

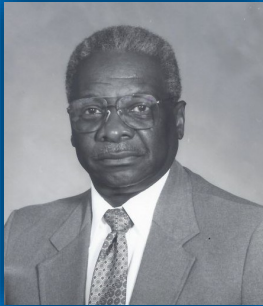
Baptist Herald

In Memoriam



Mr. James H. Cary
Former Men's Ministry
President 1985-1987

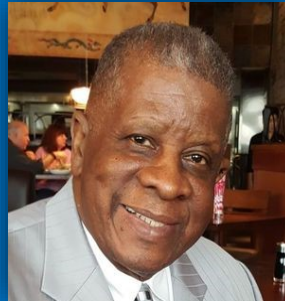
Former Dean of the Congress
of Christian Education



In This Issue

- Discipling Youth —P.3
- BGC Foundation Board Update—P.5
- 120th Annual Session 2019 Highlights—P.6
- 2019 Church School Conferences—P.9

The Reverend Dr. Kenny Smith
Former President 2005-2007



The Reverend Willie J. Toomer
Former President 1981-1983

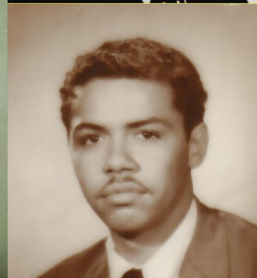
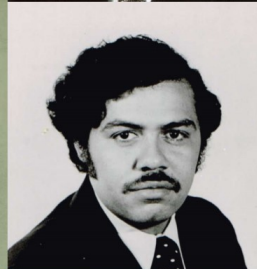


In Memoriam

The Reverend

Cessar L. Scott, Sr.

February 28, 1945—April 28, 2019



Executive Minister

1978-2011

33 Years of Dedicated and
Faithful Service



Baptist Herald

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A Message About Hurricane Disaster Relief

Peace and Blessings in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Savior!

President Gregory M. Howard and President Charles Whitfield would like for Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA) and the Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc. (VBSC) to partner once again in our response to natural disasters. This single appeal to support our brothers and sisters in the Bahamas and along the southeast coast of America impacted by Dorian is critical. Our targeted interest is the churches, their pastors and members. We seek to raise funds that will enable and empower the religious communities, so that they will continue the great work of community building and faith formation in their beloved, Bahamas and along the southeast coast of America.

But for the grace of GOD, Dorian, Florence, Maria, and Matthew would have had us all standing in the need of prayer and support. Those suffering now are in dire need of our ongoing support. We have witnessed the slow response of our Nation to disasters in Haiti and Puerto Rico. These countries still need and welcome our support. Now, the citizens of Bahamas and America are waiting on us in word and in deed.

Our initial response will include a campaign for financial support from individuals, our churches, and the community at large. These funds will be coordinated with local ministries. We are inviting all of our pastors and churches, moderators and associations, Christians and ministries to join with us in this effort of service. Like our faith, your financial gifts unities us for greater service to those who are impacted by natural disasters. Your contributions will greatly enhance our collective witness.

Second, we will join our other faith partners and social agencies in developing service opportunities in the Bahamas and in America. Right now, the request for financial support to sustain day to day existence is paramount. Because many homes were destroyed, it is impossible for them to receive clothing and household



goods at this time. We will work with our business partners to assist us in helping them to rebuild their homes, neighborhoods, communities and country.

Finally, we know that God honors unity and kingdom building. Therefore, we asked that you pray for our brothers and sisters in the Bahamas and in America. Let us work in love and grace in meeting the needs of those impacted by Dorian. Please remember in your prayers those who were harmed by other storms, violence, and accidents. The information listed below will provide for you a few facts for your appeal.

The complete scope of the impact on Grand Bahama or on Abaco Islands is still being evaluated in part of the Bahamas that was also hit by the enormous storm, Dorian.

Thus far twenty-four people have been reported dead across both sets of Bahama islands; it's possible that figure will rise. In America, four people have perished.

In the hardest hit area about 70,000 people live in Grand Bahama and in the Abacos. The UN estimates 61,000 of them will need food assistance.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies estimates 13,000 homes may have been severely damaged or destroyed across the Bahamas.

The AP reports that Grand Bahama's main hospital is "unusable" after being flooded.

While we are partnering in disaster relief service, we will still honor our existing financial accounting practices and systems. You may send your gifts as outlined below base on your affiliation or your preference. All gifts will be used to serve those who are in need because of this current disaster.

Donations to BGCVA's Disaster Relief Fund may be submitted directly online via the BGCVA website, by phone at 804-228-2421, by postal mail or in person at the convention office at 1214 West Graham Road, Suite 1, Richmond, VA 23220.

Donations to VBSC's Disaster Relief Fund may be submitted directly online via the VBSC website, by phone at 276-806-6840, by postal mail or in person at the convention office at 22 East Church Street, Suite 208, Martinsville, VA 24112.

Please include your contact information with your donation so we may send you a receipt and a final report of our combined efforts. We will be looking forward to hearing from you.

May GOD continue to bless you for all you do for the work of CHRIST!

For The Kingdom of Christ, We are,

Dr. Gregory M. Howard, President, Baptist General Convention of Virginia

The Reverend Charles Whitfield, President, Virginia Baptist State Convention, Inc.

Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister, Baptist General Convention of Virginia

Discipling Youth

By Dr. Leo Whitaker

Youth ministry is not one big continuous party for teens. Youth ministry is not a recreational activity to keep a young person busy or out of trouble. And, youth ministry is not an unofficial and free babysitting service for parents who have no time for their children. For any person who views youth ministry in any of the fore mentioned ways – you are missing the blessing and beauty of discipling youth.

Like all ministry, youth ministry is designed to move young persons closer to the Christ. The goal of any ministry ought to be that of discipleship. Everything that takes place in ministry should assist the individual in his/her faith development.

Today is an appropriate time to lift the idea of discipleship and its implications for those who are engaged in youth ministry.

When a typical youth is asked to define the word disciple, he would immediately reply that a disciple is a “learner.” True as it may be, a disciple is indeed a learner, but the concept of discipleship is far more reaching than learning, as important as it is. In a nutshell, one who is a disciple of the Christ is a “faithful follower”, a “loyal learner”, and an “amiable apprentice.” Let us look at each of these co-existing categories. A faithful follower is like a teenage girl who has responded to the “Good News” by accepting Jesus as her Lord and Savior. It must be her desire to serve him and walk in His way. Her faithfulness is open in her declaration – “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back. Though no one joins me, still I will follow. The world behind me, the cross before me.” She seeks with great care and concern to place her feet in the exact footprints of Christ.

At the same time, this teenage girl who has committed her life to Christ and who follows faithfully, must now become a disciple who is a “loyal learner”. Learning requires that she follow the example of Mary of Bethany (Luke 10:39) and sit at the feet of Jesus to learn of Him. Equally as important is her observation of Christ as she follows His footprints. She should take note of his faithfulness to His Father’s will and His ministry with the sons of men. Yet all the while, this same teenage girl

must be an “amiable apprentice.” She must now become a follower and a learner who is able to demonstrate her commitment and knowledge of Christ under His directives. Like the 70 who went out two by two, this young lady must discover her niche in the kingdom and go and minister. She will be instructed by the Master Teacher as the manner and nature of her work. Her final examination will be her ability to show others what she has seen, learned, and demonstrated by being with the Christ. “Therefore, in its most basic form, a disciple is one who places his faith in Jesus Christ as personal Savior and begins the life-long process of learning about Jesus and living under His authority,” states Jack in his book – Now That I am A Disciple.

As we turn now to doing ministry with youth, it is essential to recognize that every activity, from the amusement park to the zoo, must help teens to become better disciples. In a

very real way, discipleship (which is the process of discipling an individual) is the aim of all ministry by pointing it in the right direction. At the same time, discipleship serves as the dynamic of all ministry. It provides movement for the ministry. Thus, discipleship tells us where we are headed and how we will get there. In all that we share with our youth, we should ask ourselves how this program, activity, exercise, or event will move the youth closer to Christ and help the youth to be more like Jesus. By doing this, youth are being disciples.

Now, if you follow what I am suggesting, but you would like for me to elaborate or provide ways for turning your youth ministry into one that disciples youth, I invite you to participate in all of the youth activities sponsored by the BGCVA.

These activities will be listed in the next edition of the Baptist Herald and posted on our website.

Baptist General Convention of VA Presents



BGC/VUU

Scholars Day

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Hovey Field 1500 N. Lombardy St., Richmond, VA 23220



\$100 Donation Per Church
\$10 Per High School Student

Registration
8:30 AM

Informational
Session & Tour
9 AM

Game Starts @ 1 PM

Proceeds from church donations will benefit BGC/VUU Scholars Program.
\$10 fee include lunch & game ticket.

Register online@ bgcva.org/events.html
For more info contact us—info@bgcva.org or 804.228.2421



Baptist General Convention of Virginia
Women's Ministry

Week of Prayer for State Missions

October 7-13, 2019

Unity in the Body of Christ

Just as a body, though one, has many parts,
but all its many parts form one body, so it is
with Christ. ~ I Corinthians 12:12



BGCVA 2017-2020 Theme:

*Reviving Our Roots:
Prophetic Preaching and Our
Missional Mandate
Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)*

**Donate to the Week of Prayer! For more
information Contact us, 804.228.2421,
info@bgcva.org**

Baptist Minister's Conference of Richmond and Vicinity

The following new officers for the Baptist Ministers Conference of Richmond and Vicinity were recently installed:

- Dr. Emanuel C. Harris—President
- Dr. Lester D. Frye—1st Vice President
- The Reverend Purnell Johnson— 2nd Vice President
- Minister Desiree Jenkins— Recording Secretary
- The Reverend Queen Harris— Corresponding Secretary
- Dr. Ricardo L. Brown—Treasurer
- Dr. Naomi Davis—Financial Secretary



BGCVA Women's Ministry Vice President Honored

Polly Jones-Mason, a realty specialist for Defense Logistics Agency Installation Management for Energy, was selected as a recipient of the 2019 Blacks in Government Military Meritorious Service Award. Graphic by DLA Energy Public Affairs.



July 11, 2019 —

Encompassing selflessness, civic duties, compassion and generosity to others, Polly Jones-Mason was selected as a recipient of the 2019 [Blacks in Government](#) Military Meritorious Service Award.

Jones-Mason serves as a realty specialist for Defense Logistics Agency Installation Management for Energy responsible for the acquisition, management, and disposal of real property assets assigned and used by DLA Energy in Richmond, Virginia. She is a veteran, serving in the United States Navy from 1988-1991.

The annual BIG Military Meritorious Service Award honors military members and Department of Defense civilian employees who have supported the DoD mission, overseas contingency operations, or whose attributes best epitomized the qualities and core values of their respective military service or other DoD component.

As a member of the Richmond, Virginia, community, Jones-Mason volunteers in several community and civic groups to include the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer events and the Virginia One Church One Child adoption agency that promotes awareness of children in foster care who are seeking adoption.

"Breast cancer education is so important," Jones-Mason said. "I am 65 and I've seen the results of the increased awareness in the African-American community."

An advocate for minority women through her efforts supporting the Urban Diaper Bank and the United Way, Jones-Mason mentors teenage pregnant mothers providing them nutrition guidance and encouraging them to eat healthy during pregnancy in order to deliver a healthy baby. Her mentorship and focus on promoting equal opportunities for minorities by fostering

awareness and advocating for social justice was a driving force behind submitting significant bills to the Virginia 2019 General Assembly.

"I believe we are called to help our brothers and sisters," Jones-Mason said. "I am a believer (in the Bible and its teachings). You try and do the work you are called to do and help educate others."

Site Director for Installation Management for Energy Cliff Sands praised Jones-Mason's work ethic and dedication.

"Jones-Mason manages all real estate agreements for fuel-related Real Property in support of DLA Energy's capitalized fuel operations at 92 Navy and Marine Corps Defense Fuel Supply Points," Sands said. "She participated in eight real property inventory trips as the lead Energy Real Property Officer, verifying over 400 fuels-related real property records. Her efforts, contributed to achieving our 100 percent inventory mandate in direct support of the DLA Director's auditability objective."

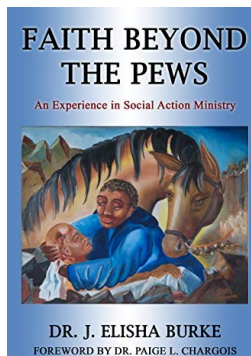
Jones-Mason will be presented with her award at the [BIG 41st annual National Training Institute](#) in Dallas, Texas, Aug. 5-8.

BIG is a National Organization committed to improving public service through promoting equity, excellence, and opportunity in the workplace.

Sister Jones-Mason is a member of Sixth Baptist Church, Richmond. BGCVA congratulates Sister Jones-Mason and praise God for her witness & love in the church, in the convention, & in civil service to our country.

BGCVA Director Pens Ministry Book

Congratulations to Dr. J. Elisha Burke, our Director of Men, Health Wellness, and Social Justice Ministries, on publishing his first book, Faith Beyond the Pews, An Experience in Social Action Ministry. To get your copy contact Dr. Burke at 804.228.2421 or eburke@bgcva.org.



Spotlight on chair of Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker Educational Foundation



The foundation is in the process of addressing social justice issues in the community, as well as planning an advocacy and financial education summit for young women.

“Because of the nature of our scholarship program, we reach out to high school seniors,” Dr. Moore says. “However, in some of the community engagement programming, we try to encompass the entire family. We have to make sure that what is done goes back to the families. We are trying to address the myriad of needs families. The better the family, the better the student.”

Two major events are coming up. The foundation’s scholarship fundraiser, Legacy of a Legend Scholarship Luncheon, will honor Richmond Delegate Delores L. McQuinn of Richmond and the late Clarence L. Townes Jr., a longtime business and civic leader and early board member of the Richmond Free Press’ parent company. It will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at the University of Richmond.

“Most people are celebrated for their work when they die,” says Dr. Moore. “We hear all of the deceased’s accolades and expressions of love, but now they are in the ground and unable to hear all of the praises.”

Later in the month, the foundation will provide free haircuts and services to Petersburg residents.

“Our hope is that people will continue to see the value of WTWEF and invest in it and our work,” Mr. Moore says.

Meet this week’s Personality and a keeper of the flame of Dr. Walker’s legacy, Dr. Michael L.W. Moore:

Community involvement: Chairman, Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker Educational Foundation.

Place of birth: Pittsburgh.

Current residence: Henrico County.

Education: Bachelor’s degree in religious studies and philosophy, master’s of divinity and doctor of ministry degree, Virginia Union University.

Family: Wife, Dr. Christy Moore; son, Michael L.W. Moore II.

Reason for starting the WTWEF: The founda-

tion was birthed out the idea to honor the many contributions and sacrifices of Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker. Originally, the plan was just to host a small breakfast in his honor. In conversations between Dr. Walker, Ryan Bell, now the foundation’s executive director, and myself, the plan was set to establish a foundation to continue his legacy for generations to come.

Foremost mission: The pressing mission is to improve the quality of life for those who are consistently and purposely oppressed by providing resources to increase their capacity to live full, healthy and happy lives.

Why I am excited about this organization: The organization has the opportunity to really make a direct impact on lives. This organizations is not seeking surface-level solutions. We are planning and working on ways to carve out systemic issues we face in society today. That is the work of Dr. Walker. That is the work that excites me.

Services the foundation provides: Currently, scholarships for disadvantaged youths seeking post-secondary education. We also hold an annual Martin Luther King Day of Service, where we feed the community, offer free haircuts for kids and health screenings.

Social justice is important because: It is the most pressing issue of our time. It is imperative that we fight for those who have been stripped of all ability to fight for themselves. This world needs many more people who are committed to helping the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. come to fruition. Not only do we need more initiatives for social justice, we need more of a collaborative effort where people are willing to work together for the common good.

What Dr. Walker’s accomplishments mean to me: Dr. Walker committed his life to developing people. He committed himself to removing barriers that have kept people from becoming all that they can be. The foundation desires to remove obstacles that keep people from being able to better themselves. It is because of his work that I have been able to become who I am today.

A quote that I am inspired by: “If a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn’t fit to live.” — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BGC Foundation Update

We praise God for the Foundation Board! Dr. Robert G. Murray, Chairman, has led the BGC Foundation Board to re-activate itself. The Foundation thanks each board member, pastor, church, and individual for their generous support.



President Gregory Howard, Executive Minister Leo Whitaker, and Chairman Murray affixed their signatures on the official re-activation documents with the Hampton Roads Foundation. In the words of Chairman Murray, “Today we are stronger and able to prepare today for tomorrow’s ministry needs.”



The re-activation occurred at the 2018 Annual Session in Richmond. Due to your generosity and the generosity of others, by the 2019 Annual Session, the funds had grown to \$25,000 with a private donor matching the \$25,000, the total of \$50,000 was reached September 13, 2019.



Please send in your gifts and watch the Foundation grow in grace and resources for “Greater Ministry” as we move toward the mid-21st Century. TO GOD BE THE GLORY! Praise Be To God!



Let us not stop! The Power of Collective Witness is necessary to provide for the needs of BGCVA ministry and witness in the 21st Century!

120th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education Highlights



Youth Explosion



Sunday Evening Worship—
Dr. Samuel W. Gilbert, II



Monday Evening Worship—
Dr. John R. Faison, Sr.



Monday Morning Worship
Praise and Power—
Rev. Ciarra Smith-Bond



Monday Morning Worship
Praise and Power—
Rev. Jamar Boyd



Monday Morning Worship
Praise and Power—
Rev. Chereshe Parker Freeman



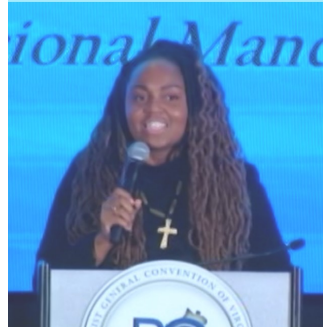
Tuesday Evening Worship—
President's Night
Dr. Gregory M. Howard



Tuesday Morning Worship
Praise and Power—
Rev. Stephen L. Artis



Tuesday Morning Worship
Praise and Power—
Rev. Carlon M. Lassiter



Tuesday Morning Worship
Praise and Power—
Rev. Gloria Salisha-Lynn Williams



President's Night



Wednesday Morning Worship
Praise and Power—
Rev. Samantha J. Cain



Wednesday Morning Worship
Praise and Power—
Rev. Yohance D. Whitaker



Wednesday Night Gala on the
Spirit of Norfolk



Mrs. Jeannie and Dr.
Steve Hewlett

120th Annual Session COMMUNITY OUTREACH

To God be the Glory!
Thank you BGCVA for your extraordinary generosity to the needy, homeless and incarcerated of Tidewater, VA.



On Tuesday, June 26th you supported Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless Evening Meal for 50 homeless persons sponsored by monetary donations from BGCVA Women's Ministry (Areas and individual donations) at H. Edward Whitaker Educational Building, 528 Green Street, Portsmouth, VA. (4-6pm). Any funds exceeding the actual meal costs were donated to Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless to purchase toiletries, sleeping pads and other essential items for the homeless.

Thank you BGCVA for your generosity in support of our Socks for Inmates drive. You donated numerous socks. So many in fact we also gave socks to Volunteers for the Homeless and the Outreach ministry of Queen Street Baptist Church.

The BGCVA Women's Ministry also donated "Blessing Bags" for the Homeless (gallon-size Ziploc® bags that contain snacks, travel-size toiletries, socks, a bottle of water, grooming supplies, tooth brush, tooth paste and other items that people who live on the street find useful

J. Elisha Burke

Community Partnership Breakfast 2019 "Building a Healthier Community Together"

The Health & Wellness Ministry Annual Community Breakfast was held on June 25, 2019 during our 120th Annual Session in Norfolk. Thank you for your continued support of this opportunity to thank and recognize a few of the many people that give of themselves in service to others in extraordinary ways. This year we presented Outstanding Community Service Awards to Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, Portsmouth, VA for excellence in serving the homeless and to Queen Street Baptist Church, Norfolk, VA for many years serving the community with a focus on Community Advocacy and Food Insufficiency.

We also recognized representatives of our

various community health partners, service providers and volunteers. Special recognition went to Jane Cabarrus, coordinator for the Health & Wellness Services Providers during the session and Edith Jones for many years of assisting Dr. Burke during annual sessions.

The Sponsor Spotlight this year was on Dominion Energy as our new sponsor for the Community Partnership Breakfast. William L. "Bill" Murray, Senior Vice President- Corporate Affairs & Communications Service Company, addressed the gathering and was accompanied by several Dominion staff members.

120th Annual Session COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The following classes were offered during the 2019 Annual Session in Norfolk. We hope you will consider these topics for you upcoming Association or Church Leadership Training during the coming year.

The Church and Civic Traditions: Outreach, Activism and Politics

Religion serves multiple purposes in the civic life of African-Americans. The Christianity that emerged out of the black American experience contributed to various movements for racial reform for much of the twentieth century. This civic tradition nurtures a sense of love and care for the poor as well as an active engagement in political life. In light of 21st century realities and the many challenges (social, economic, injustice on many fronts, including voting, education, environment, etc.), how can the church of today effectively do justice by engaging in Outreach, Activism and Politics (local state and national)?

Partners in Prayer & Prevention

BGCVA Health & Wellness ministry invites you to re-invigorate your health ministry or start a new health ministry in your church. You will learn about BGCVA partnerships, particularly the new "Virginia Partners in Prayer and Prevention" Community Health Champion from Virginia Dept. of Health. You will learn how to build and sustain Health Ministries, build partnerships, community engagement and understand Virginia's Plan for Well-being. This session includes REVIVE! – How to Recognize and Respond to an Opioid Overdose Emergency With Naloxone and "Walk with Ease" information for those with arthritis.

Medicare: Everything you need to know to get the best Medicare coverage for you.

This session will provide the ins and outs of Medicare. You will learn when to file, how to file and how to decide which Medicare Supplement Plan is best for you. Many people do not get full benefit from Medicare because they do not know everything they may be entitled to receive.

The Urgency of Now!

This class will focus on how to build and strengthen you men's ministry and engage men of all ages. These sessions will explore how to use the Biblical mandate for Social Justice to serve males in need of mentoring (Elijah-Elisha Mentoring); How to serve males of all ages returning from incarceration (Stations of Hope, The Return of the Men). The men in this session will be expected to share and participate in active discussions of the obstacles in ministering to men and begin planning to address them their local churches and associations.



Other 120th Annual Session Highlights



BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VIRGINIA

REVIVING OUR ROOTS: PROPHETIC PREACHING AND OUR MISSIONAL MANDATE

(LUKE 4: 18-19)



PRAISE & WORSHIP

FALL SESSION 2019

MINISTRY FAIR

- FOR CHURCHES, CLERGY AND LAYPERSONS
- GET PLANNING RESOURCES FOR YOUR 2020 MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

EXHIBITORS & VENDORS

SESSION SPEAKERS

REGISTRATION IS
\$30 PER PERSON
\$100 PER
CHURCH GROUP
OF 5 PERSONS



DR. C. DIANE MOSBY
HENRICO, VA
AUTHOR OF
THE WAR STOLE MY SOUL
WITH PTSD WHAT NOW?



DR. RODNEY D. WALLER
RICHMOND, VA
AUTHOR OF
LEADERSHIP
EMPOWERMENT



DR. J. ELISHA BURKE
RICHMOND, VA
AUTHOR OF
FAITH BEYOND THE
PEWS

SATURDAY
NOV 9th

9 TO 3
AM PM

FIFTH BAPTIST CHURCH | 1415 CARY STREET | RICHMOND, VA 23220
DR. EARL M. BROWN & DR. RICARDO L. BROWN, HOST PASTORS

BGCVA | 1214 W. Graham Road | Richmond, VA 23220



2019 Church School

Conferences

21st Century Sunday School

Breathing New Life Into Your Church School

The church's teaching ministry is one of the most important ministries of the church. An effective teaching ministry allows persons to be taught the who, what, why, and how of all of the others ministries in the church. Therefore, as persons are taught from the Word of God they learn how to be more effective in each area of the church's ministry – from the pulpit to the door and into the community and the world – persons gain biblical understanding of why and how to be and do what God requires of each of us!

Therefore, the 2019 Church School Conference will assist participants to...

1. Articulate the purpose and vision for a 21st Century Church School
2. Recognize strengths and weaknesses of the Church's teaching ministry
3. Explore essential practices for creating a 21st Century teaching model that empowers the whole church for effective ministry



8:30 AM—1:00 PM

November 23 ~ Western Virginia First Baptist Church, 226 S. Broad St., Salem, VA 24153

October 14-18 ~ Cherrystone Missionary Baptist Association Institute Cherrystone Center, 5551 Tom Fork Rd., Ringgold, VA 24586



Register Today!!
www.bgcva.org
info@bgcva.org
804.228.2421

~~~~~  
For Cherrystone Institute call 434.822.5038



## Are You Contemplating and Seeking God's Direction for Your Ministry? If so, Allow BGCVA to Assist You!

M.T.T. is held 9 AM—2 PM:

- ⇒ November 9, 2019 @ Fifth Baptist Church, 1415 West Cary St., Richmond, VA 23219 (during Fall Session)
- ⇒ January 11, 2020 @ First Baptist Church Centralia, 2920 Kingsdale Rd., N. Chesterfield, VA 23237 (during Church Finance & Tax Compliance Conference)
- ⇒ February 21-22, 2020 @ TBA (during Mid-Winter Session)
- ⇒ March 7, 2020 @ Virginia Union University (during Children & Youth Workers' Conference)
- ⇒ June 28—July 2, 2020 @ Hilton Alexandria Mark Center (during 121st Annual Session & Congress of Christian Education - Certificate of Completion/Participation will be received then.)

Cost is \$50.00 per Training Session

Note: All participants are asked to have a letter of recommendation from their pastor and/or deacon chair.

Our Ministry Training Track or M.T.T. is specifically designed for:

- 1) lay persons who are interested in lay leadership (deacons, trustees, ministry leaders, and finance committee)
- 2) those discerning their call to ministry or initial sermon/licensing
- 3) pastors, associate ministers, assistants to the pastor, assistant pastors, or associate pastors seeking to enhance their ministry preparedness
- 4) ministers interested in the ordination process; or chaplaincy. Chaplains maintaining or seeking ecclesiastical endorsement, continuing education, and peer review as a Board Certified Chaplain will discover the benefits of partnering with BGCVA
- 5) all new pastors and ministers who were ordained by other faith traditions are strongly urged to participate in M.T.T. and explore the Baptist history and heritage.

Each participant will be given a selection of courses to enhance his/her ministry goals. As well, combined classes and ministry sessions will enhance vocational clarity and commitment.

For more information contact the BGCVA Office 804.228.2421 or [info@bgcva.org](mailto:info@bgcva.org)

## BGCVA Board Member Becomes New Lott Carey Women's Ministry President

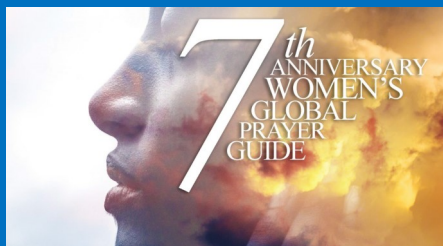
Congratulations to Sister. Rosette Graham, who is also Executive Assistant to the Pastor at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA, on being elected as the new Women in Service Everywhere (W.I.S.E.) President for the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention.



Lott Carey Women in Service Everywhere (W.I.S.E.) mobilize women to engage in missions around the world. They work to:

- ◆ Advance the Lott Carey global missional impact
- ◆ Execute short-term missions assignments
- ◆ Support special missions projects
- ◆ Recruit others for membership in Lott Carey

Lott Carey W.I.S.E. also gives leadership for Lott Carey's Global Women's Empowerment Global Prayer Month in March, Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative and Campaign to End Gender Based Violence.



Congratulations again to Sister Rosette Graham!



## County Commemorates Historical School

BY ANNE DALTON

Chesterfield County recently commemorated the historic Midlothian Elementary School at 13801 Westfield Road. The first school in Midlothian for African-American students was rebuilt at least twice, first in 1925-26 and then in 1948, on land donated in the 1800s by First Baptist Church of Midlothian, originally First African Baptist Church of Coalfield. The school served African-American students from the communities of Brown Grove, Hallsboro, Midlothian, Mt. Nebo, Robious, Spring Creek and Winterpock until 1969, when Chesterfield County desegregated its schools. Renamed Watkins Annex, the building is currently home to the Lifelong Learning Institute. **Deja Williams**, a student at Thomas Dale High School and a member of Girl Scout Troop 635, submitted the idea for the Midlothian Elementary School historic marker.



Deja Williams, a member of Girl Scout Troop 635, submitted the idea for the Midlothian Elementary School historic marker.



Pastor Purnell Johnson, Leading Lady Johnson & the family and youth of First Baptist Church with Executive Minister Leo Whitaker

History Committee and the historian of First Baptist Church of Midlothian's History Committee. The Gold Award, the highest achievement for Girl Scouts, is given to a Scout who conceives of a project that will make a lasting impact on her community.

*Deja Williams is a member of First Baptist Church, Midlothian.*

## 1619-2019 COMMEMORATION FIRST AFRICAN LANDING

AT FORT MONROE HAMPTON, VA



Visit Fort Monroe  
<https://www.nps.gov/fomr/planyourvisit/first-african-landing.htm>

## Mid-Winter Session 2019 Highlights



# YOUTH EXPLOSION 2019

Through 'Expressions of Praise', millennials will explore what it means to have a growing relationship with Jesus; and, how they can share that relationship with others.

October 14-18 7-9 PM ~ Southwestern Virginia  
Cherrystone Missionary Baptist Association, 5551 Tom Fork Road, Ringgold, VA 24586

October 19, 8:30 AM-1 PM ~ Northern Virginia  
Location TBD

November 23, 8:30 AM -1 PM ~ Western Virginia  
First Baptist Church, 226 S. Broad St., Salem, VA 24017

\*FREE and open to the public

Registration is required\*

We're looking for groups to perform. Choir, Mime, Praise Dancers, Steppers, Spoken Word

For more info or to register contact us >>> [youth@bgcva.org](mailto:youth@bgcva.org) or 804.228.2421



## 2019 Virginia Election Dates

There's an election in the Commonwealth every year!



### General Election...

- Sep 23 In-Person Absentee Voting Underway at Registrar's Office
- Oct 15 **Deadline to Register to Vote**
- Oct 26 Registrar's Office Open on Saturday for In-Person Absentee Voting
- Oct 29 Deadline to request absentee ballot be mailed to you
- Nov 2 Last day for In-Person Absentee Voting
- Nov 2 Registrar's Office Open on Saturday for In-Person Absentee Voting
- Nov 5 **General Election**

**your VOTE is your VOICE**

To register to vote and for more Virginia Election Information, visit...

[www.elections.virginia.gov](http://www.elections.virginia.gov)

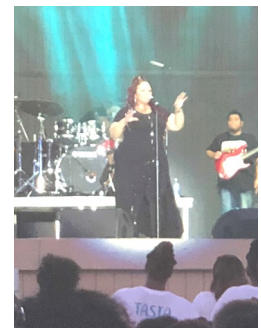
Absentee Ballot Information...

[www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting](http://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting)

## Youth Retreat 2019 Highlights



## BGC Day @ Kings Dominion Highlights



# COMMUNITY. CONNECTION. BE COUNTED.



## ABOUT THE CENSUS

- The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone in America's diverse and growing population once, only once and in the right place.
- Ensuring a complete and accurate count in the 2020 Census is crucial to Virginia's economy. Census data is used to help determine how approximately \$675 billion dollars is distributed from the federal government to state and local governments.
- It is estimated that Virginia will lose up to \$2,000 annually for each person not counted in the 2020 Census. That amounts to upwards of \$20,000 per person over a 10 year period.
- Additionally, census data is used for attracting new businesses to states and local areas, planning for hospitals and other health services, and designing public safety strategies.

## VIRGINIA COMPLETE COUNT COMMISSION

On December 18, 2018, Governor Northam signed Executive Order Twenty Seven establishing the Virginia Complete Count Commission to improve the participation and representation of all Virginians in the 2020 Census. The Virginia Complete Count Commission is working to educate and motivate Virginians, particularly those in hard-to-count communities from all corners of the Commonwealth, in order to ensure there is a complete count.

### MISSION

The mission of the Virginia Complete Count Commission is to serve as a trusted voice and resource to educate, empower, and engage all communities for the purpose of ensuring that everyone who lives in the Commonwealth of Virginia is counted in the 2020 Census.

### VISION

Our vision is a thriving Commonwealth where everyone counts and every community matters; where every person who lives in Virginia has equitable access to opportunities, resources, and representation.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



**PHONE**  
(804) 786-2441



**EMAIL**  
[virginiacompletecount@governor.virginia.gov](mailto:virginiacompletecount@governor.virginia.gov)



**WEBSITE**  
[commonwealth.virginia.gov/vacompletecount](http://commonwealth.virginia.gov/vacompletecount)

## Children's Home of Virginia Baptists, Inc. Founders' Day Highlights



In Picture from left to right  
Dr. Michael Shannon, Dr. Tyrone Jackson, Dr. Leo Whitaker, Dr. Keith Parham, Dr. Wilson Shannon



In Picture from left to right  
Reverend Justin House, Dr. Andrew 'Jack' White, Dr. Tyrone Jackson

## Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference 2019 Highlights



## Clergy/Pastor Appreciation Month

Think for a moment of all the clergy who have impacted your faith journey through the years. Now, consider the clergy who serve you presently-in your local church. Would you consider finding a way to appreciate them? Remember, "clergy" include all of those who serve us pastorally--this month of appreciation is for all of them!

In 1994, Focus on the Family began promoting Clergy Appreciation Month as a national month of observance. They encouraged all congregants to outwardly show their appreciation for their religious leaders. From Clergy Appreciation Day to Week to Month, the idea grew to emphasizing one specific day to nationally pay tribute to clergy. This day became known as Pastor Appreciation Day. Also referred to as Clergy Appreciation Day, this day of showing national gratitude for clergy members is celebrated on the second Sunday in each October.

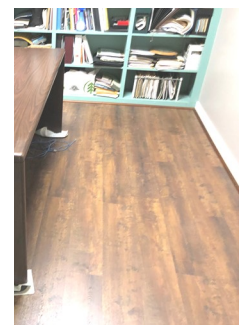
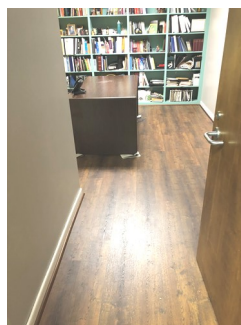
Being a pastor or other clergy member has its good days and bad days yet, all leaders need to be recognized for their work and efforts. Be sure to personally thank them for all they do to help you and your family!

Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- Give them a shout out using the hashtag #ClergyAppreciationDay and post to your social media accounts.
- Organize a prayer calendar so that pastors are prayed for every day in the month of October.
- Have a food pounding or a gift card shower-a helpful gesture in times of economic challenge.
- Don't forget the children of clergy! Shower them with appreciation as well.
- Make each Sunday of October a special emphasis of gifting.
- Write notes of appreciation to your clergy members.
- Give the clergy family (or families) a night out at a local restaurant and family entertainment venue.
- ADD YOUR OWN! The possibilities are as endless as the creativity of your congregation! The point is: Do something – and be assured – you will be blessed in return.



## Highlights BGC State Office Renovations



Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

## President Dr. Gregory Howard named Interim Dean of Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at VUU

(Richmond, Virginia) - Virginia Union University announces the appointment of Dr. Gregory Howard as interim Dean of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology (STVU), effective February 4, 2019.



"Dr. Howard's knowledge, experience and expertise reinforces STVU as a national leader in graduate theological education," said Dr. Hakim Lucas, president and CEO of Virginia Union University. "I believe his vision and influence during this time of transition will inspire faculty and students. I am thrilled to welcome him."

Howard, a 2004 STVU graduate and current university trustee, serves as senior pastor of First Baptist Church East End in Newport News. He has served as part-time instructor within the Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy at Virginia Union as well as adjunct instructor of Homiletics at STVU. Dr. Howard is also president of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia with a membership of more than 1000 churches and nearly 30 associations. He is the author of two books, *Black Sacred Rhetoric: The Gospel According to Religious Folk Talk* and *Voices Crying Out in the Wilderness: Theological Reflections Where Context Matters*.

"I am truly honored to accept this role at my alma mater," Howard said. "I am looking forward to working and serving this institution. It's no secret I have an affinity and a great deep love for this school. I am a firm believer in that God has a way of shaping our path in matters and ways that in the midst of it, we have no idea of where it's leading to"

Howard, along with interim Assistant Dean Dr. Deborah Martin, will lead the day-to-day operations for the school while a national search for a new STVU leader is launched. The search committee is co-chaired by Dr. Boykin Sanders, Distinguished Professor of New Testament Studies and Greek, and Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church and VUU Board of Trustees member. The next leader of STVU will continue to build on the school's strong legacy, both locally and globally, as it continues to serve the black church and communities and organizations committed to social-justice.

## Homegoing Celebrations

*May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.* 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

On behalf of President Howard, Executive Minister Whitaker, staff, and officers of the Baptist General Convention, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of the following pastors, who have transitioned into eternal rest in 2019.

- \* The Reverend Willie Toomer, Former BGCVA President
- \* The Reverend Cessar L Scott, Sr., Former BGCVA Executive Minister
- \* Mr. James H. Cary, Former BGCVA Congress Dean
- \* Dr. Hennie Brown, Jr., Former Pastor, Oak Grove Baptist Church, Sterling
- \* The Reverend Douglas F. Wright, Sr., Former Pastor, Jerusalem Baptist Church, Waverly
- \* Dr. Bruce B. Burton, Former Pastor, St. James Baptist Church, Milford
- \* The Reverend Edgar Rawles, Former Pastor, Zion Baptist Church, Cumnor
- \* Mr. Louis B. Crabbe, Member, Zion Baptist Church, Kinsale
- \* The Reverend Dr. Edmond H. Whitley, Sr., Relative of Executive Leo Whitaker
- \* Mr. Lonnie E. Whitaker, Relative of Executive Minister Leo Whitaker
- \* Deaconess Mary Whitaker Williams, Relative of Executive Minister Leo Whitaker
- \* The Reverend William Isaac Curry, Pastor, Salem Baptist Church, Mount Holly
- \* The Reverend Dr. Mary Cooke, Former First Lady, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Richmond
- \* Mr. Ryan Keith Cox, Member, New Hope Baptist Church, Virginia Beach
- \* The Reverend Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
- \* The Reverend Dr. William E. Russell, Former Pastor, New Hope Baptist Church, Suffolk
- \* Dr. Clara McCreary, Former First Lady, The Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Richmond
- \* Dr. George N. West, Former Pastor, First Baptist Church, Louisa
- \* Brother Fred B. Wilson, Sr., Husband of Former BGCVA Women's President Mrs. Ernestine Wilson



## Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building Recommended by Congressman Robert "Bobby" Scott

July 17, 2019

Floor Statements

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3305, Designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2509 George Mason Drive in Virginia Beach, Virginia as the "Ryan Keith Cox Post Office Building." I appreciate my colleague, the gentlelady from Virginia, Mrs. LURIA, for introducing this bill.



\* Ryan Keith Cox is a Virginia Beach hero, a distinguished public servant and one whose legacy will live on forever. We will remember Ryan for his heroic actions during the Virginia Beach massacre on May

31, 2019. He saved dozens of lives by helping his colleagues find a safe space to hide during the mass shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center. He was killed protecting two of his coworkers guarding a cubicle door while his coworkers huddled on the floor beneath two desks.

The Virginia Beach community will remember Ryan as a cherished friend and one who always put others before himself. He was soft spoken, encouraging, positive and considered by all to be "a good man".

He was active in his Church and participated in Anointed Voices, Men of Hope, the Male Chorus and the Men's Ministry at New Hope Baptist Church.

Madam Speaker, the designation of this post office in Ryan Keith Cox's honor will forever remind us of his valor and his 12-year long career with the City of Virginia Beach. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

\* Ryan Keith Cox was the son of Dr. E. Ray Cox, Sr. and Sister Maxine Mills Cox. Dr. Cox is the pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

## Celebrating 2019 Anniversaries

### Pastoral Anniversaries

- ◇ Dr. Gregory M. Howard – 5 years
- ◇ Dr. Michael Moore – 5 years
- ◇ Dr. Keith I. Jones – 10 years
- ◇ Rev. Angelo V. Chatmon – 20 years
- ◇ Dr. Darrell K. White—20 years
- ◇ Dr. Daniel L. Brown—20 years
- ◇ Dr. Vernon Walton—5 years
- ◇ Dr. Alonza L. Lawrence—25 years
- ◇ Dr. Melvin O. Marriner—30 years
- ◇ Dr. Sylvester Smith—25 years

### 2019 BGCVA New Churches

- ◇ The Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, Portsmouth—Pastors James and Keisha Brown

### 2019 Ministry Milestones

- ◇ New Hope Baptist Church, Chesapeake—100th Anniversary
- ◇ First Agape Baptist Church, Alexandria—20th Anniversary
- ◇ Antioch Baptist Church, Susan—150th Anniversary
- ◇ Tuckahoe Baptist Association—125th Anniversary
- ◇ Berean Valley Baptist Association—150th Anniversary
- ◇ Wayland Blue Ridge Baptist Association—130th Anniversary
- ◇ First Church of Newport News (Baptist) - 155th Anniversary

Please let BGCVA know ministry milestone@ your church!

### 2019 BGCVA New Pastors

- ◇ Dr. William E. Jackson, Fourth Baptist Church, Richmond
- ◇ Rev. Corey Bland, New Light Baptist Church, Richmond
- ◇ Dr. Dwight Shawrod Riddick, St. Mark Baptist Church, Portsmouth
- ◇ Rev. Travis T. Judkins, Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Chesapeake
- ◇ Dr. Archie German, Sr., Union Branch Baptist Church, Prince George
- ◇ Rev. Marvin Gilliam, Jr., The Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, Richmond

May God bless you & your new ministry area to multiply & make disciples for God's Kingdom.

# BGCVA 2019—2020 Conferences & Events

## Please include these Dates on your Church Calendar

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2019

#### October (Clergy Appreciation Month)

- 10 Fall General Board Meeting, BGCVA State Office, Richmond
- 13 Clergy Appreciation Day
- 7-13 BGCVA Week of Prayer
- 19 Church School Conference, Northern VA

#### November

- 2 BGC/VUU Scholars Day @ Hovey Field
- 6 Day of Social Action
- 9 Fall Session, Fifth Baptist Church, Richmond
- 23 Church School Conference, Roanoke

### 2020

#### January

- 11 Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference, Richmond
- 18 Mental Health First Aid Training, Richmond
- 20-21 MLK Celebration and Day of Ministry Service
- 26 Statewide BGCVA Day

#### February

- 7 VUU Founders Day
- 21-22 Mid-Winter Ministries Retreat, Central VA

#### March

- 7 Children and Youth Workers' Conference, Richmond
- 14 VUU Church Leadership Conference

### April

- 3-4 Young Adult Weekend
- 9 Spring General Board Meeting, Richmond

### June

- 28- 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Alexandria

### July

- 2 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Alexandria
- 11 BGC Day @ Kings Dominion
- 11 Children's Home Founders Day
- 17-18 Youth Retreat @ VUU

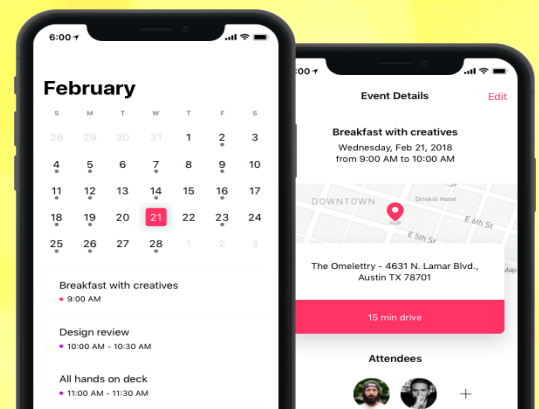
### September (Christian Education Month)

- 5 Church School Conference, BGCVA State Office, Richmond
- 10 General Board Strategic Planning Meeting, BGCVA State Office, Richmond
- 12 Church School Conference, Tidewater

### October (Clergy Appreciation Month)

- 8 Fall General Board Meeting, BGCVA State Office, Richmond
- 11 Clergy Appreciation Day
- 11-17 BGCVA Week of Prayer
- 17 Church School Conference, Northern VA

\*\*\* Dates and Locations are Subject to Change. \*\*\*



## 2020 Budget

As you prepare your 2020 Church Budget, please include the Baptist General Convention of VA, it's missions and ministry in your budget. We would appreciate it.

Also if you have not sent in your 2019 contribution, we pray that you will be able to do so by December 31, 2019. God Bless.



**How your church can achieve your monthly giving to the Baptist General Convention of VA is by using the Church Contribution Matrix below. All amounts of giving are appreciated.**

### How Can WE Achieve Our Monthly Giving Goal?

| If Your Church's Annual Budget is... | And Your Church's Annual Assessment at %1/%2/%5 is... | Then Your Church's Monthly Contribution Would Be... |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| \$50,000.00                          | \$500.00/\$1,000.00/\$2,500.00                        | \$41.00/\$83.00/\$208.00                            |
| \$100,000.00                         | \$1,000.00/\$2,000.00/\$5,000.00                      | \$83.00/\$166.00/\$416.00                           |
| \$250,000.00                         | \$2,500.00/\$5,000.00/\$12,500.00                     | \$208.00/\$416.00/\$1,041.00                        |
| \$500,000.00                         | \$5,000.00/\$10,000.00/\$25,000.00                    | \$416.00/\$833.00/\$2,083.00                        |
| \$750,000.00                         | \$7,500.00/\$15,000.00/\$37,500.00                    | \$625.00/\$1,250.00/\$3,125.00                      |
| \$1,000,000.00                       | \$10,000.00/\$20,000.00/\$50,000.00                   | \$833.00/\$1,676.00/\$4,166.00                      |
| \$2,000,000.00                       | \$20,000.00/\$40,000.00/\$100,000.00                  | \$1,676.00/\$3,333.00/\$8,333.00                    |
| \$3,000,000.00 +                     | \$30,000.00/\$60,000.00/\$150,000.00 +                | \$2,500.00/\$5,000.00/\$12,500.00 +                 |

**In-Kind Gifts are also appreciated!**



Baptist General Convention of Virginia

1214 West Graham Road

Richmond, Virginia 23220

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