



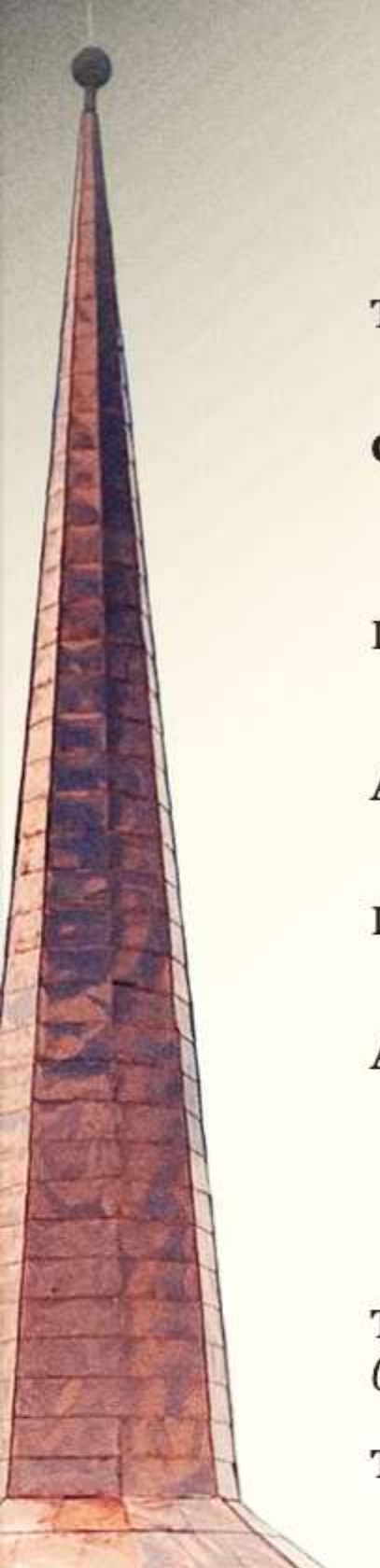
PAINE
COLLEGE

Welcome to the One Hundred And Forty Fourth

OPENING CONVOCATION

Wednesday, August 19th, 11:00AM
GILBERT-LAMBUTH MEMORIAL CHAPEL
AUGUSTA, GA

DR. LESTER A. MCCORN, PRESIDENT



ORDER OF SERVICE

Reverend Dr. Luther B. Felder, II, Campus Pastor, Presiding

The Processional

Call To Worship

Reverend Dr. Luther B. Felder, II
Campus Pastor

Leader God our Creator offers us a brand-new future as we begin this new academic year.

All God always summons us to envision new possibilities, face new challenges and embrace new realities.

Leader Open your minds and hearts to the new revelations of truth and to new manifestations of God's presence in our midst.

All And may the peace of God, that surpasses all understanding make us ever aware of God's presence in the world. Amen.

The Hymn
(See within the program)

O God, Our Help in Ages Past
Arr. William Croft

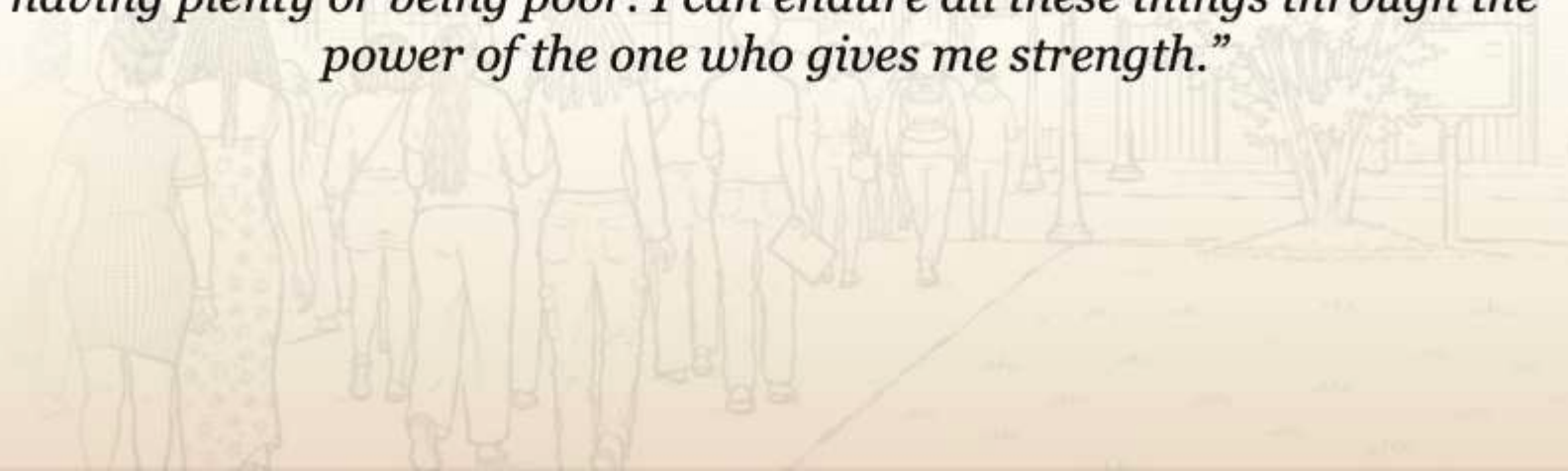
The Prayers for the College

Scott Pickering, Ph.D.
*Aldersgate United Methodist Church,
Augusta, Georgia*

The Lesson
Philippians 4:10-13 CEB

Miss Dyani Fulton '28
Member, Wesley Fellowship

"I was very glad in the Lord because now at last you have shown concern for me again. (Of course you were always concerned but had no way to show it.) I'm not saying this because I need anything, for I have learned how to be content in any circumstance. I know the experience of being in need and of having more than enough; I have learned the secret to being content in any and every circumstance, whether full or hungry or whether having plenty or being poor. I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength."



THE GREETINGS

Ms. La'Tashian V. Hooks '06

Membership Chair, Paine College Alumni Association, Augusta, Georgia Chapter

Mr. Panashe Mukumba '27

President, Paine College Student Government Association

The Honorable Garnett L. Johnson

Mayor, Augusta-Richmond County

Introduction of New Faculty

Tywana C. Hemby, Ph.D.

*Provost and Executive Vice President of
Academic Services*

Introduction of New Staff

Mrs. Willie M. Hughey

*Vice President of Administrative and Fiscal
Affairs and Chief Finance Officer*

Introduction of Speaker

Lester A. McCorn, Ph.D., D.Min.

President, Paine College

Musical Selection

Mr. Trey McLaughlin

Paine College Choir, Director

Convocation Address

Kendricks D. Hooker, Ph.D.

President, Augusta Technical College

Acknowledgements

Mr. Teddy McDaniel, III

Vice President of Institutional Advancement

The Paine College Hymn

(See the screen)

Frank G. Yerby '37 and Mark Fox

Benediction

Reverend Dr. Luther B. Felder, II

Campus Pastor

The Recessional

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

Arr. William Croft

1. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!

3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.

5. Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

2. Under the shadow of Thy throne,
still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

4. A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the
night, before the rising sun.

6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be Thou our guide while life shall
last, and our eternal home.

CONVOCATION SPEAKER



Dr. Kendrick D. Hooker is the President of Augusta Technical College, bringing more than 25 years of progressive leadership experience across community colleges, technical colleges, and public and private universities in six states. Dr. Hooker is deeply committed to advancing access, strengthening student success, and ensuring technical education remains aligned with workforce and regional economic needs.

Prior to joining Augusta Tech, Dr. Hooker served as Provost at Cabarrus College of Health Sciences where he oversaw academic affairs, launched new programs in high-demand fields, expanded early college pathways, strengthened enrollment growth, and enhanced student success outcomes. His leadership emphasized academic excellence, faculty development, strategic partnerships, and building a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement.

Prior to his role at Cabarrus College, Dr. Hooker served as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Southwest Tennessee Community College. There, he led the development and implementation of the institution's first Academic Master Plan, expanded external and workforce partnerships, supported new program development, and advanced student success strategies that improved institutional performance.

Earlier in his career, Dr. Hooker served as Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and later Dean of the School of Health Education at Madison Area Technical College in Wisconsin. In these roles, he guided large academic divisions, implemented structural and cultural improvements, strengthened accreditation readiness, and expanded program capacity. He also served as Professor of Biology and Department Chair of Biomedical Sciences at Baptist Health Sciences University, where he oversaw curriculum development, student pathways, and partnerships that prepared students for entry into competitive health professions programs.

Dr. Hooker is known as a collaborative leader who believes in shared vision, continuous improvement, operational excellence, and data-informed decision making. He brings a strong record of building relationships, establishing community and philanthropic partnerships, and developing innovative approaches to strengthen program relevance and economic impact.

Dr. Hooker holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Urban Higher Education from Jackson State University, a Master of Business Administration from Bethel University, a Master of Science and Bachelor of Science in Biology from Jackson State University, and an Associate of Science in Biology from Coahoma Community College.

A strong advocate for student access and workforce development, Dr. Hooker brings an unwavering commitment to transforming talent, strengthening communities, and preparing students to thrive in high demand fields throughout the Augusta region and beyond.