

Baptist Women in Ministry

August 2015

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CHANGE IS GOOD, RIGHT?

by Pam Durso



Seems like everything in my life right now is in flux. McAfee School of Theology, where I teach as an adjunct, began a new semester this week, and on Monday, I met a classroom full of new students. On Tuesday, the McAfee community gathered for Founders Day, and the new interim dean, Rob Nash, preached a fiery and future-filled sermon. But Alan

Culpepper, the only dean that McAfee has ever known, was not present. He is on a well-deserved sabbatical before he rejoins the faculty to teach next spring. Sitting around me in that chapel service were several recent McAfee graduates, my "former students," who I no longer see each and every week.

My heart has held so much sadness this week as I have let go of what has been, but yet there is so much joy in new beginnings, new opportunities, newness. As a leader, a professor, and a minister, letting go is never easy, but I have done it so often that I have learned how to live somewhat comfortably with the constant presence of change.

But this past week I have learned new lessons about letting go. We moved our daughter, Alex, into her freshman dorm room at Georgia Tech last Friday. And yes, I was *that mother*--the one who cleaned her new room, put away all her clothes, helped make her bed, and made sure her dad taught her how to use new coffee maker. And yes, I am *that mother*--I took 25-30 pictures of her first day at college. But when it came time to leave, I wasn't *that mother*. As much as I wanted to, I didn't cry or cling. I knew if I started that I might never stop crying and clinging. Instead, I hugged her and left very quickly, and her dad, brother, and I drove home in silence. Alex called me later and said, "So the band-aid approach, huh?"

Five nights later and several really busy days later, I sat and

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ashleyrobinson@bwim.info.



Alex's first day of
college photo!

pondered all this change going on in my life. Change is good, right? Some days it doesn't seem so good.

In these past few days, change has not been my friend. I have had those expected moments of loneliness, sadness, and grief. I have struggled with anxiety, remembering all the things that I didn't teach her or warn her about and hoping that she will be safe. Yet in the midst of my sadness, I have found my heart filled with joy and pride. Alex found all her classrooms and didn't get lost on that huge college campus, and she has been talking with girls on her hall and going to the "forced socialization" activities (her words, not mine). She has examined all her syllabi very carefully, organized her calendar, and read ahead for her classes.

College has brought change to our lives, but Alex is still very much the girl that I have loved for eighteen years. Confident and diligent. True to herself. Perceptive and super snarky. I hope those things about her never change!

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!

Become a monthly supporter. Sign up on the [BWIM website](#) and via Pay Pal, your bank account will be drafted each month. 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!

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, September 15, 10:30 a.m. (EASTERN TIME)

Merianna Neely Harrelson and Kerrie Clayton Jordan

"Not for the Faint of Heart: Step-Parenting and Ministry"

Merianna Neely Harrelson is the pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, South Carolina, and Kerrie Clayton Jordan is minister of music and senior adults, First Baptist Church, Smithfield, North Carolina.

Thursday, October 15, 10:30 a.m. (EASTERN TIME)

Darlene Flaming and Amy Mears

"Grieving in Public: Living with Loss as a Minister"

Darlene Flaming is associate professor of religion, Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, and Amy Mears is co-pastor, Glendale 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.

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.

LISTEN TO PAST CONVERSATIONS

You can now listen or read transcripts from our past [conversations on the BWIM website](#).

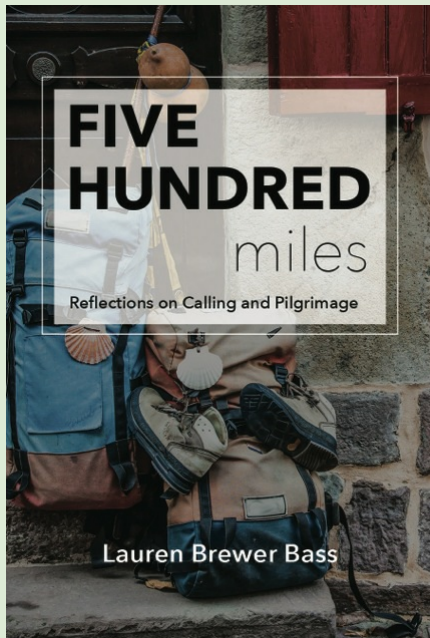
The most recent conversations include:

[Help! My Wife is a Minister: A Conversation with Ministers' Spouses](#), featuring Brent Jones, Josh Speight, and Paul Swiney

[SBWM \(Single Baptist Woman Minister\) Surviving and Succeeding as a Single Minister](#): A Conversation with Sharyn Dowd, Charity Roberson, and Brittany Riddle

[Pregnant While Ministering](#): A Conversation with Julie Long, Stephanie McLeskey, and Mary Beth Foust

FIVE HUNDRED MILES: Reflections on Calling and Pilgrimage by Lauren Brewer Bass



Baptist Women in Ministry is proud to introduce a new book, ***Five Hundred Miles: Reflections on Calling and Pilgrimage***, by **Lauren Brewer Bass**. BWIM partnered with Lauren and with Smyth & Helwys Publishers to produce this much needed, creative and fresh book on vocational calling.

Lauren is a recent graduate of Logsdon Seminary, a gifted writer and thinker, and one of the most adventurous people around. She has crafted together stories from a pilgrimage she made on the Camino de Santiago with her own developing understanding of calling. While the idea for the book began with an interest in college students, the

finished product has value beyond that original vision. All of us--college students, seminarians, young and new ministers, seasoned clergy, and lay people--need to read and hear Lauren's words. Her beautiful weaving together of her stories with God's story offers wisdom for those on the journey. Order Lauren's book by visiting [Smyth & Helwys Publishers](#).

MONDAY PSALMS

Baptist Women in Ministry offers a weekly devotion. These devotions, based on the Psalms, focus attention on the ways in which God is at work in our lives.



Alicia Davis Porterfield is our August writer, and in her devotion last week, [Psalm 88: Despair as Prayer](#), she writes: "Psalm 88 is permission to disobey the rule about only saying nice things, at least in our prayer life. This prayer invites us to offer our truest, unadorned anguish to the God who makes all things new."

Our upcoming devotion writers include **Julie Pennington-Russell** and **Griselda Escobar**.

CBF Endorsed Chaplains

On August 2, 2015, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship endorsed the following as chaplains and/or pastoral counselors: **Jennifer Clamon, Rachel Cobb, Katie Harbin, Kathy Moneypenny, LuAnne Prevost, Laura Roach, and Deborah Wall**.

ORDINATIONS

Marsha Bishop was ordained on May 3, 2015, by First Baptist Church, Vincennes, Indiana.

Sarah Choi was ordained on August 2, 2015, by Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

Randi McFarland was ordained on August 2, 2015, by University Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia.

ON THE MOVE

Clary Aaron is minister of children and education, First Baptist Church, Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Dana Brawley is minister of worship and youth, Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Mechanicsville, Virginia.

Laura Cassidy-Moffatt is associate pastor for children, youth, and small groups, First Baptist Church, Topeka, Kansas.

Liliana da Valle is pastor, Grace Baptist Church, San Jose, California.

Lisabeth Gustafson is pastor, First Baptist Church, Winstead, Connecticut.

Wynde Holbrook is executive director, the Academy of Preachers Inc., Lexington, Kentucky.

Crystal Holie is minister of community outreach, Church on the Drive, Orlando, Florida.

Sara Hubble is student pastor, Bon Air Baptist Church--Village Campus, Richmond, Virginia.

Carol Kenyon is minister of families and outreach, First Baptist Church, Glendale, California.

Lesley Lindblad is student minister, Biltmore Baptist Church, Glen Allen, Virginia.

Diane Lipsett is minister of faith formation and education, Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Jamie McCallum is pastor, Belfair Baptist Church of Belfair, Washington.

Christina McCord is minister to children and families, First Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina.

Mandy Meisenheimer is director of children and families, Riverside Church, New York, New York.

Michelle Richey is minister of children, River Oaks Baptist Church, Houston, Texas.

Sarah Stender is organist/music assistant, First Baptist Church, Beaufort, South Carolina.

Amy Stertz is minister with children and families, First Baptist Church, Asheville, North

Carolina.

Stephanie Swanson is pastor, Crossroads Church, Kansas City, Missouri.

Diana Thompson is pastor, First Baptist Church, South Bend, Indiana.

Brenda Thompson is youth minister, First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Georgia.

Bekah Worley is minister of youth and congregational life, Roxboro Baptist Church, Roxboro, North Carolina.

Molly Brummett Wudel is bi-vocational pastor, Emmaus Way, Durham, North Carolina.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE

September 21-24, 2015

The annual Women in Ministry Conference will be held **September 21-24, 2015** in Atlanta, Georgia. **Cynthia L. Hale**, pastor of Ray of Hope, is the conference convener. This year's theme is "Becoming An Emotionally Healthy Preacher: Working Out Private Realities On A Public Stage." Gather with professional women from all across the country who serve in ministry as pastors, professors, chaplains, executives, activists, authors, psalmists, seminarians, evangelists, missionaries, licensed, and ordained ministers for this four-day event. For registration information, visit the [conference website](#).

WOMEN OF COLOR IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE

October 15-17, 2015

The Second Annual Women of Color in Ministry Conference will be held **October 15-17, 2015**, in Atlanta, Georgia. The general sessions will feature Asian American, African American, and Hispanic women leaders and preachers, and workshops will address pay equity, leadership development, and preaching in the twenty-first century. Register for the conference soon on the [WOCIM website](#).

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-**Associate Pastor of Children and Families**-Shades Crest Baptist Church

ARIZONA

Lake Havasu City-**Pastor/Director Family Ministries**-Hilltop Community Church

ARKANSAS

Searcy-**Preschool Ministry Coordinator**-First Baptist Church

CONNECTICUT

Eastford-**Pastor**-Eastford Baptist Church

FLORIDA

Cocoa-**Children's Minister**-First Baptist Church

Daytona Beach-**Minister of Music, Youth and Families**-Central Baptist Church

Miami-**Parent Partner**-Touching Miami with Love

Miami-**Parents Partner Program Coordinator**-Touching Miami with Love

Orlando-**Associate Pastor**-Church on the Drive

Tallahassee-**Children's Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Tampa-**Youth Minister**-Bayshore Baptist Church

West Homestead-**Social Worker**-Touching Miami with Love

GEORGIA

Atlanta-**Bereavement Coordinator**-Journey Hospice

Atlanta-**Social Worker**-Buckhead Christian Ministry

Atlanta-**Associate Pastor for Worship and Growth**-Eastside Church

Commerce-**Minister to Youth, Children, and Families**-First Baptist Church

Dunwoody-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Fitzgerald-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

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

Griffin-**Minister to Students**-First Baptist Church

Jefferson-**Minister of Children and Families**-First Baptist Church

Roswell-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

KENTUCKY

Bowling Green-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Harrodsburg-**Minister of Youth**-Harrodsburg Baptist Church

MARYLAND

Annapolis-**Pastor**-Heritage Baptist Church

Arnold-**Pastor**-College Parkway Baptist Church

MISSOURI

Cape Girardeau-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Kansas City-**Pastor**-Winnwood Baptist Church

Kirkwood-**Pastor**-Kirkwood Baptist Church

St. Joseph-**Minister of Youth and Family Spiritual Formation**-Wyatt Park Baptist Church

NEW YORK

New York City-**Minister of Justice, Advocacy, and Change**-Riverside Church

Rochester-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Asheville-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Biscoe-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Butner-**Associate Pastor**-First Baptist Church

Charlotte-**Pastor**-Providence Baptist Church

Clayton-**Minister to Children**-First Baptist Church

Elizabethtown-**Pastor**-Elizabethtown Baptist Church

Hickory-**Minister of Music and Worship**-First Baptist Church

Hillsborough-**Prison Chaplain**-Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry

Lexington-**Pastor**-Jersey Baptist Church

Raleigh-**Minister with Students**-Hayes Barton Baptist Church

Raleigh-**Executive Director**-Women's Missionary Union

Reidsville-**Pastor**-Baptist Temple

Salisbury-**Pastor**-Neel Road Baptist Church

Smithfield-**Pastor**-Sharon Baptist Church

Wilkesboro-**Pastor**-Wilkesboro Baptist Church

Wilmington-**Church Administrator**-First Baptist Church

SOUTH CAROLINA

Aiken-**Student Minister**-First Baptist Church

Cheraw-**Pastor**-Pee Dee Union Baptist Church

North Charleston-**Metanoia Fellow**-St. Matthews Baptist Church

Spartanburg-**Pastor**-Morningside Baptist Church

TENNESSEE

Cordova-**Associate Pastor**-Trinity Baptist Church

Cordova-**Minister to Students**-Trinity Baptist Church

Knoxville-**Minister of Children and Youth**-Ball Camp Baptist Church

Sevierville-**Pastor**-Wears Valley Baptist Church

TEXAS

Andrews-**Associate Pastor for Adult Education**-First Baptist Church
Castroville-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Corpus Christi-**Minister to Students**-Second Baptist Church
Dallas-**Minister of Music and Administration**-Cliff Temple Baptist Church
Dallas-**Pastor**-Royal Lane Baptist Church
Ft. Worth-**Pastor**-Agape Baptist Church
Ft. Worth-**Pastor**-Gambrell Street Baptist Church
Georgetown-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Georgetown-**Minister to High School Students**-Main Street Baptist Church
Houston-**Minister of Adult Ministries**-University Baptist Church
Hudson Oaks-**Pastor**-LakeShore Drive Baptist Church
Lufkin-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Mabank-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Marlin-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Midland-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Pasadena-**Minister of Youth and Education**-South Main Baptist Church
Stephenville-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

VIRGINIA

Chase City-**Pastor**-Bethel Baptist Church
Danville-**Associate Pastor/University Chaplain**-West Main BC/Averett University
Fincastle-**Pastor**-Mill Creek Baptist Church
Henrico-**Pastor**-Bethlehem Baptist Church
Martinsville-**Associate Pastor, Family Ministry & Education**-First Baptist Church
Martinsville-**Pastor**-Starling Avenue Baptist Church
Montpelier-**Pastor**-Western Hanover Church
Montross-**Pastor**-Nomini Baptist Church
New Kent-**Associate Minister of Education and Worship**-Corinth Baptist Church
Roanoke-**Pastor**-Waverly Place Baptist Church
South Boston-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church
Staunton-**Minister to Families**-Memorial Baptist Church
Suffolk-**Pastor**-Holland Baptist Church

WASHINGTON DC

Pastor-Calvary Baptist Church

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston-**Pastor**-Charleston Baptist Temple

State Women in Ministry Information

Alabama

Contact Terri Byrd at terribyrd@aol.com.

Arkansas

Contact Megan Pike at mpike@cbfar.org

Florida

Contact Rachel Gunter Shapard at rachelguntershapard@gmail.com.

Georgia

Contact Jennifer Lyon at lyonjen@gmail.com. For information, [click here](#).

Kentucky

Contact Alix Davidson Keller at alix.davidson@yahoo.com or Emily Holladay at EmilyHolladay@gmail.com.

Missouri

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

North Carolina

Contact Anita Thompson at anita@fbcahoskie.org. For information, [click here](#).

South Carolina

Contact Ellen Sechrest at esechrest@boulevardbaptist.com.

Texas

Contact Ellen Di Giosia at txbwim@gmail.com.

Virginia

Contact Colleen Swingle-Titus at dinglecole@gmail.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.