

Baptist Women in Ministry News

July 2019

A Word from Pam Durso

This summer has been a time of transition for Baptist Women in Ministry. We have said a sad goodbye to three of our Leadership Team members: Scott Claybrook, Taryn Deaton, and Deborah Reeves. They rotated off our team following our annual gathering in June. Their support of BWIM and its vision has been invaluable, and their friendship has been a gift! We will miss them all at our BWIM table.

Joining our Leadership Team this summer are three new members: Ellen DiGiosia, Tripp Martin, and Ashton Wells, all of whom will bring wonderfully unique gifts to our team, and we are excited to welcome them as they begin service.

BWIM has also had to say a sad goodbye to Meagan Smith, who has been the BWIM project manager for three years. Meagan has worked with us, organizing and implementing our Mentoring Program, and College Discernment Retreats as well as creating our monthly newsletters and so much more.



She has brought her beautiful organizational skills and her wonderful joy and laughter to this work, and I am so sad that we are losing her. But as is true with so many Baptist women ministers, she has been working multiple ministry jobs, including serving as director of youth programming at Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries in New York, and now it is time to let something go. You will be missed, Meagan!

In this season of transition, I am grateful for all those who have given so freely of their time, giftedness, and friendship in moving BWIM ahead.

SUPPORTING BWIM

All the work Baptist Women in Ministry does and all the ways in which this organization contributes to the shift in Baptist culture are happening because of people like you who believe in and support our ministry and who share in our mission of affirming all those whom God has gifted for ministry. Please consider this an invitation to be part of all these good things that BWIM is doing. Your support makes all of this possible.

[MAKE A GIFT](#)



BWIM SUMMER BOOK CLUB

Join us for an online discussion of Brene Brown's newest book, *Dare to Lead*. The discussion on Thursday, July 18 at 2:00 p.m. EST will be led by Marjorie Avent, Participants are encouraged to read the book in preparation for the conversation.

This video conference discussion will be held via the Zoom platform and will be limited to those who register. Instructions for connecting to the call will be emailed out to those who have registered the week before the call.

**SIGN UP FOR THE
CONVERSATION**

Coming this summer...

BWIM Book Club

Thursday, July 18, 2:00 p.m. EST
via Zoom video conference

Book: *Dare to Lead* by Brene Brown.
Conversation led by Marjorie Avent,
certified *Daring Way* facilitator

Email julielong@bwim.info to sign up and receive instructions to connect to the call.



MONTHLY CONVERSATIONS

In 2019, BWIM is hosting monthly conversations via the online meeting platform Zoom. Each month's conversation will feature either a topic of interest or be intended for a particular group of women ministers. Some conversations will be educational in nature; others will offer support and networking opportunities.

The conversations will include special guest speakers. Sign up to below participate. Instructions for connecting to the call will be sent out the week prior to the conversation.

Conversation Topics and Dates

Thursday, July 18, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST - "BWIM Book Club: *Dare to Lead* by Brene Brown" with discussion led by **Marjorie Avent**. Marjorie is an ordained minister, life coach and certified *Daring Way* facilitator (based on the research of Brene Brown). Participants are encouraged to read the book in preparation for the conversation.

Thursday, August 22, 11:00-12:00 a.m. EST—"A Conversation about Public Advocacy" with special guests **Melissa Rogers** and **Sister Carol Keehan**. Melissa Rogers previously served as special assistant to President Barack Obama and executive director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and is currently a visiting professor and practitioner-in-residence at the Wake Forest University Divinity School. Sr. Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity, is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association of the United States and has provided extraordinary leadership in advancing the national discussion on health care.

Tuesday, September 10, 11:00-12:00 a.m. EST—"Beyond Policies: Cultivating A Culture of Safety for Children and Youth" with special guest: **LeAnn Gardner**. LeAnn is an ordained minister, a licensed clinical social worker and regularly conducts S.A.F.E. (Sexual Awareness and Family Empowerment) Seminars for parents and congregational leaders.

Wednesday, October 16, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST—"A Conversation with Those Ministering While Care-Giving," with special guests **Renee Purtlebaugh**, **Sarah Stewart**, and **Kerri Thompson**. Renee is associate pastor to children and their families at Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky. Sarah is pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Kerri is a social worker and therapist in private practice in Macon, Georgia.

Thursday, November 14, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. EST—"A Conversation about Ministry Transitions: Preparing to Leave and Leaving Well" with special guest **Zoricelis Davila**. Zoricelis is a bilingual psychotherapist at Puerta de Esperanza: Bilingual Counseling & Psychotherapy (Door of Hope), Fort Worth, Texas.

SIGN UP FOR THE CONVERSATIONS

DISCERNMENT RETREAT

On September 20-22, 2019, Baptist Women in Ministry and Texas Baptist Women in Ministry will co-host a retreat at Willow Meadows Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, which will include time for worship, reflection, small groups, rest, and fellowship.

The three-day retreat is free. Students will need only to pay their transportation costs to Houston and bring bed linens or sleeping bags, an air mattress, and towels. Food, snacks, showers, and sleeping accommodations will be provided.

The retreat begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, September 20 and will conclude with lunch on Sunday, September 22.

For more information or if you know college or seminary women who might be interested in attending, please email Julie Long at julielong@bwim.info.

A Retreat for College and Seminary Women



CO-HOSTED BY:
TEXAS BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY &
BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Wondering if God is calling you?
To church ministry? To missions?
To serve with the marginalized in our society?

Join us for our

"Discerning God's Call Retreat"

SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2019

WILLOW MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH, HOUSTON, TX

Retreat is FREE (Includes: lodging, meals, snacks, materials.)

You are only responsible for your own transportation and bringing your own linen, towel and airbed or sleeping bag.

TO REGISTER AND MORE INFO:



REGISTER FOR THE RETREAT

MENTORING PROGRAM

Baptist Women in Ministry's Mentoring Program offers new ministers an opportunity to participate in intentional mentoring with a seasoned Baptist minister and a group of peers. These mentoring groups serve as communities of support, encouragement, and guidance.

BWIM's 2020 program will be a two-year program with a three-day retreat for the entire cohort in January 2020, a second retreat for each group, and a third retreat in late 2021. More information and the application process will open August 1.



ORDINATION RESOURCES

Baptist Women in Ministry has gathered ordination resources that can help with the

planning of an ordination service. Those resources include litanies, poems, blessings, responses, and charges, all used in previous ordination services. We hope these resources will be helpful to you.

ORDINATION RESOURCES



Demetrea "Meechie" Williams was ordained by Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama on May 26, 2019.

THE BWIM BLOG

Baptist Women in Ministry posts blogs every Wednesday and Friday. The 2019 Wednesday blog theme has been "Find Your Voice and Use It" and has featured numerous writers. Every Friday, the blog, "THIS IS WHAT A MINISTER LOOKS LIKE," features an interview with an amazing minister. Last Friday, July 12, Carolyn Steeves was the ministered interviewed. Carolyn IS what a minister looks like!



READ THE BLOG

MINISTRY SEARCH RESOURCES

Baptist Women in Ministry offers resources and assistance both to churches searching for a minister and ministers searching for a new position.

Churches and candidates in need of assistance may now submit information, job descriptions, and resumes online via BWIM's Ministry Search Registration Forms. BWIM's assistance is provided as a ministry, and there are no fees for these services.

MINISTRY SEARCH RESOURCES

SAFE CHURCHES and MINISTERS: CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE RESOURCES

The Clergy Sexual Misconduct Task Force, a joint partnership between Baptist Women in Ministry and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, have released two significant resources developed for use by churches, seminaries, and partnering organizations. **"Safe Churches and Ministers"** is an educational video that introduces this tough topic and provides much-needed definitions, statistics, and stories that are designed to help churches, students, and leaders take

seriously their responsibility in preventing abuse. The video is accompanied by a leader guide and a discussion guide and is available in both English and Spanish.

"Clergy Sexual Abuse Prevention Recommendations for Churches" is a collection of prevention guidelines and documents intended to prompt congregations to create their own policies, procedures, processes and covenants. This resource will assist churches in holding clergy and lay leaders accountable and will prepare churches to respond appropriately if abuse is reported.

The release of these two resources marks an important milestone in the work of the Task Force and we are committed to continue forward in our efforts. We ask that you pray for the task force as we keep working to bring attention to and educate those in our Baptist circles about clergy sexual abuse.

**SAFE CHURCHES AND
MINISTERS VIDEO**

**SAFE CHURCH
RESOURCES**

STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

BWIM of Heartland

Baptist Women in Ministry of the Heartland gathered for lunch on June 28. They will meet again July 18 at 11:00 a.m. for Tex Mex at [Chuy's on the Plaza](#) in Kansas City.



BWIM of North Carolina

Baptist Women in Ministry of North Carolina, and Millbrook Baptist in Raleigh will host a conversation on Sabbath-keeping with J. Dana Trent on Sunday, August 11, 2019 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Dana is the author of several books, including *For Sabbath's Sake*.



Texas BWIM

Texas Baptist Women in Ministry will host its 2020 conference on February 18, 2020 at Truett Seminary in Waco, Texas.



RESOURCES FOR WOMEN MINISTERS

Women at the Wellsprings

Women at the Wellsprings is a new program sponsored by the Benedictine Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama.

They will host five eight-day sessions over two and a half years for twenty women ministers, who will engage in theological, scriptural and experiential reflection in addition to simply having time to rest, renew, and experience community with other women ministers. Applications are now open for this program.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION

Women in Ministry Conference-Princeton

The Women in Ministry Initiative of Princeton Theological Seminary is pleased to offer "Leadership in a Time of Division and Fear" for women leaders of the church, both clergy and lay, who work within the church and beyond.

The conference will be held October 23-25 and the cost is \$175 before August 1, and \$195 between August 2 and October 18.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION

ORDINATIONS

Emily Anne Collins was ordained on June 9 by Ball Camp Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Monica Lowe was ordained on June 30 by New Salem Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio.

Merlyn Ruffin was ordained on June 30 by New Salem Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio.

TaNikka Sheppard was ordained on June 30 by New Salem Baptist Church, Columbus, Ohio.

ON THE MOVE

Jessica Cravens is director of children's ministry at Lynn Haven Baptist Church, Vinton, Virginia.

Mary Allen Godfrey is director of children and family ministry at First Baptist Church, Lincolnton, North Carolina.

Andrea Wheeler is minister of youth at Ball Camp Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Shelley Woodruff is interim pastor for community engagement at First Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia.

OPEN 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

Jacksonville-Pastor-Riverside Baptist Church

Orlando-Minister to Children and Families-Church on the Drive

GEORGIA

Alpharetta-Youth Pastor-Johns Creek Baptist Church

Athens-Associate Pastor/Director for Older Adults-Milledge Avenue Baptist Church

Cartersville- Associate Pastor for Youth/Families and Outreach-Heritage Baptist Church

Gwinnett County-Pallative Care Chaplain-Gwinnett Medical Office

Harlem-Minister of Music and Media-Harlem Baptist Church

Macon-Associate Pastor of Children and Congregational Life- First Baptist Church of Christ

ILLINOIS

Springfield-Worship and Family Ministries Director-Central Baptist Church

INDIANA

Columbus-Worship Pastor-First Baptist Church

Various-Multi-Bi-vocational Positions-ABC of Indiana and Kentucky

KANSAS

Shawnee-President-Central Baptist Theological Seminary

KENTUCKY

Corbin-Associate Pastor to Youth-First Baptist Church

Eminence-Pastor-Eminence Baptist Church

Lexington-Minister to Children-Versailles Baptist Church

Louisville-Director of Operations-Broadway Baptist Church

Louisville-Pastor-Highland Baptist Church

Louisville-Youth and Young Adult Minister-Woodland Baptist Church

Paducah-Minister of Music-Immanuel Baptist Church

MARYLAND

Arnold-Student Minister-College Parkway Baptist Church

Ellicott City-Minister of Youth-Bethany Church

MASSACHUSETTS

Melrose-Pastor-First Baptist Church

MICHIGAN

Detroit-Pastor-Second Baptist Church

MISSOURI

Miller-Associate Pastor of Children and Worship-Round Grove Baptist Church

Ozark-Student Pastor-Firsts Baptist Church

Tiff City-Pastor-Buffalo Creek Baptist Church

NEW JERSEY

Haddonfield-Minister of Music-First Baptist Church

NEW MEXICO

Hagerman-Pastor-First Baptist Church

NORTH CAROLINA

Clayton-Director of Music-First Baptist Church

Edenton-Youth and Children's Minister-Edenton Baptist Church

Henderson-Pastor-Island Creek Baptist Church

Hickory Rock-Pastor-Hickory Road Baptist Church

Hudson-Chaplain and Faith Community Liaison-Caldwell Hospice and Palliative Care

Kannapolis-Minister of Children-First Baptist Church

Louisburg-Pastor-Hickory Rock Baptist Church

Morehead City-Associate Minister of Children and Youth-First Baptist Church

Murfreesboro-Associate Minister to the University-Chowan University

New Bern-Associate Pastor for Youth and Family Life - First Baptist Church

Newton-Pastor-Trinity Baptist Church

Pendleton-Pastor-Roberts Chapel Baptist Church

Raleigh-Youth Minister-Millbrook Baptist Church

Raleigh-Fund Development Coordinator-North Carolina Council of Churches

Raleigh-Pastor-Swift Creek Baptist Church

Rowland-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Shelby-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Smithfield-Minister of Youth and Education-First Baptist Church

Statesville-Minister of Youth and Young Adults-First Baptist Church

Weaverville-Director of Church a Community Ministries-First Baptist Church

Windsor-Pastor-Cashie Baptist Church

Winterville-Pastor-Winterville Baptist Church

OHIO

Middletown-Associate Pastor of Worship and Discipleship-First Baptist Church

OKLAHOMA

Altus-Pastor-Emmanuel Baptist Church

SOUTH CAROLINA

Anderson-Minister to Students and Families-Boulevard Baptist Church

Anderson-Staff Minister (Administration plus Senior Adult or Children's Ministry-First Baptist Church

Conway-Next Generation Pastor-First Baptist Church

Darlington-Associate Youth Pastor-Black Creek Baptist Church

Greenwood-Associate Pastor and Minister of Students-First Baptist Church

Piedmont-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Rock Hill-Associate Minister for Spiritual Formations and Missions-Oakland Baptist Church

TENNESSEE

Erwin-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Knoxville-Chaplain-Amedisy's Hospice of Knoxville

Knoxville-Associate Minister of Worship and Arts-Central Bearden

TEXAS

Bryan-Pastor-Trinity Baptist Church

El Paso-Executive Director-El Paso Baptist Association

Irving-Pastor-Ben Washington Baptist Church

Levelland-Associate Pastor of Youth-Second Baptist Church

Orange-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Perryton-Pastor-First Baptist Church

San Antonio-Pastor-Covenant Baptist Church

Snyder-Minister of Music-Colonial Hill Baptist Church

Temple-Minister of Missions-First Baptist Church

Victoria-Youth Pastor-Northside Baptist Church

Waco-Minister to Children, Youth, and Families-Lake Shore Baptist Church

VIRGINIA

Blackridge-Next Generation Pastor-Olive Branch Baptist Church

Burkeville-Pastor-Burkeville Baptist Church

Chesapeake-Minister for Family Ministry and Media-Churchland Baptist Church

Chester-Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults-Chester Baptist Church

Glen Allen-Associate Pastor for Students-Mount Vernon Baptist Church

Glen Allen-Minister of Children and Families-Mount Vernon Baptist Church

Hampton-Youth Pastor-Hampton Baptist Church

Kenbridge-Pastor-Kenbridge Baptist Church

Lebanon-Minister of Children and Youth-Green Valley Baptist Church

Lowesville-Pastor-Piney River Baptist Church

Nathalie-Pastor-Clover Bottom Baptist

Palmyra-Family Minister-Effort Baptist Church

Red House-Pastor-Providence Baptist Church

Richmond-Associate Pastor for Music and Adult Ministries-Central Baptist Church

Richmond-Student Pastor-Bon Air Baptist Church

Scott Hill-Pastor-First Baptist Church

Smithfield-Minister of Youth and Children-Smithfield Baptist Church

Springfield-Pastor-Westwood Baptist Church

Warrenton-Pastor-Warrenton Baptist Church

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