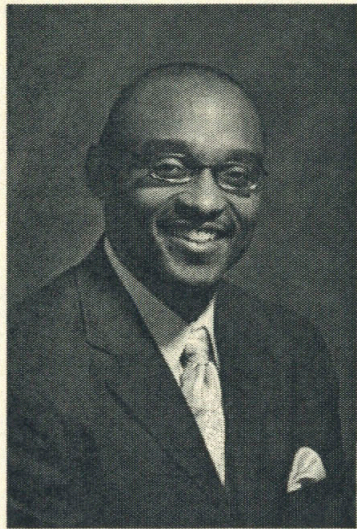


The 2007 Gardner C. Taylor Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Brad R. Braxton



Dr. Brad R. Braxton is Associate Professor of Homiletics and New Testament at Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee. Prior to joining the Vanderbilt faculty, he taught at Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

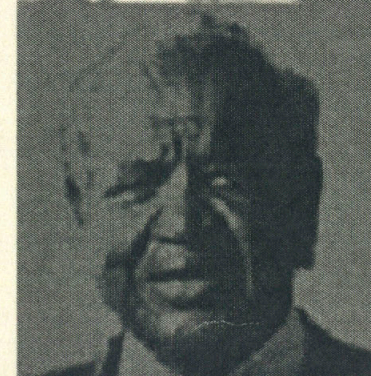
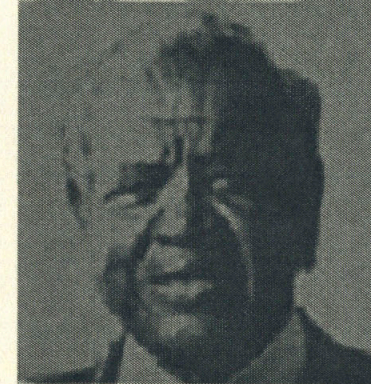
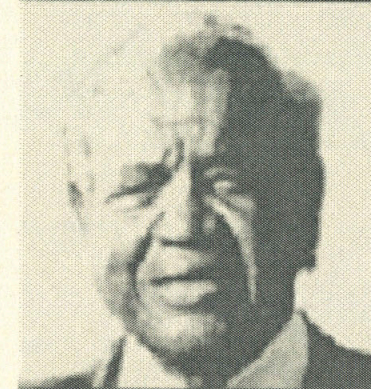
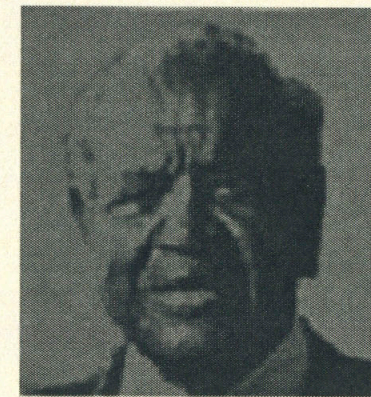
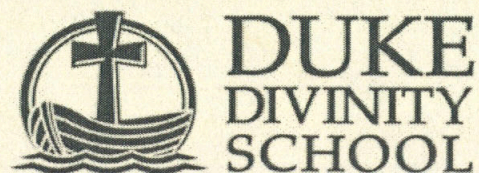
Dr. Braxton holds a B.A. in religious studies from the University of Virginia, a Master of Philosophy in New Testament studies from the University of Oxford where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and a Ph.D. in New Testament studies from Emory University. His research interests include Pauline interpretation, hermeneutics, and the history and theories of Christian preaching.

He is the author of three books. *Preaching Paul* (Abingdon Press, 2004); *No Longer Slaves. Galatians and African American Experience* (The Liturgical Press, 2002); and *The Tyranny of Resolution. I Corinthians 7 17-24* (Society of Biblical Literature, 2000). He also has published numerous scholarly essays and sermons.

Currently, he is part of a team of scholars creating an ecumenical African American preaching lectionary for the World Wide Web. Also, he will be the co-author of a three-volume preaching commentary entitled *The Word Proclaimed: A Lectionary Commentary*. Abingdon Press is scheduled to publish the first of these three volumes in 2009.

Dr. Braxton, an ordained Baptist minister, served for five years as the Senior Pastor of the Douglas Memorial Community Church, a 600 member interdenominational congregation in Baltimore, Maryland. In addition to his teaching and writing, he is a frequent guest preacher and lecturer in national and international settings. Dr. Braxton recently lectured in Ghana and preached at Westminster Abbey in London as part of the bicentennial commemoration of the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire.

He is married to the former Lazetta Rainey, who is Vice President of Client Services at Diversified Trust, a Nashville wealth management firm. Dr. and Mrs. Braxton are the proud parents of Karis, their toddler daughter.



The 2007 Gardner C. Taylor Lecture Series

October 2–3, 2007

Sponsored by The Office of Black Church Studies
and The Black Seminarians Union

Goodson Chapel, Duke Divinity School

SERVICE OF THE WORD
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
Ten o'clock in the Morning

PRELUDE

GREETING

*HYMN OF PRAISE, UMH NO. 525 We'll Understand It Better By and By BY AND BY

*OPENING PRAYER

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS Lamentations 3:21-24

INTRODUCTION OF THE PREACHER

ANTHEM He Never Failed Me Yet Robert Ray

I will sing of God's mercy, every day, every hour, he gives me power I will sing and give thanks to thee for all the dangers, toils and snares that he has brought me out. He is my God and I'll serve him, no matter what the test. Trust and never doubt; Jesus will surely bring you out. He never failed me yet. I know God is able to deliver in time of storm. I know that he'll keep you safe from all earthly harm. One day when my weary soul is at rest, I'm going home to be forever blessed. Didn't my God deliver Moses from King Pharaoh? And didn't he cool the fiery furnace for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? When I think of what my God can do, he delivered Daniel, I know he will deliver you.

SERMON "A Prescription for the Blues"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN Farther Along (*see handout*)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher· Dr. Brad Braxton, Associate Professor of Homiletics and New Testament,
Vanderbilt Divinity School,
2007 Gardner C. Taylor Distinguished Lecturer
Words of Introduction. Christian Peele, Senior, M.Div., and Julian Pridgen, Senior, M.Div
Liturgist/Lector· Laura Rodgers, Senior, M.Div
Intercessor· Leslie Nambo, Junior, M.Div
Organist & Pianist: Dr. David Arcus, Chapel Organist and Associate University Organist
Choir· Duke Divinity School Choir
Choir Director· Dr. Allan Friedman, Asst. Conductor and Admin. Conductor of Chapel Music

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week in Goodson Chapel:
Thursday, October 4 at 10:00 am, Service of Word and Table. Rev Grace Hackney,
pastor of Cedar Grove UMC, preaching, and Rev Tiffney Marley, celebrating.

There will be no worship service on Friday, October 5 at 2:30 pm. Enjoy your Reading Week.

We welcome our visitors today: Terry Crutchfield (MDiv, Baptist, NC) Drew Harmon (MDiv, PCUSA, SC) Erin McClure (MDiv/MSW, Episcopalian, TX) Chris Breslin (MDiv, Baptist, NC)