

Friday, November 18, 2022  
Eleven O'clock in the Morning

A Service of  
*Remembrance*  
for Mrs. Alice Carson Tisdale  
& the Dedication of the Tisdale Memorial Garden

James and Dorothy Z. Elmore Chapel  
(on the campus of Claflin University)  
400 Magnolia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115

CECIL  
WILLIAMS  
2022



# Order of Service

## THE GATHERING

## OPENING AND INVOCATION

*Rev. Dr. Eddie C. Williams*  
*Pastor, Trinity United Methodist Church*  
*Orangeburg, South Carolina*

## SELECTION

*"A City Called Heaven"*  
*Josephine Poelinitz, Claflin University Concert Choir*

## WELCOME AND OCCASION

*Dr. Danica Tisdale Fisher*  
*Mr. Brandon K. Tisdale*

## WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

*President Emeritus Henry N. Tisdale, '65*

## REMARKS

*President Dwaun J. Warmack*

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

*Dr. Leo F. Twiggs, '56*  
*Distinguished Artist In Residence*

## DEDICATION AND BLESSING

*Rev. Larry D. McCutcheon, '72*  
*Claflin University Chaplain*

## SELECTION

*"Order My Steps In Your Word"*  
*Gospel Music Workshop of America Women of Worship,*  
*Claflin University Concert Choir*

## CLOSING AND BENEDICTION

*Elder Johnnie Miller Jr., '04*  
*Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction,*  
*Allendale School District*

# Alice Carson Tisdale

Alice Carson Tisdale (April 20, 1952–July 25, 2020) was First Lady of Claflin University from 1994 to 2019 as the wife of the eighth president, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale. She was also founding director of the Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College at Claflin University. The former first lady and her husband retired after 25 years at the helm of the university.

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, she grew up and attended segregated schools in Mobile, Alabama through the seventh grade. Alice was the second oldest of five children of Mr. Charles C. Carson, Sr., and Mrs. Virginia Lewis Carson. She was born into a family with generations of educators and college graduates.

In 1964, her father took a job as mortuary officer in the Philippine Islands and moved his family overseas when she entered the eighth grade. She studied, learned, socialized, and thrived while becoming immersed in a multicultural environment. After graduating from Wagner High School in Manila, Philippines, she enrolled in Elizabeth City State University, Elizabeth City, North Carolina, where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. An advocate of education, she subsequently earned a Master of Education degree from Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland.

Alice Carson Tisdale's extraordinary contributions to Claflin were the manifestation of her unyielding commitment to providing students the essential academic, cultural, and spiritual preparation necessary for their transformation into globally engaged visionary leaders. Her dynamic leadership as director of the Honors College helped strengthen the academic profile of the entire university while displaying compassion, guidance, and kindness to thousands of students who passed through the halls of Claflin.

In 1996, Mrs. Tisdale was honored by the Claflin University Board of Trustees by naming the university's honors college "The Alice Carson Tisdale Honors College." During her tenure, the graduation and retention rates of the Honors College students surpassed 90 percent and produced the university's first-ever Truman Scholar. Honors College students were also selected for the J. William Fulbright, Thomas Pickering, Gates Millennium, and other national scholarships and awards. They also earned internships and career opportunities at prestigious graduate and professional schools, and Fortune 500 companies.

In 1986, Mrs. Tisdale received the District Teacher of the Year Award while teaching in the Smyrna





School District, Smyrna, Delaware before moving to Orangeburg in 1994. She taught in that district for 21 years. In 1991, she received the State Chamber of Commerce “Super Star! In Education Award” from the State of Delaware for innovative teaching strategies and later, the “NAACP Educator of the Year Award” from the Dover, Delaware, Central Branch of the NAACP. In 2004, she was awarded the “Outstanding Director of the Year” by The National Association of African American Honors Programs. In 2011, she received the Community Service Award from Delta Zeta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and was the recipient of the IMARA Magazine Community Service Award. She received the 2012 Education Award from the Orangeburg, South Carolina Branch of the NAACP, and in December of 2013, she and her husband were selected as the “Times & Democrat Person of the Year,” the only time in the history of the honor that two people had been recognized. In September 2014, she received the Order of the Palmetto, the highest civilian award in the State of South Carolina, presented by former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. Alice Carson Tisdale Endowed Scholarship Funds, designed to assist young people in their efforts to acquire a higher education in the field of education, were established in her honor at Claflin University and Elizabeth City State University.

She had a ubiquitous presence on a slate of community, state, and national boards and organizations. She served on the Governor’s Mansion and Lace House Commission; Board Member, The Oaks; National President and Secretary/Treasurer of the National Association of African American Honors Programs; Board Chair of the Orangeburg County Salvation Army; and Board Chair of the Orangeburg County Community of Character. She was also a member and Co-Founder/Director of the “Praise Kids” children’s Christian Theater at Trinity United Methodist Church. She was an immensely popular motivational speaker for children and people of all ages.

Mrs. Tisdale was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Orangeburg, South Carolina; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Beta Zeta Omega Chapter; the Orangeburg Chapter of the Links, Inc., and The Girl Friends, Inc., Columbia South Carolina Chapter.

She was survived by her husband, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, Dr. Danica Tisdale Fisher and son-in-law, Dr. Damany Fisher; son, Brandon Keith Tisdale; two grandchildren, Asa Touré and Anansa Theodora Fisher; sisters Sylvia L. Carson and Jacqueline Diaese Graves; a brother Reginald D. Carson (Rebecca); and a devoted sister-in-law, Lola Tisdale June.

# *Tisdale Memorial Garden*

The Tisdale Memorial Garden pays tribute to the life and legacy of the eighth president of Claflin University, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale, and his wife Mrs. Alice Carson Tisdale. From 1994 - 2019, Dr. Tisdale served as president and Mrs. Tisdale served as first lady and founding director of the honors college, which trustees named in her honor in 1996. After a valiant fight against breast cancer, Mrs. Tisdale succumbed on July 25, 2020. Because of health and safety precautions related to Covid-19, Mrs. Tisdale was celebrated with a private family funeral on August 1, 2020.

Following the funeral, the Tisdale family began making plans for a public memorial to celebrate the life of Mrs. Tisdale when health and safety precautions would allow large groups to gather. It was the family's desire to hold a celebration of her life on the campus of Claflin University to honor her tremendous contributions to the campus and the greater Orangeburg community. It was also the family's desire that Mrs. Tisdale's cremated remains be interred in a memorial site on campus to be designed and funded by the family, with approval of the Claflin University Board of Trustees and president. This memorial site would also serve as the final resting place for President Emeritus Tisdale, upon his expiry. The family believed it an incredible and appropriate honor that the final resting place for Dr. and Mrs. Tisdale be at their beloved home, "on a hilltop high."

The Tisdale family requested the assistance of renowned artist and class of 1956 alum, Dr. Leo F. Twiggs, to design the Tisdale Memorial Garden. Working closely with the Tisdale family, Dr. Twiggs developed the design and carefully considered the location for the memorial site. With design and location approved, Dr. Tisdale then brought together a dynamic team consisting of Dr. Twiggs, Mr. Paul Simmons, owner of Paul Simmons Funeral Home and Crematory, an architect, a local contractor, and representatives from the Claflin administrative team to build the Memorial Garden.

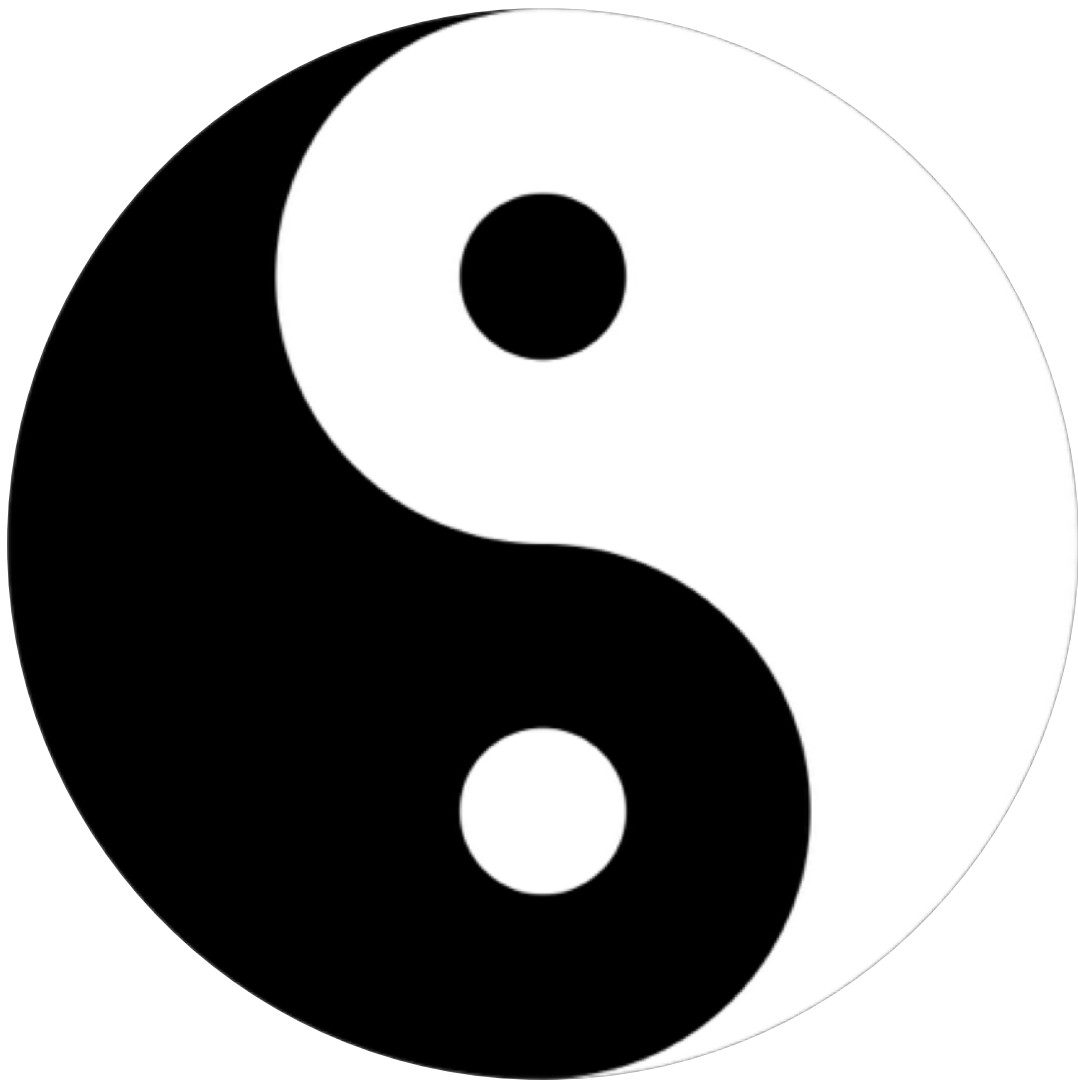
The Memorial Garden is located on hallowed ground, in the Historic District of Claflin University, the most elevated site in Orangeburg County, in the courtyard of Tingley Memorial Hall, constructed in 1908 and adjacent to the Arthur Rose Museum (formerly Lee Library constructed in 1898). Both buildings were designed by Claflin graduate William Wilson Cooke, who became the first Black architect in the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of the Supervising Architect. The monument overlooks the courtyard and water fountain in Tingley Circle.

The Memorial Garden monument consists of a round cast stone pedestal 46 inches in height and 36 inches in diameter and a cast stone kidney-shaped bench designed for two. Atop the pedestal is an engraved cast bronze plaque with the Presidential Seal and inscriptions about President Henry N. Tisdale and First lady Alice Carson Tisdale. The monument rests on a brick paver surface which outlines a 14 feet in diameter Yin Yang symbol. In addition, a brick paver walkway connects the Memorial Garden to Legacy Plaza in front of Tingley. The site is beautifully landscaped with Katrinus Deluxe Breeze grass, Evergreen Giant Liriope plants and Curly Leaf Ligustrum shrubbery. At night, Landscape lighting illuminates the site.

A commemorative engraved bronze plaque, commissioned by the Tisdale Family, is placed at the entrance of the Garden.

“The line between art and life should be kept as fluid and perhaps indistinct as possible.”

-Allen Kaprow



**Yin Yang:** An ancient symbol of Chinese Philosophy that represents the duality of our existence, how opposite forces are interconnected and depended on each other.

