“Surviving Your Holy Saturday”

“Holy Saturday is the in-between space between crucifixion and resurrection.”

A thought-provoking message was delivered Thursday morning, by Dr. Marion H. Newton, during the annual Pre-Easter Worship Service. Entitled “Surviving Your Holy Saturday,” Dr. Newton used John 20:1-8 from which to explore his message. “When most of us talk about Holy Week,” he began, “we talk about every day, every event that happened, but we do not talk about Holy Saturday.” Challenged by this omission, he noted how even the gospel writers “recorded things up until Friday when Jesus was buried in the tomb.” He went on to say, “Then, they skip Saturday and move to resurrection Sunday.” Mindful of Saturday being a day of rest in Judaism because on the Sabbath, he accentuated the reality that “there is always a Saturday between Friday and Sunday.”

Dr. Newton, using the text for his canvass poignantly painted Holy Saturday as the “in-between space between crucifixion and resurrection.” With a twist of the wrist, he gave clarity to his image by adding, “What was is no more, and what will be is not yet clear or known.” Giving examples of the “various way, shapes and forms” Holy Saturday comes to all of us, he said that it “seems to always involve death. . . and draws all of us to the tomb.” The question submitted to his audience was, “How do you survive your Holy Saturday?

To survive your Holy Saturday, Dr. Newton said, “Christians need to have faith to believe in God’s Word.” Because Peter did not believe, though he went into the empty tomb, he urged his audience stating, “When things look empty, you have to have faith to believe in God’s Word.” He also urged his audience to “make preparations to worship the Living Christ.” This suggestion references the women who went to the tomb to perform the ritual of anointing the dead body of Jesus. “You will never survive your Saturday situation looking for a dead Jesus.”

An alumnus of Morris College, Dr. Newton currently serves as senior pastor of the Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church, Sumter, SC, and is a member of the college’s board of trustees. He ended his message with his personal story of a non-traditional student. “I started over again at a late age and at times felt like giving up,” he said, “but because He lives, I was able to overcome my Holy Saturday, and because He lives you can live too!”

Dr. Luns C. Richardson thanked Dr. Newton for a “very excellent message; one that was well-prepared, well-delivered, well-thought out, very instructive and inspiring. He also commended Dr. Pee, the College Minister, who presided and recognized trustees Barbara R. Jackson, president of the Morris College National Alumni Association, and James B. Blassingame, president of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina and other guests.

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**PRESIDENT’S CALENDAR**

**April 23, 2014**
8 PM
Ministerial Extension Closing Ceremony, Neal-Jones Auditorium
Speaker: Dr. Bryant S. Cheek, Sr. Pastor, Springfield Baptist Church, Laurens, SC

**April 25, 2014**
8:15 PM
Morris College Chorale Annual Spring Concert Neal-Jones Auditorium

**April 27, 2014**
11 AM
Education Day: Thankful Baptist Church, Bamberg, SC; Music: Chorale

**May 2, 2014**
7 PM
Class Night Program Neal-Jones Auditorium immediately followed by President’s Dinner for Graduating Seniors Daniels Dining Hall

**May 3, 2014**
10 AM
103rd Annual Baccalaureate Commencement Convocation Sumter County Civic Center Sumter, SC
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 18, 2014
5 PM
Easter recess begins after classes

April 22, 2014
8 AM
Easter recess ends

April 25, 2014
Last day of classes for Spring Semester

April 27, 2014
9 AM
Sunday Morning Worship Service
O. R. Reuben Chapel

Final Assembly of the Semester
The Installation/President’s End of the Year Information Assembly will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in the Neal-Jones Auditorium. The speaker will be Dr. Maggie Wallace Glover, Director of Developmental Programs and Special Activities.

All newly elected SGA officers and other Student Leaders for the 2014-2015 academic year will be installed at this time. All advisors to classes, clubs, and organizations are asked to please submit the names of new officers to the Office of Student Affairs on or before April 18, 2014. Attendance is required.

Important News for Graduating Seniors
Graduating seniors need to complete the Loan Exit Counseling On-line for Federal Direct Student Loans prior to graduation. The exit counseling is required by the federal government for all students who have received student loans.

The Office of Financial Aid has sent out correspondence to prospective graduates regarding this process. Graduating seniors should check their campus mailboxes, dormitory or home mailboxes. Students will need to use their Personal Identification Number (PIN) to complete the exit counseling. The PIN is the same four digit number used to sign your FAFSA. For additional information, contact the Office of Financial Aid at ext. 3245.

Room Reservations Being Accepted
Room reservations are being accepted from currently enrolled students until May 9, 2014 for summer sessions I and II. For students enrolling for the 2014-2015 fall and spring semesters, room reservations are being accepted until July 30, 2014.

Housing Agreement forms may be picked up from Residence Hall Directors or the Director of Residential Life in the Office of Student Affairs located in Academic Hall. The room reservation fee is $100. This is a one-time, refundable fee.

All completed Housing Agreements are to be returned to the Residence Hall Directors.

Annual “HBCU Campus Queens” Feature
EBONY Magazine has announced its annual “HBCU Campus Queens” feature. It will be great if Shanaka L. Hayward, Miss Morris College, could be among the Ten HBCU Campus Queens featured inside EBONY’s September 2014 issue. For this to happen she needs our vote.

We are urging all students, faculty, staff and alumni, along with your family and friends, to please go to the magazine’s website at www.ebony.com/campusqueens and vote for Miss Morris College!

Online voting has officially started and will continue until May 15, 2014 at midnight. Ebony will feature the ten queens with the most votes. Thanks for your support.