

a voice for women in baptist life

# Vocare

VOLUME 5, NO. 1, WINTER 2011

BAPTIST WOMEN  
IN MINISTRY  
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**BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY**  
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JOIN BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY FOR  
**WORSHIP AND LUNCH**

**JUNE 22, 2011**

**BAYSHORE BAPTIST CHURCH, TAMPA FLORIDA**

**WORSHIP at 10 a.m. • LUNCH at 11 a.m.**

*More details coming soon.*

*Watch the BWIM website ([www.bwim.info](http://www.bwim.info)) for lunch registration information.*



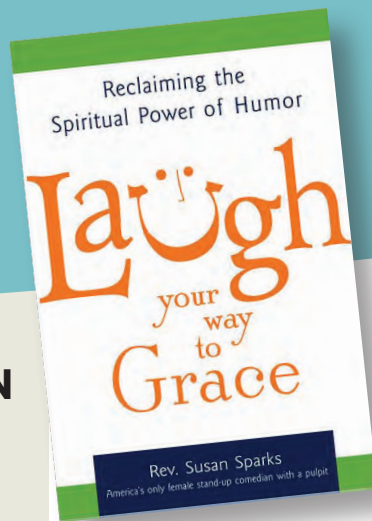
**WORSHIP PROCLAIMER**  
*Veronica Miles*



**LUNCHEON SPEAKER**  
*Susan Sparks*

## OUR VISION

Baptist Women in Ministry will be a catalyst in Baptist life, drawing together women and men, in partnership with God, to illuminate, advocate, and nurture the gifts and graces of women.



# MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE BWIM GATHERING IN JUNE

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Baptist Women in Ministry will gather for worship at Bayshore Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida, on Wednesday morning, June 22. Worship will be led by Veronice Miles and will be followed by a lunch at the church, featuring Susan Sparks.

The 1999 Addie Davis Preaching Award winner, **VERONICE MILES** is assistant professor of homiletics and Christian education at Wake Forest University Divinity School. A native of Florida, she earned degrees in psychology and counselor education from the University of Florida in Gainesville, received a Master of Divinity degree at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and completed a doctorate of philosophy degree in Christian education and homiletics at Emory University.

An ordained Baptist minister, Veronice's experience in the academy is augmented by her ministry with local church communities and religious organizations, including serving as minister of Christian education and interim pastor at the Greater Bethany Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

**SUSAN SPARKS** is a trial lawyer, turned standup comedian and Baptist minister. After ten years as a lawyer moonlighting as a comedian, Susan left her practice and spent two years on a solo trip around the world, including working with Mother Teresa's mission in Calcutta, climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, and driving the Alaska Highway. Upon returning home, she entered Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where she earned a Master of Divinity degree.

Susan is the pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City, and the church's first woman in its 162-year history. Susan has been featured in *O* (The Oprah) Magazine, the *New York Times*, on ABC and CNN. Her book, *Laugh Your Way to Grace: Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor*, was released in May 2010.

Several Wednesday afternoon workshops are in the planning stages. Make plans to attend and be part of this special Baptist Women in Ministry annual gathering. Be watching the BWIM website and the BWIM Facebook page for details about registration.



*Top Photo: Raygina Beale, Raleigh, delivered a Lenten sermon on "A Good Kind of Lost" for Martha Stearns Marshall Day at Knollwood Baptist, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on Feb. 21, 2010.*

*Bottom Photo: On Sunday, February 28, at St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, not one but three women preached. From left to right: Clara Kremer, Liz Solitario, and Amy Hammond*



**We are all eager to hear stories from this year's Martha Stearns Marshall emphasis.**

Please send photos and stories to [pamdurso@bwim.info](mailto:pamdurso@bwim.info)! And go ahead and prepare for 2012. Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching provides us all with a chance to celebrate—to celebrate God's good work in our midst.

# MARTHA STEARNS MARSHALL MONTH OF PREACHING, 2011

For five years now, Baptist Women in Ministry has sponsored Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching, asking that Baptist churches participate in this special emphasis by having a woman preach during the month of February. This annual event has been a deeply significant source of joy and discovery for many women and churches.

Martha Stearns Marshall Month 2011 already has generated some amazing stories, including the participation of churches in Cuba and Indonesia. The Spring issue of *Vocare* will include some of those stories as well as a list of participating churches and their preachers.

Looking back over the years that we have had this emphasis, two questions seem to be asked each year: What if my church is just not ready to have a woman in the pulpit? and What if my church has women in the pulpit all the time?

If your church has never had a woman preach, my hope is that you can prayerfully and thoughtfully take small steps and help move your church toward being open. I have some suggestions, so e-mail me if you want to discuss ways to lead your church in inviting a woman into its pulpit AND I would love to hear stories from those of you who have been through this process and whose churches now welcome women preachers.

For churches that have a woman pastor or that often have women preach, this event is a great opportunity for you! This is an opportunity for your church to stand with and support Baptists who are still hoping for and dreaming of the day that their church will have a woman preach. Your church can publicly voice your support of women in ministry, be counted with other Baptist churches in celebrating the calling and gifts of women, and be reminded that God does indeed call women to the work of the kingdom. In the past, Baptist Women in Ministry has proposed that Martha Stearns Marshall Month could be an opportunity for churches pastored by women or with women frequently in their pulpits to invite a woman who has never had the opportunity to preach. Use this emphasis to encourage and support a first-time preacher.

Connie Stinson, pastor of Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, offered another suggestion. For churches with women pastor, Martha Stearns Marshall Month can be an opportunity for pulpit exchange with a church whose senior pastor is male. His church can then have a woman-led worship service, and her church could have a service led by a man who is a strong advocate of women in ministry. Connie notes that a pulpit exchange would be "an exercise in affirmation for both churches."

# WITH MUCH THANKS TO BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY SUPPORTERS, 2010

## CHURCHES

Faith Baptist Church, Georgetown, KY  
First Baptist Church, Asheville, NC  
First Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC  
First Baptist Church, Gretna, VA  
First Baptist Church, Shelby, NC  
First Baptist Church, Sylva, NC  
First Baptist Church Williams, Jacksonville, AL  
Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC  
Madison Avenue Baptist Church, New York, NY  
Mount Zion Baptist Church, Memphis, TN  
North Broad Baptist Church, Rome, GA  
Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, MS  
Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA  
Second Baptist Church, Liberty, MO  
Wake Forest Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC  
Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, NC

## FOUNDATIONS

The Baugh Foundation  
Christian Missions Concern

## ORGANIZATIONS

Baptist General Convention of Texas  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Florida  
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina  
Cooperating Baptist Fellowship of Oklahoma  
Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry

## GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OF INDIVIDUALS

First Baptist Church, Shelby, NC  
*In honor of Carol Ann Hoard*

Kara Blankenship  
*In honor of Mary Blankenship, Carolyn Blevins, Jane Cummins,  
Kellie Denton, Pam Durso, Faye Harris, Peggy Harris,  
Betsy Ingle, Lois Jerrigan, Carol McEntryre, Nenette Measels,  
Dorothy Swindle, June Anne Wheeler, Lisa Williams*

Julia P. Coulter  
*In honor of Nancy Tatom Ammerman*

Paula J. Settle  
*In honor of Anne Neill and Molly Marshall*

Carolyn Shapard  
*In honor of Sarah Stafford's ordination*

Teresa Gunter White  
*In honor of Rachel Gunter Shapard*

Baptist Women in Ministry is not a member-based organization but instead provides its newsletter and other resources to all who request them. BWIM's Leadership Team greatly appreciates these churches, organizations, and individuals that have supported our work!

If you or your church would like to honor and thank a minister on your staff in a public and tangible way, send a contribution to Baptist Women in Ministry and include the minister's name.

## INDIVIDUALS

Z. Allen and Conda Abbott

Mary Yangsook Ahn

Jann Aldredge-Clanton

Nancy T. Ammerman

Patricia Ayers

Joyce Baggett

Harold Bass

Doris Blackwell

Kara Blankenship

Carolyn Blevins

Bonnie Oliver Brandon

B. J. Brannan

Jennifer Britt

Katrina Brooks

Charles Bugg

Gary P. Burton

Eileen Campbell-Reed

Susan S. Cauley

Reba Sloan Cobb

Delores Cooper

Jeanette Cothran

Julia P. Coulter

Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge

Deneise Dillon

Denise Dinkins

Isabel Docampo

Wanda Driver

Tillie Duncan

Alex Durso

Pam Durso

Pearl Duvall

Heather Entrekin

Amy Joyner Finkelberg

Sue Fitzgerald

Robert and Anne Gardner

Neita F. Geilker

Tammy Jackson Gill

Perry Ginn

Bruce Gourley

Bill Gunter

Genie Hargrove

Karen Hatcher

John Haun

William Craig Henry

Linda Hill

Marillia Hines

Jennifer Hornbuckle

Lydia Hoyle

Rebecca Husband-Maynard

Wendy Joyner

Richard D. Kahoe

Wyona E. King

Joseph Laguardia

Melba Lambert

Helen W. Landes

Judy Landon

Heather Lee

Deborah Loftis

Angela Lowe

Gloria and Phill Martin

Jerry and Adell Martin

Carolyn Mathis

Mandy McMichael

Christy McMillin-Goodwin

Connie McNeill

Elizabeth Milazzotto

Joyce Mitchell

Helen E. Moore-Montgomery

Ann White Morton

Kristen Muse

Robin Norsworthy

Devita Parnell

Stephanie Patterson

Suzii Paynter

Julie R. Perry

Roger B. Pittard

Bill and Ruth Pitts

Carolyn Goodman Plampin

David and Becky Plott

Morgan Ponder

Teresa Pugh

Mac and Lorita Robinson

Bridget Rose

Royce Rose

Anthony Mark Roza

Ro Turner Ruffin

Julie O'Teter Sadler

Debra McLeod Sears

Nancy Hastings Sehested

Paula J. Settle

Carolyn Shapard

Sarah Jackson Shelton

Amy Shorner-Johnson

David Smith

Dona Smith-Powers

Evelyn Stagg

Dennis D. Staley

Robert Stephenson

Meredith and James Stone

Tambi Swiney

Bill and Leta Tillman

Mildred Todd

Earline Vaughn

Lucy H. Vick

Naomi Walker

Rebecca A. Wall

Donna Watts

Teresa Gunter White

Rebecca and Mark Wiggs

Laura Willis

David and Ann Wilson

Sarah Withers

Joyce Cope Wyatt

Ouida Wyatt

Tyanna Yonkers

Carol and Brett Younger



**TAMMY ABEE BLOM** is an ordained Baptist minister, mother of two amazing daughters, and lives in Columbia, South Carolina. This article was published on the BWIM blog in January. Be sure to visit the BWIM blog often!

# PLAYING CHURCH IN HIGH HEELS

*by Tammy Abee Blom*

My daughters, ages four and seven, were playing quietly. Too quietly. As I peeked around the corner, I saw Audrey, my youngest, wearing her sparkly high heels while standing on her step stool. From a big book, she was ‘reading’, “Jesus was born. Mary was his mother. God was happy. You should love Jesus.” Then Eve leapt from the floor and started lining up communicants. She got all these imaginary worshippers in line and said, “First some questions: ‘Do you love Jesus? Will you be a good member of this church?’ Okay, now we can take communion.” I slipped away unobserved, but like Mary I pondered these things in my heart.

I wondered, “Where did the girls hear these words and why did they couple them together in this way?” Upon reflection, I recognized the words and rituals from our worship service over the past few months. Audrey was retelling the Christmas story. Eve was remembering the questions from her baptism in October. They were imitating what they had heard and seen in worship.

Little girls imitate the work and play of mothers as well as other women. It is by imitating women that little girls develop models for valid roles for grown up women. Basically, they discern what they can be when they grow up. Daily, my girls observe me as I model my faith and spirituality. Weekly,

they hear the voice of the Reverend Cathy Jamieson-Ogg as she preaches the word at our church.

While in seminary, Kenda Dean, (at that time a graduate student at Princeton Theological Seminary) shared this advice with me. “Expect to lead in worship. You may view yourself as the youth minister or children’s minister, but the girls in your congregation need to see you. They need to hear what you have to say about God. They need to know that you are a minister just like all the other ministers who are in the pulpit.”

I don’t know if either of my girls will be called to preach, but I know they are informed and active worship participants. I know it matters that they experience female leadership in worship. And I am thankful for those women who embrace their call and step up to the pulpit.



# VISUAL REMINDERS

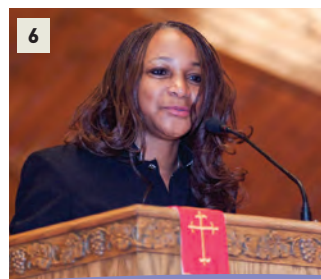
by Pam Durso

Several months ago I was checking Facebook and was intrigued when I read Tammy Abee Blom's status. She wrote that she had discovered her young daughters playing church—leading communion, reading from the Bible, and preaching to their congregation. Tammy's status became a BWIM blog piece and is included in this newsletter on page 6.

Over the years I have heard so many stories of young girls lining up their dolls for worship, baptizing their Barbies, serving communion to their brothers and sisters, and preaching to their cats and dogs, and I must confess that at my house Barbie and Ken were baptized multiple times. For those of us who grew up going to church, playing church was most likely part of our childhood. As children we play what we know and have experienced. But I also think children play what they will become. Girls playing church today may very well be our ministers of the future, and girls in our churches need visual reminders that God can indeed call them to ministry. All of us actually need visual reminders of that truth.

In the past few weeks, I have been collecting photos, actions shots of women ministers, in hopes of providing some visuals for us all—that women are leading communion, baptizing, officiating at weddings, preaching, teaching, being ordained, and ministering. I hope you enjoy this very small collage of photos and hope you will email me photos of the women ministers in your life who have made a difference!

- 1) Carol Sasser Dalton, chaplain, Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women, Black Mountain, NC
- 2) Virginia Ross Taylor, pastor, Lystra Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, NC
- 3) Lynn Dandridge, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Memphis, TN
- 4) Jessica Reynolds Prohitt, ordination, Peachtree Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
- 5) Velvie Banister, minister to children, Dablonoga Baptist Church, Dablonoga, GA
- 6) Bonnie Oliver Brandon, executive assistant to the pastor, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Memphis, TN



**BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY**

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