

Baptist Herald

HOMEGOING CELEBRATIONS 2022

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 Bunting, Executive Minister Whitaker, staff, and officers of the Baptist General Convention, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the families of the following persons, who have recently transitioned into eternal rest.

- Pastor Emeritus Woodrow M. Brown
- Brother Robert Linwood Harvey, Jr.
- Pastor Willie E. Dickerson
- The Honorable Eura Lee Hudgins Lewis
- Dr. Robert E. Rodgers, Sr.
- Dr. Browlee Hailstock
- The Reverend Larry Bernard Collins
- Brother Collins Whitaker
- Sister Asia D. Means
- Sister Rosa Belle Charity Price
- Dr. William A. Jenkins
- The Reverend Harold Solomon, Sr.
- Sister Jayda Danielle Grant
- Deacon Carolyn Brown Hairston
- Deacon William H. Whitaker, I
- Dr. Bertie J. Powell
- Dr. Taleshia L. Chandler
- Sister Iris Wright Hopson
- Sister Sarah Allen
- Brother James Richard Nelson, Jr.
- Sister Esther I. Fuell
- Pastor Antwan L. Jones
- Dr. James M. Whitaker



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October is Clergy Appreciation Month!

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



I am delighted to pen a few words to all of you who make up the family of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia. Let me first express my sincere gratitude to all of you who elected me to serve

as your 44th President. It has been a delight thus far and I look forward to our continued time of sharing together.

When I took the helm of this convention, we were already engulfed in the midst of saving our beloved Children's Home. Our CHVB has been shared between the Virginia Baptist State Convention and Baptist General Convention through the years, and I look forward to working with the leadership of our sister convention as we blaze new trails with this property. I want to thank all pastors, moderators, churches, associations as well as individuals who have sacrificially given during this time

in the retiring of the 1.2-million-dollar mortgage. These funds will be used to assist in this endeavor.

I have been blessed with some of the brightest and best to serve with me. Our Vice-Presidents and our Convention Ministry Leaders have assisted me in the leading of this body of baptized believers and I look forward to what the Lord will continue to do through us as a team.

I want to personally invite all of you to our transformation leadership experience sponsored by our beloved convention and the Virginia Baptist State Convention. This will take place on October 13th and 14th at the First African Baptist Church where Dr. Rodney Waller is the pastor. This is not just for Clergy but for the whole church. Please check out website for further details. Our very own Baptist General Convention of Virginia Fall Session will convene on November 4th and 5th on the campus of our beloved Children's Home. We are looking forward to a wonderful weekend of engaging fellowship and uplifting proclamation. Our preacher will be Rev. Ulric Eley of Dinwiddie, Virginia and Pastor Wilbert Adams, the Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Franktown, Virgin-

ia on the Eastern Shore. Plans are being created right now to make this the Fall session you don't want to miss.

October is Clergy Appreciation month and I pray that you will remember to exhibit love and your appreciation to the minister that has served you well.

Finally, let me conclude by simply but sincerely saying Thank You. Thank you for being the best part of BGCVA. I am honored to be your President and I look forward to all the Lord has in store.

Working for the Kingdom,

M.P. Bunting

President



"SACRED SPACES"

The BGCVA (Baptist General Convention of Virginia) SACRED SPACES (Preservation of African American churches, cemeteries, Historic Structures, associated land and Landmarks) initiative enables the Baptist General Convention of Virginia (BGCVA) to provide training for new and current Church Historians. These historians (new and experienced) will learn and share research strategies, documentation methods and how to archive and preserve the historical documents related to the church, cemetery, school, and/or historical artifacts associated with the church. BGCVA provides at least four (4) training sessions per year via online seminars and additional classes during our various conferences and Annual Session.

- The key component to the success of this initiative involves documenting and archiving the history of BGCVA, our Associations and individual churches and their contributions to their communities as well to other significant occurrences (education, desegregation, Civil Rights, etc.) BGCVA will create a digital archive for historical documents, oral histories, books, and media documenting our rich history since 1899. This archive would

also include data and documents (special occasions, association meetings, etc.) received from our churches over the years.



- A primary outcome for this initiative will be the creation of digital archive of the history of BGCVA and the churches participating in the project. This project also includes assisting churches with researching and documenting other properties including cemeteries and other

structures that could possibly be recognized for their historical significance.

- Churches that currently maintain their own archives and artifacts would continue to do so but participating churches would have the option of having a digital archive accessible online).

We would love to digitize your church and/or association history, Sunday Union, or other church-related organization. Please join us on this journey of preserving our heritage by completing our survey at www.bgcva.org in the scroll pictures under Sacred Spaces and sending in a detailed copy of the history of your church to swilkes@bgcva.org.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact:

Dr. J. Elisha Burke, Director
eburke@bgcva.org or 804-228-2421 or 804-337-7215 (cell)

Dr. Stephanie Wilkes, Preserving Sacred Spaces Assistant swilkes@bgcva.org

Sponsored by Dominion Energy

OCTOBER IS CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

On behalf of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, under the leadership of Rev. Milton P. Bunting (President) and Dr. Leo Whitaker (Executive Minister), it is our great pleasure during this month of Clergy Appreciation, to acknowledge your Pastor and all Clergy within your congregation for their leadership and unselfish contributions rendered to the Body of Christ.

Clergy Appreciation Month, originally promoted by a Christian organization called Focus on the Family in 1994, provides an opportunity for organizations, conventions, and most importantly congregants to recognize and honor all Clergy for their labor of love, sacrifice of time, and faithful example of servanthood for the benefit of the people and to the glory of our Lord.

We are reminded in the Word of God, according to 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (MSG), that we are “to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your

obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!”

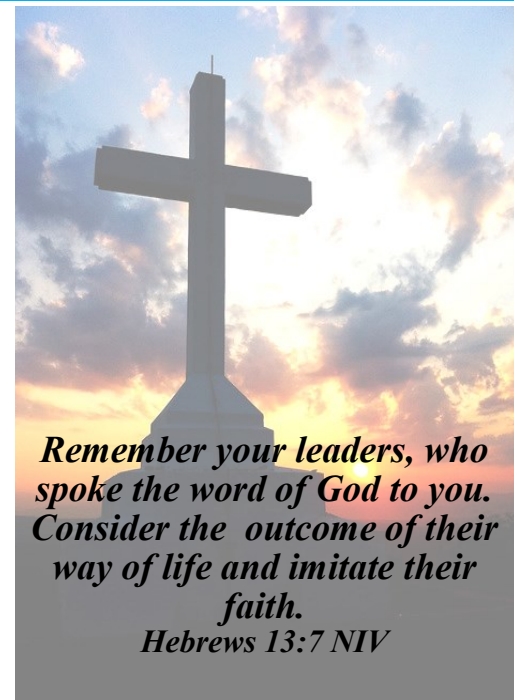
With this admonishment in mind, the Clergy Ministry of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia, under the leadership of Rev. Gloria Newsome-Brickhouse (President) and Dr. Bill Whitaker (Director of the Clergy Ministry & Leadership Development), pause with you this month, to thank God for your Pastor and all Clergy in your assembly. We praise God for them saying “yes” to the Clarion Call and for upholding the blood-stained banner of Jesus Christ before the world so that all will know that we serve a living Savior.

As you celebrate your Pastor and Clergy generously displaying acts of appreciation and love, know that we celebrate with you and count it a privilege to share these sentiments. To God be all the glory for the GREAT things God is doing in the life of your faith community.

In The Lord’s Service,

Pastor Gloria Newsome-Brickhouse, Clergy Ministry President

Dr. Bill Whitaker, Director of Clergy Ministry & Leadership Development



NOVEMBER
4th @ 6 PM
NOVEMBER
5th @ 9 AM



HYBRID
FALL
SESSION
2022

Theme: We are BGC...Bringing People Together, Growing Churches, and Changing Communities!

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



@ THE CHILDREN'S HOME OF VIRGINIA BAPTISTS, INC.

REGISTRATION IS
\$50 PER ATTENDEE
\$100 PER CHURCH

YOUTH AND CLERGY
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY AND
MINISTRIES MODERATORS

MEN'S WOMEN'S
MINISTRY MINISTRY

REGISTER @
WWW.BGCVA.ORG/EVENTS



FEATURING...

PRaise & WORSHIP

TOURS OF THE
CHILDREN'S HOME

MINISTRY FAIR
GET PLANNING RESOURCES FOR YOUR
2023 MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

THEME INTERPRETATIONS &
PANEL DISCUSSIONS

WORKSHOPS AND MORE!



REV. ULRIC L.
ELEY, JR. OF
DINWIDDIE, VA

**SESSION
SPEAKERS**



REV. WILBERT
ADAMS OF THE
BETHEL BAPTIST
CHURCH,
FRANKTOWN, VA

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

Baptist General Convention of Virginia

Clergy Conversations

Clergy 911:
Resurrected Ministers with Ministries
After a Fall from Grace

Thursday, October 6, 2022
12:00n

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
Romans 3:23 (NIV)



Rev. Milton P. Bunting
President

Dr. Leo Whitaker
Executive Minister

Rev. Gloria Newsome-Brickhouse
Clergy Ministry President

Dr. William "Bill" Whitaker
Director of Clergy & Leadership Development

TAKE YOUR SOUL TO THE POLLS & VOTE!!!



1716 East Franklin Street • Richmond, VA 23223 • (804) 643-2474 • virginiainterfaithcenter.org

Engaging Your Congregation in Rise Up and Vote Virginia 2022

Postcard to infrequent voters. Handwritten postcards encourage infrequent voters to vote. VICPP can send you postcards, messages, and addresses of infrequent African American voters for your social action group to write and send postcards. Postcards must be mailed by October 1. Order in batches of 100 from VICPP. Send your requested number and mailing address to Robert@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.



Text your friends and family. VICPP is training people to send their friends and family members texts about registering and voting. If you are tech savvy, you can download the phone app, Impactive, and enter the VICPP campaign code, which is 206173. If you'd like help with setting up and using the app, VICPP is conducting Impactive training sessions every Thursday evening at 6 p.m. from now till the elections. Register at tinyurl.com/vicpp-impactive.

Souls to the Polls. Learn how congregations around the country are encouraging people to vote by organizing "souls to the polls" events. Register for the Souls to the Polls training on September 22nd at 7 p.m. at



<https://faithinaction.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYucemspzMpEt0DaGf6Jbhmlh7tIN5p0qtS>



100 percent voting congregation. VICPP can assist you in making sure everyone in your congregation is registered and votes by providing publicly available data about who is registered. You can also receive registered voters' polling places so you can provide that information to them, as well as the information about who their state elected leaders are so they can be better advocates. To learn more, contact Robert@virginiainterfaithcenter.org.

All VICPP civic engagement work is non-partisan.

The Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy advocates economic, racial, and social justice in Virginia's policies and practices through education, prayer, and action.

VICPP is a non-partisan coalition of more than 700 faith communities working for a more just society.

October 2022



BGCVA Children & Youth Encouragement Calendar

Fall In Love with Jesus!

Autumn is here! The long hot summer days have been replaced with shorter days and cooler nights. The leaves on the trees are beginning to change from shades of green to many different and beautiful colors. Soon they will fall to the ground and the world around us will look very different. If you haven't already done it - this is a great time to fall in love with Jesus (who he is and the sacrifice he made for us). His love for us will never change!

We, the Youth Ministry Advisory Team (YMAT), pray that you will enjoy this calendar filled with Bible scriptures; wise quotes; ideas of fun things to do; tips to help you live well; and jokes to make you laugh.



This Photo by Deborah Fisher is Licensed Under CC BY-NC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Wise Words: 1 "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
Here's a Bible scripture for you to read, study & remember! 2 Timothy 1:7	Remember to drink plenty of water! Many doctors recommend drinking 6 - 8 glasses each day.	Here's a Good Study Tip: Ask for help if you get stuck doing your assignments.	Wise Words: "I got my start by giving myself a start."	Remember to get enough sleep! 9 - 12 hrs. (6 - 12 yrs. old) 8 - 10 hrs. (teenagers)	Here's a Bible scripture for you to read, study & remember! Ephesians 5:1-2	Do something today to help a neighbor or family member.
Wise Words: "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."	Here's a Bible scripture for you to read, study & remember! Deuteronomy 20:4	Say a special prayer today for the teachers and administrators at your school.	Fresh air and sunshine are important to your health. Do something fun outside, today!	Wise Words: "There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."	Spend time today memorizing one of the scriptures or wise words for this month.	Remember the importance of regular exercise. Ride a bike, run, or jump rope.
Here's a Bible scripture for you to read, study & remember! 2 Peter 3:18	Here's a Good Study Tip: Limit distractions while you study.	Wise words: "Stretch your mind and fly."	Here's a Good Study Tip: Pay attention in class and practice active listening.	Spend some time today writing an affirmation.	Here's a Bible scripture for you to read, study & remember! Psalm 118:24	Wise words: "We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated."
Exercise is good for you! You should get at least 1 hour of physical activity every day.	Here's a Bible scripture for you to read, study & remember! 1 Corinthians 10:31	Here's a Good Study Tip: It's very important to read something every day.	Spend time today memorizing one of the scriptures or wise words for this month.	Wise words: "Spread the word; have you heard all across the nation? We are going to be a great generation!"	Spend some time today doing your favorite hobby or pastime. Have fun!	Say a special prayer today for your classmates.
Here's a Good Study Tip: Plan ahead for tests and projects.	Here's a Bible scripture for you to read, study & remember! Joshua 1:9	Upcoming BGCVA Children & Youth Events: Fall Session Nov. 4 th - 5 th Virtual Children & Youth Revival Nov. 7 th - 9 th 7:00PM				

Here are some songs to add to your playlist this month:

Miracle by: Jonathan McReynolds & Mali Music - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9i9bXFGqzM&list=RDg-IbcN80Cok&index=9>

Lord I Hear You by: Lucinda Moore - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0qkj1EDSIQ>

Order My Steps by: GMWA Women of Worship - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmsCyxHIY0I>

Bible Scriptures to Read, Learn, & Remember:

October 2nd

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

October 7th

Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us[a] and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God..

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NRSV)

October 10th

For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.

Deuteronomy 20:4 (NIV)

October 16th

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

October 21st

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:24 (NRSV)

October 24th

So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

October 31st

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9 (NIV)



Here's a Tip to Have Good Mental Health!

Create and Use Affirmations!

Affirmations are used to help replace negative thoughts and/or ideas with more positive ones. They are also used to encourage, motivate, and remind us of the goals we are working towards. Affirmations begin with the words "I am". You can use God's word to help you. Here's an example:

I am a winner because I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!

Consider Joining an Organization to Help You Be Your Best!

NAACP-ACT-SO Achievement Program

The NAACP's Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) is a yearlong achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African American high school students. From performing and culinary arts to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), students can demonstrate their talents in up to three competition areas.

Explore the 32 competitive fields listed on the website.

<https://naacp.org/our-work/youth-programs/act-so-achievement-program>

To Make You Laugh!



1. Which creatures on Noah's ark didn't come in pairs?

2. How did Benjamin Franklin feel about discovering electricity?

(Answers can be found at the bottom of the page.)

Wise Words to Live By:

October 1st

Quote by: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

October 5th

Quote by: Madame C.J. Walker

October 9th

Quote by: Dr. Mae Jemison

October 13th

Quote by: Amanda Gorman

October 18th

Quote by: Whitney M. Young, Jr.

October 22nd

Quote by: Maya Angelou

October 27th

Quote by: Miss Yolanda Renee King
(Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s granddaughter)

BGCVA Youth Officers and Contributing YMAT members:

Joy Coleman *(Youth President)*

Alexandria Hunt-Quarles *(Youth Secretary)*

Minister G. Bonita Grant *(Children's Ministry Coordinator)*

Sis. Michelle Faseru

Minister Chris Howell

Minister Wisteria Robinson

Sis. Nicole Toomer

Sis. Sherry Walker

Evangelist Ronda Wilson

Contact us at: Youth@bgcva.org or (804) 228-2421

1. The worms - they came in apples.
2. He was shocked!

Answers to "To Make You Laugh!":

The Micah Mandate: What God Requires of You

Biblical Responsibilities for Christian Leadership

Monday, October 17, 2022
12:00n & 6:00pm

Zoom ID: 876 5365 4568
Passcode: 790104
Call In: 301.715.8592



Justice

Mercy

Humility

Baptist General Convention of Virginia



Fall 2022 Children & Youth Events



November 7th - 9th 7:00 PM
Virtual Children & Youth Revival

December 17th 6:00 PM
Virtual Youth Ministry Lock-in



For More Information
Contact the BGCVA Office
(804) 228-2421/youth@bgcva.org

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. VELEKA GATLING, THE DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY INITIATIVES AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

By Jordan Narcisse , BGCVA Student Intern & Undergraduate Student at Old Dominion University.



Dr. Veleka Gatling, the Director of Diversity Initiatives at Old Dominion University (ODU), is a woman who is well-versed in the field of education and a devout Christian. Born on October 17, 1971, in Norfolk Virginia to Carolyn and Leo Williams, she lived an average childhood, but she went on to achieve many extraordinary feats in the field of education.

She started out her career in education by pursuing higher learning, attending James Madison University (93'), Old Dominion University (96'), and finally Virginia Tech (09'), ultimately resulting in a doctorate. These ventures into education did not happen consecutively, however, and were punctuated by Dr. Gatling's pursuit in public education. Entering the field of education as a 2nd grade teacher, she worked her way up the ladder over the years, becoming a teacher for social studies, then a principal. During this time, she went into the private education sector for the time that she was raising her then young son but returned to the public field not much later. In total she spent 25 years as a public-school worker.

Her husband, the Reverend Perez Gatling, became pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, elevating Dr. Veleka Gatling to the position of first lady. As wonderful as it was to be so involved in ministry, balancing her responsibilities of both the regular job and first lady was a difficult

act to perfect. But she knew in her heart that she "trusted God", and just when the troubles became too much to bear, ODU reached out to her. They offered her a position at the school, and once she accepted, her work-life balance was much more manageable.

Dr. Veleka Gatling first became a lecturer at ODU. She taught courses for aspiring administrators, much like she was back in her public education days, and as happy as she was to continue doing what she did, she was approached yet again. This time, she would become the Director of Diversity Initiatives and Assistant Vice President for Diversity. The job entails that she "provides diversity equity, fight microaggressions, and have conversations" so that total inclusion may be accomplished. And at a PWI (Predominantly White Institution), her role is incredibly necessary.



Needless to say, she did her job well and went above and beyond. Dr. Gatling helped people to think differently about diversity and to have discussions beyond what they learned. After all, reflection is a key part of comprehension. Additionally, she wants to transcend from



mere diversity to inclusion. What's the difference? You can have a group of people, but all of them won't feel like they belong with just diversity. So, what does inclusion look like? Equal opportunities, being heard in all spaces, and generally having the same experience regardless of your background.

Co-author of "An inexcusable Absence: The

Shortage of Black Male Teachers", Dr. Gatling provided an excellent example of why inclusion is so important.



Growing up, Veleka Gatling only had one black male teacher. In a field that is female-dominated, she felt compelled to write this book to bring awareness, give advice on how to fix the shortage, and to dispel myths about the black male. According to her, seeing a black male teacher so young introduced her to the concept of an educated black male, and that example left an imprint on her life.

If you were to ask Dr. Gatling what inspired her to reach the position that she is at currently, she would say her father. Back when her father was attending college, black peo-



ple were not allowed on campus, hindering his pursuit of education. Seeing his commitment to learning, she aspired to do what he could not: earn a doctorate. And that she did, but the main take away from this is that she also knows first-hand the necessity of inclusion, and what can be done once it's in place.

"Run your own race" is Dr. Veleka Gatling's message to students. Don't worry about your competitors and instead focus on your own path. Lots of things will try to pull your attention, but you will make it in the end. There are "infinite opportunities" and you will always walk into new experiences that will help you learn and grow. "We're not perfect," said Dr. Gatling, but with her ambition as Director of Diversity Initiatives, we're getting closer every day.



“BE ALERT! GET READY! CHECK ON OTHERS!”

BE ALERT!
GET READY!
CHECK ON OTHERS!

The Commission on Disaster Relief
Preparing for the Fall and Winter Weather
Events
Emergency Preparedness

Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to
you; not as the world gives do I give to you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be
afraid (John 14:27 NKJV)

Let us be in prayer one for another and for our
brothers and sisters who may be in harm’s
way of the storm.

Helpful Steps Before the Storm:

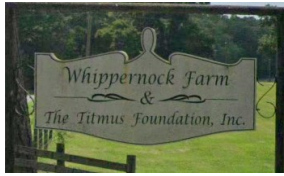
- Put together an emergency prep kit that includes:
 - * Batteries and flashlights/lanterns
 - * Bottle water (1 gallon per person, per day)
 - * Cash (power outages could affect ATM machines)
 - * Non-perishable foods
 - * First aid kit, medications and hygiene items
 - * Vehicle phone charger
- Individuals with portable generators should purchase adequate fuel and review the product’s safety instructions before operation.
- Develop an evacuation plan and implement it when it becomes necessary. Be sure to let your church leader, a trusted family member or friend know if you choose to leave or stay.
- Be sure to stay tuned to local weather updates in your area via television or battery-operated radio.
- Update your contact information with Dominion Energy, including a mobile phone number.
- Bookmark this website, DominionEnergy.com, on your computer or mobile device to quickly report outages.
- Download the [Dominion Energy app](#) and set up an account to easily report and track power outages.

More information can be found by visiting: www.dominionenergy.com/hurricaneprep or seek information from your local utility company.

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” (Psalm 91:1-2 NIV)

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE MINISTER

Children’s Home Mortgage Update: We are grateful for the awesome response to our CHVB Mortgage Appeal. The BGCVA churches and associations were generous to this cause. A special word of appreciation to the Titmus Foundation for graciously matched each church’s gift that was dated August 1 – October 4, 2022. We encourage other churches, associations, ministers, and members to continue to give and let us succeed together and paying off the mortgage this year. We will keep you posted on our meeting in October with People’s Bank, and we solicit your prayers on behalf of our beloved, CHVB and BGCVA.



DATES TO KNOW	
September 23:	Early voting at registrar's office
October 28:	Deadline to request ballot by mail
October 29:	Early voting at registration offices
November 5:	Early voting ends
November 8:	Election Day

Early Voting: Take Your Soul to the Poll & Vote! Early voting for the November 8, 2022 general election in Virginia began on September 23, 2022 and will continue through November 5, 2022. Early voting is available in-person for registered voters at the general registrar’s office in the jurisdiction in which you are registered. Satellite locations are also available in some jurisdictions. Absentee ballots were mailed to military and overseas voters beginning on September 23, 2022. When voting, please be sure to bring a valid copy of your ID. For a listing of general registrar’s offices in your jurisdiction, please visit <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation/publiccontactlookup>

Brotherhood Mutual:

In light of all the many weather and world issues impacting the people of God, now is the time to do an annual review. Contact Mr. David Rogers for your review your church’s insurance policy today, 804- 334-4953.



2023 Budget Plans: As you make plans for the 2023, please include the BGCVA events and trainings on your ministry schedule as well as in your budget. Also, we are thanking you in advance for your monthly contributions to the missions and ministries of our convention.

Fall Session 2022: We look forward to seeing you join us for our Fall Session which will be held on the grounds of the Children’s Home on November 4th and 5th. We strongly encourage you to come and visit these sacred grounds and share with us in praising GOD for the great things that are done in the name of Jesus Christ.

Virtual Youth Fall Revival: The Children and Youth Ministry will host us in worship and praise during their annual Virtual Youth Revival on November 7th-9th nightly at 7:00-8:00 PM. Let us join our Children’s & Youth Ministry leaders as they lead our young generations in growing in the Will and Admonition of the Lord.

The Ellison-Jones Convocation: November 14-17, 2022, on the campus of VUU. We will celebrate Dr. John W Kinney our quintessential professor, dean, and vice president on his retirement from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology.

Please join me in thanking and praising God for our new officers, ministry leaders, General Board and commission members. President Bunting is providing stellar leadership to our convention as well as to our nation. Let us all serve GOD with our whole hearts and open minds.

The staff and I greatly appreciate your support and willingness to include us in your church and associational ministries. There are pictures from across the state representing some of those occasions on page three. On behalf of Leading Lady Cathy Whitaker, and our sons, Yohance and Adom, thank you for your prayers and invitations to participate with you in this ministry. May GOD bless you for being the better part of BGCVA.

Blessings and Peace,
Dr. Leo Whitaker
Executive Minister



Baptist General Convention of VA



2023 Event Calendar

January

- 16-17 MLK Celebration and Day of Ministry Service
- 21 Virtual Church Finance and Tax Compliance Conference
- 22 Statewide BGCVA Day

February

- 3 Virtual VUU Founders' Day

March

- 24-25 Mega Ministries Retreat, Norfolk
- 24-26 Youth Retreat I, Norfolk

April

- 13 Hybrid Executive Committee Meeting
- 15 Hybrid VBS Conference
- 20 Virtual Spring General Board Meeting
- 22 VUU Church Leadership Conference

May (First Responders Month)

- 5-6 Regional Institute, Roanoke

June

- 3 Virtual Children, Youth, & Youth Workers Conference & Empowerment - No Judgement Zone!
- 25-29 Hybrid 124th Annual Session and Congress of Christian Faith Formation, Norfolk

Weekly

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

July

- 8 BGC Day @ Kings Dominion
- 8 Virtual 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

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

November

- 7 Day of Social Action
- 10-11 Hybrid Fall Session
- 13-15 Virtual Children's and Youth Revival
- 13-16 VUU Ellison Jones Convocation

December

- 16 Virtual Youth Ministry Lock-In

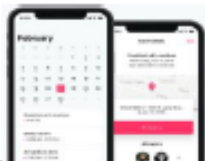
Monthly

- Every 1st Thursday @ 12PM – Clergy Conversations
- Every 3rd Monday @ 12 PM – Ministry Training Track
- Every 4th Thursday @ 12 PM – Moderators' Meeting

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

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

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



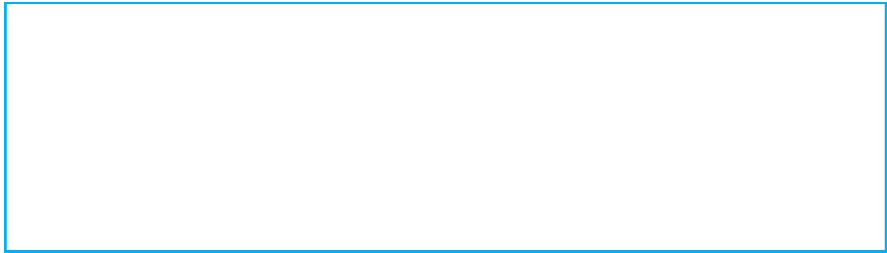
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