

a voice for women in baptist life

Vocare

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CELEBRATING THE RESILIENCY OF BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY



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.

GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY STAFF



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COVER IMAGE

Photograph of a painting by Susan Cartledge, Raleigh, NC, long-time supporter of BWIM and a home health nurse at WakeMed



When I first felt called to ministry at the age of 17, I had no idea the ride that awaited me. The years between that first sense of calling and my ordination were filled with questions, exploration, deconstruction, self-discovery, encouragement, barriers, failures, courage, more barriers, determination, and affirmation. And no doubt, the many years since then have also been filled with the same.

Throughout my ministry, I've had the privilege to walk with other women who are seeking fulfillment in their callings along very similarly difficult trails. Those shared journeys have revealed to me (1) how important it is for women to have companions and support as we tread these paths, and (2) that there is still much work to be done for Baptists to be fully affirming of women in ministry.

As I begin my ministry as executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry, those two essential needs are my core objectives. BWIM will continue to help women ministers connect to sustaining communities, and we will never stop working, speaking, and advocating for women to be embraced and elevated in the church.

We will continue this great mission because we are convinced that congregations will be better equipped to share the grace and redemption of Christ to a world in need **WHEN** the gifts and voices of women are fully valued, utilized, and celebrated.

In these early months of my ministry, I've longed for the chance to come together with you for **BWIM's Annual Gathering on June 30, 2021** at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Annual Meeting. However, with the uncertainty surrounding the ongoing pandemic, **we have not yet determined if the BWIM Annual Gathering will occur in-person or online.** In either case, we hope that you will look for more information about the event coming soon, and that you make plans to join us whether it is from in front of your computer screen or gathered in-person.

May God's strength offer you resilience for these challenging days, may Christ's hope permeate your ministry, and may the Spirit pour her creativity and courage into every aspect of your lives.

Meredith Stone is the executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry, Abilene, Texas.

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

(First row) Rebecca Mathis, Lawrence Powers, Anyra Cano, Ossie McKinney, Courtney Allen Crump,
(Second row) Tripp Martin, Ellen Di Giosia, Micah Pritchett, Ashton Wells



BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY NEWS

BWIM BLOG

Baptist Women in Ministry invites you to read, enjoy, and share our blogs. Our 2021 blogs will continue to feature amazing Baptist women ministers and engage issues pertinent to women in ministry throughout various days of each month. The BWIM blog is a chance for us to learn together and celebrate the work of Christ that is taking place through women in ministry in Baptist life. If you know of a Baptist woman in ministry whose story needs to be told, please contact Lynn Brinkley at lynnbrinkley@bwim.info.

BWIM BOOK CLUB

Look for information about BWIM's Book Club coming in April! Over the course of 4 weeks, we will read a book together and have weekly Zoom meetings to discuss what we are learning and how it applies to our ministries. In April, we will be reading Joanne Lipman's *That's What She Said: What Men Need to Know (and Women Need to Tell Them) About Working Together* (William Morrow, 2018).

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 newsletter is a list of current openings, and resources are provided on the BWIM 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Each week, BWIM shares blogs, announcements, and other BWIM-related news on our social media sites. Be sure to follow Baptist Women in Ministry on our Facebook page (@BaptistWomen), Instagram (@baptistwomen), and Twitter (@BaptistWomen).

DISCERNMENT COHORT FOR COLLEGE & SEMINARY WOMEN

Each year, BWIM hosts discernment events for college and seminary women. These events create intentional space for reflection on God's calling. This spring we are adapting the experience of discernment into a **virtual cohort** which will allow college women from across the country to participate together in the work of discerning their callings. The cohort will convene over a ten-week period via Zoom and participants who complete the cohort will receive a **\$200 SCHOLARSHIP** at the end of the ten weeks. We are grateful to our mentors and leaders for the Discernment Cohort: Lauren Brewer Bass, Laurel Cluthe, Lauren Efird, Cynthia Insko, Julie Long, and Natasha Nedrick.

MENTORING

The 2020-2021 cohort of BWIM's Mentoring Program is in the final year of their two-year-long journey together. The cohort has spent this past year meeting in small groups with their mentors over Zoom. The current cohort includes five mentoring groups — one for new pastors, one for associate ministers, one for chaplains, and two for outside-the-box ministers. Each group includes one mentor and four participants. The five groups will have two more in-person retreats at a feasible time, but will continue to meet monthly via Zoom with their mentors: Lynn Brinkley, Joanne Henley, Emily Hull McGee, Tambi Swiney, and Amy Stertz. **BWIM is accepting applications this spring for the 2021-2022 mentoring cohort to begin in Summer/Fall 2021!**

MONTH OF PREACHING

BWIM sponsored the first Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching in 2007, and 54 churches participated and invited a woman to preach during February of that year. In 2020, 156 churches participated! Over the past thirteen years, hundreds of churches have celebrated Martha's influence and example. In 2019, BWIM redreamed and renamed this emphasis by widening its circle to feature, in addition to Martha, three other significant



Rhonda Hopper preached virtually at Journey Church on January 31, 2021 for BWIM Month of Preaching.

Baptist preachers: **Ella Pearson Mitchell, Helen Barrett Montgomery, and Edna Lee de Gutiérrez**. Resources for BWIM Month of Preaching are on the BWIM website — including video resources, worship suggestions, and 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

BWIM and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's joint Clergy Sexual Misconduct Task Force continues its work. The task force has produced two significant resources developed for use by churches, seminaries, and partnering organizations. "Safe Churches and Ministers" is an educational video that 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/.

CELEBRATING THE RESILIENCY OF BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Perhaps no one is more familiar with the challenges of doing ministry in the past year than chaplains. While many studies have shown the exponential weight and cost of the past year on women, the ministry of Baptist women chaplains is a shining example of strength, resiliency, and creativity.

Megan Pike, staff chaplain for Blessing Health System in Quincy, IL, moved across the country for her new position in January 2020 and faced the challenges of acclimating to a new home in addition to all that Covid-19 brought to her life and work. Contracting Covid-19 in July after an encounter with a patient, Megan also dealt with the isolation of quarantining away from her spouse and toddler.

But despite the challenges, Megan persevered. “As a chaplain and a health care worker, I have experienced death in a staggering way this past year. I have had to wrestle through remaining a calm, non-anxious presence while holding an iPad for family members of a patient to say goodbye to that patient before they took their last breaths. It has been heart-breaking in so many ways and these encounters are often vivid in my mind and heart as I process this past year.”

Megan also turned to creativity to meet the challenges of ministry during Covid-19. This meant supplying increased support for hospital staff, implementing new procedures for patient care, creating virtual opportunities for Lenten practices such as a Maundy Thursday hand-washing ritual and a Good Friday Blessing, and introducing a Blue Christmas Tree to the hospital lobby where staff could write the name of a lost loved one or patient on a blue cloth and tie it to the tree.

Joanna Sowards, a chaplain at Baylor Scott & White Health in Waco, TX, also described the toll of hospital chaplaincy during Covid-19. While iPads provided opportunities for communication between Covid patients and family members, the burden of ministry increased for her

at the end of 2020 as cases and patient deaths began surging in the Waco area.

“With visitors being limited, the spiritual and emotional distress remains so high for patients and family members. Patients are without their full support and family members have to make the difficult decision of who will be allowed to visit, carrying greater anxiety themselves,” Joanna said.

Joanna also expressed her efforts to minister to hospital staff as well as patients. Her department created weeklong “Refreshment for the Soul” initiatives for various units. Partnering with local faith communities to provide homemade baked goods, they provided an inviting and peaceful space for staff members to step into to take a moment for themselves.

Robin Kay Monk Self, a Chaplain Resident for a five-hospital system in Louisville, KY, also described the use of technology in ministering to patients including a creative innovation she employs to bring hope to her patients. “At my own most creative spaces, I have used mobile devices and tablets to capture images of outside or bring music playlists to give a sense of life beyond the walls for those who spend days and weeks in the bed of their hospital room.”

But in addition to the difficulties of the Covid-19 pandemic, Robin also described the challenges related to the concurrent pandemic of racial injustice and brutality toward Black bodies. She shared about her work in speaking up



Joanna Sowards



Megan Pike



Robin Kay Monk Self

and advocating for those who were also carrying the burden of being Black in Breonna Taylor's Louisville, the same place where a fellow healthcare worker was killed with no account of her death.

"I have dealt with and still deal with carrying that grief and anger myself as I serve in a ministry that still lacks the racial diversity which reflects the community we serve. Thankfully, I work in a healthcare system that immediately responded to the feedback of Black staff, leaders, and families by establishing initiatives to invest in systemic changes and collaborations to better the life of our community," Robin said.

In a little different setting of ministering as a bereavement specialist for Arkansas Hospice, Cinda Smith was used to providing spiritual support for hospice patients in their homes, as well as in hospitals and other facilities, when Covid-19 hit.

With the new visitation restrictions in facilities and many patient families refusing in-home support, Cinda has turned to phone calls and her guitar.

Cinda records videos of herself playing and singing hymns and posts them to Facebook for patients and families who might be isolated. When families are open to visits, Cinda often brings along her guitar to comfort patients, and her musical talents were featured in an Arkansas Hospice Service of Remembrance for grieving families.

But beyond health care, chaplains also minister in a number of specialized settings. Sarah Greenfield serves as a U.S. Navy Chaplain currently assigned to Commander Destroyer Squadron 31 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. She recently returned from a 150-day deployment on the deck of the USS WILLIAM P LAWRENCE.

As Sarah and her fellow sailors were packing their bags for this mission, they were already months into the physical and emotional challenges of the world-wide pandemic, and living in the close quarters of a 509-foot ship would amplify the difficulties.

Sarah shared that for all the effort she put into creative innovations to minister to her fellow sailors, she found what they needed most was connectedness.



Cinda Smith



Sarah Greenfield

"Each evening I had the honor to preside over the time-honored tradition of evening prayer, I closed with this reminder — You are seen; You are known; You are cared for. I committed to doing my part as Chaps to imaginatively engage this value, but what I learned was the power was held in their ability to cultivate this culture for and with one another. The human spirit of connectedness we can have with and for our neighbor cannot be squashed by anything of this world when we choose to see, know, and care for one another."

Sarah shared that the love and support she was gifted from friends, fellow ministers, and family — including receiving interpretive paintings of her on her ship lovingly created by her smallest cheerleaders from miles away — offered inspiration for each day of her deployment.

Each of these brave women chaplains also shared what helped them face the challenges of the past year.

In common between all of them was the importance of communities of support like Sarah shared. Robin described a Sister Circle of friends who she meets with regularly, Megan mentioned the gift of BWIM Office Hour calls, and Cinda told of a dear friend with whom she takes walks. Joanna, Cinda, and Megan also included the importance of formal support systems like a therapist, spiritual director, or groups like Al-Anon.

While these support systems and other outlets like physical exercise and old-school Wii dance offs with a spouse (per Robin) are helpful, the difficulties Baptist women chaplains face are not over.

For those hard days ahead, Joanna shares, "On the days when I feel the most burnt out and struggling, I have to hold on to the only thing I know is true, entering into spaces of suffering is what I am called and equipped to do, and I do not enter these spaces alone."

BWIM celebrates and offers thanks to God for the ministry of Baptist women chaplains like Megan Pike, Joanna Sowards, Robin Kay Monk Self, Cinda Smith, and Sarah Greenfield.

WITH MUCH THANKS TO BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY SUPPORTERS, 2020

INDIVIDUALS

Monthly Givers

Alyssa Aldape
Judy Bailey
Jennifer Bashaw
Lauren and David Bass
Irene Bennett
Mary Alice Birdwhistell
Carolyn Blevins
Kim Brewer
Lynn Brinkley
Katrina Brooks
Gary Burton
Katie Callaway
Anyra Cano
Shauw Chin and Paul Capps
Elaine Casey
Susan Cauley
Ronnie Chalmers
Adam Chaney
Ruth Clowater
Hannah and David Coe
Raquel Contreras
Courtney Allen Crump
Kenny and Laura Davis
Zach and Peyton Dawes
Ali Chappell DeHay
Paula Dempsey
Scott Dickison
Ellen Di Giosia
Kim Divelbiss
Megan Turner Doud
Melanie Dover
Gregory Dover
Robin Drake
Alex Durso
Pam Durso
Pam Foster
Jeni Cook Furr
JD Granade
Sarah Greenfield
Mary Elizabeth
and Matt Hanchey
Yvonne Harold

Ircel Harrison
David Hawes
Jennifer Hawks
Peggy Haymes
Claire Helton
Howard Herring
Jenny Hodge
Karlan Holik
Emily Holladay
Jim Holladay
Linsey Huggins
Jane and David Hull
Becky and Doug Jackson
Scarlette Jasper
Vickie Johnson
Bill Jones
Christine Jones
Kelly Moreland Jones
Deirdre LaNoue
Daryl Lawrence
Ruth Perkins Lee
Amy Lin
Jody and Julie Long
Rebecca Mathis
Amy McClure
Brittany McDonald-Null
Emily Hull McGee
Mandy McMichael
Christy McMillin-Goodwin
Julie Mendenhall
Sarah and David Murray
Kristen Muse
Pam Neal
Natasha Nedrick
Debbie Neely
Jessica Asbell Oravec
Beth and John Parker
Kristen Pope
Lawrence Powers
Kevin Pranoto
Aurelia Pratt
Micah Pritchett
Stacy Pyle
Deborah and Stephen Reeves

Brittany Riddle
Stefanie Riley
Lee Ritchie
Sara Robb-Scott
Charity Roberson
Jennifer Rygg
Robin Sanbothe
Tiffany Brown Seaford
Kelly Settlemyre
Stephanie Shaffer
Scott Sharman
Alan Sherouse
Rachel Sherron
Abby and Justin Sizemore
Tamara Smathers
Harry Southerland
Carolyn Staley
Anna Kate Stephenson
Laura Stephens-Reed
Sarah Stewart
Maria Stinnett
Meredith and James Stone
Tambi Swiney
Cheryl Tarter
David Tew
Gala Van Eaton
Alena Vaughn
Meg Lacy Vega
Tonya and Jeffrey Vickery
Charles Watson, Jr.
Doug and Pat Weaver
Raquel Webb
Ashton Wells
Courtney Willis
Belinda Wisdom
Annual Givers
5 Degrees Branding, LLC
Nancy Ammerman
Missy Ward Angalla
Patricia Shield Ayres
Martha Bailey
Harold Bass
Caroline Bell
Maureen Bird-Oberg

Wesley Bolin
Fred Bongiovanni
and Dee Bratcher
Danielle Bridgeforth
Nancy Brock
Kent and Ann Brown
Bob Browning
Charles and Diane Bugg
Ka'thy Gore Chappell
Ruth Clowater
Reba Cobb
Karen Coe
Cherilyn Crowe
Susan and Jim Crumpler
Jerry and Diane Dawson
Taryn Deaton
Larry and Gail Dickens
Rebecca Dixon
Donna Eggett
Teresa and Bob Ellis
Thomas Estes
Arty and Amy Finkelberg
John Miller Finley
Val Fisk
Sue Fitzgerald
Holly and Brian Ford
Keith Gammons
Jerry Gentry
Daniel Glaze
Deborah Haag
Emily Harbin
Eddie and Judy Hare
Jody Harrison
Susan Harthon
Tracy Hartman
William Craig Henry
Wyndee Holbrook
Tyler Ingram
Jennifer Jindrich
Matthew Johnson
Barry and Beth Jones
Richard D. Kahoe
Charlene Kelley
Gerald Kersey

Jay Kieve
 Tyresa King
 Kelli Kirksey
 Melissa Kremer
 Judy Landon
 Laura Levens
 Nora Lozano
 Cy Lynch
 Jerry and Adell Martin
 Tripp Martin
 Rebecca Husband Maynard
 Nancy Stanton McDaniel
 Carol McEntyre
 Ossie X. McKinney
 Karen Anderson McLain
 Barry and Sara Moak
 Helen Moore-Montgomery
 Carrie and Kyle Nault
 Esther Soud Parker
 Bill and Ruth Pitts
 LeDayne Polaski
 Peggy and Morgan Ponder
 Alicia Porterfield
 Judson Powell
 Katrina Reaves
 Sarah Reddish
 F. Gayle Roberts
 Inetta Rogers
 Karen Rogers
 Anthony Mark Roza
 Nancy Hastings Sehested
 Rob and Janie Sellers
 Paula J. Settle
 Cinda Smith
 Courtney Stamey
 Brittany Stillwell
 David Tatum
 David Tew
 Bill and Leta Tillman
 Kyle Tubbs
 Priscilla Tunnell
 Tommy Valentine
 Patty Villarreal
 Brent and Nancy Walker
 Naomi Walker
 Rebecca A. Wall
 Mark and Rebecca Wiggs
 Jean Willingham
 Glenda Willoughby
 David and Ann Wilson
 Barbara Wood
 Dionne Word
 Joyce Cope Wyatt
 Charles R. Yarbrough II
 Adama Zawadi

CHURCHES

Monthly Givers

Lamberth Memorial Baptist Church, Roxboro, NC
 Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, Athens, GA
 Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, MS

Annual Givers

Auburn First Baptist Church, Auburn, AL
 Bayshore Baptist Church, Tampa, FL
 Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, KY
 Calvary Baptist Church, Waco, TX
 First Baptist Church, Aiken, SC
 First Baptist Church, Austin, TX
 First Baptist Church Dalton, GA
 First Baptist Church Fayetteville, NC
 First Baptist Church Goldsboro, NC
 First Baptist Church Greenville, SC
 First Baptist Church Greenwood, SC
 First Baptist Church Gretna, VA
 First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon, GA
 First Baptist Church Pendleton, SC
 First Baptist Church Richmond, VA
 Grace Baptist Church, Richmond, VA
 Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, Cary, NC
 Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC
 Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, TN
 Millbrook Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC
 Myers Park Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC
 NorthHaven Church, Norman, OK
 Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson, MS
 Northside Baptist Church, Clinton, MS
 River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA
 Second Baptist Church, Liberty, MO
 Second Baptist Church, Lubbock, TX
 The Church at Highland Park, Austin, TX
 Trinity Baptist Church, Conyers, GA
 Village Baptist Church, Bowie, MD
 Watts Street Baptist Church, Durham, NC
 Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, TX
 Woodland Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX

ORGANIZATIONS

Monthly Givers

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Annual Givers

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Arkansas
 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina
 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Oklahoma
 Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina
 Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

FOUNDATIONS

Christian Mission Concern
 Eula Mae and John Baugh Foundation
 Grant Me The Wisdom Foundation
 Lilly Endowment, Inc.

GIFTS MADE IN HONOR OR MEMORY

Pam Durso Legacy Fund

Missy Ward Angalla
 Martha Bailey
 Diane and Charles Bugg
 Gary Burton
 Ka'thy Gore Chappell
 Ellen DiGiosia
 Craig Henry
 Becky and Doug Jackson
 Richard Kahoe
 Judy Landon
 Jerry and Adell Martin
 Nancy Stanton McDaniel
 Emily Hull McGee
 Bill and Ruth Pitts
 Sarah Reddish
 Paula Settle
 Cheryl Tarter
 Brent and Nancy Walker
 Joyce Cope Wyatt

Ronnie Chalmers, *in honor of Lynn Brinkley*
 Larry and Gail Dickens, *in honor of Lynn Brinkley*
 Val Fisk, *in honor of Rev. Dr. [CPT] Cindy R. Wallace*
 Daniel Glaze, *in honor of Lynn Brinkley & Meredith Stone*
 Daniel Glaze, *in honor of the RRCB Pastoral Staff*
 Daniel Glaze, *in honor of Dan and Janet Bagby*
 Deborah Haag, *in honor of Lane Riley*
 Craig Henry, *in honor of Claire Helton*
 Becky and Doug Jackson, *in honor of Meredith Stone*
 Barry and Beth Jones, *in honor of Lynn Brinkley*
 Myers Park Baptist Church, *in honor of Meredith Stone*
 Carrie Nault, *in honor of Becky and Doug Jackson*
 Paula Settle, *in honor of Molly Marshall*
 David Tatum, *in memory of Thelma Cooper*
 Priscilla Tunnell, *in honor of Dr. Ann White Morton*
 Tommy Valentine, *in honor of Amanda Standiford*
 Barbara Wood, *in honor of Jessica Asbell Oravec*
 Dionne Word, *in honor of Isabella Johnson*
 Adama Zawadi, *in honor of Bernadette Marie Henderson*

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

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A CHURCH THAT GIVES

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, LIBERTY, MISSOURI

Second Baptist Church (2BC), Liberty, Missouri, was founded in 1843 with a passion for missions, providing an early avenue for women to serve in leadership/ministry roles. In the 1950s, Louise Illingworth and Judy Knox became full-time education directors, and in 1983, 2BC extended a call to Connie Stinson, its first woman minister who was seminary trained and ordained. Other women serving in ministerial/pastoral roles have been Sherry McGlaughlin, Gwen Phillips, Connie McNeill, and Angie Fuller.

2BC voted to have women deacons in 1978, but none were elected until 1984. Since then more than 35 women have been ordained into the diaconate, with eight serving as chair. Also in 1984, the same year the SBC adopted a resolution against women in ministry and their ordination in nearby Kansas City, Connie McNeill became the first woman 2BC ordained to the gospel ministry. Today, McNeill serves 2BC as an associate pastor.

2BC has been a place to nurture gifts and a sense of call in women contemplating ministry, chaplaincy, and/or theological education. In the last 20 years, more than a dozen women have entered seminary or begun serving as ministers/chaplains. The church recently began a pastoral residency program out of that sense of nurture, and current resident, Andrea Huffman,

was honored by BWIM with its 2019 Addie Davis Award for Excellence in Preaching.

Baptist Women in Ministry gives thanks for Second Baptist Church and is grateful for their consistent and faithful support. 2BC's ongoing contributions make possible BWIM's work of advocating, connecting, and networking. Your church can be a supporter by giving online at www.bwim.info/give or sending a contribution to Baptist Women in Ministry, P.O. Box 207, Abilene, TX 79604.



Gwen Phillips, retired children's pastor, imposes ashes on Jason Edwards, senior pastor, at an Ash Wednesday service.