

A Publication of the
Baptist General
Convention of
Virginia

Baptist Herald

BGCVA Chrismon Tree: A Brief History

Chrismon Ornaments were originated and first made for use on the Christmas tree of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, in 1957 by Mrs. Frances Kipps Spencer, a church member. The designs were monograms of and symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ. Because these designs have been used by his followers since biblical times, they are the heritage of all Christians and serve to remind each of us regardless of denomination of the One we follow. All Chrismon Ornaments are made in a combination of white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the Son of God and the Son of Man.

Chrismon Ornaments' Symbols:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ⇒ The Cross | ⇒ Lamb of God |
| ⇒ Chalice | ⇒ Butterfly |
| ⇒ Crown | ⇒ Celtic Cross |
| ⇒ Angel | ⇒ Trefoil |
| ⇒ Alpha and Omega | ⇒ 5 Pointed Star |
| ⇒ Descending Dove | ⇒ Natal Star Cross |
| ⇒ Anchor | ⇒ Lights |
| ⇒ Chi Rho | ⇒ Earth |
| ⇒ Peace Dove | ⇒ Clam |
| ⇒ Triumphant Church Cross | ⇒ Fish or IΧTHUS |
| ⇒ Jerusalem Cross | ⇒ Lamp |
| ⇒ Round Cross | ⇒ Heart |
| ⇒ HIS--Iota, Eta, Sigma | ⇒ Symbol of Love |
| ⇒ Trinity | ⇒ Star of David |
| ⇒ Babe in a manger | ⇒ 8 pointed Armenian Star |
| | ⇒ Grapes |
| | ⇒ Wheat |

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. Colossians 1:15-18 NIV

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Presidential Greetings

BGC Family,

Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year to each of you and those whom you cherish! On behalf of the entire Executive Committee, General Board, Executive Minister and Staff, I extend unto you the blessings of hope, peace, joy and love. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded that God is still able to do a new thing in each of our lives; and that God has heard our prayers for deliverance. Thank you for all of your support extended unto the Baptist General Convention and how through your extravagant generosity we were able to accomplish many of our 2018 objectives and missions goals.

As a pastor, I am aware of the many financial obligations that we all have within the context of our local communities of faith, yet I ask of you to please remember your beloved BGC during this season of giving and financial forecasting for 2019. I conclude in the celebratory and inspiring words of the prophet Isaiah, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace...Isaiah 9:6"

President Gregory M. Howard



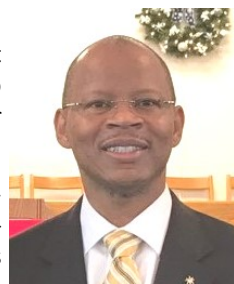
A Message from our Executive Minister

"Glory To GOD in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom GOD'S favor rests."

Singing Christmas songs, seeing illumination of lights, hearing joyful sounds, reminds each of us the season of JESUS' presence which invites us to experience anew the essence of "for GOD so love the world." Indeed, IMMANUEL is with us.

With great appreciation, I express my profound gratitude for the many marvelous ways BGCVA has witnessed about the Light of CHRIST in 2018. Our collective work and services to the missions and ministry have made fertile our faith, family and our friends.

We thank each pastor and church as well as every moderator and association for your ongoing support that makes this ministry of BGCVA possible. Your generous support anchors our missions and



strengthens our partners like Virginia Union University, Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Children's Home Virginia Baptist, Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, Virginia Council of Churches and so many others.

We prepare now for a greater collaborative witness for 2019. All of the events, dates, and locations are enclosed in this Herald on pages 6 & 7. The staff has arranged details on each event. Your participation and that of your members will enhance the overall effectiveness of your local, statewide, national and global ministry. In addition, each staff member is ready and available to assist you in your ministry development and growth. We are here for you and because of you! Please continue to keep us in your prayers and include us in your budget as well as your place for continue-education, fellowship, and global witness. BGC is the Place To Be!

Thank you for praying and positioning, my family in our relocation from Chesapeake to Chesterfield. Our new home is centrally located that minimizes our daily commute to work and to school. We praise GOD that your kind consideration has lead to a full time position for Sister Cathy Whitaker in the school system of her first choice, namely Chesterfield County Public Schools as a guidance counselor. Our oldest son, Yohance is one semester away for completing his Master of Divinity degree at the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology. After completing a year of research at the National Institute of Health, Adom has joined us in Richmond and is enrolled in a graduate program at Virginia Commonwealth University. We are all rejoicing and praising GOD for our BGC family and all the wonderful things the LORD is making known to us each day and every step on this wonderful journey back home to BGCVA. We thank Dr. Gregory Howard, the officers, the Executive and General Boards, and each of you as well as the staff for your heart-felt and kind assistance in this transition for my family and me.

Our celebrations this year included recognizing our former BGC Presidents, Women In Ministry, all new pastors, new churches and new moderators. We also celebrated milestones in ministry with each of pastor and church ending in five or zero. During our Mid-Winter Retreat, we will honor widows and widowers whose spouse served as a pastor and/or minister in a BGC church or association.

Finally, please introduce your friends and family to the ministry of BGCVA! WE are always delighted to welcome new ministers and churches to the convention. When you consider new ministries, BGCVA will be ready to join in supporting your endeavor and spreading the great work the HOLY SPIRIT is perfecting in you. When the last second of the year winks at the new day to appear, my you be bless with good cheer, joy and peace throughout the year.

For The Kingdom of Christ, I Am

Dr. Leo Whitaker

Fall Session 2018 Highlights



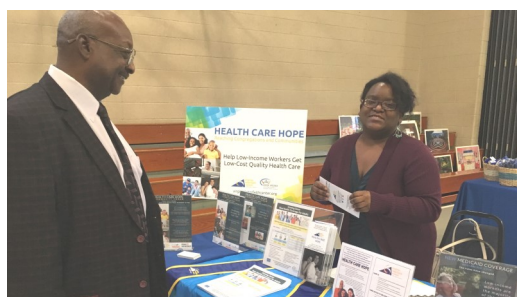
Guest Preacher— Dr. John Kinney



BGCVA Men's Ministry Meeting



Exhibitor — Diversified Ministry for Cultural Exchange, Inc.



Exhibitor — Virginia Interfaith Center



Exhibitor — Virginia Union University

BGCVA Children & Youth Kwanzaa Challenge

Kwanzaa (first fruits of the harvest) is a staple of African American culture where we join together to celebrate our rich heritage and tradition. For seven days, persons will come together as a community/family to uplift the principles of Kwanzaa also known as Nguza Saba through celebrations, decorations, food and the lighting of candles on the Kinara. In honor of our roots which are embedded in celebrations like Kwanzaa, we are asking our Youth to post on social media (via Facebook, Instagram, etc.) every day during this holiday a picture of how the principles of Kwanzaa are being lived out in their daily lives. Follow the guide below for each day and use the hashtag **#BGCForever**. Happy Kwanzaa!!

First Day: December 26

Principle: Umoja (Unity)

- ❖ Post a picture with the members of your family. {Example: Parents, Grandparents, Siblings and Extended Family.}

Second Day: December 27

Principle: Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)

- ❖ Post a picture of you and a goal that you have completed. {Example: You with a trophy from your team sports event.}

Third Day: December 28

Principle: Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility)

- ❖ Post a picture of you helping others. {Example: Volunteering.}

Fourth Day: December 29

Principle: Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)

- ❖ Post a picture of you supporting a Black-Owned Business. {Example: Your local ice cream shop.}

Fifth Day: December 30

Principle: Nia (Purpose)

- ❖ Post a picture of you doing something that is your God given passion. {Example: writing a poem, running track or doing gymnastics.}

Sixth Day: December 31

Principle: Kuumba (Creativity)

- ❖ Post a picture of participating in the creative arts. {Example: Dancing Ballet or Tap, Spoken Word, Acting in a play, etc.}

Seventh Day: January 1

Principle: Imani (Faith)

- ❖ Post a picture of you at your church or with your church family.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries Update

As the end of the year approaches rapidly, the BGCVA Youth and Young Adult Ministries desires take the time to celebrate the constant effort and work of those whom we serve. This why on December 30, 2018 we will have our statewide **BGC College Day**. We are asking that our churches use this last Sunday of the year as an opportunity to publically recognize all of our college students. Whether it is for example with small gifts of love or a brief reception, it is our hope that on this day, all of our college students know that they are supported by their church as well as their convention. Let us end the year with giving back to our young people in a great way.

On January 21, 2019 to commemorate **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, we are asking for our young people to submit speeches about social justice and change. It is our hope that our young people through this written work, will describe the shift that they want to see in our world and how they will be agents of change to make this happen. The final selected piece will be published in our next issues of the Baptist General Herald and the deadline for this will be February 28, 2019.

Also in February for **Black History Month** we are asking the youth and young adult ministries of our affiliate churches to participate in a month dedicated to the Arts. Our theme for this month is **"Ubuntu: I Am Because We Are!"** If it's through a play, spoken word, dance, a written speech, or other creative expressions, we desire to see how our young people from each congregation will celebrate this month that means so much to our culture with their church family. Please send all submissions for the MLK Day Speeches and well as the pictures from the Black History Creative Arts Celebrations to youth@bgcva.org. We are excited about the great things that God has done for us this year and we are looking forward to see what more God will do in the New Year of 2019.

Blessings,

Rev. Kaiya Jennings

Youth and Young Adult Director



The Season of LENT 2019 - Weekly Readings for Reflection

ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 6	SCRIPTURES	PSALM	SCRIPTURES	GOSPEL
1 st Sunday in Lent (March 10)	Joel 1:1-2, 12-17	Psalms 51:1 – 17	2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
2 nd Sunday in Lent (March 17)	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalms 91:1-12, 9-16	Romans 10:8b – 13	Luke 4:1 – 13
3 rd Sunday in Lent (March 24)	Genesis 15:1 – 12, 17 – 18	Psalms 27	Philippians 3:17 – 4:1	Luke 13:31 – 35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-143a)
4 th Sunday in Lent (March 31)	Joshua 5:9 – 12	Psalms 32	2 Corinthians 5:16 – 21	Luke 15:1 – 3, 11b – 32
5 th Sunday in Lent (April 7)	Isaiah 43:16 – 21	Psalms 126	Philippians 3:4b – 14	John 12:1 – 8
6 th Sunday in Lent (April 14) Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4 – 9a	Psalms 31:9 – 16	Philippians 2:5 – 11	Luke 22: 14 – 23:56 or Luke 23: 1 – 49
Resurrection Day – April 21	Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalms 118:1 – 2, 14 – 24	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43	John 20:1 – 18 or Luke 24:1 – 12
April 28	Acts 5:27 – 32	Psalms 118:14-29 or Psalm 150	Revelation 1:4 – 8	John 20:19 – 31
May 5	Acts 9:1 – 6, (7 – 20)	Psalms 30	Revelation 5:11 – 14	John 21:1 – 19
May 12	Acts 9:36 – 43	Psalms 23	Revelation 7:9 – 17	John 10:22 – 30
May 19	Acts 11: 1 – 18	Psalms 148	Revelation 21:6	John 13:31 – 35
May 26	Acts 16:9 – 16	Psalms 67	Revelation 21:10, 22 – 22:5	John 14:23 – 29 or John 5: 1 – 9
Ascension Sunday – May 30	Acts 1:1 – 11	Psalms 47 or Psalm 93	Ephesians 1:15 – 23	Luke 24:44 – 53
May 31	1 Samuel 2:1 – 10	Psalms 113	Romans 12:9 – 16B	Luke 1:39 – 57
June 2	Acts 16:16 – 34	Psalms 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20 – 26
Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1 – 21 or Genesis 11:1 – 9	Psalms 104:24 – 34, 35b	Romans 8:14 – 17 or Acts 2:1-21	John 14:8 – 17 (25 – 27)

Litany for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Quotations from Letter from the Birmingham City Jail by Martin Luther King Jr.; Litany by W. B. McClain and L. H. Stookey, U.S.A., 20th Cent. From The United Methodist Book of Worship (Nashville: The United Methodist Publishing House, 1992.) Used by permission. For information about reproducing this material, please contact the United Methodist Publishing House. Letter from the Birmingham City Jail © 1963 by Martin Luther King Jr.; © renewed 1991 by Coretta Scott King.

We remember the conviction of Martin Luther King Jr. that "freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

Therefore, let us pray for courage and determination by those who are oppressed. . . .

We remember Martin's warning that "a negative peace which is the absence of tension" is less than "a positive peace which is the presence of justice."

Therefore, let us pray that those who work for peace on our world may cry out first for justice. . . .

We remember Martin's insight that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

Therefore, let us pray that we may see nothing in isolation, but may know ourselves bound to one another and to all people under heaven. . . .

We remember Martin's lament that "the contemporary church is often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch-supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's silent and often vocal sanction of things as they are."

Therefore, let us pray that neither this congregation nor any congregation of Christ's people may be silent in the face of wrong, but that we may be disturbers of the status quo when that is God's call to us. . . .

We remember Martin's hope that "dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities and in some not-too-distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."

Therefore, in faith, let us commend ourselves and our work for justice to the goodness of almighty God.

A Litany for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
(From University of South Carolina – Dr. Harris Pastides, President; Office of the Provost; Department of Athletics, Eric Hyman, Director of Athletics; Division of Business and Finance, Dr. William T. Moore, Vice President for Finance and Planning.)

LEADER: In a sermon delivered on August 11, 1957, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'what are you doing for others?'"

AUDIENCE: In remembrance of Martin, "What are you doing for others?"

LEADER: King stated that "An individual has not begun to live until he can rise above the narrow horizons of his particular individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

AUDIENCE: In the name of service, "What are you doing for others?"

LEADER: King also said that "Every person must decide, at some point, whether they will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness."

AUDIENCE: In the name of community, "What are you doing for others?"

LEADER: We are all the benefactors of the deeds, contributions and sacrifices of those who have gone before us. They left their mark; we enjoy the fruit of their labor. It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to leave our mark and to make greater contributions to the betterment of society.

AUDIENCE: In the name of those who have gone before us, "What are you doing for others?"

LEADER: To whom much is given, much is required. The freedoms and privileges of our citizenship along with the right to pursue our dreams are gifts of immeasurable proportion. What legacy will we leave those who will come after us?

AUDIENCE: In the name of generations yet to come, "What are you doing for others?"

LEADER: In remembrance of Martin, what will be our response to life's most persistent and urgent question?

AUDIENCE: In response to the question, we endeavor to rise above the narrow confines of individualistic concerns and commit ourselves to making a difference for the betterment of society at large and within the communities in which live.

Shared Ministries Update

New Trustees—Children's Home of Virginia Baptists, Inc.

♦ **Dr. Charles Kellam, Pastor, New Mt Zion Baptist, Painter VA**



♦ **Reverend Justin House, Pastor, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chesterfield, VA**



♦ **Ms. Brenda Faison, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA**

♦ **Mrs. Erna Gilliam Robinson, Union Branch Baptist Church, South Chesterfield, VA**

New President—Virginia Council of Churches

♦ **Reverend Jenee' Gilchrist Shearin was elected to serve as the President of the Coordinating Cabinet, in November 2018.**



New President—Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

♦ **Dr. Timothy Stewart, Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Nassau, Bahamas**

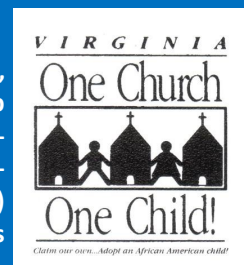


Give The Gift of Home

During this season of giving, Virginia One Church, One Child asks you to consider *giving the gift of home, giving the gift of family to a child*. Many children in foster care will not experience the warmth of family, the hope of a bright future, and the sheer joy of opening gifts Christmas morning surrounded by love ones. Won't you consider adopting a child and giving that child the stability and permanence that adoption offers.

Virginia One Church, One Child can help you begin this special parenting journey. Call us at (804) 329-3420 or email us for more information at.

We at Virginia One Church, One Child wish you a Christmas season filled with joy, peace, and love.



2019 BGCVA
Church Finance and
Tax Compliance
Conference

January 12, 2019
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM



First Baptist Church Centralia
2920 Kingsdale Road, Richmond, VA
23234

This exciting, one-day conference is designed for Pastors, Trustees, Deacons, Treasurers, Finance Ministry, Finance Committee, etc.



Guest Preacher

The Reverend
William J. Key –
Retirement Benefits
Consultant, MMBB
Financial Services

Registration is \$50 per person
Deadline is **December 29, 2018**
Register Today!
www.bgcva.org

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

Baptist General Convention of Virginia
*Reviving Our Roots: Prophetic Preaching and
Our Missional Mandate*
Luke 4:18-19(NIV)

Mental Health First Aid



Sometimes, first aid isn't
a **bandage**,
or **CPR**,
or the **Heimlich**,
or calling **911**.

Sometimes, first aid is **YOU!**

Someone you know could be experiencing a
mental illness or crisis. You can help them.

January 19, 2018
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

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

Only 30
spots
available!!

Registration
is **\$50**
(Includes
Continental
Breakfast
and Boxed
Lunch)



Questions? Contact
shanon.taitt@samhsa.hhs.gov or
eburke@bgcva.org

Register Today! bgcva.org

Baptist General Convention of Virginia
In Association with
The Saint Paul's Baptist Church
Presents

2019 Children and Youth Workers Conference

**"Can These Bones
Live?
Reviving &
Reshaping Our
Children & Youth
Ministries"**

Ezekiel 17:2-10



March 2, 2019
@ The Saint Paul's Baptist
Church
4247 Creighton Road
Henrico, VA 23223

For more info call 804.228.2421
or email youth@bgcva.org

Registration is
\$65 per person



www.bgcva.org



The Saint Paul's Baptist Church
"A Church for People On the Grow!"

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

BGCVA Mid-Winter Retreat FEBRUARY 22 – 23, 2019



@ The Westin Hotel Richmond
6631 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230
888.627.7786

Registration is \$150.00 per person.

(Includes all meals and registration pack)

Hotel Reservations

King Beds Only - \$129 + 14.5% tax = \$147.71

Deadline: **February 14, 2019**



*Baptist General Convention of Virginia
Make your RESERVATIONS for the
120th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education
June 23–27, 2019*

*@ The Norfolk Waterside Marriott
235 East Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510
Call 1(800)228-9290 or (757)627-4200 Today!*

\$137.66 per night (King or 2 Queen), occupancy & sales tax included.

PLEASE NOTE: Name changes may be made to room reservations prior to arrival at the established group rate at no charge, if there is no change to arrival and departure dates. In the event a guest who has requested a room within Group's block checks out prior to guest's reserved checkout date, the Hotel will add an early checkout fee to that guest's individual account. Guests wishing to avoid an early checkout fee should advise the Hotel at or before check-in of any change in planned length of stay. The Hotel will inform members of your Group of this potential charge and requests that you (BGCVA) also inform your attendees of this obligation.

Deadline to reserve is *June 3, 2019 by 5:00 PM.*

Attendee Registration

All week (including all-week registration pack & meals*) - \$200.00

One Day (including one-day pack & one meal*) - \$100.00

(*Excludes Evening Gala)

*Look Out For The Official
Registration Packet In The
Coming Months!!!*

Lott Carey Executive Secretary-Treasurer Accepts New Post



We rejoice in a new ministry opportunity that is calling Lott Carey's Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, to build on our investments in pastoral

leadership development. He will join the Divinity School of Duke University in the fall as Research Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies and Faculty Director of the Office of Black Church Studies. He will teach courses at the intersection of theology and Black Church Studies, provide intellectual and strategic leadership for the Office, and mentor students.

This new role builds on his work in Lott Carey's leadership formation ministries which include: the Pastoral Excellence Program; the Calling Congregations Initiative; the Pastoral Peer Group Development Project; the Fountain Project for Congregational and Clergy Coaching; Leading the Lott Carey Way; and the new Thriving in Ministry Initiative that supports women pastors and young adult pastors to flourish in ministry. Additionally, Lott Carey partners with Shaw University Divinity School to certify our annual Missions Education Program; collaborates with the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in a new Doctor of Ministry in Global Leadership program that will graduated its first students in May 2018; and is recruiting students to pursue the Master of Theological Studies degree in association with Palmer Theological Seminary at Eastern University.

Lott Carey will restructure Dr. Goatley's role to focus on strategic leadership and resource development. This refinement of responsibilities will create new opportunities for Lott Carey to explore innovative partnerships with a prominent Research I University and will afford fresh avenues of leadership formation for students who are preparing for ministry as vocation. We look forward to exploring synergies and imagining new opportunities for extending the Christian witness throughout the world.

Lott Carey: Committed to Missions Around the Corner and Around the World



In August, 2018, during its 121st Annual Session, The Lott Carey Foreign Missions Convention elected the Reverend

Dr. Gregory J. Jackson of Hackensack, New Jersey as its new

President. Dr. Jackson, who serves as pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Hackensack, New Jersey, succeeds Dr. Alyn E. Waller, Pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as president. Dr. Jackson will continue to extend the witness of the Lott Carey global Christian missional community within the United States and around the world. Through prayer partnerships, financial support, and technical assistance, Lott Carey comes alongside indigenous communities to support ministries of evangelism, compassion, empowerment, and advocacy. Together, as Lott Carey, we are touching lives with God's transforming love.

(Please continue sending your contributions to BGCVA for Lott Carey in support of Lott Carey Missions endeavors in the USA and around the world.

Welcome! New BGCVA Board Members

New General Board Members—Baptist General Convention of Virginia

- ◆ Dr. Keith Jones, Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church, Norfolk



- ◆ Dr. Melvin Blackwell, Pastor, Little Zion Baptist Church, Smithfield



- ◆ Dr. Dwight Shawrod Riddick, II, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Franklin



Homegoing for BGCVA 36th President



BGCVA offers sympathy to the family of **The Reverend Dr. Kenny Smith**, his beloved wife, The Reverend Dr. Mary Smith, his faithful daughters, Donna Renee Smith and Christa

Denise Smith and the congregations of the First Baptist church of Vienna, Dr. Vernon C. Walton and the First Baptist Church, Merrifield, where Dr. Kenny Smith was serving as the interim pastor.

The Homegoing Service for Dr. Smith was attended by Reverend Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Howard, Reverend Dr. James Victor, Reverend Dr. Leo Whitaker, former BGCVA Presidents, Reverend Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ, Reverend Dr. & Mrs. Darrell K. White (Jaffee) and Reverend Dr. Daniel Brown. Sacred reflections were expressed by Drs. Howard and Gould-Champ.

All BGCVA officers who were present stood along with other BGCVA pastors and moderators during the presentation of the *Resolution* which was read as the BGCVA presidential medallion was presented to the family.

Disaster Relief Fund Contributors 2018

- Union Branch Baptist Church, Arvon, VA—\$100.00
- Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Ivy, VA—\$250.00
- First Church of Newport News Baptist, Newport News, VA—\$1,357.00
- New Hope Baptist Church, Danville, VA—\$100.00
- Area H-3, Hampton, VA—\$500.00
- First Antioch Baptist Church, Powhatan, VA—\$660.00
- First Baptist Church East End, Newport News, VA—\$1,000.00
- Lebanon Baptist Association, Windsor, VA—\$10,000.00

Total: was \$13,967.00

Also, Fifth Baptist Church, Richmond, VA did a drive to supply the Carolinas with undergarments and toiletries.

These contributions were to help the Carolinas after Hurricane Florence.

Social Justice Ministry/ Social Justice Commission Update

This has been a very busy and productive year beginning with our annual work with our partner organizations beginning with the General Assembly in January. Each year we adopt a shared agenda with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), State NAACP and other social justice advocates to push for justice for every citizen.

The shared agenda with VICPP for the 2019 General Assembly Session can be accessed at <https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/get-involved/general-assembly-2019/>. On this



page you will also find the Medicaid Expansion Outreach Toolkit. We celebrate that after years of effort Virginia finally passed Medicaid Expansion. We are working with VICPP and others to help our eligible members to take advantage of this expanded coverage.

Please let us know what you plan to do to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. If we can be of assistance let us know.

We invite you to join us for Day for All People on January 22, 2019 Centenary United Methodist Church, Richmond (see VICPP or BGCVA) website for details. This day begins with brief training on the issues and offers an opportunity for going to the General Assembly to meet with legislators to share our concerns and/or support of proposed legislation. For additional information contact Dr. J. Elsha Burke.

<https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/events/day-for-all-people-lobby-day-at-the-general-assembly/1548140400/1548165600/>

Chickahominy Baptist Association's Youth/Young Adult Health Forum: Bridging the Gap Highlights

This events was held on November 17, 2018. There was FREE breakfast, healthy lunch, active demonstrations, health screenings, ID's & fingerprinting for children, interactive sessions, Multi-generational panel & special guests.



VUU Founders Day Contributions

VUU Founder's Day is Friday, February 1, 2018! When all of our churches and associations make a generous donation to our dear VUU our goal of \$100,000 will be realized. Please plan to have a special offering this Christmas for VUU. We ask that your checks be written to BGCVA with VUU in the memo. All names and amounts will be shared at the rally on that day when the grand presentation is made.



Dr. Corey D. Walker Resigns as Dean of VUU's Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology

Effective December 31, 2018, Dr. Corey D. B. Walker will conclude his role as Vice-President of Mission Integration and Dean of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology (STVU) at Virginia Union University (VUU).



As of December 3, 2018, VUU began the process of launching a national search for a new STVU leader. The search committee will be co-chaired by Dr. Boykin Sanders, Distinguished Professor of New Testament Studies and Greek, and the Reverend Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church and VUU Board of Trustees member.

A committee consisting of two STVU professors, Dr. Boykin Sanders, Dr. Denise Janssen, Associate Professor of Christian Education, and Dr. Deborah Martin, newly appointed Interim Assistant Dean of STVU, has been established to provide for a seamless transition and to maintain efficient day to day operations for the school. In the coming weeks, a new Interim Dean of STVU will be announced.

The Baptist General Convention of Virginia joins VUU in expressing our sincere thanks to Dr. Walker for his strong leadership since joining VUU/STVU in 2017. The University will celebrate the work of Dr. Walker at a University-wide event in the future.

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 2018.

* The Reverend Dr. M. Sylvia Ball—Dr. Ball humbly served as pastor of Sweet Union Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA. She was also a faithful member of the Baptist General Convention's General Board and our dedicated Finance Ministry Chairperson.



* The Reverend Dr. Joseph A. Keaton—In 1987, Dr. Keaton called to pastor the Central Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA. After 30 years of faithful service Dr. Keaton retired with the distinction of Pastor Emeritus of Central Baptist Church.



* The Reverend Dr. Joan S. Parrott—Affectionately referred to as a "trailblazer", made history when she was elected the first female Pastor of the historic First Baptist Church of Hampton, where she served with compassion and grace.



* The Reverend William I. Roane—Former president of the Northern Neck Baptist Association Ministers' Conference, former pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Colonial Beach, VA, assistant pastor of Second Baptist Church, Warsaw, VA.



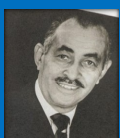
* The Reverend Dr. Kenny Smith—Dr. Smith was a faithful servant to the mission and ministry of BGCVA as 36th President. Pastor of First Baptist church in Vienna. See page 5 for more in the homegoing services.



* Reverend Dennis E. Thomas—Served as the pastor of Richmond's historic First African Baptist Church, for 20 years. During his tenure there he often shared his gift of teaching at BGCVA events. After serving faithfully at First African, Reverend Thomas left the Richmond area to serve as pastor of his home church, First Corinthian Baptist Church, in Philadelphia, PA.



* The Reverend Dr. Wyatt T. Walker—Dr. Walker began his ministry as the Pastor of the Historic Gillfield Baptist Church in Petersburg, Virginia (1952-1960), while also serving the members of Mt. Level Baptist Church in Dinwiddie, VA.



Celebrating 2018 Anniversaries

Church Anniversaries

- ◇ 150th Anniversary—Beulah Baptist Church, Lively, VA
- ◇ 150th Anniversary—Potomac Baptist Church, Hague, VA
- ◇ 150th Anniversary—Galilee Baptist Church, Montross, VA
- ◇ 150th Anniversary—Swann's Point Baptist Church, Spring Grove, VA
- ◇ 75th Anniversary—Great Hope Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

Pastoral Anniversaries

- ◇ 45th Anniversary—Dr. Dwight C. Jones of Richmond, VA
- ◇ 35th Anniversary—Dr. Robert G. Murray of Norfolk, VA
- ◇ 15th Anniversary—Dr. Carla E. Lightfoot of Dunnsville, VA
- ◇ 10th Anniversary—Dr. Tyrone Jackson, Jr. of Norfolk, VA
- ◇ 10th Anniversary—Dr. Rodney Waller of Richmond, VA
- ◇ 10th Anniversary—Dr. George W. C. Lyons of Petersburg, VA
- ◇ 10th Anniversary—Dr. Howard-John Wesley of Alexandria, VA

2018 BGCVA New Churches

- ◇ Southside Community Christian Church, Richmond, VA - Founder: Rev. Terry Johnson
- ◇ Little Ark Baptist Church, King George
- ◇ New Hope Baptist Church, Suffolk
- ◇ Swann's Point Baptist Church, Spring Grove
- ◇ Judah Praise Fellowship Christian Church, Fairfax
- ◇ Ebenezer Baptist Church, Painter

2018 Ministry Milestones

- ◇ New Edifice—First Baptist Church Mahan, Suffolk, VA
- ◇ New Ministry—Mt. Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church, Chesapeake, VA, "The Elders House", Bishop Kim Brown and Elder Valerie Brown
- ◇ New Consecration—Bishop Dexter Cannon of Richmond, VA
- ◇ New Family Life Center—Grove Baptist Church, Portsmouth, VA
- ◇ Marriage Anniversary—50 years, Dr. & Mrs. Earl M. Brown of Richmond, VA

In Celebration - Pastor Emeritus

WE SALUTE YOU!

FORMER BGCVA PRESIDENT ELECTED PASTOR EMERITUS OF THE ZION BAPTIST CHURCH OF HAMPTON, VIRGINIA



Dr. Browlee Hailstock, an alumnus of Virginia Union University's School of Theology and former President of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, pastored Zion Baptist Church for more than 30 years.

On behalf of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, officers, staff, constituent churches, moderators and associations, we excitedly share in your joy of being recognized by the church you served for so many years.

As we celebrate with you, we strongly believe that God is not finished with you yet and thus, we pray God's continued blessings of abundance upon you in all you say and do for the glory of our God.

2018 BGCVA New Pastors

- ◇ Dr. Theodore Brown, Quioccasin Baptist Church, Richmond
- ◇ Reverend Corey T. Bland, New Light Baptist Church, Richmond
- ◇ Dr. William Jackson, Fourth Baptist Church, Richmond
- ◇ Reverend Ricardo Haynes, Brown Grove Baptist Church, Chesterfield,
- ◇ Reverend Demaro Robinson, Bright Hope Baptist Church, Louisa
- ◇ Dr. Tracie Daniels, St. Mark Baptist Church, Maidens
- ◇ Reverend Ronzo Lee, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Goochland
- ◇ Dr. John Johnson, Union Baptist Church, Hopewell
- ◇ Reverend R. Perez Gatling, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Virginia Beach
- ◇ Reverend Gregory Boothe, Jr, Centennial Baptist Church, Portsmouth
- ◇ Elder Paul Paige, New First Baptist Church, Taylorsville, Portsmouth
- ◇ Reverend Cory J. Taylor, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Richmond
- ◇ Reverend Randolph Scott, Union Shiloh Baptist Church, Laneview
- ◇ Reverend McKinley Williams, First Baptist Church, Lexington
- ◇ Reverend Danny Tucker, Sr., Parrish Hill Baptist Church, Charles City

BGCVA 2019 Conferences & Events

Please include these Dates on your 2019 Church Calendar

January

- 12 Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference, First Baptist Church Centralia, North Chesterfield
- 19 Mental Health First Aid Training, BGCVA State Office, Richmond
- 21 MLK Celebration
- 22 BGCVA @ the VA General Assembly, Richmond
- 22 Day For All People, Centenary United Methodist Church, Richmond
- 27 Statewide BGCVA Day

February

- 1 VUU Founders Day
- 22-23 Mid-Winter Retreat, The Westin Hotel, Richmond

March

- 2 Children's & Youth Workers' Conference, St. Paul's Baptist Church, Richmond
- 9 VUU Church Leadership Conference

April

- 11 Spring General Board Meeting, BGCVA State Office, Richmond

June

- 23-27 120th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel, Norfolk

July

- 12-13 Youth Retreat @ VUU & BGCVA Day @ Kings Dominion, Richmond
- 13 Children's Home Founders Day

September (Christian Education Month)

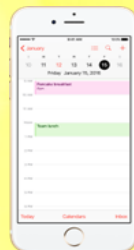
- 7 Church School Conference, Central VA
- 12 General Board Strategic Planning Meeting, Richmond
- 14 Church School Conference, Tidewater

October (Clergy Appreciation Month)

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

November

- 6 Day of Social Action
- 7 Fall Session, Fifth Baptist Church, Richmond
- 9 Church School Conference, Roanoke



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

2019 Budget

As you prepare your 2019 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 2018 contribution, we pray that you will be able to do so by December 31, 2018. 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

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