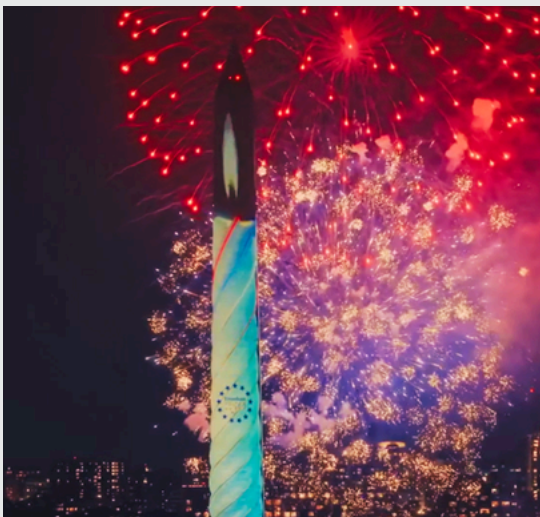


CRITICAL ISSUES in Public Theology



The Christian Association of Public Theologians: A Redemptive Educational, Social, Spiritual, Training and Salvation Services Organization for All People

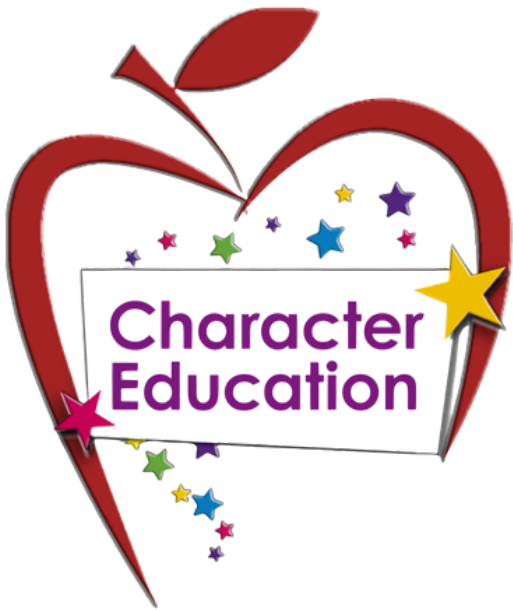
What does America at 250 mean for our nation's military? Reverend Thomas Luke takes time to reflect his time in the service, the semiquincentennial anniversary, and America's history of integration during the Civil Rights movement, bridging our foundational history with a bright military future - which is a vital resurgence of young men and women stepping forward to enlist in the Armed Forces.



How can we better honor the contributions of veterans during this milestone? We can and must do better in honoring our veterans during this historic milestone. Voluntary enlistees willingly take an oath to defend our nation with their lives.

CIPT NOW

Christian Institute of Public Theology



Continuing Education Credited Courses Spring - Summer -Fall Offerings

The Christian Institute of Public Theology, Inc. (CIPT) has spearheaded a multi-year initiative to ensure Georgia's students receive standardized Character Education in all K-12 classrooms. Did you know that the state of Georgia passed a Character Education law in 1998 (House Bill 1098). Today, there are dozens of character education programs in, and vying for adoption by, schools and businesses. Some are commercial, some non-profit and many are uniquely devised by states, districts and schools, themselves. A common approach of these programs is to provide a list of principles, pillars, values or virtues, which are memorized or around which themed activities are planned. It is commonly claimed that the values included in any particular list are universally recognized. However, there is no agreement among the competing programs on core values (e.g., honesty, stewardship, kindness, generosity, courage, freedom, justice, equality, and respect) or even how many to list. There is also no common or standard means for assessing, implementing or evaluating programs.

In response to the inconsistency in which school districts implement Character Education, CIPT has drafted a Resolution to adopt Character Education by district in an appeal to school districts to take hold of this powerful tool. Schools who do not consistently teach character education have higher truancy rates, unexpected student behaviors, and higher drop out rates among certain populations. Georgia's families deserve public schools that adhere to the legislated guidelines set forth by our General Assembly. If you are a member of an organization that supports character education or want to learn more about the Georgia law, please see the resources page on the CAPT website for more information.

LESSONS

From the Present



Rev. Linda Perrin attended a Proclamation Ceremony hosted in the city of Atlanta to celebrate the accomplishments of Senator Donzella James. Senator James has received notable recognition for her public service. She continues to inspire future generations through her leadership and dedication. Her key roles include serving as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Urban Affairs, while she represents the 35th Senate District, covering parts of Douglas and Fulton counties.

While visiting Washington, DC with a Georgia constituency, Dr. Babbage met with Congressman Barry Loudermilk, Senator Marty Harbin and his wife, Rep. Rey Martinez, and Rep. Sandy Donatucci. Representative Donatucci Senator, like Senator James, have all met with CAPT members concerning Character Education. Each have expressed their support for bringing this vital curriculum to all Georgia K-12 classrooms.

To further our outreach on Character Education, CIPT members have drafted a letter of appeal for all Georgia state legislators, civic and parent organizations, and RESA organizations to support metro Boards of Education in Gwinnett, Cobb, Fulton, Dekalb, Henry, Clayton, Hall, Fayette, Cherokee, and Forsyth. CIPT members will also initiate conversations with City of Atlanta and City of Buford school leadership in an effort to create a positive pressure on districts to publicly commit to adopting K-12 character education programs in all their schools, according to state law (House Bill 1098 was passed in the late 1990s and currently has no accountability measures or state funding). While a pilot program on character education was conducted by the Georgia Department of Education under Superintendent Richard Woods in Macon several years ago, no further progress has been made from that office.

Pictured (top to bottom): City of Atlanta attendees honoring Senator James, Minister Linda Perrin with guests, Dr. Babbage with Senator Harbin & others, Babbage with US Congressman Barry Loudermilk and prolife advocates in Washington, DC, Senator James receiving recognition in Atlanta.

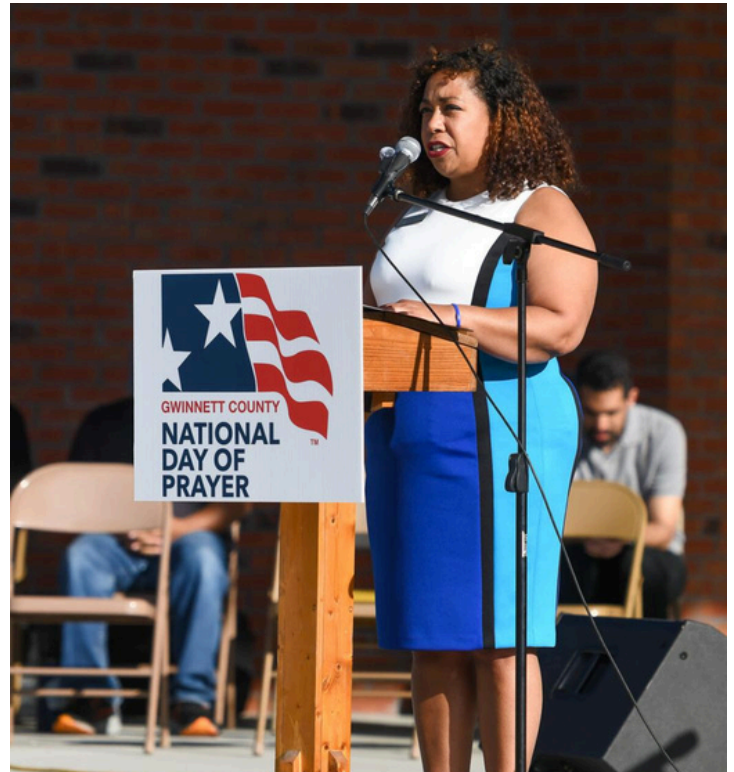
LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Rev. Dr. Lisa Babbage

Lisa Noel Babbage is an educator, author, and philanthropist who ran for the House of Representatives in Georgia's 7th Congressional District in 2020. A self-proclaimed Independent - Republican, Babbage worked in the hospitality industry before becoming a public school teacher and college professor. In 2026, she was named runner-up for Middle School Teacher of the Year for Gwinnett County. However, her greatest claim to fame is being a follower of Jesus. She was ordained in 2018 through World Christian University and serves her local church as a member of the production team.

At Free Chapel Worship Center, Dr. Babbage has been an instructor at Free Chapel College and led Divorce Care counseling. She has also served as a member of the Writing Team, contributing to inspirational blogs and other publications.

In 2010, Babbage authored her first book entitled *333 Miracles*, published by Cross Books, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources, as a memoir chronicling her divorce and battle with cervical cancer. She has authored over forty books and is the mother of two. Throughout her life she remained inspired by her grandfather, the Right Revered Dr. Stuart B. Babbage, of Australia, who was instrumental in the Civil Rights Movement as an Anglican Priest.



Through her pro life activism, Dr. Babbage has been featured on Lionchasers Radio, OAN, Newsmax, The War Room with Steve Bannon, The Peggy Denny Show, Challenges of Faith radio and many more. Lisa also serves as a brand ambassador for COL 1972, a prolife clothing company. As a part of the nonprofit organization Voices Against Trafficking, she became an international best seller with her participation in the collaboration *Courage is Contagious*. Babbage was recently inspired to write *A Prayer for America: On the 250th Anniversary of America's Declaration of Independence*, which she then published as an eBook with Botany Bay Booksellers.

Reflections from a soldier with Rev. Thomas Luke (cont.)

How can we better honor the contributions of veterans during this milestone? We fought a war in Vietnam where our veterans came back feeling unappreciated and dejected, that can never happen again. We should establish more support programs to assist our veterans and expand access to trade fields along with better healthcare for disabled veterans and those suffering from PTSD. We must understand that true honor is not just found in words, but in how we care for those who gave so much."

What personal experiences stand out to you when reflecting on American history? Reflecting on American history, my most defining personal experience was entering the 10th grade during the era of public-school integration. I chose to attend Franklin Delano Roosevelt I chose to attend, graduating in 1970 in a class with only about 15 Black students. My time there was defined by merit; as a standout in the band, orchestra, and track team, my achievements were recognized purely on the quality of my work rather than the color of my skin. Looking at the sharp racial divisions present in 2026, I often reflect on that time with a desire to understand how we drifted from that focus on shared community. America is a unique, ongoing experiment. It has never been perfect, but our history—from the Civil War to the Civil Rights movement—proves that when the experiment falters, we have the capacity to re-evaluate, adapt, and build a more unified, fulfilling future." The 13th, 14th, and 19th Amendments shows how we made adjustments to the "experiment" to grow liberty and justice for all. I've seen us come so far and I see us as a nation overcoming our differences and moving toward a bright and fulfilling future.

What message would you like to share with younger generations about service and sacrifice? "To the younger generation, my message centers on a single word: patriotism. In today's culture, we see a troubling absence of national pride, often because higher education institutions lean toward teaching that America is a fundamental failure. So many nations have had several constitutions, for instance France, Germany, and others; but ours was so firm in its purpose and values, that it has stood the test of time and was protected by the grace of the God. Yet, we must assert to them the words of the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." We much teach them that through hard work and determination that they have the freedom, given in our nation to pursue the best life has to give you. Teach them that it's all about God, Country, and family, and that they should love their country and become an integral part of our democracy in building a healthy society. We must bring back Civics to the classroom to teach the true privileges and obligations of citizenship. I constantly remind my students that college is not the only path—serving in the Armed Forces or learning a trade offers a profound way to build character, gain invaluable benefits, and become an active participant in sustaining our democracy. I am incredibly proud to be an American, and it is our duty to guide the next generation along the pathway of liberty that began 250 years ago.