

The Kelly Miller Smith Institute
on Black Church Studies in Religion,
Vanderbilt Divinity School

and the

African American Pulpit Journal

presents



African American
Lectionary Project Homiletics Symposium:

STRENGTHENING BLACK FAMILIES

An Agenda for Sound Homiletics in Black Preaching

Symposium Schedule

Wednesday, October 15

7:30 pm **Worship Celebration: Divine Love and Justice for Black Families**
Rev. Dr. Teresa Fry-Brown, Homiletics Professor and Director of Black Church Studies, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
[Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church](#)

Thursday, October 16

9:30 am **Opening Statements**
Forrest E. Harris Sr., Director of the Kelly Miller Smith Institute Martha Simmons, African American Lectionary Online Lectionary
[Vanderbilt Divinity School Divinity](#)

9:30 – 10:30 am **Plenary Session Ethical Methods in Homiletics**
Stacey Floyd-Thomas,
Professor of Christian Ethics, Vanderbilt Divinity School
[Vanderbilt Divinity School Divinity](#)

11:00 – 12:00 noon **Plenary Session**
Historical Perspective of Social Crisis Preaching
Juan Floyd-Thomas, Professor of Church History,
[Vanderbilt Divinity School Divinity](#)

12:30– 1:45 pm **Luncheon Luncheon Speaker**
Brad Braxton,
Senior Minister, Riverside Church, New York, NY

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Break Out Discussion Groups**

Homiletics for Spirituality in African American Families
Tellis Chapman,
Galilee Baptist Church, Detroit, MI

Homiletics for Sound Economics in African American Families
Delman Coates, Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, Clinton, MD

Homiletics for Sound Health and Sexuality in African American Families
Dennis and Christine Wiley,
Covenant Baptist Church, Washington, DC

Friday, October 17

9:30 am **Laying the Ground for a National Forum on “Strengthening the Black Family: An Agenda for Homiletics in Black Preaching”**
Forrest E. Harris Sr.,
Director of the Kelly Miller Smith Institute
[Vanderbilt Divinity School All Faith Chapel](#)

Consultation Rationale

This symposium on “Strengthening the Black Family: An Agenda for Sound Homiletics in Black Preaching” is a collaborative project between the African American Pulpit Journal and Vanderbilt’s Kelly Miller Smith Institute on the Black Church. This project is supported by a three-year grant from the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment, Inc. for the development of a non-denominational, culturally and theologically relevant online lectionary designed to resource black protestant churches in areas of homiletics, liturgies, sacred music, theological knowledge and enhance biblical exegetical skills for social crisis preaching. The first online lectionary for the African American pulpit was launched January 1, 2008. Since its website appearance, the response to the African American lectionary has increasingly gained national and global interest.

This symposium is the first of several that brings together homiletic scholars and church leaders to create a network for interactive engagement and dialogue between homiletics scholars in the academy with black pastors to inspire a prophetic discourse in black preaching.

One of the most difficult issues facing black preaching is the social breakdown of traditional African American families. Thus the goal of this symposium is:

- To initiate theological dialogue on the role of prophetic homiletics in addressing social crisis impacting African American families.
- To assist pastors in their role as preacher/pastor/theologian and social justice advocate for empowering African American families.
- To lay the ground work for the planning of a larger national forum on the same symposium theme, “Strengthening the Black Family” An Agenda for Sound Homiletics in Black Preaching.

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

Conference Locations

Vanderbilt Divinity School
411 21st Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37240

Fifteenth Avenue Baptist
1203 Ninth Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37208

Paid parking will be available in the Wesley Parking Garage located at 2040 Scarrit Place (across from the Divinity School).

For more information contact:
(615) 936-8453
Kelly Miller Smith Institute

The conference is **free** and open to the public

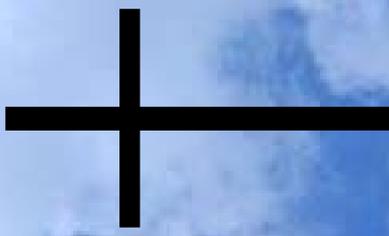
October 15 - 17, 2008

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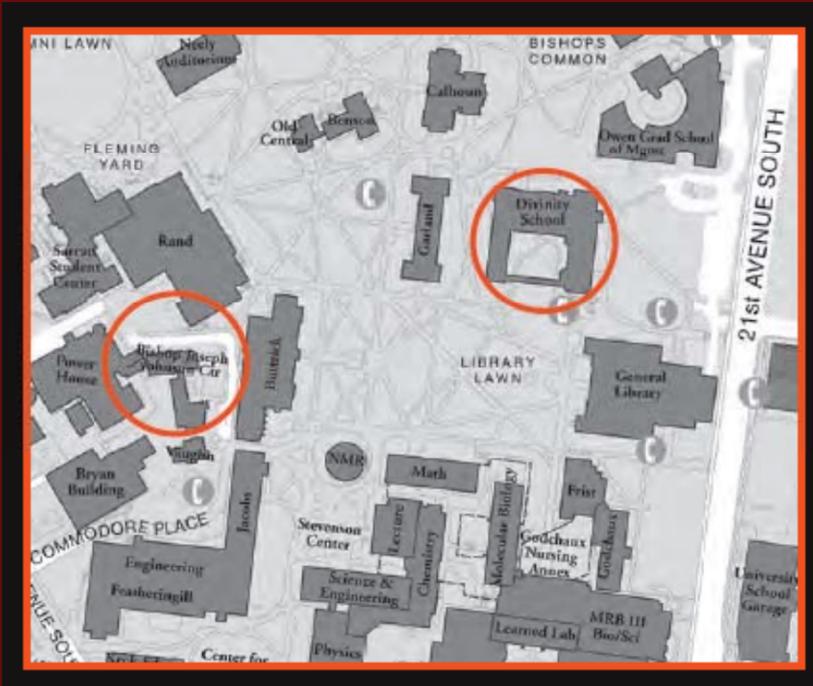
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