about ideas and issues relating to faith and life. Building on the theme "Stories of Faith," the fall semester's speakers — from a pediatric oncologist to a civil rights historian to President Kim Phipps — shared stories that reflected their perspectives on what it means to live out Christian faith within the world and within popular and global culture.

"We want students to come out of chapel and talk about it with their friends and then make conscious decisions about their own pursuit of faith," Teller explained.

Elective Chapel services, celebrated six times a semester, give students an opportunity to choose a style and focus of worship. The five options for this semester include, a contemporary worship service led by student chaplains called, "Kairos;" a "Liturgical Worship" service where Communion is served; a chapel focused on mission and service called, "Salt & Light;" a service led by local pastors or professors focused on expository Bible teachings called, "Word Alive;" and a multicultural worship service called, "Just Praise."

Senior Bible major Jennifer Stallings explained that she did not grow up in a liturgical church setting, but as the student

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IMPORTANT DATES

SERVICE DAY
APRIL 21

LAST DAY OF CLASSES
MAY 3

SEMESTER EXAMS
MAY 5–10

BACCALAUREATE
MAY 13

COMMENCEMENT
MAY 14



President Kim Phipps (right) speaks with a student during a campus celebration in January held in honor of Phipps' presidency.

personal vocations and their specific callings. A significant grant from the Lilly Foundation has enabled Messiah during the past several years to broadly educate students on the concept of vocation by helping them to explore their own interests as they discover their unique talents and abilities, and how they may best use them to love God and serve others. Throughout their classroom and cocurricular experiences, Messiah students are learning that their vocation is a lifelong journey filled with many peaks and valleys.

One of the greatest privileges that I have experienced since becoming Messiah College's new president has been the increased opportunity to interact with students. As I have discussed Christian vocation with students, I am quick to share that I did not start my own vocational journey expecting to become the president of a college. But on my path as an educator, a scholar, and an academic administrator, I have experienced many unforeseen "bends" in the road, and I have been blessed with outstanding mentors and opportunities that God has provided to help prepare me for the work that He has called me to do. In the same way, I encourage students that the vocational roads they travel will hold many wonderful surprises, people, and opportunities, as God leads and prepares them on their own vocational journeys.

At Messiah, we are grateful for the opportunity to share in the journeys of your daughters and sons, and we thank you for your partnership role. To the parents of seniors, I look forward to seeing you and your families at Commencement, and I hope that you will continue to remain connected to our Messiah family. To the parents of returning students, I look forward to meeting with you on campus in the fall, particularly as we celebrate inauguration festivities together during Homecoming Weekend. I am truly blessed to serve a community like Messiah College; may we all seek to travel a common journey to be vessels of God's grace to others.

Sincerely,

Kim S. Phipps
President

From the President

Dear Messiah Parents:

At this time of year, most students are focused on typical "end-of-the-semester" tasks ... studying for final exams, completing papers and class projects, and packing to move for the summer. Seniors—in addition to all these tasks—are also contemplating Commencement and their pending entry into the next phase of life. Commencement is an annual celebration in our college community life that eloquently expresses how Messiah's mission is fulfilled by the hundreds of graduates who annually leave this place to make a "real world" difference in the Church and society.

Messiah College seeks to prepare students to be critical thinkers who are proficient in their disciplines, mature in their Christian faith, and called to be servants, leaders, reconcilers, and persons of influence. As I frequently interact with your daughters and sons, I am constantly reminded of the hope and promise that they embody for all of us. Their inquisitive intellects, hearts for service, passion for social justice, and their desire to live for Christ consistently encourage me about the future of our families, communities, schools, churches, and our world.

Commencement is particularly a time when seniors reflect on their

Parents

Progress

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Parents Progress is published by the Messiah College Advancement Division in cooperation with the Messiah College Parents Council.

Purpose Statement: *Parents Progress* exists to help promote strong parent connections with Messiah College by providing accurate news and information on issues of interest to parents of Messiah College students.

Any questions or feedback regarding this publication may be directed to Suzanne C. Miller, Office of Public Relations, Messiah College, Box 3020, Grantham, PA 17027

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worship leader for the Liturgical Worship Elective Chapel, she has learned a lot in order to coordinate the chapels.

"This role stretches me and gives me a greater appreciation for high church traditions," Stallings said.

Students also have an opportunity to initiate an alternative chapel, a forum for exploring how faith intersects with various topics, issues, and disciplines.

To continually assess and improve chapel services, the chapel planning team from the College Ministries Office works closely with a group of students who gauge the effectiveness of each chapel and share their reflections at a monthly meeting. The planning team also relies on work-study students to offer administrative assistance and to set up or tear down worship space.

In addition, students provide music for services, lead or coordinate Elective Chapel, and help make decisions about worship format. "They send me a pattern of worship for chapel services, and I come back with a whole host of questions," Curry said. "Is this Scripture verse out of context? What does this song say about our theology?"

"This role has not allowed me to have a removed theology about worship, but has

caused me to think about how to apply what I learn," said senior music education major Joel Ross, the student leader for the Kairos Elective Chapel.

The staff encourages students to develop and grow, not only as corporate worship leaders, but also personally, by pursuing spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, Bible study, fasting, solitude, and Sabbath rest, Curry said.

"Students are looking for answers, but they also need time to contemplate with simple melodies and silence, and to be in the presence of God," Telfer said.

The planning team also consistently emphasizes unifying elements: the College's Statement of Faith, the Apostles' Creed, corporate worship, Scripture, Christ-centered faith, service, and reconciliation.

Through the chapel program, the College hopes students learn not only how to articulate what they believe, but also how to live out their faith.

"If you don't demonstrate in your life what you've done in chapel, then it's useless," Curry said. "There needs to be transformation.

"We don't expect our graduates to leave college knowing all there is to know,"

Curry continued. "We give a window so that, no matter where they go, they can express faith with love and see God as they never have before."

Students' top ten worship songs

In a recent poll by the College Ministries staff, students selected the following as "most meaningful worship songs:"

Be Thou My Vision
Days of Elijah
God of Wonders
I Can Only Imagine
Better is One Day
Here I Am to Worship
It is Well With My Soul
Amazing Grace

Agnus Dei (Michael W. Smith version)
Shout to the Lord

Author and journalist to give 2005 commencement address



Author and journalist Juan Williams will address Messiah's Class of 2005 on May 14.

On Saturday, May 14, Messiah College will hold its 2005 graduation ceremony at 10 a.m. at the Starry Athletic Complex. The outdoor ceremony, a popular tradition started six years ago, enables graduates to invite an unlimited number of guests,

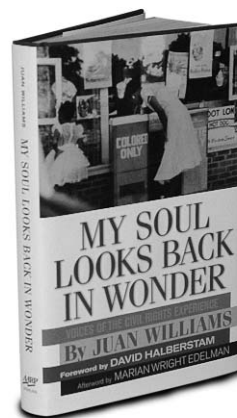
eliminating the need for tickets.

Author and national political correspondent, Juan Williams, will present the 2005 commencement address. One of America's leading political writers and thinkers, Williams has authored three books on the role of Christians and the Church in the Civil Rights movement and on issues related to social justice and race and reconciliation. His books include, "Eyes on the Prize," his most recent "My Soul Looks Back in Wonder," and a biography on African-American Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Williams is also known for his role as the senior correspondent for National Public Radio, political analyst for FOX News Channel, and a former prize-winning columnist and editorial writer for *The Washington Post*.

Williams' understanding of American history and his inside access to Washington politics gives him a unique and informed voice as an analyst of current events. As a senior correspondent for NPR's *Morning*

Edition and host of *America's Black Forum*, a nationally syndicated weekly news program, Williams is at the cutting edge of America's culture and politics.



For more information about the 2005 commencement ceremonies, visit <http://www.messiah.edu/commencement/>.

Historian and author David McCullough gives keynote address at 2005 Humanities Symposium

Although more than six inches of snow fell in the Grantham area on Feb. 24, more than 600 people attended author David McCullough's keynote address during the 2005 Spring Humanities Symposium at Messiah College. Sponsored by the Center for Public Humanities, the theme of this year's symposium explored "E Pluribus Unum or The Two Americas?" The opening reception was held on Feb. 21 with opening remarks from the college's Dean of the School of Humanities, Joseph Huffman, and it concluded Feb. 25.

Twice a Pulitzer Prize-winner for his books *Truman* and *John Adams*, McCullough emphasized how important it is to put current events into the context of history. He reminded listeners that America has been divided in the past and has gone through trying experiences similar to what occurs today.

With many students in attendance, McCullough gave encouraging words about the importance of education—both in and out of the classroom—and informed the audience that some important historians were young when they made their mark in the world. Thomas Jefferson was 33 years old when he drafted and later signed the Declaration of Independence and Benjamin Rush, physician and delegate for Philadelphia in 1776, was 31 years old when he signed the famous document.

In addition to two Pulitzer Prizes and two National Book Awards, McCullough has also received the prestigious Francis Parkman Prize twice. For his work overall, he has been honored by the National Book Foundation Distinguished Contribution



Following his keynote address during the 2005 Spring Humanities Symposium, David McCullough (right) signed books for students, faculty, staff, and community guests.

to American Letters Award, the National Humanities Medal, the St. Louis Literary Award, the Carl Sandburg Award, and the New York Public Library's Literary Lion Award.

His other books include, *The Johnstown Flood*, *The Great Bridge*, *The Path Between the Seas*, *Mornings on Horseback*, and *Brave Companions*. As may be said of few writers, none of his books has ever been out of print.

Other events in this year's Humanities Symposium included a roundtable discussion on Samuel Huntington's *Who Are We? The Challenges to America's National Identity*, led by Dean Curry, professor of politics, and another roundtable discussion on Morris Fiorina's *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America*, led by Robin

Lauermann, assistant professor of politics, and Kenneth Eshleman, associate professor of politics.

During a student colloquium, the Messiah College Democrat and Republican clubs explored the topic, "Moderation vs. Polarization in Contemporary America." The Symposium ended Feb. 25 with a plenary session on McCullough's keynote address, with panelists: Susanna Caroselli, professor of art history; John Fea, assistant professor of American history; John Harles, professor of politics; and Kate Quimby, senior lecturer in humanities.

To learn more about the Center for Public Humanities at Messiah College, visit <http://www.messiah.edu/schools/humanities/center/>

Messiah launches popular culture website



The Student Affairs Division, the Office of the Provost, and the Advancement Division are pleased to announce a new web page on the College's website explaining Messiah's "Engagement of Popular Culture." The College has created this website to build awareness and understanding about its educational approach to helping students learn to engage popular culture as Christians. In a question and answer section, the College addresses several of the key questions it hears frequently about this topic by students, parents, alumni and others. We invite you to view and give feedback about the new website at http://www.messiah.edu/offices/student_affairs/pop_culture/.

Messiah students volunteer with Habitat for Humanity



David Enders '06, of Corning, N.Y., worked on the second floor while Francisco Fernandez '06, of Martinsville, Va., helped on the first floor of the house they were building for a family in Newburgh, N.Y., during spring break.

During spring break, 10 Messiah College students traded in their bathing suits for work gloves by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Newburgh in New York.

These students not only spent the week working to support Habitat's mission of eliminating poverty housing, but they also raised more than \$1,100 for the organization.

Between March 7 and 11, the students worked alongside regular Habitat volunteers as well as the future homeowners of the houses they were building.

The 10 students were Sheila Allebach '05, of Souderton, Pa.; Farrah Amin '07, of Cresskill, N.J.; Jonathan Desmarais '07, of Hooksett, N.H.; David Enders '06, of Corning, N.Y.; Francisco Fernandez '06, of Martinsville, Va.; Stephanie Nitschke '08, of National Park, N.J.; Melinda Raynor '07, of Hamilton, N.J.; Angelina Shannon '05, of Dillsburg, Pa.; Lenora Wright '07, of Harrisonburg, Va.; and Matthew Wright '05, also of Harrisonburg, Va. Each day, they worked industriously from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00

p.m. to make a lasting impression on the housing crisis in the City of Newburgh, N.Y. The students stayed at local schools and churches.

Their efforts are part of Habitat for Humanity's Collegiate Challenge, a year-round program coordinated through Habitat for Humanity International in Americus, Ga. This year alone, 11,000 college and high school students will work on Habitat houses across the country during their spring breaks. In addition, these students have raised more than \$1,000,000 for the 237 affiliates participating in the program.

At Messiah College, the group serving with Habitat for Humanity in Newburgh, N.Y., was one of 10 national spring break service projects organized by the College this year, said Greg Anderson, national and international service and missions director at Messiah. In addition, a group went to Northern Ireland for a service project and this year students also went to Belize for the first time during spring break. In total, 123 students participated in College-organized service projects this year.

Introducing the new Parents Council members . . .

Chris & Heidi Bingaman, of Kreamer, Pa., are the parents of senior communications major Emily Bingaman and first-year communications and journalism major Lindsey Bingaman. Chris works as a corporate officer for Bingaman & Son Lumber, Inc., and Heidi is a homemaker. They attend Winfield Baptist Church.

Bruce & Christine Coners, of Garden City, N.Y., are the parents of first-year student Ryan Coners. Bruce is the owner of Bruce A. Coners Home Remodeling and Christine works as a homemaker and part-time tutor in special education. They attend New Hyde Park Baptist Church.

Sharon Eshleman, of Mountaintop, Pa., is the mother of first-year engineering major Scott Eshleman. Sharon is a bank branch supervisor for PennStar Bank and attends a Baptist church.

Rohan & Joy Hepkins, of Yeadon, Pa., are the parents of junior Naomi Hepkins and first-year student Rachel Hepkins. Rohan is pastor of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd and Joy works as a registered nurse at Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital. They attend the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Don & Karen Holtzman, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., are the parents of first-year student Todd Holtzman. Don is computer systems analyst at Highmark and Karen is a customer service representative at BookSpan. They attend Shepherdstown United Methodist Church.

For more information about the Parents Council and to see a complete list of members, visit the Parents Council section of the online Parents Handbook at <http://www.messiah.edu/parents/handbook/>.

Meet the challenge for student missions

One year after the launch of the Messiah College Parents Council Challenge to support the Student Mission Endowment Fund (SMEF), fundraising has reached more than \$4,000. Currently, donations to the SMEF will be matched dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000, as part of the Parents Council Challenge.

The SMEF was established in 1997 by the Parents Council to provide financial assistance to deserving Messiah students who desire to participate in mission projects. This challenge is offered as a way for you to share in the Parents Council's commitment of providing students with opportunities to deepen their faith while using their education to impact global communities.

If you would like to participate in the Parents Council Challenge, please send your check to the Messiah College Development Office, One College Avenue, Box 3013, Grantham, PA 17027 or for more information contact Michelle Blackford by e-mail at mblackfo@messiah.edu or by phone at (717) 796-1800, ext. 2494.

Parents

April 2005 *Progress*



REFER A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT

As someone who knows the Messiah Experience, you can help us identify bright and promising high school students who will benefit from Messiah's mission. If you'd like to have us send information to someone you know, please complete the form found on the front page of www.messiah.edu under "refer a student."



WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Parents Progress exists to provide information on issues relevant to you as parents. Let us know what topics you would like to know more about: academics? Spiritual matters? Parent-to-parent advice? Athletics? Personal profiles of students, faculty, or parents? We want to know! Please give us your feedback and let us know what you'd like to read in this publication. E-mail progress@messiah.edu with your thoughts and suggestions.

Prayer and Praise Items

Praise Items

- Praise God for the service trips that took place during Spring Break.
- Praise God for our new associate dean for multicultural programs, Lawrence Burnley.

Prayer Requests

- Continue to pray for wisdom, discernment, and God's direction as the college pastor search committee makes a final decision.
- Pray for the commencement ceremony on May 14 and for our 2005 graduates as they adjust to life after college.
- Pray for students and faculty going abroad on cross-cultural trips this May.
- Pray for summer mission teams as they prepare for their upcoming trips.