



BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

advocating • connecting • networking

December 2017

Prayers for this Advent Season by Pam Durso

Five miles from my house sits the Sisters of Visitation monastery, where a small community of nuns live and work together. Because it is a doistered community, no one is allowed to visit. Sometimes I drive to the monastery and just sit in my car and ponder and pray.

On the monastery's front lawn is an inspiring statue of **Mary and Elizabeth**. The two women are portrayed as reaching out to one another, sharing a warm embrace, and telling the good news of their pregnancies. I love this visual—two women coming together to celebrate, encourage, nurture, and care for one another.

For me, the statue is a great reminder of the beauty of Advent. In this season as we prepare for the coming of Christ, we open our arms and hearts to one another. We embrace our sisters and brothers and share good news!

In this season of expectation and waiting, my prayer is that you experience the warm embrace of beloved sisters and brothers and hear the good news of hope, peace, love, and joy!



End-Of-Year Giving

This year has been a banner year for Baptist women ministers. Since January, thirteen women have been called as pastors by Baptist congregations, and well over a hundred women have been called to serve as church staff members, endorsed as chaplains, and hired by Baptist seminaries and non-profit organizations. Baptist Women in Ministry celebrates these gifted women and the churches and organizations that have called them.

At the heart of everything BWIM has done this year has been our commitment to advocate for and resource women ministers, including our Call Discernment Retreats for College Women, our Mentoring Group

Program, the Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching, the Annual Gathering and Award Presentations, Workshops and Breakout Sessions at state and national conferences, and leadership for the Clergy Sexual Misconduct Task Force in partnership with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

This has been both a busy and productive year, and your faithfulness and generosity makes this work possible. All the progress we see, all the successes we celebrate, and all the ways in which BWIM contributes to God's vision for equality and collaboration happen because of people like you who support our ministry and who share in our mission of affirming all those whom God has gifted for ministry.

Our work is expanding, and we would love for you to join BWIM in making an even greater impact on our Baptist world in 2018 as we advocate for, network with, and connect women gifted and called by God. Please consider making an end-of-year gift to Baptist Women in Ministry.

MAKE AN END-OF-YEAR GIFT TO BWIM

Discerning God's Call: A Retreat for College Women



Wondering if God is calling you? To church ministry? To missions? To serve with the most marginalized in our society?

On **February 9-11, 2018**, Baptist Women in Ministry will host a Discernment Retreat for college women, who are sensing a call to ministry. Millidge Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, Georgia, will host the retreat. The retreat will include time for worship, reflection, small groups, rest, and fellowship. If you want to know more or know college women who might be interested in attending, email Pam Durso at pamdurso@bwim.info.

The three-day retreat is free. Students will need only to pay their transportation costs to Athens and will need to bring linens or sleeping bags and towels. Food, snacks, and sleeping accommodations will be provided.

**Registration is now open for Baptist Women in Ministry's
Call Discernment Retreat for college women.**

REGISTER HERE

Martha Stearns Marshall Month Coming Soon!

Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching 2018 is fast approaching, and it is time to make plans for February!

For **ELEVEN YEARS** now, Baptist Women in Ministry has sponsored this annual emphasis, asking churches to invite women preachers into their pulpit in the month of February. The first Martha Stearns Marshall Month was held in 2007, and 51 churches participated. Last year, 201 churches took part.

In the past eleven years, an increasing number of Baptist women ministers have been called by churches and organizations. In 2017, thirteen of those women were called as pastors. The Baptist landscape is shifting!



Martha Stearns Marshall Month has contributed to that shift, and your church's past participation in this emphasis has mattered a great deal. By participating, your church has stood as an advocate for Baptist women called by God, and we are so grateful to you! We hope that your church in 2018 will again publicly voice its support of women in ministry and be counted with other Baptist churches in celebrating the calling and gifts of women.

For preacher recommendations, email Pam Durso at pamdurso@bwim.info.

LEARN MORE ABOUT MARTHA STEARNS MARSHALL MONTH OF PREACHING

ADD YOUR NAME TO A LIST OF AVAILABLE PREACHERS HERE

SEND YOUR CHURCH'S MARTHA INFORMATION HERE

BWIM's Ministry Photo Mondays Coming in 2018

Do you have a great ministry photo? An action shot or a group photo?

In 2018, Baptist Women in Ministry will share one photo each Monday to highlight the ministries of Baptist women. The photo will be shared on BWIM's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages.

Submit your photo and a short caption to ashleyrobinson@bwim.info. **If children are included in the photo, please have parental permission before submitting.**



Ordination Resources



In Baptist life, ordination to the gospel ministry is a church's recognition of God's calling and gifting. Baptist churches are widely diverse in the process of ordination, but most Baptist churches are unified in that the service of ordination provides a time of affirmation and blessing for the minister. Because careful planning and preparation can add depth and richness to that time of worship, Baptist Women in Ministry has gathered resources meant to assist in the planning of an ordination service. Those resources include litanies, poems, blessings, responses, and charges, all used in previous ordination services. We hope these resources will be helpful to you.

Meriah VanderWeide was ordained by First Baptist Church, Madison, South Dakota on December 3.

GET ORDINATION RESOURCES

Placement Resources Available

Baptist Women in Ministry offers placement help both to churches and candidates. Numerous churches reach out to BWIM, asking for resumés, recommendations, and information about potential ministry candidates, and the BWIM staff responds to each request and provides assistance. The BWIM staff also provides placement help to numerous candidates, both women and men, coaching them on resume preparation, interviewing and negotiating skills, and serving as a connecting point between many of the candidates and search committees. BWIM's assistance is provided as a ministry, and there are no fees for these services.

Be sure to read recent blogs by **Pam Durso** about interviewing, negotiating, and living with rejection, and check out the resources on BWIM's Placement Resource Page.

"Finding a Ministry Position: Tips for the Journey" by Pam Durso

"Clergy Resume Checklist" by Craig A. Janney

"Negotiating Clergy Compensation with Fair-mindedness" by Craig A. Janney

Questions for the Candidate

Questions for the Candidate, Congregation, and Committee

GET PLACEMENT RESOURCES

On the Move

Elizabeth Ashley-Pritchett is interim minister to senior adults at Second Avenue Baptist Church, Rome, Georgia.

Judy Harris is music director at First Baptist Church, Rockingham, North Carolina.

Tamike Jones is executive director at Woman's Missionary Union of Texas.

Meg Lacy is associate pastor at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia.

Mikaela Priddy is director of music at Neill's Creek Baptist Church, Angier, North Carolina.

Marsha Scipio is associate general secretary for missional initiatives and partnerships at American Baptist Churches USA.

Nancy Wheeler is pastor at First Baptist Church, Atlantic, Iowa.

Candice Young is communications director at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

Ordinations

Sheila Beers was ordained by Bethany Baptist Church, Syracuse, New York on December 10, 2017.

Sylveta Brown was ordained by Metropolitan Baptist Church, Largo, Maryland on November 19, 2017.

Lela Harris was ordained by Metropolitan Baptist Church, Largo, Maryland on November 19, 2017.

Meriah VanderWeide was ordained by First Baptist Church, Madison, South Dakota on December 3, 2017.

Tanai White was ordained by Metropolitan Baptist Church, Largo, Maryland on November 19, 2017.

Texas Baptist Women in Ministry

Encourage and Build

Texas Baptist Women in Ministry's annual conference will be held **February 2, 2018** at Baylor University's Truett Seminary. The conference will include worship, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and time for fellowship.



Learn more at txbwim.org/conference.

Survey on Baptist Seminary Experiences Regarding Women

Kristen Donnelly, an independent researcher and founder/director of Abbey Research is gathering participants for a project on experiences of women in Baptist seminaries, trying to discern potential patterns

unique to Baptist polity and culture regarding language about and treatment of women. This project is open to **all graduates of any Baptist seminary**. She is looking for diverse opinions from all genders and generations!

To participate, please complete [this survey](#). It should take about ten minutes. Pass the link on to anyone else who might be interested.

Open Ministry Positions

Positions are listed by state, city, open position, church name.

BWIM collects these openings from a wide variety of sources, and the degree of openness to women ministers among the listed churches varies. In its effort to advocate, network, and connect, BWIM provides this list as a resource to those searching for ministry positions.

CALIFORNIA

Pasadena-Community Pastor-First Baptist Church

GEORGIA

Decatur-Pastor to Families with Youth-First Baptist Church

Garfield-Pastor-Garfield Baptist Church

Macon-Minister of Family Life and Education-Vineville Baptist Church

Rome-Minister to Children and Youth-Second Avenue Baptist Church

ILLINOIS

Chicago-English Language Pastor-North Shore Baptist Church

KANSAS

Overland Park-Pastor-First Baptist Church

KENTUCKY

Danville-Pastor-Lexington Avenue Baptist Church

Fort Thomas-Pastor-First Baptist Church

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge-Pastor-University Baptist Church

MARYLAND

Ellicott-Minister of Youth and Outreach-Bethany Baptist Church

MISSISSIPPI

Hattiesburg-Pastor-University Baptist Church

MISSOURI

Belle-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Farmington-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Lee's Summit-Minister to Students-First Baptist Church

Marionville-Associate Pastor-First Baptist Church

Richland-Pastor-First Baptist Church

NEBRASKA

Kearney-Pastor-First Baptist Church

NEW YORK

New York City-Associate Minister for Youth and Young Adults-Riverside Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Ahoskie-Pastor-Early's Baptist Church

Black Mountain-Director of Spiritual Life-YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly

Gastonia-Associate Pastor for Youth, Children, and Discipleship-First Baptist Church

Greensboro-Associate Pastor of Youth-First Baptist Church

Hickory-Pastor-Viewmont Baptist Church

Mount Airy-Associate Minister for Families-First Baptist Church

Murfreesboro-Pastor-Murfreesboro Baptist Church

Roxboro-Pastor-Lamberth Baptist Church

Seaboard-Pastor-Galatia Baptist Church

Troy-Student and Children's Minister-First Baptist Church

Wilson-Pastor-First Baptist Church

SOUTH CAROLINA

Rock Hill-Minister of Music-Oakland Baptist Church

TENNESSEE**Cordova**-Minister to Students-Trinity Baptist church**Murfreesboro**-Minister to Preschool and Children-First Baptist Church**Nashville**-Minister to Preschool and Children-Woodmont Baptist Church**TEXAS****Austin**-Minister of Music and Outreach-University Baptist church**Coleman**-Pastor-First Baptist Church**Comanche**-Youth Minister/Worship Leader-East Side Baptist Church**Corpus Christi**-Bi-Lingual Pastor-Primera Iglesia Bautista**Grandview**-Student Pastor-First Baptist Church**Lubbock**-Pastor-Second Baptist Church**Waco**-The David E. Garland Chair in Preaching-Baylor University's Truett Seminary**Waco**-The Paul W. Powell Chair in Preaching-Baylor University's Truett Seminary**VIRGINIA****Abingdon**-Pastor-Abingdon Baptist Church**Christianburg**-Music Worship Leader/Education Director-Cambria Baptist Church**Fairfax**-Pastor-Calvary Hill Baptist Church**Farmville**-Pastor-Heritage Baptist Church**Front Royal**-Pastor-First Baptist Church**Martinsville**-Pastor-First Baptist Church**Middleburg**-Pastor-Middleburg Baptist Church**Mineral**-Student Minister-Mineral Baptist Church**Moseley**-Pastor-Chesterfield Baptist Church**Norfolk**-Pastor-Azalea Baptist Church**Richmond**-Field Strategist-Baptist General Association of Virginia**Springfield**-Pastor-First Baptist Church**Williamsburg**-Student Leader-James River Baptist Church**Winchester**-Associate Pastor-First Baptist Church

State and Regional Baptist Women in Ministry Contact Information

AlabamaTerri Byrd
terribyrd@aol.com**Arkansas**Megan Pike
mpike@2bdr.com**Florida**Rachel Gunter Shapard
rachelguntershapard@gmail.com**Georgia**Sarah Murray
sarahmurray@fbgriffin.org
www.bwimga.org**Heartland (Kansas/Missouri)**Robin Sandbothe
rsanbothe@cbts.edu**Kentucky**Alix Davidson Keller
alix.davidson@yahoo.com
Emily Holladay
emilyholladay@gmail.com**North Carolina**Leah Anderson Reed
lreed@rolesvillebaptist.orgAmy Starr Russell
amyrussell@fbchenderson.netwww.bwimnc.org**South Carolina**Merianna Neely Harrelson
merianna@merianna.net**Tennessee**Eileen Campbell-Reed
ecampbellreed@cbts.edu_**Texas**Mary Alice Birdwhistell
txbwim@gmail.com**Virginia**Nancy Hauser
hauserfamily@yahoo.com
www.vbwim.org

Baptist Women in Ministry exists to 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.

Baptist Women in Ministry | 404-513-6022 | www.bwim.info

STAY CONNECTED

