

A Publication of the
Baptist General
Convention of
Virginia

Baptist Herald

Welcome Our New Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. My name is Minister Kaiya Jennings. It is indeed an honor to be the



new Youth and Young Adult Director here in the Baptist General Convention of Virginia. I find it do be such a joy every day to work for the very same Convention that helped me as

a child to grow spiritually and showed me the love of Christ authentically. It absolutely overwhelms my spirit with happiness that I am afforded the opportunity to facilitate such activities and events that will impact others to accept and follow Christ unashamedly. I am excited about how God is moving in the lives of our young people and I am also encouraged about everything else that God has in store of us all in the near future. I want to personally thank every person and church for their dedication to this Convention, it is because of you that we have the opportunity to labor for the Kingdom the way that we do here at Baptist General. So with that being said, may the God who provides peace which passes all understanding continue to bless you and our great Convention.



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BGCVA – VSBC – NAACP Our Faith, Our Vote, Our Voice Every Vote Matters! Now Is The Time...

"...to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free..." (Luke 4:18-19, GNT)

Baptist General Convention of Virginia, through our Social Justice Commission, has launched a statewide Voter Registration Campaign in partnership with the State Chapter NAACP and the Virginia State Baptist Convention to increase the number of registered voters in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Immediately, volunteers are needed who are **certified, or desire to become certified, to register others to vote**. **Mandatory Training for Third Party Voter Registration** "in-person" takes less than two hours. To request this training at your church, association or community organization please contact BGCVA at 804-228-2421 or eburke@bgcva.org.

Third Party Voter Registration Certification training is also available online. It only takes about 30 minutes to complete. Upon completion you will be listed with the State Board of Elections as eligible to accept voter registration (forms will be mailed to you). Online Voter Registration Certification is available at:

<http://elections.virginia.gov/registration/registration-drives/training-video.html>

If you are already certified or become certi-

fied, we need you to volunteer to organize and/or host Voter Registration Drives at any gatherings (church, association, civic, fraternal, family, etc.). We need every Pastor along with other church leaders to ensure there is someone available each Sunday to register voters. **Deadline for all voter registration is October 17th.**



Every Vote Matters!

Register if you have not done so. If you have not voted in the last few years, contact your local voter office to make

sure you are still listed as eligible to vote in your locality. You may also register to vote online at:

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>

Also, update your address and contact information if anything has changed. To find voter registration information for your locality or to update your information online go to: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup>

We need every registered voter **to stay informed on the issues** and then **VOTE in every election** (local – state – national). Please contact us with information about your voter registration efforts (church, association, community) so we can reach as many localities as possible.

If you have questions or need additional information please contact:

Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Social Justice Director,
804.228.2421 or eburke@bgcva.org

Baptist Herald

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Interim Executive Minister



The President's Report

The past two months have proven to be the most faith-challenging season in my entire life in regards to the passing of my father, Rev. Henry Blunt on February 23rd of this year. As a family we are both spiritually and literally still "picking up the pieces" and it has been the tremendous advocacy and support of this convention, along with so many others, who have helped us throughout our healing process during these most difficult days.

I am immensely grateful to Vice President Howard, Rev. David Chapman, our Executive Board, our state staff, this august General Board, and our entire convention for all of the prayers, expressions of love, your presence at my father's funeral, and most importantly your provision of allowing me the latitude, the space, and the time to grieve as a son privately and with my family. I am eternally grateful for each of you and it is my distinctive honor to continue sharing with you in this tremendous labor of love.

Infrastructural Revisioning:

"God is Calling Us to Do Something Together That We Cannot Accomplish on our Own!"

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." These are the words of the Patron saint of Italy, Francis of Assisi, who spoke these words centuries ago regarding the appropriate process for effectiveness and success. These words have truly become a canonical expression of the state, the direction, and the vision of our great convention as we have truly been working and striving to revision the infrastructural manner in which we approach ministry in this 21st Century.

◇ **General Board Training:** The praxis of requiring orientation/training for all General Board members is a **necessary** component in strengthening and reconstituting the successive direction of all that we hope to achieve by virtue of our convention's vision and mission moving forward. The constituted support and advocacy of the general board in fulfilling our roles as well as comprehending and upholding the vision/mission of the convention moving forward is critically essential to the life and effectiveness of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia.

◇ **Programmatic Ministry Cohesion:** In order for us to achieve both the "impossible" and the "possible" we have had to strategically approach how we execute the "necessary" when it comes to the programs and ministry



variables/opportunities that we provide throughout the state. History (recent) has proven to us that it is always to the detriment of the convention whenever we allocate individual platforms for our core ministry departments. Whatever blessings we reaped from those endeavors were abruptly dwarfed by the yawning expenses that would befall the convention regarding the satisfaction of multiple hotel contracts and the indebtedness necessary to facilitate said events. The measure of revisioning our programmatic ministry approach was not only a stewardship principle but also a social justice imperative that required us to better position ourselves against being perceived as the proverbial "cash cow" in respect to institutional relationships that were one-sided in their relatedness with us.

This past February marked the successful emergence of a new programmatic paradigm where the Men's, Women's, and Clergy ministries of our convention came together in a UNIFIED mid-winter retreat that was held at the Hilton Mark Center Hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. Attendees from the retreat have yielded rave reviews as persons enjoyed the concerted interdisciplinary approach to the sessions, the structural flow of the entire experience, and the intentionality given to all three ministries operating autonomously underneath one unified vision. A very special thanks is to be given to President Taylor, President Pinchback, President Ford and their entire respective leadership cabinets regarding the tremendous orchestration provided during that venture as well as the corresponding sacrifices made for the whole by each ministry.

◇ **Executive Minister Search Committee:** As we all know the faithful tenure of our current Interim Executive Minister, Rev. David Chapman, will conclude in December of 2017 next year. We have been truly blessed by Rev. Chapman's leadership and the imprint of his presence has proven to be more than its weight in gold in providing the continued stability that our convention has needed. We as members of the General Board should be very proud of our Interim Executive Minister for the body of work that he has done in the Name of our Lord and we should be very grateful considering the continual upward trend of our convention. However, it is now time that we continue the work of preparing to achieve both the "possible" and the

“impossible” by providing the next steps to that which is “necessary.”

After much prayer and meditative dialogue with Vice President Howard, the following names have been selected to serve on the search committee for our next executive minister: Dr. Patricia A. Gould-Champ, Dr. Darrell K. White, Dr. Dwight Riddick, Dr. Curtis Strader, and Rev. David Chapman. Vice President Howard and I will serve within an Ex-Officio status on the said committee. I believe that it's pertinent that we have former presidents of our great convention serving in this dynamic as they will be able to both render and discern the appropriate navigation of this endeavor. It is our hope that we will have such a person identified by next summer so that there can be a period of months available for constructive mentoring in the ministry capacity.

◇ **Position of BGC Youth Director:** BGC has been blessed with a rich lineage and legacy of leadership over the years and the position of our convention's Youth Director has been no different. The impact that Rev. Curtis Ballard has made within our convention and throughout the Commonwealth has been a testament to his ministry integrity, his uncanny anointing, and a proud continuation of that storied tradition. Rev. Curtis Ballard has recently been hired in a similar capacity with the St. Paul's Baptist Church here in Richmond. Our prayers remain with Rev. Ballard and it is our hope that the Lord will grace him to have a similar impact on his new assignment as he has had with us. Given the absolute “necessity” in maintaining the momentous momentum that has been achieved throughout our state youth ministry it is imperative that our new Youth Director be named immediately to prevent angst and anxiety to birth a counterproductive work in our convention. The Executive Board has unanimously agreed on the name of our next Youth Director and today we will share that name with the General Board.

◇ **General Board Giving & Financial Accountability:** Finally, in order for us to achieve both the “possible” and the “impossible” it is imperative that we as a General Board take seriously what is required of us regarding what is absolutely necessary. It is extremely essential that we remember our responsibilities

in supporting the convention financially. We cannot continue to wait for others to do for our convention what we haven't done ourselves. The true measure of our leadership and the defining affirmation that we honestly believe in the efficacy and value of the BGC will be determined by how we lead our convention in sacrifice and in giving. It is our prayer that as a general board member you will leave your generous gift with the convention before you leave today as well as encouraging your church to remember to give to the convention on a monthly basis as well. Remember that “God is calling us to do something together that we cannot accomplish on our own!”

Again, I would like to thank each of you for **ALL** that you do for our convention and the Kingdom of our Lord, the Christ. I am both honored and humbled beyond measure to have been entrusted with the joy of serving as president. **Let us continue to faithfully strive together to do that which is necessary so that we can accomplish through Christ both the “possible” and the “impossible.”**

Humbly Submitted,
Steven G. Blunt

Interim Executive Minister's Report

117th Annual Session and Congress of
Christian Education
June 26-30, 2016

My report this Annual Session will highlight the many positive, progressive things that have and are presently taking place in the Convention. But just before I get to those positive progressive things, I am tempted to mention



two concerns before I go any further. Now if I would yield to this temptation, I would say that we need broader support from all areas of the Convention.

My prayer is:

That we would start getting 100% participation in giving from the General Board That Moderators and the Associations they

lead would seek to increase their contributions.

That the Convention's numerous churches that don't presently donate to the work of the convention would start with at least a hundred dollars a year.

But I want mention that.

The second thing I would be tempted to mention happens to be a belief that I have been encountering from facilitating a good number of leadership workshops and in general conversation with pastors. That belief or statement being made by too many church leaders, i.e., deacons and trustees is that the pastor is no more than a hiring or employee. If I was going to say anything on this I would without fear or biblical contradiction call this belief “a lie from the pits of hell”. It is misguided thinking like this that greatly contributes, to the confusion and conflict in many of our churches. If I was going to say it I would recognize that I don't have the time to follow this up with a period of biblical clarity. So I won't mention it.

But there is an article in your packet that speaks more in depth to this topic.

So seeing that I am not going to mention those two concerns let me move on to the positive, progressive report I intend to give.

This past year (2015) has been another year of the Convention's positive recovery since the devastating events that threatened to sink us some five years ago. During two stints of Interims before me and for the two years and six months I have been on board many have worked hard to get the Convention to where it is today.

So, where is the Convention as we gather for this 117th Annual Session?

Our Youth and Young Adult Ministry has experienced a transition in leadership. The Reverend Curtis Ballard, who assumed the position in 2014 has transitioned to a new position as the Director of Youth and Young Adult for the St. Paul's Baptist Church, Richmond. I personally want to thank Rev. Ballard for his strong visionary leadership, his depth of incite and wise advice, not just with youth and young adult ministry, but across the board in all the ministry that takes place in BGCVA. On behalf of the Convention, we thank God for the awesome service he rendered in such a tender time in the life of the Baptist General Convention of VA.

His replacement is the Reverend Kaiya Jennings, a product of BGCVA, VUU and First

Baptist Church Mahan, Suffolk, VA. Rev. Jennings assumed the position on June 1. We look forward to her using her God given gifts and talent to spring from the foundation that has already been laid and take the BGCVA Youth and Young Adult Ministry to new and unimagined heights.

***The Convention's Commission on Social Concerns has been very active over this past year in addressing a number of Social Justice issues in collaboration with other Social Justice minded ministries and organizations. Under the direction of Dr. J. Elisha Burke, BGCVA's Director of Men, Health and Social Justice, and the active involvement of its co-chairs the Reverend Dr. James Coleman and the Reverend Dr. Emory Berry the Commission is leading BGCVA to address issues such as:

- Criminal Justice
- Juvenile Justice
- Economic Justice
- Predatory Lending
- Gun Violence
- Healthcare Access for all
- Immigration
- Childhood Hunger
- Youth Financial Education
- Voter registration and turnout

In order to more effectively address these issues BGCVA is working in collaboration with:

- Virginia Interfaith Council for Public Policy
- Ecumenical Poverty Initiative
- Virginia Council of Churches
- Optima Health
- Virginia Alliance Against Mass Incarceration
- Virginia Voices for Healthcare
- Consumer Finance Protection Bureau
- Master Your Card
- Center for Responsible Lending
- Virginia No Kid Hungry Program
- State Conference of NAACP
- Virginia Tech/Virginia State Universities

BGCVA was represented at numerous meetings, training sessions, press conferences, the 2016 General Assembly and advocacy events in Richmond, Lynchburg, Waynesboro, Arlington, and Washington DC. by Staff and Commission members. One of the truly standout mission moments of the year was BGCVA's response to the Flint water crisis. Fourth Baptist, First African and Fifth Baptist of Richmond partnered with the Convention as drop off and collection spots. Water donations were accepted from February 15th until March 8th. BGCVA churches and Associations donated 2,155 multiple count cartons (that was approximately 25,600 bottles). Additionally,

\$6,000.00 in cash was donated by churches to aid in shipping (\$2,045.00 that had to be paid, in addition to, free shipping by St. Paul's Baptist Church, Richmond and Amtrak. The remaining funds (\$3,955.00) going to the Flint Child Health Project (medical care for children impacted by the tainted water).

Look for Dr. Burke's column in this issue of the Baptist Herald to read more about all that BGCVA is doing in the areas of Social Concerns and Health.

Christian Education (Faith Formation) is a constant, ongoing exercise with the entire ministry staff of BGCVA under the direction of Mrs. Sheryl Blowe-McDowney. Beginning each year with our Finance Conference, followed by the Mid-Winter Retreat, Annual Session, Youth Retreat, Regional Young Adult gatherings, the Leadership Conference, Fall Session, Association Visitation, Church School Conferences around the state and enumerable workshops on various subjects that enlighten and strengthen our churches to aid them in seeking to be relevant in the times in which we live.

Workshops conducted for BGCVA associations, individual churches, regional church clusters and even some non-BGCVA churches include but not limited to topics such as: teacher training, leadership (Deacons, Deaconess and Trustees), finance, prayer in worship and visitation, disabilities, missions, generations working together, ushers, conflict resolution, etc. This past year and in the months to come the most requested workshops are those geared toward church leaders (Deacons and Trustees). Developing church leaders and helping them to operate in their assigned lane is crucial to the overall health and growth of a church.

Because of Sheryl McDowney's leadership in Christian Education (Faith Formation) BGCVA is able to maintain partnership with ministry partners such as:

- Virginia Union University (Leadership Conference)
- Lott Carey Foreign Missions Convention
- Sunday School Publishing Board Church School Conference

As I move to complete my report, let me interject here a very exciting and important event that is taking place at the

BGCVA Men and Women's luncheons this week. Each ministry will be giving some \$3,000.00 in scholarships for students who attend the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology. Thank you to our Men and Women's Ministries and congratulations to the students receiving the scholarships.

In my report on last year I gave you a detailed report of the giving level of BGCVA churches for the year of 2014. Following is what I have for 2015: (there is a more thorough report in your messenger bag entitled 2015 Contributions to Ministry and Missions.

For 2014 I reported that 131 churches gave directly to BGCVA. For 2015 137 churches gave directly to BGCVA.

(Here's the good news, by the end of May of this year, with 7 months remaining, 84 churches have reported. That is already 61% of all that gave all of last year. If we continue to gain returning and new churches and those churches that are faithful every year report in with their gifts, I truly believe that my report next annual session will have a report of 200 or more of our churches reporting.

(Report amended on 7/19/2016) As this report is being prepared to place in the Baptist Herald I can report that as of today (7/19/2016) 129 churches have given directly to BGCVA. As you can see we are just seven churches away for eclipsing all of last year. The 200 churches or more are well within reach. If your church has not represented monetarily to the Convention this year won't you help us as we continue to move forward in restoring the Convention to an even greater level than ever before.

Overall giving for 2015 increased 14% over 2014 with the largest increase from ministry events. (Churches increased 10%, ministry events increased 26%)

Expenses were virtually flat (remained the same) when 2014 is compared with 2015.

The budget deficit for each year is shrinking dramatically. The deficit for 2014 was \$95,000.00, for 2015 it was \$22,000.00. With your support the Convention is on pace to erase the deficit at the end of this year.

Through May of this year (2016) the giving from our churches has increased by 30% (some \$27,000.00 compared to the same period in 2015.

We have gotten participation from some 24 (Amended 7/19/2016) 34 churches that had not given since 2012.

We have added for the first time in several years churches new to BGCVA. Six to be exact. They will be recognized during the Wednesday Evening Celebration where we hope you will be able to meet the pastors.

Again, thank those of you who make it your mission to support your Convention. Thank the Rev. Dr. Grady Powell and the Rev. Dr. Willis Johnson, two of our former presidents for chairing our Legacy of Generosity giving campaign for 2016. This campaign is geared towards individual giving. Individual givers rose from less than 30 in 2014 to 102 in 2015. We expect this number to drastically increase for this year (2016).

As we celebrate this 117th Annual Session, I am privileged to report that 568 persons registered for this session. Registration has increased each year since 2013. Prayerfully, this number will continue to increase until we reach the level of attendees before the crisis of five years ago.

Because of your financial support and higher registration numbers this year we CAME into this session with the financial resources to pay the Hotel and the Chesapeake Conference Center.

Next year (2017) Roanoke. Lord's will, we will see you there.

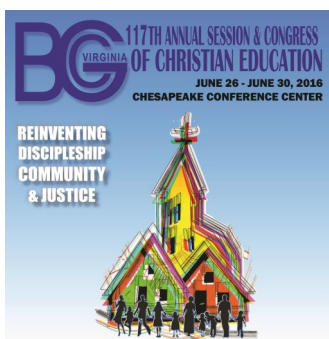
Again, thank those of you who make it your mission to support your Convention. The Interim Executive Minister and staff of BGCVA are working hard to be faithful to and good stewards of the resources you provide.

Time today does not allow me to share with you all the benefits your support provides for BGCVA associations, churches and individuals so look for a more detailed list in the upcoming issue of the Baptist Herald.

May God continue to bless you all and may God continue to bless the Baptist General Convention of VA.

The work goes on and our God is glorified.

David L. Chapman



2016 Annual Session Faith Formation (Christian Education) Report

The 117th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education attendance showed an exciting increase!

Of the 568 number of registered attendees:

- 53 attended morning prayer
- 250 attended the Tuesday morning Health Breakfast
- 430 attended the morning lectures
- 114 attended the same class all week
- 132 attended class on Monday
- 261 attended class on Tuesday
- 129 attended class on Wednesday



Other attendees were:

- 33 facilitators
- 32 teacher assistants

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 Teacher Training 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.



The Search Is On!!! For the Next BGCVA Executive Minister!!

At the Annual Session of the BGCVA in Chesapeake, President Steven Blunt appointed an Executive Minister Search Committee consisting of Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ, Chairperson, Rev. David Chapman, Interim Executive Minister, Dr. Gregory Howard, Dr. Dwight Riddick, Dr. Curtis Strader, and Dr. Darrell White. After a brief initial meeting at Annual Session, the committee officially began its work with a strategic planning meeting at the Convention office in Richmond on August 2. The committee is excited as it prepares to make the official Job Announcement in the Fall of 2016. The committee is soliciting the prayers of the convention as we move forward in our work to assist the Executive Board in bringing forth the name of the next Executive Minister of the BGCVA at our 2017 Annual Session.



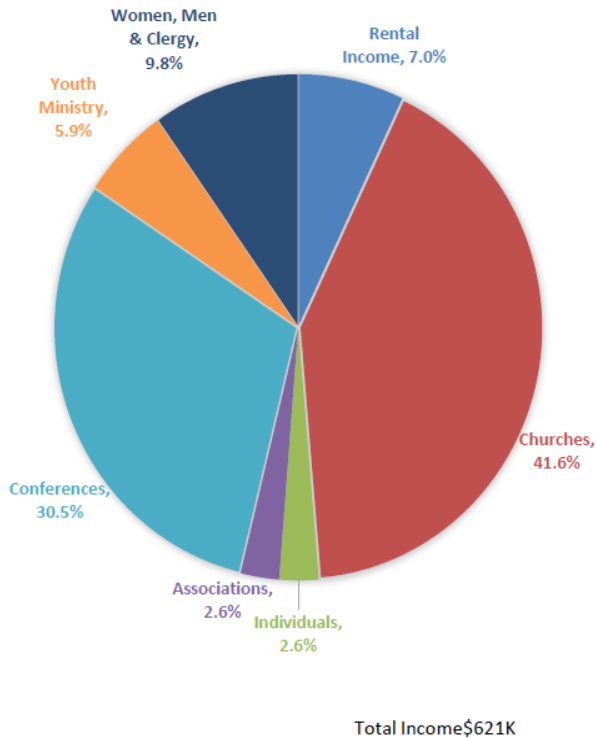
Homegoing Celebrations

On behalf of President Blunt, Interim Executive Minister, The Reverend David L. Chapman, staff, and officers of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of the following persons who have entered eternal rest since December, 2015.

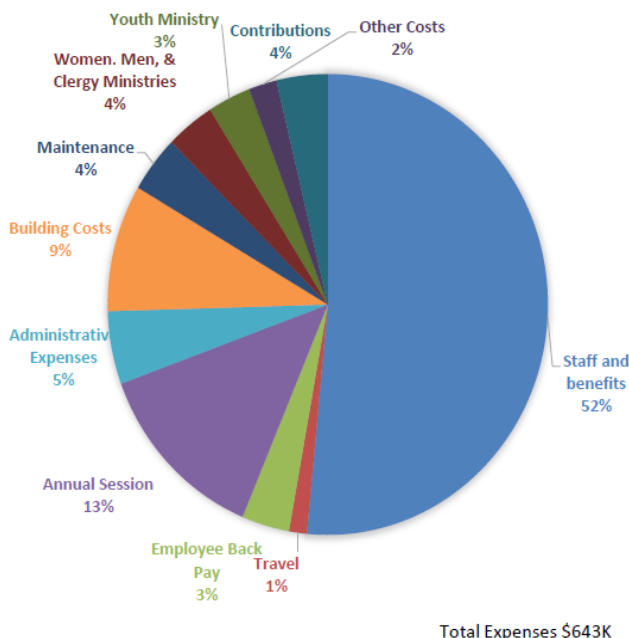
- ♦ Mr. Clarence Drayton, Fifth Street Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia
- ♦ The Reverend Dr. Henry Blunt, Retired Pastor, First Baptist Church, Franklin, Virginia; Former BGCVA Board Member
- ♦ Mr. Cleophus Motley (Father of Mrs. Deborah Motley-Jones), Danville, Virginia
- ♦ The Reverend Daniel W. Crump, Jr. (Husband of Mrs. Barbara T. Crump), Retired Pastor, St. John Baptist Church, Stony Creek, Virginia
- ♦ Ms. Deborah Johnson (Former BGCVA Office Secretary), St. Peter Baptist Church, Glen Allen, Virginia
- ♦ Mr. Lindley Dwane Dixon (Brother of Mrs. Diana Hodge – Area D Vice President)
- ♦ Ms. Sharon V. Diggs, Camp Grove Baptist Church, Ringgold, Virginia

BGCVA 2015 Contributions to Missions and Ministry

SOURCES OF INCOME JAN-DECEMBER 2015



EXPENDITURES JAN-DECEMBER 2015



CHURCHES

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

FIFTH BAPTIST CHURCH, RICHMOND
DR. EARL M. BROWN, PASTOR
DR. RICARDO L. BROWN, PASTOR

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

ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA
DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY, PASTOR
MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, ARLINGTON
DR. JAMES VICTOR, PASTOR

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

LEADERSHIP IN MISSIONS \$14,999 - \$10,000

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

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH OLD SITE, FREDERICKSBURG
DR. AARON DOBYNES, PASTOR
THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH, PORTSMOUTH
THE REVEREND JOE B. FLEMING, PASTOR
FIRST UNION BAPTIST CHURCH, MECHANICSVILLE
THE REVEREND LEWIS R. YANCY, PASTOR
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA
DR. DARRELL K. WHITE, PASTOR
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH, PETERSBURG
THE REVEREND JEFFREY L. REAVES, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH EASTEND, NEWPORT NEWS
DR. GREGORY HOWARD, PASTOR
UNION BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH, CHESTERFIELD
THE REVEREND KENNETH E. RIOLAND, JR., PASTOR
MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, CENTREVILLE
DR. EUGENE JOHNSON, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, MANASSAS
DR. KEITH SAVAGE, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, DENBIGH
THE REVEREND IVAN T. HARRIS, PASTOR

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SUFFOLK
DR. STEVEN L. BLUNT, PASTOR
SIXTH MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, RICHMOND
THE REVEREND TYRONE E. NELSON, PASTOR

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMPTON
THE REVEREND JOSHUA KING, PASTOR
GUILDFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH, DRY FORK
THE REVEREND WALLACE POWELL, JR. PASTOR
GREATER TRIUMPH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, CHATHAM
THE REVEREND MICHAEL K. FERRELL, PASTOR
ZION PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, YORKTOWN
THE REVEREND WALTER C. JOHNSON, PASTOR
ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, PETERSBURG
THE REVEREND MICHAEL SHANNON, SR., PASTOR
JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, TEMPERANCEVILLE
THE REVEREND LINDA D. STEVENS, PASTOR
FIFTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, RICHMOND
THE REVEREND F. TODD GRAY, PASTOR
FIRST MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, DUMFRIES
DR. LUKE TORIAN, PASTOR
WESTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, RICHMOND
THE REVEREND MICHAEL R. LOMAX, PASTOR
SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, CHESTER
THE REVEREND JOHNNIE FLEMING, PASTOR
RIVERVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, RICHMOND
DR. STEPHEN HEWLETT, PASTOR
MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, GLEN ALLEN
THE REVEREND DARRYL C. THOMPSON, PASTOR
MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA
THE REVEREND CARL JOHNSON, PASTOR
BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA
THE REVEREND COLUMBUS WATSON, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, NORFOLK
DR. ROBERT G. MURRAY, PASTOR
SIXTH BAPTIST CHURCH, RICHMOND
DR. YVONNE JONES BIBBS, PASTOR
STAR BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, TRIANGLE
DR. HENRY DURING, JR. PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HAMPTON
DR. JOAN S. PARROT, PASTOR

IN-KIND GIVING

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CENTRALIA
DR. WILSON SHANNON, PASTOR

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

MT. TABOR BAPTIST CHURCH, RICHMOND
DR. HERBERT PONDER, PASTOR
LEE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, BRISTOL
DR. WILLIS A. JOHNSON, PASTOR

ST. MARK BAPTIST CHURCH, MAIDENS
THE REVEREND GREGORY WASHINGTON, PASTOR

JONES CHAPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, DANVILLE
THE 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
THE REVEREND FRED SALES, PASTOR

SPRING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, MIDLOTHIAN
THE REVERENDS MICAH AND JACQUELIN MCCREARY, PASTORS

FIRST AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA
THE REVEREND DANIEL L. BROWN, PASTOR

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SALEM
THE REVEREND MELTON JOHNSON, PASTOR

GREATER NAZARENE BAPTIST CHURCH, MECHANICSVILLE
THE REVEREND EARL B. HALL, SR., PASTOR

MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH, ALDIE
THE REVEREND EUGENE PEARSON, PASTOR

NEW CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, NORFOLK
DR. W. MARCUS SMALL, PASTOR

ABNER BAPTIST CHURCH, GLEN ALLEN
THE REVEREND JAMAL C. HAYES, PASTOR

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH, STAUNTON
CAMP GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, DANVILLE
THE REVEREND DELAWARE CLARK, PASTOR

MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH, RINGGOLD
THE REVEREND ANTHONY R. PASS, PASTOR

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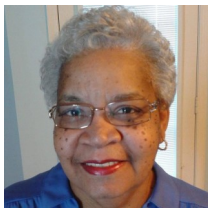
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WAYLAND BLUERIDGE

From the Desk of the BGCVA Office Manager

Greetings to All! Praise God that things are on the move in the BGC state office. Due to the generosity of constituents at the Annual Session in Chesapeake, we are able to procure an updated fire alarm system which will be installed before year's end. Also, carpet will be replaced in those areas with the greatest need. Thanks to all for your continued support each month which allows us to continue to offer consultations, resources and workshops that enhance your ministry.



At the evening celebration during Annual Session, a challenge went out to Pastors to help save the Children's Home of Virginia Baptist. The response was overwhelming as pastor after pastor pledged to raise a "special" offering for the capital campaign to pay off the mortgage of \$1.2 million dollars. Several churches sent their offering to the BGC office and we passed it along to Premier Bank. We want to acknowledge the following churches:

- * Anointed New Life, Henrico—Pastor, Dr. C. Diane Mosby (\$1,074)
- * Mt. Olive, Centreville—Pastor, Dr. Eugene Johnson (\$2,500)
- * Union Branch, Chesterfield—Pastor, Rev. Kenneth Rioland (\$1,445)

We know there were many others who pledged to raise an offering for the Children's Home, if you have raised your offering and sent it directly to Premier Bank, please send in your church name and the amount raised so we will have a record of it. If you have not lifted your offering, please consider doing so soon. Remember to make your check payable to: Children's Home Virginia Baptist, and you may send it to BGC office at 1214 W. Graham Road, Richmond, VA 23220.

We sent out Giving Statements to all of our churches, if you have not received it, please call the BGC office at (804) 228-2241. To God Be the Glory!

Rev. Janet L. Wynn

BGCVA Pastor Receives National Award

On February 5, in Los Angeles, California, **The Reverend Dr. Howard-John Wesley**, pastor of the Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia was one of eight individuals who received the 2016 NAACP Chairman's Image Award for outstanding community leadership. The Award is presented to individuals and organizations using their platforms to be agents of change in their communities.

The NAACP Image Awards "celebrates the accomplishment of people of color in the fields of television, music, literature and film, and also honors individuals or groups who promote social justice through creative endeavors," according to a press release.



Children's Home Partners With BGCVA Women's Ministry

The Children's Home of Virginia Baptists, Inc. partnered with the Area D (Northern Virginia) Women's Ministry to sponsor a concert fundraiser for the benefit of the Home.

In an article from the Fairfax Times (March 11-13, 2016), Dr. Cobb, who is the Director, called the Home "A Legacy of Love".

Mrs. Diana Hodge, Area D Vice-President and event organizer, stated all the money raised would go to the Children's Home to assist with the cost of mortgage and other expenses they may have.

She further stated, "We wanted to get everyone involved. We wanted them to know the seriousness of the matter and that we all need to step up and do more."

Held at First Baptist Church (Vienna), the intergenerational concert event included mime,

dancers, and singers from about 40 participating churches in the Northern Virginia. The Reverend Dr. Vernon C. Walton was the host pastor and The Reverend Patricia Ford, President of the BGCVA Clergy Ministry, who is also an associate minister at First Baptist, served as the worship leader. As a result of the event, \$2,110 was raised for the Children's Home.



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

Greetings! First, allow me to thank the entire BGCVA family for your continued prayers, encouragement and support of our mission throughout the years. I am especially grateful for your support of the Health & Wellness, Men and Social Justice Ministry entrusted to me. Classes were offered in each of these areas of Ministry. I am appreciative of the efforts of each facilitator and participant.



As I reflect upon this year's 117th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education I am reminded of how God rewards our faithfulness in wondrous and often unexpected ways.

As I think back on the many discussions, planning, sub-committee and teleconference meetings held in preparation for annual session I am awed by the generosity of time and effort donated to make the session a success.



We were blessed again this year to have Optima Health Family Care as the sponsor of our Annual Community Breakfast to acknowledge the many individuals and organizations that support the Health & Wellness ministry, as well as to honor outstanding achievements in community service. This year's Community Service Award was presented to **Clovie "Miss Community" Lawrence** of Radio One for her outstanding contribution to Voter Registration, Restoration of Rights, Health and efforts in Tidewater and Central Virginia. This year we were honored by the presence of 15 special guests from a local ser-

vice organization that benefited from BGCVA's Chesapeake Outreach Mission during the week of the session.



Plenary Session I and II were both focused on Social Justice (Contemporary Issues Facing the Church). I served as moderator for both panel discussions. Plenary I topics included economic justice, mass incarceration, restoration of rights, Payday and Title lending, Medicaid expansion, and a living wage. Plenary I panelists were:

- Rev. Dr. Emory Berry, Jr., Co-chair, Social Concerns Commission; Pastor, Fourth Baptist Church, Richmond
- Ms. Hielivi L. Holland, Esq., Attorney for the City of Suffolk
- Ms. Karen Cameron, Virginia Consumer Voices for Healthcare
- Rev. Shekinah Hamlin, Ecumenical Poverty Initiative



Plenary Session II – Every Vote Matters: Voting and Restoration of Rights.

Panelists were:

- Rev. Dr. Jonathan Barton, Virginia Council of Churches
- Rev. Dr. Michael Moore, Pastor, Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Richmond
- Rev. Shekinah Hamlin, Ecumenical Poverty Initiative



- Rev. Dr. Leslie Copeland Tune, Ecumenical Poverty Initiative
- Rev.

Lamont Brown, Progressive National Baptist Convention

On Tuesday, June 28th during the Annual Business Meeting President Blunt presided over the Convention's adoption of the Social Concerns Commission Resolutions Advocating for Issues of Social Justice (see page 12)



The Annual Men's Ministry Luncheon was an enlightening fellowship with keynote speaker Rev. Joseph Fleming, Pastor-Elect, Third Baptist Church, Portsmouth challenging the men to rise up to the current challenges of our time. This Luncheon was also memorable for the presentation of an Outstanding Service Award to Mr. James H. Cary for his 25 years of service as the first President of the Men's Ministry. The Men's Ministry established the James H. Cary Christian Education Scholarship and will award the first scholarship to a Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University Student in the Fall of 2016 (see details, page 11).

Rev. Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Director



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 15th** 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

What Better Place To Be Than With The BGC

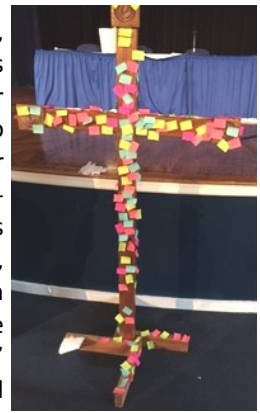
Greetings in the name of the one who guides, provides and protects us all. As your new director, it is indeed my honor to share the wonderful and remarkable news about what God is doing the lives of our youth and young adults here in the Baptist General Convention of Virginia. It encourages me that a Christ centered entity like BGC is helping young people all across this great commonwealth to have authentic encounters with the Holy Spirit while forming unforgettable bonds with one another during magnanimous moments of ministry. Two of these moments in particular happen yearly at our Annual Session and our Youth Retreat.



This year during Annual Session in Chesapeake, children from various churches were brought together to partake in food, fun and fellowship. With all of the exciting outings and activities that were planned, the youth there experienced something more, they had an opportunity to have real one-on-one conversations with various youth pastors and youth workers about what they were feeling and where they saw God working in their own lives.

This past week on the campus of Virginia

State University, over 250 persons came together for the weekend to participate in our annual Youth Retreat. This year's theme was entitled, "It's Bigger Than Me!" Over the course of two days' lives were changed and spirits were



strength. Youth had a chance to participate in panel discussions and be involved in worship experiences that allowed them the opportunity to learn more about themselves and their God. Special thanks goes to Rev. Pierce Williams, Rev. Curtis Ballard, Min. Jarius Wilson, Rev. Marvin Gilliam, Rev. Vernon Woodard and to all of those persons and well as churches who helped to make both Annual Session and



Youth Retreat fruitful experiences. In this season God is truly blessing and enhancing the youth and young adult ministry here at the Baptist General Convention. As this year slowly starts to come to a close event such as Annual Session and Youth Retreat provide a positive outlook for what lies ahead in the future and reassures us that BGC is still indeed the place to be. May the all wise and all loving God continue to bless you, your ministries and also shower blessings down upon our wonderful convention!



**Start NOW to make your RESERVATIONS for the
118th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education
June 25—29, 2017**



The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Roanoke

Social Concerns Commission Resolutions Advocating for Issues of Social Justice

The Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA) Commission on Social Concerns is a “think tank” and advocacy group representing a cross-section of Virginia churches and associations, who exchange ideas, generate practical resources, and strengthen relationships and partnerships with BGCVA churches, associations and others of like-mindedness in order to achieve greater collaborative and cooperative ministry. The commission empowers congregations and associations to embrace the mind of Christ in facing emerging social concerns and systemic justice issues that subtly and overtly deny the community full access to the rights and privileges of an enlightened society.

BGCVA has committed to advocate for social justice with respect to many issues including: education, healthcare, civil/human rights, poverty, racism, employment, drug addiction, mass incarceration, payday lending, fair housing, voter rights/registration, aggressive policing and other justice issues. We will provide leadership and join like-minded advocates in removing barriers/challenges that deny justice for all people.

Therefore, in keeping with the biblical demand for social justice, Baptist General Convention of Virginia adopts the following resolutions:

Resolved: BGCVA works to eradicate barriers that deny respect of our brothers and sisters because of their race, religion, education, gender, ethnicity, nationality, age, economic or social status, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation thereby maintaining the civil liberties/human rights

guaranteed for all citizens of the nation;

Resolved: BGCVA works to assure equal access to healthcare including effective and humane treatment of people with mental illness, ending homelessness and providing decent, safe, and affordable housing for all people;

Resolved: BGCVA works to end Mass Incarceration by modifying national/statewide drug policy to emphasize public health and deemphasize reliance on penal remedies with financial priorities focusing on individualized treatment, education and reform of the criminal justice system;

Resolved: BGCVA advocates for full employment, living/prevaling wage, equal employment opportunity, and fair lending practices;

Resolved: BGCVA works to promote immigration policies and practices that do not discriminate based on race, national origin or ethnicity;

Resolved: BGCVA works to support the enfranchisement and participation of all eligible voters and advocates broadening the base of the eligible voting population;

Resolved: BGCVA works to end racial profiling and overly aggressive actions toward minorities by law enforcement officials and other entities involved in policing.

**Adopted during the business meeting on
June 28, 2016 at the
117th Annual Session and Congress of
Christian Education in
Chesapeake, Virginia**

A Special Thank You to the Annual Session Host Committee

A special thank you to the Hampton Roads/Eastern Shore Regional Host Committee for a splendid job well done!



- The Reverend Joseph A. Fleming, Co-Chair
- The Reverend Milton P. Bunting, Co-Chair
- Mrs. Margaret Delk-Edney, BGCVA Women's Ministry Areas B Vice President
- Mrs. Frances Armstrong, BGCVA Women's Ministry Area H Vice President
- Ms. Shelia Palmer, BGCVA Women's Ministry Area I Vice President
- Mrs. Angela Jones, Publicity
- The Reverend James E. Jones, Publicity
- Mrs. Carolyn Hoffer, Transportation
- The Reverend Gloria Newsome, Transportation
- Mrs. Florence Hines, Ushers
- The Reverend Sam Logan, Christian Education
- Mrs. Anna Copeland, Christian Education
- The Reverend Vera Coppedge-Cornish, Christian Education
- Mr. Curtis Johnson, Health and Wellness
- Ms. Gayle Banks-Jackson, Health and Wellness
- The Reverend Vernon Woodward, Youth and Young Adults
- The Reverend Emerson Boyd, Youth and Young Adults
- The Reverend Erving Scott, Communion
- Ms. Courtney Stovall, Childcare
- The Reverend Ann Stovall, Childcare
- The Reverend Dr. Yvonn Dunn, Evening Celebration
- Ms. Linda Hamlet

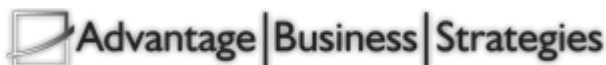
On behalf of our esteemed president—Dr. Stephen G. Blunt and our interim executive minister—Rev. David L. Chapman, I would like to extend a special thanks to them. Indeed, it is by the **G**race of the **C**ross, the **C**hurch and the **C**ommunity that we have witnessed a wonderful session. I look forward to partnering with our Cherrystone Missionary, Schaeffer, and Valley Baptist Associations, their Moderators, and others in the region for the initial planning of next year's session that will be in Roanoke, Virginia. Mark your calendars!

Dr. Gregory M. Howard
Vice President/Annual Session Program Chair

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 117th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education. We appreciate your faithful attendance each year. Please plan to join us in Roanoke in 2017.

- Mrs. Bernice Vaughan (The Hat Lady)
- Mrs. Endora Greenhill (Traci Lynn Jewelry)
- Mrs. Mary Kirkland (Mpulse Boutique)
- Ms. Talitha Williams (Ms. "T" Handbags & Accessories)
- Wesley Development (Affordable Health Care)



School of Medicine



Welcome New Pastors

BGCVA welcomes the following the following new pastors who began serving June 2015 – June 2016. We are here to serve you and your congregation. Please feel free to stop by the office for a visit and tour. or call us if we can be of any assistance to you.

Northern Virginia

- Reverend Taft Quincey Heatley, Shiloh Baptist Church (Duke Street), Alexandria
- Reverend Kevin E. Donaldson, Sr., Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Herndon (August 27 & 28)
- Reverend Jonathan Walden, First Baptist Church, Matthews

Tidewater

- Reverend Rashard D. L. Cartwright, Little Piney Grove, Virginia Beach

Northern Neck

- Reverend Linwood T. Blizzard, II, Macedonia Baptist Church, Heathsville
- Reverend W. Randolph Lewis, Morning Star, Heathsville
- Reverend Claude Tate, New Zion Baptist Church, Warsaw
- Reverend Ulysess E. Turner, Jr., Beulah Baptist Church, Lively
- Reverend Roderick S. Parks, Second Baptist Church, Warsaw

Mattaponi Association

- Reverend Claybon Collins, Jr., Reedy Baptist Church, Caroline
- Reverend Marvin L. Gilliam, Jr., Mt. Oni Baptist Church, Caroline
- Reverend Dr. W. David Lee, Beulah Baptist Church, Spotsylvania
- Reverend Walter L. Pleasants, Jr., Rising Sun Baptist, Louisa



Save The Dates!!!

Fall Session 2016

November 10

6:00—8:00 PM



16622 Dumfries Road

Dumfries, VA 22025



DR. LUKE E. TORIAN,
PASTOR

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 24

Register Today!!

2017

Mid-Winter Retreat

FEBRUARY 17 – 18

Inclement Weather Date:
February 24-25



@ The
Cherrystone Missionary Baptist
Association Center
5551 Tom Fork Road
Danville, Virginia

Retreat Registration and Hotel
Reservation Information will
follow soon.

BGCVA Retreat Registration
Deadline – February 3, 2017

Women's Ministry Report



On behalf of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia Women's Ministry, I greet you in the name of Jesus! We continue to be laborers for God at the Cross, at the Church, and throughout the Community.

This report reflects highlights from the Annual Session and Congress Christian Education and projections for the upcoming year. Thank you for your fabulously great participation!

- 8 Areas attended Annual Session; Over 275 persons attended the women's luncheon
- Dynamic class on *Creating and Organizing 21st Century Women's Ministry*
- Women's Luncheon Area Honoree Awards were presented to: Sister Jay Sims (Area A), Sister Paulette V. Bassett (Area B), Sister Lola F. Graham (Area C), Sister Pauline J. Young (Area D), Sister Joyce Walker Jackson (Area E), Sister Joyce P. Fredericks (Area F), Reverend Shelley Kyle (Area F), Sister Evelyn Eva Avery (Area G), Sister Deborah Weatherly (Area I), Sister Flora Elaine Wadkins (Area K), Evangelist Lillian Williams (Area L), and, Sister Mary L. Baylis (Area N)
- 92 New Life Members were recognized
- Week of Prayer contributors were recognized
- First time in several years, 2 Margaret Rose Johnson Scholarships for School of Theology at VUU in the amount of \$1,200 each
- Sister Polly Jones-Mason (Women's Ministry Secretary) shared a dramatization entitled "Hannah"
- For our Special Mission Project, each Area collected office supplies for BGCVA; Areas D and G each gave a LCD projector
- The Community Missions/Outreach project was open to anyone who wanted to participate. Several persons volunteered at Herons Landing facility to feed, play games, and fellowship with the residents

Our goals for the next 12-months:

- Continue to set and keep the Women's Ministry in alignment with BGCVA President's vision
- Continue to increase membership and encourage younger ladies, local presidents, ministers' wives and all others interested, to be involved with this ministry
- Continue to work on meeting the needs of each area
- Encourage Areas and local church ministries to move beyond themselves and get in-

involved with being God's heart, hands, and feet in their community

- Be proactive in saving the next child, young or old by being mentors, advocates for literacy, working teen moms, human trafficking awareness, and support mothers of incarcerated children
- Increase ways of communicating by completing a directory, having conference calls and prayer lines, etc. on a regular basis
- Complete rewriting of Women's Ministry Handbook

Upcoming Activities – MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Fall Leadership Session (Open for all women; men and clergy too!)
- Week of Prayer October 2016 Theme: **Seeking, Praising and Praying to God On Purpose**, Lamentations 3:22-23; Matthew 6:33 and 1 Chronicles 16: 8 - 36
- Prison Ministry Visitation – Area L, October 15, 2016 at the Goochland Correction Center.
- Mid-Winter Retreat in Danville, Virginia February 17-18, 2017

We will continue to **Let Our Vision Explode! (LOVE)** Thanks to all, for your support and dedication to this ministry. May God continue to bless each of you. Stay encouraged and keep praying!

Mrs. Florene "Flo" Taylor
Women's Ministry President

Clergy Ministry Report

Greetings!

I am pleased to present the following summary of the Clergy Ministry work for kingdom building while attending the 117th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education Conference held in Chesapeake, VA June 26-30, 2016.

The clergy ministry sessions were well attended all three days. We reported \$1560 to the conference from the clergy ministry.

Dr. Gregory Howard, Dr. Joseph Fleming, and Reverend Patricia Ford facilitated excellent sessions on the topics of *Being a Church on Purpose* and *Bridging the Gap between*



the Traditionalists and the Millennials, a carry-over from the winter retreat.

At the recommendation of President Ford, the clergy ministry will focus on two items for 2016-2017:

1. What does the Clergy Ministry want to do as a collective project?
2. What does the Clergy Ministry want to be known for?

After much intentional discussion, the clergy ministry unanimously decided that:

1. The Clergy Ministry will work to **establish and strengthen community partnerships**. Reverend Michael Shannon is heading the subcommittee to further develop this idea.
2. The Clergy Ministry wants to **be known for its focus on Evangelism**. Dr. W. David Lee is the coordinator for the evangelism sub-committee.

I am asking for the blessings of Dr. David Chapman, and Dr. Steven Blunt to proceed with this agenda. Please let me know as soon as possible so that the subcommittees can begin their work.

Officers for BGCVA 2016-2017 Clergy Ministry:

- Rev. Patricia C Ford, President
- Rev. William Reid, Vice-President
- Dr. Emory Berry, Secretary
- Dr. Gregory Beechaum, Assistant Secretary

Respectfully Submitted,
Reverend Patricia C Ford
President, Clergy Ministry

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 2017 Conferences & Events

Please include these Dates on your 2017 Church Calendar

January

- 7 Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference, Richmond
- 16-17 MLK Celebration and Day of Ministry Service
- 22 Statewide BGCVA Day

February

- 3 VUU Founders Day
- 17-18 Clergy, Men's and Women's Ministries Conference, Danville

March

- 11 VUU Church Leadership Conference
- 18 Youth Workers' Conference, Petersburg

June

- 25-29 118th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Roanoke



July

- 8 Children's Home Founders Day
- 28-29 Youth Retreat @ VSU, Petersburg

September (Christian Education Month)

- 9 Church School Conference, Central VA
- 16 Church School Conference, Tidewater

October (Clergy Appreciation Month)

- 1-7 BGCVA Week of Prayer
- 8 Clergy Appreciation Day
- 21 Church School Conference, Northern VA

November

- 7 Day of Social Action
- 9 Fall Session, Richmond
- 11 Church School Conference, Roanoke

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

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.

NOMINEES MUST SUBMIT –

1. Letter of Inquiry evidencing need for financial assistance
2. Detailed resume
3. One page essay describing your future plans to work in the area of Faith For-

mation upon graduation

4. Letter of Reference from pastor or BGCVA church of which you are a member (or affiliate)
5. Copy of official transcript from Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University
6. All information to BGCVA Director of Christian Education/Program Director NO LATER THAN May 15th

OTHER INFORMATION –

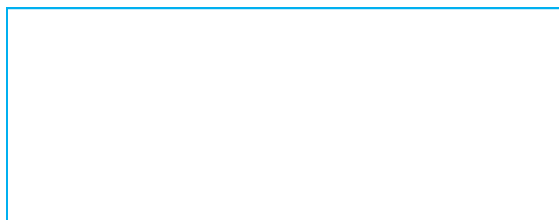
1. Scholarship(s) will be awarded once in a given year. The amount is determined by availability of funds.
2. Awards will be presented in June, during Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education. A check in the amount of the scholarship will be (has been sent) sent directly to the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.
3. The applicant may submit two attachments to the application form, i.e. letters of reference, brief outline of a project, a published article, etc. This is in addition to the required resume.



Baptist General Convention of Virginia
1214 West Graham Road
Richmond, Virginia 23220

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2016 BGCVA
Ministries Fall Leadership Summit

Ministry On Purpose



September 24, 2016
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM



First Baptist Church Centralia
2920 Kingsdale Road, Richmond

Registration is \$35 (onsite \$40) per person, \$60 (onsite \$65) per couple.



Register Today!
www.bgcva.org



2016 Regional Church School Conferences

"So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ."

~ Romans 10:17

Igniting Faith: Using Narratives to Spark an Active Faith

These regional conferences will demonstrate how Christian educators, superintendents and teachers can become more effective in nurturing the faith of students into life-long disciples of Christ.

8:30 AM—2:30 PM

Registration is \$30.00 per attendee. Register Today @ www.bgcva.org.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| September 10 | Church School Conference (Central Virginia)
Sixth Baptist Church, 400 S. Addison St., Richmond, VA 23220 |
| September 17 | Church School Conference (Eastern Virginia)
Third Baptist Church, 1214 Victoria Blvd., Hampton, VA 23661 |
| October 15 | Church School Conference (Northern Virginia)
Bethany Lutheran Church, 2501 Beacon Hill Rd., Alexandria, VA 22306 |
| November 12 | Church School Conference (Western Virginia)
Sweet Union Baptist Church, 521 Madison Ave NW, Roanoke, VA 24016 |