

SEPTEMBER ISSUE 2023

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Baptist Herald

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A Message from the BGCVA President & Executive Minister



Blessings and greetings to my BGCVA family.

We thank you for your faithful participation in our Mega Ministries Retreat, Annual Session, and ministry events in 2023. May God be praised for your unwavering support to the Baptist General Convention of Virginia.

This Baptist Herald provides a pictorial presentation of these events. In addition, we are highlighting some of our associational engagements.

We encourage you to participate in our fall ministries. We have posted our upcoming events, and we ask that you share them with your membership and join us as we grow in ministry.

Special thank you to President Milton P. Bunting, the General Board and our BGCVA officers for the kind expressions towards our staff that has served us for more than five years: Sister Keshia Butler and Brother Bruce Martin. We thank GOD for Dr. Elisha Burke for 17 years of faithful service to the BGCVA. Dr. Burke will remain now as our Consultant for Sacred Spaces and our Food Distribution Partnership with the Mormon brothers and sisters.

We are also grateful for Dr. William Whitaker, Dr. Stephanie Wilkes, Rev. Alden Vaughan, and Brother Jae Howard for their ministry to the Baptist General Convention family. Finally, Dr. Leo Whitaker, Leading Lady Cathy Whitaker, and their sons, thank you for recognizing their Fifth-Year anniversary as the Executive Minister of BGCVA. We all look forward to continuing the mission and vision of BGCVA. Please call on your convention in ways that we can strengthen your ministry. May God be praised for your unwavering support to the Baptist General Convention. Your BGCVA staff are all grateful and appreciative of your loving kindness!

Highlights from Mega Ministries Retreat



Highlights from the 124th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Faith Formation



Other Highlights from 2023



1st Vice President James Coleman, President Milton Bunting, Facilitator Janiel Youngblood, & Executive Minister Leo Whitaker during the Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference at First Baptist Church Centralia



Attendees in Facilitator Brenda Bashir's class during the Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference at First Baptist Church Centralia



Parliamentarian GWC Lyons and 3rd Vice President Ricardo Brown at the MLK Community Breakfast at the Richmond Marriott Downtown



1st Vice President James Coleman, President Milton Bunting, 2nd Vice President Griselda Bayton, VUU President Hakim Lucas, 3rd Vice President Ricardo Brown, & Executive Minister Leo Whitaker during the VUU 158th Founders' Day at the Perkins Living and Learning Center VUU



Attendees in the General Session during the Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference at First Baptist Church Centralia



1st Vice President James Coleman, Executive Minister Leo Whitaker, President Milton Bunting, Pastor Wilson EB Shannon, & 3rd Vice President Ricardo Brown during the Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference at First Baptist Church Centralia



Executive Minister Leo Whitaker & VA Association of Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. President Fred Scott at the MLK Community Breakfast at the Richmond Marriott Downtown



Sister Phyllis Bradley of Urban Baby Beginnings Capital Diaper Bank and Executive Minister Leo Whitaker



Dr. Roscoe D. Cooper, Jr. and Dr. Andrew J. White during the VUU 158th Founders' Day

Talking is Good



In life we will encounter many instances where we will be uncertain about what we should do. Perhaps, one of the most stressful times of uncertainty is when a loved one is hospitalized because of a medical emergency. Family members are often confused about how to proceed when a loved one is unable to speak for themselves during a medical crisis. The questions and possible answers seem unlimited and unanswerable. Stress abounds! However, there is a way we can help our loved ones come up with answers. Communicate with your loved ones about the health care you want to receive if you are ever hospitalized and unable to speak for yourself. Give them your voice. Let them speak your truth. This is done by having the discussion about advance care planning.



The BGC sponsored a FAMILY ACP workshop on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Richmond, that provided vital information on advance care planning. Chaplains Brad Bradley, Linda Davis, and William Jackson joined Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister, in sharing biblical references on advance care planning. They stressed that having an ACP document will assist persons in advocating for their healthcare preferences. The celebratory atmosphere allowed the faith-based information to

be warmly received by the workshop participants. \$10 Walmart gift cards were given to the first thirty (30) people who filled out the ACP form. Please, have the talk with your loved ones. Prepare and distribute your Advance Care Plan with family and medical providers. Also, your ACP can be registered, at no cost, with the US Living Will Registry. Using an old advertising slogan, one of the participants said "Oh, what a relief this is!" Yes, I agree. It is a relief to know that we can help during times of uncertainty.



By Rev. Alden Vaughan, BGCVA Staff

Join Us at Queen Street Baptist Church Norfolk on September 23rd, 9 AM.



FAMILY ACP
Family And Ministry Informing Loved-Ones of Your Choices in Advance Care Planning
WORKSHOP
Saturday, August 26, 2023 9AM
Mount Tabor Baptist Church
Pastor, Rev. Dr. Herbert L. Ponder
2011 Fairmont Avenue
Richmond Virginia 23223

Our aim is to address health care disparities by engaging and educating minority communities on the importance of Advance Care Planning as a resource to advocate for their healthcare preferences.

Workshop Information
Baptist General Convention of Virginia
1214 West Graham Road
Richmond, VA 23220
804-228-2421
info@bgcva.org
Presented By

A \$10 Walmart Gift Card will be given to those that complete their ACP

Funding for this project was made possible by OT22-2302 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities awarded to Virginia Department of Health (VDH)/Office of Health Equity (OHE), Virginia Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved.



Baptist General Convention of Virginia
Presents

The Faith Formation Conference 2023

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, GROWING CHURCHES, AND CHANGING COMMUNITIES!

A MASTER CLASS IN CHURCH SCHOOL

We will review various teaching methods while exploring the benefits and possibilities of non-traditional teaching platforms. Suggestions for ways in which to incorporate different approaches in a single class setting will be reviewed.

The information gleaned will serve as a foundation for churches to develop inviting and engaging opportunities for their congregation and community to learn, grow, and share the Gospel. Ideas on how to find, define, refine methods for increasing faith formation intergenerationally will be creatively examined.



Facilitator
The Reverend Dr. Patricia E. Coker-Bell
The Grove Church Portsmouth

Saturday, September 23, 2023 @ 9 AM
@ Queen Street Baptist Church, 413 East Brambleton Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23510

We Are...Changing Communities!

The BGCVA was awarded three grants that enhance our thematic focus of “Bringing People Together, Growing Churches, and Changing Communities!”. The first grant entitled Vaccine Equity and Access Program (VEAP) aims “to support efforts to increase COVID-19 and influenza vaccination coverage for adults experiencing disparities in vaccine uptake, especially among racial and ethnic populations.” This grant, in collaboration with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, affords the BGCVA, a trusted voice in the community, the opportunity (1) to generate geographically-specific updates on the spread of preventable diseases, (2) to collaboratively create activities between healthcare providers and community organizations, (3) to provide population-specific vaccination messages, and (4) increase and identify healthcare providers who recommend influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to persons of all ages.



Dr. Linwood Blizzard, the BGCVA coordinator on Social Justice, who adheres to the goals and objectives of Community Catalyst and “believes that a health system rooted in race equity and health justice is essential to a world where we are all more-free and healthy” is leading this endeavor. At least fifteen (15) persons will be trained as VEAP Healthcare Ambassadors who will inform and inspire our BGCVA family on the positive aspects of receiving COVID-19, influenza and other vaccinations.



The second grant, awarded by the Virginia Department of Health P3 Disparities Grant is entitled, The FAMILY Advance Care Planning, which is designed to “address the hesitancy, lack of trust, and iatrophobia that African-Americans generally have towards the medical community”. The FAMILY ACP initiative is designed to have open and inviting conversations on the need and necessity of having an advance care plan in place that will enable others to speak your truth. Through engaging, educating, and enabling faith-based workshops people are encouraged to share their health care preferences with others.

The FAMILY ACP initiative will have monthly workshops until May 2024 in BGCVA Central and Eastern Regions. The first workshop was held on Saturday, August 26, 2023, at Mount Tabor Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia. Chaplains Brad Bradley, Linda Davis, and William Jackson joined Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister, in sharing biblical references on advance care planning. They stressed that having an ACP document will assist persons in advocating for their healthcare preferences. The celebratory atmosphere allowed the faith-based information to be warmly received by the workshop participants. \$10 Walmart gift cards were given to the first thirty (30) people who filled out the ACP form. Please, have “the talk” with your loved ones. Prepare and distribute your Advance Care Plan with family and medical providers. Also, your ACP can be registered, at no cost, with the US Living Will Registry. Using an old advertising slogan, one of the participants said, “Oh, what a relief this is!” It is a relief to know that we can help during times of uncertainty.

The BGCVA wants at least 200 persons to complete and file an ACP. To assist in meeting this goal, twelve (12) persons will be specifically trained as ACP facilitators to assist others with completing and filing their advance care plans.

The third grant awarded by Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center, entitled “Championing Community Awareness of Breast and Lung Cancer Among Various Populations in Colonial Heights, Hopewell, and Petersburg, Virginia” is designed to assist congregations and communities on how they can assist persons in their quest to stop smoking. VCU-Massey Cancer Center has asked that our churches become “smoke-free zones.” Dr. Ricardo Brown, BGC 3rd Vice President, is leading this grant.



THE BGC is indeed working to make our communities healthy ones!



We are BGC...

**Bringing People Together,
Growing Churches, and
Changing Communities!**

~ Act 1:8; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 10:13-16

SAVE THE DATE!

WEEK OF
[prayer]
2023

October 8 -14



 **FALL SESSION**
2023

SAT. NOV. 11TH @ 9 AM

WORSHIP | MINISTRY SESSIONS | BGC FOUNDATION | MODERATORS' CHAT | AND MORE!

@ FIFTH BAPTIST CHURCH, 1415 WEST CARY STREET, RICHMOND, VA 23220

REGISTER @ WWW.BGCVA.ORG/EVENTS.HTML

REGISTRATION IS **\$50** PER ATTENDEE

BGCVA | 1214 W. Graham Road | Richmond, VA 23220 | 804.228.2421
Rev. Milton P. Bunting, President Dr. Leo Whitaker, Executive Minister

"But let all be done properly and in an orderly manner." (1 Cor. 14:40 NASB)



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

BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF VA

**CHURCH
FINANCE AND TAX
COMPLIANCE
CONFERENCE 2024**

8:30 AM—2:00 PM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CENTRALIA
2920 KINGSDALE ROAD
RICHMOND, VA 23237

**JAN
20TH**

Inclement Weather
Date:
JAN 27TH

REGISTRATION IS **\$40 PER PERSON**

REGISTER ON-LINE AT: www.bgcva.org

For more information: Call 804.228.2421 Email: info@bgcva.org

Baptist General Convention of VA

2023 Event Calendar



January

- 16-17 MLK Celebration and Day of Ministry Service
- 18 Day for All People at General Assembly
- 21 Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference, Richmond
- 22 Statewide BGCVA Day
- 31 [Virtual BGCVA Workshop: *The Bible Is Black History*](#)

February

- 2 SACRED SPACES Webinar
- 3 Virtual VUU Founders' Day
- 7 Heart Health Webinar

March

- 16 SACRED SPACES Webinar
- 31- [Mega Ministries Retreat, Norfolk](#)

April

- 1 [Mega Ministries Retreat, Norfolk](#)
- 13 Hybrid Executive Committee Meeting
- 20 Virtual Spring General Board Meeting
- 22 VUU Church Leadership Conference
- 29 [Hybrid VBS Conference: *The Bible Is Black History*](#)

May (First Responders Month)

- 5-6 Regional Institute, Roanoke
- 25 SACRED SPACES Webinar

June

- 3 [Hybrid Children, Youth, & Youth Workers Conference & Empowerment - No Judgement Zone! *The Bible Is Black History*](#)
- 25-29 [Hybrid 124th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Faith Formation, Norfolk](#)

July

- 8 BGC Day @ Kings Dominion
- 8 76th Children's Home Founders' Day
- 21-22 Virtual Youth Retreat II

August

- 25-26 Virtual Back 2 School Weekend

September (Christian Faith Formation Month)

- 14 Virtual General Board Strategic Planning Meeting
- 16 [Virtual Faith Formation Conference: *The Bible Is Black History*](#)
- 21 SACRED SPACES Webinar

October (Clergy Appreciation Month)

- 5 Hybrid Executive Committee Meeting
- 8 Clergy Appreciation Day
- 8-14 BGCVA Week of Prayer
- 12 Virtual Fall General Board Meeting
- 26 SACRED SPACES Webinar

November

- 7 Day of Social Action
- 11 [Hybrid Fall Session](#)
- 13-15 Virtual Children's and Youth Revival
- 13-16 VUU Ellison Jones Convocation
- 16 SACRED SPACES Webinar

December

- 16 Virtual Youth Ministry Lock-In

Weekly

Every Thursday @ 7:30 PM –
Youth Ministry Advisory Team: Meeting & Training

Monthly

Every 1st Thursday @ 12PM – Clergy Conversations
Every 3rd Monday @ 12 PM & 6 PM – Ministry Training Track
Every 4th Thursday @ 7 PM – Moderators' & Associate Leaders' Meeting

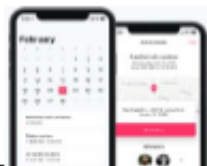
**** Some Events are Virtual Due to COVID-19. ****

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

Phone: 804-228-2421 Email: info@bgcva.org

We are BGC...

Bringing People Together, Growing Churches, and Changing Communities!
(Act 1:8; Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 10:13-16)





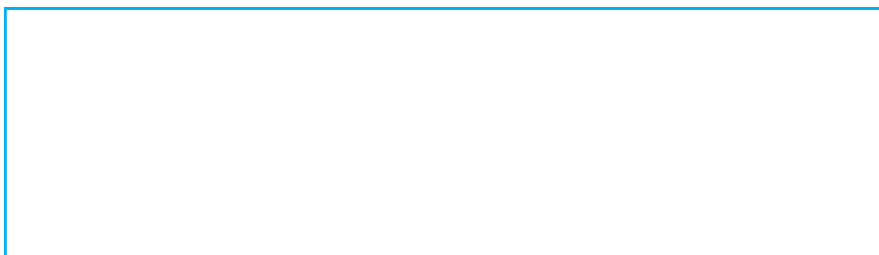
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1214 West Graham Road

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BGC Easy Giving Methods



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