



Harding University  
**Scholar Works at Harding**

---

The Bridge

Harding School of Theology

---

Fall 2020

## The Bridge Fall 2020 Vol. 61 No. 1

Harding School of Theology

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-bridge>



**HARDING**  
UNIVERSITY

# The *Bridge*

VOLUME 61, NO. 1, FALL 2020



## FIND US



HST.edu



@hst\_edu



Facebook.com/hst.edu



Place all your Amazon orders through [hst.edu/books](http://hst.edu/books)



**Go Paperless**  
[hst.edu/bridge](http://hst.edu/bridge)

Subscribe to *The Bridge* electronic newsletter and have it delivered to your inbox.



**HARDING**  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY®

## *The Bridge*

*The Bridge* is published quarterly by Harding School of Theology for alumni, students, prospective students, contributors, and friends.

### **Copy Editor**

Jantzen Haley

### **Designer**

Taylor O'Dell

### **Contributors**

Greg Muse, Jim Martin,  
Bob Turner, Allen Black  
Matt Carter

### **Photo Credits**

Jeff Montgomery,  
Matt Carter,  
Rachel Hemphill

### **Vice President's Office**

901-432-7719

[jimmartin@hst.edu](mailto:jimmartin@hst.edu)

### **Dean's Office**

901-432-7721

[dean@hst.edu](mailto:dean@hst.edu)

### **Associate Dean's Office**

901-432-7733

[smcleod@hst.edu](mailto:smcleod@hst.edu)

### **Admissions Office**

800-680-0809

[hstadmissions@hst.edu](mailto:hstadmissions@hst.edu)

### **Advancement Office**

901-432-7723

[hstadvancement@hst.edu](mailto:hstadvancement@hst.edu)

### **Library Office**

901-432-7731

[rjturner@hst.edu](mailto:rjturner@hst.edu)

### **Harding School of Theology**

1000 Cherry Road  
Memphis, TN 38117

## IN THIS ISSUE

*Page 3*

VP REFLECTIONS

*Page 4*

MORE THAN JUST  
A HISTORIAN

*Page 5*

A LIBRARY FOR TOMORROW

*Page 6*

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

*Page 7*

HST OFFERS VIDEO  
RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

*Page 7*

FACULTY & STAFF  
NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

*Page 8*

NEWS & EVENTS

### **Cover**

Dr. Allen Black attends our Virtual Lunch and Learn featuring HST alumni Dr. Ed Robinson, Dr. Carisse Mickey Berryhill, B. Chris Simpson, and Bob Turner. (photo credit: Matt Carter)

Photo Credit: Rachel Hemphill



Greg Muse

## A Message From Advancement

*By Greg Muse, HST Advancement Director*

To work in HST Advancement almost feels like being a parent. Except this parent has 120 talented children. (Also, the temptation is almost present, like a parent, to brag about these students with strangers in line at Costco.) The faculty and I are very proud of them!

As with many parents, we are conscious of the cost of an education at HST. The retail cost of our most popular master's degree is well over \$55,000. The value is far greater. Fortunately, thanks to our donors, most of our students are receiving significant scholarships.

Please consider investing in these students. Visit our website at [hst.edu/giving](http://hst.edu/giving) to make an online gift or establish a monthly gift with your credit card. The HST Fund is the most immediate way to keep our students on track with their educational goals. Consider the HST Fund as the way you keep the very basics

in place at HST so that these students can equip themselves for ministry and service in the kingdom.

From our giving page, click into a description of honorary and memorial scholarships that have been established through the years. Endowed scholarships reduce the cost of tuition for our students, usually by at least 40%. They help make the school a real option for people looking at the possibility of this kind of training. More scholarships mean a lower average cost for students, as well as potential students. Why not contribute to a scholarship or consider establishing an endowment whose focus has meaning to you? Matching funds for these HST endowment gifts are still available.

Please consider a gift today. Your gift has the potential to impact so many people who are blessed through these students' current and future ministries. And we will be sure to send you their graduation invitation.



# Reflections FROM THE UP



Photo Credit: Jeff Montgomery

Dr. Jim Martin

## Ministry Matters Even When It's Tough

By Jim Martin

Ministry is tough. At times, Jesus faced conflict, rejection, and hostility. Right now, many ministers in congregations throughout the country are facing difficult times. In many congregations, the conflict is centered around the regrouping that is taking place after a season of online-only worship services on Sundays.

In March of 2020, the United States became aware that we were experiencing a pandemic. Soon after, a financial crisis arose. Some weeks later, the nation seemed to explode with a social crisis in which racial injustice was discussed and exposed. Now, the nation is experiencing a presidential election. Thick clouds of anxiety seem to hang low in the sky, impacting most everything that is precious to us.

Many ministers are reporting just how difficult it is to serve in their ministry roles right now. They hear, from their own members, statements about what these ministers ought to be doing.

*I can't believe we are even talking about going back to the building!*

*Why aren't we having services in the building?*

*What do you mean, we have to wear masks?*

*How could we even allow the people without masks to get around the most vulnerable?*

*This COVID-19 virus is basically a hoax.*

*Meanwhile, complications of this COVID-19 virus have caused the death of one of our members.*

On and on it goes. Could it be that we need to consider the wear and tear of these demands on ministers and elders? In numerous conversations with ministers, I hear them speak of being tired and exhausted. Perhaps we would do well to ask ourselves, "What will become of these ministers and elders if they have to continue to deal with those of us who approach them with such intensity and hostility?"

A few suggestions:

1. We can pray for these ministers and elders. During the time in which many of us were quarantined at home, many of these church leaders were creative and served their churches well. They faithfully served their congregations. Now that many church leaders are returning to their building, these same ministers are experiencing the hostility of many of their own members.
2. We can commit to behaving maturely instead of allowing raw emotion to take over. When raw emotion takes over, we may find ourselves responding to others in a way that is reactionary, snarky, and sarcastic. Often the discussion moves from the issue to the person.
3. We can elevate the person and our relationship with that person, above being right and above winning an argument. You may disagree with this person but what are his/her intentions? What are this person's good qualities?
4. We can place love before our rights, our preferences, and our desires. We are called to live by an ethic that is higher than one's own self-interest.
5. We can commit to showing up with calmness and intentionality whether in person or by Zoom.

Ministry is tough. It is not for the thin-skinned or for those who are looking for an easy way to live. Ministry is service, not a career path for that person who enjoys public speaking and thought this would be a good choice. We are at our best when Jesus is front and center. This pandemic is not creating a mess in our congregations. Rather, this pandemic is revealing who we really are in our congregations. As church members, we can't just wait for things to return to "normal." This moment is difficult, but Jesus' church is not stopped. After all, we are called to model self-sacrifice, not self-gratification.

# EDWARD ROBINSON: *More Than Just a Historian*

By Bob Turner, HST Library Director

There comes a time in the life of every great historian when they become part of the story they tell. Don Meredith (M.Th., '67) says this about his teacher and friend, Earl I. West (1920-2011), suggesting that West never truly acknowledged that he was more than a historian of Churches of Christ; he was a figure within that history. Over the past two decades, Edward Robinson (M.A.R. '91, M.Div. '93) has moved from being the foremost chronicler of African American Churches of Christ to being a formidable player in that tradition.

After graduating from Harding School of Theology, Robinson wrote his doctoral dissertation on Samuel Robert Cassius (1853-1951), later published as *To Save my Race from Abuse: The Life of Samuel Robert Cassius*. This project would define his future work. In a recent interview Robinson said, "history is largely biography." This explains his ensuing research projects. He profiled Marshall Keeble in *Show Us How You Do It* and Annie C. Tuggle in *I Was Under a Heavy Burden*. He told the story of church leaders in Texas with *The Fight is on in Texas*. But Robinson's signature contribution (so far) comes through *Hard-Fighting Soldiers: A History of African American Churches of Christ*.

He shared his experiences of writing the book during a virtual lunch for HST alumni in August. I sat down with Robinson on Zoom, as 80 HST alumni gathered, with Carisse Berryhill (M.A. '01) and B. Chris Simpson (M.A.C.M. '19) as panelists. Most authors would be tempted to use platforms like this to fall prey to self-importance. Not this one. Robinson exudes humility, whether it be through the kindness and respect he shows others as he speaks, or the way that he downplays his own work. But this work should not be overlooked.

*Hard-Fighting Soldiers* tells a story of Churches of Christ, but from within the African American tradition. This subtly counters

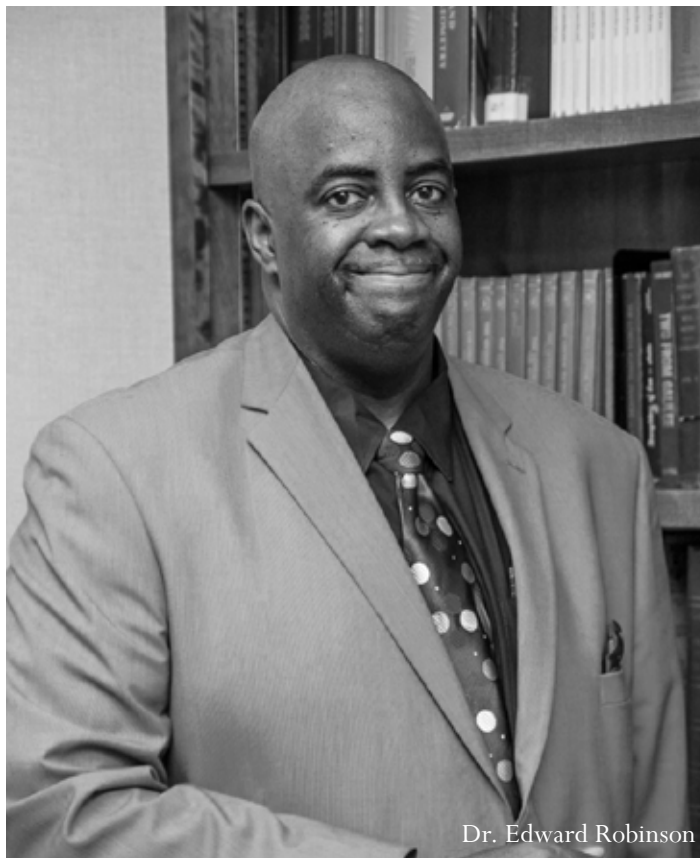
the work of some white scholars who tell a predominantly white history (though including the legacy of Marshall Keeble). Robinson does something much more comprehensive. "We're missing a whole lot if we see Marshall Keeble as the beginning and end of African American Churches of Christ," he says. He doesn't ignore white contributions, even though he primarily documents African American churches. He cites the relationship between Jimmie Lovell and R.N. Hogan, "who collaborated in a time of racial segregation to advance the cause of Christ." He goes on to praise African American churches who sent out white

missionaries. These details often go unnoticed in many histories, but Robinson's work has brought them to the front.

While Robinson's work is historical, he sees it as informing current conversations around race, whether it be related to unity/partnership between Black and White churches or discussions of racial justice. He says current events of racial injustice have unified some African American churches, who were formerly divided by doctrinal differences. Beyond the congregational, he sees his work as a historian as one who tells stories of individuals and their contributions, in hopes that readers can more fully realize their own place in history.

Robinson would likely demur at the suggestion that he is a significant figure in the story

he tells. He even humbly insists the title of his book is a history of African American Churches of Christ, not the history. That said, his work introduces us to people we may otherwise never have met and to stories that might have gone unnoticed. Without question, his commitment to both the church and academy will leave an impression for decades. By telling the story of African American churches, Robinson has challenged all of us to consider how we tell the story of our movement. By this contribution alone, he has established himself as a significant player in the history he tells.



Dr. Edward Robinson



## A Library for Tomorrow

*By Bob Turner, HST Library Director*

How do people use a library without being able to visit a library? That is the question we asked on March 17 when HST determined that it was no longer safe to have our facility opened to the public due to the pandemic. Part of our answer to the question came from thoughts we cobbled together in a matter of days; the other part came from developments that have been in the works for decades.

We closed our stacks and told patrons that we could retrieve materials for them. Local students picked up materials that we left at designated spots on campus. We shipped materials to distance students and even delivered books to alumni around the city. When we reopened the building on July 1, we implemented new protocols for safety, including using private carrels when possible, wearing masks in public areas, and maintaining safe distances.

Those are the things we determined in the short-term. But many of our long-term solutions have been in development for years, such as the steady shift from print to digital.

In recent years, we launched an e-book/audiobook collection

on OverDrive ([hst.overdrive.com](http://hst.overdrive.com)), in addition to purchasing online access to Brill's Context of Scripture and DeGruyter's Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception. Our collection is still over 90% print, but our digital holdings are growing each day.

For journals, students can access Atlas+ and Oxford Journals. HST graduates can access Atlas+ as well (contact [rjturner@harding.edu](mailto:rjturner@harding.edu)). This provides students with more access to electronic journals than ever before.

We have partnered with the Admissions Office to begin offering free digital textbooks to students through BibliU. These textbooks also come to the library for long-term use. This will help build the library, in addition to providing huge savings to students.

As a library staff, we continue to find ways to embrace our tradition of deep collections of print books, while adapting to the changes of the digital landscape. We believe that this shift will position us to continue to serve students and alumni for decades to come.

# A Vision for the Future

## FOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST

By Dr. Allen Black

Mark Powell, professor of theology at HST, has teamed up with John Mark Hicks and Greg McKinzie to write *Discipleship in Community: A Theological Vision for the Future*, published this year by ACU Press. Given its goal the book is quite succinct, 163 pages plus two brief appendices and three short responses totaling another 25 pages. The three responses (from Lauren Smelser White, Stanley Talbert, and Carson E. Reed) are somewhat like book reviews, written from three differing perspectives. What I am providing here is an introduction rather than a critical review. I hope to whet my reader's appetite for a challenging and useful vision for the future of Churches of Christ.

The book is written primarily for churches in the Stone-Campbell tradition and more particularly Churches of Christ. However, it also aims beyond that audience, and the blurbs on the back cover and on the first two pages indicate that it has succeeded in touching a broader readership.

The opening and concluding chapters were written by Mark Powell. Respectively, they provide a preview and a review of the content of the six central chapters (the final chapter may be found at [hst.edu/powell/tc](http://hst.edu/powell/tc)). "Each author wrote two main chapters (chapters two to seven) and each chapter was revised based on the input of the other two authors" (p. 9). The authors do not say which chapters each one was responsible for. The first seven chapters end with valuable bibliographies for further reading.

The book argues that "the orienting theological concern of the Stone-Campbell movement and Churches of Christ can be summarized by the word discipleship" (p. 13). The authors define discipleship as "participation in the life and mission of the Trinitarian God" (p. 15).

Chapter one defends this starting point (pp. 11-19) and then lays out six theological commitments that unpack this emphasis and make up chapters two through seven:

1. A Trinitarian vision of God
2. An eschatological outlook
3. A strong biblical orientation in our teaching and spirituality
4. The Believers Church tradition
5. The sacramental presence and working of God, especially in baptism and the Lord's Supper
6. The church's participation in God's mission

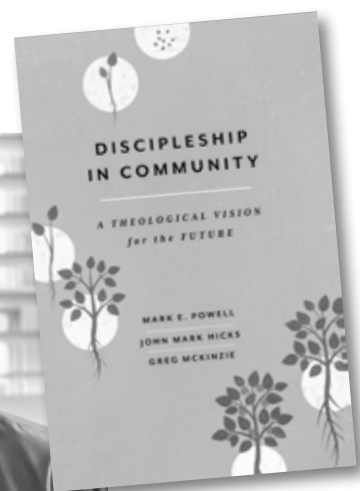
"No one of these six theological commitments are unique to Churches of Christ, but the combination of them does appear to be unique to the conservative heirs of the Stone-Campbell Movement" (p. 23). The book argues that "a Trinitarian vision of God" and "an eschatological outlook" are foundational and underlie the other theological commitments the authors are proposing. Most of the chapters have a similar structure, beginning with a look at the theme "in the Stone-Campbell Movement," then "in the Early Church," and finally in relation to discipleship.

This book is succinct, yet profound. It deserves an honored place among the attempts to point Churches of Christ to a strong future through a theological conversation with our Stone-Campbell Movement heritage.

Photo Credit: Matt Carter



Dr. Mark Powell





# HST Offers Video Resources FOR CHURCHES

By Matt Carter

Did you know HST has a library of 100+ inspirational and helpful videos? They are available on [youtube.com/HSTMemophis](https://youtube.com/HSTMemophis) and scattered throughout [hst.edu](https://hst.edu). These videos cover a variety of topics from biblical studies to church leadership and ministry tips to simple words of encouragement.

Each HST professor has a video playlist on his/her page. Many are short videos suitable for use as a jumping-off point for a small group discussion or Bible class. Of course, they are also a tool to use in your devotional life. Here are a few of our most popular.

If you visit Dr. Richard Oster's page at [hst.edu/Oster](https://hst.edu/Oster), you'll find a mix of short lessons and chapel presentations. His short talk on "The Nativity in the Book of Revelation" is one of our most watched videos.

Library Director Bob Turner ([hst.edu/Turner](https://hst.edu/Turner)) has been a popular presenter and host for many videos. "The B-I-B-L-E: Why Don't We All Agree" (a look at four books that helped illustrate why people have different views of Scripture) was pretty popular, but not quite as popular as his interview with Dr. Allen Black ([hst.edu/Black](https://hst.edu/Black)) about the Bible Manuscripts in the HST archives. In fact, the ones where Bob (and often a guest) look at some of the treasures from the archives are a hit: check out the "Geneva Bible" and "Hymnals and History."

Speaking of archives, I recommend librarian Sheila Owen's ([hst.edu/Owen](https://hst.edu/Owen)) video on the "Bedsheet Sermons Collection."

Dr. Kevin Shelby (HU Counseling professor) and Dr. Lance Hawley ([hst.edu/Hawley](https://hst.edu/Hawley)) made a 7-part series on grief and the book of Job. This series would be suitable for a Sunday school class or small group Bible study to watch and discuss.

If you click the "Church Resources" tab at the top of [hst.edu](https://hst.edu), you will find two recent video playlists. The first is "Practical Tips for Ministers," which is a series to help church leaders navigate ministry during uncertain times. (You will even find a couple of videos about setting up a recording studio for your church!) The second is "Inspirational Messages," where you will find encouraging words to help you navigate your walk of faith.

It is our prayer that these videos will be a rich resource to help churches and Christians grow in faith and carry out the mission God has given us.

## New Endowed Fund

Debbie White of Memphis recently established the Murphey Endowed Scholarship Fund to assist HST international students who plan to minister in their country of origin. The Murphey Scholarship is named to honor Debbie's parents, Murray C. and Jo P. Murphey, who were passionate advocates for spreading the gospel across the globe. The scholarship's initial gift was doubled with matching funds obtained through Harding University. Thank you, Debbie!



Debbie White

## FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Bob Turner** spoke online for Eastside Church of Christ, Sulphur Well Church of Christ, and Prestoncrest Church of Christ. He presented "How Projects in Special Collections Help Students Find Their Faith and Voice" at the virtual annual meeting of Atla, and "Does this Spark Joy? Guidance for Librarians Wondering if They Should Keep, Trash, or Ignore" at the virtual annual meeting of Christian College Librarians.

**Dr. Carlus Gupton** participated as a panelist in 10 virtual leadership workshops in partnership with former Johnson University colleagues; conducted over 20 coaching sessions; consulted with four churches on COVID transitions and other issues; developed a beliefs statement for a faith-based nonprofit group; produced equipping videos in association with Hope Network Ministries; and completed certifications in several leadership development assessments through Target Training International.

**Dr. Mark Powell** contributed the chapter "Pneumatology and the Canonical Heritage" to *The T&T Clark Handbook of Pneumatology*, edited by Daniel Castelo and Kenneth Loyer (London: T&T Clark, 2020): 335-342.

### DEGREE PROGRAMS

<b>M.A.</b>	Master of Arts
<b>M.A.C.M.</b>	Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
<b>M.Div.</b>	Master of Divinity
<b>D.Min.</b>	Doctor of Ministry
<b>C.S.L.</b>	Certificate in Spiritual Leadership





1000 Cherry Road  
Memphis, TN 38117

*Return Service Requested*

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SEARCY, AR  
PERMIT #60

## News & Events



Final Exams  
*December 7 – 11*



Spring Semester Begins  
*January 11*



Thanksgiving Break  
*November 23 – 27 (Students) • 25 – 27 (Offices/Library Closed)*



Christmas Break  
*December 19 – January 3 (Library) • December 23 – January 3 (Offices)*