

Amity

Believe . . . Belong . . . Become . . .

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kim Batson
From: Amity United Methodist Church
Phone: 919-967-7546
Fax: 919-967-7616 fax
Email: secretary@amityumc.org
Webpage: amityumc.org

CELEBRATE THE DREAM WITH AMITY HUMAN RELATIONS SUNDAY, 11AM

Chapel Hill, NC. 1-17-2008. In the turbulent days of racial strife in the 60's and 70's, the Rev. Vernon Tyson took a principled stand on civil rights, jeopardizing his budding ministerial career, and, sometimes, his own family's safety. According to Rev. Tyson, "I didn't know how to separate the issues of Christianity and racial and social justice – I still don't".

After over 50 years of ministry in the United Methodist Church, Rev. Tyson is retired – and serving as interim pastor at Amity United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill. He thoughtfully yet gleefully composes the title of each week's sermon to match the scripture and to bring maximum impact to his message. Last week focused on personal faith, "Temptation is a Beautiful Thing" – if it "weren't attractive, it wouldn't be tempting", he explains.

"Brother Martin and Me and You" is this week's message, in commemoration of Human Relations Day at Amity, during this Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration weekend. Special music will underscore the atmosphere. The opening hymn of *Lift Every Voice and Sing* was also known as the "Negro National Anthem" when it was penned by James Weldon Johnson in 1921.

Powerhouse gospel singer Mary D. Williams will offer a mini-concert within the service. Mrs. Williams and Rev. Tyson share a personal connection. She tours with Rev. Tyson's son, Dr. Timothy Tyson, and offers a haunting rendition of *Blood Done Sign My Name* as a musical introduction to his discussion of the book he authored by the same name. The book was inspired by a 1970 racial murder in Oxford, NC committed by relatives of a classmate of then ten-year-old Tim. It also recounts Rev. Tyson's ministry of reconciliation and social justice.

The haunting strains of an evocative song will close the worship service this Sunday. "To look around a room where brothers and sisters of all races are holding hands and singing *We Shall Overcome*," we says Rev. Tyson, "Is to catch a glimpse of what it means to belong in the family of God."

Amity United Methodist Church cordially invites you to join them at their 11:00 a.m. worship service this Sunday, January 20. They are located next door to the YMCA in Chapel Hill, 825 North Estes Dr., at the corner of Estes Dr. and (appropriately) Martin Luther King Blvd. For more information, you may call them at or visit their website amityumc.org.



AMITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

825 N. Estes Drive • Chapel Hill, NC 27514 • 919-967-7546 • amityumc.org