

INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH USHERS
ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.



John R. Brown, Jr.

School of Ushering

2020-2022

Virtual Graduation Ceremony!



August 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Faith A.M.E. Church (Zoom)

Laurel, MD 20708

Rev. Vernon R. Ware, Pastor



Bro. Wilton Graham, State Dean

Sis. Linda Parker, Assistant State Dean

Sis. Julia A. Kitchen, State President

Bro. Louis Parker, Board of Trustees Chairperson

Prince George's, Host Unit

Sis. Sandra Sellman, Host President

It's Your Season To Be Blessed!



It's your season to be blessed

God made you a promise you stood the test
He's gonna open up windows and pour you out a blessing
It's your season to be blessed.

Come on, it's your season

It's your season to be blessed
God made you a promise and you stood, you stood the test (come on windows of heaven)
Windows of heaven (pour you out a blessing)
Pour you out a blessing (it's your season)
It's your season (oh my God) to be blessed.

I'm blessed in the city I'm blessed in the field

I'm blessed going out I'm blessed coming in
He's gonna open up windows and pour you out a blessing
It's your season, oh God to be blessed.

Come on, it's your season

It's your season (to be blessed) to be blessed
(God made you a promise) God made you a promise
(And you stood the test) you stood the test
(He's gonna open the window) windows of heaven (pour you out a blessing)
(Pour you out) pour you out a blessing (it's your season)
It's your season (oh once again).

I've been through the fire

I've been through the flood
But I'm standing here because of his blood
He's gonna open up windows and pour you out a blessing
It's your season, yes it is, to be blessed.

Come on say it again, say

It's your season (to be blessed) to be blessed
(God made you a promise) God made you a promise
(And you stood) you stood the test
(Windows of heaven) windows of heaven
It's your season (oh my God) to be blessed.

Louis Larker
Board of Trustees Chairperson



Congratulations and Happy Graduation!

As you cherish the fruits of your hard work, I wish that success keeps following you in everything that you do. I am so happy to share in the excitement of your Graduation Day.

To GOD Be The Glory!

Wilton Graham
State Dean



Congratulations
2020 - 2022 Graduates!

"I can do all things through Christ who Strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

YOU DID IT!

Your hard work definitely paid off. Graduating requires hard work, passion and many sacrifices. You conquered them all.

BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, SUCCEED.

Linda Parker
Assistant State Dean

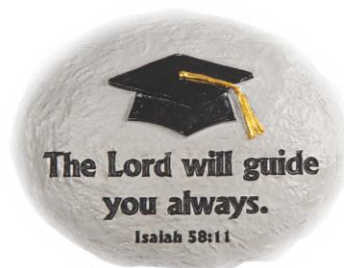


**“Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”
Proverbs 16:3**

As you keep being awesome, I will keep saying congratulations!

*Your hardworking nature is no secret, it shows in everything you do.
Your determination, brilliance and caliber have not been hidden from
anyone. You did not let the pandemic keep you from learning.*

*Today, you have achieved something no one can ever take away from
you. Today, you have achieved something that you didn't think could
happen. Today, we celebrate you!*





Last State Chairmen

*The John R. Brown, Jr.
School of Ushering*

Sis. Mary McClenon	1950 - 1960
Bro. Antic D. Conaway	1960 - 1966
Bro. Alexander Robinson	1966 - 1972
Sis. Jessie L. Brown	1972 - 1976
Sis. Jane A. Johnson	1976 - 1983
Bro. John R. Brown, Jr.	1983 - 1984
Sis. Bessie Nickens	1984 - 1992
Bro. John R. Brown, Jr.	1992 - 1995
Bro. Walter V. Nick	1995 - 2001
Bro. Ronny Myers	2001 - 2003
Sis. Rosalind M. Moore	2003 - 2007
Sis. Sylvia L. Graves	2008 - 2011
Sis. Colette McCorvey	2011 - 2013
Sis. Rosalind M. Moore	2013 - 2020

The John R. Brown, Jr. School of Ushering Graduates



Diploma

Usher Ada McCoy Union United Methodist Church, Upper Marlboro
Prince George's Unit

National



Usher Angela Hardy St. Paul United Methodist Church, Oxon Hill
Prince George's Unit

Usher Gail Jackson St. James A.M.E. Church (Green Street), Havre de Grace
Harford/Cecil Unit

Usher Colleen Moon John Wesley United Methodist Church, Annapolis
Anne Arundel Unit

Usher Doris Renae Taylor-Strait Argonne Hills Chapel Center, Fort Meade
Anne Arundel Unit (Posthumously)

Usher Willie Strait, Jr. Argonne Hills Chapel Center, Fort Meade
Anne Arundel Unit



Usher Angela Hardy St. Paul United Methodist Church, Oxon Hill
Prince George's Unit

Usher Willie Strait, Jr. Argonne Hills Chapel Center, Fort Meade
Anne Arundel Unit

The Program



Worship Leader	<i>Usher Linda Cargo-Montgomery, Baltimore Unit</i>
Opening Hymn	<i>“It’s Your Season to be Blessed”</i>
Scripture Reading	<i>Usher Delores Sewell, Calvert Unit</i>
Invocation	<i>Usher Virginia Cevis, Harford/Cecil Unit</i>
Selection	<i>Sis. Gwen Hines, Faith A.M.E. Church, Laurel</i>
Greetings of the Unit Deans	<i>Usher Linda Parker, Anne Arundel</i> <i>Usher Linda Cargo-Montgomery, Baltimore</i> <i>Usher Delores Sewell, Calvert</i> <i>Usher Virginia Cevis, Harford/Cecil</i> <i>Usher Gwen Middleton, Prince George’s</i>
Selection	<i>“I Just Want to Praise You”</i>
Graduates Reflection of Ushering	<i>Usher Ada McCoy</i> <i>Usher Angela Hardy</i> <i>Usher Gail Jackson</i> <i>Usher Colleen Moon</i> <i>Usher Willie Strait, Jr.</i>
In Memory of Usher Doris Renae Taylor-Strait	<i>Usher Gwen Middleton</i>
Introduction of Speaker	<i>Usher Colette McCorvey, Prince George’s Unit</i> <i>Past State Dean</i>
Selection	<i>Sis. Gwen Hines, Faith A.M.E. Church, Laurel</i>
Salute to Graduates	<i>Rev. Vernon R. Ware, Pastor</i> <i>Faith A.M.E. Church, Laurel</i>
Presentation of Certificates	<i>Usher Louis Parker, Board of Trustees Chairperson</i> <i>Usher Linda Parker, Assistant State Dean</i>
Mary McClenon Alumni Presentation	<i>Usher Ada McCoy, State Alumni Chairperson</i>
Remarks	<i>Usher Sandra Sellman, Prince George’s Unit President</i> <i>Usher Louis Parker, Board of Trustees Chairperson</i> <i>Usher Linda Parker, Assistant State Dean</i>
Remarks & Benediction	<i>Rev. Vernon R. Ware, Pastor</i> <i>Faith A.M.E. Church, Laurel</i>
Closing Selection	<i>“Congratulations”</i>



BIO of REV. VERNON R. WARE, LGPC, NCC

Rev. Vernon R. Ware is blessed to serve as the Senior Pastor of Faith AME Church, in Laurel, MD.

Previously, Rev. Ware served as the pastor of Pilgrim AME Church in Washington, DC. Prior to that he served as the Director of Church Life at the Reid Temple A.M.E. Church – North location, under the leadership of Senior Pastor, Lee P. Washington and Executive Minister Matthew L. Watley. Before that, he served as the Senior Minister of Young Adults and College Students at Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington, MD under the leadership of Pastors Grainger and JoAnn Browning.

Rev. Ware has a unique style of preaching and teaching which is relevant, impactful and empowering. He has been blessed to proclaim God's Word both nationally and internationally. He believes that ministry should change lives, encourage hearts, inspire minds and strengthen souls!

Rev. Ware is a licensed therapist with **10+ years of experience in therapeutic counseling and community engagement.** In addition to his individual and couples counseling, he consults with corporate, academic, non-profit and civic organizations to educate, enhance and empower those entities about mental health and working with them to improve interpersonal efficiency.

Rev. Ware holds a Master of Science degree in Pastoral Clinical Counseling from Loyola University, a Masters of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the University of Maryland – College Park. He is a member of the American Counseling Association and the Maryland Counseling Association and is a National Certified Counselor.

Rev. Ware serves on the Board of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System Foundation. He is also a graduate of the 2004 Class of Leadership Prince Georges and also participated in the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education as a High School speaker and has participated in many mentoring and tutoring initiatives in Prince George's County.

He is the proud father of his wonderful daughter, Nia Grace Ware. Rev. Ware's favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29:11 and he believes that with God, all things are possible and that God always has a plan despite how the circumstances look. He gives his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ all the glory, the honor and the praise for all that God has done in his life and for all that is to come.



Our 2020 Graduates

Usher Ada McCoy



Usher Colleen Moon



Usher Willie Strait, Jr.



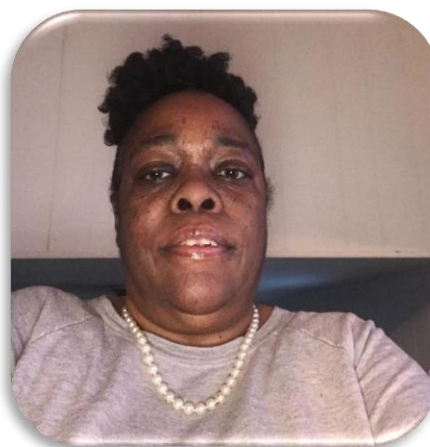
Our 2022 Graduates



Usher Angela Hardy



Usher Gail Jackson



In Loving Memory

Of
The Late
Doris Renae Taylor-Strait



*"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body
and to be present with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8 NKJV*



EASTERN REGION CHURCH USHERS ASSOCIATION

An affiliate of the National United Church Ushers Association of America, Inc.

August 13, 2022



*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Psalm 118:24*

On this special occasion, it is my distinct honor to extend greetings on behalf of the Eastern Region Church Ushers Association, to President Julia A. Kitchen and the Officers, members, family and friends of the ICUA of Maryland.

I am especially delighted to extend best wishes and offer sincere congratulations to John R. Brown, Jr. School of Ushering Graduating Class of 2020 - 2022! Truly, you are to be commended for your perseverance, for embracing the new normal found in the world of technology and staying the course even in a virtual environment, to achieve the goal. For your commitment, today, we celebrate you! Happy Graduation Day! Well done and once again, congratulations on your outstanding achievement.

We also congratulate the Instructors and supporters who stepped up to the challenge in order to continue the legacy of ensuring students are well-trained in the technique of church ushering. With gratitude, we acknowledge your commitment as well.

May God continue to richly bless the ICUA of Maryland and many thanks for your outstanding contribution to the Eastern Region.

God Bless!

*Donna A. Hines
Eastern Region Director*

Donna A. Hines
Eastern Region Director & National 4th Vice President
18512 Kerill Rd | Triangle, VA 22172 | 703.981.3276
ERDirectorHines@gmail.com
www.easternregionushers.org

Ronald L. Jones
Assistant Region Director
202.997.3786
Rjones0042@aol.com

Jamal Edwards-Frayer
Young Adult Director | 347.446.8954
Athena Queen
Junior & Young People's Director | 443.826.7137

Called to *Serve*

The Eastern Region School of Ushering

CONGRATULATES

ICUA of Maryland, Inc.

**John R. Brown, Jr. School of Ushering
Class of 2020 - 2022**

“Warmest Congratulations on Your Achievement”

**“Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.”
Proverbs 16:3**

Sister Annette V. Forehand, Chairman

Sister Linda Parker, Vice Chairman

State Chairmen



Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Maryland

Massachusetts

New Jersey

New York

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

Virginia

Sis. Hattie M. Roberts

Sis. Annette V. Forehand

Sis. Melinda H. Wilkins

Bro. Wilton Graham

Sis. Fannie Stewart-Gibbons

Bro. Bryan K. London

Sis. Lillie A. Grant

Sis. Margaret Byrd

Sis. Diane Straker

Sis. Shadonna Bartholomew

Congratulations 2020 - 2022 Graduates



*John R. Brown, Jr.
School of Ushering*

I.C.U.A. of Maryland Inc.

Sis. Julia A. Kitchen, State President

<i>Sis. Vanessa W. Lucas</i>	<i>1st Vice President</i>
<i>Bro. Willie Strait, Jr.</i>	<i>2nd Vice President</i>
<i>Sis. Rhonda Scayles</i>	<i>3rd Vice President</i>
<i>Sis. Maria Mincey-Crump</i>	<i>4th Vice President</i>

Sis. Brittney Spurlock - Young Adult President
Sis. Javon Davis - Junior & Young People President

Bro. Louis Parker - BOT Chairperson
Bro. Lamar Garrett - BOT Vice Chairperson

Rev. Jesse E. Young - Spiritual Advisor

Congratulations
2020 - 2022 Graduates
John R. Brown, Jr. School of Ushering



From the
**Interdenominational Church Ushers Association
of Maryland, Inc.**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Bro. Louis Parker, Chairperson

Bro. Lamar Garrett, Vice Chairperson

Sis. Cynthia Hicks, Secretary
Sis. Naomi Morgan, Treasurer
Tina Brown (State Treasurer)
Bro. Dennis Deford
Bro. Gerald A. Hill, Sr.
Sis. Ada McCoy
Bro. Keith Staton

Sis. Carrie Lindsey, Chaplain
Sis. Sherry Blackstone
Sis. Ollie M. Danage
Sis. Darlene Edwards
Sis. Julia A. Kitchen (State President)
Sis. Sandra Sellman

Bro. Ernest Wilson, Sr. (Emeritus)
Bro. Eugene Cavis (Honorary)

INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH USHERS ASSOCIATION OF MARYAND, INC

MARY MCCLENON ALUMNI DEPARTMENT

“Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.” Psalm 119-164

Congratulations 2020 - 2022 Graduates!



Senior Usher Ada McCoy

Senior Usher Angela Hardy

Senior Usher Gail Jackson

Senior Usher Colleen Moon

Senior Usher Doris Renae Taylor-Strait (Posthumously)

Senior Usher Willie Strait, Jr.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

Proverbs 3:5

Levite Ada K. McCoy, State Chairperson

Levite Julia A. Kitchen, State President

Levite Louis Parker, Board of Trustees Chairperson



*The ICVA of Anne Arundel County
School of Ushering Congratulates the*

*2020 - 2022 Graduates
of the*

ICVA of Maryland, Inc. John R. Brown, Jr. School of Ushering!

MASTER'S DEGREE Recipient

Usher Ada McCoy

NATIONAL DIPLOMA Recipients

Usher Angela Hardy

Usher Gail Jackson

Usher Colleen Moon

Usher Doris Renae Taylor-Strait (Posthumously)

Usher Willie Strait, Jr.

BACHELOR DEGREE Recipients

Usher Angela Hardy

Usher Willie Strait, Jr.

Sis. Linda Parker, Unit Dean

Sis. Sherry A. Blackstone, Unit President

Sis. Naomi Morgan, Board of Directors Chairperson

Congratulations and Best Wishes

To The

Interdenominational Church Ushers Association of Maryland, Inc.

Graduates

Master's Degree Diploma

Usher Ada McCoy Union United Methodist Church, Upper Marlboro
Prince George's Unit

National Diploma

Usher Angela Hardy St. Paul United Methodist Church, Oxon Hill
Prince George's Unit

Usher Gail Jackson St. James A.M.E. Church (Green Street), Havre de Grace
Harford/Cecil Unit

Usher Colleen Moon John Wesley United Methodist Church, Annapolis
Anne Arundel Unit

Usher Willie Strait, Jr. Argonne Hills Chapel Center, Fort Meade
Anne Arundel Unit

Usher Doris Renae Taylor-Strait Argonne Hills Chapel Center, Fort Meade
Anne Arundel Unit (Posthumously)

Bachelor Degree

Usher Angela Hardy St. Paul United Methodist Church, Oxon Hill
Prince George's Unit

Usher Willie Strait, Jr. Argonne Hills Chapel Center, Fort Meade
Anne Arundel Unit

From

*John R. Brown Jr., School of Ushering,
Baltimore Unit*

Unit Dean---Linda Cargo-Montgomery
Assistant Unit Dean---Edwinica Merkerson
Unit President---Lamar Garrett

The ICUA of Calvert County
wishes to extend sincerest congratulations to all
the 2020 - 2022 graduates of the
John R. Brown, Jr. School of Ushering

Congratulations

“Everything is possible for him who believes.” Mark 9:23

Master's Degree Diploma

Usher Ada McCoy

National Diploma

Usher Angela Hardy Usher Gail Jackson Usher Colleen Moon
Usher Willie Strait, Jr. Usher Doris Renae Taylor-Strait (Posthumously)

Bachelor Degree

Usher Angela Hardy Usher Willie Strait, Jr.

From the Officers and Members of Calvert County Unit
Delores Sewell, President
Rhonda Scayles, Recording Secretary
Renard Sherbert, Treasurer
Velvetta Buck, Assistant Treasurer
Eric Gross Sr., Chaplin
Darlene Edwards, Hospitality/Public Relations

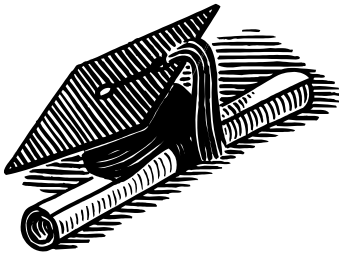
UCUA of Harford and Cecil Counties

Congratulates

John R. Brown, Jr. School of Ushering

On their

2020 - 2022 Graduates



MASTER'S DEGREE

USHER ADA MCCOY

NATIONAL DIPLOMA

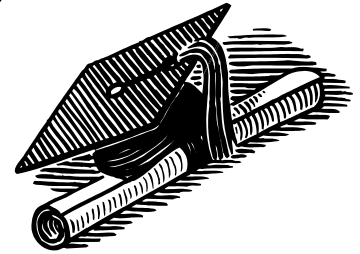
USHER ANGELA HARDY

USHER GAIL JACKSON

USHER COLLEEN MOON

USHER DORIS RENAE TAYLOR-STRAIT (POSTHUMOUSLY)

USHER WILLIE STRAIT, JR.



BACHELOR DEGREE

USHER ANGELA HARDY

USHER WILLIE STRAIT, JR.

HARFORD & CECIL COUNTIES UNIT OFFICERS

Usher Ollie M. Danage, President

Usher Altamesa C. Pankey, 1st Vice President

Usher Aldena Denise Copeland, 2nd Vice President

Usher Gail Jackson, Recording Secretary

Usher Elyse Murray, Assistant Recording Secretary

Usher Pearl Holland, Financial Secretary

Usher Arlene Wilson, Treasurer

Usher Sarah Kenly, Chaplain

Usher Virginia Cevis, Assistant Chaplain



MARSHALS

Usher Dennis Deford

Usher William Pierce

Usher Dalys Talley

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Usher Irvin E. Cevis

Usher Charles Holloway

Usher Denise Watters



**The ICUA OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY UNIT
SCHOOL OF USHERING**

**CONGRATULATES the
2020 – 2022 GRADUATES**

MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENT

**SENIOR USHER ADA McCOY
UNION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

NATIONAL DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS

**SENIOR USHER ANGELA HARDY
ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**SENIOR USHER GAIL JACKSON
ST. JAMES A.M.E. CHURCH (Green Street - Havre de Grace)**

**SENIOR USHER COLLEEN MOON
JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**SENIOR USHER DORIS RENAE TAYLOR-STRAIT
ARGONNE HILLS CHAPEL CENTER (*POSTHUMOUSLY*)**

**SENIOR USHER WILLIE STRAIT, JR.
ARGONNE HILLS CHAPEL CENTER**

BACHELOR DEGREE RECIPIENTS

SENIOR USHERS ANGELA HARDY & WILLIE STRAIT, JR.

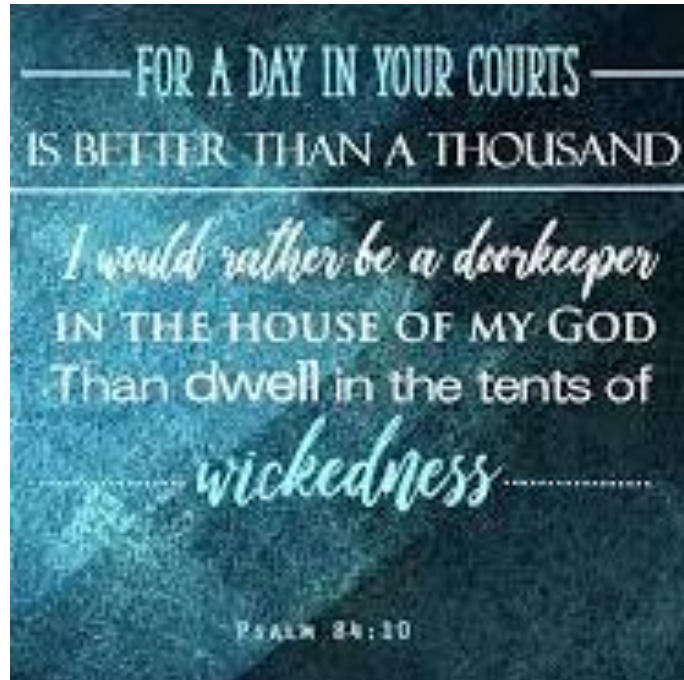
GRADUATING FROM THE

ICUA of Maryland, Inc. John R. Brown, Jr. School of Ushering!

**SIS. GWEN MIDDLETON, UNIT DEAN
BRO. LOWELL BLAGMON, ASSISTANT UNIT DEAN
SIS. SANDRA SELLMAN, UNIT PRESIDENT**

USHER MOTTO

**IF EVERY USHER WAS JUST LIKE ME,
WHAT WOULD THIS USHER BOARD BE?**



**“This is Our Season to show others God’s Kindness and His
Blessing that He has shown us.”**

Galatians 5:22-23



From The John R. Brown, Jr. School of Ushering!

**Bro. Wilton Graham, State Dean
Sis. Linda Parker, State Assistant Dean
Sis. Linda Cargo-Montgomery, Secretary
Sis. Arlene Wilson, Treasurer
Sis. Virginia Cevis, Chaplain
Sis. Delores Sewell, Sergeant-At-Arms
Sis. Gwen Middleton, Tech Team**