



FROM THE PROFESSOR'S DESK

JONATHAN L. WALTON



Higher education is being transformed. Technological innovation has both expanded and displaced traditional notions of the classroom, as [online instruction](#) and Web-enhanced teaching spaces are becoming the norm. Collaborative learning environments along with multimedia teaching and assignments will continue to grow and to promote intellectual cross-pollination. There are many reasons to welcome this educational revolution. Increasing the

opportunities for experiential learning and dismantling boundaries once created by disciplines and physical distance are cause for excitement. As President Faust likes to say, "Harvard is about possibilities."

Nevertheless, technological innovation demands ethical reconsiderations. From Johannes Gutenberg to Bill Gates, radical shifts in the production and dissemination of knowledge always impact how communities view the distribution of resources, access to services, and social obligations. For instance, federal cuts to research funding reveals a culture that increasingly views higher education as a private rather than a public good. An increased emphasis on learning outcomes and "practical competencies" can threaten curricular options that cultivate imaginative, artistic responses to fundamental human questions regarding the right, the good, and the just. We must also remain cognizant of the ways advanced technologies can both foster and disrupt human community. Computer avatars and online profiles should never replace face-to-face encounters, nor should we uncritically embrace an all-encompassing e-networked world.

These are just a few of the reasons why the Memorial Church of Harvard University matters. During times of rapid change, we all need an *axis mundi*, a place of centering and connection to that which is sacred. This is particularly true for our students. There is comfort in examining new ideas, engaging a wide variety of cultures, and accepting unique challenges when students feel they are a part of a community in which intergenerational rituals are practiced and familiar stories are told. For this reason the ordinances of

Baptism and Holy Communion are offered at least once per month at the Memorial Church. Also, alongside our commitment to [multifaith dialogue](#) and critical approaches to the study of religion, we continue to share a consistent, two-thousand-year-old message about God's abiding love and amazing grace as evidenced in the form of a Palestinian Jewish woodworker, Jesus of Nazareth.

Throughout the pages of this newsletter, you will see the many ways this community seeks to be a space of grace at the center of Harvard Yard. The Memorial Church is a central site of human connection. Local retirees, visiting alums, and members of [HUCTW](#) (Harvard University Clerical and Technical Workers) start their day

“**The Memorial Church
is a central site
of human connection.**”

shoulder to shoulder with students at Morning Prayers. Thousands [download the beautiful music](#) of Gund University Choirmaster Edward Jones and the University Choir from as far away as Johannesburg and London. And our [Sunday morning worship service](#) continues to attract students, staff, faculty, and community members from across the Greater Boston area. Such connections bring me joy!

In addition, the Memorial Church expanded our offerings this year to further our reach into the community. Some of you know that teaching is my passion, which is why I instituted a monthly Bible Study this year entitled *Reading the Bible in Its World for Your World*. Not only did this allow me to engage with members of the larger community in an intimate classroom setting, but new friendships and prayer-partners developed among many of

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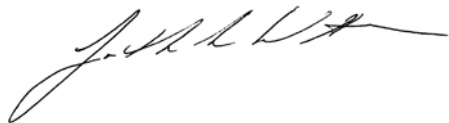
(From the Professor's Desk continued...)

you. What is more, Christian athletes and students from more expressive, evangelical backgrounds pack into the Pusey Room every Wednesday night to lift holy hands in worship with [Harvard Cru](#) chaplains Pat and Tammy McLeod. This vital and vibrant ministry reflects our commitment to religious diversity among fellow Christians on this campus. Whether singing anthems in Latin or praise songs accompanied by an acoustic guitar, we will never allow a particular style of worship to exclude students' access to the Memorial Church. This is what it means for us to be a space of grace!

In short, I am thrilled to reflect on what the Memorial Church has accomplished this year. The future looks bright. [The Reverend Dr. Lucy Forster-Smith](#), Sedgwick Chaplain to the University, brings nearly three decades of experience in multifaith chaplaincy at the college and university level to Harvard. Ministry Fellow Alanna Copenhaver's inexhaustible work ethic and her contagious, positive personality continue to catalyze student involvement from across this University. And our growing team of seminarians helps to provide renewed moral focus and clarity of purpose to the Memorial Church through daily worship, working with the [Grants Committee](#), and offering ongoing student support groups.

For all of these reasons and more, there is no reason for us to fear the larger transformations underway at Harvard University. We stand between *VERITAS* (truth) and *CARITAS* (love) at the Memorial Church, and there is no fear in love, as love casts out all fear (I John 4:18). Continue to stand with us! We need one another. For the love of God and the love of humanity are...

One Luv,
JLW




FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

EDWARD E. JONES

We have had another rich Term musically in the Memorial Church, and as I reflect upon the past year, I am delighted with the work of the Harvard University Choir and the Choral Fellows. Following a busy Fall Term — which included performances of Britten's *St. Nicolas*, a concert of the music of Henry Purcell, choral evensong, and a beautiful pair of Christmas carol services — the choir returned a week early in January to record a CD. The sessions were intense but rewarding — overseen by the Grammy-winning engineers of [Soundmirror](#) — and it was a wonderful experience for the group to work at such a high level. The final product — *Spring Bursts Today: A Celebration of Eastertide* — can be downloaded for free through the Memorial Church's website (memorialchurch.harvard.edu).

The main event of the Spring Term was a performance of C.P.E. Bach's oratorio *Die Israeliten in der Wüste*, given in celebration of the composer's 300th anniversary. This wonderful, though rarely performed, work brought together members of the music department, the Packard Humanities Institute (which is editing the complete works), the [Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra](#), [Grand Harmonie](#),

and the Harvard University Choir, and it was a thrilling event. C.P.E. Bach's music is emotional to the core and requires a dramatic reading — I was delighted with the intensity of the performance from the Harvard University Choir and our wonderful team of soloists ([Amanda Forsythe](#), [Jessica Petrus](#), [Jonas Budris](#) '06, and [David McFerrin](#)), and the evening was crowned with a rousing performance of the composer's double-choir *Heilig*.

During Holy Week the Choral Fellows presented a moving account of Buxtehude's Passiontide masterwork *Membra Jesu nostri*; Easter Sunday had the full Harvard University Choir arriving at 7:30 a.m. in time for the first of two identical communion services.

Our bi-weekly organ recital series continues to flourish with a wide-range of styles and repertoires on offer from both instruments; I was delighted that Dr. Murray Forbes Somerville (Gund University Organist and Choirmaster, 1990–2003) returned to Cambridge to give the final recital of the year. In addition, [James David Christie](#) and [Diane Meredith Belcher](#) — two renowned

Edward Jones (center) posing with soloist from the recent performance of *Die Israeliten in der Wüste*. From left to right: David McFerrin, Jessica Petrus, Amanda Forsythe, and Jonas Budris '06. Photo: Justin Knight





Photo: Justin Knight

C.P.E. Bach's beautiful oratorio *Die Israeliten in der Wüste* was performed in celebration of the composer's 300th anniversary to a packed house!

local organists — performed our celebrity recitals to appreciative audiences. The organs of the Memorial Church will also feature prominently in this June's [National Convention of the American Guild of Organists](#), including in recitals by Associate University Organist and Choirmaster, Christian Lane.

Harvard's annual celebration of the Arts, ARTS FIRST, saw a recital of Purcell and Handel by the Choral Fellows and the Harvard Chamber Orchestra, as well as a festival choral evensong, featuring Stanford's majestic *Evening Canticles in A* and Britten's haunting *Hymn to St. Cecilia* — it was a lovely occasion and both events drew very large crowds.

Two other events in the Spring Term stand out in my mind: the visit of the cast of the ART's [Witness Uganda](#) to [perform in our Sunday worship](#) was an extraordinary moment, and we were all deeply moved by the power of this remarkable narrative and music. And for me, personally, the visit of the choir of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in early April was a highlight: my former choir, the group has gone from strength to strength under the leadership of Richard Latham (who was my Junior Organ Scholar during our undergraduate days!), and to have Emmanuel sing with the Harvard University Choir during our Sunday service was a real treat.

The end of an academic year is also a time that one must say farewell to our leavers, this year including many

long-time members of the Harvard University Choir. In addition, Associate University Organist and Choirmaster Christian Lane is moving on from his position at the Memorial Church after six years of wonderful music-making. I thank him for his leadership, expertise, and beautiful playing over this period, and wish him every success in the future.

It continues to be an honor to serve in the Memorial Church under the inspiring leadership of Professor Jonathan L. Walton, and to lead a group of students whose hard work and exquisite singing make such an important contribution to our worship and outreach. I am delighted to report that we have formed a Harvard University Choir alumni committee — under the chairmanship of former choir secretary Jim Farmer — and we are dedicated to reaching out to even more of our former students who devoted so much of their time to the music ministry of this church. On Christmas Eve several former uchoristers returned to Cambridge to participate in our community choir for the Christmas Eve service and I would like this tradition to continue and expand; so if you would like to sing in the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service this year, we will have a 3:30 p.m. rehearsal in the choir room. Please come and join us! But before another Christmas is upon us, let us enjoy the glorious summer months. 🎵

THE PUSEY MINISTER'S END OF YEAR REPORT: 2013–2014

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

September 1, 2013: ["A Space of Grace"](#)
September 8, 2013: ["Counting the Costs"](#)
October 6, 2013: ["Stir Up the Gifts"](#)
November 3, 2013: ["Delayed but Not Denied"](#)
November 17, 2013: ["Get a Life!"](#)
December 1, 2013: ["The Road Less Traveled"](#)
December 24, 2013: ["The Gift of Gratitude"](#)

January 26, 2014: ["Power to the People"](#)
February 2, 2014: ["Persecuted for a Purpose"](#)
March 2, 2014: ["A Conversation Worth Having"](#)
April 6, 2014: ["Filing Personal Exemptions"](#)
April 20, 2014: ["Dying Beyond Our Means"](#)
May 4, 2014: ["Keeping Good Company"](#)
May 25, 2014: ["Other People's Problems"](#)

Did you miss a service?

Sunday sermons are available on our [website](#), Harvard's [iTunes U](#) channel, and Harvard's [SoundCloud](#) page.

Public Lectures & Keynote Presentations

October 10, 2013: [The C. Shelby Rooks Lecture Series](#), Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois

October 16, 2013: [Fall Convocation Address](#), Howard University Divinity School, Washington, D.C.

November 13, 2013: Boston College Sesquicentennial—[Religious Diversity and the Common Good, Working for the Common Good in Boston](#), Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts

January 12–13, 2014: The Fred Turnage Lecture Series — Conversations on Christian Citizenship, Lakeside Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, North Carolina

February 24–25, 2014: The Barbara Holmes Lecture Series in African American Studies, Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, Tennessee

March 30, 2014: The Carl Lecture Series, First United Methodist Church, Schenectady, New York

April 12, 2014: Kelly Miller Smith Institute Social Justice Forum, Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee

April 24, 2014: Princeton Doll Family Lecture on Religion and Money, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

May 17, 2014: [Baccalaureate Service](#), Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia

External Peer-Reviews Provided

- 2 scholarly monographs, Duke University Press and Yale University Press
- 1 academic journal article
- 1 review submitted for tenure and/or promotion case

Publications

["Waking from a Dream"](#) *The Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Vol. 41, Nos. 2 & 3, Summer and Autumn 2013

Review of *The Rise to Respectability: Race, Religion and the Church of God in Christ*, published in *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 100, No. 3, December 2013



Professor Walton with students from his Graduate Seminar at Spark House.

Guest Preacher

- August 4, 2013: The Chautauqua Institution
- August 18, 2013: The Ocean Park Association, "Chautauqua by the Sea," Ocean Park, Maine
- September 29, 2013: Duke University Chapel, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
- October 27, 2013: First Presbyterian Church, Allentown, Pennsylvania
- January 12, 2014: Lakeside Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, North Carolina
- February 9, 2014: Princeton University Chapel, Princeton, New Jersey
- March 9, 2014: Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, CT



Professor Walton speaks with attendees after this year's Tillich Lecture.

Teaching

Fall 2013/HDS 3262/Seminar, [Beyond Peasants and Proletarians: American Religion and the Early Social Sciences](#)

Spring 2014/HDS 3200/Lecture, [African American Religions: An Introduction](#)

Advising

- 1 Doctoral Advisee (FAS)
- 9 Masters Level Advisees (HDS)
- 2 Committee on the Study of Religion Advisees (FAS)
- 4 Freshman Advisees (FAS)

Campus Committee Service

- Theology Search Committee, (HDS)
- Faculty Council (HDS)
- Committee on the Study of Religion (FAS)
- Smith Campus Center Common Spaces Working Group; co-chair, (University-wide)
- Email Policy Task Force, (University-wide)
- Sexual Assault Task Force, (University-wide)

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Marcus Borg, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*. Harper Collins. 2009

Elizabeth Bradley and Lauren Taylor, *The American Healthcare Paradox: Why Spending More is Getting Us Less*. Public Affairs. 2013

Richard Clifford, *The Wisdom Literature: Interpreting Biblical Texts Series*. Abingdon. 2011

Harvey Cox and Stephanie Paulsell, *Lamentations and the Song of Songs: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*. Westminster John Knox Pres. 2012

James Crenshaw, *Old Testament Wisdom: An Introduction*. Third Edition. Westminster John Knox. 2010

Joshua DuBois, *The President's Devotional*. Harper One. 2013

Laurent DuBois, *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution*. Harvard University Press. 2009

Gary Dorrien, *The Obama Question: A Progressive Perspective*. Rowman and Littlefield. 2012.

Ann Frykholm, *Julian of Norwich: A Contemplative Biography*. Paraclete Press. 2010

Malcolm Gladwell, *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants*. Little Brown and Company. 2013

Philip Goodchild, *Theology of Money*. Duke University Press. 2009

Justo L. Gonzalez, *Luke: Belief, A Theological Commentary on the Bible*. Westminster John Knox. 2011

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Daniel Stedman Jones, *Masters of the Universe: Hayek, Friedman, and the Birth of Neoliberal Politics*. Princeton University Press. 2012

Tony Judt, *Ill Fares the Land*. Penguin Books. 2010

Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Lowland*. Knopf. 2013

Judy Lawrence, *A Woman of Courage & Compassion: Conversations with the Reverend Joan Brown Campbell*. AuthorHouse. 2009

Michael Lewis, *Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt*. W.W. Norton. 2014

Wynton Marsalis, *Moving to Higher Ground: How Jazz Can Change Your Life*. Random House 2008

Ivy Jeanne Merrill, *Decency and Nobility: The Life of Jonathan Myrick Daniels*. AuthorHouse. 2005

Claire Messud, *The Woman Upstairs*. Knopf. 2013

George Mikes, *How to be a Brit: How to be an Alien, How to be Inimitable, How to be Decadent*. Penguin. 1986

Michael Moran, *The Great Divide: Global Income Inequality and Its Cost*. Global Post Special Reports. 2013

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Eboo Patel, *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, in the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation*. Beacon. 2010

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OUR NEW SENIOR MINISTER

LUCY A. FORSTER-SMITH



Top photo: taken by Stephanie Mitchell, Harvard photographer. Bottom photo: Rev. Forster-Smith with Prof. Walton on Easter Day.



I arrived in January to my new position as Sedgwick Chaplain to the University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church in a blizzard. The winter's chill, however, was melted quickly with the warmth and welcome of my new community. I came from years of blizzards in Minnesota where I served Macalester College, St. Paul, MN, [as chaplain for twenty years](#). I was accustomed to the seasons of life in an academic community, to the joy of serving gifted, remarkably engaged students. But coming to Harvard has been a wonderful professional change for me: the opportunity to work with Professor Jonathan L. Walton and a very committed professional staff; the new experience of leading weekly worship in the Memorial Church; getting acquainted with the remarkable music program with gifted student musicians bringing their acumen to challenging repertoire. My opportunity at working in this vibrant and reaching community is beyond description.

This first semester has brought highs and some lows in our common life, which is our life story, is it not? Our community has had losses with the death of several students. As the University Chaplain, I have had the privilege of accompanying their friends, faculty and staff through the 'valley of the shadow of death.' One of our

seminarians and I hosted a grief and bereavement group for students who have lost loved ones. In addition we have been challenged in recent days to engage in healthy discourse on religious difference. Working with the Harvard Chaplains group has been a terrific experience as we seek to support and challenge one another in our quest for understanding and peace among religious, spiritual and ethical communities.

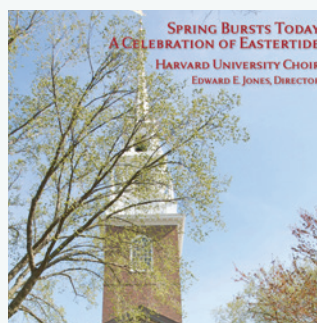
But along with things that shake our spirits, I have experienced the sheer beauty of parents bringing their little ones to the waters of baptism and an adult student receiving the sacrament of baptism as well. I have been swept away by the joy of music at Morning Prayers and in Sunday worship. The reflections of faculty, staff, and students at Morning Prayers, who bring a five-minute reflection to that setting has been the most amazing orientation to the range, breadth, and depth of Harvard's interfaith life I could possibly have received. I have begun to meet students who are at the center of my ministry. They are stunning!

I am grateful to be at Harvard and stand ready to serve this community as its Chaplain and as Senior Minister of the Memorial Church. Together we will step into the future with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. ☺

SUMMER SERVICES

This summer, Sunday worship services will be offered at 10:00 a.m. and will run from Sunday, June 29 through Sunday, August 3. We look forward to welcoming all who remain in the area to worship with us this summer.

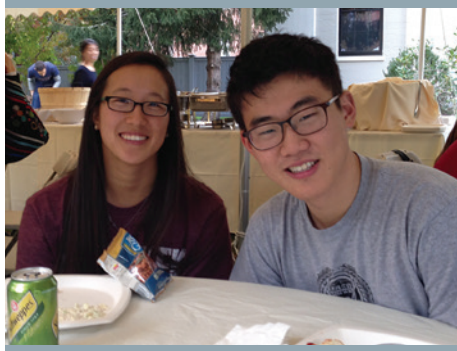
Please note that services begin an hour earlier during the Summer Term than in the Fall and Spring Terms, and that WHRB, Harvard's student run radio station, will not broadcast. Please visit the Memorial Church website for the full preaching schedule: www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu.



New UChoir Album!

Download *Spring Bursts Today: A Celebration of Eastertide* for free! Visit our website for details: www.memorialchurch.harvard.edu

Student Life at MemChurch



MINISTRY FELLOW REPORT

ALANNA COPENHAVER

Last August I met with Professor Walton to interview for the Ministry Fellow position at the Memorial Church. During our meeting, he told me about the church's vision of being a *space of grace* on Harvard's campus where we educate minds, expand hearts, and enrich lives. The Memorial Church's calling is to be a place where people are intellectually challenged and spiritually nourished. In our frantic lives at Harvard, the Memorial Church strives to create an environment where people find respite, take a moment to connect, and know they are fully loved and accepted. As a university church, we are a church that serves the needs of the University. When I heard this vision, I knew that I wanted to be a part of this community.

As the Ministry Fellow, I have the privilege of meeting and serving students from a broad spectrum of the Harvard community. This year we enjoyed the growth of some community-building activities and programs with increased student involvement. During the Fall Term, Sparks House tailgates became a fixture of the Crimson football season. We had an impressive showing of students from various groups on campus, including: [Harvard College Faith and Action](#), [Harvard Hillel](#), the [Harvard cheerleaders](#), and the [Harvard basketball teams](#).

MemCafé continues to be a highlight for students as they pass through the Yard on Wednesday mornings. It brings a smile to my face when I hear about how much a cup of coffee and a granola bar means to a student after a long night of studying. This spring we introduced the MemCafé coffee mugs and corn hole game boards in an effort to encourage students to stay and take a break between classes.

Our undergraduate ministries continue to flourish with dedicated student partici-



pation. Ushers serve a vital and visible role in our church, as they are the first faces that people see when they enter our church on a Sunday morning. As the gatekeepers to the church during services, they work diligently to manage the integrity of the worship experience for our congregants. This year the ushers started to meet for breakfast once a month at Zoe's. It is a time for relaxation and fellowship before Sunday services. A frequent topic of conversation is whether the regular or Greek French toast is better. (Each usher has a distinct opinion.)

We have also started some new traditions this year at the Memorial Church. Breakfast food appears to be a running theme. We hosted several pancake breakfasts for the undergraduates. During the Fall Term finals period, we learned how just quickly freshmen can consume 300 pancakes: 15 minutes!

It has also been wonderful to witness how students have felt welcome to use MemChurch as a place for their student gatherings. On Saturday mornings, music wafts through the building as the [River Charles Ensemble](#) practices the Choir Room for their weekly rehearsals. [Kuumba](#) stages their annual concert in the sanctuary in December. The Interfaith Forum held their end of the year gathering in the Buttrick Room. We are excited to see students utilizing this great resource in the center of the Yard.

Many New Testament scholars agree that Jesus' table fellowship is one of the most historically reliable actions recorded in the Gospels. There is something very powerful about sharing meal with someone, an acceptance of that person on a basic and very fundamental level. I feel deep gratitude for the time I have spent with students breaking bread and building community. 🍴

In Pictures



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7. James Carroll gives a powerful talk at this year's Tillich Lecture on April 30 ([audio available on our website](#)).
8. Harvard Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) gathers in the Pusey Room every Wednesday night.
9. Prof. Walton and William R. Crout celebrate another successful Tillich Lecture.

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



HARVARD The Memorial Church

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