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Youngblood offers a "defense for dreamers"

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"I don't drink coffee," said Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood when presented with a Guilford College throw and coffee mug at the conclusion of his speech. "Tea?" suggested Holly Wilson, Coordinator of Africana Community Programs, who presented his gifts. "I can put beer in that too," Rev. Youngblood said with a chuckle.

"It was great that he could end it with a joke, especially because the rest of his sermon did a good job of combining the seriousness and celebration of the occasion," said first-year Keiron Maroney.

Rev. Youngblood, a pastor in Brooklyn for the past 27 years, notably increased his congregation at St. Paul Community Baptist Church from 84 people to 9,000. He addressed a diverse audience in Dana Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Jan. 16 in commemorative celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

He began by referencing the Bible, quoting Genesis 37:1-8: "and they hated him yet the more for his dreams and for his words." Rev. Youngblood discussed dreamers and their esteemed qualities throughout his speech.

"Dreams make dreamers, people don't just conjure up dreams," said Rev. Youngblood. "Dr. King was wrong when he said he had a dream - a dream had him. He was, in a sense, possessed."

The recurrent shouting of "amen" throughout the program indicated the enthusiasm Rev. Youngblood inspired in the crowd.

During her welcoming remarks,

Wilson said, "we expect a move of spirit tonight."

"Even though we have theological differences between us," said first-year Noah Schiansi. "What he was talking about really stirred me during the program and hopefully I will be moved to action. That happens a lot to students at these things, we never proceed to actually do anything about what we believe."

According to Monica Walker, Visiting Lecturer in Justice and Policy Studies, Youngblood serves as an example: "He is a giant who has done more with the minutes in his life than most do in a lifetime."

Rev. Youngblood offered his opinion on controversial current affairs by metaphorically connecting hatred with heart disease. He listed the various physical heart conditions plaguing the medical community,

adding hatred to the end of the list.

"The worst kind of heart trouble I have heard of is hatred. Hating, ya'll, is an awful disease. Hazardous to your whole health. If you have not had a spiritual check-up yet, you may be afflicted."

He believes hatred naturally occurs in life, defining it as "the force of love moving in the wrong direction." The spiritual check-up he recommends takes the form of a "hate test." "If you cannot share your hatred with God," Rev. Youngblood told the audience, "there is a good chance it is demonically induced."

He mentioned learning as a child that four-letter words are bad. At the time, his parents only informed him of h-a-t-e. This is the underlying problem of all issues in the world according to Rev. Youngblood - racism, sexism, and religious differences.

Youngblood tied in these problems to the inactivity of dreamers and the over-activity of haters:

"Dreamers create a restlessness on the part of people who are addicted to business as usual. They upset the status quo by pointing out topics uneasily discussed because they know it is the right thing to do."

For those protectors of the status quo "who don't have love, don't have dreams, who have a history of violence, who are propagators of hate," Youngblood coined the term "poverty pimps."

This is what he had to escape growing up in poverty-stricken New Orleans. To make this point, he recalled an appropriate line in the theme song from the classic TV sitcom, *Welcome Back Kotter*: "Dreams were my ticket out."%



Rev. Youngblood recalled Dr. King's message of dreams.

Long-standing Guilford trustee Stanley Frank dies at age 91

Dan Etter

Senior Writer

Stanley Frank, member of Guilford College's Board of Trustees for 36 years, died on Jan. 2. Services were held at Temple Emanuel, where approximately 600 people gathered to pay their respects.

The procession stopped at the Frank Family Science Center to hear prayers from professor and rabbi Jonathan Malino.

Frank was buried at Hebrew Cemetery.

Frank was more than a trustee. He was a friend, confidant and mentor to four Guilford presidents; and he offered his brilliance, his support and his smile to any member of the Guilford

community.

"Stanley had a commanding presence, but a visible compassion to go with it," said Jon Varnell, Director of Facilities and Campus Services.

Frank was chair of the Building and Grounds Committee and one of the top donors in Guilford's history, leaving behind the Frank Family Science Center and the steps of New Garden Hall. Frank's theory of buildings mimicked his lifestyle: he believed a strong infrastructure was far more important than a flashy appearance.

Frank did more than donate money, however. He created opportunity.

Continued on page 3



Faculty and staff greeted Stanley Frank's funeral procession in front of Frank Family Science Center