

# Baptist Women in Ministry

## December 2015

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## Joy in the Silence

by Pam Durso

These last few days in December have seemed so ordinary. The excitement of year's travel are behind me. The emails have slowed down considerably. The office is quiet. The parking lot is empty. But as I am learning, there is joy in the ordinary, joy in the silence.

My joy teacher during this Advent Season has been Zechariah. His story is one of my favorites. I know, I know. Elizabeth usually gets top billing, but I am a big fan of Zechariah . . . for reasons that might surprise you.

I think of Zechariah as the "man who showed up." This reliable priest showed up for his ministry work every day--even when times were hard, even when his faith was in short supply. He kept showing up to fulfill his duties.

But then one ordinary work day, he was chosen as "the one" to enter into the holy place. He was selected to go in and to be close to God, and his ordinary day at work became a day filled with joy.

You know the story . . . God's messenger startled Zechariah and then told him, "Do NOT be afraid." Those words of instruction always make me smile. But of course, Zechariah was afraid. It isn't every day you meet a real-live angel at work. But then the angel makes the announcement. The good news is told. A baby is coming. A miracle is happening. Joy is on the way!

After a brief conversation, Zechariah's voice is silenced. For months, he cannot speak. The angel attributes the silence to Zechariah's doubts, and while some read

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Baptist Women in Ministry  
Leadership Team, 2015



this passage and think the silence is intended as a punishment, I read this passage and see the silence as an opportunity. Silence provides an opening, a way for this righteous man of God to fully experience, to completely embrace JOY!

For me, these past few days--ordinary work days, sitting in the silence of my office, I have had opportunity to ponder and reflect, and what I am discovering is that joy is all around me--if only I am quiet enough and open enough to sense it.

In this busy season, my prayer is that you will take time to embrace the silence and be surprised by JOY!

## END OF YEAR GIVING: It's that time of year!

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!

## MONDAY PSALMS

Baptist Women in Ministry offers a weekly devotion. In 2015, these devotions, have been based on the Psalms and have focused attention on the ways in which God is at work in our lives. **Pam Durso and Ashley Robinson** are our December writers.



Ashley wrote in her devotion, [Psalm 139: You're Still Here?](#): "I have spent a good portion of my adult life trying my best to run away from all things holy. And, the amazing, if not annoying, truth that I have discovered through my running away is that no matter how far into the darkest, seediest corner I wander, I can't escape the presence of a very persistent God."

In her devotion [Psalm 130: When Joy Shows up for the Preacher](#), Pam wrote: "I told them the truth about my shadows. I told them that joy had been really elusive for me lately. I told them that I was struggling, and because my lovely church members talk back to the preacher, they said, "Yes." "Preach it." "Go on!" And they nodded and again said, "Yes." But what I also heard them saying was "We know how you feel!" "We are with you." "Us too!" Suddenly, I was no longer alone, and there it was . . . a glimmer of joy."



## MARTHA STEARNS MARSHALL MONTH OF PREACHING

Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching is fast approaching (February 2016 will be here before you know it)!

Baptist Women in Ministry has sponsored this annual emphasis since 2007, and as a result of the the advocacy and support of Baptist pastors and leaders, we are seeing a shift in our Baptist culture. In the past eight years, as we have observed the Baptist landscape, we have seen greater numbers of women find ministry positions, live out their calling, and serve in this world, and we have seen more churches open their pulpits to women and call women to serve their congregations.

We hope that your church 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.

If you already have made plans to participate, send in your church and preacher's name to Ashley Robinson at [ashleyrobinson@bwim.info](mailto:ashleyrobinson@bwim.info).

## OUR MONTHLY CONVERSATIONS: A Fond Farewell

For six years now, we (**Pam Durso** and **Devita Parnell**) have invited you to our monthly conversations. Over the years, we have talked about significant issues that influence the lives of ministers; we have interviewed remarkable Baptist women; we have introduced you to gifted writers, thinkers, and ministers; and we have had so much fun along the way.



Our December 2015 conversation was our final one. The decision to conclude these

conversations was not an easy one, but we both felt it was time to give energy and attention to other opportunities and projects. Endings often make room for new beginnings, and we are surely open and ready for ways that we will partner together in the future. And you can be sure of that-- we will keep working and dreaming and plotting and planning together for many years to come.

## **Our Conversation about Self-Care with Chanequa Walker-Barnes**

If you missed our December conference call about self-care, you will want to take time to listen to it.

The conversation with Chanequa was one of our best and filled with so many wise words: "You can't give yourself away if you don't have a self to begin with." "Every day make one small decision in your favor and feel good about it."

The conversation is posted on our website, and you can listen to it by [clicking here](#).



## **LISTEN TO PAST CONVERSATIONS**

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

The most recent conversations include:

### **[Step-parenting While Ministering](#)**

A Conversation with Merianna Neely Harrelson

### **[Caring for Aging Parents While Ministering](#)**

A Conversation with Karen Massey, Kerri Thompson, and Prissy Tunnell

### **[Project Pomegranate: Infertility, Pregnancy Loss, and Infant Death](#)**

A conversation with Jake Hall, Mary Elizabeth Hanchey, and Ruth Perkins Lee

**[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

**[Two Ministries, One Marriage](#)**: A Conversation with Jane and David Hull

## **ORDINATIONS**

**Deadra M. Moore** was ordained on November 15, 2015 by Judson Memorial Baptist Church,

## ON THE MOVE

**Leslie Ayuko** is minister of music at First Baptist Church, Cleburne, Texas.

**Annie Bollen** is minister of youth and activities at First Baptist Church, Eatonton, North Carolina.

**Sarah Corbett** is minister to children and families at First Baptist Church, Jefferson, Georgia.

**Stacy Emerson** is senior minister at First Baptist Church, West Hartford, Connecticut.

**Rebecca Hinson Jones** is children's minister at Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Katie Morgan** is the minister of spiritual formation and outreach at McLean Baptist Church in McLean, Virginia.

**Julie Pennington-Russell** is pastor of First Baptist Church, Washington, DC.

**Kelsey Stillwell** is minister to families and youth at First Baptist Church, Commerce, Georgia.

**Sharon Warner** is minister of children and young families at First Baptist Church, Hallsville, Texas.

## Women's Ministry Summit



**Lauren Winner** will be the guest speaker for First Baptist Church of Gainesville, Georgia's 2016 Women's Ministry Summit. The Summit will be on **January 29-30, 2016**. Lauren will lead a Friday evening and Saturday morning retreat, based on her most recent book, ***Wearing God***.

The cost of the retreat is \$25. To register, visit the church's [website](#).

## Texas BWIM

Texas Baptist Women in Ministry will host its first annual Women in Ministry Conference on **February 19-20, 2016** at Truett Seminary. The proclaimers for the event are **Katie McKown**, pastor of Scottsville Baptist Church, Scottsville, Virginia, and **Wanda Bolton-Davis**, founder and executive director of Victorious Disciples Ministries, Inc., Dallas, Texas.

## BWIM of North Carolina

Baptist Women in Ministry of North Carolina will hold its 2016 convocation at First Baptist Church, Raleigh, on **March 17, 2016**. Convocation will begin at 7:30 p.m. All are invited to participate in dinner groups prior to convocation in downtown Raleigh at 5:45 p.m.

## BWIM of Georgia

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia will host its annual celebration on **April 15-16, 2016**. They will sponsor a workshop on Friday, April 15, during Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia's Spring Gathering and will lead worship and host a lunch on Saturday, April 16. and worship and lunch on Saturday, April 16. These events will be held at Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia. Be watching for more information!

BWIM of Georgia is now receiving nominations for the **Sara Owen Etheridge Church Woman of the Year Award**. Send your nomination by **March 1, 2016**.

## 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.*

### FLORIDA

Tallahassee-**Children's Pastor**-First Baptist Church  
Tampa-**Youth Minister**-Bayshore Baptist Church  
West Homestead-**Social Worker**-Touching Miami with Love

### GEORGIA

Athens-**Minister to Children, Families, and Outreach**-First Baptist Church  
Atlanta-**Chaplain**-Bristol Hospice  
Atlanta-**Bereavement Coordinator**-Journey Hospice  
Atlanta-**Manager of Pastoral Education**-Emory St. Joseph's Hospital  
Cornelia-**Minister of Children and Servant Ministries**-First Baptist Church  
Forsyth-**Minister to Youth**-First Baptist Church  
Harlem-**Pastor**-Harlem Baptist Church  
Milton-**Minister of Youth (part-time)**-Providence Baptist Church  
Suches-**Pastor**-Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church

### ILLINOIS

Bolingbrook-**Pastor**-New Hope Baptist Church

### KENTUCKY

Frankfort-**Minister of Missions**-First Baptist Church  
Shepherdsville-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

### MISSOURI

Kirkwood-**Pastor**-Kirkwood Baptist Church

### NEW MEXICO

Las Cruces-**Family Connections Minister**-First Baptist Church

### NORTH CAROLINA

Black Mountain-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church  
Butner-**Associate Pastor**-First Baptist Church  
Clayton-**Minister to Children**-First Baptist Church  
Drexel-**Associate Pastor of Youth and Families**-First Baptist Church  
Elizabethtown-**Pastor**-Elizabethtown Baptist Church  
Fayetteville-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church  
Gastonia-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church  
Greenville-**Associate Pastor/Minister to Families**-Memorial Baptist Church  
Hickory-**Church Administrator**-First Baptist Church  
Hillsborough-**Prison Chaplain**-Alamance-Orange Prison Ministry  
Lexington-**Pastor**-Jersey Baptist Church  
Morehead City-**Children and Family Outreach Minister**-First Baptist Church  
Raleigh-**Executive Director**-Women's Missionary Union  
Smithfield-**Pastor**-Sharon Baptist Church  
Wilmington-**Minister of Contemporary Worship and Young Adults**-First Baptist Church  
Winston-Salem-**Minister of Youth and Recreation**-Knollwood Baptist Church

### OKLAHOMA

Norman-**Pastor**-Bethel Baptist Church  
Shawnee-**Minister of Youth and Families**-First Baptist Church

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Aiken-**Student Minister**-First Baptist Church  
Cheraw-**Pastor**-Pee Dee Union Baptist Church  
Greenville-**Minister to Families**-August Road Baptist Church  
North Myrtle Beach-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church  
Pendleton-**Pastor**-First 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  
Oak Ridge-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church

### **TEXAS**

Denton-**Pastor**-Southmont Baptist Church  
Fort Worth-**Pastor**-University Baptist Church  
Giddings-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church  
Henrietta-**Minister of Music/Senior Adults**-First Baptist Church  
Kerrville-**Minister of Adult Discipleship**-Trinity Baptist Church  
Lamesa-**Minister of Music and Worship**-First Baptist Church  
Levelland-**Associate Pastor of Family Enrichment**-Second Baptist Church  
Marble Falls-**Pastor**-Fellowship Baptist Church  
Munday-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church  
Plainview-**Minister to Children and Preschool**-First Baptist Church  
Plano-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church  
San Antonio-**Pastor**-Northeast Baptist Church  
San Antonio-**Pastor**-Covenant Baptist Church  
San Antonio-**Minister of Music**-Shearer Hills Baptist Church  
Shallowater-**Pastor**-First Baptist Church  
Sherman-**Minister of Music**-First Baptist Church  
Victoria-**Pastor**-Northside Baptist Church

### **VIRGINIA**

Alexandria-**Senior Pastor**-Groveton Baptist Church  
Chase City-**Pastor**-Bethel Baptist Church  
Crozet-**Pastor**-Hillsboro Baptist Church  
New Kent-**Associate Minister of Education and Worship**-Corinth Baptist Church  
Richmond-**Associate Pastor for Global Missions**-Bon Air Baptist Church  
Roanoke-**Minister of Youth**-Bonsack Baptist Church  
Rockville-**Pastor**-Berea Baptist Church  
Suffolk-**Pastor**-Holland Baptist Church  
Williamsburg-**Pastor**-Walnut Hills Baptist Church

### **WEST VIRGINIA**

Charleston-**Pastor**-Charleston Baptist Temple  
Huntington-**Pastor**-Fifth Avenue Baptist Church

### **WASHINGTON, DC**

**Pastor**-Nineteenth Street Baptist Church

## **State Women in Ministry Information**

**Alabama**

Contact Terri Byrd at [terribyrd@aol.com](mailto:terribyrd@aol.com).

**Arkansas**

Contact Megan Pike at [mpike@cbfar.org](mailto:mpike@cbfar.org)

**Florida**

Contact Rachel Gunter Shapard at [rachelguntershapard@gmail.com](mailto:rachelguntershapard@gmail.com).

**Georgia**

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

**Kentucky**

Contact Alix Davidson Keller at [alix.davidson@yahoo.com](mailto:alix.davidson@yahoo.com)  
or Emily Holladay at [emilyholladay@gmail.com](mailto:emilyholladay@gmail.com).

**Missouri**

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

**North Carolina**

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

**South Carolina**

Contact Ellen Sechrest at [esechrest@boulevardbaptist.com](mailto:esechrest@boulevardbaptist.com).

**Tennessee**

Contact Eileen Campbell-Reed at [ecampbellreed@cbts.edu](mailto:ecampbellreed@cbts.edu).

**Texas**

Contact Ellen Di Giosia at [txbwim@gmail.com](mailto:txbwim@gmail.com).

**Virginia**

Contact Colleen Swingle-Titus at [dinglecole@gmail.com](mailto: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.***