

THE CHURCH FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALL PEOPLES
Sixth Annual Howard Thurman Convocation

The Death Penalty: Critical Issue for our Times

Discussion and
presentation of the Howard Thurman Award to

Danny Glover

and

Rhodessa Jones

Sunday, October 21, 2001 2 p.m

2041 Larkin Street near Broadway
San Francisco, California 94109
(415) 776-4910

Dear Members and Friends:

Welcome to the Sixth Annual Howard Thurman Convocation. This year's theme, *The Death Penalty: A Critical Question for Our Time*, is certainly a challenging and provocative one. We are gathered here today to reflect more deeply and intentionally upon this spiritual issue. Capital punishment compels us to think about the meaning of life and death, the purpose of existence, and the quality of our communal living. Each Sunday at Fellowship Church we recite: "I affirm my need for a growing understanding of all peoples as children of God." The death penalty raises the profoundly ethical question of our individual as well as corporate relationship to those children of God executed in our names. It should be noted that the United States is the only western democratic country still carrying out executions.

The convocation is held in honor of Dr. Howard Thurman, co-founding pastor. Dr. Thurman was selected by Life magazine in 1953 as one of the twelve most influential clergy in the United States. Dr. Lerone Bennett of Ebony magazine and many others consider him a Twentieth Century holy man. His life was devoted to the search for common ground and the embodiment of the oneness of life despite socially imposed barriers that appeared to undercut that unity. Dr. Thurman believed we have responsibility for putting at the disposal of our sisters and brothers resources that nurture their potential as revelations of the Creator of Life. He would embrace restorative rather than retributive measures for that who have committed offenses.

Actor/Activist Danny Glover, Actress Rhodessa Jones and Congresswoman Barbara Lee are this year's recipients of the Howard Thurman Award. Their lives exemplify commitment to these high ideals. The fact that Mr. Glover and Ms. Jones are donating their services today is indicative of their consistent sacrificing for the sake of a better world. Several other participants are also donating their services today. Due to responsibilities in Washington, Congresswoman Barbara Lee is unable to attend today and will receive her award, November 18 (Dr. Thurman's birthday), during the 11:00 am worship service.

It is my prayer that you will be richly rewarded and ennobled through your attendance today. Your presence is a great blessing to me.

Questing for Authentic Community,

Dorsey Odell Blake, Minister

The Sixth Howard Thurman Convocation
October 21, 2001
The Death Penalty: Critical Issue in Our Time

Prelude	Lawrence Sumpter
Invocation	Rev. Perry Lang and Abu Qidar Al-Amin
Welcome	Dr. Dorsey Blake
"Now Let Us Sing"	Congregation led by Johnny Land
Poetry	Noah Griffin
Presentation of Howard Thurman Award to this year's recipients: Danny Glover & Rhodessa Jones	Dr. Glenn Nance, Gayle Orr-Smith and Myrtie Walker
Meditation	Felix Justice
Thoughts on a Critical Issue	Robert Bryan Abu Qadir Al-Amin
Engulfed Cathedral" by Debussy	Dr. Carl Blake
Thoughts on a Critical Issue	Rhodessa Jones Danny Glover
"One More Step"	Congregation led by Johnny Land
What is Fellowship Church?	Katherine Joelli and Gwen Mazur
"Once to Every Soul and Nation"	Congregation led by Johnny Land
Postlude	Dr. Carl Blake

Please visit the art in the sanctuary before and after the program.

Paintings are by artists on death row:

Stephen K. Ainsworth, Celeste Carrington, Kevin Cooper, Bernard Hamilton

Sculpture is by Lorraine Bonner

Danny Glover: recipient of the Howard Thurman Award

A native of San Francisco, Danny Glover attended San Francisco State University and trained at the Black Actor's Workshop of the American Conservatory. He appeared in numerous stage productions, including the *Island* and *MacBeth* at the Los Angeles Actors' Theater and *Sizwe Banzi is Dead* at the Eureka Theatre. However, it was Glover's performance in the New York production of Athol Fugard's *Master Harold and the Boys*, that brought the actor national recognition.

His film credits include: *Places in the Heart*, *Witness*, *Silverado*, *The Color Purple*, *The Lethal Weapon* series, *Bat-21*, *Grand Canyon*, *To Sleep with Anger*, *Angels in the Outfield*, *The Saint of Fort Washington*, *Beloved*, and *Boseman and Lena*. He received an NAACP Image Award as well as an ACE Award for his performance in HBO's production of *Mandela*. Glover received Emmy nominations for Best Supporting Actor for his roles in the television series *Lonesome Dove*, and for Turner Network Television's *Freedom Song*.

In 1990, Glover starred in Charles Burnett's award-winning and critically acclaimed, *To Sleep with Anger*, playing a character whose ambivalent conflict between his good and dark sides brings three generations of a contemporary Black family to dangerous crossroads. *To Sleep with Anger* marked Glover's debut as an executive producer. Other films executive produced by Glover include: HBO's *America's Dream* series for Black History Month; the HBO-BBC movie *Deadly Voyage*, based on a true story of eight African stowaways who were slaughtered on the high seas by a Ukrainian freighter crew; TNT's *Buffalo Soldier*, a dramatic story of America's first all-Black cavalry unit; and TNT's *Freedom Song*, a story about the civil rights movement for which he received an Emmy Award nomination for best supporting actor.

Glover hosted and executive produced *Courage*, a one-hour, weekly prime-time series for Fox Family Channel celebrating and profiling real people who have shown courage and bravery in moments of crisis. *Courage* was selected by TV Guide as one of the Top Ten Inspirational Shows on Television for 2000.

In response to the AIDS crisis in Africa, and in order to raise awareness about the impact of the disease on underserved communities in the United States, Glover has extended his tenure as Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program. He is also a major supporter of the TransAfrica Forum, the African-American lobbying organization on Africa and the Caribbean, and the Algebra Project, a math empowerment program developed by civil rights veteran Bob Moses.

Rhodessa Jones: recipient of the Howard Thurman Award

Rhodessa Jones is Co-Artistic Director of the San Francisco performance company Cultural Odyssey, and is also an actress, dancer, teacher, singer and writer. Ms. Jones recently starred in the award winning hit play, *The Vagina Monologues* produced by Theater on the Square. Her 2001 film collaboration *We Just Be Telling Stories* won "Best Documentary" at the San Francisco Black Film Festival. The film profiles Ms. Jones and her work with the *Medea Project Theater for Incarcerated Women* in the San Francisco County jails. She is Director and founder of the project, which is a performance workshop designed to achieve personal and social transformation with incarcerated women. Ms. Jones offers a new model for rehabilitation which has developed into an arts education and recovery curriculum utilizing performance. She demonstrates this model in collaboration with the San Francisco Sheriff's Department, the Office of the District Attorney, and community rehabilitation centers.

Rhodessa Jones was awarded a Bay Area Critics Special Award for her work with The Medea Project. She has been awarded the San Francisco Foundation Community Leadership Award, the Working Woman of the Year award by the Working Women's Theater Festival, the AUDELCO Board of Director's Award, the 1999 Sister Circle Book Award. The Black Theatre Network presented Ms. Jones with the President's Pathfinder Award. Ms. Jones' *Big Butt Girls, Hard Headed Women* won a "Bessie" the New York Dance and Performance Award. Her collaboration with Bill T. Jones and Idris Ackamoor, *Perfect Courage* received the Dance Bay Area's 1991 "Izzie" Award for Outstanding Achievement in Performance.

Ms. Jones has been a featured teacher at LaMama Umbria, an international theater training workshop in Italy hosted by LaMama ETC of New York. She has taught as Visiting Professor at the University of California at Berkeley, as Resident Instructor at New World Theater in Amherst, Massachusetts and as a resident at the Getty Research Institute, and as an Artistic Resident at Yale School of Drama. In 1995 Ms. Jones and Idris Ackamoor taught and created performance workshops for children from Italy, South Africa, the United States and Spain in an international youth festival.

Born in Florida to a migrant laborer family, Rhodessa Jones is a proud grandmother of her daughter's girl child Chaz.

Dr. Howard Thurman

At the time of his death in 1981, Howard Thurman was Dean Emeritus of Marsh Chapel, Boston University, and Chairman of the Board of the Howard Thurman Educational Trust in San Francisco. He also served as Dean of Rankin Chapel, Howard University, Washington, D.C.; as professor at Howard University School of Religion, and as Director of Religious Life at Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, Atlanta. He was Honorary Canon of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, New York City. Together with Dr. Alfred Fisk, Dr. Thurman was a founding pastor of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco, the first interracial, interfaith church in the United States.

Lerone Bennett, Jr. of *Ebony Magazine* described Dr. Howard Thurman as "one of the greatest spiritual resources of the nation. For more than fifty years he leaped across mountain peaks of spirituality offering bridges to men and women who want to walk with ease across the doctrinal and racial chasms that divide us." In 1953 *Life Magazine* named Dr. Thurman one of the outstanding clerics in the United States.

In 1936 Dr. Thurman and his spouse, Sue Bailey Thurman, became the first Black Americans to be received by Mahatma Gandhi. During their discussion about systematic racial oppression, Gandhi predicted it could be through the African American that nonviolence would exert its greatest global impact. This prediction found fulfillment in the unique and prophetic leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who always carried a copy of Dr. Thurman's powerful book, *Jesus and The Disinherited*.

Poet, Mystic, Philosopher and Theologian, Dr. Thurman authored more than twenty books including: *Meditations of the Heart*, *The Inward Journey*, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, *The Centering Moment*, *The Creative Encounter*, *The Search for Common Ground* and *With Head and Heart*, his autobiography.

Many of Dr. Thurman's books are available at The Church for The Fellowship of All People.

Speakers and Performing Artists

Abu Qadir Al-Amin is Imam at the San Francisco Muslim Center. He has worked in the criminal justice system for many years.

Carl Blake is a pianist who has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Russia, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

Dorsey Blake is minister at Fellowship Church and on the faculty at University of Creation Spirituality.

Robert Bryan is a noted attorney who has worked on several death row cases.

Noah Griffin is a member of Fellowship Church and is active as a musician and writer.

Kathryn Joelli is administrative assistant at Fellowship Church and works with the Even Start family literacy project.

Felix Justice is a member of Fellowship Church with a career in drama and film.

Johnny Land is music director at Fellowship Church; he has performed, taught and produced musical productions. This spring he will be producing *In Search of a Legend*, a musical he has written about Josephine Baker.

Perry Lang is assistant minister at Fellowship Church. He recently co-produced the CD *Triumph of the Spirit* with spoken word and music responding to the experience of slavery.

Gwen Mazur is a member of the Board at Fellowship Church and has her own company, Total Image Interior Design.

Glen Nance is Chairperson of the Board at Fellowship Church. He is a professor at San Francisco City College.

Gayle Orr-Smith is a member of the Board at Fellowship Church and is president of Heiress Public Relations.

Lawrence Sumpter is organist. Mr. Sumpter is an alumnus of the Boys Chorus of Harlem in New York City. Mr. Sumpter was organist at the Shrine Sacred Heart Church in Washington D.C. While at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, he was Master Organist for the Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Myrtie Walker is a member of the Board at Fellowship Church and a sculptor.

Artists from Death Row

Kevin Cooper is an artist and inmate on death row at San Quentin Prison, convicted of murdering the Ryen family and a houseguest in San Bernadino county in 1985. Kevin came within five days of execution in 1995 before an appeal was filed. Consider the following facts:

- Josh Ryen, the sole survivor of the 1985 attack has always maintained that three white people killed his family; Josh and his grandmother support Kevin Cooper's defense team.
- clumps of long, blond hair were found in the hands of victims. Kevin Cooper is African-American.
- The police department threw away evidence that might implicate someone other than Kevin Cooper. A pair of bloody coveralls was submitted to the police by a woman claiming that her boyfriend, whom she believed was involved in the murders, had left them at her house. The police disposed of the coveralls in a dumpster, according to records.
- More than one weapon was used in the brutal murders, indicating multiple killers. Prosecutors did not account for this, claiming that Kevin Cooper acted alone.
- A bloody shoeprint on a bed sheet from the murder scene, the brand of which matched a pair of shoes that Kevin Cooper owned, was only discovered after Kevin Cooper was in custody. The shoeprint was not found at the scene but in the crime lab.
- Hostile, racist demonstrations were held near the courthouse after Kevin Cooper was taken into custody.

Kevin Cooper is appealing his case based on the racism, destruction of evidence, lack of DNA testing and inadequate defense counsel. For more information call (510) 835-0558.

The paintings by Stephen K. Ainsworth, Celeste Carrington, Kevin Cooper, Bernard Hamilton is from **Expressions Art Gallery** organized by Rev. Alan Laird and Lorraine Allen-Laird located at 815 Washington Street in Oakland, open Mondays through Saturdays from noon until 8 pm. Expressions Gallery is committed to the local and global community, providing outreach services and opportunities for therapeutic art engagement. The art is means for healing, hope and liberation. For more information about the gallery please call (510) 451-6646.

“The Perpetrator Series” Sculpture by Lorraine Bonner

I have been working in clay for about ten years, mostly independently in my home. In the beginning it was a way of exploring certain intense personal themes, but the exploration has taken me in both an inward and outward direction. The focal point is the concept of perpetration: the act which betrays the trust on which all mutually interdependent life on earth depends.

Some people say we are all perpetrators, simply by participating in the food chain, or by being a part of the system that is raping the planet. Does this mean there is no difference between the mother who takes her children to eat at a McDonalds and the father who molests those children?

How can our government, which supports repressive regimes all over the world, has the world's highest prison population and no rational health care system, call itself a beacon of freedom and democracy? How can so much killing be done in the name of religions whose primary teaching is love?

People are being traumatized next door and across the planet, but the perpetrators are so skilled in denial that it is often hard to see them. When perpetration is denied, we end up thinking our suffering is something we are doing to ourselves. When people are reluctant to use the term "victim," are they participating in the denial of perpetration?

How can we wake up from the trance which enables us to "not notice" these contradictions?

I have only lately come to art as a way of exploring these questions. I have spent most of my life as a scientist, and have been a physician for over twenty years. During much of my medical career I used meditation and guided imagery with patients to discover the roots of their pain and illness. In this work as in my own personal work I began to recognize parallels to the larger world. I have come to realize that the true illness of the human race needs something other than medicine or surgery. I am looking for that something now.

The American Way of Death: Doing the Math

Homicides: US more than 17,000 a year (but rate decreasing over last decade) – California about 2100

Homicide rate (per 100,000 population) per year:

United Kingdom: 3	Washington, DC: 70
States with death penalty average 7.5	
Texas: 12.9	California: 6
San Francisco: 12.5	Los Angeles: 15
States without death penalty average 4.1	

California homicide clearance (arrest and trial) rate about 55-65% since 1980.

US executions: about 16,000 since colonial times (not counting 4600 lynchings)

US most in one year was 199 in 1935. 85% of executions have been in States of former "slave South."

US in year 2000 had total of 85—40 of those in Texas. Number of new death penalty verdicts also decreased.

US death rows: about 3700 prisoners—more than 700 executions since Gary Gilmore in 1977

US average time spent on death row at time of execution: 9.5 years

California death row: more than 580 (includes 12 women), of which
42% white
36% African-American
18% Hispanic
4% other national or racial background

California killers *not* on death row: 2400 prisoners doing life without parole
5600 convicted of first degree murder doing "25 years to life"
8900 convicted of second degree murder doing "15 years to life"

California executions: about 500 since 1852 (including 4 women)
8 executions since 1978
13 suicides and 17 "other causes"

from Eric Moon, American Friends Service Committee

Restorative Justice

Instead of thinking about retribution, we might consider the lessons and experiences of South Africa. In South Africa the apartheid regime tortured and murdered many. When apartheid was overthrown, the country decided not to simply grant a blanket amnesty, nor to hold something like the Nuremberg Trials. Instead, they sponsored the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which required an honest account of the atrocities as a condition for amnesty. Desmond Tutu, retired Archbishop of Cape Town, describes this different effort at "restorative justice" in his book *No Future Without Forgiveness*:

Let us conclude this chapter by pointing out that ultimately this third way of amnesty was consistent with a central feature of the African *Weltsanschauung*—what we know in our languages as *ubuntu*, in the Nguni group of languages, or *botho* in the Sotho languages. What is it that constrained so many to choose to forgive rather than to demand retribution, to be so magnanimous and ready to forgive rather than wreak revenge?

Ubuntu is very difficult to render into a Western language. It speaks of the very essence of being human. When we want to give high praise to someone we say, "*Yu, u nobuntu*"; "Hey, so-and-so has *ubuntu*." Then you are generous, you are hospitable, you are friendly and caring and compassionate. You share what you have. It is to say, "My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in yours." We belong in a bundle of life. We say, "A person is a person through other persons." It is not, "I think therefore I am." It says rather: "I am human because I belong. I participate, I share." A person with *ubuntu* is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed, or treated as if they were less than who they are.

Harmony, friendliness, community are great goods. Social harmony is for us the *summum bonum*—the greatest good. Anything that subverts, that undermines this sought-after good, is to be avoided like the plague. Anger, resentment, lust for revenge, even success through aggressive competitiveness, are corrosive of this good. To forgive is not just to be altruistic. It is the best form of self-interest. What dehumanizes you inexorably dehumanizes me. It gives people resilience, enabling them to survive and emerge still human despite all efforts to dehumanize them.

**Greetings to
Fellowship Church**

Reverend Dr. Percy L. Moore

Black Seminarians at GTU host

Dr. James H. Cone

The Charles A. Briggs Distinguished
Professor of Systematic Theology,
Union Theological Seminary, NY,
speaking on

**“The easy conscience of
America’s Churches”**

October 25 – 7 pm

Graduate Theological Union
Board Room 3rd floor
2400 Ridge Road, Berkeley

The family of Mrs. Ethel Ray Nance

In loving memory of

Mrs. Nance

and Dr. and Mrs. Howard Thurman

offer greetings, support and love to
The Church for the Fellowship of All People
for the Sixth Annual Howard Thurman Convocation

Fellowship Church in the Next Months

You are invited to join us at Fellowship Church every Sunday morning at 11am for services followed by a social hour. Our plans for the coming months include:

- November 4 Celebration of Poetry with Noah Griffith, Leona Sansom, Robin Hudnut, the granddaughter of Robert Frost, and Tom Benét, son of Stephen Vincent Benét
- and at 3:30 pm that day: book signing with Vernon Jordan
- November 12 Guest speaker: Dr. Brenda Wade
- November 19 Celebration of 102nd Anniversary of Howard Thurman's Birthday and launching of Fellowship Church Capital Fund
- November 25 "Love Your Enemies: a Response to 911"
- December 2 Commemorating World AIDS Day
- December 9 Remembering the War Hysteria of 1941
- December 16 "A Time to Hope"
- December 23 Celebration of Christmas
- January 20 Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. with Rhodessa Jones and the Medea Project
- February 2 "Triumph of the Human Spirit" Performance Concert including artists from the CD: featured vocalists Michelle Jordan, BAOMI, Lawrence Beamen and musicians Jacqueline B. Hairston, Jason Williams and Yacine Kouyate, as well as spoken word by Monique LeSarre and narration by Rev. Perry Lang

Vengeance is not the answer.

International Action Center
Working against war, racism and economic injustice
since 1991

(415) 821-6545
2489 Mission #28
San Francisco, CA 94110

www.actionsf.org

University of Creation Spirituality / Naropa University invite you to
Programs at 2141 Broadway, Oakland, and Techno Cosmic Masses at 1933 Broadway, Oakland:

"Sacred Cinema Editing Techniques" with Kevin Peer

A two-day overview of digital editing, narration, and music to turn raw footage into compelling cinema, November 3-4, 10 am-5 pm, tuition: \$175 register: (510) 4886-1480

Techno Cosmic Mass: *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead)

November 4, Sunday, 7-9:30 pm, suggested donation: \$10-\$15

Programs in Creation Spirituality: Information Evening

November 8, Thursday, 6-7:30 pm, free

"A New Way of Thinking about Goddess/God" with Carol P. Christ, PhD.

November 9, Friday, 7-9 pm, suggested donation: \$10-\$15

**"Science & Spirituality in Dialog on Post-Modern Consciousness" with
Matthew Fox, Ph.D. and Peter Russell, PhD.**

November 16, Friday, 7-9 pm, suggested donation: \$10-\$15

Techno Cosmic Mass: Native American Thanksgiving Ritual

November 19, Sunday, 7-9:30 pm, suggested donation \$10-\$15

"Building Community through Art" with Lily Yeh

date to be announced, 7-9 pm

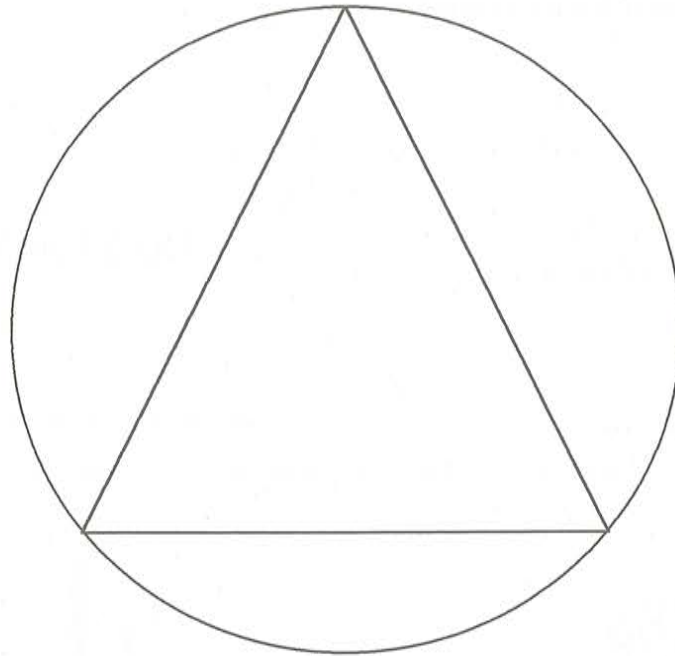
Techno Cosmic Mass: Festival of Lights

December 9, Sunday, 7-9:30 pm, suggested donation \$10-\$15

Programs in Creation Spirituality: Information Evening

December 13, Thursday, 6-7:30 pm, free

One Day at a Time



Meets at Fellowship Church Monday through Thursday 7:30 pm

Congratulations to
Fellowship Church
on its 67th Anniversary
and its Sixth
Howard Thurman Convocation

Robert Reece

In memory of
Robert Leroy Smith,
a dear friend and
a wonderful artist

Dorothy Person



HEIRESS
PUBLIC RELATIONS

J

Congratulations

To The Church For the Fellowship
Of All Peoples

On the 6th Annual

Howard Thurman Convocation

October 21, 2001

Gayle Orr-Smith

President, Heiress Public Relations

Board member, Fellowship Church of All People

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Fellowship Church on your Convocation. JONAL Productions will be sponsoring **In Search of a Legend**—with an original cast of 10 performers and a script written by musical icon Johnny Land. The search is based on the life and times of the theater experiences of Land's mentor and friend—Chanteuse, Humanitarian and Fashion pace-Setter, the phenomenal Josephine Baker! A **display** of original Josephine memorabilia will be featured at each performance. Johnny Land and Friends also looking forward to the release of a **new CD** with such originals as "Oh Hold", "A Time A Place, A Face", "Love is Here", "December Love", "This Life is Yours".



In Search of a Legend

The Great Actor, Felix Justice plays, the writer-sensation, Langston Hughes in Paris—during the month of April 2002, at the Black Repertory Theater in Berkeley (3201 Adeline Avenue—1 block from Ashby BART).

Friday, Saturday at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday Matinee at 3:30 p.m.

Reserved tickets by request:
(510)652-2120

JONAL Productions

Congratulations to Fellowship Church

Rev. Perry Lang
And
Dr. Kenneth Monteiro

In Honor of our Marvelous Parents

**Mrs. Hazel Teen Roberson Blake
Dr. William Louis Blake, Sr.**

who taught us to be compassionate

Dr. Carl Blake
Dr. Dorsey Blake

The AfroSolo Theatre Company

Congratulates

*The Church for the Fellowship
of All Peoples*

on the occasion of its

Sixth Annual

Howard Thurman Convocation!



AfroSolo's mission is to nurture, promote and present the experiences of African Americans through solo performance and the visual arts. August of each year we present the **AfroSolo Arts Festival** (*A celebration of African American Art and Culture*). We have presented such luminaries as actor Ruby Dee, comedian Dick Gregory, Rock Roll Hall of Fame member Mavis Staples, the late jazz and blues legend Charles Brown, gospel singer Emmit Powell and the Gospel Elites, musician Noah Griffin, professor and poet June Jordan in addition to scores of other emerging artists.

For more information visit our web site at www.afrosolo.org or call 415/771-2376.

**Congratulations to Fellowship Church
on its Sixth Annual Convocation**

Bryan Caston, CPA

The Commitment at Fellowship Church

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 men and women 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 purpose here and in all places.

Trinity United Church of Christ

400 West 95th Street • Chicago, Illinois 60628-1120 • Telephone 773-962-5650
Executive Office Fax 773-238-2547 • Church Office Fax 773-962-0164

ASSOCIATE PASTORS
Rev. Pamela L. Fox
Rev. Barbara A. Heard
Rev. John E. Jackson, Sr.
Rev. Michael D. Jacobs

Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Senior Pastor
Rev. Melbalenia D. Evans, Executive Minister

ASSOCIATE PASTORS
Rev. Ann Patton
Dr. Julia Speller
Rev. Michael G. Sykes
Rev. Wanda J. Washington

October 1, 2001

Rev. Dr. Dorsey O. Blake
Pastor
The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples
San Francisco, CA

Dear Dr. Blake:

Grace, Mercy and Peace be unto you and to the members of your historic congregation. We salute you and we thank God for this 6th Annual Howard Thurman Convocation that is being hosted by your congregation.

We salute Danny Glover and Rhodessa Jones as they speak out about the Death Penalty and the issues that it raises concerning justice, compassion and racism! This is a most crucial topic during this "Season of Insanity!"

Our nation is on the brink of an insane course of action. We are about to respond to the terrorism of September 11th and we seem to have lost all reason in the responses that we are about to make.

The topic of your Convocation speaks to this same kind of insanity in a very reasoned manner. We thank you for having the vision and the foresight to address this issue and we praise God for you and your ministry, as we remain

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr.

Pastor Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr.



A Prayer for Peace

OUR FATHER, fresh from the world with the smell of life upon us, we make an act of prayer in the silence of this place. Our minds are troubled because the anxieties of our hearts are deep and searching. We are stifled by the odor of death which envelopes the earth because in so many places brother fights against brother. The panic of fear, the torture of insecurity, the ache of hunger, all have fed and rekindled ancient hatreds and long forgotten memories of old struggles when the world was young and Thy children were but dimly aware of Thy Presence in the midst. For all this we seek forgiveness. There is no one of us without guilt and before Thee we confess our sins: we are proud and arrogant; we are selfish and greedy; we have harboured in our hearts and minds much that makes for bitterness, hatred and revenge.

While we wait in Thy Presence, search our spirits and grant to our minds the guidance and the wisdom that will teach us the way to take, without which there can be no peace and no confidence anywhere. Teach us how to put at the disposal of Thy Purposes of Peace the fruits of our industry, the products of our minds, the vast wealth of our land and the resources of our spirit. Grant unto us the courage to follow the illumination of this hour to the end that we shall not lead death to any man's door but rather may we strengthen the hands of all in high places and in common tasks who seek to build a friendly world, of friendly men, beneath a friendly sky. This is the simple desire of our hearts which we share with Thee in quiet confidence.

AMEN

HOWARD THURMAN

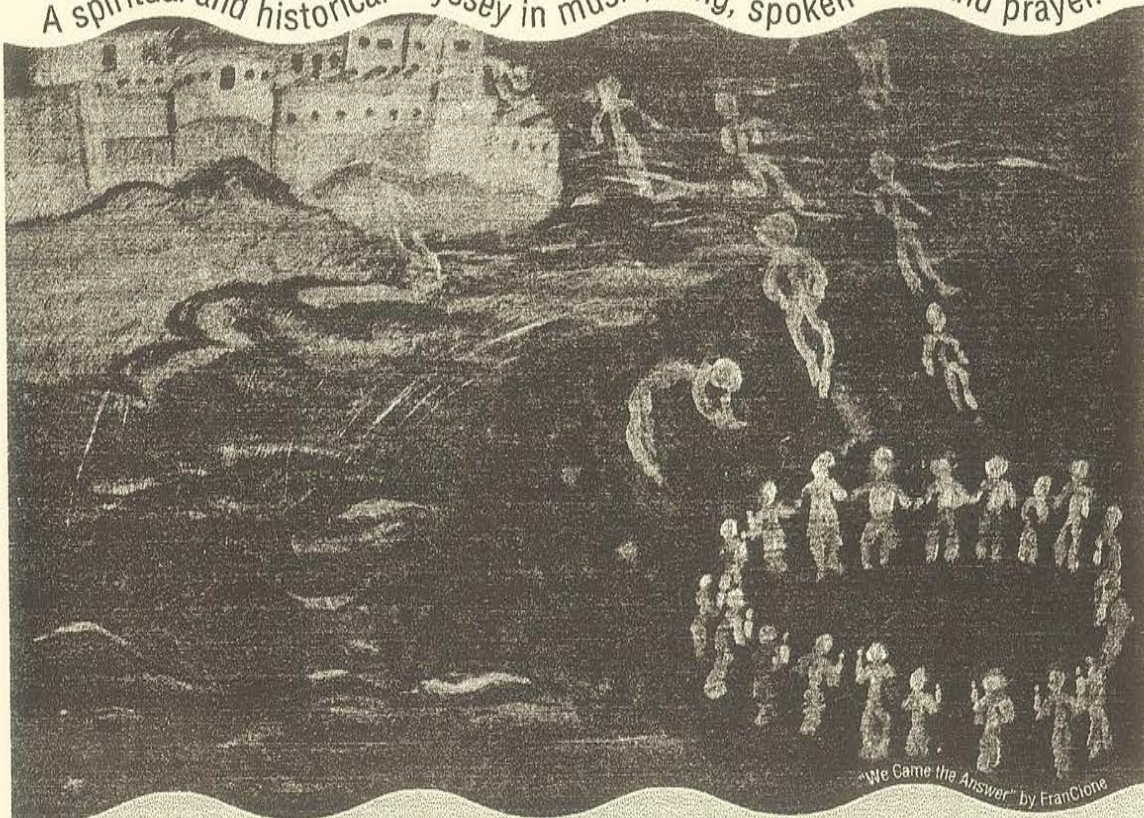
Acknowledgments

The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples acknowledges the support of members and friends whose donations and efforts made this convocation possible:

Dorsey Blake	Ken Monteiro
Michael Brown	Percy L. Moore
Michael & Adrienne Callahan	Herman Morgan
Bryan Caston	Glenn Nance
Daniel and DeReath Collins	Gayle Orr-Smith
David and Eunice Harper	Dorothy Person
Gerald Harris	Clyde Petty
Marty Hayse	Elizabeth Rankow
William and Willie Hoskins	Robert Reece
John Bernard Howell	Iola Riley
Kathryn Joelli	Alice Royal
Felix Justice	Claude and Leona Sansom
Kenneth N. Knudsen	Donna Seid
Perry L. Lang	Nzinga Senghor
Anne A. Livingston	Merti Walker
Eugenia Manning	Diane Wang
Horace Marks	Gordon and Leartease Wilson
Melody Martin	Christine Witherspoon
Gwen Mazer	Walter Zavalla

triumph of the Human Spirit

A spiritual and historical odyssey in music, song, spoken word and prayer.



"We Came the Answer" by FranCione

Triumph of the Human Spirit is an audio montage which explores the legacy of the African slave trade. It takes the listener on a healing and transformative journey through pain, hope, faith and liberation that reaches across generations and cultures.

For more information or to order the cd:
www.triumphofthehumanspirit.com

© 2001 Triumph of the Human Spirit Partnership. All Rights Reserved. :THS2001