

Baptist Herald

Prophet Isaiah proclaims, "For a CHILD has been born for us, a SON given to us; authority rests upon HIS shoulders; and HE is named WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE."

We collectively and individually greet you with the joy of JESUS. We reflect over this year and praise GOD for the unsearchable means GOD employs to bless us to be the Light of the World and the Salt of the Earth. Thank you for the awesome gifts you give us all year long. Your prayers and participation in the ministries as well as your financial support have covered us with the grace sufficient to serve you faithfully. We are amazed by the many ways you bless us to share in our collective witness of WORD and works.

With heartfelt appreciation, we
Wish You A Merry CHRISTMAS and
A

Blessed
New
Year.

Gregory M. Howard

Les White

Janet Wynn

Sheryl Blum McRoney

Robin Burke

Keshia D. Butler

B. Martin



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Christmas BLESSINGS

From our hearts to yours



Rejoice

In the glory of the birth of *Christ*
and celebrate the
Miracles and *Blessings*
of the
Holy Spirit

Baptist Herald

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BGCVA 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 Nguzo 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 (Facebook, Twitter, 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 **#BGCisTHEplaceTObe**. 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.



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 Ornament Symbols:

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

Fall Session 2019 Highlights @ Fifth Baptist Church in Richmond



Guest Preacher— Dr. C. Diane Mosby



Guest Preacher— Dr. Rodney D. Waller



Exhibitor—Brotherhood Mutual Insurance / Sanford Insurance Agency



Exhibitor—U. S. Census Bureau



Exhibitor—Dr. Rodney Waller, Author



Exhibitor—Virginia One Church One Child



Exhibitor—Dr. Robert Pettis, Author



Exhibitor—Health Screenings



Exhibitor—Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Author



Exhibitor—United Healthcare



Exhibitor—Kingdom Investments Prayer Ministry



Help your community get the funding it needs for programs and services like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, Medicaid, health clinics, education, and much more.

Complete the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. It's easy, safe, and important.

For more information, visit:
2020CENSUS.GOV



Help us ensure an accurate count.

**United States®
Census
2020**

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

In Celebration Pastoral Anniversaries

- ◇ Dr. Melvin T. Blackwell, Sr.—15 Years
 - ◇ Dr. C. Diane Mosby—10 Years
- WE SALUTE YOU!**

2019 BGCVA New Pastors

- ◇ Dr. Dwayne Baker, Sr., Cross Roads Baptist Church, Catlett, VA
- ◇ Reverend Paul A. Sheppard, First Baptist Church Merrifield, Falls Church, VA
- ◇ Dr. Kenneth Cooper, Spring Creek Baptist Church, Moseley, VA
- ◇ Dr. William H. Whitaker, II, Covenant Fellowship Baptist Church, Chesterfield, VA
- ◇ Reverend Ernest Coppage, Sr., Calvary Baptist Church, Danville
- ◇ Reverend James Banks. Jr., Shiloh Baptist Church, Boykins, VA

Celebrating 2019 Church Anniversaries

- ◇ Poplar Mount Baptist Church, Lawrenceville, VA—150 Years
- ◇ Antioch Baptist Church, Susan, VA—150 Years
- ◇ Hartswell Baptist Church, Lancaster, VA—150 Years

BGC/VUU Scholars' Day @ Hovey Field Highlights



Youth from First Baptist Church – Lambert's Point in Norfolk attended the BGC/VUU Scholars' Day on November 2, 2019.

2020 BGCVA

Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference

January 11, 2020

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.

Registration is \$50 per person

Deadline is **December 28, 2019**

Register Today! www.bgcva.org

Baptist General Convention of Virginia
Presents

2020 Children and Youth Workers Conference

March 7, 2020

9AM—2PM

Alfred Street Baptist Church

301 South Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Making Meaningful Ministry & Making Ministry Meaningful

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



Registration: \$65 per person

www.bgcva.org



New BGCVA Staff Member—Health Ministry

Kareem Jones is the Health Navigator for the Baptist General Convention of Virginia. Mr. Jones is also the Manager of Market Development & Outreach of the Social Determinants of Health. He has been employed with Optima Health for 19 years. Mr. Jones has extensive experience working with many Community Based Organizations. He has an office in Norfolk, Virginia as well as an office at the Baptist General Convention of Virginia State Office Building. Welcome!



- ◆ Delores L. McQuinn, Virginia House of Delegates, 70th District (Chesterfield, Henrico Cos. & Richmond)—Chair of Transportation Committee



- ◆ Jeion A. Ward, Virginia House of Delegates, 92nd District (Hampton)—Chair of General Laws Committee



We also would like to recognize newly elected Delegate:



- ◆ Charniele L. Herring, Virginia House of Delegates, 46th District (Alexandria)—House Majority Leader



- ◆ Joshua G. Cole, Virginia House of Delegates, 28th District (Stafford Co. and Fredericksburg)

We Salute You All!

Virginia Legislative Black Caucus Elect Chairs of Major Committees

- ◆ Dr. Luke E. Torian, Virginia House of Delegates, 52nd District (Prince William Co.) and Pastor of First Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Dumfries—Chair of Appropriations Committee



- ◆ Joseph C. Lindsey, Virginia House of Delegates, 90th District (Norfolk & Virginia Beach)—Chair of House Privileges and Elections Committee



- ◆ Roslyn C. Tyler, Virginia House of Delegates, 75th District (Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Greensville, Isle of Wight, Lunenburg, Southampton, Surry, & Sussex Cos.; Emporia & Franklin)—Chair of Education Committee

National African American History Month Theme 2020

African Americans and the Vote

More information is on their website

<https://asalh.org/black-history-themes/>



BGCVA Mid-Winter Retreat FEBRUARY 21 – 22, 2020



@ The Renaissance Hotel Portsmouth
425 Water Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704
757-673-3000

Registration is \$150.00 per person

(Includes all meals and registration pack)

Hotel Reservations

King Beds - \$112.00 + 14.5% tax = \$128.24

Deadline: February 14, 2020



Baptist General Convention of Virginia

Make your RESERVATIONS for the

121st Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education

June 28—July 3, 2020

@ The Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

Call (703) 845-1010 Today!

\$143.12 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 May 27, 2020 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)

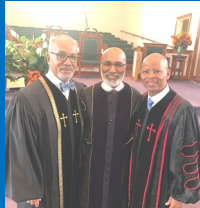
**Look Out For The Official
Registration Packet In The
Coming Months!!!**

VUU Founders Day Contributions

VUU Founder's Day is Friday, February 7, 2020! 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.



Around The State



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. Eugene S. Brown, Jr., Former Pastor, Renewal Ministries Baptist Church, Richmond
- * The Reverend Dr. Dmitri Bradley, Pastor, of City Church, Richmond
- * Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, United States House of Representatives for Maryland's 7th Congressional District
- * Father George Clements, Chicago Priest and Creator of the One Church One Child Program
- * The Reverend Floyd Blackwell, Former Pastor Emeritus, Miracle Temple Baptist Church, Newport News
- * The Reverend Chauncey E. Mann, Jr., Pastor, Grafton Baptist Church, Hartfield

A Litany Celebrating Dr. 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.

BGCVA 2020 Conferences & Events

Please include these Dates on your 2020 Church Calendar

January

- 11 Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference, First BC Centralia, Richmond
- 20-21 MLK Celebration and Day of Ministry Service
- 26 Statewide BGCVA Day

February

- 7 VUU Founders Day
- 21-22 Mid-Winter Ministries Session, Renaissance Hotel, Portsmouth

March

- 7 Children and Youth Workers' Conference, Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria
- 14 VUU Church Leadership Conference

April

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

June

- 28-30 121st Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria

July

- 1-2 121st Annual Session and Congress of Christian Education, Hilton Mark Center, 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

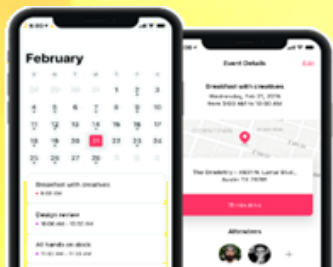
October (Clergy Appreciation Month)

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

November

- 3 Day of Social Action
- 7 Fall Session, Fifth BC, Richmond
- 21 Church School Conference, Roanoke

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

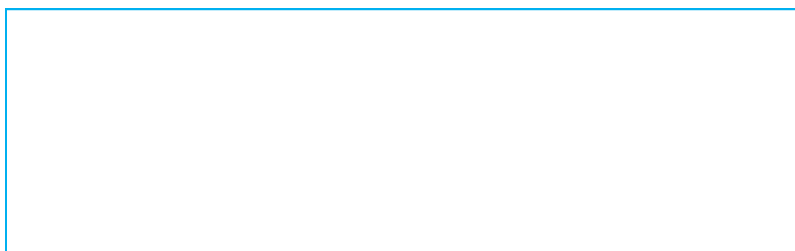




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Richmond, Virginia 23220

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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!**

