

Phil Hutchings



The Church
for the Fellowship
of All Peoples



Rev. Deborah Lee



Pope Flyne



Vukani Mawethu Choir

74th Church Anniversary &
23rd Howard Thurman Convocation

Sunday Oct 21, 2018
3:00pm

2041 Larkin Street • San Francisco 94109

Recognizing
**Rev. Deborah Lee &
Phil Hutchings**

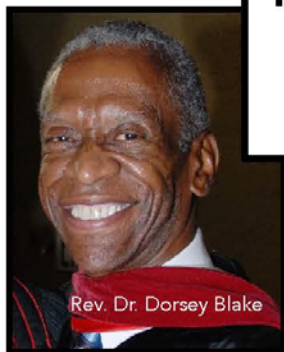
for their dedication to
immigrant and multiracial justice
in a panel discussion on

**"Racism, Immigration and
Collective Liberation"**

Featuring music by
master drummer
Pope Flyne,
the beloved
Vukani Mawethu Choir
& Fellowship's
Director of Music
Dr. Carl Blake



Rev. Dr. Kathryn Benton



Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake



Dr. Carl Blake

For directions and parking: fellowshipsf.org
(415) 776-4910 • info@fellowshipsf.org

Dear Members and friends of “the fellowship:”

We are pleased to greet you on this marvelous day. We feel enhanced by your presence today in celebration of the Seventy-Fourth Anniversary of The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples and our Twenty-Third Howard Thurman Convocation.

We were an experiment! A vanguard of religious people from various backgrounds raised a profound question more than Seventy-Four years ago. Could profound worship experiences over a significant duration of time actually remove walls of separation and “othering?” Could diverse children of the universe find a sense of common ground, unity, mutual respect and celebration? Such a body had never existed during a long history of thoroughly entrenched segregation permeating the laws and mores of our society. A seed was planted!

We applaud the lives and work of our two awardees today, Rev. Deborah Lee and Phil Hutchings. They have consistently and persistently exemplified the search for common ground in the larger society with the marginalized and excluded, those crushed by systemic power.

After Seventy-four years, what began as an experiment is no longer an experiment. Through many trials and some errors, we have verified that it is true! It works! We are proof, each one of us here, that we are indeed sisters and brothers, that what affects each of us affects all of us, that we are not only intimations and installations of Divine creation but celestial kinfolk. The seed has come to fruition.

Some researchers suggest that old age begins at Seventy-Four. There is nothing wrong with being old. It should be celebrated! The challenge is to remain festive in our living. We must not grow stale. We must not become merely satisfied with yesteryear or routinize today.

Just as Fellowship Church’s visionary leaders ventured into unknown territory in human, societal and religious relations, we at Seventy-Four must evoke a “Yes, we can and must” attitude today with passion and conviction to overcome the challenges pressing against what we have learned and embody.

Dr. Thurman wrote: *“The hard thing when you get old is to keep your horizons open. The first part of your life everything is in front of you, all your potential and promise. But over the years, you make decisions; you carve yourself into a given shape. Then the challenge is to keep discovering the green growing edge.”*

Imagination, wonder and amazement are necessary for this newness, this green growing edge. We invite each of you, everyone gathered in this place to lift our eyes, hearts, and minds beyond the ordinary, commonplace, and mundane. Come along with us as we make room for newness, the unborn and open ourselves to carrying harvested seeds into a beautiful, borderless future.

Trusting life,

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Lloyd Benton, Co-Minister
Rev. Dr. Dorsey Odell Blake, Presiding Minister

BIOGRAPHIES

Phil Hutchings is a social justice advocate from 1960 working with the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee and then the Oakland Black Alliance for Just Immigration, Causa Justa and as a co-founder of the Institute for Multiracial Justice. His Buddhist practice at East Bay Meditation Center complements his political work.

Rev. Deborah Lee is the Director of Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights a program of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. Since 1993, the Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights has been a faithful voice, accompanying and advocating for the full participation and dignity of immigrants.

Deborah has worked at the intersection of faith and social justice for over 25 years as an educator and organizer on issues of race, gender, a just economy, anti-militarism and immigration. Her work has consistently bridged different ethnic communities, generations, and geographies in creative and transformational processes. She is a mother, married to popular educator **Michael James**, and an ordained minister with the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Deborah was **cited by the Center for American Progress's Faith and Progressive Policy Initiative** as one of 13 innovative progressive faith leaders and activists to watch in 2013.

Deborah has been a part of the founding and development of numerous organizations, such as Women for Genuine Security and the Network for Religion and Justice for API-LGBTQ people. From 2000-2009, she was the Program Director of PANA, the Institute for Leadership Development and Study of Pacific Asian North American Religion, at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, through which she co-developed and co-led the PANA Pilgrimages to Manzanar and the Sacramento River Delta. More recently she has been helped shape the Pilgrimage to Angel Island and Pilgrimages in Oakland, and the Root Causes to Migration Pilgrimage to Honduras and Guatemala.

She is also involved with the International Women's Network Against Militarism which seeks to hold the U.S. government accountable for the violence, sexual exploitation, economic and environmental effects of U.S. militarism in the many countries which host U.S. bases. Related to this work, she co-produced with Gwyn Kirk and Lina Hoshino, the documentary, **Along the Fenceline: Women Resisting Militarism and Creating a Culture of Life**, released in 2012, a Female Eye Film Festival Award winner and official selection at the Guam International Film Festival.

Vukani Mawethu Choir is a nonprofit multiracial choir which sings the freedom songs of Southern Africa, primarily of South Africa in Zulu, Xhosa, Sotho, and English, as well as spirituals, gospel, labor and civil rights songs linking peoples in the U.S., South Africa, and around the world. Formed in 1986 by the late great James Madhlope Phillips, an ANC union and cultural organizer, the choir is united by its strong opposition to racism and apartheid and love of the rhythms and melodies which gave grown out of century-long struggles for freedom.

Pope Flyne is a master drummer and performer/composer/educator from Ghana. He is best known as lead vocalist for the legendary Sweet Talks band of Ghana where he helped bring the art of highlife music to new heights. When not on stage, he shares his joyful spirit and vast knowledge of African folk music, dancing and percussion instruments with a vast number of American students.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude	Medley of African American Spirituals	Dr. Carl Blake
Call to Assembly		Pope Flyne
Opening Music	"I Wish I Knew How"	Congregation
Invocation		Dr. Kathryn Benton
Welcome & Acknowledgements		Bryan Caston
Music		Vukani Mawethu Choir
Introduction of Speaker		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Speakers		Phil Hutchings and Rev. Deborah Lee
Offertory		Courtney Brown Ushers & Congregation
Offertory Music	"We've Come This Far by Faith"	Dr. Carl Blake
Music		Vukani Mawethu Choir
Presentation of Awards to:		Phil Hutchings and Rev. Deborah Lee Brenda Reinertson, Steve Leeds
Remarks		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Sending Forth Music	"Lover Will Guide Us"	Congregation
Blessing		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Postlude	"Part In Peace" (Traditional)	Dr. Carl Blake

SONGS

"I Wish I Knew How"

I wish I know how it would feel to be free.
I wish I could break all these chains holding me.
I wish I could say all the things I could say,
Say 'em loud, say 'em clear for the whole world to hear.
Say 'em loud, say 'em clear for the whole world to hear.

I wish I could share all the love in my heart,
Remove all the bars that still keep us apart.
I wish you could know what it means to be me,
Then you'd see and agree everyone should be free.
Then you'd see and agree everyone should be free.

I wish I could give all I'm longing to give.
I wish I could live like I'm longing to live.
I wish I could do all the things I can do,
Though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.
Though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.

I wish I could be like a bird in the sky. How sweet it would be if I found I could fly.
I'd soar to the sun and look down at the sea, then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.
Then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.

"We've Come This Far by Faith"

(Refrain) We have come this far by faith,
Leaning on the Lord;
Trusting in His holy word,
He's never failed me yet.
Oh, can't turn around,
We come this far by faith.

(Verse 1) Don't be discouraged when trouble's in your life,
He'll bear you burdens and move all misery and strife.
That's why we've ...

(Verse 2) Just the other day I heard someone say
He didn't believe in God's word;
But I can truly say that God had made a way.
And he's never failed me yet.
That's why we've ...

"Love Will Guide Us"

Love will guide us, Peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

If you cannot sing like angels,
if you cannot speak before thousands,
you can give from deep within you.
You can change the world with your love.

Love will guide us, peace has tried us,
hope inside us will lead the way
on the road from greed to giving.
Love will guide us through the hard night.

THE CHURCH FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALL PEOPLES

Upcoming Events –

Date	Event
10/28/2018	9:30 AM – Engaged Spirituality Discussion Group Book: <u>Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community</u> by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Chapter 3: <u>Racism and the White Backlash</u>
11/04/2018	12:45 PM – Fellowship Church Theater Guild Performance by Peter Fitzsimmons and Felix Justice A conversation between (and excerpts for speeches) Barack Obama and Abraham Lincoln
11/11/2018	12:45 PM – Social Justice Film Focus on PTSD of US Military Veterans.
11/18/2018	11 AM – Service Transgender Day of Remembrance Service Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. Additionally, during the week of November 14-20, individuals and organizations around the country participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise the visibility of transgender and gender non-conforming people and address the issues these communities face.
12/14/2018	7 PM – Comedy Roast of Ethics in Tech The Internet Archive, 300 Funston Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118 Several comedians, including Will Durst, will discuss the ethics or the lack there of in the technology industry.
12/23/2018	11 AM – Service Annual Christmas Program – The Mood of Christmas A Special Christmas Service of music and readings from Dr. Thurman’s book, The Mood of Christmas - Dr. Carl Blake, Director of Music. The mood of Christmas – what is it? It is a quickening of the presence of other human beings into whose lives a precious part of one’s own has been released. It is a memory of others days when into one’s path an angel appeared spreading a halo over an ordinary moment or a commonplace event. It is an iridescence of sheer delight that bathes one’s whole being with something more wonderful than words can ever tell. Of such is the mood of Christmas.
01/20/2019	11 AM – Service Dr. MLK, Jr. Holiday Guest Speaker: To be determined.

OCTOBER 2019 CONVOCATION/FORUM



*Though I do not believe
That a plant will spring up
Where no seed has been,
I have great faith in a seed.*

*Convince me that you have a seed there,
And I am prepared to expect wonders.*

Henry David Thoreau

Fellowship has extraordinary plans for next year. We will more audaciously move forward to in creating the future that must be. The present corporation dominated system does not work for the majority of the people living in this nation. Yet, it is possible to create a system that does.

The present system continuously entombs values essential to the concept of America – such as, the common good, freedom, equality, integrity, goodwill, democracy – is in hospice without the possibility of being revived. The system’s very legitimacy is being questioned on such a profound level that more and more people and communities are opting to create alternative institutions and systems. There is a rising tide of people willing to participate in developing different ways of organizing life. Cooperatives – financial, food, housing, laundry, are just a few. There have been huge successes such as the Mondragon movement in Spain, alternative governmental priorities in Nordic nations. Our convocation/forum next October will highlight examples of people moving forward to implement alternative ways of being, the Beloved Community as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., described it.

Fellowship Church will bring spiritual centering of openness and newness. In doing so, we shall defy the seeming helpless in the world. Dr. Howard Thurman wrote: *“The movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of men [people] often calls them to act against the spirit of their times or causes them to anticipate a spirit which is yet in the making. In a moment of dedication, they are given wisdom and courage to dare a deed that challenges and to kindle a hope that inspires.”*

We have examples. The early Christian community was a counter-culture, or more precisely an underground counter-culture. The reason it was so ruthlessly persecuted was because the dominant powers perceived it as a basically dysfunctional and subversive social reality. The values it wanted to realize and live out implied in the long run the abolition of the very foundations and legitimacy of the Roman Empire (Rubem Alves).

It was an intention community.

The freedom movements of our time also presented alternative ways of being that threatened to nullify and void the prevailing system.

We plan to live with such trust, vision and hope, with such a dream in our hearts that as Mrs. Sue Bailey Thurman said: *“There shall be no past greater than our future.”*

The Commitment

I affirm my need for a growing understanding of all peoples as children of God, and I seek after a vital experience of God as revealed in Jesus of Nazareth and other great religious spirits whose fellowship with God was the foundation of their fellowship with all people.

I desire to share in the spiritual growth and ethical awareness of people of varied national, cultural, racial, and creedal heritage united in a religious fellowship.

I desire the strength of corporate worship through membership in The Church for The Fellowship of All Peoples, with the imperative of personal dedication to the working out of God's purposes here and in all places.

The Membership

The membership of the Church is open to any person who is willing to accept its commitment, to participate in its programs, and to share in its responsibilities.

Rev. Dr. Dorsey O. Blake

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Kathryn L. Benton

Co-Minister

Rev. Elizabeth Olson

Rev. Suzi Spangenberg

Rev. Elena Rose Vera

Ministers-at-Large

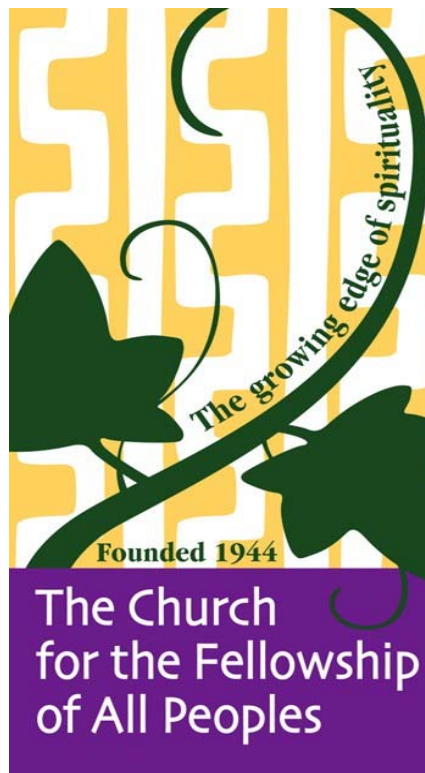
Dr. Carl Blake

Director of Music

Founding Ministers

Dr. Howard Thurman

Dr. Alfred Fisk



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Brenda Reinertson, Secretary

Rev. Elena Rose Vera