

Baptist Women in Ministry

December 2014

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Martha Stearns Marshall and Advent

by Pam Durso

Five miles from my house is the Sisters of Visitation monastery, a cloistered community with only a handful of nuns living and working together. On the front lawn of the monastery 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 . . . the beauty of Advent AND the beauty of Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching.

In this season as we prepare for the coming of Christ--just as Mary and Elizabeth did--we open our arms and hearts to one another. And in February, we will do that once again. Baptist churches will open their arms and their pulpits to women preachers. Together ALL the churches who participate give voice to the conviction that God does indeed call, gift, and work through the preaching and the leadership of women.

Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching gives an opportunity to Baptists and to Baptist churches to voice publicly our support of women in ministry and to be counted among those who celebrate the preaching gifts of women.

I hope that your church, even in this busy season of Advent, is preparing for February. I hope that you are making plans to invite a woman to share the good news

Pam Durso

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Find us on **Facebook** 

from your pulpit. For churches who have women pastors or who regularly have women preach, participation in Martha Stearns Marshall Month is still important for your church can be a model for others. You can be an advocate for women ministers in your community--in your Baptist world in beyond. You can invite, encourage, and even nudge other pastors and churches in your area to participate.

But even more importantly, in my opinion, is that Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching can be a time in which nurturing and affirming churches can welcome a first time preacher into the pulpit. What a gift that is to both your congregation and the preacher!

Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching provides us all with a chance to celebrate--to celebrate God's good work in our midst. And Advent offer us the same--a time to embrace our sisters and brothers and to share the good news!

Wishing you an Christmas season filled with hope, peace, love, and joy!

Pam Durso

FAMILY TIES:

Our 2015 Monthly Conversations

Each month a collaborative group led by **Pam Durso** and **Devita Parnell** gathers for conversation about women and Baptist life. You are invited to 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.

SAVE the DATE! Below are the dates and times for our 2015 conversations. Our theme for the year is "Family Ties," and we will be talking about family relationships, responsibilities, and real life challenges of ministers.

The 2015 Schedule

Tuesday, January 20, 10:30 a.m. (EASTERN TIME)

Tony Brooks

"Family Ties: Exploring the Complexities of Family Life for Ministers"

Tony is field strategist and Sunday School specialist with the Virginia Baptist Mission Board.

Tuesday, February 17, 10:30 a.m. (EASTERN TIME)

Jane and David Hull

"Two Callings, Two Ministries, and One Marriage: Making it Work"

Jane is pastor of Union Christian Church in Watkinsville, Georgia, and David is the Southeast coordinator for The Center for Healthy Churches.

Thursday, March 12, 10:30 a.m. (EASTERN TIME)

Mary Beth Foust, Julie Long, and Stephanie McLesky

"Pregnant while Ministering: The Joys and Challenges of a Very Public Pregnancy"

Mary Beth is ministry coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia. Julie Long is associate pastor and minister of children and families, First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon, Georgia. Stephanie is chaplain at Mars Hills University, Mars Hill, North Carolina.

Tuesday, April 14, 10:30 a.m. (EASTERN TIME)

Sharyn Dowd, Brittany Riddle, and Charity Roberson

"SBWM (Single Baptist Woman Minister): Surviving and Succeeding as a Single Minister"

Sharyn is pastor for caring and serving ministries, First Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia. Brittany is minister to adults, Vinton Baptist Church, Vinton, Virginia. Charity is equipping coach, Virginia Baptist Mission Board, Richmond, Virginia.

Tuesday, May 12, 10:30 a.m. (EASTERN TIME)

Brent Jones, Josh Speight, and Paul Swiney

"Help! My Wife is a Minister: A Conversation with Ministers' Spouses"

Brent's wife, Andrea, is pastor of Millbrook Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. Josh's wife, Becky, is minister to families with children, Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia. Paul's wife, Tambi, is associate pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

To connect to the conference call, use this number if you have free long distance: 1 (805) 309-2350 and enter 2201619.

If you do not have free long distance, connect by dialing any of Local Toll Access Numbers listed here and possibly avoid long distance charges that might otherwise be billed by your phone company. After dialing, enter 2201619.

For those without free long distance or a local toll access number, you may dial the toll-free number 1-800-309-2350 and enter 2201619.

For more information about the conversation, email Ashley Robinson at ashleyrobinson@bwim.info.

BE A SUPPORTER of BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

If your life and ministry has been enhanced by the work of Baptist Women in Ministry, you can make sure that other women have that same encouragement!

Be a supporter of our work. Help us as we seek to advocate for women ministers, provide resources for ministers and churches, and continue in promoting Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching, our e-newsletter and blog, and placement assistance!

We would love for you to be a monthly supporter. Sign up on the [BWIM website](#) and via Pay Pal, your bank account will be drafted each month. You can give \$10-\$15 or more. Or you can have your bank draft a monthly check to BWIM. Monthly gifts provide a stable financial base for Baptist Women in Ministry, and they are greatly appreciated.

Or you can also make a one-time donation on our website or via snail mail:

Send a check to:

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

Your support makes a HUGE difference!

THE NEW BWIM WEBSITE



Baptist Women in Ministry is pleased to introduce our [NEW website](#)! The site is packed full of resources, including information about [Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching](#), the [Addie Davis Awards](#), and the [Monthly Conversation](#) recordings and transcripts.

On the Resource Page, you will find [Maternity Leave Policies](#), [Ordination Resources](#), and a list of helpful [books and articles](#).

Plus you can read the [BWIM blog](#), buy our [T-Shirt](#), and [make a contribution](#)--all on our website!

More resources to come so keep checking the [BWIM site](#)! (A special shout out to **Ashley Robinson**, website designer extraordinaire)!

AN INTERVIEW WITH PAM DURSO

This semester McAfee School of Theology has produced a special video project titled The Sophia Project, in which **Kate Riney** has interviewed women ministers in and around Atlanta. In Part Four of the video series, Kate interviewed **Pam Durso**, executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry.



The Sophia Project Part IV - Pam Durso

THIS WEEK ON THE BWIM BLOG



The [TUESDAY PRAYER](#) from Baptist Women in Ministry is one written by W.R. Hunt.

[THIS IS WHAT A MINISTER LOOKS LIKE](#) featured Jewel London.

Our new monthly blog, [MINISTRY MANNERS](#), by Lynn Brinkley answers some questions about titles in church and academia:

"Jesus posed this question to disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Well, I pose this same question today, particularly, as it relates to titles in the church and academic setting. Who do you say that I am? Well, it all depends on who you ask..."

This month we also have a series of [Advent devotions](#).

Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Google+](#) to get frequent updates about our blog posts.

The BWIM T-SHIRT

Baptist Women in Ministry has a new t-shirt to go with our new book! And we have children's sizes! [Visit our website to order your t-shirt today.](#) You can order the book now by



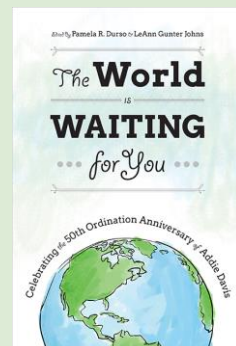
clicking [here!](#)

BWIM's MOST RECENT BOOK

Baptist Women in Ministry is pleased to partner with Smyth & Helwys Publishers in the production of a new book, **The World is Waiting for You: Celebrating the 50th Ordination Anniversary of Addie Davis**. The collection is co-edited by **Pam Durso** and **LeAnn Gunter Johns** and includes Addie's story, two of her sermons, and twenty-five sermons by eighteen Addie Davis Award recipients.

The preachers featured in the book are Gwen Brown, Erin James-Brown, Molly Brummett, Caroline Lawson Dean, Bailey Nelson Edwards, Griselda Escobar, Angela Fields, Nicole Finkelstein-Blair, Karen Hatcher, Kimberly Schmitt Holman, LeAnn Gunter Johns, Andrea Dellinger Jones, Martha Kearse, Veronice Miles, Heather Mustain, Teresa Pugh, Kyndall Rae Rothaus, and Shelley Hasty Woodruff.

The book is available from [Smyth & Helwys!](#)



READ or LISTEN TO PAST CONVERSATIONS

If you missed any of our past monthly conversations, we now have transcripts and recordings of the 2014 meetings on the BWIM website.

Audio recordings are available of these conversations:

Rebecca Wiggs and Patricia Wilson

["Breaking the Law? Dealing with Pesky Legal Issues"](#)

Laura Leavell

["Practice Sabbath? Who Has Time?"](#)

Taryn Deaton

["Who me? Ask for Money? Fundraising 101"](#)

Pam Durso and Devita Parnell

["Will I Ever Find a Ministry Position?: Hints and Helps for Surviving the Search Process."](#)

To listen to these recordings and also see transcripts from earlier conversations, [click here](#).

NextSunday DEVOTIONS

Baptist Women in Ministry in partnership with Smyth & Helwys and NextSunday Resources offers a weekly devotional titled **Thrive**. These devotionals, based on the Gospel of Matthew, focus attention on the ways in which God is at work in our lives.

The writer for December is **Amy Shorner-Johnson**. In her most recent devotion, Amy wrote:

"In the middle of this season, pay attention to the people who are hurting. Pay attention. Go out and do not be afraid of others' darkness, but be willing to sit in it and listen. Be willing to acknowledge their pain. Know also that pain is sacred. For Jesus found these words sacred in his darkest time, yet perhaps they reminded him that while he was alone, he was not the first to speak them aloud."



Read this devotion and earlier ones on the [NextSunday blog](#).

DEAR ADDIE

Baptist Women in Ministry has a blog series featuring "[Dear Addie](#)," which 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!

Ordinations

Pamela Ash was ordained at Jerusalem Baptist Church, Emmerton, Virginia, on June 1, 2014.

Kenza Gumbs was ordained at Cornerstone Church, Snellville, Georgia, on November 30, 2014.

On the Move

Vickie Lynn Anderson is executive director/treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union of Tennessee.

Meg Biddle is pastor of First Baptist Church, Central Square, New York.

Marisa Fraley is minister to youth and children at Union Cross Baptist Church, Kernersville, North Carolina.

Beverly Lwenya is communications coordinator at The District Church, Washington, D.C.

Krista Manuel is minister to children and their families, Chester Baptist Church, Chester, Virginia.

Jeanine White is global consultant for American Baptist International Ministries.

Virginia BWIM Ready to Respond Conference

Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry is hosting a conference for women considering a call to ministry. The conference will be held at University Baptist Church in Charlottesville on **February 6-7, 2015**.

Hotel lodging and meals are provided at no cost to the participant. The only expense is transportation to and from Charlottesville.

For more information, visit the [VBWIM website](#).

Texas Women in Ministry Conference

Texas Baptists are hosting a ministry conference on February 20, 2015 at Logsdon Seminary in Abilene, Texas. The theme for the conference is "Reflecting God's Image," and plenary speakers include **Cheryl Kimble**, pastor of Highland Park Baptist Church in Austin, and **Kyndall Rothaus**, pastor of Covenant Baptist Church in San Antonio.

The conference will include plenary sessions, panel discussions, breakouts on topics related to women in ministry and ministry equipping, and networking opportunities.

For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Women's Pilgrimage to Ireland:

A Spiritual Journey: A Place of Divine Encounter

Beth MacConnell and **Christy McMillin-Goodwin** will be leading a pilgrimage to Ireland April 10-19, 2015. Highlights of the Pilgrimage will include: St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, The Butter Exchange in Cork, The Cliffs of Mohr, shopping, and much more. Click here for the brochure, or contact [Beth MacConnell](#) or [Christy McMillin](#) for more information.

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

Auburn-**Associate Pastor for Youth, College, and Young Adults**-Auburn First Baptist Church

Auburn-**Associate Pastor for Music**-Auburn First Baptist Church

Birmingham-**Pastor**-Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

Mobile-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

ARKANSAS

Jonesboro-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Little Rock-**Minister to Youth and Children**-Pulaski Heights Baptist Church

CALIFORNIA

Palo Alto-**Associate Pastor for Faith Formation & Family Life**-First Baptist Church

Tahoe City-**Children's Ministry Intern**-First Baptist Church

COLORADO

Denver-**Pastor**-Central Baptist Church

FLORIDA

Jacksonville-**Pastor**-Deermeadows Baptist Church

Jacksonville-**Managing Editor**-Florida Baptist Witness

Jacksonville-**Pastor**-Riverside Baptist Church

Niceville-**Pastor**-Bluewater Community Church

St. Petersburg-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Tampa-**Pastor**-Bayshore Baptist Church

Vero Beach-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

GEORGIA

Atlanta-**Chaplain**-Piedmont Hospital

Atlanta-**Minister of Congregational Life**-Wieuca Road Baptist Church

Carrollton-**Pastor**-Tabernacle Baptist Church

Madison-**Minister of Music**-Madison Baptist Church

Milledgeville-**Minister to Families**-First Baptist Church

Ocilla-**Youth Pastor**-Ocilla Baptist Church

Rome-**Pastor**-Garden Lakes Baptist Church

St. Simons-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

KANSAS

Topeka-**Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, & Small Groups**-First Baptist Church

KENTUCKY

Berea-**Minister of Music and Children**-Berea Baptist Church

Louisville-**Minister of Music**-Deer Park Baptist Church

Stanford-**Pastor**-Stanford Baptist Church

MARYLAND

Ashton-**Pastoral Counselor**-CentrePointe Counseling, Inc. (part-time)

Easton-**Pastor**-Union Baptist Church

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor-**Pastor**-Second Baptist Church

Charlotte-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

MISSOURI

Jefferson City-**Associate Pastor for Children**-First Baptist Church
Kansas City-**Pastor**-Crossroads Church

NEW JERSEY

Passaic-**Pastor**-St. Paul Baptist Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Benson-**Minister to Youth and Children**-Benson Baptist Church
Burlington-**Associate Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Chapel Hill-**Intentional Interim Pastor**-Binkley Baptist Church
Chapel Hill-**Minister to Children**-Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
Charlotte--**Pastor**-Myers Park Baptist Church
Durham-**Associate Pastor for Families**-Temple Baptist Church
Elizabeth City-**Minister of Students**-Corinth Baptist Church
Elizabeth City-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Elkin-**Minister for Music and Children**-First Baptist Church
Greenville-**Pastor**-The Memorial Baptist Church
Kannapolis-**Minister of Students**-Memorial Baptist Church
Lenoir-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Morgantown-**Minister of Music**-First Baptist Church
New Bern-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Newton Grove-**Pastor**-Newton Grove Baptist Church
Raleigh-**Minister for Serving Christ**-Forest Hills Baptist Church
Raleigh-**Minister of Music and Worship**-Hayes Barton Baptist Church
Raleigh-**Children's Minister**-Millbrook Baptist Church (part-time)
Raleigh-**Minister of Children and Youth**-Rolesville Baptist Church
Raleigh-**Pastor**-Macedonia
Spring Hope-**Senior Pastor**-Duke Memorial Baptist Church
Spruce Pine-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Winston-Salem-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Winston-Salem-**Community Minister**-Northwest Baptist Church (part-time)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Anderson-**Minister of Music**-Boulevard Baptist Church
Clemson-Director of College Ministries-First Baptist Church
Greenville-**Minister to Youth**-First Baptist Church
Hartsville-**Minister to Youth and Children**-First Baptist Church
Orangeburg-**Associate Pastor/Minister of Music**-First Baptist Church
Pickens-**Minister to Students and Families**-First Baptist Church
Simpsonville-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

TENNESSEE

Johnson City-**Pastor**-Central Baptist Church
Knoxville-**Minister of Youth**-West Hills Baptist Church

TEXAS

Arlington-**Minister of Music and Worship**-First Baptist Church
Chattanooga-**Pastor**-Second Missionary Baptist Church
El Paso-**Associate Pastor for Congregational Care**-Coronado Baptist Church
Ft. Worth-**Pastor**-Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Fredericksburg-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Rochester-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Waco-**Pastor**-Lake Shore Baptist Church

VIRGINIA

Bassett-**Pastor**-Oak Level Baptist Church
Chester-**Minister to Children and Parents**-Chester Baptist Church (part-time)
Clifton Forge-**Minister of Music and Youth**-Clifton Forge Baptist Church
Colonial Heights-**Pastor**-Woodland Baptist Church
Cumberland-**Pastor**-Fitzgerald Memorial Baptist Church
Danville-**Associate Pastor/Minister of Music**-Moffett Memorial Baptist Church
Durham-**Minister of Discipleship and Children**-Durham Memorial Baptist Church
Earlsville-**Associate Pastor of Formation**-Chestnut Grove Baptist Church
Falls Church-**Youth Minister Intern**-First Baptist Church of Merrifield (part-time)
Floyd-**Pastor**-Floyd Baptist Church
Fredericksburg-**Youth Director**-Bethel Baptist Church (part-time)
Fredericksburg-**Pastor**-Fairview Baptist Church
Jarratt-**Pastor**-High Hills Baptist Church
Kenbridge-**Pastor**-Kenbridge Baptist Church
King William-**Pastor**-Sharon Baptist Church
Lexington-**Associate Pastor of Family Life and Music**-Manly Memorial Baptist Church
Lynchburg-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Midlothian-**Preschool Director**-Winfree Memorial Baptist Church
Quinton-**Pastor**-High Hills Baptist Church
Quinton-**Pastor**-Second Liberty Baptist Church (part-time)
Richmond-**Director of Youth**-Branch's Baptist Church (part-time)
Richmond-**Pastor**-Grace Baptist Church
Richmond-**Finance Business Manager**-First Baptist Church
Roanoke-**Pastor**- Calvary Baptist Church
Roanoke-**Director of Youth**-Rosalind Hills Baptist Church (part-time)
Saluda-**Pastor**-Saluda Baptist Church
Waynesboro-**Minister of Education and Family Ministries**-First Baptist Church
Williamsburg-**Children & Youth Associate**-Williamsburg Baptist Church (part-time)

WASHINGTON DC

Executive Director-District of Columbia Baptist Association
Pastor-First Baptist Church

WEST VIRGINIA

Bluefield-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

State Women in Ministry Information

Alabama

Contact Terri Byrd at terribyrd@aol.com.

Georgia

Contact Hannah Coe at hannah@firstbaptistathens.org. For information, [click here](#).

Kentucky

Contact Alix Davidson Keller at alix.davidson@yahoo.com.

Missouri

Contact Robin Sandbothe at rsandbothe@cbts.edu. For information, [click here](#).

North Carolina

Contact Carolyn Ashburn at cwajwa@bellsouth.net.

For information, [click here](#).

South Carolina

Contact Ellen Sechrest at esechrest@boulevardbaptist.com.

Texas

Contact Meredith Stone at mstone@hsutx.edu. 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.