

VOLUME 13, NO. 2, SUMMER 2019

*a voice for women in baptist life*

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it



**BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019**

SIXTEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

## OUR VISION

Baptist Women in Ministry will 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.

# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE

Ossie X. McKinney

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Pam Durso

INVOCATION

Lawrence Powers

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Ossie X. McKinney

## **“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”**

James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson

*Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise,  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past  
has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present  
has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.*

*Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet,  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears  
has been watered,*

*We have come, treading our path through  
the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star  
is cast.*

*God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far  
on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might,  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God,  
where we met Thee,  
Least our hearts, drunk with the wine  
of the world, we forget Thee,  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.*

LITANY

Meagan Smith

## **A LITANY OF WOMEN FOR THE CHURCH**

*Dear God, creator of women in your own image,  
born of a woman in the midst of a world half women,  
carried by women to mission fields around the globe,  
made known by women to all the children of the earth,*

***give to the women of our time  
the strength to persevere,  
the courage to speak out,  
the faith to believe in you  
beyond all systems and institutions***

*so that your face on earth may be seen in all its beauty,  
so that men and women become whole,  
so that the church may be converted to your will  
in everything and in all ways.*

- Excerpted from Joan Chittister, "A Prayer for the Times: Litany of Women for the Church"

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Ossie X. McKinney

**"I LOVE YOU LORD"**

*I love you, Lord  
And I lift my voice  
To worship You  
Oh, my soul, rejoice!  
Take joy my King  
In what You hear  
Let it be a sweet, sweet sound  
In Your ear*

*We exalt Thee, We exalt Thee  
We exalt Thee, Oh Lord*

*We exalt Thee, We exalt Thee  
We exalt Thee, Oh Lord.*

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SCRIPTURE READING

**Exodus 1:6-17**

Micah Pritchett

SCRIPTURE READING

**Numbers 27:1-11**

Lynn Brinkley

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CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Ossie X. McKinney

**"I WILL FOLLOW"**

*I will (I will) follow (follow), my calling (my calling), my calling (my calling).*

*My voice (My voice), I give to You (I give to You).  
I trust You (I trust You) to use me (to use me).*

*I will (I will) follow (follow), my calling (my calling), my calling (my calling).*

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SERMON

Carolyn McKinstry

**"EMPOWERED BY FAITH"**

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CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Ossie X. McKinney

**"I WILL FOLLOW"**

*I will (I will) follow (follow), my calling (my calling), my calling (my calling).*

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I trust You (I trust You) to use me (to use me).*

*I will (I will) follow (follow), my calling (my calling), my calling (my calling).*

---

WORDS OF COMMUNION

Sarah Shelton

SONGS OF COMMUNION

Ossie X. McKinney

COMMUNION SERVERS

*Katy Grace Bateman  
Terri Byrd  
Anyra Cano  
JD Granade*

*Andrea Huffman  
Merrill Long  
Julianna Marraccino  
Tyler Tankersley*

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Pam Durso

A TIME FOR GIVING

Julie Long

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Julie Long

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pam Durso

BENEDICTION

Jay Kieve

POSTLUDE

Ossie X. McKinney

# WORSHIP LEADERS

**Katy Grace Bateman** is a student at Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island, and is a member of Baptist Church of the Covenant, Birmingham, Alabama.

**C. Lynn Brinkley** is director of student services and alumni relations at Campbell University, Buies Creek, North Carolina.

**Terri Byrd** is coordinator of Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Anrya Cano** is youth minister at Iglesia Bautista Victoria en Cristo, Fort Worth, Texas, academic coordinator for the Christian Latina Leadership Institute, and coordinator of Texas Baptist Women in Ministry. Anrya serves on Baptist Women in Ministry's Leadership Team.

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

**JD Granade** is associate minister of youth and congregational life at Roxboro Baptist Church, Roxboro, North Carolina.

**Andrea Huffman** is the 2019 recipient of the Addie Davis Award for Excellence in Preaching. She is a student at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, Kansas.

**Jay Kieve** is coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina, Anderson, South Carolina. He is the 2019 recipient of the Frankie Huff Granger Distinguished Mentor Award.

**Julie Long** is the associate director of Baptist Women in Ministry, Macon, Georgia.

**Merrill Long** is a rising fourth grader and member of First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon, Georgia.

**Julianna Marraccino** is the 2019 recipient of the Addie Davis Award for Outstanding Leadership in Pastoral Ministry. She is a dual-degree student at Baylor University's George W. Truett Seminary and the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work, Waco, Texas.

## BWIM WORKSHOP JUNE 21, 2019

On Friday, June 21 at 3:00 p.m., "Clergy Sexual Misconduct: Resourcing Your Congregation for Prevention," a workshop at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's General Assembly, will be led by Pam Durso and Stephen Reeves, co-chairs of the Clergy Sexual Misconduct Task Force, a collaborative effort of Baptist Women in Ministry and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

**Ossie X. McKinney** is owner/director of the Master's Hand Music Studio in Decatur, Georgia.

**Carolyn McKinstry** is a native of Birmingham, Alabama, and is a frequent guest speaker in venues around the world, spreading her message of racial reconciliation.

**Micah Pritchett** is pastor of North Broad Baptist Church, Rome, Georgia, and is on Baptist Women in Ministry's Leadership Team.

**Lawrence Powers** serves as campus minister with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina and is on Baptist Women in Ministry's Leadership Team.

**Sarah Shelton** is the recently retired pastor of Baptist Church of the Covenant, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Meagan Smith** is director of youth programming at Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries, New York, New York. She is also the program manger for Baptist Women in Ministry.

**Tyler Tankersley** is pastor of First Baptist Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

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JULIANNA  
MARRACCINO,  
RESIDENCE HALL  
CHAPLAIN



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With much appreciation to all who have made this gathering possible and who support the ongoing work of Baptist Women in Ministry:

**Cherilyn Crowe**, the photographer for our worship service.

**Tambi Swiney**, the voice on our awards video.

**Cliff Vaughn**, the videographer and creator of our awards video.

**Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama**, for hosting our worship and coffee hour and for their warm hospitality.



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

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Baptist Women in Ministry is led by a remarkable team of leaders, who give freely of their time, giftedness, and friendship in moving BWIM ahead: Courtney Allen, Anyra Cano, Scott Claybrook, Taryn Deaton, Jewel London, Amy McClure, Lawrence Powers, Micah Pritchett, and Deborah Reeves. Scott, Taryn, and Deborah will rotate off the Leadership Team following this gathering. Their support of BWIM and its vision has been invaluable, and their friendship has been a gift!

Joining our Leadership Team this summer are 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.

### Our coffee sponsors:

Baylor University's Garland School of Social Work

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Campbell University Divinity School

Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Chaplaincy  
and Pastoral Counseling

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Movement Leadership Team

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina

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**GAIL RICE, 2014 GRADUATE**  
Associate Pastor, Freedom Hillside  
Cohort Leader, Northern's New Kind  
of Preacher Program

**ANDREA HAYLES, CURRENT STUDENT**  
Lead Pastor, Tabernacle Bible Church  
Cohort Leader, Northern's New Kind  
of Preacher Program

# THE 2019 DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD



## JAY KIEVE

2019 Frankie Huff Granger Distinguished Mentor Award

Baptist Women in Ministry recognizes and honors **Jay Kieve** as the recipient of the 2019 Frankie Huff Granger Distinguished Mentor Award.

Since March 2013, Jay has served as coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina, a position from which he has fiercely encouraged and advocated for women ministers. During his tenure, seven women

have been called as pastors by churches affiliated with CBF of South Carolina, and several of those women credit Jay with helping open doors into their churches and then encouraging and supporting them in their role as pastor.

Merianna Neely Harrelson, now pastor of Garden of Grace Church in Columbia, South Carolina, offers these words about Jay's role in her own ministerial journey: "As a third-year seminary student who had been told again and again that there just weren't congregations who were ready to call a woman to be their senior pastor, I was losing hope. . . . Then I met Jay Kieve. He believed that there were churches in South Carolina who would call a woman and who would call me. He helped make the connection to Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship, the community of faith that would call me to my first pastorate. He was eager to

help me to succeed by providing encouragement and guidance. He celebrated my call by sharing it in the state newsletter and with the greater BWIM community, urging other churches to see what a minister looks like."

Jennifer McClung Rygg, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pendleton, echoes this affirmation: "Jay has been very intentional about fostering a community of collegiality across gender lines, and his leadership is a great support for women in ministry. He has encouraged committees to consider women as candidates and is helping us move toward that becoming 'the norm.' Jay is a great resource and source of encouragement for women ministers."

Others in the state have also been the recipients of Jay's mentoring. Carrie Nettles, an ordained Baptist minister and a victim services specialist at the Julie Valentine Center in Greenville, writes, "I cannot imagine where my own call and path would be if not for his support, allyship, and leadership. Jay's leadership is ego-less, justice focused, and quite Jesusy in that every bit of power given to him he gives away to others."

Prior to his role at CBF of South Carolina, Jay was pastor and associate pastor of several churches in Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Dixie Ford, who served on staff with Jay at Crosscreek Baptist Church in Pelham, Alabama, writes, "He encouraged me to use my gifts, challenged me to take risks, and continues to support

my call to ministry even though we no longer work together. I am grateful that my three young daughters and my son were able to see their pastor completely affirm and encourage women in ministry."

Jay currently serves on the Clergy Sexual Misconduct Task Force, a joint partnership of Baptist Women in Ministry and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Stephen Reeves, co-chair of the task force and associate coordinator of partnerships and advocacy for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, affirms, "Jay has been one of the most dedicated members of the task force and has contributed significantly to the resources created for churches. He is passionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated to prevention in our churches."

Jay's colleague and friend, Terri Byrd, coordinator of Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, writes, "Jay is an advocate for women in the most practical sense of the word . . . advocating for equal pay, equal time on the agenda, equal voices on the platform, and equal resumes that are handed over for potential job hires. He listens with open ears and heart and believes the stories that are told. I have seen him embrace workplace flexibility for ALL so that no *one* was singled out. He mentors with enthusiasm, honesty, and grace all of those who seek his guidance."

For his intentional efforts to mentor and advocate for women ministers, we give thanks to God for **Jay Kieve**.

# 2019 CHURCH OF EXCELLENCE



Over the years, many churches have supported Baptist Women in Ministry with prayers and contributions and have nurtured the faith of girls and women, affirmed women's callings and giftedness, blessed and ordained women as ministers, called women to serve in their midst, and sent women out to serve in the world. The Church of Excellence recognition is BWIM's way of saying thank you each year to one church, a church that has gone above and beyond in its encouragement and support.

This year, with much gratitude, Baptist Women in Ministry honors Baptist Church of the Covenant (BCOC), Birmingham, Alabama, as the **2019 Church of Excellence**. Founded in 1970, BCOC was birthed during Birmingham's fight for desegregation. That year a young African-American girl, Twila Fortune, and her mother, Winifred Bryant, asked to become members of the all-white First Baptist Church of Birmingham. The third time that the church refused them membership almost 300 members along with the pastor, J. Herbert Gilmore, walked out.



*Sarah Jackson Shelton*

With nowhere to go, the "Company of the Committed," as they called themselves, were welcomed by a nearby reform Jewish congregation, Temple Emmanu-el, to worship in their sanctuary on Sundays at 9 a.m. The "company" soon founded Baptist Church of the Covenant, which was constituted on December 20, 1970. Three years later, the congregation bought land on Birmingham's southside and has remained there, committed to serving in an urban area.

While worshipping at the Temple, members of the new church created a list of congregational commitments that continue to be read each time a new member is presented, including: "Anyone who desires to worship Jesus Christ is welcome." Since their founding, BCOC has lived out this call to radical hospitality. They host a weekly community meal that draws those who are homeless, hold a Sunday morning class for children with developmental disabilities, and offer a van ministry to help the elderly and disabled living in a federally subsidized apartment building buy groceries.

A supporter of women in leadership since its founding, BCOC voted in 1974 for the inclusion of women in their deacon body, and the congregation ordained its first women deacons in 1975: Nadine Gordon, Marian Norris, and Virginia Ogle. In 1978, BCOC ordained charter member and deacon, Aline Fuselier, to the gospel ministry. During the 1980s-90s, as one

of the few churches in the area that affirmed the ministry gifts of women, the congregation welcomed women into the pulpit and ordained a good number of women as ministers.

In 2002, the church called Sarah Jackson Shelton as pastor. While the church's embrace of Sarah was overwhelmingly affirmative, her calling was criticized publicly as Sarah was one of the first women called to pastor an Alabama Baptist church. During her tenure, she mentored numerous Samford University students as well as the women ministers who have served on the BCOC's staff, many of whom are pastors and leaders throughout the world. In 2018, Sarah was as a mentor for four new pastors for Baptist Women in Ministry's Mentoring Program. On April 28, 2019, after nearly seventeen years of faithfully pastoring BCOC, Sarah retired from church ministry. In this transitional season, Rodney Franklin is the interim pastor, and Valerie Burton, associate pastor for Christian formation and a staff minister since 2008, continues to offer congregational leadership.

Baptist Women in Ministry celebrates Baptist Church of the Covenant's commitment to the work of the gospel, its generous and faithful support of our organization, and its affirmation and support of women ministers. Today with much excitement we recognize Baptist Church of the Covenant as the 2019 Church of Excellence!

## **BAPTIST CHURCH OF THE COVENANT, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**

2019

Baptist Women in Ministry  
Church of Excellence

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE 2019  
ADDIE DAVIS  
NOMINEES**

# THE 2019 ADDIE DAVIS AWARDS

**OUTSTANDING  
LEADERSHIP IN PASTORAL  
MINISTRY**

**Lynn Holmes**  
Duke University  
Divinity School

**Muriel Lasater**  
Campbell University  
Divinity School

**Sara McClain**  
Baptist Seminary  
of Kentucky

**Darlene Turner-Harper**  
Central Baptist  
Theological Seminary

**EXCELLENCE IN  
PREACHING**

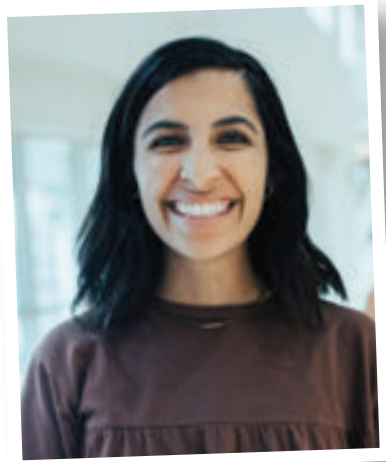
**Devin Harris-Davis**  
Baptist Seminary  
of Kentucky

**Allison Henderson-Brooks**  
Emory University's  
Candler School  
of Theology

**Camille Loomis**  
Duke University  
Divinity School

**Elizabeth Perkins**  
Baylor University's  
George W. Truett  
Theological Seminary

**Miriam Phillips**  
Campbell University  
Divinity School



*Julianna Marraccino*



*Andrea Huffman*

Since 1998, Baptist Women in Ministry has recognized exceptional Baptist women seminarians through the presentation of the Addie Davis Award for Outstanding Leadership in Pastoral Ministry and the Addie Davis Award for Excellence in Preaching. The awards are an affirmation of all the women nominated as well as recognition of the award recipients.

The 2019 recipient of the Addie Davis Award for Outstanding Leadership in Pastoral Ministry is **Julianna Marraccino**. Originally from California, Julianna first experienced God's call to ministry while on a mission trip to Kenya during her freshman year of high school. Desiring to study religion, Julianna attended Baylor University for her undergraduate degree and remained at Baylor for graduate work in theology and social work. She currently has completed three years of a four-year program pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from George W. Truett Theological Seminary and a Master of Social Work degree from the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work. "In bringing together these two fields," she says, "I see the scriptural truths and callings lived out in

caring for others and the community in a way that considers the whole of a person, the systems within communities, and the values of seeing every individual as one who is made in the image of God."

In addition to a rigorous course load, Julianna has served as resident chaplain for the largest resident hall on campus, ministering to 600 freshman women by holding one-on-one meetings with students and staff members, leading Bible studies and other events, and providing pastoral care for those experiencing health, academic, relational and spiritual crises.

In between semesters, Julianna has engaged in cross-cultural internships and classes in Kenya and Zambia. She hopes to use her experiences and education to engage churches and communities through cross-cultural engagement, building meaningful partnerships, and glorifying God through service and witness with others.

For the past seven years, Julianna has been an active youth ministry volunteer at Highland Baptist Church in Waco, developing and teaching lessons, leading small groups, and



participating in high school mission trips. She also has been a strong advocate for homeless and unaccompanied high school students in Waco.

Andrew Arterbury, associate professor of Christian Scriptures at Truett, writes of Julianna: “I recall a fifty-year-old Zambian woman (an undergraduate student at Northrise University) whom we asked to provide a word of exhortation in front of the thirty-five-person class that consisted of American and Zambian students—both males and females. When the woman hesitated to speak in front of the group, Julianna said, ‘I’ll stand beside you as you speak.’ The woman, with a great deal of nervousness, walked to the front of the room and gave voice to a profound word from God—a word that we would have missed had Julianna not stepped in. . . . God uses her humble courage to meet people where they are and help them live more fully into God’s call upon their lives.”

The recipient of the 2019 Addie Davis Award for Excellence in Preaching is **Andrea Huffman**, a student in Central Baptist Theological Seminary’s Women’s Leadership Initiative. She is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary and Howard Payne University and since 2016 has served as youth pastor at Chandler Baptist Church in Liberty, Missouri.

Andrea preached for the first time in February 2012 for a Texas church’s observance of Baptist Women in Ministry’s

Month of Preaching.

One vocal member of the congregation declared that having a woman in the pulpit was blasphemous, and he and other members walked out of the service before Andrea preached. Reflecting upon that difficult experience, Andrea wrote: “That day changed my life, not because of all of the drama but because—even in the midst of it—I loved every second of standing up in front of my church family and delivering the message that God had laid on my heart. I felt a confirmation in my spirit that preaching was going to be a regular part of my life and ministry, and this confirmation was accompanied by a supernatural sense of peace and fulfillment.”

Amy Mears, Andrea’s homiletics professor at Central, writes: “Andrea brings good sense, authenticity, and integrity into the pulpit. She develops sermons with particular care. . . . She is direct, natural, engaged and connectional. Those watching and listening have a sense that Andrea is, in fact, bringing good news—to them.” Margaret Ann Black, a member of Andrea’s church, shares: “I grew up believing that women should not be preachers. After getting to know Andrea as a person and



hearing her preach, I have changed my mind. Old mindsets are hard to change, but Andrea has done that! Andrea captures the attention of the audience through various creative elements and then holds their attention as she works her way through scripture.”

Andrea’s award-winning sermon, “Together We Sing,” is based on Mary’s Magnificat in Luke 1:39-55. In this sermon, preached on March 3, 2019, at Chandler Baptist Church, Andrea proclaimed: “Elizabeth sees Mary, and immediately blesses her. Elizabeth acknowledges the truth of Mary’s circumstances, even as unbelievable as they may seem. Elizabeth humbles herself before Mary, lifting up Mary as a woman of worth and value. Elizabeth commends Mary for her faith. For the first time since this thing happened, Mary finds herself affirmed, and believed, and praised for her belief in the future fulfillment of the promise of God. She finds herself known, and not alone. And only then does Mary sing. . . . only then was Mary able to sing.”

We give thanks for the gifts and ministry of **Julianna Marraccino** and **Andrea Huffman**, the 2019 recipients of the Addie Davis Awards.



**GIFTS IN HONOR OF MONTH OF PREACHING PREACHERS**

With much thanks to those who contributed to BWIM in honor of their MSM preachers:



Ball Camp Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tennessee, **in honor of Merci Kelly**

First Baptist Church, Carrollton, Georgia, **in honor of Bonnie Cooper Chappell**

First Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia, **in honor of Kristen Koger and Kelsey Lewis**

First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon, Georgia, **in honor of Naomi Black**

First Baptist Church, Madison, North Carolina, **in honor of Ka'thy Gore Chappell**

Royal Lane Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, **in honor of Tiffany Pittman**

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**Honoring the School's Baptist heritage**, the Baptist Commons celebrates our role in fostering excellence among diverse communities of Baptists.

With courses in Baptist studies and mentoring from leaders across collaborative partnerships, including Baptist Women in Ministry, students and alumni thrive in Baptist life. Rev. Jenna Sullivan (MDiv '18), associate pastor at Magnolia Road Church in Jonesboro, Arkansas, is a 2019 BWIM Mentoring Program participant.

**We are Baptists committed** to justice, reconciliation, and compassion.



**Baptist Commons**

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# MY FIRST TIME PREACHING

by Meagan Smith

In a small, beat-up old box I have notes, cards, and other important keepsakes. Among these is a copy of the first sermon I preached: “All Things Work Together,” based on Romans 8. It is from the Youth Sunday of my sophomore year of high school, and I can still feel the butterflies in my stomach. The word BREATHE, written in at the top of each page by Ruth Perkins Lee, my youth minister, reminds me of the awkward pace at which I preached it: speeding up rapidly and then . . . suddenly . . . a big gulp of air. Slow down. BREATHE. Repeat.

It was not only the pace that was awkward. In my sermon, I shared a detailed account of my journey to seventh place in the Leaf and Tree Finder event for elementary school Science Olympiad, I quoted from the Merriam-Webster dictionary a grand total of three times, and my reference to “groaning as in the pains of childbirth” (Romans 8:22) sounded a lot more like teenage angst (but perhaps that is indeed what it sounds like sometimes).

Honestly, I used to feel a bit embarrassed when reading back over that sermon, cringing at the forced metaphors and less-than- nuanced theology. Now, however, I am anything but embarrassed. Awkward or not, when I read over those words I spent so much time preparing, I am proud of my fourteen-year-old self and the journey she has taken to get from there to here. Those words remind me of all I learned in the process: of what I learned about preaching, like it helps to tell stories and perhaps is best not to so blatantly articulate that “my first point will be...” But even more importantly, I am reminded of the lessons that I did not even realize that I was learning at the time. I learned that I can occupy space in the pulpit and that young people, women people, ALL people, should be valued as full participants in worship.

I read over that sermon, and I am overwhelming grateful for the people who taught me those lessons; for the faces that looked back at me as I nervously gripped the pulpit: my family, who has always supported my calling; the community who told me I could do it; and the women, the preachers, who showed me that I could. In that awkward sermon, I see fourteen-year-old me who wanted, more than anything else, to be a minister. I see the teenage girl who knew that not everyone thought women could preach but who hadn't yet felt the sting of that reality.

So now, on the days when I do feel that sting or impostor syndrome threatens my confidence or I feel overwhelmingly cynical, I remember that fourteen-year-old me. I read over “All Things Work Together,” and I remember the eagerness and tenacity with which I approached my call to ministry. I close my eyes and see those faces looking back me, and I remember the people I had then and I think of the people I have now . . . those who have supported me, loved me, and challenged me. I picture the other youth who preached and sang and read alongside me that Sunday, and I remember that I have a responsibility to empower the fourteen-year-olds of today to proclaim themselves as full participants in our worship and in our world.

So for an experience that emboldened me then and, now, helps me remember, I give all the thanks.

*Meagan Smith is project manager for Baptist Women in Ministry and Director of Youth Programming at Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries in New York City, New York.*



**MEAGAN SMITH**

# MARTHA STEARNS MARSHALL

ST	CITY	CHURCH	MSM PREACHER	ST	CITY	CHURCH	MSM PREACHER
AL	Birmingham	Baptist Church of the Covenant	Erin Hall	ID	Boise	Mountain View Community Fellowship	Diasey Johnson, Jenny Wilson
AL	Madison	Trinity Baptist Church	Bonnie Chappell	IL	Chicago	Agape Korean Baptist Church	Mary Ahn
AL	Mobile	First Baptist Church	Jo Kirkendall	IN	Speedway	Speedway Baptist Church	Kim Miller, Jan Tackitt
AL	Montevallo	University Baptist Church	Terri Byrd	KS	Lawrence	First Baptist Church	LeAundra Stewart-Boyice
AL	Pintala	Pintala Baptist Church	Kelly Adams	KY	Elizabethtown	Living Faith Baptist Fellowship	Kelly Hale
AL	Tuscaloosa	Woodland Forest Baptist Church	Laura Stephens-Reed	KY	Frankfort	First Baptist Church	Brittany Stillwell
AR	Fayetteville	Rolling Hills Baptist Church	Jenna Sullivan	KY	Louisville	Crescent Hill Baptist Church	Brittani Blair, Emily Holladay
AR	Jonesboro	Magnolia Road Baptist Church	Jenna Sullivan	KY	Louisville	Ridgewood Baptist Church	Emily Holladay
AR	Little Rock	New Millennium Church	Megan Pike	KY	Middlesboro	First Baptist Church	Kristy L. Bay, Karen Massey
AR	Little Rock	Pulaski Heights Baptist Church	Cindy Goza, Megan Pike	KY	Midway	Midway Baptist Church	Scarlette Jasper
AR	Van Buren	Renal Road Baptist Church	Cinda Smith	KY	Morehead	First Baptist Church	Stephanie Vance
DC	Washington	First Baptist Church	Alyssa Aldape	KY	Port Royal	Port Royal Baptist Church	Devin Harris-Davis
FL	Coral Gables	Christ Journey Church	Angie Lopez	LA	Alexandria	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Kate Murphy
FL	Jacksonville	Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church	Elizabeth Bahar	LA	Baton Rouge	University Baptist Church	Ruth Perkins Lee
FL	Orlando	Church on the Drive	Marlo Wright	MA	Needham	First Baptist Church	Holly Benzenhafer, Daryn Stylianopoulos
FL	St. Petersburg	Redeeming Church	Courtney Jones	MD	Baltimore	Woodbrook Baptist Church	Laura Kigweba James
FL	Tampa	Bayshore Baptist Church	Missy Ward Angalla, Sara Hunt-Felke	MD	Kensington	Kensington Baptist Church	Trisha Miller-Manarin
GA	Americus	Fellowship Baptist Church	Chrystal Golden	MD	Worcester	Second Baptist Church	Carla D. Loggins
GA	Athens	First Baptist Church	Emily Harbin	MO	Cape Girardeau	First Baptist Church	Ellen Gurnon
GA	Athens	Milledge Avenue Baptist Church	Monica Ramirez-Leon	MO	Columbia	First Baptist Church	Brittany McDonald-Null
GA	Atlanta	Church at Ponce & Highland	Tiffany Burch	MO	Jefferson City	First Baptist Church	Hannah Coe
GA	Atlanta	First Baptist Church	Kasey Jones	MO	Kansas City	Crossroads Church	Stephanie Swanson
GA	Atlanta	McAfee School of Theology Chapel	Teresa Fry Brown	MO	Kansas City	Englewood Baptist Church	Yonga "Joy" Choi, Cassie Vivian
GA	Atlanta	Northside Drive Baptist Church	Priscilla Eppinger	MO	Kansas City	Holmeswood Baptist Church	Michelle Edwards
GA	Atlanta	Peachtree Baptist Church	Leslie Brogdon	MO	Liberty	Chandler Baptist Church	Andrea Huffman
GA	Atlanta	Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church	Heather Webb	MO	Liberty	Second Baptist Church	Julie Merritt Lee
GA	Atlanta	Wieuca Road Baptist Church	Julie Long	MO	Springfield	University Heights Baptist Church	Muriel Johnson
GA	Carrollton	First Baptist Church	Bonnie Chappell	MO	St. Louis	Dayspring Baptist Church	Deborah Krause
GA	Cartersville	Heritage Baptist Church	Sydney Rhodes, Missy Ward-Angalla	MS	Clinton	Northside Baptist Church	Skylar Smith
GA	Commerce	First Baptist Church	Lauren Hooie	MS	Starkville	University Baptist Church	Alyssa Moncrief
GA	Conyers	Trinity Baptist Church	Ossie X. McKinney	NC	Ahoskie	First Baptist Church	Anita Thompson
GA	Dalton	First Baptist Church	Bridgette Poag	NC	Angier	Angier Baptist Church	Kathy Baker
GA	Decatur	First Baptist Church	Alina Bowie, Kristen Koger, Kelsey Lewis, Suzii Paynter	NC	Angier	Neill's Creek Baptist Church	Kim Wyatt
GA	Decatur	Greenforest Community Baptist Church	Natasha Nedrick	NC	Asheville	First Baptist Church	Amy Stertz
GA	Decatur	Scott Boulevard Baptist Church	Karla Nelson, Sara Robb-Scott	NC	Boone	First Baptist Church	Ka'thy Gore Chappell
GA	Devereux	Beulah Baptist Church	Jacque Burkhart	NC	Boone	ReGeneration Church	Larke Alexandria Blanton
GA	Duluth	Parkway Baptist Church	Hannah Rule	NC	Buies Creek	Campbell Divinity School Chapel	Meredith Lanier, Miriam Phillips, Vickie Smith
GA	Fitzgerald	Fellowship Baptist Church	Julie Long	NC	Buies Creek	Memorial Baptist Church	Alexia Riggs
GA	Griffin	First Baptist Church	Sarah Murray	NC	Candler	Hominy Baptist Church	Melissa Reeves Hughes, Jennifer Scruggs Reed
GA	Haddock	Haddock Baptist Church	Julie Long	NC	Cary	Greenwood Forest Baptist Church	Kadeisha Bonsu, Melissa Florer-Bixler
GA	Jasper	First Baptist Church	Emily Harbin	NC	Cary	Westwood Baptist Church	Ka'thy Gore Chappell
GA	Jefferson	First Baptist Church	Susan Sparks	NC	Chapel Hill	HillSong Church	Heather Colliard, Angel Lee
GA	Macon	First Baptist Church of Christ	Naomi Black	NC	Charlotte	St. John's Baptist Church	Amy Chilton, Lena Duke, Lily Wilkerson
GA	Macon	Highland Hills Baptist Church	Ashley Robinson	NC	Cullowhee	Cullowhee Baptist Church	Tonya Vickery
GA	Marietta	Zion Baptist Church	Bianca Howard	NC	Durham	Watts Street Baptist Church	Amy Armstrong
GA	Morrow	First Baptist Church	Chelsea Folds	NC	Durham	Yates Baptist Church	Amy Pardue Boone
GA	Newnan	Central Baptist Church	Katie Faison	NC	Forest City	First Baptist Church	Kheresa Harmon
GA	Rome	First Baptist Church	Kristen Pope	NC	Four Oaks	First Baptist Church	Kristen Muse
GA	Rome	North Broad Baptist Church	Devon Smyth	NC	Gastonia	Covenant Baptist Church	Pam Phillips
GA	Roswell	First Baptist Church	Jessica Asbell	NC	Greensboro	First Baptist Church	Darnysha Nord
GA	Snellville	Cornerstone Church	Kenza Gumbs	NC			
GA	Stone Mountain	Smoke Rise Baptist Church	Ebby Arnold	NC			

ST	CITY	CHURCH	MSM PREACHER	ST	CITY	CHURCH	MSM PREACHER
NC	Grover	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Chrissy Binion, Sarah Blackwell	TN	Knoxville	First Baptist Church	Kristy Bay
NC	Hendersonville	Providence Baptist Church	Rachael Jackson	TN	Memphis	First Baptist Church	Courtney Pace
NC	High Point	Emerywood Baptist Church	Ann Brinson, Lindsey Altvater Clifton, Leigh Curl, Brittani Hunt	TN	Memphis	Second Baptist Church	Lauren McDuffie
NC	High Point	First Baptist Church	Jennifer Campbell	TN	Murfreesboro	First Baptist Church	Tamara Crutcher
NC	High Point	Temple Memorial Baptist Church	Tarsha Banister	TN	Nashville	First Baptist Church	Kelly Moreland Jones
NC	Kernersville	First Baptist Church	Anita Laffoon	TN	Nashville	Glendale Baptist Church	Summer Hyche Harrell
NC	Lexington	First Baptist Church	Stephanie Vance	TN	Nashville	Immanuel Baptist Church	Kelly Moreland Jones, Judy Skeen, Tambi Swiney
NC	Madison	First Baptist Church	Kathy Gore Chappell	TX	Abilene	Logsdon Seminary	Kristen Harris-Bridwell
NC	Marion	First Baptist Church	Christi Stewart Hollifield	TX	Bryan	St. Joseph Regional Hospital Chapel	Raquel Webb
NC	Mocksville	First Baptist Church	Meredith Lanier	TX	Coppell	Valley Ranch Baptist Church	Amy Wilkins
NC	Mount Airy	Calvary Baptist Church	Reagan Tidd	TX	Dallas	Royal Lane Baptist Church	Tiffany Pittman
NC	Murfreesboro	Murfreesboro Baptist Church	Jill Awuni	TX	Elm Mott	First Baptist Church	Victoria Garza
NC	New Bern	First Baptist Church	Mary Thomas Kaylor	TX	Fort Worth	Agape Baptist Church	Kim Brewer
NC	Oxford	Oxford Baptist Church	Cecelia Beck, Haven Parrott	TX	Fort Worth	Broadway Baptist Church	Blair Davis, Leah Jordan, Fran Patterson, Elizabeth Perkins
NC	Plymouth	First Baptist Church	Dell Haywood	TX	Harker Heights	Trinity Baptist Church	Sara Elliott
NC	Raleigh	Hayes Barton Baptist Church	Kristen Muse	TX	Houston	South Main Baptist Church	Susan Moore, Abby Rader, Dolores Rader, Morgan Smith
NC	Raleigh	Millbrook Baptist Church	Stephanie Bohannon	TX	Houston	The Church Without Walls	Amelia (age 10)
NC	Raleigh	St. John's Baptist Church	Mary Elizabeth Hanchey	TX	McKinney	Community North Church	Beth Barr
NC	Roanoke Rapids	HOPE Christian Fellowship Baptist	Carrie Jarrell Tuning	TX	Round Rock	Peace of Christ Church	Anna Elizabeth Garcia
NC	Shelby	First Baptist Church	Carol Ann Hoard, Missy Smith	TX	San Antonio	Woodland Baptist Church	Linda Gwathmey
NC	Shelby	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Chrissy Holiday, Sarah Long	TX	Waco	Bosqueville Baptist Church	Bethany Busby
NC	Shelby	Ross Grove Baptist Church	Kathy Gore Chappell	TX	Waco	Calvary Baptist Church	Ali Chappell DeHay
NC	Spring Hope	First Baptist Church	Wanda Kidd	TX	Waco	Park Lake Drive Baptist Church	Evelyn Ofong
NC	Spruce Pine	Central Baptist Church	Jessica Williams	TX	Waco	Seventh & James Baptist Church	Krystal Morrell
NC	Sylva	First Baptist Church	Carol Cloer	VA	Annandale	Ravenworth Baptist Church	Leah Grundset Davis, Tonetta Landis-Aina
NC	Wake Forest	Heritage Baptist Church	Sandy Stillman-Alvin	VA	Bedford	Bedford Baptist Church	Rhonda Evans Miller
NC	Wilmington	Winter Park Baptist Church	Kathy Gore Chappell	VA	Blacksburg	Blacksburg Baptist Church	Sarah Hubble, Rebecca Wheeler
NC	Winston-Salem	Ardmore Baptist Church	Gina M. Brock	VA	Chesapeake	Churchland Baptist Church	Caitlin Brown, Tracy Hartman
NC	Winston-Salem	First Baptist Church on Fifth	Amy McClure, Emily Hull McGee	VA	Chester	Chester Baptist Church	Alice Cates Clarke
NC	Winston-Salem	Peace Haven Baptist Church	Michele Shadden	VA	Earlysville	Chestnut Grove Baptist Church	Erin Collier
NC	Youngsville	Providence Baptist Church	Deanna McBroom	VA	Kenbridge	Kenbridge Baptist Church	Katrina Stipe Brooks
NY	New York	Metro Baptist Church	Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey	VA	Madison Heights	Madison Heights Baptist Church	Megan Lee
NY	Pine City	Pine City Baptist Church	Abigail Fell-Dewalt	VA	Martinsville	First Baptist Church	Donna Hopkins Britt
OK	Norman	NorthHaven Church	Kim Divelbiss, Grace Mitchell	VA	McLean	McLean Baptist Church	Monica Leak
OK	Oklahoma City	First Baptist Church	Sarah Stewart	VA	Midlothian	Tomahawk Baptist Church	Virginia Otey
SC	Aiken	First Baptist Church	Ruth Perkins Lee	VA	Richmond	Central Baptist Church	Abigail Pratt
SC	Charleston	Providence Baptist Church	Brandy Mullins	VA	Richmond	First Baptist Church	Kathy Thompson
SC	Chesterfield	McClain Grove Missionary Baptist Church	Sharon Black	VA	Richmond	Grace Baptist Church	Rosa Crump
SC	Columbia	New Hope Fellowship	Elizabeth Nance-Coker	VA	Richmond	Huguenot Road Baptist Church	Amanda Lott
SC	Columbia	Kathwood Baptist Church	Beth McConnell, Elizabeth Nance-Coker	VA	Richmond	River Road Church, Baptist Second Baptist Church	Sue Smith
SC	Conway	Palmetto Missionary Baptist Church	D. Katrina Reaves	VA	Richmond		Katie Vance Lucas, Ginny Richardson
SC	Greenville	Augusta Heights Baptist Church	Christine Powell Kellett	VA	Scottsville	Scottsville Baptist Church	Tourville
SC	Greenville	Pelham Road Baptist Church	Ashley Twitchell	VA	Troy	Bybee's Road Baptist Church	Ruby Fulbright
SC	Greenwood	First Baptist Church	Anna Burch	VA	Waynesboro	First Baptist Church	Morganne Talley
SC	Lexington	Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship	Judith Myers	VA	Williamsburg	Williamsburg Baptist Church	Lacey Wondree
SC	Orangeburg	First Baptist Church	Toni Pipkins	VA	Winchester	First Baptist Church	Tracy Hartman
SC	Pendleton	First Baptist Church	Cara Morgan	WA	Lynnwood	Good Shepherd Baptist Church	K. Scarry, Kristin Whitesides
SC	Piedmont	First Baptist Church	Stephanie Patterson				Denise Aanenson
SC	Seneca	Trinity Baptist Church	Tiffany Hamilton				
SC	York	First Baptist Church	Leigh Reynolds				
TN	Cookeville	Providence Baptist Church	Mary Beth Dunbar-Duke		Nova Scotia		
TN	Jefferson City	First Baptist Church	Ellen DiGiosia		Kentville	Kentville United Baptist Church	Melody Maxwell
TN	Knoxville	Ball Camp Baptist Church	Emily Collins				



# Celebrating Strong Leaders

Leaders from The Baptist Seminary of Kentucky have won an Addie Davis Award three out of the last four years.

2018: Scarlette Jasper, Pastoral Leadership

2016: Margaret Brooks, Pastoral Leadership

2015: Crystal Shepherd, Pastoral Leadership

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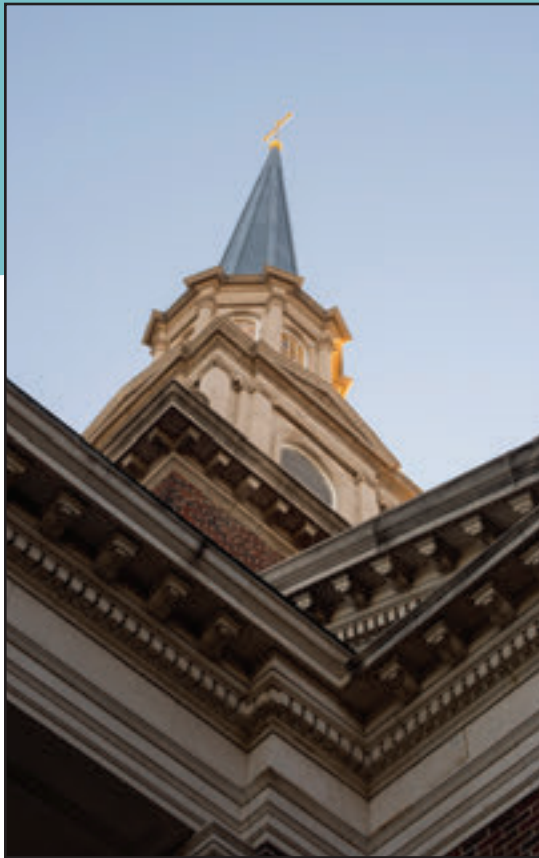
The State and Regional Leadership of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Family thank **Suzii Paynter** for her service and wish her God's richest blessings.



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

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A theological and spiritual home for Baptist women and men at Duke Divinity School, Baptist House of Studies anchors students in their Baptist identity and connects them with one another and the larger Baptist world. We are a community that embraces a love for learning and a desire for God, where hearts and minds are open to the whole of God's truth and formed in the evangelical witness of the gospel. Visit our booth to learn more about our work and the work of Duke Divinity School.

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Pictured Above: Kelsey Higbee, Logsdon Master of Divinity student

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# Congratulations to...

Jay Kieve, Coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina and recipient of the 2019 Frankie Huff Granger Distinguished Mentor award

This is the first time Baptist Women in Ministry have bestowed this honor on a male mentor!  
CBF South Carolina is extremely proud of Jay's work!



# Welcome to...



**Lane Riley,**  
new Associate Coordinator  
for CBF South Carolina.



A native of Greenwood, South Carolina, and a member of First Baptist Church Greenwood, Lane comes to us from Delta Hands for Hope. We are excited to have Lane back in South Carolina, and ask you to join us in welcoming her to the staff of CBF South Carolina.



## BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY STAFF



*Pam Durso*  
executive director



*Julie Long*  
associate director



*Meagan Smith*  
program manager

# KEEPING UP WITH BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## THE BWIM WEBSITE

The BWIM website is packed full of resources, including information about Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching, the Addie Davis Awards, the Clergy Sexual Misconduct Task Force's work, and a resource page, which includes maternity leave policies, ordination and installation service resources, ministry search and personnel helps, state and regional BWIM contact information, and a list of helpful books and articles.

## CLERGY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT TASK FORCE

In October 2018, BWIM and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's joint Clergy Sexual Misconduct Task Force 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. It is accompanied by a leader guide and 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. Both videos and written resources are available at [bwim.info/safechurches/](http://bwim.info/safechurches/)

## DISCERNMENT RETREATS

Each year BWIM hosts discernment events for college and seminary women. These events create intentional space for college women to reflect on God's calling. On September 20-22,

2019, BWIM and Texas BWIM will co-host a Discernment Retreat at Willow Meadows Baptist Church in Houston, Texas. Visit the BWIM website for more information.

## MINISTRY SEARCH RESOURCES

BWIM offers resources and assistance both to churches searching for a minister and ministers searching for a new position. Included in the monthly enewsletter is a list of current openings, and resources are provided on the website for both churches and candidates. Both churches and candidates in need of assistance may submit information, job descriptions, and resumes via BWIM's Ministry Search Registration Forms.

## MONTH OF PREACHING

BWIM sponsored the first Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching in 2007! That year, 54 churches participated and invited a woman to preach during February. In 2019, 204 churches participated. Over the past twelve years, hundreds of churches have celebrated Martha's influence and example, and this year BWIM redreamed this emphasis and widened its circle by featuring, in addition to Martha, three other significant Baptist preachers: Ella Pearson Mitchell, Helen Barrett Montgomery and Edna Lee de Gutiérrez. We are grateful for the 204 churches that participated and publicly voiced their support of women in ministry, stood with other Baptist churches in celebrating the calling and gifts of women, and reminded their congregations that God does indeed call women to the work of the kingdom. Resources for the Month of Preaching, including a bulletin insert in both English and Spanish, are available on the BWIM website.



*Anita Laffoon preached at First Baptist Church, Kernersville, North Carolina, for BWIM Month of Preaching.*



*Miriam Phillips preached at Campbell University Divinity School, Buies Creek, North Carolina, for BWIM Month of Preaching.*

## MONTHLY CONVERSATIONS

**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**.

**Thursday, August 22, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. EST** – “A Conversation about Public Advocacy” with special guests **Melissa Rogers** and **Sister Carol Keehan**.

**Tuesday, September 10, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. EST** – “Beyond Policies: Cultivating A Culture of Safety for Children and Youth” with special guest: **LeAnn Gardner**.

**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**.

**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**.

A large photograph of Jackie, a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a pink blazer, smiling. The background is a blurred church interior.

  
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*Jackie serves as the Homeless Coordinator with Durham Public Schools and is a minister within her church, Union Baptist, in Durham, NC.*

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# BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY'S 2019 MENTORING PROGRAM COHORT



The 2019 BWIM Mentoring Group cohort gathered in January for a three-day retreat at the Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama. This cohort has five groups—two for new pastors, one for associate ministers, one for chaplains, and one for outside-the-box ministers. Each group meets monthly via ZOOM. This year's mentors are Courtney Allen, Jewel London, Erin Lysse, Julie Pennington-Russell, and Charity Roberson.





*Pam Durso*

## LIVING INTO THE VISION

by Pam Durso

I have in recent weeks been re-reading BWIM's founding documents. (Some people binge-watch movies on Netflix in their spare time, I pull out dusty papers and binders of old newsletters and binge-read).

One of the documents that I keep coming back to was written in 1983 by Nancy Sehested.

Nancy had a vision, one shared by the thirty-two other women who gathered on March 20, 1983 in Louisville, Kentucky. At this meeting, she presented an address in which she set forth a vision for a new organization. This organization would encourage women to fuller ministries in churches and in the denomination; provide an avenue for sharing “the joys and struggles as disciples of Christ;” instill in women courage, insight, and strength; and explore, discuss, and form new paradigms of leadership, paradigms that encourage empowerment rather than control. And with those words Baptist Women in Ministry was birthed.

Thirty-six years later the organization lives on. The executive director in me takes great pride in knowing that BWIM survived lean years and hard times and now is thriving. The historian in me (the one who loves reading through dusty founding documents) is grateful to those thirty-three women who dreamed the dreams AND who also kept good records. The strategic thinker in me ponders about how well BWIM has lived into Nancy's vision.

In these past four decades, Baptist women have indeed been encouraged to fuller ministries in churches and in denominations. In the early 1980s, fourteen women served as pastors of Southern Baptist churches. In 2019, just over 200 women serve as pastors or co-pastors in churches that affiliate with the Alliance of Baptists, the Baptist General Association of Virginia, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the District of Columbia Baptist Convention. Progress

for Baptist women pastors has been slow but steady in these past thirty-six years. In 2019, Baptist women are also seminary professors and president; hospital, military, and prison chaplains; executives of non-profit organizations; and denominational leaders. Baptist women are flourishing in fuller ministries than even dreamed about in 1983!

Every day I hear stories and see social media posts that tell me that Baptist women ministers in 2019 are sharing “the joys and struggles as disciples of Christ.” Baptist women ministers gather in peer groups, mentoring groups, study groups. They go together on retreats, pilgrimages, and fun adventures. They attend each other's weddings, host baby showers for one another, and show up on the hard days for a ministry friend. For all that social media isn't, it IS a beautiful way to share joys and struggles.

Measuring progress when it comes to instilling in women courage, insight, and strength seems like an impossible task. There are no numbers, no graphs or charts, no visuals that point to BWIM's success in giving courage, insight, and strength to women ministers. But oh my there are stories that convince me that Baptist women in 2019 are courageous and insightful and strong.

Nancy's final challenge for a new organization was that it explore, discuss, and form new paradigms of leadership, paradigms that encourage empowerment rather than control. And this is where I had to stop and ask some questions. Has BWIM in this past thirty-six years helped shape new leadership paradigms, or are Baptists still stuck in traditional patriarchal leadership modes? Has BWIM challenged Baptists to work more collaboratively and to welcome all the voices at the table? Has BWIM empowered women to believe in themselves, to embrace their giftedness, and to step fully into their callings? I know deep in my heart that there is still much work to be done for BWIM to live fully into its founding vision, but I am ever thankful for Nancy's capturing words that continue to challenge, inspire, and push us forward in this work.

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

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Hannah Butler

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helping us see.

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