VERITAS et CARITAS Truth and Love

News from Harvard's Memorial Church!





FROM THE PROFESSOR'S DESK Jonathan L. Walton

n his 1915 book *The Christian Life in the Modern World*, former Plummer Professor of Christian Morals Francis Greenwood Peabody opines, "the Christian religions is a much larger thing than many of its critics, and some of its defenders, have supposed." His words still resonate one hundred years later. At a time when some continue to question the purpose of a Christian church at the center of Harvard Yard, and others defend its presence too narrowly, Peabody's statement serves as an intellectual mantra for me as the current Plummer Professor.

As an institution, the Memorial Church has many roles. For instance, it reminds Harvard women and men of their responsibility to society. The building honors the legacy of those who lost their lives in World War I and II, Korea, and Vietnam. When the Memorial Church was dedicated on Armistice Day, November 11, 1932, the University made an unequivocal statement: service and sacrifice are central to Harvard's identity. The names on that wall, like the gospel message of Jesus proclaimed from the pulpit every Sunday, attest to the enduring power of love, courage, and dedication to a noble cause greater than the self.

This is one of the reasons that we went to great lengths to honor <u>Harvard's war dead</u> this academic year. In commemoration of the centennial anniversary of the United States entering World War I, the Memorial Church dedicated substantial resources in order to hand polish each name engraved on the walls of the Memorial Room. We hoisted and dedicated <u>our new bell</u> in the church steeple to replace the original bell that cracked five years ago. John The Memorial Church stands at the center of Harvard Yard beckoning young people to stretch upward to connect with God...

Taylor & Company of Loughborough, England recast the new bell using the original mold with President A. Lawrence Lowell's quote inscribed along the side: "In memory of voices that are hushed."

What is more, the Memorial Church challenges Harvard to build upon its usable past to move toward a more productive and just future. This is to say, though the war dead remind Harvard's sons and daughters that service and sacrifice are central to the educational mission, the Memorial Church casts an unceasing vision of a world where one day we will beat our swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks (*Isaiah 2:4*). And just as the Memorial Church reminds us of our Protestant roots, it also seeks to model an increasingly diverse campus where all persons regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, ability, culture, or creed feel welcome and affirmed.

Today we understand that the Memorial Church will not survive as simply a mausoleum for a privileged past. To the contrary, we must allow Jesus's ethic of social inversion and care for those on the margins to stretch us all beyond what is comfortable and convenient. The Memorial Church stands at the center of Harvard Yard beckoning young people to stretch upward to connect with God and outward to connect with one another. This is at the heart of spiritual and intellectual growth: *paideia* and *piety*, *veritas* and *caritas*.

Throughout the pages of this newsletter you will see the ways we sought to facilitate such growth. Sedgwick University Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Lucy Forster-Smith, continues to

IN THIS ISSUE:	
From the Professor's Desk	1
From the Choirmaster	2
Pusey Minister's Report	4
From the Senior Minister	6
From the Ministry Fellow	7
Nancy Granert Tribute	7
In Pictures	8

Above photo: Prof. Walton speaking at the service of Commemoration of Benefactors and of The War Dead on Sunday, November 9, 2014; Seminarians Lauren Seganos and Omar Rouchon sit behind him. Photo: Justin Knight

(From the Professor's Desk continued...)

build a multifaith ministry that connects students from across the University. Similarly, the Reverend Alanna Copenhaver, our indefatigable Ministry Fellow, is breathing fresh life into student programming at the College level through ministry breakfasts, House brunches, and student led evening worship services. And our seminarians provide fresh voices to our programming through daily prayers, the work of the <u>Grants Committee</u>, and their distinct forms of Christian witness.

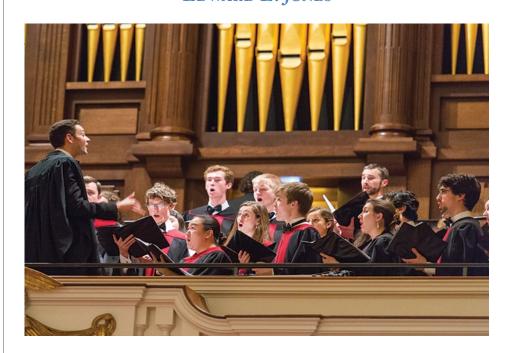
These are the reasons why I resist anyone putting the multifaceted roles of the Memorial Church in a misconstrued box. Our work is grander in scope than imagined by those who question the validity of our presence on campus. Moreover, our call as a University Church is more capacious than a congregational community of comfort (even as we acknowledge the vital need for communities of care). We have the opportunity to help tomorrow's leaders think differently about their world and their role in it. We do this not by ignoring tough moral issues or avoiding grim realities. But rather we want to embolden students with love and courage to combat perplexing and perennial moral problems with the weapons of love and justice!

One Luv,

J. M. L. D.+

JLW

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER Edward E. Jones



he Spring Term began with a mini-tour to New York City and New Haven, where the choir sang concerts in Christ Church United Methodist, New York, and Yale's Battell Chapel. It was a wonderful way to begin the Term, and the group has reaped the rewards since: larger-scale tours

Edward Jones directing the Harvard University Choir at the 105th Annual Christmas Carols Service on Sunday, December 14, 2014. Photo: Justin Knight

are once again on the horizon for coming years. The tour was immediately followed by an intensive week of rehearsals and masterclasses with the renowned conductor and scholar <u>Sir John Eliot Gardiner</u>, visiting Harvard as the inaugural *Christoph Wolff Distinguished Artist in Residence*. That occasion also provided the opportunity for the Harvard University Choir and the Harvard Radcliffe Collegium Musicum to join forces, and it was a source of great pride for myself and my wonderful colleague and friend Andy Clark, Director of Choral Activities, that our groups should unite under Sir John Eliot's baton to sing Bach's extraordinary first motet, <u>Singet dem Herrn</u>, a work that extols the joys of communal music-making. It was a transformative week for the choir, and one that I look forward to building upon in future years.

At the beginning of March, the church hosted another Harvard University <u>Choir Alumni Reunion</u> weekend that culminated in over 120 voices filling Appleton Chapel during Sunday morning's service, which included Vaughan Williams's glorious <u>Festival Te Deum</u>. The Alumni Committee held lively discussions over the course of the weekend, and has exciting plans for the future; I offer my sincere thanks to the members of the committee, under the chairmanship of Jim Farmer, who offer so much of their time and talents.

The choir also made significant offerings during Holy Week: a musical meditation on Tuesday evening, which featured Schütz's *Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ on the Cross* alongside Faure's *Requiem*, accompanied beautifully on the chapel's Skinner organ by Thomas Sheehan; a sung Eucharist on Maundy Thursday; and two large-scale <u>Easter services</u> featuring Mozart's *Coronation*

Mass. The full choir ends the year with Benjamin Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb on Sunday, May 10.

The main highlight of the Term was the choir's spring concert - an ARTS FIRST presentation of Handel's rarely heard oratorio, Athalia. The choir was joined by the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra, led by Phoebe Carrai and Sarah Darling, and an outstanding roster of soloists including Dominique Labelle, Amanda Forsythe, and William Hite. Uchoir alum Dr. Mark Risinger (a Handel scholar) blessed the occasion in dual roles - providing informative program notes, and singing the role of Abner. It was a thrilling evening that crowned a splendid Term and was attended by a huge audience, many I believe taking full advantage of the fact that we offer our musical concerts as a free gift to the community. It has also been a treat to have another uchoir alum, Dr. Alexandra Amati-Camperi, singing with uchoir this term. Alexandra sang in the group under Murray Somerville, while completing her PhD in the music department, and has been here this term as a visiting scholar. Alexandra's son, Ariel, also sings in uchoir and graduates this year, and I take this opportunity to offer our very best wishes to all our graduating seniors.

The Harvard University Choir is flourishing and I am constantly humbled and grateful for the remarkable legacy that I was bequeathed. Throughout my time at Harvard, my predecessor, Dr. Murray Somerville, has been an enormous source of encouragement and support. This Term, Appleton Chapel was fitted with a handsome new set of choir stalls, given by Murray in memory of his mother: I am delighted that Murray was here for the service of Compline in which the stalls were officially dedicated, and thank him for his ongoing generosity and kindness.

Our music department has also been blessed with the talents of financial director Nancy Granert, who served as Associate University Organist and Choirmaster, and is now Organist in Residence in the Memorial Church. Nancy has been the most generous of colleagues, and a supportive friend to all of us, and it is with very mixed emotions that we say farewell to her — it is hard to imagine the Memorial Church without her smiling face.

It has been a wonderful year for music and ministry in the Memorial Church: Tom Sheehan continues to impress with his virtuosity, versatility, and musicality, and Carson Cooman provides thoughtful and imaginative new compositions for many of our highest-profile events. Our two choir secretaries, Emma Dowd and Joy Wang, have been tireless in their musical and organizational efforts, and Professor Jonathan Walton and Dr. Lucy Forster-Smith remain inspiring and supportive colleagues. As I look to the future, I am energized and excited for what is in store.

Gund University Organist and Choirmaster Edward Jones, Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster Thomas Sheehan, Choir Secretaries Emma Dowd and Joy Wang (in green beside Edward Jones) and the 2014-2015 Harvard University Choir. Photo: Justin Knight



THE PUSEY MINISTER'S END OF YEAR REPORT: 2014–2015

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Members of the Memorial Church staff submit a self-assessment report each month. This report includes professional activities, an evaluation of one's particular responsibilities, and a bibliography of books and articles read. We view this as an opportunity to cultivate a positive culture of transparency and accountability, while promoting the sorts of disciplined habits needed for proper planning, focused implementation, and thoughtful follow-up. And, of course, we are a University Church. Hence we share reading materials to promote intellectual cross-pollination among the staff. We learn from one another's reading habits. In this spirit of transparency and accountability, I offer a somewhat condensed activity report for this academic year.

Sermons Preached in the Memorial Church

Aug 31, 2014:	<u>"Why Not You?"</u>
Sept 14, 2014:	<u>"Getting Stuck in the Mud"</u>
Sept 21, 2014:	<u>"Grace Ain't Fair"</u>
Oct 5, 2014:	<u>"Do Not Fear Being Afraid"</u>
Nov 2, 2014:	<u>"What Do You See"</u>
Dec 7, 2014:	<u>"Why We Can't Wait"</u>
Dec 24, 2104:	<u>"The Burden of Being Blessed"</u>

Guest Preacher

- Jul 27, 2014: Marsh Chapel, Boston University
- Aug 17, 2014: The Ocean Park Association, "Chautauqua by the Sea," Ocean Park, ME
- Oct 19, 2014: Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, NJ
- Feb 14, 2015: Trinity Episcopal Church, Copley Square, Boston

Teaching

- <u>Fall 2014/HDS 3251/Pentecost & Prosperity:</u> The Ethics of Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements
- <u>Spring 2015/Religion 1491/Power & Piety:</u> **Evangelicals and Politics in the Contemporary United States**

Advising

Feb 1, 2015:

- 1 Doctoral Advisee (FAS)
- 3 Doctoral Exam Committees (FAS)

Mar 1, 2015: "Striving to Lose"

Mar 8, 2015: "The Idolatry of Injustice"

May 24, 2105: <u>"There's Help For Your Hope"</u>

Apr 5, 2015: "A Graveyard Revival"

Apr 19, 2015: "Giving Us A Hand"

May 3, 2015: "Loving Out Loud"

- 5 Masters Level Advisees (HDS)
- 2 MDiv Theses (HDS)
- 1 Committee on the Study of Religion Advisee (FAS)
- 4 Freshmen Advisees (FAS)

Campus Committee Service

- Faculty Council (HDS)
- Committee on the Study of Religion (FAS)
- Sexual Assault Task Force (University-wide)
- Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, Chair (FAS)
- Diversity Committee (FAS)

Did you miss a service?

Sunday sermons are available on our website, Harvard's iTunes U channel, and Harvard's SoundCloud page.

Photos at right

- 1. Prof. Walton poses with Harvard Christian Impact & Athletes in Action during one of their weekly Wednesday meetings at MemChurch.
- 2. The late William Crout, founder of the Paul Tillich lectures, with Prof. Walton.
- 3. Prof. Walton with Christine Evans after Sunday service.
- 4. Athletes in Action Scotty Hosch '16, Marshall Johnson (MIT) '17, Daniel Cooper '15, and Ricky Zorn '14 shoot hoops with Prof. Walton during J-Term's Mamelodi Initiative in Pretoria, South Africa this past January.

Public Lectures & Keynote Presentations

Aug 4, 2014, "International Conference on Media, Religion, and Culture," University of Kent, Canterbury, UK.

Oct 21, 2014, The Geddes Hanson Lecture, Princeton Theological Seminary.

Oct 24, 2014, "Are The Gods Afraid of Black Sexuality?" Religion and the Burden of Black Sexuality Conference, Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University.

Jan 20, 2015, Walnut Hill School for the Arts, Natick, Massachusetts.

Mar 20, 2015, Boardman Lecture on Religion and Media, University of Pennsylvania.

Mar 28, 2015, Netvue Conference, "Sustaining the Theological Exploration of Vocation," The Council of Independent Colleges, St. Louis, Missouri.

Apr 17, 2015, Conference on the Professions, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

May 7, 2015, Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries at First Church Cambridge, Massachusetts.

May 17, 2015, Baccalaureate Address, Wake Forest University.

Publications

"Liberation and the Prosperity Gospel" in The Oxford Handbook of African American Theology, eds. Anthony Pinn and Katie Geneva Cannon, New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. pp. 453-467.

"Stationed in the King's Court: Evangelicals in the Age of Obama" in Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society. 2014, 16 (1–2): 79–98.

"After Ferguson, When Will We Listen?" in The New York Times, 11/26/2014.

"Why We Can't Wait: A Sermon on Mark 1:3" in The Huffington Post, 12/10/2014.

"The God Who Delivers" in The Harvard Ichtus, 4/23/2015.





Prof. Walton speaking at the 2015 William Belden Noble Lecture

"Discipling Our Demons"



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Lerone Martin, Preaching on Wax: The Phonograph and the Shaping of Modern African American Religion. New York University Press. 2014.

Steven Quartz and Anette Asp, Cool: How the Brain's Hidden Quest for Cool Drives Our Economy and Shapes Our World. Farrah, Straus, and Giroux. 2014.



LEAVING ROOM FOR HOLY ENVY

LUCY A. FORSTER-SMITH

Sedgwick Chaplain to Harvard University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church

rista Tippett, broadcast journalist and host of NPR's <u>ON</u> <u>BEING</u> begins her memoir with these reflections, "Our sacred traditions could help us live more thoughtfully, generously, and hopefully with the tension of our age. But to grasp that, we must look anew at the nature of faith, and at what it might really mean to take religion seriously in human life and in the world." I believe Ms. Tippett names the challenge and opportunity for our work at Harvard in the 21st Century. But how do we address the tension of our age? How do we equip a new generation of religious leaders for such a time as this? Where are the hands, the feet, the heart, and the religious imagination that are called to take up the weighty and wondrous issues of our time?

Two of the most remarkable aspects of the position I hold as Sedgwick Chaplain to the University and Senior Minister in Memorial Church are my work supervising seminarians and my responsibility to be a part of the <u>Harvard Chaplains</u>. By way of reflecting on my first full year in my new role I realize that both of these responsibilities bring deep joy and gratification.

"I STAND AS A WITNESS TO GOD'S CALL TO A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS FOR CHURCH AND SOCIETY."

Memorial Church has a long history of supporting seminarians and divinity school students who are exploring a call to ministry. Through the Ministry/Epps Fellows we have benefited from the theologically animated energy of young adults who are at the beginning of their career as newly minted ministers. Along with the Fellows (generally those who are recent graduates of Harvard Divinity School), Memorial Church also is a site for seminarians and divinity school students to engage in Field Education. These student work 12-15 hours a week at Memorial Church in a range of roles from worship leadership to student ministry. Though most of us have contact with the seminarians in their public roles (Sunday worship leadership, Faith & Life host, Morning Prayers reader, Compline and Evensong leader) behind the scenes, in conversations, seminars, meetings and projects, these students spend hours in supervised settings considering their call to work in and out of religious communities, whether they should be ordained (if their tradition allows it), how a random conversation at the door with a student on Sunday was so gratifying that they might think about becoming a university chaplain, how they can best respond to challenges leveled by people who are not in supervisory roles with them. What I love about supervising seminarians is the light that shines out of their grappling spirits! I stand as a witness to

God's call to a new generation of leaders for church and society. A window opens into my own soul by their earnest and pressing questions about the life of faith in a world that seems to be veering off into scary territory. And often I simply sit in stunned silence as I wonder at their intellect, their honesty, their persistence, and their love of God! It is humbling. It is a privilege beyond telling.

The other aspect of my work at Harvard that is emerging is a wonderfully rich connection with the 35 plus Harvard Chaplains. This spring I have hosted conversations with four or five chaplains at a time to listen to how they came to be a Harvard Chaplain, what animates their work, who attends the events they offer and how we might be able to serve this University well. These conversations have been simply amazing! The sheer number of years these colleagues have been involved with Harvard, their reach both in the number of students they have served and also their knowledge of history, faculty, and staff of University, the joy of opening the door to lonely students, or supporting students whose calling is at the intersection of social justice and faith is stunning. I cannot help but think that something quite astonishing is coming to birth at this moment in history that has its roots in engaging across religious, spiritual, and ethical difference. The move is not merging our traditions but deepening and nuancing connections; practicing what former Dean of Harvard Divinity School Krister Stendahl reportedly said to those trying to understand another religion: "Leave room for holy envy," which means finding elements in another religious tradition or faith, elements we admire and wish might find greater scope in your own religious tradition or faith. As I have spoken with Jewish, Muslim, Latter Day Saint, Hindu, Buddhist, Evangelical Christian, and so many other colleagues who are Harvard Chaplains, I have been awakened to holy envy and also stepped on sacred ground. "You were made and set here to give voice to this, your own astonishment," says writer Annie Dillard. Indeed. Indeed.

SUMMER SERVICES

This summer, Sunday worship services will be offered at 10:00 a.m. and will run from Sunday, June 28 through Sunday, August 2. We look forward to welcoming all who remain in the area to worship with us this summer.

Please note that services begin an hour earlier during the Summer Term than in the Fall and Spring Terms, and that WHRB, Harvard's student run radio station, will not broadcast. Please visit the Memorial Church website for the full preaching schedule: www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu.



LIVELY CONVERSATIONS

ALANNA COPENHAVER Ministry Fellow in the Memorial Church

his year we have had lively conversations at the Memorial Church about what it means to be a University Church. As Professor Walton reminds us, Veritas (truth) and Caritas (love through service) is our motto and empowering students to live out this motto in their lives is our goal. So, who better to inform us how to serve the spiritual and intellectual needs of students than the students themselves?

This year we formed the Student Advisory Board. It is comprised of representatives from the range of student groups that gather inside of our walls, including, but not limited to: the Mem-Church student ushers and deacons, the <u>Interfaith Forum</u>, <u>Cru/</u> <u>Christian Impact</u>, and <u>Phillips Brooks House Association</u>. We have commissioned the board to coordinate our programming and to catalyze student participation. This is a talented, reflective, and faithful gathering of students. They are leaders in the Memorial Church and also within the wider university.

At one of our first meetings over dinner at Sparks House, board members observed that many students complain about their lives being too busy, frantic, and frazzled to have soulful moments of reflection. They wanted to make the time. This conversation was the inspiration for a new initiative we are calling House Heart-2-Heart's. MemChurch staff and student board members are getting out of the Yard and into the Houses. Each month we travel to a House to have a meaningful conversation. We have been told that there is no better time than Saturday morning and who doesn't like brunch? So our Heart-2-Heart's have been over Saturday morning brunch.

The first brunch talk took place at Mather House. We explored the idea of Perfect Love. Some of the questions we asked: Is there such thing as Perfect Love? If so, what does it look like? Have you ever experienced Perfect Love? Is there one Perfect Love? At the end of the conversation, we may not have solved this great theological mystery, but we did think out loud with students about their higher senses of purpose and ethical concerns. This is something that Harvard students often quite simply don't have the opportunity to do.

This is the work of the Student Advisory Board — to inform the Plummer Professor, Sedgwick Chaplain, and Ministry Fellow of the spiritual needs, religious interests, and intellectual curiosities of Harvard's diverse student populations.

I have been so impressed by the dedicated service of the Student Advisory Board. Their presence and participation in our community truly reflects the grace of God that inspires. I look forward to seeing what they come up with next!

HERE'S TO YOU, NANCY!

NANCY GRANERT RETIRING AFTER 34 YEARS AT MEMORIAL CHURCH







Our beloved colleague Nancy Granert will be retiring from the Memorial Church this August. Nancy first came to MemChurch in 1981 as Assistant Organist under John Ferris, where she formed a vital part of the church's musical activities. In 1998 she changed roles, becoming Director of Finance and Organist-in-Residence. Her warmth, friendliness, poise, and easy-going presence have been a daily joy. We'll miss you, Nancy!

- 1. Nancy conducts the Choir in Madrigals on May 9, 1998. Photo: Tony Loreti.
- 2. Rev. Prof. Peter Gomes and Nancy in May 1998. Photo: Tony Loreti.
- 3. Nancy in 2005. Photo: Justin Mullane.
- Rev. Dr. Lucy Forster-Smith recognizes Nancy at an appreciation reception on May 3, 2015. Photo: Elizabeth Montgomery.

IN PICTURES









1. Die-In Protesters on the steps of the Memorial Church on December 7, 2014. Photo: Shunella Grace Lumas • 2. Edward Jones conducts the Harvard University Choir at the 105th Annual Carols concert on December 14, 2014. Photo: Justin Knight • 3. President Drew Faust talks with Olivia Castor '17 and Laetitia Tiani Vessah '17 at the 2015 Noble Lecture on April 13, 2015. Photo: Justin Knight • 4. Harvard University Choir members Michael Paladino, Peter Wu, and Max Masuda-Farkas pose before the Carols concert. Photo: Justin Knight • 5. Compline Dedication Service for New Appelton Chapel Choir Stalls. • 6. Marcia A. Smith, 2015 Noble Lecturer Stanley Nelson, Jr., and Newbury College student Magnus Mammy talk after the Noble lecture on April, 13, 2015. Photo: Justin Knight

Want to see more photos? Then visit our Facebook page!







HARVARD The Memorial Church

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