a voice for women in baptist life

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## FIND YOUR VOICE **AND USE IT**

Celebrate and Worship with Baptist Women in Ministry

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019** 

SIXTEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH **BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA** 

COFFEE HOUR at 8:30 a.m. • WORSHIP at 10 a.m.



CAROLYN McKINSTRY Our Preacher



**OSSIE X. MCKINNEY** Our Worship Leader



SIXTEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH Birmingham, Alabama

### **OUR VISION**

### BWIM'S 2019 ANNUAL GATHERING

## BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Courtney Allen

Anyra Cano

Scott Claybrook

Taryn Deaton

Jewel London

Amy McClure

Lawrence Powers

Micah Pritchett

Deborah Reeves

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY STAFF

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Meagan Smith
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Baptist Women in Ministry will host its annual gathering on June 19, 2019, at the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. We will worship together and fellowship with friends both old and new.

### **COFFEE HOUR**

Join us for coffee at 8:30 a.m. prior to worship. We will gather in the church's fellowship hall for an informal time of conversation and fellowship. Due to the constraints of space, BWIM will not host its annual lunch.

### **WORSHIP**

Worship on Wednesday, June 19, begins at 10:00 a.m., and Sixteenth Street Baptist Church is located at 1530 Sixth Avenue. Our worship theme is "FIND YOUR VOICE AND USE IT," and the art featured in worship was created by Suzanne Vinson.

The preacher for our service is **Carolyn McKinstry**. A native of Birmingham, Carolyn is a graduate of Fisk University, Nashville,
Tennessee. She earned her Master of Divinity degree from Samford University's Beeson Divinity School and her Doctor of Ministry degree from New York Theological Seminary.

Carolyn was at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church on September 15, 1963, when white supremacists bombed the church. Four of her friends were killed in the bombing. She survived



BWIM Leadership Team

Back: Anyra Cano, Jewel London, Taryn Deaton, Amy McClure, Lawrence Powers Front: Julie Long, Pam Durso, Deborah Reeves



a second bomb explosion that damaged a portion of her parent's home in 1964.

Carolyn has given her life to the work of reconciliation and forgiveness. She has shared about her experiences in the United States and around the world, traveling to and speaking in India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, and Spain. Her memoir, While the World Watched, details her life growing up in Birmingham and "lessons learned" from her experiences and involvement in the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement.

For ten years, Carolyn served as president of the Board of Directors of the Sixteenth Street Foundation, Inc. whose mission was the ongoing maintenance of the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church facility. In 2004, Carolyn co-chaired a \$3.8 million stabilization campaign for the church. In 2013 she chaired "The Four Spirits Foundation" and raised over \$350,000 to place permanent life-size sculptures in Kelly Ingram Park honoring the four girls killed in the 1963 bombing.

### **BWIM BLOG**

The BWIM blog on Wednesdays now features stories about women and girls who are finding their voices and using them in their churches and communities, including posts about first preaching experiences. Add your story to the conversation by using the hashtag #myfirsttimepreaching. If you know of a girl whose story needs to be told, please contact Julie Long at julielong@bwim. info. On Fridays, the blog continues to post the popular THIS IS WHAT A MINISTER LOOKS LIKE interviews.

### **BWIM MONTH OF PREACHING**

In 2019, BWIM redreamed and widened the focus of our Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching emphasis by featuring three additional Baptist preachers: Edna Lee de Gutiérrez, Ella Pearson Mitchell, and Helen Barrett Montgomery. Resources for BWIM Month of Preaching are on the BWIM website—including bulletin inserts that tell the stories of these four preaching women. Two of the bulletin inserts are available in Spanish.

### CLERGY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT TASK FORCE

The Clergy Sexual Misconduct Task Force, a joint partnership between BWIM and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, recently released two significant resources developed for use by churches, seminaries, and partnering organizations. These resources are available on the BWIM website.

Safe Churches and Ministers is an educational video that provides muchneeded definitions, statistics, and stories designed to help churches, students, and leaders take seriously their responsibility in preventing abuse. A leader guide and a discussion guide for the video are available in both English and Spanish.

Clergy Sexual Abuse Prevention Recommendations for Churches is a

## BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY **NEWS**

collection of prevention guidelines and documents intended to prompt congregations to create their own policies, procedures, processes and covenants. This resource is available in English and Spanish.

### DISCERNMENT RETREATS FOR COLLEGE WOMEN

Each year BWIM hosts discernment events for college women. These events create intentional space for college women to reflect on God's calling. On April 5-7, BWIM and BWIM of North Carolina will co-host a retreat at Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, and in the fall, BWIM and Texas BWIM will co-host a retreat in Houston, Texas.

### **FILM SERIES**

In November 2018, BWIM and Ethics Daily released the first short documentary in a series about Baptist women pastors. The film features **Mary Alice Birdwhistell**, senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Waco, Texas. The film is a great resource for Wednesday night services, youth group gatherings, and college and seminary classrooms, and is available on the BWIM website. The second film in the series will be released in mid-2019 and will feature **Tonya Vickery**, co-pastor of Cullowhee Baptist Church in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

#### **MENTORING**

The 2019 cohort of the BWIM Mentoring Program has begun their year of learning together. The cohort has five mentoring groups—two for new pastors, one for associate ministers, one for chaplains, and one for outside-the-box ministers. Mentees and mentors gathered in January for a three-day retreat at the Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama, and the groups will meet monthly via ZOOM. The 2019 mentors are Courtney Allen, Jewel London, Erin Lysse, Julie Pennington-Russell, and Charity Roberson.

### **MINISTRY SEARCH RESOURCES**

BWIM offers resources and assistance both to churches searching for a minister and ministers searching for a new position. The BWIM staff assists candidates, coaching them on resume preparation, interviewing and negotiating skills, and serving as a connecting point between many of the candidates and search committees. Churches and candidates may submit information, job descriptions, and resumes via our Ministry Search Registration at www.bwim.info/ministrysearchregistration.info.

### **MONTHLY CONVERSATIONS**

In 2019, BWIM began hosting monthly conversations via the online meeting platform ZOOM. Each month's conversation focuses on a topic of interest or is intended for a particular group of women ministers. These conversations are limited to 10-12 participants. Advance registration is required. Contact Julie Long at julielong@bwim.info for more information. Our upcoming 2019 conversations include:

### Tuesday, March 12,

**2:00-3:00 p.m. EST** – "A Conversation with Retired Women Ministers," Special Guest: Kathy Manis Findley

### Tuesday, April 2,

**2:00-3:00 p.m. EST** – "A Conversation about Living with Illness while Ministering," Special Guests: Courtney Allen, Dorisanne Cooper, and Molly Brummett Wudel

### Tuesday, May 7,

**2:00-3:00 p.m. EST** – "A Conversation for Sexual Abuse Survivors," Special Guest: Nina Maples

### Wednesday, June 5,

**10:00-11:00 a.m. EST** – "A Conversation about Searching for a Ministry Position," Special Guest: Pam Durso

### WITH MUCH THANKS TO

### **BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY SUPPORTERS, 2018**

### **INDIVIDUALS**

Monthly Givers

Courtney Allen Jessica Asbell

Jennifer Bashaw

Lauren and David Bass

Irene Bennett

Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Katie Bray Lynn Brinkley Katrina Brooks Gary Burton Katie Callaway Anyra Cano

Paul and Shauw Chin Capps

Susan Caulev Adam Chaney Ruth Clowater Raquel Contreras Paula Dempsey Scott Dickison Ellen DiGiosia Kim Divelbiss Melanie Dover Robin Drake Aubrev Ducker

and Laurie Weatherford

Pam Durso

Christy Foldenauer

Pam Foster Jeni Cook Furr TJ Geiger Sarah Greenfield Erin and Jake Hall Mary Elizabeth and Matt Hanchey

Yvonne Harold Merianna Harrelson

Ircel Harrison David Hawes **Iennifer Hawks** Claire Helton Jenny Hodge Karlan Holik

**Emily Holladay** Linsey Huggins David and Jane Hull Becky and Doug Jackson

Craig Janney Vickie Johnson Christine Iones Kelly Moreland Jones

Meg Lacy Tony Lankford Deirdre LaNoue Ruth Perkins Lee Amv Lin Deborah Loftis **Iewel London** 

Jody and Julie Long Rebecca Mathis Melody Maxwell Amy McClure

Brittany McDonald-Null Emily Hull McGee

Christy McMillin-Goodwin

Kristen Muse Natasha Nedrick Debbie Neely Carrie Nettles Beth and John Parker Kristen Pope Lawrence Powers

Kevin Pranoto Stacy Pyle

Deborah and Stephen Reeves

Brittany Riddle Stefanie Rilev Lee Ritchie Sara Robb-Scott Charity Roberson Julie Sadler Mendenhall Robin Sandbothe Tiffany Brown Seaford Ellen Sechrest

Stephanie Shaffer Alan Sherouse Rachel Sherron Molly Shoulta Tucker Abby and Justin Sizemore

Tamara Smathers Carolyn Staley Laura Stephens-Reed Sarah Stewart Maria Stinnett

Meredith and James Stone

Tambi Swiney David Tew

Meg Thomas-Clapp Amanda Tyler Gala Van Eaton Tonva Vickerv Charles Watson Doug and Pat Weaver

Ashton Wells Stacie Whalen Courtney Willis Belinda Wisdom

Annual Givers

Linsey Addington Loyd and Libby Allen Nancy Ammerman

Anna and LaCount Anderson

Robin Anderson Patricia Ayres Judith B. Bailey **Emily Ball** Carrie Bearden Rosalie Beck Caroline Bell Libby Bellinger

Mark and Martha Birdwhistell

Doris Blackwell Carolyn Blevins Edward Bolen Fred Bongiovanni Billie Boyd-Cox Nancy Brock Ann and Kent Brown Caralie Nelson Brown Charles Bugg

Jacqueline Burkhart Bethany Busby

Becky Caswell-Speight and Josh Speight Ka'thy Gore Chappell John Chowning Jann Clanton Jaime Clark-Soles Reba Cobb

David and Hannah Coe

Allyson Cook Cherilyn Crowe

Jim and Susan Crumpler

Nartarsha Davis Zach Dawes David Dellinger John Dennis Gary Dollar Megan Doud Jerry Faught

Sharon Felton Jeffrey Fetzer John Miller Finley Sue Fitzgerald Betsy Flowers Kelly Fredericks Charles Fuller Keith Gammons

Amy Garza Chris George Sherilyn Gilmore Daniel Glaze Danielle Glaze Libby Grammer ID Granade C Franklin Granger David John Hailey

Kathleen Hanch Kirsten Hancock Summer Hyche Harrell Merrill Hawkins Daniel Hendrick Craig Henry

Diane Hill Dalen and Shari Jackson

Janet Jarriel

Bill and Joanna Jones

Mignon Jones-Spann

Mary Kaylor Beth Kennett Cheryl Kimble Shelia Klopfer Melissa Kremer Judy Landon Shelia Llewellyn Sandra Londos Angela Lowe Nora Lozano Cy Lynch

Joan and Terry Maples

Nina Maples Molly T. Marshall Adell and Jerry Martin Gloria and Phill Martin

George Mason

Rebecca Husband Maynard

Kristin McAtee Ossie McKinney Debbie McLeod Jackie Baugh Moore Helen Moore-Montgomery

Stephanie Nash

Karla Nelson

Luke and Stacy Nowell

Joshua Owens Esther Soud Parker Suzii Paynter

Julie Pennington-Russell Shelley Varner Perez

Marty and Megan Pike

Roger Pittard Bill and Ruth Pitts LeDavne Polaski

Morgan and Peggy Ponder

Linda Popham Aurelia Pratt Micah Pritchett Melody Pryor Jason Ranke Summer Rice F. Gayle Roberts Ashley Robinson Mac and Lorita Robinson

Anthony Mark Roza Paula J. Settle Kelly Settlemyre Sarah Shelton Kathy Shereda Bill Shiell Beth Smith

Cinda Smith Meagan Smith

Courtney Stamey

Amy Stertz Brittany Stillwell Clarissa Strickland Chervl Tarter Philip Thompson Bill and Leta Tillman

Jakob Topper Kyle Tubbs Carrie Tuning Cliff Vaughn Carrie Veal

Brent and Nancy Walker

Naomi Walker Rebecca White Sarah White Jean Willingham Laura Willis

David and Ann Wilson Charles and Judy Yarbrough

Deborah Yarbrough Karen Zimmerman

### **CHURCHES**

### Monthly Givers

Highland Park Baptist Church, Austin, TX Lamberth Memorial Baptist Church, Roxboro, NC Milledge Ave Baptist Church, Athens, GA Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, MS

### Annual Givers

Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston Salem, NC Ball Camp Baptist Church, Knoxville, TN Baptist Church of the Covenant, Birmingham, AL Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, KY Calvary Baptist Church, Waco, TX First Baptist Church, Ahoskie, NC First Baptist Church, Aiken, SC First Baptist Church, Athens, GA First Baptist Church, Austin, TX First Baptist Church, Commerce, GA First Baptist Church, Dalton, GA First Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC First Baptist Church, Greensboro, NC First Baptist Church, Greenville, SC First Baptist Church, Greenwood, SC First Baptist Church, Griffin, GA First Baptist Church, Lexington, NC First Baptist Church, Macon, GA First Baptist Church, Madison, NC First Baptist Church, Morehead, KY First Baptist Church, Richmond, VA First Baptist Church, Washington, DC

Grace Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, Cary, NC Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC HillSong Church, Chapel Hill, NC Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, TN Millbrook Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC NorthHaven Church, Norman, OK Peakland Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA Pintlala Baptist Church, Pintlala, AL Providence Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC River Road Baptist Church, Richmond, VA Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, TX Second Baptist Church, Liberty, MO Smoke Rise Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, GA

Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, NC Williamsburg Baptist Church, Williamsburg, VA Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, TX

### FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

### Monthly Givers

Cooperating Baptist Fellowship of Oklahoma Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Smyth & Helwys Publishers

### Annual Givers

Alliance of Baptists

American Baptist Women in Ministry Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Arkansas Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina

Christian Missions Concern Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation Hispanic Baptist Convencion of Texas Lilly Endowment Inc.

### **SEMINARIES**

Baptist Seminary of Kentucky Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond Baylor University's Department of Religion Campbell University Divinity School Central Baptist Theological Seminary Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon Seminary Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology Northern Seminary Wake Forest University's School of Divinity

### **GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OR MEMORY**

Nancy Brock, in memory of Jesse Fletcher Kenneth and Terri Cato, in memory of Nancy Whidden Jeffrey Fetzer, in memory of Jacquita Duncan Anthony Mark Roza, in memory of Addie Davis Paula Settle, in honor of Scarlette Jasper

# WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THIS IS WHAT A MINISTER LOOKS LIKE

Every Friday, Baptist Women in Ministry posts an interview with a fabulous minister. An oft-asked question in these interviews is: **What advice would you give to a teenage girl who is sensing a call to ministry?** The answers are filled with great wisdom and advice. Here are a few of those answers:

### **YALONDA SMITH**

"Be who God created you to be. There is so much pressure to be like someone else, but God has made all of us a designer's original! Embrace and celebrate your uniqueness."

### **CHRISSY WILLIAMSON**

"Believe in yourself! Don't spend too much time listening to folks who say your voice is too high, your earrings are too sparkly, or you're too emotional, or any of those other things that people use to discount and discredit women. Be firm in your calling and trust that the Spirit who calls you forth has gifted you for ministry and will carry you all along the way."

### **CASSANDRA HENDERSON**

"Run. Run like the wind—in the direction of your call. Don't be afraid. Don't limit yourself. Your ministry doesn't have to look or sound like anyone else's ministry. Ministry is infinite in its manifestations. There is something that God wants to do through you. Be open to it."

### **BETH RIDDICK**

"If you feel called into ministry SHARE those feelings with someone who will encourage you to pursue it and not stifle it. Surround yourself with those who will cheer for you, support you, and help you explore where that call, even though it may initially be a whisper, will take you."

### **ALICIA PORTERFIELD**

"Look for opportunities to lead and serve, from Bible studies to mission projects to worship leadership so you can see what best fits you. Reflect intentionally on these experiences in your prayer life and with your circle of mentors. Keep asking questions—keep asking God questions, keep asking your mentors questions, keep asking yourself questions."

### **ALICIA ZORZOLI**

"Keep your eyes open, be alert and intentional in looking for opportunities to reach your full potential. Do your best in performing the small tasks. Many times they are the door to greater ones."

We hope you are a Friday reader of the THIS IS WHAT A MINISTER LOOKS LIKE blog!



Yalonda Smith



Chrissy Williamson



Cassandra Henderson



Beth Riddick



Alicia Porterfield



Alicia Zorzoli



# FIND YOUR VOICE AND USE IT

by Pam Durso

Pam Durso

was a late bloomer when it came to finding my voice. Seminary for me was not a time of discovery. I did not have opportunities to lead or preach. I was not invited to share my story or speak my truth. More often than not during those years I was expected (if not explicitly told) to keep quiet and to not call attention to myself. In the mid-1980s, there weren't many other women studying for a Master of Divinity degree at my Southern Baptist seminary. While we had the support of many of the professors, our presence was mostly tolerated by fellow students rather than celebrated. In my last semester, my presence in a preaching class was directly questioned most every male student in the class came to me privately and individually to ask, "Are you really going to preach? Do you think you should?" I did preach, and those two classroom sermons in 1987 were my first preaching experience. Both sermons were entirely forgettable but they conformed to the required style of preaching set forth by the professor (three points, no poem).

That May I graduated from seminary and went straight into a doctoral program. The amount of reading, researching, and writing was intense, and I loved it and flourished. Slowly I found my scholarly voice. But I must admit that the program was so all-consuming for me that I never wondered if there might be other voices I needed to nurture, other gifts I should explore.

As I neared completion of my Ph.D. in 1992, well, if you know anything about Baptist history you know that the 1990s were chaotic years. Controversy had been our companion as Southern Baptists since the 1970s, and by 1990, a new fellowship for Baptists was emerging. The short story is that college and seminary positions were in very limited supply in the early 1990s—especially for Baptist women. I waited seven full years after finishing a Ph.D. in church history to find a teaching opportunity and to discover my teaching voice.

I was also a late bloomer when it came to finding my preaching voice. I preached my first church sermon in 1998. I was thirty-seven years old. Nearly twenty-five years after experiencing a call to ministry I finally stood in a pulpit as a proclaimer. My dad, who was then pastoring First Baptist Church, Beeville, Texas, asked me to co-preach a sermon with him. His topic was adoption, and adoption was my passion. I was mother of two young children. Our son, Michael, came to us in August 1994. He was four months old when we traveled to South Korea to bring him home. Our daughter, Alex, was born in January 1997, and we brought her home in September of that year. A few months later after Alex's arrival, my dad asked if I would be willing to finish his adoption sermon—to tell my own story and to share how God had worked in the midst of loss and hurt to bring grace.

What I remember of that first church sermon is the pride I felt as I stood in my dad's pulpit. I remember my mother crying—lots of tears. I also remember having the worst case of dry mouth I had ever experienced. I did not find my preaching voice that day—but I somehow knew that I had a preaching voice somewhere buried deeply within.

In the last twenty years, I have found other voices—my voice as an advocate, my voice as a mentor, my voice as a leader. What I have learned is that finding my voice takes time, time to discover the unique and beautiful voice within. Finding my voice also requires discernment—getting to know myself, evaluating honestly my gifts and talents, and identifying my greatest passions.

Yet finding our voice is not the end goal, it is not a stopping place. Using our voice is the ultimate objective. Using our voice and using it effectively and with authenticity requires practice, getting back into that pulpit over and over again until confidence comes, writing and re-writing that article or blog until those sentences are stronger, speaking words of compassion out loud again and again until they come more easily, and advocating for the oppressed, the hurting, the silenced until someone listens.

This year as I continue on this journey, I invite you along. Together may we find our voices and use them!

**Pam Durso** is the executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry, Atlanta, Georgia.

#### **BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY**

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### A CHURCH THAT GIVES

### HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH, AUSTIN, TEXAS

Highland Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, founded in 1952, has for many years nurtured and encouraged the callings and gifts of women. On September 11, 1977, Highland Park ordained its first women deacons: Jean Bringol, Babs Davis, Elsie Foscue, Nancy Lamb, and Marge Whiteker. Less than six years later, in the same year in which BWIM was organized, Highland Park ordained its first minister. Barbara Holloway, who had previously served as a Southern Baptist missionary and who had become a chaplain at Seton Medical Center, was ordained on January 30, 1983. She was the first Baptist woman minister ordained in the city of Austin.

The church in 2000 called Cheryl Hill as associate minister for children and family life. Over the years, Cheryl assumed other duties as well—working with youth, providing pastoral care, and providing leadership and preaching during interim periods. In May 2005, a regular Sunday morning worship became an unannounced wedding ceremony for Cheryl and Roy Kimble. The congregation was both surprised and excited to be part of this ceremony. In 2012, Highland Park called Cheryl as senior pastor.

Baptist Women in Ministry gives thanks for Highland Park Baptist Church and is grateful for the church's consistent and faithful support. The church's monthly contribution makes possible BWIM's work of advocating, connecting, and



Rev. Cheryl Kimble, Pastor, Highland Park Baptist Church



networking. Your church can be a supporter. Give online at www.bwim.info/give or send in a contribution to Baptist Women in Ministry, P.O. Box 941294, Atlanta, GA 31141-1294.