

Baptist Women in Ministry

December 2013

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A Christmas Confession

Most all my Facebook friends seem to have posted photos of their beautifully decorated Christmas trees, their hand-carved nativity scenes, and their lovely advent wreaths with the right color candles burning brightly. Their families have jumped into this joy of decorating and together they have hung hand-made ornaments on the tree and have hand written their Christmas cards. Everyone seems so well-prepared for this season of Advent and the celebration of Christmas.



I only wish that Christmas was that well-orchestrated for me. We finally put up our tree--and yes, we have an artificial tree instead of a living one. Our dog, who eats any and everything including pine needles, spoiled all our attempts at having anything other than an artificial tree (and sometimes he even eats the plastic needles off the tree we have). And we have a lot fewer ornaments these days. A few years ago when we tried a "real" tree we were oblivious to the fact that a heavier "real" tree needed to be secured in some way. We woke up the morning after decorating to find that the tree had toppled over and most of the breakable ornaments had smashed into millions of pieces (Luckily, we discovered the chaos before our dog did--so he probably ate only a few shards of glass). The ornaments that did not break are the plastic ones--ones that don't have as many memories attached to them. The ugly ones, of course, didn't break, so the back of our tree is still cluttered with really tacky reindeer and mice ornaments.

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Then there is the Advent Wreath--well, I can't remember where I stored it last year. The outdoor wreath that I hang on my front door--well, I seem to have misplaced that big hook that I use to hang it with. My Christmas dishes (and I have the really nice Spode ones)--well, I keep forgetting to get them down out of that way high cabinet to wash so that we can use them.



Despite my lack of Christmas success, I am a great lover of Christmas. I love the lights and smells and sounds of Christmas. I love seeing my family and hearing my sisters tell stories about the time we heard Santa on the roof. I love sitting by a warm fire, drinking hot chocolate, and listening to Christmas carols. But mostly, I love sitting in a dim church sanctuary on Christmas Eve, waiting for candles to be lit, hoping that no one catches on fire or drips candle wax on the pew cushions. (Even Christmas Eve is never easy for me). What I love best is the sweet sense of peace I always feel on Christmas Eve--the hope that fills my heart as I remember God's entry into this messy world.

My hope for you is that whether your Christmas is beautifully orchestrated or completely chaotic that the peace of Christ will surround you and the hope of Christ will fill your hearts this Christmas season.

Blessings in this season!

Pam Durso

The Messy Stuff of Ministry: Our 2014 Monthly Conversations

Each month a collaborative group led by **Devita Parnell** and **Pam Durso** gathers for conversations about women and Baptist life. We would love to have you join in these conversations! You don't even have to be in Georgia, because our group meets via phone conference call and/or online through live meetings.

The 2014 conversations will feature interviews with experts and practitioners, who will talk with us about the challenges of ministry and address the hard stuff

ministers encounter as they live out their calling. Invite your colleagues and friends (women and men), who might be interested in these learning sessions.

SAVE the DATES! Below are the dates and times of the upcoming meetings in 2014. Put these dates and times on your calendar. ALL times are Eastern Time Zone

The Messy Stuff of Ministry

January 7, 10:30 a.m.

"Why is Ministry So Messy: A Starting Conversation"

George Mason

Pastor, Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas

February 4, 10:30 a.m.

"Am I All Alone? Building a Network of Support"

Molly Marshall

President, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, Kansas

March 5, 1:30 p.m.

"Breaking the Law? Dealing with Pesky Legal Issues"

Rebecca Wiggs and Patricia A. Wilson

Rebecca is Attorney with Watkins and Eager Law Firm, Jackson, Mississippi

Patricia is Professor of Law, Baylor University Law School, Waco, Texas

April 1, 10:30 a.m.

"Hiring, Firing, Supervising? Handling Tricky Personnel Stuff"

Larry Decuir and Allison Tennyson

Larry is a member of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia

Allison is Director of Human Resources, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Decatur, Georgia

May 6, 10:30 a.m.

"Who Me Ask for Money? Fundraising 101"

Taryn Deaton

Director of Development, the Baptist Joint Committee

To connect to the conference call, dial **888-824-5783**. Enter the passcode **30278726**.

To join the conversation, email Ashley Robinson at ashleyrobinson@bwim.info for more information.

BWIM 360

In this our thirtieth anniversary year, the BWIM Leadership is dreaming into the future. We have beautiful dreams of retreats for college women in various regions and states as they explore their call to ministry. We have dreams of building mentoring networks through the use of retreats and technology. We have dreams of expanding our assistance for women seeking ministry positions.

For BWIM to live into its dreams, we need your prayers, your encouragement, and yes, your financial contributions.

We invite you to participate in a new initiative that we are calling **BWIM 360**. We ask you to give a gift of \$360 or to make a pledge to give \$30 a month for the next twelve months to help BWIM expand its ministries.

You can visit the [BWIM website](#) and make a one-time gift or sign up for a monthly contribution, or you can mail a contribution to us:

Baptist Women in Ministry
P. O. Box 941294
Atlanta, GA 31141-1294

It will take all of us working together and giving. Our dream is that when our daughters and granddaughters are called and as they serving, they will have the resources and encouragement they need to be the ministers God has called them to be. We invite you NOW to support BWIM by giving to BWIM 360.

DEAR ADDIE: A New Blog Series

Beginning in November 2013, Baptist Women in Ministry began a new bi-monthly blog series featuring "Dear Addie." This "column" is designed to provide encouragement and advice for women ministers as they navigate ministry waters. If you have questions and need some advice from a seasoned woman minister, you now have a place to turn. **Our "Addie" will answer your questions via the BWIM blog.** Please know that your identity will not be revealed in the blog and any identifying information will be changed to ensure your anonymity.

Email your questions to dearaddie.advice@gmail.com

Maternity Leave Policies

If your church is in the process of formulating a maternity leave policy or revising your current policy, check out the [BWIM website](#). We have collected policies from several churches that might be of help in your process.

Ordination Resources

Check out the BWIM website for [ordination resources](#)! We have collected orders of worship plus litanies, charges, and poems that are helpful in the planning ordination services!

BWIM Blog

Visit the [BWIM Blog](#)! New posts are added weekly. Recent writers include Tammy Abee Blom and Brittany Riddle!

On the Move

Leah Grundset Davis is the Communication Specialist for the Alliance of Baptists.

Mary Beth Foust is the Networking Coordinator at Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia.

Beth McConnell is the Pastor at Kathwood Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina.

Ginny Richardson is the Pastor for Youth and Children at Vienna Baptist Church in Vienna, Virginia.

Ordinations

Amy Miley Everett

was ordained on November 17, 2013 at Dayspring Baptist Church in Waco, Texas

Amy Gallaher was ordained on June 23, 2013 at Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, Cary, North Carolina.

Cathy Harris was ordained on December 1, 2013 at Rosalind Hills Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia.

Merianna Harrelson was ordained on December 7, 2013 at Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship in Lexington, South Carolina.

Aurelia Pratt was ordained on December 8, 2013 at Grace Baptist Church, Round Rock, Texas.

Virginia Brock Reynolds was ordained at First Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Tammy Snyder was ordained on October 20, 2013 at Bayshore Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida.

Texas Baptist Women in Ministry Events

The 2014 Texas Women in Ministry Conference will be held at Baylor University's Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas, on **March 24, 2014**. The plenary speaker for the 2014 conference will be Suzii Paynter, executive coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

For information, contact Meredith Stone at meredith.stone@texasbaptists.org

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.

ALABAMA

Birmingham-**Minister of Music and Worship**-Shades Crest Baptist Church
Huntsville-**Minister to Children**-First Baptist Church

ARKANSAS

Horatio-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Walnut Ridge - **Senior Pastor** - First Baptist Church

FLORIDA

Gainesville-**Youth Minister**-First Baptist Church

GEORGIA

Athens-**Associate Pastor for Students**-Milledge Avenue Baptist Church
Canton-**Pastor**-Heritage Baptist Fellowship
Claxton-**Minister of Students**-First Baptist Church
Dalton-**Minister to Youth and Families**-First Baptist Church
Macon-**Pastor**-Vineville Baptist Church
Plains-**Pastor**-Maranatha Baptist Church
Smyrna-**Pastor**-Log Cabin Community Church
Stone Mountain-**Minister to Families with Children**-Smoke Rise Baptist Church

INDIANA

Indianapolis-**Minister to Children and Youth**-First Baptist Church

KENTUCKY

Corbin-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Morehead-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Owensboro-**Administrative Pastor**-Bellevue Baptist Church

LOUISIANA

Thibodaux-**Minister of Youth and Education**-University Baptist Church

MARYLAND

Parkville-**Associate Pastor**-Chinese Christian Church of Baltimore

MISSOURI

Columbia-**Pastor of Children and Family Ministries**-Memorial Baptist Church
Rolla-**Pastor**-Salem Avenue Baptist Church
St. Louis **Worship Pastor**-Canaan Baptist Church
St. Louis-**Pastor**-Third Baptist Church
St. Louis-**Pastor**-Webster Grove Baptist Church

St. Joseph-**Minister of Families/Spiritual Formation**-Wyatt Park Baptist Church

NEW MEXICO

Belen-**Worship and Music Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Tatum-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Belmont-**Minister of Music**-Southport Baptist Church

Durham-**Minister of Discipleship and Children**-Durham Memorial Baptist Church

Cary-**Minister of Children**-First Baptist Church

Elon-**Senior Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Gastonia-**Minister of Youth**-First Baptist Church

Greensboro-**Pastor**-Parkway Baptist Church

Kannapolis-**Minister of Youth and College Students**-First Baptist Church

Kernersville-**Minister of Children**-First Baptist Church

Raleigh - **Executive Director/Treasurer** -Woman's Missionary Union of NC

Raleigh-**Minister of Preschool and Children**-Greystone Baptist Church

Raleigh-**Pastor**-Temple Baptist Church

Rockingham-**Associate Pastor/Minister of Families**-First Baptist Church

Roseboro-**Youth Pastor**-Mintz Baptist Church

West Jefferson-**Associate Pastor of Student/Family Ministries**-First Baptist Church

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City-**Pastor**-Spring Creek Baptist Church

SOUTH CAROLINA

Beaufort-**Associate Pastor in Family Ministries**-The Baptist Church of Beaufort

Columbia-**Mission Coordinator**-CBC of South Carolina

Inman-**Minister of Music**-First Baptist Church

Kinards-**Pastor**-Fairview Baptist Church

Piedmont-**Music, Children and Youth Minister**-First Baptist Church

TENNESSEE

Cordova-**Minister of Music**-Trinity Baptist Church

Jefferson City-**Minister to Children and Families**-First Baptist Church

TEXAS

Abernathy-**Youth Minister**-First Baptist Church

Abilene-**Pastor (Bilingual)**-Iglesia Bautista Ambler

Amarillo-**Pastor**-South Georgia Baptist Church

Breckenridge - **Minister of Youth** - First Baptist Church

Buna - **Youth Pastor** - Central Baptist Church

Dallas-**Pastor**-Journey Church

Ennis-**Student Pastor**-Tabernacle Baptist Church
Huffman-**Minister of Children**-First Baptist Church
Killeen-**Children's Minister**-First Baptist Church
San Antonio-**Youth Pastor**-Trinity Baptist Church
Stephenville-**Minister of Music or Education**-Valley Grove Baptist Church
Sweetwater-**Pastor**-Trinity Baptist Church
The Woodlands-**Student Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Vernon-**Pastor**-Second Baptist Church

VIRGINIA

Blacksburg-**Minister of College Outreach/Student Ministries**-Blacksburg Baptist Church
Bristol-**Minister to Families**-First Baptist Church
Disputanta-**Director of Youth/Children's Ministries**-Oakland Baptist Church
Hampton-**Associate Pastor for Children/Youth Discipleship**-Hampton Baptist Church
Hurt-**Pastor**-Monte Vista Baptist Church
Mechanicsville-**Pastor**-Walnut Grove Baptist Church
Richmond-**Associate Pastor for Youth and Mission**-Central Baptist Church
Richmond-**Community Building Coach**-Virginia Baptist Mission Board
Richmond-**Minister to Children**-Derbyshire Baptist Church
Richmond-**Worship Arts Pastor**-Gayton Baptist Church
Ringgold-**Pastor**-Ringgold Baptist Church
Rockville-**Associate Pastor for Family Ministry**-Berea Baptist Church
Scottsville-**Pastor**-Antioch Baptist Church
Woodbridge-**Pastor**-Potomac Crest Baptist Church

WEST VIRGINIA

Martinsburg - **Senior Pastor** - 365 Church

BALI

Sanur - **Pastor** - Gateway Baptist Church

NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax - **Director of Faith Development** - First Baptist Church

State Women in Ministry Information

Alabama

Contact Terri Byrd at terribyrd@aol.com.

Arkansas

Contact Carolyn Yeldell Staley at cstaley@phbclr.com.

Georgia

Contact LeAnn Gunter Johns leanngunter@gmail.com. For information, [click here](#).

Missouri

Contact Jennifer Harris Dault at info@bwimmo.org. For information, [click here](#).

North Carolina

Contact Virginia Taylor at rvgtaylor@earthlink.net. For information, [click here](#).

South Carolina

Contact Carrie Veal at theologygirl@yahoo.com or Ellen Sechrest at esechrest@boulevardbaptist.com.

Texas

Contact Meredith Stone at meredith.stone@texasbaptists.org. For information, [click here](#).

Virginia

Contact Elizabeth Melton Bartley at Elizabethmbartley@yahoo.com. For information, [click here](#).

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.