

Amity

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

For Immediate Release

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Chapel Hill Minister Receives Award; His Ministry of Justice and Reconciliation Being Portrayed in a Movie

Chapel Hill, NC. May 14, 2008. Rev. Vernon Tyson, pastor at Amity United Methodist Church in Chapel Hill, was honored by the [North Carolina Council of Churches](#) on Tuesday, May 13, 2008. He is one of three men who received their 2008 Distinguished Service Award for leadership roles in working “sacrificially for the dignity and equality of all God’s children and for the full inclusion of all in church and in society.”

Well known for his stance on civil rights, a tragic period in Rev. Tyson’s 50 plus years of ministry is highlighted in the movie, “Blood Done Sign My Name,” currently being filmed in Shelby, NC. Vernon and Martha Tyson’s son, Dr. Timothy Tyson, Visiting Professor of American Christianity and Southern Culture at Duke Divinity School, wrote the book of the same name on which the movie is based. “Blood Done Sign My Name” was selected by UNC-CH for its Summer Reading Program in 2005 and by community reading programs across the state.

The autobiographical account recalls the 1970 racial murder of Henry Marrow, the racial unrest that followed the acquittal of three white suspects, and Rev. Tyson’s ministry of reconciliation during that period. Gastonia native Jeb Stuart, son of a minister himself and screenwriter of “Die Hard” and “The Fugitive,” is writing, directing, and producing the film.

Nate Parker, recently featured in "The Great Debaters," stars as Ben Chavis. Rick Schroeder, whose credits include "Silver Spoons" and "NYPD Blue," plays Rev. Tyson.

To hear one of Rev. Tyson's moving and inspirational sermons in Chapel Hill, you will need to hurry! His interim appointment at Amity ends next month, with final scheduled preaching dates of May 18 (Sermon: "Religious Depression"), and June 8, 15, & 22.

Amity United Methodist Church is located next door to the YMCA in Chapel Hill, 825 North Estes Dr., at the corner of Estes Dr. and Martin Luther King Blvd. All are invited to "Believe, Belong, Become." For more information you may call 967-7546 or visit their website, amityumc.org.

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The *Shelby Star* has an excellent series of articles about the filming of the movie, which can be accessed by visiting <http://community.shelbystar.com/blooddoesignmyname/>



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