

# Ninth Annual Howard Thurman Convocation

all are welcomed  
to join us  
as we present:

## Arleigh Prelow's

**"IN SEARCH OF COMMON GROUND"**

Excerpts and Discussion from a documentary film  
portraying the life of



**Dr. Howard Thurman**

**Sunday, October 24, 2004**

The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples  
2041 Larkin Street  
San Francisco, California, 94109  
Phone: 415.776-4910 - Fax: 415.776.4901  
[www.fellowshipsf.org](http://www.fellowshipsf.org)

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## 1944 - 2004

The Bold Experiment in San Francisco:  
The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples  
The Nation's First Interracial and Interfaith Church  
Celebrates Its

# 60th Anniversary

Sixty years ago this Church, Fellowship and the concept of interfaith and interracial worship was a dream. Today it is a reality. Thanks to the vision and courage of the Church's pioneers, we are here to celebrate a dream come true.



### Credits

Studio314DesignsSF  
**Kathleen Prevost**  
Program Design  
**Shashi Dalal**  
Staff Editor  
**Dr. Dorsey Blake**  
Executive Editor



Fellowship Church SF



Beloved Members and Friends,

Thank you for celebrating with us Fellowship Church's **Sixtieth Anniversary** and **Ninth Annual Howard Thurman Convocation**. Your support honors and nurtures us.

In 1945, San Francisco hosted an extraordinary event in international cooperation among the nations of the world, the creation of the United Nations. Among other principles, the UN was founded "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights of all people and of nations large and small, and promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

On the same soil a year prior, a revolution in religious and social consciousness had already occurred. The nation's first intentionally interracial – in pastoral leadership, governance, and membership – interfaith, intercultural religious congregation was born. Eleanor Roosevelt championed both ventures.

Premised on the idea that experiences of spiritual unity multiplied over a period of sufficient time duration are more compelling than experiences that divide, The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples was an experiment in whether a religious community could be developed that would alter the behavioral patterns of those involved in such a pervasive manner that cultural norms and patterns promoting separation, fear, hypocrisy, hatred, and hostility, would be undercut in a search for and commitment to the common ground among the peoples of the world. If so, an enormous unfolding of human potential with tremendous implications for personal and societal transformation would become available for the demands of personal daily living and the larger society.

The experiment is now sixty years old. To continue as a rallying force, a revolutionary organism must be open to re-visitation of its vision and resolve as well as risk new insights and truths to address the Zeitgeist of its time. This is the purpose of the Howard Thurman Convocation. It is a call to assemble anew to re-envision our world and our relationship to it by focusing on insights from the life and works of Dr. Howard Thurman, co-founding minister. In our time together may we think fresh thoughts about how we become the people we must become if the world is to become the trysting place of all who long for justice, peace, and compassion and birth, a moral order where we engage others as they should be engaged, as people of God, the Great Spirit, the Fashioner of Our Existence, the One within and beyond who calls us to greater integrity and hope.

Prayerfully,

Dorsey Odell Blake

Presiding Minister

# The Interfaith Vision

## Interfaith Center at the Presidio

P.O. Box 29055 • San Francisco, CA 94129 • (415) 775-4635 • Fax 771-8681 • www.interfaith-presidio.org

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October 13, 2004

The Reverend Dorsey Blake & Members of  
The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples  
2041 Larkin Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Fellowship Church Friends,

Congratulations on this historic sixtieth anniversary. It was a joy for Jan and me to return earlier this month and greet so many of you at worship. Seeing old friends and new faces was a pleasure.

The world today is much more clearly interfaith than sixty years ago when Rev. Alfred Fisk and Dr. Howard Thurman began their pioneering interracial, interfaith ministry. It was a brilliant idea, way ahead of its time. Today we enjoy more than 50 interfaith organizations in the Bay Area, most of them established long after the Church. And we live in the most religiously diverse nation in human history. The message that we can respect and care for each other in the midst of our differences, can even worship together, was revolutionary half a century ago and is much more obvious, if still a huge challenge, today.

My prayer is that Fellowship Church will continue to thrive and be a beacon of the possibility of strangers becoming friends and religions learning to collaborate rather than compete. The task is larger than our lifetimes. But I believe, as I think you do, that the human race depends on this work if our children and grandchildren are to have any hope of sharing a peaceful, prosperous world.

Thank you for carrying on this great tradition.

In peace & love,



Rev. Paul Chaffee  
Executive Director



(THIS IS THE 17TH ARTICLE IN A LENTEN SERIES, TELLING BRIEF STORIES OF SOME OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES WHOSE GROWTH HAS PACED THAT OF SAN FRANCISCO ITSELF-THE EDITOR.)

## The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples at 2041 Larkin

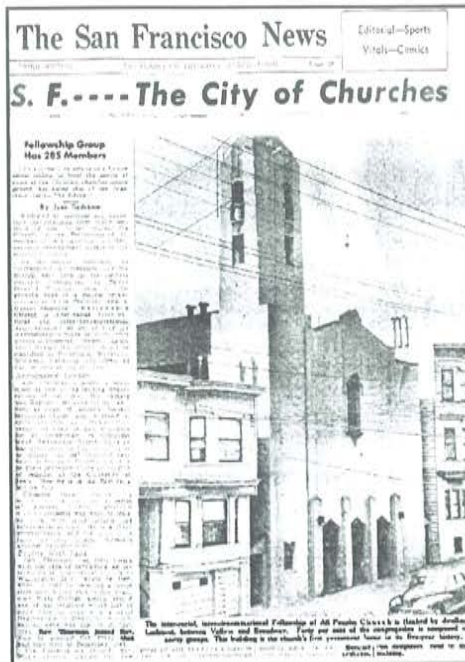
By Jan Sudekum

Nurtured by spiritual and monetary contributions from many sections of the United States, the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples at 2041 Larkin - Street is a five-year-old development unique in this country's history.

Its 285 resident members, 700 "corresponding" members and the friends who drop in for services consider themselves, as Pastor Howard Thurman puts it, "the growing edge of a radical implementation of the Christian ideal in human relations." Fellowship Church is inter-racial, inter-cultural and inter-denominational. Approximately 40 per cent of the membership is made up of minority groups - Oriental, Negro, Latin. Even though the church might be classified as Protestant, Buddhists, Moslems, Catholics and Jews all can be seen at the services.

### Recognized Leader

Rev. Thurman, a Negro, is recognized as one of the leading philosophers of our times. His training was Baptist. He gave up the position as dean of Andrew Rankin Memorial chapel and professor of systematic theology at Howard University to come to San Francisco for an experiment in Christian ideal, Fellowship Church. Since he has been here, he has taken leaves to deliver the 1947 Ingersoll Lectures at Harvard University and to be guest professor of the philosophy of religion at the University of Iowa. Now he is in the East on a lecture.



Co pastor Robert Meyers, a white, is the first of a series of two-year "interns" graduate divinity students who want to train in work with inter-cultural and inter-racial groups. He is a Congregationalist, and the plan is to have the next "intern" represent another denomination.

### Toying with the idea

Rev. Thurman had been toying with the idea of developing an inter-cultural inter-racial church in Washington, D.C. where he lived, when in 1943 he received a letter from Rev. Alfred Fisk of San Francisco State College, asking him if one of his students would like to come here to work with a small Negro-white congregation. His sabbatical leave was due, so in July 1944, Rev. Thurman joined Rev. Fisk in guiding the group that had first met in December 1943.

The Presbyterian Church, Rev. Fisk's Church, started the new the group off with \$3600 and a place to meet, the old Japanese-American Presbyterian Church that had been deserted since the war. Because there was no place else available, R. and Mrs. Thurman, with their two daughters, lived in the same building.

This article was published in San Francisco, California, in 1949. Although this newspaper may have been very progressive in its day, the language speaks of the times.

The article was reproduced as it was written.

Source: Vertical File:

Fellowship Church,

San Francisco History Room at the San Francisco Library. - Staff Note

The church moved in 1945 to 1359 Pine Street, the building that had been vacated by the Japanese-American Methodist Church. In 1946, after the Japanese-American came back to San Francisco, it moved to 1725 Washington Street, to share the Theater Arts Colony. The greatest windfall, as far as physical facilities are concerned, happened last year, when St. John's Evangelical Reform Church put its sturdy, stucco 2041 Larkin-Street building up for sale, as the results of a merger with a Forest Hill Christian - Congregationalist group. Through a membership drive and a loan from several Southern California friends, Fellowship Church was able to purchase it, and moved in Jan 30.

### Members May Join

A person may join, as at any other church, or keep his membership in his previous church. In addition, person living in other parts of the country may participate through a monthly magazine, "The Growing Edge," edited by Lynn Buchanan, Executive secretary.

Eight groups are affiliated with the church, such as its Fellowship Guild, and once a month, after Sunday service, the congregation participates in a "coffee hour." Since moving into the new quarters. Rev. Thurman has initiated a period of guided meditation beginning at 10:30 Sunday morning. Sunday service is at 11:05. The Fellowship Quintet has gained international recognition.

#



# Reflections

## H. Jack Riley... Meditation Room

It is a simple meditation room in Fellowship Church. Nothing pretentious, just a quiet room where the brooding Spirit of God invades the silence. On one wall hangs a painting of Gandhi by Howard Thurman. This saintly Hindu is leaning upon his staff, as he walks into a blazing aura of golden light. If one listens with his heart as he looks, he may hear the Mahatma humming his favorite hymn: "Lead Kindly Light."

On a table nearby is a small statuette of Gautama whose thrilling struggle against the baser elements of self brought him from darkness into light. Here again, if one sees with the single eye, the Oneness of God, Tathagata's road, though different, is included.

Another table holds three books given to our Meditation Room by Congregation Emanu-El through its Rabbi, Alvin Fine, on the occasion of our Tenth Anniversary. Two are prayer books. The third is a beautiful book of etchings called Pirke Aboth (sayings of the fathers all are written in both Hebrew and English. As one scans the pages of these books the significant contributions of Israel to the generations of men become apparent. The clarion call of the patriarchs seems to echo from the pages with the salutary invitation to prayer: "Hear O Israel, the Lord! The Lord Our God is One."

In one corner, surrounded by growing plants, is a white statuette of peace sculptured by Preston Prescott. The spiritual quality of the face lends a calm serenity to the room. A book case contains books of our Judeo-Christian faith. That an experience it is to turn the pages and go on an imaginary walk with Jesus over the roads of Palestine. Or to be with him at the feast of the Passover.

Occasionally someone asks: "How can all these different faiths worship together? How can they become reconciled when many denominations of the same faith cannot?" One analogous answer would be to liken God unto a diamond with many facets. No matter which facet one sees, the diamond is still a diamond. The Spirit of God may be revealed in many ways. Each is a facet of the truth or a facet of His Being. As we worship God in silence, external layers of the personality seem to fall away and the mechanics of the process become remote and irrelevant. As we move into the conscious awareness of the Irreducible Element of Self at our centers and identify with it, our consciousness expands until it becomes all-inclusive.

Time stands still. The past and the future are wedded in the now. There are no Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Moslems, or Hindus, as such, only children of God joined together in God's Presence in a moment of high celebration. His all-pervading Spirit moving at this level, transcends all mundane differences.

Each faith represented in the Meditation Room can be likened unto a beautifully pitched musical note. When all are blended together in the Presence of the Most High, they form a harmonious chord which might well be called a "Song of God."



### Editor's Note:

Special Thanks to Rickey Riley for providing The Reflections, and also the two pictures on the opposite page. The Meditation Room of which Jack Riley lovingly writes, is temporarily closed due to repair to the tower.

## Pioneer Members



*In memory of  
Mrs. Sue Bailey  
Thurman*

**60th**  
**Anniversary**

The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples is the first interfaith and interracial church in this nation...In 1944 the idea was radical. We salute the vision and courage of founding members of Fellowship Church.





# IN SEARCH OF COMMON GROUND

The documentary, the first American-made on Howard Thurman, draws upon a vast library of audiotaped messages, meditations and sermons to underscore the storytelling. Music, featuring African American spirituals and hymns is a key element, conveying dramatic scenes and accentuating Thurman's own readings. As a boy, he lost his father and his faith in the church. As a man, he transformed and became, as *Life* magazine acclaimed in 1953, one of the greatest religious leaders of his time.



Excerpts from his correspondence, along with rarely seen family and archival photographs, are interwoven throughout the film. And, of course, friends, family and colleagues of Howard Thurman recount their personal stories of how this man affected their lives and their world.

In 1953, *Life* magazine cited Thurman as one of the greatest preachers of the twentieth century. By all accounts, Howard Thurman was a remarkable religious leader who guided countless persons, in America and throughout the world, across the barriers of race, faith and culture.

*Howard Thurman: In Search of Common Ground* brings forth a voice that is vital for today's discussions on the increasing divisions of race and faith in our nation and world. The documentary also provides a vital resource in the spiritual formation of seekers of all faiths. Most of all, *Howard Thurman: In Search of Common Ground* heartens the visionary and dreamer within us all who dare the deed and commit to accomplishing it.

It is the hope of all involved that this convocation will provide what Dr. Thurman identified as two of the most important test of community: "a basis for integrated action or behavior with which the individual may, can, and finally, must identify, and a sense of membership in and belonging to a company of others who are held together by common values, ideals, and commitments."

The award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated that they had met the challenge of developing his or her consciousness and discipline of the spirit so that the imagination and talent can unfold in ways that lead to personal empowerment and societal transformation.

In 1994, Arleigh Prelow founded InSpirit Communications to produce exquisite and well-crafted film and print material, which touches the mind, heart and soul of its audiences.

Writer and independent documentary filmmaker, Arleigh Prelow shares her research on humanist and theologian Howard Thurman for her film *Howard Thurman: In Search of Common Ground*.



Since its inception, InSpirit Communications has engaged principally in the research, development and production of *Howard Thurman: In Search of Common Ground*.

This long-awaited documentary chronicles the life, work and spiritual journey of the pre-eminent religious leader and thinker, Dr. Howard Thurman.

InSpirit Communications has also produced distinctive graphic design for organizations and companies including Generation Excel, Bethel AME Church, Roxbury Presbyterian Church, the Ruth Batson Educational Foundation and Minority Business Ventures, Inc.



## 2004 Award Winner

**Arleigh Prelow** is an independent producer, director and writer of documentary film and video. Throughout her long-standing career she has endeavored to produce creative, well-crafted work which enlightens, engages and, at its core, inspires its audiences.

Prelow's experience spans some of the most notable documentary production houses and television stations in the country. While working at ROJA Productions, Prelow co-produced the award-winning, *Civil Rights Video Wall*, a permanent exhibit at the Simon Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance, Los Angeles. Prelow's work with ROJA also included managing production for *New Worlds, New Forms* part of PBS's acclaimed *Dancing* series; researching and developing the PBS documentary on Frederick Douglass; developing new projects, and managing company operations.

For Blackside, Inc. in Boston, Prelow assisted in developing new projects. At WETA-TV, Washington, DC, she was an associate producer of the PBS series, *From Jumpstreet: A Story of Black Music*. While at Turner Broadcasting in Atlanta, Prelow's production of *Sweet Auburn*, won a regional Emmy award. Prelow also worked as a writer/researcher for *All Together Now*, and produced segments for *Evening Magazine* at KPIX-TV in San Francisco. She researched and wrote for *Dialogue*, a weekly public affairs program on Atlanta's WSB-TV.

As an independent producer, Prelow produced the award-winning *In Search of the Sacred* for the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. This documentary explored the history and development of African American sacred music. Other credits include, *We're Power Together*, a video documentary exploring the Committee for Boston Public Housing's impact on the lives of Boston's public housing residents. She also produced *Men of Vision* for the Boston Museum of Afro American History, and developed two segments of Simon and Schuster's interactive videodisc on Harriet Tubman for eighth grade classrooms.

In addition to her extensive production experience, Prelow's background included consulting with WGBH, Boston on developing educational music programming for elementary and secondary school students; and serving as art director/designer of a graphic design consultancy.

Prelow earned her BA in Communications and Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley and has served as a Teaching Fellow at the DoubleTake Summer Documentary Institute. Prelow has also been featured in *Black Enterprise* magazine and is listed in *Who's Who Among Black Americans* and *Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals*.

# Order of Service

**Prelude** ..... Mr. Johnny Land, Conductor

Mr. Lawrence Sumpter, Organist

**Call to Worship** ..... Dr. Dorsey Blake

**Opening Hymn** ..... Lift Every Voice and Sing

**Invocation** ..... Rev. Sandra Decker

**Welcome** ..... Mrs. Eugenia Manning

**Meditation** ..... Rev. Kathryn Benton

**Congregational Hymn**.....Guide My Feet While I Run this Race

**Introduction of Keynote Speaker**..... Dr. Dorsey Blake

**Keynote Presentation**.....Arleigh Prelow

**Howard Thurman Award Presentation**.....Glenn Nance and Lynda Martyn

**Offering** ..... Bryan Caston and Robert Reece

**Congregational Hymn** .....This Little Light of Mine

**Remarks**..... Dr. Dorsey Blake

**Benediction**..... Rev. Kathryn Benton



Congratulations  
To

The Church For the  
Fellowship of All People

~

On the  
9th Annual  
Howard Thurman  
Convocation

Heiress  
Public Relations  
Gayle Orr-Smith  
President



In Honor of our  
Marvelous Parents  
Mrs. Hazel Teen Robertson  
Blake

Dr. William Louis Blake, Sr.  
Who taught us  
to be compassionate



Dr. Carl Blake  
Dr. Dorsey Blake



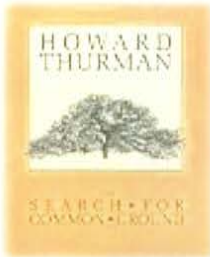
Lift Every Voice and Sing  
James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark  
past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present  
has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.

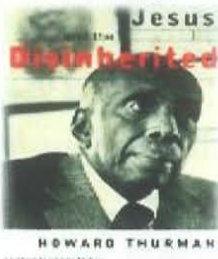
Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had  
died;  
Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary  
feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers  
sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears  
has been watered.  
We have come, treading our path through  
the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is  
cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the  
way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might,  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,  
where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the  
world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.

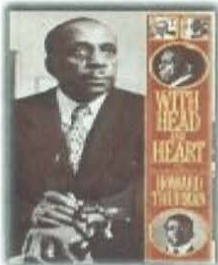
# Howard Thurman Legacy



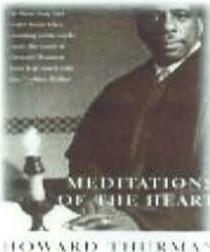
Search for Common Ground



Jesus and the Disinherited



With Head and Heart



Meditations of the Heart



Mood of Christmas

On November 18 1899, Howard Thurman was born. He was an African-American author, theologian, civil and human rights activist and educator.

Thurman was from Daytona Beach Florida; he studied at Morehouse College, Rochester Theological Center, and Haverford College.

He served as a pastor at a Baptist church in Ohio and as the Dean of Rankin the Chapel at Howard University from 1932 to 1944. Until 1953 he served the interracial and interdenominational Fellowship Church he founded in San Francisco with Dr. Alfred Fisk in 1944.

Dr. Thurman was author of more than 22 books, including: *The Growing Edge*, **The Search for Common Ground**, *The Inward Journey*, and *Meditations of the Heart*. Thurman also served as Dean of Marsh Chapel at Boston University.

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.

The Thurmans devoted their lives to the idea of Fellowship Church, which has also drawn support from national and international figures, such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Alan Paton, and Josephine Baker.

Howard Thurman died on April 10, 1981.



# People whose lives he touched

Dr. Alfred Fisk  
 Rev. Robert Meyers  
 Dr. Dryden Phelps  
 Rev. Cyril Grant  
 Dr. Francis Geddes  
 Rev. John Mangram  
 Rev. John Taylor  
 Rev. Carole Nelson  
 Rev. Ed Thompson  
 Rev. Andrew Weaver  
 Rev. Paul Chaffee  
 Rev. Timothy Malone  
 Rev. Marvin Chandler

Past Ministers of Fellowship Church

Dr. Carlton Good  
 Bishop Chester Talton  
 Dr. George Makechnie  
 Rabbi Saul White  
 Dr. J. Alfred Smith  
 Dr. Otis Moss  
 Dr. Amos Brown  
 Dr. Walter Fluker

Influenced and Inspired by Dr. Thurman



Arthur Ashes



Alice Walker



Congresswoman  
Barbara Lee



Benj. Mayes



Eleanor  
Roosevelt



Jessie  
Jackson



Josephine  
Baker



Miriam  
Wright Edelman



Martin L. King Jr.



Sam Keen



Vernon  
Jordan



Willie Brown

## Guide My Feet While I Run this Race

Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race.  
for, I don't want to run this race in vain.  
Hold my hand while I run this race.  
Hold my hand while I run this race.  
Hold my hand while I run this race.  
for, I don't want to run this race in vain.  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
for, I don't want to run this race in vain.

## *The Family of Mrs. Ethel Ray Nance*

*In Loving Memory of Mrs. Nance*

*&*

*Dr. and Mrs. Howard Thurman*



*Greetings, Love, and Support to  
The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples'  
Ninth Annual Howard Thurman Convocation*



## This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine,  
Ev'ry day, ev'ry day,  
Ev'ry day, ev'ry day,  
Gonna let my little light shine.

This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine,  
Ev'ry day, ev'ry day,  
Ev'ry day, ev'ry day,  
Gonna let my little light shine.

This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine.  
This little light of mine,  
I'm going to let it shine,  
Ev'ry day, ev'ry day,  
Ev'ry day, ev'ry day,  
Gonna let my little light shine.

*We must take another path*

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*In Memory  
of  
Mrs. Hoskins*



*Adina Gartner  
Ken Knudsen  
Diane Wang*

ONELIFE INSTITUTE is Honored to Offer  
Blessings and Congratulations to  
THE CHURCH FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALL PEOPLES  
on Your 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

*Thank you for your steadfast prophetic vision and  
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The ONELIFE INSTITUTE is a nonprofit public benefit corporation providing services of spiritual ministry and education for the realization of a world of wholeness, justice, and compassion.

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# Interfaith Ordination 2004

## Ordained to Ministry in an Interfaith Celebration

May 23, 2004

A rite of consecration, the service affirmed and celebrated her response to the claim upon her life to serve the life giving force that impelled her forth. Her journey to ministry has been a challenging, fruitful and creative path. She has generously, effectively, and sensitively shared her enormous gifts with Fellowship Church. It was an appeal to her to continue to witness her growing edge and as a witness to the mystery, grandeur, and "cosmic companionship of life."



(starting from top right)

**Dr. Matthew Fox**, Theologian, Founding President, University of Creation Spirituality; **Luisah Teish**, author and Oshun Priestess; **Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Jr.**, pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, San Jose; **Dr. Dharmanand**, Hindu Priest (not in picture); **Dr. Dorsey Blake**, presiding minister, The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples; **Rev. Kathryn Benton**, assistant minister, The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, and **Phillip Scott**, Chief Tsunka Wakan Sapa, Ancestral Voice.



On this our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, I would like to share my reflections on my place in this dream. I arrived here about five years ago and when I walked into the sanctuary, I immediately felt at home. I sat down in the back pew and experienced a profound sense of inner peace.

Since that day, my love for this place and my part in it has grown, much like the ivy I received when I became a member. When I first came, I felt a profound appreciation for who I was and as I began to transform, that appreciation never waned. This has been a place where I have been able to reach toward that person I am to become.

A big part of this has been the mentoring and support I have received from Dr. Dorsey Blake. He has guided my spirit gently toward that "moment of my high resolve". In May of this year, I was ordained at Fellowship Church. This was a profound and joyous occasion. The charge delivered by Dr. Blake both honored and humbled me.

I am also humbled and inspired by the legacy of Dr. Howard Thurman, who I have come to know through his writing and through the spirit he left at this church and in the world. There is much more to discover, though, and I look forward to a future here filled with challenges and the unfolding of God's plan.



## Rev. Kathryn Benton

## THE COMMITMENT

*I affirm my need for a growing understanding of all people as children of God and I seek after a vital experience of God as revealed through 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.*



*"In our private lives we are mindful of many blessings in a minor key, blessings so intimate, so closely binding, that they do not seem to be blessing at all..."*

The Miracle of Living, The Inward Journey, Page 45.

*In memory of*  
*my father & my mother*  
*Van Caston, Sr. & Lucinda Caston*  
*my brother & sister*  
*Donald Caston, Sr. & Lorraine Davis.*





# Thank you

*We appreciate the efforts of many people  
whose time and energy were  
so vital to the success of this endeavor.*

*Church Members and friends  
who underwrote the financial costs of this annual event and to the  
many kind services of:*

Dinner:	Christy Witherspoon (Chef)
Flowers:	Dorothy Person and Kathleen Prevost
Music:	Johnny Land and Lawrence Sumpter
Howard Thurman Certificate:	Glenn Nance
Presenters:	Glenn Nance and Lynda Martyn
Offering:	Byran Caston and Robert Reece
Membership Committee:	Planting Welcome Flowers
Technical Assistance:	Fred Joelli and Bryan Caston
Convocation Volunteers:	Ola Clinton and Kathleen Finnity
Stage Repair:	
New Stainless Steel Sink:	Mrs. Eugenia A. Mannings' 93th B'day Gift
Sink Installation:	Dan Cope
Presentation:	Aleigh Prelow
Program:	Rev. Kathryn Benton, Rev. Dr. Dorsey Blake, Rev. Sandra Decker, Mrs. Eugenia Mannig  and a very special thanks to Shashi Dalal, Board Member, Byran Caston Board Member, and Dr. Dorsey Blake for all their hard work, deep patience and laughter.

We thank the Minister's Advisory Committee for its leadership in developing the Convocation, and the labors of all those who have gone before and those who come after to expand Fellowship Church's growing edge.

**Acknowledgement**

# Interfaith Alliance for Prison Reform

“I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Jesus of Nazareth, Matthew 25:36

The Work of Christmas  
When the song of angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are  
home,  
When the shepherds are back with  
their flock,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the brothers,  
to make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

People of faith striving to change our  
inhumane prison system  
to temper justice with mercy!

## Interfaith Alliance for Prison Reform



## Quotes by Dr. Howard Thurman

Such a figure was Jesus of Nazareth. To some he is the grand prototype of all the distilled longing of mankind for fulfillment, for wholeness, for perfection. To some he is the Eternal Presence hovering over all the myriad needs of humanity, yielding healing for the sick of body and soul, giving a lift to those whom weariness has overtaken in the long march, and calling out hidden purposes of destiny which are the common heritage. To some he is more than a Presence; he is the God fact, the Divine Moment in human sin and human misery. To still others he is a man who found the answer to life's riddle, and out of a profound gratitude he becomes the Man most worthy of honor and praise. For such his answer becomes humanity's answer and his life the common claim. In him the miracle of the working paper is writ large, for what he did all men may do. Thus interpreted, he belongs to no age, no race, no creed. When men look into his face, they see etched the glory of their own possibilities, and their hearts whisper, "Thank you and thank God!"



"Look well to the growing edge. All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge. It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men and women have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. Such is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge."



"As long as we hold a dream in the heart, we cannot lose the significance of living. The dream in the heart is one with the living water welling up from the very spring of Being, nourishing and sustaining all of life. Where there is no dream, the life becomes a swamp, a dreary dead place and, deep within, the heart begins to rot. The dream need not be some overwhelming plan; it need not be a dramatic picture of what must be some day. Such may be important for some; such may be crucial to a particular moment in human history. But it is not in these grand ways that the dream nourishes life. The dream is the quiet persistence in the heart that enables us to ride out the storms of our churning experiences. It is the exciting whisper moving through the aisles of the spirit, answering the monotony of limitless days of dull routine. It is the ever-recurring melody in the midst of the broken harmonies of human conflict. It is the touch of significance which highlights the ordinary experience, the common event. The dream is no outward thing. It does not take its use from the environment in which one moves or functions. It lives in the inward parts, it is deep within, where the issues of life and death are ultimately determined. Keep alive the dream; for as long as we hold a dream in the heart, we cannot lose the significance of living."



*Best wishes to Fellowship  
Church on the occasion of their  
Ninth Annual Howard  
Thurman Convocation*

*Dorothy Person*

You are invited to join us at Fellowship Church every Sunday Morning at 11 a.m. for services and social hour.

If you like to know our monthly service schedule please sign our guest book.

Or visit our website:

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





We celebrate the inspiration and dedication of  
Rev. Dorsey Blake and Shashi Dalal that created the  
**California Interfaith Alliance for Prison Reform**



Thank you for your support of CPF's work for:

- :Human Rights for prisons
- : An end to the torture in the Security Housing Units
- :Better medical care for prisoners
- :Fair rules in gang labeling of prisoners
- :Dignity of women prisoners
- :Effective legal advocacy for prisoners
- :Rights for Trans and Gender Variant prisoners
- :Prisoners voices being heard in the community

The Board and Members of  
**California Prison Focus**  
Congratulate the  
Church of the Fellowship of All Peoples  
on its  
**60th anniversary**

~  
**California Prison Focus**

2940 16th Street, Suite B-5  
San Francisco, Ca 94103  
(415) 252-9211 Fax:(415) 252-9311  
[www.prisons.org](http://www.prisons.org)

# California Interfaith Alliance for Prison Reform



“...Justice at its best is love  
correcting everything that  
stands against love.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

IN STRUGGLE: REV. DORSEY O. BLAKE, DR.  
COREY WEINSTEIN, SHASHI DALAL, ELEANOR  
OHMAN, EVELYN THOMASON, ROSE BRAZ, REV.  
KATHRYN BENTON, GLENN NANCE, GAYLE  
ORR-SMITH, TARA CAFFREY, JEFF VROOM,  
EARL HARJU.

## *Towards A Better World*

Inspired by Dr. Howard Thurman's seminal book on  
spiritualism and societal transformation:

**“Jesus and the Disinherited”**

We are proud to announce the formation of the  
**Peace and Justice Committee**  
**@Fellowship Church**

**The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples**  
**2041 Larkin Street**

**San Francisco, California, 94109**

**phone: 415.776-4910 - fax: 415.776-4901**

**[www.fellowshipsf.org](http://www.fellowshipsf.org)**

Glenn Nance  
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Shashi Dalal  
Jean Damu