

# Baptist Herald

**Seasons Greetings from the Officers and Staff of the Baptist General Convention! Especially at Christmas, constituents and friends of the BGCVA family remind us of how God blesses us through you. We are sincerely appreciative of your participation in our events and your financial contributions. Our prayer during this season and throughout the year is that God will continue to bless you. May all that the Christ Child brings come alive in you this season and throughout the coming year.**

**President Steven G. Blunt  
Interim Executive Minister  
David L. Chapman  
The BGCVA Officers and Staff**



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

## Louisiana Flood Recovery

Thank you to the following individuals and churches who donated:

- The Rev. Charles F. Baugham, Richmond, VA
- The Rev. Alden G. Vaughan, Richmond, VA
- Beulah Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA
- Concord Baptist Church, Chase City, VA
- Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Bumpass, VA
- St. James Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

## Pastoral Installations

On Sunday, October 30, 2016, The Reverend Dr. Dexter Cannon was installed as pastor of the Grayland Baptist Church in Richmond. Dr. Cannon is the Immediate Past President of the BGCVA Clergy Ministry.



## **Baptist Herald**

Executive Editor:

The Reverend David L. Chapman

Editor:

Mrs. Sheryl Blowe-McDowney

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Mrs. Keshia H. Butler

## **State Officers**

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The Reverend Dr. Robert J. Murray  
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Clergy Ministry

Mr. Larry Pinchback  
Men's Ministry

Mrs. Florene Taylor  
Women's Ministry

## **Administration**

The Reverend David L. Chapman  
Interim Executive Minister

## **A Legacy of Generosity: A Individual Appeal**

Thank you to all who gave and will give to this new way of giving:

- ◇ Mrs. Iris Brown, Petersburg, VA
- ◇ Mrs. S. A. Cabarras, Virginia Beach, VA
- ◇ Mrs. Beverly Chapman, Chester, VA
- ◇ Mr. & Mrs. John (Rubyette) Clark, Midlothian, VA
- ◇ Mr. Andrew Farrar, Prince George, VA
- ◇ Ms. Carolyn Funn, Chester, VA
- ◇ The Rev. Willis Funn, Powhatan, VA
- ◇ Mr. Nathaniel Garland, Keswick, VA
- ◇ Rev. Marvin Gilliam, Jr., Ruther Glen, VA
- ◇ Ms. Patricia Gilliam, Chesterfield, VA
- ◇ Ms. Nellie Gray, Buckingham, VA
- ◇ The Rev. Earl Hall, Sr., Mechanicsville, VA
- ◇ Mr. Coolidge Hamlett, California, MD
- ◇ Ms. Mary Hamlett, Alton, VA
- ◇ Mr. Willie Moring, Chester, VA
- ◇ Mr. & Mrs. Howard (Louetta) Newman, Aldie, VA
- ◇ The Rev. Dr. Grady Powell, Petersburg, VA
- ◇ The Rev. Dr. Vera Rhyne, No. Chesterfield, VA
- ◇ Mr. & Mrs. James (Connie) Robinson, Hampton, VA
- ◇ Ms. Renatha Saunders, Alexandria, VA
- ◇ The Rev. Michael Shannon, Petersburg, VA
- ◇ Mr. Dwight Snead, Glen Allen, VA
- ◇ Mrs. Mary Spells, Newport News, VA
- ◇ Ms. Leslie Spratley, Springfield, VA
- ◇ Ms. Myrtle Spurlock, Richmond, VA
- ◇ Mrs. Florene Taylor, Charlottesville, VA
- ◇ Mrs. Canzata Turner, Petersburg, VA
- ◇ Ms. Pauline Young, Fairfax, VA

### **In Memorial:**

- ◆ Mrs. Clarissa Blunt, Franklin, VA—In Memory of My Husband, The Rev. Dr. Henry Blunt
- ◆ Mrs. Barbara Crump, Glen Allen, VA—In Memory of My Husband, The Rev. Dr. Daniel Crump
- ◆ The Rev. Kenneth Dunn, Church View, VA—In Memory of Ms. Ruth Johnson

- ◆ Ms. Patricia Gayle, Chesapeake, VA—In Memory of Mr. Jeffrey Gayle
- ◆ Dea. Carolyn Hayes, Chesapeake, VA—In Memory of My Sister, Dea. Joyce Horton
- ◆ Mr. W. Vernon McMillan, Alexandria, VA—In Memory of Ms. Eunice Sutton
- ◆ Col. & Mrs. James (Faith) Palmer, Williamsburg, VA—In Memory of Our Mother, Ms. M. Frances Turner
- ◆ Ms. Jacqueline Poe, Chesapeake, VA—In Memory of Rev. Dr. Noel Taylor
- ◆ Mrs. Odessa Roane, Hague, VA—In Memory of My Husband, Dea. Alphonso Roane, Sr.
- ◆ Ms. Dorothy Rollins, Gum Spring, VA—In Memory of My Mother, Mrs. Mary Cook

## **A Message from the Director of Youth & Young Adults**

We understand that we are living in times where our youth need to be constantly encouraged to keep traveling along this Christian journey, but what about our youth workers? Being a youth worker can be at times very challenging. It is of the utmost importance for those who are called to work with our youth to be properly equipped with the necessary skills that will help them to help others. We have two major seminars coming up in 2017 for our youth workers here at BGC, one during our Annual Mid-Winter Session in Danville on February 17th & 18th that will address the "10 Misconceptions About Youth Ministry." The other which will be held here in Richmond on March 18th entitled "It's More Than A Name and It's Not A Game" that will address the importance of youth ministry from several different life dynamics. Also we will be having a free Youth Pastor/Youth Director Meet here at the state office on April 22nd. Here at BGC, we are trying to tackle the hard questions that are posed by our youth while addressing the most common "stumbling blocks" that are found by our youth workers. We believe that with



**Make your RESERVATIONS for the  
118th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education  
June 25—29, 2017  
@ The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center  
110 Shenandoah Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24016**

**Call (540) 985-5900 Today!**

**\$131.43 per night (Single/Double), 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 May 22, 2017.**



everything we know and with everything we don't, through intentional meditation on the word of God alongside the shared life experiences of those who surround us, we know that God will provide clarity on the issues that we face daily while laboring for the kingdom.

Min. Kaiya Jennings

## The Search Is On!!! For Our Next Executive Minister!!

October 17, 2016 (Richmond, VA)

The Baptist General Convention of Virginia is pleased to announce its search to fill the position of Executive Minister. For 117 years, the Baptist General Convention of Virginia has maintained its mission to unite and equip churches, ministries, associations, and constituents to do holistic ministry that propagate the Gospel, advances the Kingdom of God, and support education and missions in Virginia and beyond.



As of October 15, 2016, both the

job description and the application for this position have been posted on the Baptist General Convention of Virginia's official website at [www.bgcva.org](http://www.bgcva.org), and on the websites of Virginia Union University and selected Baptist General Convention of Virginia associations and local churches.

The application process began on October 15th and will continue until the position is filled. We encourage you to visit the aforementioned websites to secure a copy of the job description as well as the application for the position. We solicit your prayers as we move forward in our work to present the next Executive Minister of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia at our 2017 Annual Session.

## The Margaret Rose Johnson Scholarship Recipients

BGCVA is excited to announce the recipients of the 2016 Women's Ministry scholarships. Each recipient received a \$1200 scholarship to further their education at Virginia Union University School of Theology. The recipients are:

- Montrez Nicholson, a first year student in the MACE (Master of Arts in Christian Education) program. She is a member the Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA.
- Pamela Atkins, a graduating senior in the MACE program. She attends Anointed New Life Baptist Church, Henrico, VA.

Congratulations to each of these students!

# BGCVA 2017 Conferences & Events

Please include these Dates on your 2017 Church Calendar

### January

- 7 Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference, Richmond
- 13 Youth & Young Adult Freedom Friday Worship, Richmond
- 15-16 MLK Celebration and Day of Ministry Service
- 22 Statewide BGCVA Day

### February

- 3 VUU Founders Day
- 17-18 Mid-Winter Retreat, Danville

### March

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

### April

- 22 Youth Pastors/Directors Meet & Greet, Richmond

### June

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

### July

- 8 Children's Home Founders Day
- 28-30 Youth Retreat, Richmond

### September (Christian Education Month)

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

### 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, Western VA



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

Full Calendar of Conferences & Events Coming Soon!!

Please check our website for all upcoming events and resources.

## Homegoing Celebrations

On behalf of President Blunt, Interim Executive Minister, The Reverend David L. Chapman, staff, and officers of the Baptist General Convention, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of the following persons, who have transitioned into eternal rest since June, 2016.

- \* The Rev. Delaware Clark, Executive Minister, Cherrystone Missionary Baptist Association Center; Pastor, Camp Grove Baptist Church, Ringgold, Virginia
- \* The Rev. Dr. Doris Ashton, Associate Minister, First Baptist Church, Farmville, Virginia
- \* Mr. Luke D. Burke (Father of Reverend Dr. J. Elisha Burke), Elizabeth City, North Carolina
- \* Mrs. Rachel Thompson, Former BGCVA Area K Vice President; Member, Mattaponi Baptist Association; Deaconess, St. James Baptist Church, Ruther Glen, Virginia
- \* Ms. Clara Cretchen Lemelle, Aunt of Past BGCVA President, Dr. Darrell K. White
- \* Mr. Gregory Jones, Husband of Mrs. Shirley Jones (Area C) and Brother of Mrs. Odessa Roane (Area C)
- \* Mrs. Marion Lucille Watson, Mother of Mrs. Bernice Vaughan (The Hat Lady)

## Mid-Winter Retreat

FEBRUARY 17 – 18, 2017

Inclement Weather Date:

February 24-25



@ The

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

Retreat Registration:

\$150.00 per person.

Deadline: **February 3, 2017**

\*\*\*\*\*

Hotel Reservations @Courtyard by Marriott – 2136 Riverside Drive, Danville, VA 24540; 434.791.2661.

King (1 Person) - \$107 + 11.3% tax = \$118.77; Queen (2 Persons) - \$117 + 11.3% tax = \$129.87.

Deadline: **January 18, 2017**



Baptist General Convention of Virginia

1214 West Graham Road

Richmond, Virginia 23220

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## 2017 Budget

As you prepare your 2017 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 2016 contribution, we pray that you will be able to do so by December 31, 2016. God Bless.



## 2017 BGCVA Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference

January 7, 2017  
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM



First Baptist Church Centralia  
2920 Kingsdale Road, Richmond

Registration is \$50 per person  
Deadline is **December 30, 2016**  
Register Today!  
[www.bgcva.org](http://www.bgcva.org)

**SAVE the DATE**

# Freedom Friday

## Millennial Worship Experience

### Friday, January 13, 2017

Come and share with us in Spoken Word, Creative Dance, and Singing

**The Historic Fifth Street Baptist Church**  
2800 Third Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23222  
The Reverend F. Todd Gray, Pastor

The Baptist General Convention of Virginia BGCVA [youth@bgcva.org](mailto:youth@bgcva.org)



The Baptist General Convention of Virginia

# YOUTH WORKERS CONFERENCE

*"It's More Than A Name & It's Not A Game"*

MARCH 18, 2017  
9AM-2PM  
\$60

### Featured Speakers

**REV. ANTHONY HOLMES**  
MINISTER OF YOUTH & MILLENNIAL DEVELOPMENT  
THE SANCTUARY AT KINGDOM SQUARE

**REV. MICHAEL MOORE**  
SENIOR PASTOR  
MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH

**PASTOR MARVIN GILLIAM**  
SENIOR PASTOR  
MT. OMI BAPTIST CHURCH

**DR. JESSICA YOUNG BROWN**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

*Conference Location*

**FIFTH BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1415 W. CARY STREET  
RICHMOND, VA 23220