

THE REV. MARK ANDREW JEFFERSON, PH.D.

Phone: (703) 461-1861
mjefferson@vts.edu

3737 Seminary Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

EDUCATION

- PhD** **Emory University**, Religion May 2019
Dissertation: “Beyond the Talented Tenth: W. E. B. Du Bois, the Hip Hop Emcee, and the Reimagination of African American Homiletics”
Committee: Thomas G. Long (co-chair), Teresa L. Fry Brown (co-chair), Ted A. Smith
- MDiv** **Candler School of Theology at Emory University**, Divinity May 2008
Certification: Black Church Studies
Course Concentration: Homiletics
Advisor(s): Thomas G. Long and Luke Timothy Johnson
- BA** **Norfolk State University**, Political Science May 2005
Concentration: Public Administration

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- Virginia Theological Seminary**, Alexandria, VA August 2016 to Present
Assistant Professor, Homiletics
- Programs: M.Div., D.Min., and Lifelong Learning
 - Courses Taught: Introduction to Homiletics, Prophetic Preaching, Hip Hop and Homiletics, Leading from the Pulpit, Creating a Preaching Laity, Proclaiming the Parables of Jesus, Strategic Preaching, and Sermon Mechanics
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**, Pittsburgh, PA November 2015 to May 2016
Adjunct Professor, Homiletics
- Program: D.Min.
 - Courses Taught: Preaching the Headlines and Preaching and the Cultural Arts
- Candler School of Theology**, Atlanta, GA Summer 2015
Adjunct Professor, Homiletics
- Program: M.Div.
 - Course Taught: Imagining a Hip-Hop Homiletic
- Emory University**, Atlanta, GA Fall 2010 to Fall 2015
Graduate Assistant, Bandy Chair of Homiletics
- Program: M.Div.

- Served as a graduate assistant and associate for the Introduction to Homiletics courses taught by current Bandy Chair of Homiletics Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown and Bandy Chair *emeritus* Thomas G. Long

HONORS, AWARDS, AND LEADERSHIP

Honors

<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers</i> , Morehouse College	2019
<i>W.E.B. Du Bois Academic Excellence Award</i> , Candler School of Theology	2012
<i>Vince Lombardi Most Outstanding Football Athlete</i> , Norfolk State University	2004
<i>Coca-Cola Academic All-American</i> , Norfolk State University	2004
<i>Pi Sigma Alpha</i> (Political Science Honor Society), Norfolk State University	2004

Leadership

<i>President</i> , Black Student Caucus, Candler School of Theology	2007
<i>Student Leader</i> , Athletes in Action, Norfolk State University	2003 – 2005
<i>President</i> , Pi Sigma Alpha, Norfolk State University	2004 – 2005
<i>President</i> , Roteract Club, Chowan University	2001

Scholarships

<i>Doctoral Fellowship</i> , Lilly Foundation/Emory University	2016
<i>Doctoral Fellowship</i> , Forum for Theological Exploration	2010 – 2012
<i>Diversity Scholarship</i> , Candler School of Theology	2005 – 2008
<i>Football Scholarship</i> , Norfolk State University	2003 – 2005
<i>Rosa Alexander Scholarship</i> , Norfolk State University	2004
<i>Leadership Scholar</i> , Chowan University	2000

PUBLICATIONS

Books

“Afterward,” in *Prophetic Preaching: The Hope and Cure of the Church?*, Crystal Hardin and Ian Markham, eds. (Church Publishing, 2020).

Contributor, *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship, Year B, Volume 3*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2020.

Current Book Project

The Mis-Education of the African American Preacher

In the upcoming book, *The Mis-education of the African American Preacher*, Dr. Jefferson extends the work of Carter G. Woodson and his critique of the educational and cultural formation of African American leaders, namely preachers, by arguing that they are being formed to ineffectively preach with to connect with the black masses in the current socio-political climate.

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, RETREATS AND ADDRESSES

Webinar, “De-centering Whiteness in Homiletics,” Academy of Homiletics, 8/19/2020.

Webinar, “Religion and the Politics of African American Voting,” More Than Just a Protest, 6/14/2020.

Retreat, “Reimaging Preaching,” The Episcopal Diocese of Lexington (KY), Berea College, Berea, KY, 3/2/2020 - 3/4/2020.

Retreat, “Imagination and the Sermon,” Deep Calls to Deep Preaching Program Mid-Year Retreat, 1/29/2020.

Presentation, “Deep Preaching: A Peer to Peer Preaching Model for Public Engagement,” Rooted in Jesus Conference, All Saints Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA, 1/23/2020.

Workshop, “Seeing the Face of God Through the Gift Diversity,” Diversity and Awareness Commission, Diocese of Easton, 12/19/2019.

Workshop, “Passionate and Imaginative Preaching in a Political World,” Diocese of Kentucky Clergy, Lay and Deacons, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Murray, KY, 10/27/2019.

Workshop, “Perspectives on Prophetic Preaching” The Episcopal Diocese of Memphis, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Memphis, TN, 9/30/2019.

Presentation, “Virginia Theological Seminary, Theological Education, and the Power of the Church,” All Saints Episcopal, Charlotte, NC 8/25/2019.

Presentation, “There’s Nothing Small About a Small Church in a Small Town,” Grace Episcopal Church, Chadron, NE 7/14/2019.

Presentation, “The Importance of Preaching in the Local Parish,” St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, New Kent, VA, 5/19/2019.

Presentation, “Hip Hop, Black Church, and the Role of Theological Education,” Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, 5/7/2019.

Panel, “gOD-Talk: A Black Millennials and Faith Conversation,” Smithsonian National Museum of African American of History and Culture/Something in the Water Festival, Virginia Beach, VA, 4/27/2020.

Keynote Address, “The Importance of Deep Preaching in Shallow Times,” Mary Cecil Lecture Series, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Beaumont, TX, 4/10/2019.

Workshop Lead, “Learning to Listen, Learning to Preach,” Field Education Site Supervisors Workshop, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 3/4/2019.

Presentation, “Where Do We Go from Here: Absalom Jones and the State of the Church,” Absalom Jones Commemoration, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chestertown, MD, 2/19/2019.

Keynote Address, “The Talented Tenth and the Need for African American Social Reimagination,” Educational Leadership Student Association, Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA, 3/27/19.

Presentation, “Creating an Environment for Transformative Preaching,” Contextual Ministry Training for Site Supervisors, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 3/14/19.

Presentation, “Spirituality and the Preaching Life,” Deacon and Clergy Retreat for Dioceses of Maryland and Delaware, The Retreat House, Hillsboro, MD, 2/9/19.

Presentation, “History, Waiting, and the Character of a Christian Life,” Advent Educational Forum, Christ Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA, 12/16/18.

Workshop, “Preaching for the 21st Century,” Deep Calls to Deep Preaching Program Mid-Year Retreat, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 11/3/18.

Workshop Lead, “Developing the Preaching Pew,” Diocese of Arizona Deacon and Ministers Retreat, Phoenix, AZ, 10/14/2017.

Presenter, “Growing by Cutting,” Young Adult Ministry Retreat, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA, 9/10/2017.

Presenter, “Growing in Wisdom,” Vacation Bible School, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA, 7/20/2017.

Co-Presenter, “Revelation, Lamentation, and the Understanding of Preaching as Prophetic Art,” Deep Calls to Deep Preaching Residency, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 6/14/2017.

Presentation, “Preaching, Politics, and the Parish,” Mid-Year Retreat, Deep Calls to Deep Preaching Program, St. Bartholomew’s, White Plains, NY, 4/17/2017.

Presentation, “The Power of Imaginative Preaching,” Mid-Year Retreat, Deep Calls to Deep Preaching Program, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 11/12/2016.

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Doctor of Ministry, Pittsburgh, PA

2017

Adjunct Professor, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Preparatory and Research Education Program , Atlanta, GA Lead Teacher , Emory University	2013 - 2014
The Center for Leadership, Education, and Teaching , Nassau, Bahamas Facilitator , United Methodist Church	2013
Doctor of Ministry , Dayton, OH/Decatur, GA Guest Lecturer , United Theological Seminary	2013
Youth Theological Initiative (Y.T.I) , Atlanta, GA Teacher/Presenter , Emory University	2012 - 2013

RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP/SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

Alfred Street Baptist , Alexandria, VA Associate Minister , Howard-John Wesley, D.Min., Pastor	2016 to Present
Friendship Baptist Church , Atlanta, GA Associate Minister , Richard Wills, Sr., Ph.D., Pastor	2014 - 2016
The House of Hope Atlanta , Decatur, GA Director of Christian Education , E. Dewey Smith, Jr., D.Min. Pastor	2013 - 2014
Friendship Community Church , College Park, GA Pastoral Intern , Donald Earl Bryant, Sr., D.Min., Pastor	2012
Zion Hill Baptist Church , Atlanta, GA Young Adult Pastor , Aaron L. Parker, Ph.D., Pastor	2010
The Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church , Decatur, Georgia Director of Christian Education/Director of Ministry Operations , Rev. E. Dewey Smith, Jr., D.Min., Pastor	2007 - 2009
The Greater Travelers Rest Baptist Church , Decatur, GA Graduate Intern , Rev. E. Dewey Smith, Jr. D.Min., Pastor	2005 - 2006

SERMONS SINCE 2018

Chapel Preacher, “It’s Not Fair,” Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 10/21/2020.

Celebration of New Ministry, “Grant Us to Sit,” St. George’s Episcopal Church, Maplewood, NJ, 10/10/2020.

Pastoral Anniversary, “A Strange Gift in a Graveyard,” National Baptist Memorial Church, online, 9/6/2020.

Conference Preacher, “Fainting at the Feet of the Future,” Union of Black Episcopalians Western Conference, online, 5/2/2020.

Guest Preacher, “An Invitation in Uncertain Times,” St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, online, 4/26/2020.

Guest Preacher, “Skip the Bull,” St. Paul’s Baptist Church, Memphis, TN, 3/8/2020.

Guest Preacher, “Come Before Winter,” Lenten Preaching Series, Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN, 3/6/2020.

Keynote Sermon, “Back to the Basics,” Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky Clergy Conference, Berea College, Berea, KY, 3/2/2020.

Guest Preacher, “The Temptation to Not be Temporary,” St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, Lexington, KY, 3/1/2020.

Guest Preacher, “The Seduction of Shortcuts,” St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, Lexington, KY, 3/1/2020.

Guest Preacher, “The Blessings of Boarding School,” Winter Vespers Service, Episcopal High School, Alexandria, VA, 2/28/2020.

Guest Preacher, “Hope for a Hungry World,” Black History Month Celebration, National Cathedral School, Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D. C., 2/24/2020.

Guest Preacher, “The Anatomy of an Irresistible Invitation,” Mid-Atlantic Episcopal School Association Choral Evensong, Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C., 2/9/2020.

Guest Preacher, “Distinction or Destruction,” Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C., 2/9/2020.

Chapel Preacher, “A View for Life,” Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, 2/6/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Finding Freedom Facing the Fear of Death,” St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Upland, CA, 2/2/2020.

Guest Preacher, “Promises Made, Promises Kept,” St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Upland, CA, 2/2/2020.

Keynote Preacher, “Confronting Comfortable Christology (Christianity),” Rooted in Jesus Conference, All Saints Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA, 1/24/2020.

Guest Preacher, “Annoyed with *Metanioa*,” St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Waldorf, MD, 12/8/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Blessing of the Blue Note,” St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Waldorf, 12/8/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Idol of Idleness,” Christ Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA, 11/17/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Terror of the Temporary,” Christ Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA, 11/17/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Confidence in Cosmic Confusion,” Nativity and Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Baltimore, MD, 11/10/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Majoring in the Minor,” Nativity and Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Baltimore, MD, 11/10/2019.

Chapel Preacher, “The One That’s Before Me,” Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 11/6/2019.

Guest Preacher, “A Tale of Two Prayers,” St. John’s Episcopal Church, Murray, KY, 10/27/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Power of Persistence,” Church of the Resurrection (Episcopal), Immanuel Chapel, Alexandria, VA, 9/20/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Win like the Widow,” Church of the Resurrection (Episcopal), Immanuel Chapel, Alexandria, VA, 9/20/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Anchor of Memory,” Annual Homecoming Celebration, St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Foggy Bottom, Washington, D.C., 10/13/2019.

Celebration of New Ministry, “Hope for the Harvest,” St. John’s Episcopal Church, Suamico, WI, 10/10/2019.

Chapel Preacher, “Too Hungry to Eat,” Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 10/9/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Redefining Impossible,” Annual Homecoming Service, Trinity Episcopal Church, Chocowinity, NC, 10/6/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Power of Our Present Sufferings,” Alfred Street Baptist Church’s Men’s Day, Alexandria Detention Center, Alexandria, VA, 10/5/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Where Do We Go from Here,” St. Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral. Memphis, TN, 9/29/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Imitation of Life,” St. Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral, Memphis, TN, 9/29/2019.

Guest Preacher, “And We Are Not Saved,” Annual Church Homecoming, St. John’s Episcopal Church, West Point, VA, 9/22/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Repairers of the Breach,” All Saints Episcopal Church, Concord, NC, 8/25/2019.

Guest Preacher, “It’s Time to Straighten Up,” All Saints Episcopal Church, Concord, NC, 8/25/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Set Free to Serve,” All Saints Episcopal Church, Concord, NC, 8/25/2019.

Guest Preacher, “It’s Complicated,” St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church, Laurel, MD, 9/18/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Danger of Distracted Power,” St. Phillip’s Episcopal Church, Laurel, MD, 9/18/2019.

Guest Preacher, “When God Gets Tired,” Christ Episcopal Church, Clinton, MD, 8/11/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Meaning of Mercy,” Grace Episcopal Church, Chadron, NE, 7/14/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Help for the Half-Dead,” St. Mary’s-Holly Episcopal Church, Rushville, NE, 7/14/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Dealing with Distracted Discipleship,” Saint Peter’s in the Woods Episcopal Church, Fairfax, VA, 6/30/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Responding to an Irresistible Call,” Saint Peter’s in the Woods Episcopal Church, Fairfax, VA, 6/30/2019.

Conference Preacher, “Singing a New Song,” Deep Calls to Deep Summer Residency, Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 6/10/2019.

Ordination Preacher, “Grappling with Greatness,” Diocese of Upper South Carolina, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Columbia, SC, 6/8/2020.

Guest Preacher, “Disturbing the Peace,” Sharon Chapel Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA, 6/2/2020.

Guest Preacher, “Praying Under Pressure,” Sharon Chapel Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA, 6/2/2020.

Guest Preacher, “Transformed by Transitions,” St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, New Kent, VA, 5/19/2020.

Keynote Preacher, “When God Confuses Your Plans,” Service of Thanksgiving, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, 5/7/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Believe into Life,” St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Sterling, VA, 4/28/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Witness of Our Wounds,” St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Sterling, VA, 4/28/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Blessings Behind Locked Doors,” St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Sterling, VA, 4/28/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Pressing Under Pressure,” Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC, 4/7/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Let Your Hair Down,” Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC, 4/7/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Don’t Fear the Fox(es),” Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA, 3/17/2019.

Guest Preacher, “An Opportune Time,” Christ Episcopal Church Lucketts, Leesburg, VA, 3/10/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Changed to Make a Change,” St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Port Royal, VA, 3/3/2019.

Ordination Preacher, “Private Power for a Public Life,” Deacon Ordination for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Burke, VA, 3/2/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Leading from a Level Place,” Education Sunday, St. James Episcopal Church, Leesburg, VA, 2/17/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Why Preaching,” Education Sunday, St. James Episcopal Church, Leesburg, VA, 2/17/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Heart of the Matter,” Education Sunday, St. James Episcopal Church, Leesburg, VA, 2/17/2019.

Keynote Preacher, “The Responsibility of Relationship,” Absalom Jones Commemoration, Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, Lynchburg, VA, 2/13/2019.

Guest Preacher, “Living with Lamentation” Absalom Jones Commemoration, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chestertown, MD, 2/10/2019.

Guest Preacher, “More Life,” Absalom Jones Commemoration, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Chestertown, MD, 2/10/2019.

Keynote Preacher, “The Church on the Cliff,” Absalom Jones Service, Union of Black Episcopalians, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, College Park, MD, 2/3/2019.

Chapel Preacher, “The Hope Rope,” Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, VA, 1/31/2019.

Guest Preacher, “The Promise and Peril of Today,” Education Sunday, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA, 1/27/2019.

Celebration of New Ministry, “Hypnotized by Low Hanging Fruit,” Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, Dublin, MD, 12/9/2018.

Guest Preacher, “Lord, Why the Wilderness,” Grace Memorial Episcopal Church, Dublin, MD, 12/9/2018.

Guest Preacher, “All of the Ifs,” Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ, 11/4/2018.

Great Preacher, “It Stinks,” Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ, 11/4/2018.

Guest Preacher, “Don’t Miss the Morning, Mourning,” Winter Revival, National Baptist Memorial Church, Washington, D.C., 10/31/2018.

Guest Preacher, “A Word in the Wilderness,” Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA, 10/28/2018.

Guest Preacher, “The God of a New Thing,” Winter Revival, National Baptist Memorial Cathedral, Washington, D.C., 10/24/2018.

Guest Preacher, “Face Off,” Men’s Day, Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church, Accomack, VA, 10/21/2018.

SERVICE TO VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Committees:

Bicentennial Campaign, Library, Worship, Admissions, Search for Music Professor, Dean’s Task on Race and Diversity, Academic Affairs, Dudley Speech Prize, Hines Preaching Award, Bowers Preaching Award, Meade Seminar

Institutional Service:

Institutional Advancement, Alumni Relations, Student Recruitment, Church and Community Engagement, Faculty Representative to the Board, Formation Group, Bicentennial Preaching Challenge

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION EXPERIENCE

East Point Community Action Team, East Point, GA 2010
Youth Leadership Development Coordinator, AmeriCorp VISTA

Children’s Interfaith Movement of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA 2006 - 2007
Graduate Intern, Emory University

The Gateway Center, Atlanta, GA 2005 - 2006
Graduate Intern, Emory University

SOCIAL MEDIA

Blogger, Urban Cusp, www.urbancusp.com 2011 - 2013

Description: Provided online content for the site with pieces picked up by TheRoot.com

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion, Academy of Homiletics

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Good News Community Kitchen
Strategic Support, Occoquan, VA 2016 - Present

T.H.R.I.V.E. Academy
Mentor for Seniors, Decatur, GA, 2018 – Present

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language

Spanish: Intermediate Listener and Reader, Novice Speaker

Additional Courses: Latin, French, Lexical Greek