

# Baptist Herald

## Welcome Our New BGCVA Officers and Board Members for 2017-2020

Congratulations to our newly elected Officers and General Board members. They were elected and installed at the 118th Annual Session in Roanoke, VA. They are:

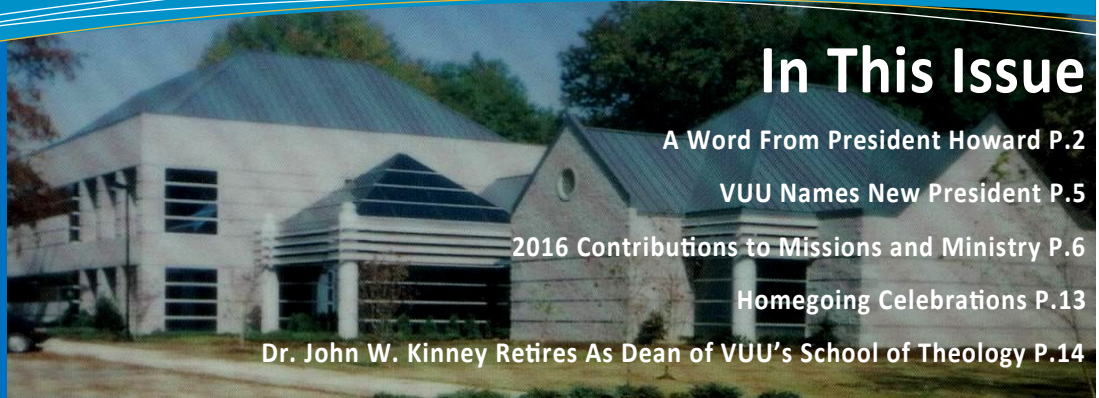
### STATE OFFICERS — — —>

- Dr. Gregory M. Howard, President
- Dr. James E. Victor, Jr., Vice President
- Reverend Milton P. Bunting, Secretary
- Dr. Griselda A. Bayton, Assistant Secretary
- Reverend William J. Reid, Clergy Ministry President
- Mr. Steven Brown, Men's Ministry President
- Mrs. Gracie Taylor Davis, Women's Ministry President



### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

- Dr. Colita Nichols
- Reverend Joseph A. Fleming
- Dr. Kim W. Brown
- Ms. Diana C. Hodge
- Dr. Carl M. Johnson
- Dr. George W. C. Lyons, Jr.
- Dr. Ricardo L. Brown
- Dr. Raymond L. Palmer
- Reverend Michael L. W. Moore
- Ms. Patrice V. Miles
- Ms. Sheilah Belle



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## Welcome STVU Dean! The Reverend Dr. Corey D.B. Walker, PhD

Effective July 1, The Reverend Dr. Corey D.B. Walker, PhD, a scholar, author and college dean, returned to Virginia Union University to lead the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, of which he is a graduate. He is succeeding Dr. John W. Kinney as vice president and Dean of STVU effective July 1, 2017.

Until starting at VUU, Dr. Walker was dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, Business and Education at Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina, where he managed 19 academic departments that enroll more than 3,500 students and employed more than 200 full-time faculty members.

Dr. Walker earned his undergraduate degree from Norfolk State University; Master's degrees from Harvard and Brown Universities; Master of Divinity degree from VUU; and, PhD in American Studies from the College of William & Mary.

Dr. Walker has published widely on African-American religion, philosophy and culture and lectured before academic audiences in the United States, the Caribbean, South America, Europe and Africa.

His first book, "A Noble Fight: African American Freemasonry and the Struggle for Democracy in America," was published in 2008 and remains among the few to focus on Prince Hall Masons. He has since completed the manuscript for his next book, "Between Transcendence and History: An Essay on Religion and the Future of Democracy in America."

He has been involved in editing a special issue of the journal Political Theology on "Theology and Democratic Future"; served as associate editor of

the award-winning SAGE Encyclopedia of Identity; and, associate editor of The Journal of the American Academy of Religion.

In addition to writing and editing, he co-directed and co-produced the documentary film, "Fifeville," about a black neighborhood in Charlottesville, with artist and filmmaker Kevin Jerome Everson.



Dr. Walker is a former member and vice rector of the NSU Board of Visitors and served on the state Workforce 2000 Advocacy Council.

In a 2016 interview for the African-American Intellectual History Society, he offered his views on the role administrators should play.

He called himself "an idealist" who sought to end the divide between administrators and academics.

He said he believed it was time for a new era that "marks the end of the 'administrator' and a new beginning for critical intellectuals committed to activating new visions of transformation and possibility."

In his view, that's what universities need — "critical intellectuals – not administrators," who offer students and faculty "fresh opportunities to move beyond sterile regimes of thought and dogmatic institutional practices, instead framing and authorizing new practices that aid in righteous planetary possibilities."

Dr. Walker previously served as a professor and chairman of the Department of Africana Studies at Brown University, where he was involved in creating the department's first doctoral program.

Earlier, he was a member of the faculty of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. He also served as director for three years of the U.Va. Center for the Study of Local Knowledge in the Construction of Race, Gender and Nation, a grant-funded program that was part of the university's Carter G. Woodson Institute for African and African-American Studies, of which he also was a faculty member.

## Baptist Herald

Executive Editor:

The Reverend David L. Chapman

Editor:

Mrs. Sheryl Blowe-McDowney

Designer:

Mrs. Keshia H. Butler

## State Officers

The Reverend Dr. Gregory M. Howard  
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The Reverend Dr. James E. Victor, Jr.  
Vice President

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Parliamentarian

The Reverend Dr. Raymond L. Palmer  
Attorney (Office Phone: 804-644-0200)

The Reverend Dr. Robert G. Murray  
Chair, BGC Foundation Board

## Ministry Presidents

The Reverend William J. Reid  
Clergy Ministry

Mr. Steven Brown  
Men's Ministry

Mrs. Gracie Taylor Davis  
Women's Ministry

Vacant  
Youth Ministry

## Administration

The Reverend David L. Chapman  
Interim Executive Minister

## A Word From President Howard

"Reviving Our Roots: Prophetic Preaching and Our Missional Mandate...Luke 4: 18-19"

Blessings to each of you my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ! It is with great joy and humility that I greet you as the newly elected President of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia. I am elated to serve along side of Vice President James Victor, Secretary Milton Bunting, Assistant Secretary Griselda Bayton and the leadership of our Clergy, Women and Men's Ministries. My love and commitment to our convention endures as I accept the awesome responsibility of leading our shared vision and mission. I would like to thank each past president in general and our most recent past president, Dr. Steven G. Blunt, in particular, for their exceptional and transformative leadership that has left an indelible mark upon the BGC and each of its ministries and commissions. In addition, I applaud our Interim Executive Director, Reverend David Chapman as well as both former and current members of the General Board for their stalwart commitment and investment.

The Lord truly blessed us in Roanoke for our 118th Annual Convention and Congress of Christian Education. Southwest Virginia and our sister associations and area moderators welcomed and hosted us with excellency. I have heard countless delegates speak of their experience in the Star City as being for informing and inspiring. The uniqueness of this year's annual session was that we also introduced our newly hired and full-time Executive Director Reverend Doctor Leo Whitaker and Family. Dr. Whitaker returns back to the BGC after serving as our Youth and Young Adult Director in the 1980's; and, with a wealth of knowledge and experience that matches his love and commitment to the convention. I would ask of you to pray for Dr. Whitaker as he transitions into his new executive office as well as welcome him as he looks forward to establishing a rapport with each of our constituent Associations and churches.

As we were reminded a few years ago by then President Darrell K. White, "It was a dark and stormy night", it was as President Blunt stated "By the Grace of the Cross, the Church and the Community" that we have been kept and empowered by God to do an even greater work within the Kingdom of God. Quite frankly, God has taken us from barely staying afloat, to our heads above water, to now treading water with the full hope

and faith of walking on water toward the aim of modeling Christ. I sense a spirit of revivalism that will envelop our convention and every partnering community of Christ throughout the Commonwealth. This will demand an intentionality of inclusivity and interdependence among believers in the rural, urban and suburban regions of Virginia—throughout Central, Northern, Tidewater, Southwest and Eastern Shore of both conservative and progressive; mega and more intimate size congregations.

Moreover, I look forward to thoroughly revealing and explicating the specific vision and scope of our collective ministry to the Executive and General Boards in the near future; and, to each of you at the 2017 Fall Session in Richmond.

Again, I ask for your continued support as we collectively have a charge to keep and a God to glorify. I am convinced that "no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no minds imagined what God has prepared for those who love God...I Corinthians 2:9"

Graciously Submitted,  
Gregory M. Howard



## Interim Executive Minister's Report

As I share this brief Annual Session report, it being the last as your Interim Executive Minister, I have a few shout outs and expressions of gratitude I wish to share.

I will also briefly share my report on the state of the Convention.

Let me begin with my report on the state of the Convention.

The state of our Convention is realized in the state of it's churches. Many of The Convention's churches are without pastors and too many of those with pastors are experiencing some type of conflict. The headquarters staff has found ourselves very busy in attempting to aid both. With the number of churches that are without pastors or in conflict we can easily loose sight on the greater majority of healthy, thriving churches that are growing spiritually and numerically.



I have learned over these past few years that it seems that many if not most member churches define the Convention as a building located on 1214 West Graham Rd. In Richmond, VA. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The Baptist General Convention is found in nearly every city, town and hamlet in the state of Virginia. The Baptist General Convention is a living organism of over 1000 churches United for greater mission and ministry. It seems that the only problem with that definition is that it mirrors many of our churches. The number on the role is much larger than the number who give and work in the church. And so it is with the Convention, only a small percentage of the Convention's churches participate in it's work through their service and contributions. And like many of our churches, the staff at the headquarters building give just as much or more time and attention to those who don't contribute than to those who do. With this said, please note that none of that assistance is ever given grudgingly. Questions are answered, counsel is given, trips are made, often at expense to the Convention and staff. Many of our Convention constituents seem to be unaware that a policy was adopted years ago dealing with an honorarium for staff members when they are called on to preach, conduct workshops or moderate meetings. When staff members come to you to preach or do workshops, please be prepared to give them a fair honorarium for their service.

I hope that you have come prepared to give generously tonight but as you leave this place this week, remember 1214 West Graham Rd. and the serious work that goes on there everyday by a committed staff. It is an awful feeling and responsibility when the Executive Minister and the Accountant sit down to decide how bills and salaries are going to be paid and mission objectives ( Virginia Union, Lott Carey, Children's Home) without the needed monetary resources. Thank you to all those churches and individuals who regularly support the work of your Convention and thank you to all those persons, pastors, officers and members who give of your time and resources for the sake of the Convention. So much more could be said here but I promised a brief report.

Next let me spend a few minutes on the Convention's upcoming Youth Retreat.

Many of our churches are under the impression that the present Eagle Eyrie Retreat is a BGC sponsored event. It is not.

As the Convention emerged from the deep financial hole some 5 years ago. The decision was made by the leadership of the Convention to not continue going to Eagle Eyrie because of what was perceived to be a the lack of a demonstration of grace during this dark period by those who owned the Eagle Eyrie retreat

property. It was time to channel our resources to our own community. Please note that the retreat was never the Eagle Eyrie Retreat but the Baptist General Convention Youth Retreat held at Eagle Eyrie. Over the years it began to be referred to as the Eagle Eyrie Retreat. In 2014 our Convention, after a couple of years without a retreat, renewed our Youth Retreat by holding it at Virginia State University and the Children's Home. During 2015 & 2016 it was held at Virginia State. This year's retreat will be held on July 28-30, on the campus of Virginia Union University. As good Baptist folk we would not dare attempt to tell you who are what to support for the faith formation of your youth. We only ask that you know you can rest assured that your youth will receive an awesome experience at the BGC youth retreat. There should be registration forms in your bags. If not go by the registration desk for information on how to get one.

BGC Ministries: Scholarships to the Samuel D. Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University will for the second straight year be given BGCVA's Women and Men Ministries. The Women are giving the Margaret Rose Johnson Scholarship, two in the amount of \$1200.00 each and representing the Men there is the James Cary Scholarship, two in the amount of \$500.00 each. That is a total of \$3400.00 in scholarships for students who are attending the School of Theology.

As I close this part of my report let me admonish us, in light of this nation's present President and Congress, our state General Assembly, and a new Governor being elected this year, as a Convention let us be proactive. The most active of our nine Commissions these past 2 years has been the Commission on Social Justice. Dr. Elisha Burke the Convention's staff person who guides this commission is constantly sending out information and calls to action on a number of topics that affect our communities. Every one needs to vote! No, there is no Barack Obama to vote for but if you look at what is going on in Washington you realize that we need to vote to not only affect the present and the future but to preserve the gains of the past.

Now allow me to thank a few people who have been instrumental in this present journey. Dr. Darrell White, was the Convention President at the time I started my stint as Interim Executive Minister. He had steered the Convention through the period that is commonly now referred to as that Dark and Stormy Night. Thank you Dr. White for trusting who you know me to be and ask me to hold the reigns of the Convention for two 6 month stints. By the end of 2014 Dr. Steven Blunt had been elected to lead the Convention as it emerged from what was arguably the most trying time in the history of the Convention. Thank you for trusting

me enough to walk with you these past three years.

I want to thank the staff, this includes the Rev. Curtis Ballard who served as the Convention's Youth and Young Adult Minister. The joy of a job where everyone worked hard to work together, thus, creating a stress free work environment has been the delight of these 31/2 years for me. As I stated last year, they get it. They get that it is not about us but about the service we are able render for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

I want to thank my wife Beverly for always being so faithful and gracious as a minister's spouse. Only minister's spouses know the sacrifice and burden they carry as they walk with their husband or wife in the service of the Lord. Four and a half years ago when we thought the relocating was all over and we could settle down, after a year of retirement, I asked my wife to relocate once again.

This September will mark 44 yrs. of that journey.

Thank you for three wonderful children and for being the sweet, gentle, humble, non-judgmental holy Saint that you are Beverly Chapman.

I thank God for God's call to serve in God's Kingdom in the various capacities and places that I have been privileged to serve. And those who serve will agree when I tell you that none of it is as glamorous or prestigious as folk might think.

I thank God for helping me realize a long time ago that wherever in His Kingdom I have been called to serve is a gift, not something I deserved or earned but a gift to be treasured and treated like the valuable piece of the Kingdom it is.

To all of you wonderful, committed BGCers; Don't take your Convention for granted. A church is no greater than the people of which it consist. A Convention is no greater than the churches of which it consist.

Now with a new president standing a few moments away from being elected and the hiring of the New Executive Minister, the Convention is poised to make new and greater strides forward. Reclaiming what is worthy to continue on the journey, abandoning what has become obsolete and hopefully daring to tread into new territory that will surely aid to further reclaim the Baptist General Convention's place as a relevant and valued servant in the Kingdom of God.

And you know, that's what it is all about, the kingdom. Jesus didn't come preaching about First Baptist or Second Baptist or the Valley Baptist Association or the Cherrystone or Schaffer Memorial Association. He didn't come preaching about the Virginia State Con-

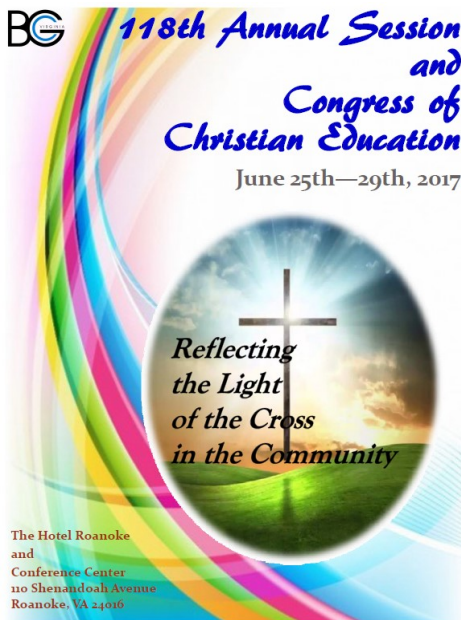
vention or the Baptist General Convention. He didn't come preaching about the, American Baptist or National Baptist or the Progressive, nor did I hear Him say anything about AME or Baptist or United Methodist, or big churches and little churches. I could go on and on-- but I read someplace in the Book, the Bible, that He came preaching the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom is bigger than all of this stuff put together. My prayer is that we ever become more Kingdom minded than me and mine and us and them minded. The Kingdom is where God rules and His Love and Holy relationship rule the day. Serving in the Kingdom, letting humankind see the love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit in those of us who claim to know Him. Making a difference where we are planted.

As I end this report, and as I begin my transition from this office I pledge my prayers and support to our next Executive Minister. I look forward to re-entering the world of a Simi retired minister.

Let there be no doubt, I know what my assignment has been and I am ready to move on to the next phase of life. My hope is that what I have done has been pleasing in the Lord's sight and a blessing to the Convention.

God bless the Baptist General Convention of Virginia.

The work goes on and our God is glorified.  
Humbly submitted,  
David L. Chapman



**BGCVA is on these social media sites....**



**State Officers being installed during the Evening Of Celebration at the 118th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education in Roanoke**



**The Whitaker Family**



**Lecturer—Dr. Adam L. Bond**

## Baptist General Convention in Roanoke Highlights

by S. Rotan Hale of the Roanoke Tribune



(From Left) BGCVA president Steven G. Blunt (2013 – 17) oversees the installation of Dr. Leo Whitaker (center) signing contract to become the organization's Executive Minister. Looking on are BGCVA Executive Committee: Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ; Dr. Sylvester Smith; Dr. Gregory M. Howard (newly elected BGCVA President (2017 – 20)); outgoing Executive Minister Reverend David L. Chapman along with Dr. Whitaker's son, Yohance and wife. Kathy Whitley-Whitaker. (Photos by S. Rotan Hale)

Despite attendance numbers that continue to decrease nationwide, the Black church has been the spiritual backbone of African Americans for centuries. Regardless of the denomination, of Protestant persuasion, classic ministers of various levels stand front and center—leading the timeless and tireless efforts to lift followers through the gospel.

No group takes this lofty mission more seriously than the Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA) and its Congress of Christian Education.

The 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, was held June 25–28 at Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Roanoke, VA. It featured a comprehensive lineup of activities, vendors, exhibitors, service providers and, most of all, Faith Formation in almost every aspect of church ministry.

This year's theme, *Reflecting the Light of the Cross in the Community*, was most appropriate considering how today's communities are suffering in so many ways.

"We at (BGC) didn't know what was going to happen next," said Reverend David L. Chapman, referring to what course the organization should take in such troubled times for both the organization and society in general.

"Roanoke helped us find our footing when the organization last held its convention in Roanoke in 2013," he added.

In praise of the organization, Reverend Chapman briefly spoke about components that set BGC apart: “BGC is mainly about equipping saints for service,” he said.

The Chester, VA resident, who has been BGCVA interim executive minister for over 3 years, is also the interim pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Richmond. As a former pastor of Roanoke’s High Street Baptist Church he oversaw several significant changes and upgrades the church experienced throughout his 6-year stint that lasted from 2006 until he retired from his pastoral responsibilities in 2012.



One of the more momentous events at the conference was the signing of a contract that passed the reigns of Executive Minister to Dr. Leo Whitaker of this multidimensional Christian organization.

Whitaker’s term officially begins January 1, 2018. He comes to the Executive Minister position with an impressive list of credentials which includes bioethics research—the study of ethical issues emerging from advances in biology and medicine.

“Having someone of Dr. Whitaker’s caliber to come in as executive minister not only speaks to the affirmation of that position but it also provides a great opportunity for our convention to celebrate his uniqueness and to really give us the stability we need as we move forward,” commented BGCVA president Steven Blunt (2014 – 17).



The auspicious ceremony was conducted before a sizable gathering of BGCVA officials who were joined by a host of pastors and other concerned individuals. Many speakers, praise teams and choirs, some from area churches, graced the conference through their respective mediums.

Among those was Minister Kaiya Jennings, BGCVA Director of Youth and Young Adults, who gave a fiery sermon that posed the question “Whose side are you on?” Her sermon was based on 1 John 1:5–10 that states, (in

part) “If we claim to have fellowship with him (God) and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. Are you on God’s side or are you playing with the devil,” she said launching her sermon from the passage.

“Today we are faced with raunchy rhetoric and misguided theology coupled with a devilish and divergent understanding about how we should conduct ourselves here on earth,” she chided boldly- referring to the present plague of modern-day conditions that potentially encourage believers to stray from their faith in God. Her sermon was well received and met all the necessary standards of traditional ‘fire and brimstone’ discourse.

BGCVA, like many organizations of this type, has a strong history of youth guidance programs and initiatives. Considering that, Jennings announced the organization’s Annual Youth Retreat for middle and high school students to be held July 28-30 at Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA and spoke of various programs and opportunities that will be offered to participating youth.

A by-product of such conferences includes the amazing talents showcased whether through ministers with impactful sermons or presentations of other types.

Such was the case as Reverend Ayo Morton delivered an extremely powerful spoken word performance entitled “I Am.”

Through her powerful and rhythmic delivery, Reverend Morton charged the crowd with her skillfully executed message of strength and faith.

One just had to be there to fully appreciate Morton’s presentation and the abundance of dynamic performances at this multi-dimensional conference that serves as a vibrant model for others to follow.



The Reverend William L. Lee, former pastor, Loudon Ave. Christian Church (left) with Sekinah Hamlin, director, Faith and Credit

Roundtable at the Center for Responsible Lending. One of various exhibitors at the BGCVA conference.

## VUU Names New President



Virginia Union University has announced Dr. Hakim J. Lucas, the Florida University chief fundraiser, as its 13th president, effective September 1, 2017.

Following a 14-month search to replace former President Claude G. Perkins, who stepped down in June 2016, first taking a sabbatical and then retiring.

“Throughout the search process, Dr. Lucas impressed the committee with his clear vision for liberal arts education and for creating an enhanced student experience,” stated Dr. Richardson, a VUU alumnus who is the pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, N.Y. and, chairs the National Action Network and the Conference of National Black Churches.

Dr. Lucas said he was “honored to have this opportunity” to serve as president at a “distinguished university with a rich history of academic excellence. I look forward to joining the dedicated administrators, faculty and staff as we continue to make a difference in the academic life of students.”

According to VUU, Dr. Lucas has nearly two decades of experience in higher education in the areas of fundraising, strategic planning and the engagement and retention of students at historically black colleges and universities.

For the last five years, he has served as Bethune-Cookman University’s vice president for institutional advancement. Since 2012, Dr. Lucas was responsible for Bethune-Cookman’s advancement portfolio. Dr. Lucas reportedly boosted giving to the school by 30 percent and increased the endowment by 53 percent. And, enabled the school to receive millions of dollars in state funding for new academic programs, including its Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development.

Additionally, Dr. Lucas was also involved in helping the university receive \$45 million in research grants.

Prior to Bethune-Cookman, Dr. Lucas held similar fundraising posts at the State University of New York-Old Westbury and at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, N.Y. He also previously served as a tenured lecturer and deputy chair of Medgar Evers College’s Philosophy and Religion Department.

Dr. Lucas earned his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, and later earned a master’s degree in education from Tufts University in Massachusetts and a doctorate in education from Fordham University in New York. He also holds the Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

# BGCVA 2016 Contributions to Missions and Ministry

## **OUTSTANDING TRAILBLAZER \$54,999 - \$35,000**

Fifth Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Earl E. Brown, Pastor  
Dr. Ricardo L. Brown, Pastor

## **TRAILBLAZER IN MISSIONS \$34,999 - \$20,000**

Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria  
Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Pastor

## **OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP \$19,999 - \$15,000**

Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Arlington  
Dr. James Victor, Pastor

## **FAITHFUL GIVERS IN MISSIONS \$9,999 - \$5,000**

Shiloh Baptist Church Old Site, Fredericksburg  
Dr. Aaron Dobynes, Pastor

Third Baptist Church, Portsmouth  
Reverend Joe B. Fleming, Pastor

First Union Baptist Church, Mechanicsville  
Reverend Lewis R. Yancy, Pastor

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Alexandria  
Dr. Darrell K. White, Pastor

Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Petersburg  
Reverend Jeffrey L. Reaves, Pastor

First Baptist Church East End, Newport News  
Dr. Gregory Howard, Pastor

Union Branch Baptist Church, Chesterfield  
Reverend Kenneth E. Rioland, Jr., Pastor

Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Centreville  
Dr. Eugene Johnson, Pastor

Guildfield Baptist Church, Dry Fork  
Reverend Wallace Powell, Jr. Pastor

First Baptist Church, Denbigh  
Reverend Ivan T. Harris, Pastor

## **CORE GIVERS IN MISSIONS \$4,999 - \$2,000**

Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Tyrone E. Nelson, Pastor

St. James Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Kevin Sykes, Pastor

Fourth Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Emory Berry, Pastor

First Baptist Church, Hampton  
Dr. Joan S. Parrot, Pastor

Greater Triumph Miss. Baptist Church, Chatham  
Reverend Michael K. Ferrell, Pastor

Zion Prospect Baptist Church, Yorktown  
Reverend Walter C. Johnson, Pastor

Zion Baptist Church, Petersburg  
Reverend Michael Shannon, Sr., Pastor

Jerusalem Baptist Church, Temperanceville  
Reverend Linda D. Stevens, Pastor

Fifth Street Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend F. Todd Gray, Pastor

Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Herbert Ponder, Pastor

Westwood Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Michael R. Lomax, Pastor

Shiloh New Site Baptist Church, Fredericksburg  
Reverend Anthony Parrish, Pastor

Second Baptist Church, Chester  
Reverend Johnnie Fleming, Pastor

Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Glen Allen  
Reverend Darryl C. Thompson, Pastor

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Alexandria  
Reverend Carl Johnson, Pastor

Beulah Baptist Church, Alexandria  
Reverend Columbus Watson, Pastor

Faith Community Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ, Pastor

Sixth Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Yvonne Bibbs, Pastor

Star Bethlehem Baptist Church, Triangle  
Dr. Henry Daring, Jr. Pastor

First Baptist Church, Merrifield  
Reverend Martin Pickett, Pastor

First Agape Baptist Church, Alexandria  
Reverend Daniel L. Brown, Pastor

First Baptist Church, Manassas  
Dr. Keith Savage, Pastor

Union Branch Baptist Church, Petersburg  
Reverend Marcus Allen, Pastor

## **MISSION SUPPORTERS \$1,999 - \$1,000**

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Leroy Armwood, Jr, Pastor

Lee Street Baptist Church, Bristol  
Dr. Willis A. Johnson, Pastor

St. Mark Baptist Church, Maidens  
Reverend Gregory Washington, Pastor

Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Danville  
Reverend Brud Perry, Pastor

Flat Rock Baptist Church, South Hill  
Dr. Herman Lundy, Pastor

Calvary Baptist Church, Danville

Bethany Baptist Church, Montpelier  
Dr. Patrick H. Jones, Pastor

Mosby Memorial Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Price L. Davis, Pastor

Macedonia Baptist Church, Colonial Beach  
Reverend Fred Sales, Pastor

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Morris Henderson, Pastor

Greater Nazarene Baptist Church, Mechanicsville  
Reverend Earl B. Hall Sr., Pastor

Second Baptist Church East End, Newport News  
Dr. Leroy Salary, Pastor

New Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk  
Dr. William M. Small, Pastor

Abner Baptist Church, Glen Allen  
Reverend Jamal C. Hayes, Pastor

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Staunton

Spring Hill Baptist Church, Concord  
Reverend Clarence Warren, Pastor

Spring Creek Baptist Church, Midlothian  
Reverends Micah and Jacquelin McCreary, Pastors

First Baptist Church, Salem  
Reverend Melton Johnson, Pastor

First Baptist Church, Norfolk  
Dr. Robert G. Murray, Pastor

Quioccasin Baptist Church, Richmond

First Baptist Church, Suffolk  
Dr. Steven Blunt, Pastor

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Ringgold  
Reverend Anthony R. Pass, Pastor

Prospect Missionary Baptist Church, Danville  
Reverend Demetrius Crews, Pastor

Shiloh Baptist Church, Norfolk  
Dr. Keith I. Jones, Pastor

Kentuck Missionary Baptist Church, Ringgold  
Reverend Dwight Bryant, Pastor

Greater Brandon Chapel Baptist Church, Alton  
Dr. Michael Galloway, Pastor

Pilgrim Journey Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Angelo Chatmon, Pastor

Guildfield Baptist Church, S. Richmond  
Reverend Morris S. Gant, Pastor

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Triangle  
Dr. Alfred Jones, Jr., Pastor

Moore Street Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Alonza Lawrence Pastor

Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Michael Moore, Pastor

Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Roscoe Cooper, III, Pastor

Gethsemane Baptist Church, Newport News  
Dr. Dwight Riddick, Pastor

Gillfield Baptist Church, Petersburg  
Dr. George Lyons Jr., Pastor

Concord Baptist Church, Chase City  
Reverend Raleigh Bagley, III, Pastor

First African Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Rodney Waller, Pastor

White Rock Missionary Baptist Church, Ringgold  
Dr. Curtis Strader, Jr. Pastor

**GIVERS IN MISSIONS \$999-\$500**

Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Blairs  
Reverend Reginald Carter, Pastor

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Midlothian  
Reverend W. L. Moody, Pastor

Sweet Union Baptist Church, Roanoke  
Reverend M. Sylvia Ball, Pastor

Trinity Baptist Church, West Point

Oak Grove Baptist Church, Stafford  
Reverend Bobby R. Daniels, Pastor

Broad Rock Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Kevin Cook, Pastor

New Zion Baptist Church, Williamsburg  
Dr. Robert Whitehead, Pastor

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Bumpass  
Dr. Marion R. Tapscott, Pastor

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Supply  
Reverend Irving Woolfolk, Pastor

New Bethel Baptist Church, Meherrin  
Reverend Harvey Bigelow, Pastor

Union Grove Baptist Church, Petersburg  
Reverend William E. Johnson, Pastor

Fauquier Baptist Church, Goochland  
Reverend Melvin Woodson, Pastor

High Street Baptist Church, Roanoke  
Reverend Serenus Churn, Pastor

Third Baptist Church, Hampton  
Reverend John F. Kenney, Pastor

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Farnham  
Reverend Alvin Hill, Pastor

Hollywood Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Otis Lockhart, Jr., Pastor

Star Fellowship Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Larry D. Barham Sr., Pastor

First Baptist Church, Petersburg  
Reverend Jeremiah Tillman, Pastor

First Baptist Church, Farmville  
Reverend James Ashton, Pastor

Antioch Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. James Sailes, Pastor

Antioch Baptist Church, Hampton  
Reverend Raymond L. Lassiter, Pastor

United Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Gerald A. Stewart, Pastor

Shiloh Baptist Church, Blackstone  
Reverend Adam E. McKee, Pastor

Riverview Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Stephen Hewlett, Pastor

Friendship Baptist Church, Hopewell

Union Bethel Baptist Church, Chesapeake  
Reverend Jeffrey B. Knight, Pastor

Antioch Baptist Church, Saluda  
Reverend Fred D. Holmes, Pastor

First Baptist Church, Midlothian  
Reverend Pernell J. Johnson, Pastor

Metropolitan Baptist Church, Petersburg  
Reverend Lamont Hobbs, Pastor

Second Baptist Church, Falls Church  
Reverend Samuel D. Barnhart, Pastor

First Union Baptist Church, Crozier  
Reverend Frank Lomax, III, Pastor

Anointed New Life Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. C. Diane Mosby, Pastor

Mountain Grove Miss. Baptist Church, South  
Boston  
Dr. Arthur E. Crews, Pastor

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Churchview

New Grove Baptist Church, Kenbridge  
Reverend Curtis Bagley, Jr. Pastor

Mt. Freeman Baptist Church, Danville  
Reverend Robert Millner, Pastor

Gravel Hill Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Louis G. Jones, Pastor

First Baptist Church, Chilhowie  
Reverend Dwayne A. Mabry, Pastor

Camp Grove Baptist Church, Danville  
Reverend Delaware Clark, Pastor

Morning Star Baptist Church, Spring Grove  
Reverend Robert Elliott, Pastor

East New Hope Baptist Church, Danville  
Reverend Rufus Fuller, III, Pastor

Fountain Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Patrick Taylor, Pastor

Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Aldie  
Reverend Eugene Pearson, Pastor

First Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Dumfries  
Dr. Luke Torian, Pastor

First Baptist Church, Campostella  
Reverend Tyrone Jackson, Jr., Pastor

Jerusalem Baptist Church, Sparta  
Reverend Jerry S. Deed, Pastor

Little Bethel Baptist Church, Stony Creek  
Reverend David I. Banks, Sr., Pastor

Second Liberty Baptist Church, Quinton  
Reverend Sean T. Young, Pastor

Shiloh Baptist Church, Salem  
Reverend Adrian E Dowell, Pastor

Zion Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Robert Pettis, Pastor

Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chesterfield  
Reverend Justin House, Pastor

Triumphant Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Arthur Jones, Pastor

**GIVERS IN MISSIONS \$499-\$1**

Branches Runn Baptist Church, Amelia  
Reverend Alonza B. Williams, Pastor

Mangohick Baptist Church, Hanover  
Reverend Elijah Campbell, Pastor

Bethel Baptist Church, Gloucester  
Reverend Michael Jackson, Pastor

Poplar Mount Baptist Church, Emporia

Union Street Missionary Baptist Church, Danville  
Dr. Charles E. Hairston, Pastor

Good Hopewell Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend R. Brown, Pastor

First Baptist Church, Matthew  
Reverend Jonathan Walden, Pastor

Parrish Hill Baptist Church, Charles City  
Reverence e. W. Anderson, Pastor

Healing & Living Waters Ministry, Richmond  
Dr. Lester D. Frye, Pastor

Providence Park Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Jerome Ross, Pastor

St. James Baptist Church, Milford  
Dr. Charles F. Baugham, Pastor

St. John Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Michael L. Felton, Pastor

First Antioch Baptist Church, Powhatan  
Reverend Vera Rhyne, Pastor

Concord Fellowship Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend A. E. Drew, Pastor

First Union Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. William Whitaker, Pastor

First Shiloh Baptist Church, Mechanicsville  
Reverend R. N. Siler, Pastor

St. Paul's Baptist Church, Aylett  
Reverend Robert D. Brown, Pastor

Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Michael A. Sanders, Pastor

First Baptist Church, Louisa  
Reverend Bruce Jones, Pastor

Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Sylvester Smith, Pastor

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Alexandria  
Reverend Frank Kelly, Jr., Pastor

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Andrew Jackson, Jr., Pastor

Mt Oni Baptist Church, Ruther Glen  
Reverend Marvin Gilliam, Jr., Pastor

Beulah Baptist Church, Moseley  
Reverend Larry Johnson, Pastor

Salem Baptist Church, Emporia

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, South Boston  
Reverend Frederick Eiley, Pastor

Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Providence Forge  
Reverend F. W. Henley, Pastor

Pilgrim Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Sylvester Turner, Pastor

Union Baptist Church, Richmond  
Reverend Robert Davis, Pastor

Fairview Baptist Church, Glade Springs  
Reverend Danny Belcher, Pastor

Grayland Baptist Church, Richmond  
Dr. Dexter Cannon, Pastor

Abiding Faith Baptist Church, Kilmarnock  
Dr. Barbara Cain, Pastor

New Line Baptist Church, Gum Spring  
Reverend Jackie Coney, Pastor

St. Luke Baptist Church, Skipwith  
Reverend Franklin Watson, Pastor

Providence Baptist Church, Leesburg  
Reverend Herbert Love, Pastor

Springfield Baptist Church, Church Road

Wms. Lee Street Baptist Church, Bristol  
Dr. Willis Johnson, Pastor

Jerusalem Baptist Church, Norfolk  
Reverend William Johnson, Pastor

New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Walkerton  
Reverend Robert Brown, Pastor

Bethany Baptist Church, Sandston  
Reverend johnnie Frazier, Pastor

Morning Star Miss. Baptist Church, Portsmouth

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Richmond

St. Paul Baptist Church, Jamaica

Morning star Baptist Church, Burkeville  
Reverend William Hill, Pastor

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Hopewell

Mt. Level Baptist Church, Dinwiddie  
Reverend Bernard Coleman, Pastor

Nazareth Baptist Church, Orange  
Reverend Gene Lee, Pastor

Mt. Gilliam Baptist Church, Louisa

**Individuals \$5500- \$2500**

James Palmer  
Dr. Grady Powell

**Individuals \$2499-\$1000**

Reverend Willis Funn\*  
Dr. Keith A. Savage\*  
Polly Jones Mason  
Coolidge Hamlett\*  
Dr. Kenny Smith\*  
Sandra Brown\*  
Canzata Turner  
Reverend Melton Johnson\*  
John D. Clark, Jr.  
Pauline Young  
Claudia Lundy

**Individuals \$500-\$999**

Dr. Audrey M. Todd\*  
Reverend Tracey D. Holly\*  
Larry Murphy\*  
Dr. Andrew White, Sr\*  
Reverend Marvin Gilliam, Jr.\*  
Dr. James E. Coleman, Jr.\*  
Dr. Darrell White\*  
Dr. Curtis Strader\*  
James H. Cary  
Willie Thompson

**Individuals \$499-\$300**

M. Sylvia Ball\*  
Sandra Jackson  
Eugene Johnson  
Dr. Steven Blunt\*  
Reverend Sylvester Smith\*  
Reverend Joe B. Fleming  
Florene Taylor\*  
Milton Bunting

**Individuals \$299-\$200**

Dwayne A. Mabry  
Larry Pinchback\*  
William D. Lee  
Reverend Delaware Clark, Jr.  
Rosette Graham\*  
Dr. Robert Murray\*  
Dr. Michael Shannon  
Mavis Farrar  
Beverly Chapman  
Mary Marie Hamlett  
Jaqueline Poe  
D. F. Calloway

**Individuals \$199- \$1**

Reverend Frank Lomax, III\*  
Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ\*  
Emilie A. Mooring  
Reverend Serenus Churn, Jr.\*  
Reverend Jeanette Brown  
Reverend Tyrone Nelson\*  
Betty A. Montgomery  
Reverend Robert L. Milner  
Connie Robinson  
Gloria Jackson  
Reverend Harrison Culley



Haney Thomas, Jr.  
 Jesterelden M. Miller  
 Reverend Drucilla Tate  
 Theodore R. Little, Jr.  
 Dr. Gloria Newsome-Brickhouse  
 Raymond C. Ramsey  
 Reverend Bryan Stevens  
 Reverend Danny Belcher  
 Sylvia Harris  
 Wendell Foster  
 Bessie L. Brent  
 Barbra A Hodges  
 Brownlee Hailstock, Jr.\*  
 Deborah Parker  
 D. Brandon  
 Earl B. Hall  
 Donna McCoy  
 Youner McLeod  
 Reverend Kenneth E. Rioland  
 Reverend Cynthia Rioland  
 Lois F. Johnson  
 Reverend Patricia Ford\*  
 Carolyn Funn  
 Connie W. Waller  
 Clarissa P. Blunt  
 Charles F. Baugham  
 Dr. G. R. Quarles  
 Raymond L. Lassiter  
 Reverend Kenneth G. Dunn  
 Morgan McCoy  
 Howard Newman  
 Alden G. Vaughan  
 Deborah Montgomery  
 Reverend Monec Kelley  
 Leslie M. Spratley  
 Joe M. Woodard  
 Thomasine Rogers  
 Jean Braxton  
 Lola F. Graham  
 Reverend Griselda Bayton  
 Samuel Jones  
 James R. Toppins  
 Myrtle Spurlock  
 Mary L. Howerton  
 Rose Davis  
 Larry E. Lewis  
 Mary A. Whit  
 Patricia L. Richards-Spruill  
 Thomas E. McCain  
 Edith Jones  
 Stephanie Wilkes  
 Franklin Henley  
 Freda Lawrence  
 Clarence L Childers, Jr.  
 Vernon Woodard  
 Thomas S. Simmons  
 Reverend Juanita Harrison  
 E. Brandace Lemons-Blunt  
 Theresa Pope  
 Reverend Michelle Thierry  
 Lula B.. Holland  
 Margaret A. Finney  
 Dorothy M. Autry  
 Flora L. Kent More  
 Kay B. Jones  
 Maggie B. Whitaker  
 Princess j. Benn-Coker  
 Phyllis B. Holland

Patricia Gilliam  
 Virginia L. Gaines  
 Joy M. Hawkins  
 Willie Mooring  
 M. M. Norfleet  
 Iris S. Brown  
 Joe M. Woodard  
 Josephine Anderson  
 Helivi Hollard

\* : Denotes General Board Members

**Area Women Ministries**

Area A---\$2,200  
 Area B---\$1,500 (Tidewater Baptist Women)  
 Area D---\$3,800  
 Area E---\$3,000  
 Area F---\$1,500  
 Area H-3---\$1,700  
 Area K---\$2,000

**Area Men's Ministry**

Area E Men---\$1,000

**Associations**

Amelia- Nottoway-Prince Edward  
 Bannister---\$1,025  
 Berean Valley  
 Bethany  
 Bluestone Harmony---\$1,253  
 Cherrystone---\$1,500  
 Chickahominy  
 Cumberland Union---\$305  
 Eastern Shore  
 Ebenezer  
 Greater Peninsula  
 James River---\$1,937  
 Lebanon---\$500  
 Mattaponi  
 Northern Neck---\$500  
 Northern Virginia---\$2,500  
 Old Dominion  
 Pamunkey  
 Piedmont  
 Schaffer Memorial---\$650  
 Shenandoah  
 Shiloh ---\$1,000  
 Southside Rappahannock---\$200  
 Star of the East  
 Sunnyside--- \$500  
 Tuckahoe---\$1,000  
 United --- \$700  
 Valley  
 Wayland Blueridge

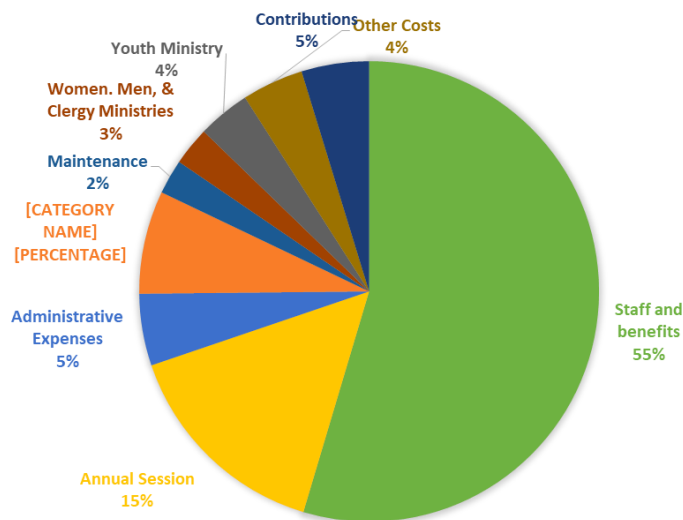
**Remember BGCVA in  
 your  
 financial contribution.**



**Donate to the**

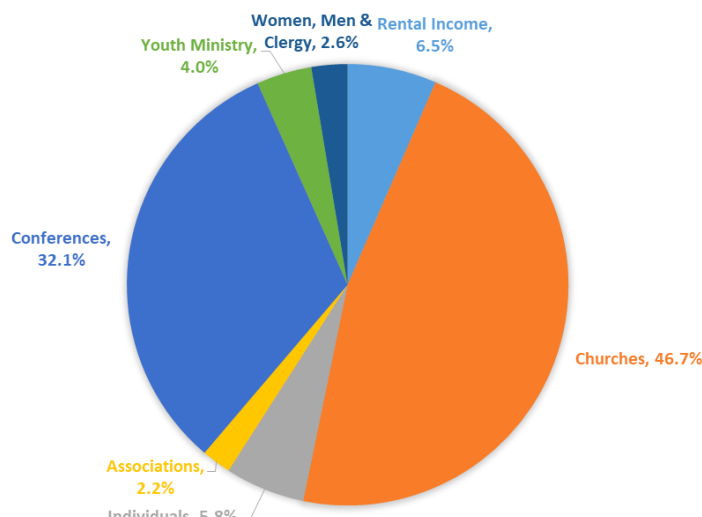


**BAPTIST GENERAL  
 CONVENTION OF VA  
 EXPENDITURES  
 JAN-DECEMBER 2016**



Total Expenses \$617

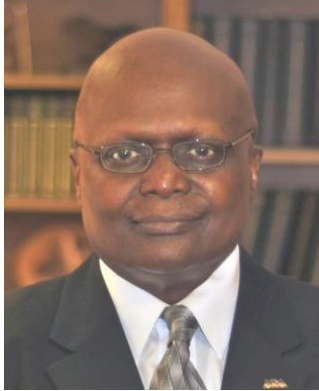
**BAPTIST GENERAL  
 CONVENTION OF VA  
 SOURCES OF INCOME  
 JAN-DECEMBER 2015**



Total Income\$652K

## Health & Wellness, Men's Ministry, Social Justice Ministry @ the Annual Session

Greetings! First, I need to say "Thank You" to every person involved in planning, implementing, praying for and attending our Annual Session in Roanoke. In my view our time in Roanoke was true to the theme – "Reflecting the Light of the Cross in the Community."



The **Health & Wellness Plenary** on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> was titled: **Caring for the Caregiver: Caring for Those Who Cared for You**. This session included presentations by a panel of professionals followed by their responses to questions posed audience members. The panelists were Dr. JoAnne B. Blanchard, PhD (author of the book: *Caring for Those Who Cared for You*); Dr. Sheila L. Snoddy, PhD (Community Action Director, The Coalition to Transform Advanced Care C-TAC); and Genea Luck (Associate State Director Multicultural Outreach AARP Virginia State Office). Author Charlotte B. Wood (author, *Remembering for Both of Us: A Child Learns about Alzheimer's*) also shared her experiences and perspective as a caregiver. I am thankful to each of them for their sharing and spending time with us to share information beyond the session.

Many thanks to Mrs. Sandra Davis, our local (Roanoke) Health Service Provider Coordinator for securing and coordinating the agencies. Entities sharing information and/or doing health screenings for our attendees included: Virginia Tech Carillion Hospital, Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, HealthCare for the Homeless, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), Carillion Clinic, New Horizons Healthcare, Optima Health Family Care, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, and Hospice of Virginia.

Nonmedical Community Service Providers onsite were Ecumenical Poverty Initiative, Center for Responsible Lending, Local Office on Aging, Fulton Mortgage Company and Hospice of Virginia.

The 5<sup>th</sup> **Annual Community Health and Wellness Breakfast – "Building a Healthier Community Together"** was held on Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Optima Health Family Care is the sponsor for this annual recognition of individuals and/or organizations providing outstanding community service in the areas of Education, Health, Hous-

ing and Community Advocacy in Virginia. The awardees for 2017 are as follows:

- Dr. Bernard Hairston - Executive Director, Community Engagement, Albemarle County Public Schools (Education)
- Lerla Joseph, MD – Charles City Medical Group, Richmond, VA (Medicine)
- Constance Covington – Youth Coordinator & Tenant Association President, Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (Housing)
- Ricky Johnson – President, Ricky Johnson & Friends, Richmond, VA

Additionally, each year we recognize a local community service organization for outstanding service in the community where the Annual Session is held. This year we honored **Rescue Mission of Roanoke** for many years of service. Rescue mission operates an emergency shelter for the homeless, meals for the needy, a free clinic for the homeless, Man-na Christian Ministries, Recovery Programs for Addiction, Tabitha Program and Jubilee Acres. Additional information may be obtained online at [rescuemission.net](http://rescuemission.net).

### **118<sup>th</sup> Annual Session Community Service Project**, June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

The Rescue Mission of Roanoke provided several opportunities for BGCVA messengers to be engaged in community service during the Annual Session. The non-profit faith-based shelter has separate housing for men and women. The shelters offer a safe environment for people in crisis. In addition to a warm bed and three meals per day, there is medical attention, legal assistance and clothing assistance available.

To support the Rescue Mission's ongoing ministry to the Roanoke Valley BGCVA members donated thousands of toiletries for distribution the person receiving help at Rescue Mission. Special Thanks to Pastor Rev. William J. Reid and the New Hope Baptist Church of Bristol for contributing the bulk of toiletry items for the outreach effort.

In addition to BGCVA members' generous donations, 50+ persons gave of their time onsite at the Rescue Mission. We are proud that our youth also contributed to this effort as they were volunteered to

assist Rescue Mission On June 26<sup>th</sup> as they prepared items for distribution to their clients. Thank you, Rev. Kaiya Jennings and team. Adults assisted with meal preparation and other tasks at the Rescue Mission on June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. We are thankful for your service to those who were able to witness the see and feel the love of God through your actions. Special thanks Mrs. Judy Jackson for the many hours she gave to coordinating this outreach opportunity.

### **Plenary: Faith, Redemption and Reintegration**, June 28<sup>th</sup>

The focus of this Social Justice plenary session was on the role of the church in helping returning citizens as they return to our communities after incarceration. The panel presenters were professionals from the Virginia Department of Corrections Probation and Parole. The primary presenters were Mr. Douglas Morrison, Chief Parole Officer (Danville) and Mr. Jeremiah Fitz, Chief Parole Officer (Statewide). Chief Morrison introduced presentations from Rev. Duane Massenburg, (Senior Offender Workforce Development Specialist, Green Rock Correctional Center, Chatham) and Mr. Barry Mayo, (Pittsylvania County Community Action Re-Entry Case Manager). Another featured presenter was Mr. William Washington, Jr. founder of The Bridge Ministry, (Buckingham). Mr. Washington provided free copies of this two books titled – *His Grace is Sufficient* (and autobiography) and *People, Places & Things* (a guide to overcoming addictive behavior).

All of the presenters participated with a very beneficial Q&A session following the presentations. They offered facts and figures on the status of incarceration and made clear that a great need exists for more churches to become places of healing and hope as thousands return to various communities each year. All of them continue to be available to us as we move forward in assisting BGCVA churches to continue existing re-entry ministry or start new ministry using the **Healing Communities Faith-based model for re-entry**. We are working with the nation office of Healing Communities as we prepare to involve our churches in becoming "Stations of Hope" for returning citizens. For additional information contact Dr. Burke at BGCVA main office or at [eburke@bgcva.org](mailto:eburke@bgcva.org).

Rev. Dr. J. Elisha Burke

# James H. Cary Christian Education Scholarship

The **James H. Cary Christian Education Scholarship** is named for Deacon James H. Cary. Mr. Cary served in many capacities and shared much responsibility at the Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA). For 25 years, Mr. Cary served as the President of the Division of Men (currently the Men's Ministry), Chairperson of the Commission on Christian Education, and Dean of the Congress of Christian Education. During his years of service, Mr. Cary contributed much to the initiation and growth of Men's Ministry across Virginia as well as the enhancement of Congress classes and the work of the Commission on Christian Education.

As a graduate of Virginia Union University, Mr. Cary remains a staunch supporter of the school and especially the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology. Over the years, Mr. Cary also served as instructor for the Church Leadership Conference.

## 1. Qualifications

- A second year student at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University who has declared intent to pursue a degree in Christian Education.
- An active member (or affiliate) of a Baptist General Convention of Virginia Church
- A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0

## 2. Nominations

- Letter of Inquiry evidencing need for financial assistance
- Detailed resume
- One page essay describing your future plans to work in Christian Education upon graduation
- Letter of Reference from pastor or Baptist General Convention of Virginia church of which you are a member (or affiliate)
- Copy of official transcript from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology
- All information must be submitted to the Director of Christian Education at **BGCVA NO LATER THAN MAY 15<sup>th</sup>** of each year.

## 3. Other Information

- Recipient(s) will be awarded the scholarship only once during a given school year.
- Amount of scholarship will be determined by need and availability of funds.
- Scholarship will be awarded on Wednesday during Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education of BGCVA held in June of each year. A check in the amount of the

Scholarship will be sent directly to the School of Theology in the name of the recipient.

- The Director of Christian Education, Director of Men, Commission on Christian Education Chair, President of the Ministry of Men and Executive Minister will determine the recipient(s).

James H. Cary Scholarship Fund  
Baptist General Convention of Virginia  
1214 W. Graham Road  
Richmond, VA 23220  
Rev. Dr. J. Elisha Burke  
804.228.2421, Ext. 113  
eburke@bgcva.org

## BGCVA Youth and Young Adult Ministries Update

The Place Where Ministry Matters!

This year the Youth and Young Adult Department has focused on providing a unique view of ministry that not only informs our faith but impacts our lives as well as the lives of others socially, mentally and physically. We desired this year, to tackle the hard questions that are affecting our young people and supply them with spiritually practical answers that they can implement in their day to day experience. In March, we were blessed to have over 100 youth and young adult leaders to attend our Annual Youth Workers Conference, which was held at the Fifth Baptist Church, Richmond. Leaders from all across the state had the opportunity to speak with a counseling psychologist, a mission's repre-



sentative from Lott Carey, our social justice agent for Baptist General as well as other pastors and youth ministers in the area, to reach conclusions about the myriad of problems

that they see in this sector of ministry. In June, during our Annual Session meeting in Roanoke, our youth session dedicated time to show our young people how to develop spiritually as well as socially, by having heartfelt daily devotions followed by giving back to the local rescue mission's program. Also this year we held our Annual Youth Re-



treat on the campus of Virginia Union University, where over 200 persons engaged in a weekend filled with worship, panel discussions, ministry building sessions and more. From Friday night until Sunday morning, our young people built lifelong relationships with each other and most importantly solidified their connection with their God. Also the Virginia Union, granted us a plot of land on the campus which now holds our "BGC Tree". Our tree is located near Henderson Hall, and is a sign for our young people that each place they go, to make sure they leave something that will provide growth for another.

Coming up later this year, we have several other events for our youth and young adults, one in particular being a mental health training and preparedness course. We are so excited



about how God is revitalizing and renewing our ministry here at Baptist General and in order for us to do even greater things for the kingdom, we are in need of your support because this is the place where ministry indeed matters. For we are convinced, that eyes have not seen nor ears have heard about the great things that God will prepare for us!!

Blessings To You,

Min. Kaiya Jennings

Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director

**BGCVA is on these social media sites....**



**Start NOW to make your RESERVATIONS for the BGCVA  
119th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education  
June 24—28, 2018**



**The Richmond Marriott Downtown, Richmond**

**A Special Thank You to  
the Annual Session  
Host Committee**

On behalf of President Steven G. Blunt, Interim Executive Minister David L. Chapman, Program Chair Gregory M. Howard, and, BGCVA Staff, we extend our deepest appreciation for all your arduous work during the planning and execution of the 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia in Roanoke. It was a pleasure having you and churches in the Roanoke, Salem, Bristol and Danville areas sharing with constituents across the depth and breadth of Virginia. Evaluations indicate that your hard and diligent work was not in vain.

Your enthusiasm, planning assistance and participation aided tremendously in making June 25 – 29 a meaningful and memorable experience for the over 300 messengers and friends who chose to share with us.

To the 2017 Host Committee, words cannot adequately express our deep appreciation for your love and desire to cross every “t” and dot every “i” to ensure that every detail was well taken care of – well above expectations. We say thank you to:

- The Reverend Dr. M. Sylvia Ball
- The Reverend Melton Johnson
- The Reverend Serenus Churn
- The Reverend Charles Calloway, Sr.
- The Reverend William Reid
- The Reverend Dr. Willis A. Johnson
- The Reverend Raymond Ramsey
- Mrs. Florene Taylor
- The Reverend Dwight Steele
- Mrs. Judy Jackson
- Mrs. Sandy Davis
- The Reverend Adrian E. Dowell
- Mrs. Marilyn Gentry

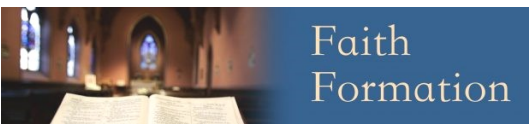
Please let BGCVA know if any of the staff or officers of Baptist General Convention of Virginia can be of assistance to you as together we continue to advance the Kingdom of God. Again, thank you! May God continue to bless you to be a blessing to others.

**2017 Annual Session  
Faith Formation Report**

The 118th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education attendance showed an exciting increase!

The process of Faith Formation does not happen in a few events. We look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming events found within this newsletter. Please make plans for those involved in your teaching ministry to attend the Church School Regional Conference in your area!

Our goal is to serve you – in our churches as well as associations. Please do not hesitate to contact the BGCVA office to schedule a training session for your church ministries.





School of Medicine



# A Special Thanks to Annual Session Vendors, Exhibitors, and Sponsors

It's with much gratitude that BGCVA expresses our appreciation for those vendors, exhibitors, and sponsors who took time out of their busy schedules to 'share their wares' with the constituents at the 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education. We appreciate your faithful attendance each year. Please plan to join us in Richmond in 2018.

- Mrs. Bernice Vaughan (The Hat Lady)
- Mrs. Endora Greenhill (Traci Lynn Jewelry)
- Mrs. Mary Kirkland (Mpulse Boutique)
- Ms. Talitha Williams (Ms. "T" Handbags & Accessories)
- Ms. Fran Motley
- Mr. Bryant Vaughan (Suits on Wheels)
- Ms. Juanita McWhite (Boutique 2U)
- Ms. Shirley Belcher (The Elegant Touch)



**BGCVA Oral History Project**

**Attention All BGCVA Churches!**

Please join us as we compile an oral history of the churches of BGC




**1899 -----> Present**

If you have any pictures, videos, stories, etc., of your church involved with BGC please send them to the BGC State office.

# Homegoing Celebrations

On behalf of President Gregory M. Howard, Interim Executive Minister David L. Chapman, the BGCVA Staff and the entire BGCVA Community, we extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the following persons. Although our hearts are saddened, God knows that you have fought a good fight and are ready for your eternal reward. BGCVA, all of Christendom, and the world are all the better because God allowed you to make a lasting impact on our lives.

The Reverend Quincey C. Guns, wife of the Reverend Frank Guns, Sr. (retired pastor, Abyssinia Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia) entered



eternal rest on May 25, 2017. She is the mother of Dr. Geoffrey V. Guns, pastor, Second Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk; Reverend Dianne G. Byrd, Portsmouth; Ms. Deborah G. Wimberly, Gaithersburg, Maryland; and, Bishop John E. Guns, pastor, St. Paul Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida (who once served as Director of Youth and Young Adults at BGCVA. Reverend Quincey was preceded in death by her eldest son, Frank Guns, Jr.

A Homegoing Service was held at Second Calvary Baptist Church, Norfolk on June 1, 2017.

Dr. Wanda S. Mitchell, of Richmond, formerly of Allendale, South Carolina, entered eternal rest on July 31, 2017. She is survived by are her father, John E. Tilley



of New York; brother, Dennis R. Patterson of Columbia, South Carolina; two sisters, Bunita Tilley and Lisa D. Tilley of New York; and, a number of other relatives and friends.

She was the retired Vice President of Inclusive Excellence at Virginia Commonwealth University. Additionally, Dr. Mitchell was elected to the BGCVA General Board in 2013 and again in June 2017. Memorial services were held at Scotts Funeral Home in Richmond and a funeral was held August 5, at her home church in Barnwell, South Carolina.

# Save The Dates!!!

## BGCVA Fall Session 2017

November 9



6:00 to  
8:00 PM  
Fifth Baptist  
Church  
1415 West  
Cary Street

Richmond, VA 23220

Dinner from 4:00—5:30 PM

Cost is \$35 per person

(Includes registration materials)

Dinner is an additional fee  
payable to the church.

Registration Deadline is  
October 23

Register Today!!

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2018 BGCVA

### Mid-Winter Retreat

FEBRUARY 16 – 17

Inclement Weather Date:

February 23-24

First Baptist  
Church East  
End

3000 Jefferson  
Avenue

Newport News, VA 23607



Hotel Accommodations at the  
Embassy Suites Hampton Hotel  
Convention Center & Spa  
1700 Coliseum Drive  
Hampton, VA 23666

Retreat Registration and Hotel  
Reservation Information will  
follow soon.

BGCVA Retreat Registration  
Deadline – February 3, 2018

## STREAM Youth Theology Institute (STREAMYTI) @ VUU

Hey, young people, have you heard the “good news” that occurred on the campus of Virginia Union University this summer? It’s called the STREAM Youth Theology Institute (STREAMYTI)!

STREAMYTI is an intense 9 days of conversation, discovery, exploration – plus food, faith, and fun – on the campus of Virginia Union University. Participants can see their world through fresh lenses as a place in which their gifts and faith perspectives contribute to transforming the world for good. It’s an opportunity for young people to become a community. They create a safe space to be genuine while exploring real questions. Together youth create covenants that guide ways they relate to each other and become aware of the sacred worth of each child of God. As youth gather, their task is to listen for God, and to be God’s hands and feet for each other and the world.



Youth were able to have honest, complicated, and energizing engagement. They dealt with academic exploration, vocational discernment, cultural engagement, and community-building. Youth dialogued and

explored topics like:

- *Policy, Politics, and Prophecy*
- *Speaking Truth to Power*
- *Righteousness of Rebellion* (with a Black Lives Matter leader)
- *Money, Materialism, and Social Entrepreneurism* (explored how money works)
- *History and Hope*
- *Diversity* (learned about other people and how to engage honestly and respectfully with people whose experiences, commitments, and perspectives are different)

During evening sessions, youth gathered for expressions of their giftedness through inspiring worship and exploring what it means to be called by god and begin to live into that reality.

If you would like to be a STREAMYTI participant next summer:

– email [STREAMYTI@gmail.com](mailto:STREAMYTI@gmail.com) and include a phone number so we can call you back!

## Dr. John W. Kinney Retires As Dean of VUU’s School of Theology

Adapted from Free Press article by Jeremy Lazarus on 2/10/2017

After 27 years, Dr. John W. Kinney officially retired as Senior Vice President and Dean of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University on June 30 (2 months after his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday).



He said his “head and his heart” have told him this is the right time for him to give up the leadership post at the seminary. He also had the example of his wife, Quentina, who retired a few years ago as a city schoolteacher. The Kinneys have seven children and 12 grandchildren.

Dr. Kinney will remain on the faculty as a Professor of Theology. As well, he will continue to serve as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Beaverdam, where he has served for 38 years.

During his tenure as Dean, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at VUU (STVU) has increased from 100 to over 400 students a year from across the country; and, has expanded its offerings to include the Master of Arts degree in Christian Education and Doctorate of ministry.

Additionally, STVU has worked with the Baptist Theological Seminary and Union Presbyterian Seminary to develop the Richmond Theological Consortium which allows students at each school to register for electives at the other campuses.

Dr. Kinney has also been involved with Virginia Commonwealth University on a unique graduate program that provides a dual Master of Arts in Social Work and Ministry. The program involves studies at VCU and at STVU or the Baptist Theological Seminary in order to equip students for ministries in which clinical and administrative skills in social work are considered critical.

Under his watch, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at VUU has expanded its continuing education program to provide

creative ways to accommodate students who cannot be full-time students. Some of these students come to campus to study in weeklong blocks that better suit their schedules. Others are able to take courses at a pace that accommodates their lives and families.

According to Dr. Kinney, STVU has remained strong while others have struggled has been the stress placed on practical theology, meaning the seminary seeks to train ministers to make a difference in people's lives.

"We seek to help our students understand faith and worship as it affects everyday life," Dr. Kinney said.

During his tenure, Dr. Kinney has helped bring national recognition to the seminary with his affiliations and service outside the school, including serving as a consultant to the American Baptist Convention, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Virginia and the U.S. Navy and Army Chaplain Corps.

While the private, Baptist-affiliated VUU has been training people for the ministry since its inception in 1865, the graduate school dates to 1942 as the school began separating its undergraduate programs from its ministerial training. Later named for a former Dean and VUU president, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University has been accredited by the Association of Theological Schools since 1971.

## The Margaret Rose Johnson Scholarship

Named for the first women's ministry president (1900), the Women's Ministry of the Baptist General Convention is pleased to announce our first two Margaret Rose Johnson scholarship in several years in the amount of \$1200 each, totaling \$2400. The scholarship recognizes the need for competent, informed, and prepared leadership. We believe those chosen to work in Christian Service should not only become living examples of God's Word, but also be able to understand and articulate it as well. Further, we recognize there may be those who desire to follow God's calling to a seminary education but may lack the necessary financial means. Therefore, to promote education in the face of hardship, The Margaret Rose Johnson Scholarship Fund was es-

# BGCVA 2018 Conferences & Events

Please include these Dates on your 2018 Church Calendar

### January

- 6 Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference, Richmond
- 15-16 MLK Celebration and Day of Ministry Service
- 28 Statewide BGCVA Day

### February

- 2 VUU Founders Day
- 16-17 Clergy, Men's and Women's Ministries Conference, Newport News

### March

- 10 VUU Church Leadership Conference
- 17 Youth Workers' Conference, Petersburg

### June

- 24-28 119th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Richmond



\*\*\* Dates and Locations are Subject to Change. \*\*\*  
Full Calendar of Conferences & Events Coming Soon!!

### July

- 14 Children's Home Founders Day
- 27-28 Youth Retreat @ VUU, Richmond

### September (Christian Education Month)

- 8 Church School Conference, Central VA
- 15 Church School Conference, Tidewater

### October (Clergy Appreciation Month)

- 7-13 BGCVA Week of Prayer
- 14 Clergy Appreciation Day
- 20 Church School Conference, Northern VA

### November

- 6 Day of Social Action
- 8 Fall Session, Richmond
- 10 Church School Conference, Roanoke

tablished. Monies raised for the scholarship are part of our statewide effort through the Week of Prayer offering.

It is the paramount desire of the BGCVA Women's Ministry that those selected recipients will take Christ's call on their lives as an example: "Jesus became wise, and he grew strong. God was pleased with him so were the people." - Luke 2:52.


#### QUALIFICATIONS –

1. A second year student at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.
2. An active member (or affiliate) with a Baptist General Convention Church.
3. Seeking a degree in an area of Christian Ministry.
4. Working at the graduate (or above) level of study.
5. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.
6. Submit a resume and a completed Margaret Rose Johnson scholarship application form.

#### OTHER INFORMATION –

1. Scholarship(s) will be awarded once in a given year. The amount is determined by availability of funds.
2. A check in the amount of the scholarship is sent directly to the Samuel

DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.




**Baptist General Convention of Virginia**  
**Women's Ministry**

*Week of Prayer*

October 8-14, 2017

**Prayer for Unity  
In the  
Body of Christ**

1 Corinthians 12:12



*BGCVA 2017-2020 Theme:*  
*Reviving Our Roots: Prophetic Preaching and Our Missional Mandate Luke 4:18-19 NIV*  
*Dr. Gregory M. Howard, Convention President*



Baptist General Convention of Virginia

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Baptist General Convention of VA

# 2017 Regional Church School Conferences

## Visual Faith: Engaging Scripture with Eyes Wide Open

Faith is the one thing that we need to please God. Is faith learned? If so, how is it learned? What makes faith stick? In the earliest centuries of the church a rich visual heritage emerged that praised God through imagery while expressing the deep mysteries of the faith. Look around your church. How do you see God visually? How do the images you see speak to and broaden your faith? By the aid of the Holy Spirit, teachers, are challenged to be God's transforming force and Christ's whole-life witnesses by engaging students in utilizing their – senses, hearing, taste, sight, touch, and smell. This session seeks to engage students in utilizing their sense of sight to engage Scripture; and, yes, God. Thus, those whom you teach will be challenged to adhere to God's call to be a transforming force in the world.

### Biblical Foundation

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1).

Hebrews 11:6, “And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”



**8:30 AM–2:30 PM**

- September 9 Church School Conference (Central Virginia) @ Fifth Baptist Church, 1415 W. Cary St., Richmond, VA 23220
- September 16 Church School Conference (Eastern Virginia) @ First Baptist Church, 418 Bute St., Norfolk, VA 23510
- October 21 Church School Conference (Northern Virginia) @ Bethany Lutheran Church, 2501 Beacon Hill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22306
- November 11 Church School Conference (Western Virginia) @ Pilgrim Baptist Church, 1415 Eighth St., NW, Roanoke, VA 24016

**Registration is \$30.00 per attendee. Register Today @ [www.bgcva.org](http://www.bgcva.org).**