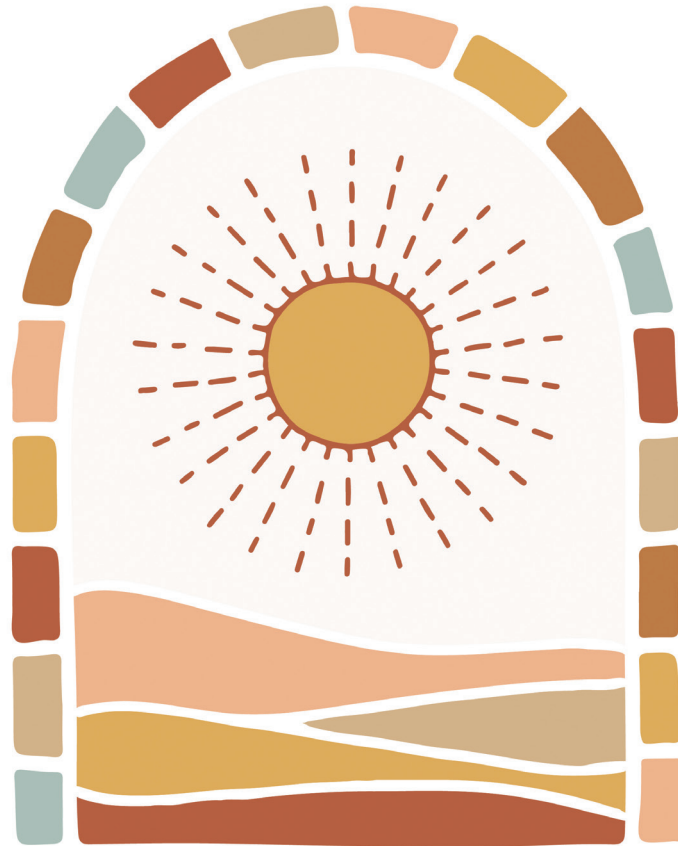


VOLUME 15, NO. 2, SUMMER 2021

a voice for women in baptist life

Vocare



NEW MERCIES

THE LORD'S MERCIES ARE NEW EVERY MORNING;
GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS. LAMENTATIONS 3:23

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY AUGUST 2021

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.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL GATHERING

Baptist Women in Ministry hosted its 2021 Annual Gathering virtually on June 30! Our theme was **NEW MERCIES** in reflection on Lamentations 3:23 and the new mercies God's faithfulness offers us.

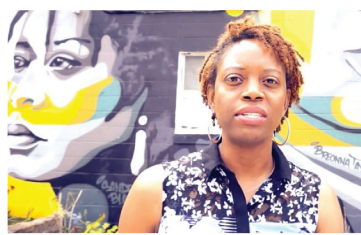
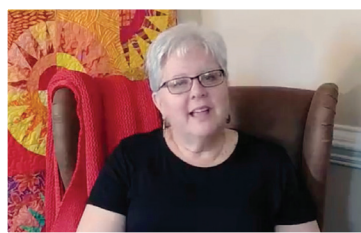
Participants were invited to begin their Annual Gathering experience by attending one of the Zoom watch parties hosted by some of our state BWIM leaders and others from among our partners. The watch parties were organized as a way for our BWIM community to reengage and experience the connectedness we have felt when we gathered in-person.

We wish to thank Hayes Barton Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina for serving as our host and allowing us to film in their sanctuary, Parable Media (www.parablemedia.org) for the technical production, Sharlene Provilus (www.sharleneprovilus.com) for providing spoken word art, and all of the Annual Gathering worship leaders and Zoom watch party hosts for helping us find new mercies!

If you missed Annual Gathering, or would like to watch it again, you can find it on our website at www.bwim.info/2021-annual-gathering/.



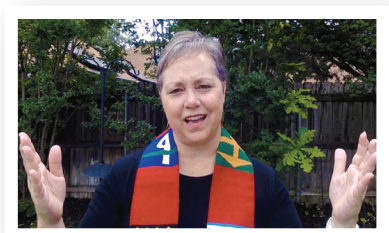
Lynn Brinkley and Jonathan Boggs during the recording at Hayes Barton Baptist Church



Scripture readers for Annual Gathering are pictured above. Top to Bottom: Stacy S. Lawton, Leslie Maccubbin Park, Erica Crosby, Sejana Yoo, and Ashly Quintanilla.



Testimonies about the BWIM Mentoring Program were provided by (top to bottom) Danielle Bridgeforth, Regina Johnson, Demetrea Williams, and Tambi Swiney.



Dorisanne Cooper offered the benediction for Annual Gathering.



Sharlene Provilus with Lynn Brinkley and Meredith Stone during the recording at Hayes Barton Baptist Church



Graphics for the 2021 Annual Gathering were provided by Katie Palmer, www.kmd-designs.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Baptist Women in Ministry gives thanks for the organizations who partner with us by sponsoring our 2021 Annual Gathering!

ADVOCATE SPONSORS

- Baptist News Global
- Campbell University Divinity School
- CBF Florida
- Central Seminary
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Fellowship Southwest
- Good Faith Media
- Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology
- Northern Seminary's Women in Ministry Program
- Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University

CONNECTOR SPONSORS

- Alliance of Baptists
- Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary
- Center for Healthy Churches



WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL TO THE 2020-21 BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY 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. We are thankful for the way these gifted ministers led us through the challenges of this past year and half which included staff transitions as well as the difficulties of the pandemic. The current team

includes Anyra Cano, Ashton Wells, Ellen Di Giosia, Micah Pritchett, Lawrence Powers, Rebecca Mathis, Tripp Martin, Ossie McKinney, and Courtney Allen Crump. Anyra, Lawrence, and Courtney are rotating off the Leadership Team this summer. Their support of BWIM and its vision has been invaluable, and their friendship has been a gift!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 ADDIE DAVIS NOMINEES

THE 2021 ADDIE DAVIS AWARDS

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN PASTORAL MINISTRY

Deirdre Jonese Austin
Emory University's Candler
School of Theology

Matrissa Bennett
Gardner Webb University
School of Divinity

Jennifer Davis
Central Baptist
Theological Seminary

LaToya F. McLean
Duke University
Divinity School

Kristen Pierce
McAfee School
of Theology

Katrina Tatum
Campbell University
Divinity School

Peggy Weir
Wake Forest University
Divinity School

EXCELLENCE IN PREACHING

Yonga Choi
Central Baptist
Theological Seminary

Victoria Lawson
McAfee School
of Theology

Jessica McDougald
Campbell University
Divinity School

Ruby J. Wayman
Baylor University's
George W. Truett
Theological Seminary

Janine R. Williams
Baptist Seminary
of Kentucky

Adrienne S. Young
Gardner Webb University
School of Divinity



Nataly Mora



Brittany Darst-Hermesen Edwards

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 2021 recipient of the Addie Davis Award for Outstanding Leadership in Pastoral Ministry is **Nataly Mora**. Originally from Texas, Nataly first experienced God's call to ministry as a teenager. "When I was in high school, I began to serve in my church's choir and taught Sunday School for children."

Desiring to study religion, Nataly attended Dallas Baptist University (DBU) where she majored in Christian Studies. As a student at DBU, Nataly was engaged in Baptist Student Ministry, local missions, and, alongside her friends, started a homeless ministry in Downtown Dallas called West End Streets Ministry. After finishing DBU, Nataly was led to further her studies at Baylor University. She enrolled as a dual degree (MDiv/MSW) student at both Truett Theological Seminary and the

Garland School of Social Work and graduated in May 2021.

Her professor, Dr. Gaynor Yancey, writes of Nataly: "More than any student I have ever had, Nataly is the most honoring and compassionate of all people with whom she shares her Christian centered caring...She is not only culturally competent, but she is culturally sensitive and practices cultural sensitivity by moving the cultural needle from thinking of diversity, to inclusion, and ultimately, to that of equity, which results in all people being able to function and relate together! She is a humble servant of God who is consumed, in her authentic Christian life, by serving others as her joy and privilege."

In addition to a rigorous course load, Nataly was called to serve as associate pastor of Park Lake Drive Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, where she was also ordained in 2020. At Park Lake Drive, Nataly has been an active minister where she developed skill sets to minister to individuals and communities who find themselves in crisis through advocacy, connecting them to resources, and providing spiritual and pastoral care. These skills were

evident when a tragedy occurred on church property.

Amos Humphries, senior pastor, writes, “Nataly is our associate pastor and serves our church with exceptional integrity and professional equivalency. I have grown dependent on her ability to tackle high volume responsibility, she literally can be seen as the pastor of our church...Nataly’s unique ability to manage ministry in a chaotic situation was displayed this past summer as our church navigated a local tragedy as a young toddler was found dead in our dumpster. Nataly immediately jumped into action, working on several different levels to communicate to the community, minister to the grieving family, manage our resources as the church’s property was overrun by traumatized members of the community, and lead at several points our congregation’s response. In short, Nataly is exceptional.”

Nataly best reflects her pastoral ministry in these words, “I have worked with people in all stages of life, and I see myself doing that for the rest of my life. I am committed to my calling to be a minister. I grew up in a broken home, and Christ took my brokenness and created something beautiful.”

The recipient of the 2021 Addie Davis Award for Excellence in Preaching is **Brittany Darst-Hermesen Edwards**, who was born in New Jersey and raised in North Carolina. Brittany



Nataly Mora

preached her first sermon when she was a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill serving as a volunteer leader with campus ministry. The campus minister was so impressed that he encouraged Brittany to pursue full-time ministry, and years later, she finally did. Brittany was ordained in 2019 by Macedonia Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, and since accepting her call, she has pursued chances to preach wherever possible.

Today, Brittany is an ordained minister in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and a school chaplain at St. Timothy’s School in Raleigh. In addition to her studies, Brittany is also the founder of Magdalene Clergy Dresses for women in ministry.

Brittany’s award-winning sermon, “Let Us Walk in the Light of the Lord,” is based on Psalm 123 and Isaiah 2:2-5. She preached this sermon on November 10, 2020 at Goodson Chapel, Duke Divinity School as the community gathered for the first time since the 2020 presidential election concluded. Brittany did not refrain from connecting this historic recent event to the ancient text. “Women who fought and sacrificed so much for equality and liberty and justice for all, including the black women who are often, too often, overlooked but so often prove they are the backbone of our democracy...I stand on their shoulders. Thus declared Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris in her victory speech

on Saturday night. She wasn’t weeping, but cameras showed women in the audience with tears on their faces, and I admit, I cried too. And I could almost hear us all, women across America, singing this psalm together: ‘Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.’”



Brittany Darst-Hermesen Edwards

Brittany’s professor at Duke, Dr. Curtis Freeman, writes: “She is a remarkable proclaimer. She has a natural voice in the pulpit that is strong and dynamic. The preaching faculty recognized her homiletical gifts by selecting her to be a student preacher for Goodson Chapel, an honor awarded to only a select number of students each year.”

Brittany further challenged her listeners at Duke by proclaiming, “Isaiah’s vision includes an invitation, if you remember. ‘Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.’ The Lord’s light is the light of truth—truth about racism and sexism and every other oppressing power—but also truth about ourselves.”

We give thanks for the gifts and ministry of **Nataly Mora** and **Brittany Darst-Hermesen Edwards**, the 2021 recipients of the Addie Davis Awards.”

THE 2021 DISTINGUISHED MENTOR AWARD



Dorisanne with Maria Swearingen & Sally Sarratt



DORISANNE COOPER

**2021 Frankie Huff Granger
Distinguished Mentor Award**

Baptist Women in Ministry recognizes and honors **Dorisanne Cooper** as the recipient of the 2021 Frankie Huff Granger Distinguished Mentor Award.

Dorisanne has been mentoring women called by God since her earliest years as a youth minister.

Jennifer Ingold Asbill, minister of children and pastoral care at Duke Memorial United Methodist Church in Durham, North Carolina offered these words about Dorisanne: “There has been no greater mentor in my life than Dorisanne Cooper. She was the first person I talked to as an awkward seventh grader when I felt God’s initial call to ministry. From that moment on, she encouraged me at every opportunity. Even now, she is still often the first text or phone call when I’m in need of a safe space to process, a creative mind for brainstorming, and a reminder that this calling is one that matters.”

During Dorisanne’s time as pastor of Lake Shore Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, she mentored several women as they were attending Truett Seminary.

Morgan Caruthers Fletcher, a pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado, offered this praise of Dorisanne’s mentorship in her life: “Dorisanne Cooper is the person who taught me what gentle-strength leadership is within this pastoral calling. Thanks to her I have learned what it is to be grounded in grace, open to what could be, and patient to meet people where they are.”

Natalie Webb, pastor of University Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, echoes this affirmation: “I felt called to preach and pastor as a teenager, but it wasn’t until I met Dorisanne that I actually saw a woman doing it! Dorisanne’s preaching and pastoral care looked completely different than anything I’d experienced. I had been working so hard to be like my male mentors, but watching Dorisanne made me realize that I didn’t need to be like anyone but myself.”

Erica Lea-Simka, pastor of Albuquerque Mennonite Church is another minister whose ministry was impacted by Dorisanne’s example. She writes, “As my seminary field education supervising pastor, Dorisanne invited me into the heart of congregational life at Lake Shore. She also invited me to be as fully myself as I could be. This freedom probably helped save my life as I experienced deep struggles with my personal identities in coordination with my pastoral identity at that time.”

Jaime McGlothlin, pastor of First United Methodist Church, Valley View and Cayote, Texas, adds, “I grew up with the WWJD (“What would Jesus do?”) bracelet trend. That always seemed a bit hard to get my mind around. But through my years as a pastor, I return again and again to, ‘What would Dorisanne do?’ She nurtures with a warmth and gentleness that gives her the power to share truth in her calm, wise way.”

Dorisanne’s investment in others has continued during her time as pastor of Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, NC, and recently through BWIM’s mentoring program.

One of the mentees in her mentoring group, Emily Hull McGee, pastor of First Baptist Church on Fifth in Winston-Salem, wrote: “The greatest witness she offered to me during our time as mentor and mentee was that of the ‘wounded healer,’ modeling for our group during her season of cancer treatments what leading through suffering looks like. We saw one whose broken body taught her (and by extension, us!) ways for the caregiver to receive, for the shepherd to be tended and led, and for the unexpected gifts and graces of it all to become tender nourishment for the weary soul.”

Finally, Maria Swearingen, senior co-pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, DC, summed up Dorisanne’s great impact with this: “*Good* mentors impart their wisdom to those willing to slow down long enough to listen. But the best mentors help us encounter and, ultimately, develop deep trust in our own wisdom. This is what I mean when I say that Dorisanne isn’t just a *good* mentor; she’s the *best*.”

For her intentional efforts to mentor, nurture, and advocate for women ministers, we give thanks to God for Dorisanne Cooper.



Dorisanne and Erica Lea-Simka

2021 CHURCH OF EXCELLENCE

Over the years, the many churches who have supported Baptist Women in Ministry have also 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 a church that has demonstrated what it means to work for the inclusion of women's gifts and leadership.

This year, with much gratitude, Baptist Women in Ministry honors **Pintlala Baptist Church** (PBC) in Hope Hull, Alabama as the 2021 Church of Excellence.

PBC was founded in 1960, and just 12 years later, Gary Burton was called as pastor and began a tenure of 49 years so far.

PBC invited its first woman to preach in 2008 as a part of Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching--the second year of the initiative.

Gary writes, "Inviting female clergy to preach for the Pintlala Baptist Church was something I had always wanted to do, but I was bound by the inertia of the past. Cultural traditions blinded me to present opportunities. So the Martha Stearns Marshall Day of Preaching became the

impetus I needed to invite Ellen Sims to preach."

After that year, PBC continued to invite women to preach as a part of what is now called BWIM Month of Preaching. The regular presence of women in the pulpit resulted in consideration of ordaining women deacons.

So in early 2013, Gary led the church in a time of deep study and conversation to consider the issue. He planned and presented a variety of Bible studies, wrote newsletter columns, preached sermons, and invited other voices to speak about the interpretation of scripture and cultural barriers.

At the same time, the deacon body reviewed the church manual, by-laws, and constitution. They discovered that while the by-laws did not specify the gender of deacons, the church manual did. When the revisions to the church manual went before the congregation for a vote, a sea of hands went up in favor of the motion.

In the fall of that year, two women, Jerrie Burton and Cathy Poage, were nominated, elected, and ordained as deacons for the first time in the church's history. Because of intentional leadership and inclusive conversations, the congregation emerged stronger out of this process.

Jerrie, who has also preached during BWIM Month of Preaching at PBC, wrote, "Striving to be more like Christ has been my passion, and I'm so thankful as a woman to have had the amazing opportunity to serve Christ in the pulpit and as a deacon at Pintlala Baptist Church."

Then, in 2017, the congregation ordained its first woman to the gospel ministry—Rev. Dr. Mandy McMichael, who is now associate director of ministry guidance and assistant professor at Baylor University.



PINTLALA BAPTIST CHURCH, HOPE HULL, ALABAMA

**2021 Baptist Women in Ministry
Church of Excellence**

Mandy offered these words of affirmation about what PBC meant to her, "My ordination in 2017 was celebrated in every way imaginable, from inviting the entire church to attend my ordination council to hosting a cupcake reception after the ordination service. I was the first woman ordained to the full gospel ministry in that place; it made sense that everyone wanted to be part of it. But it was also because they loved me (just as they loved so many others) and they were experts at showing it. I never once doubted that I had the full support of the entire congregation."

Former BWIM executive director, Pam Durso, is a good friend of Gary Burton and is author of *We Proceed On: The History of Pintlala Baptist Church* (Smyth & Helwys, 2016). Pam writes, "Pintlala is for me a beautiful example of a congregation that has grown steadily and faithfully into full inclusion of women in leadership and women ministers. Gary Burton has long been a strong and vocal advocate for women--in his congregation and community and in our Baptist world."

With this award, Baptist Women in Ministry celebrates Pintlala Baptist Church's commitment to the work of the gospel, its generous and faithful support of our organization, and its affirmation and support of women ministers.



Gary and Jerrie Burton

BWIM MONTH OF PREACHING

ST	CITY	CHURCH	PREACHER	ST	CITY	CHURCH	PREACHER
AL	Auburn	Auburn First Baptist Church	Lauren Hooie	NC	Angier	Neill's Creek Baptist Church	Irma Duke
AL	Birmingham	Vestavia Hills Baptist Church	Terri Byrd	NC	Apex	New Hope Missionary Baptist Church	Telika McCoy
AL	Hope Hull	Pintlala Baptist Church	Meredith Stone	NC	Benson	Benson Baptist Church	Felicia Fox
AL	Huntsville	Weatherly Heights Baptist Church	Madison Harner	NC	Boone	First Baptist Church	Ellen Di Giosa
AL	Madison	Trinity Baptist Church	Teresa Bowers	NC	Buies Creek	Campbell University Divinity School	Meredith Stone
AL	Pelham	Crosscreek Baptist Church	Jill Hudson	NC	Cary	Westwood Baptist Church	Carolyn McClendon, Amanda Allard
AL	Tuscaloosa	Woodland Forest Church	Mary An Wilson	NC	Chapel Hill	HillSong Church	Alicia Myers
AR	Fayetteville	Rolling Hills Baptist Church	Brittany Stillwell	NC	Chapel Hill	Mount Carmel Baptist Church	Virginia Taylor
AR	Little Rock	Second Baptist Church	Janine Williams	NC	Chapel Hill	University Baptist Church	Jennifer Garcia Bashaw
AZ	Tuscon	Pantano Baptist Church	Kim Brewer	NC	Charlotte	Ebenezer Baptist Church	Kia Scott Hood
DC	Washington	First Baptist Church	Alyssa Aldape	NC	Charlotte	Ebenezer Baptist Church Steele Creek	Barbara Burrough
FL	St. Petersburg	First Baptist Church	Aimee Hobbs	NC	Charlotte	Greater Fellowship Baptist Church	Kiya Ward Shears, Allison Henderson-Brooks, Danielle Brown
FL	Tampa	Bayshore Baptist Church	Tammy Snyder	NC	Charlotte	Myers Park Baptist Church	Tara Gibbs
GA	Athens	First Baptist Church	Emily Harbin, Janet Cleland	NC	Charlotte	Reeder Memorial Baptist Church	Kathy Bonapart, Barbara Peacock
GA	Athens	Milledge Avenue Baptist Church	Kristen Koontz	NC	Charlotte	St. John's Baptist Church	Allison Benfield Amy Chilton, Daynette Snead Perez
GA	Atlanta	Church at Wieuca	Victoria Lawson, Bethany Beall	NC	Charlotte	St. Paul Baptist Church	Suzan Johnson Cook
GA	Atlanta	Northside Drive Baptist Church	Emily Harbin	NC	Concord	McGill Baptist Church	Mary Beth Beck-Henderson
GA	Atlanta	Peachtree Baptist Church	Leslie Brogdon, Kimani Francois	NC	Durham	First Calvary Baptist Church	Vikki Kennedy Johnson
GA	Atlanta	Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church	Heather Lamb Webb	NC	Durham	Hope Valley Baptist Church	Emily Davis
GA	Carrollton	First Baptist Church	Megan Doud	NC	Durham	Union Baptist Church	LaTonya McIver Penny
GA	Conyers	Trinity Baptist Church	Kathy Smith	NC	Durham	Watts Street Baptist Church	Amy Armstrong
GA	Decatur	First Baptist Church	Kristen Koger	NC	Durham	Yates Baptist Church	Sara Adcock Wilson
GA	Newnan	Central Baptist Church	Katie Faison	NC	Fayetteville	First Baptist Moore Street	Monica Lawson
GA	Rome	First Baptist Church	Kristen Pope	NC	Forest City	First Baptist Church	Kheresa Harmon
GA	Rome	North Broad Baptist Church	Amanda Owen	NC	Gastonia	Covenant Baptist Church	Kheresa Harmon
KS	Lawrence	First Baptist Church	Cristina Adams	NC	Greensboro	First Baptist Church	Courtney Willis, Kyleigh Pegram, Kate Messick
KS	Shawnee	Central Baptist Theological Seminary	Joy Yonga Choi	NC	Greensboro	Providence Baptist Church	Natalie McLean, Rhonda Butler, Andria Williamson, Sabrena Lea
KY	Elizabethtown	Living Faith Baptist Fellowship	Lesa Dae	NC	Greenville	The Memorial Baptist Church	Abbi Davis
KY	Frankfort	First Baptist Church	Amanda Standiford, Michelle Carroll	NC	High Point	Emerywood Baptist Church	Miriam Kennedy, Andria Williamson, Kelley Kennedy, Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey, Sheila Earl
KY	Georgetown	Faith Baptist Church	Janine Williams	NC	Lumberton	First Baptist Church	Jennifer Garcia Bashaw
KY	Lexington	Calvary Baptist Church	Ellie Adam	NC	Madison	First Baptist Church	Jan Walsh
KY	Louisville	Buechel Park Baptist Church	Erica Crosby	NC	Monroe	First Baptist Church	Sara Spahr Stubbs
KY	Louisville	Highland Baptist Church	Carol Harston, Lauren Jones Mayfield, Angela Gorrell	NC	Mount Airy	Calvary Baptist Church	Megan Gentry, Jessica Simandle, Stephanie Hawks, Beth Church, Carol Lowe
KY	Louisville	Ridgewood Baptist Church	Jessalyn Brown	NC	Murfreesboro	Murfreesboro Baptist Church	Mary Wiles and Lou Ann Gilliam
KY	Shelbyville	Clayvillage Baptist Church	Tara Clark	NC	New Bern	First Baptist Church	Ka'thy Gore Chappell
LA	Baton Rouge	University Baptist Church	Meredith Stone	NC	Raeford	Leach Springs Missionary Baptist Church	Lynn Brinkley
LA	New Orleans	St. Charles Avenue Baptist Church	Junia R. Joplin	NC			
MA	Needham	First Baptist Church	Daryn Stylianopoulos, Holly Benzenhafer				
MD	Bowie	Village Baptist Church	Stephanie Willett				
MO	Kansas City	Crossroads Church	Abby Pratt				
MO	Kansas City	Englewood Baptist Church	Cassie Buhlig				
MO	Kansas City	Holmeswood Baptist Church	Shannon Greene				
MO	Liberty	Second Baptist Church	Andrea Huffman				
MS	Clinton	Northside Baptist Church	Alyssa Aldape, Linda Snell McComb, Tiffany Stubbs, Lesley-Ann Hix Tommey	NC			
MS	Starkville	University Baptist Church	Brandy Mullins	NC			
NC	Angier	Angier Baptist Church	Kim East	NC			

ST	CITY	CHURCH	PREACHER	ST	CITY	CHURCH	PREACHER
NC	Raleigh	Baptist Grove Church	Cynthia Jacko-Wise	TN	Knoxville	Central Baptist Church Fountain City	Ellen Price, Christine Jones, Ellen Di Giosia, Naomi Brown
NC	Raleigh	Hayes Barton Baptist Church	Kristen Muse				
NC	Raleigh	Martin Street Baptist Church	Towanda Garner, Marionna Poke-Stewart, Tracy Ross, Andrea Singleton	TN	Memphis	First Baptist Church	Julia Goldie Day
NC	Raleigh	Millbrook Baptist Church	Meredith Stone, Claudia Grainger	TN	Memphis	Second Baptist Church	Dianne Young
NC	Raleigh	Mount Peace Missionary Baptist Church	Teresa Taylor, Telika McCoy	TN	Murfreesboro	First Baptist Church	Missy Ward Angalla
NC	Raleigh	Redeeming Love Missionary Baptist Church	Denise Dobbin, LaTonya Penny, Latonya Agard, Teresa Jones-Hardy, Wanda Stroud	TN	Nashville	Glendale Baptist Church	Kelley Doyle, Kelly Moreland Jones, Lauren Plummer, Molly Williams
NC	Raleigh	St. John's Baptist Church	Liz Britt	TN	Nashville	Immanuel Baptist Church	Stephanie Wyatt
NC	Raleigh	Trinity Baptist Church	Lydia Tatum	TN	Oak Ridge	First Baptist Church	Ellen Di Giosia
NC	Raleigh	Watts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church	Carolyn Ann Knight, Sequoia Wright	TX	Austin	The Church at Highland Park	Masyn Evans-Clements
NC	Roxboro	New Mount Zion Baptist Church	Chelsea Yarborough, Kanisha Billingsley, Telika McCoy	TX	Coppell	Valley Ranch Baptist Church	Amy Wilkins
NC	Rutherfordton	First Baptist Church	Annie Deaton	TX	Dallas	Royal Lane Baptist Church	Joslyn Hendersen
NC	Salisbury	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Telika McCoy	TX	Dallas	Wilshire Baptist Church	Leanna Coyle-Carr, Leigh Curl, Ashley Robinson, Jenna Sullivan
NC	Shelby	First Baptist Church	Annie Deaton, Jennifer Jennings	TX	Elm Mott	First Baptist Church	Sarah Becke
NC	Shelby	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Jennifer Jennings	TX	Fort Worth	Agape Baptist Church	Alena Vaughn
NC	Sylva	First Baptist Church	Carol Cloer	TX	Fort Worth	Broadway Baptist Church	Lynn Spencer
NC	Wake Forest	Heritage Baptist Church	Sandy Stillman-Alvin	TX	Fort Worth	Iglesia Bautista Victoria en Cristo	Ruby Wayman
NC	Weaverville	First Baptist Church	Chelsea West	TX	Harker Heights	Trinity Baptist Church	Ruby Wayman
NC	Wendell	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Colette Parker	TX	Hudson Oaks	Lakeshore Baptist Church	Susanna Watson
NC	Wilmington	Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church	Telika McCoy	TX	Hudson Oaks	Lakeshore Baptist Church	Susanna Watson
NC	Wilmington	Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church	Barbara Cooper	TX	Lewisville	Westside Baptist Church	Rosalind Spenser
NC	Wilmington	Winter Park Baptist Church	Eliza Burgess	TX	Lewisville	Westside Baptist Church	Rosalind Spenser
NC	Wilson	First Baptist Church	Ka'thy Gore Chappell	TX	Richardson	First Baptist Church	Ivy Lassiter
NC	Winston-Salem	Ardmore Baptist Church	Lee Ritchie and Gina Brock	TX	Richardson	First Baptist Church	Ivy Lassiter
NC	Winston-Salem	First Baptist Church on Fifth	Amanda Tyler	TX	Round Rock	Peace of Christ Church	Fran Pratt, Kyndra Frazier
NJ	East Orange	Calvary Baptist Church	Suzan Johnson Cook	TX	San Antonio	Covenant Baptist Church	Caren Goodman
OH	Columbus	Trinity Baptist Church	Janet Sheppard, Adrienne Freeman	TX	San Antonio	Trinity Baptist Church	Debbie Potter
OK	Ardmore	Northwest Baptist Church	Carrie Nault	TX	San Antonio	Woodland Baptist Church	Wyndee Holbrook, Diana Bridges, Nora Lozano
OK	Norman	NorthHaven Church	Leah Lucas	TX	Temple	Meadow Oaks Baptist Church	Hannah Brown
OK	Oklahoma City	Spring Creek Baptist Church	Kristin McAtee	TX	Waco	Calvary Baptist Church	Jenni Chilton, Ali Chappell DeHay
PA	Pine City	Pine City Baptist Church	Abigail Fell-DeWalt	TX	Waco	Park Lake Drive Baptist Church	Nataly Mora
SC	Anderson	Boulevard Baptist Church	Lucy Cauthen	VA	Annandale	Ravensworth Baptist Church	Alexis Kassim, Theresa Thames
SC	Anderson	First Baptist Church	Amy Brown	VA	Arlington	Alfred Street Baptist Church	Teresa Fry Brown
SC	Columbia	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Alyssa Aldape	VA	Bristol	First Baptist Church	Leigh Clark
SC	Columbia	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Alyssa Aldape	VA	Bristol	First Baptist Church	Leigh Clark
SC	Columbia	Emmanuel Baptist Church	Alyssa Aldape	VA	Chantilly	Ox Hill Baptist Church	Sarah Boberg
SC	Greenville	Augusta Heights Baptist Church	Christine Powell Kellett	VA	Chantilly	Ox Hill Baptist Church	Sarah Boberg
SC	Greenville	Augusta Heights Baptist Church	Christine Powell Kellett	VA	Charlottesville	Belmont Baptist Church	Dana Peebles
SC	Greenwood	First Baptist Church	Lane Riley	VA	Charlottesville	Belmont Baptist Church	Dana Peebles
SC	Greenwood	First Baptist Church	Lane Riley	VA	Danville	First Baptist Church	Jenny Simmons, Angela Zimmerman, Karen Zimmerman, Bethany Busby
SC	Greenwood	First Baptist Church	Lane Riley	VA	Danville	First Baptist Church	Jenny Simmons, Angela Zimmerman, Karen Zimmerman, Bethany Busby
SC	Pendleton	First Baptist Church	Lynn Brinkley	VA	Martinsville	First Baptist Church	Aisha Davis
SC	Rockhill	Oakland Baptist Church	Janee Angel	VA	McLean	McLean Baptist Church	Meg Thomas-Clapp
SC	Rockhill	Oakland Baptist Church	Janee Angel	VA	McLean	McLean Baptist Church	Meg Thomas-Clapp
SC	Seneca	Trinity Baptist Church	Caroline Self	VA	North Chesterfield	Huguenot Road Baptist Church	Megan Strollo
SC	Seneca	Trinity Baptist Church	Caroline Self	VA	North Chesterfield	Huguenot Road Baptist Church	Megan Strollo
SC	Spartanburg	Fernwood Baptist Church	Clare Conway Johnson	VA	Richmond	Grace Baptist Church	June Joplin
SC	Spartanburg	Fernwood Baptist Church	Clare Conway Johnson	VA	Richmond	Richmond First Baptist Church	Allison Collier
TN	Chattanooga	First Baptist Church	Ellen Price, Christine Jones, Ellen Di Giosia, Naomi Brown	VA	Richmond	Richmond First Baptist Church	Allison Collier
TN	Chattanooga	First Baptist Church	Ellen Price, Christine Jones, Ellen Di Giosia, Naomi Brown	VA	Richmond	River Road Church, Baptist	Anna Perry Miller
TN	Chattanooga	First Baptist Church	Ellen Price, Christine Jones, Ellen Di Giosia, Naomi Brown	VA	Roanoke	Journey Church	Rhonda Hooper
TN	Jefferson City	First Baptist Church	Christine Jones	WA	Lynwood	Good Shepherd Baptist Church	Denise Aanenson
TN	Knoxville	Ball Camp Baptist Church	Tina Collins, Katie Stamps, Andrea McCoig	WI	Fond du Lac	Memorial Baptist Church	Carolyn Dugan

KEEPING UP WITH BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

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.

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY STAFF



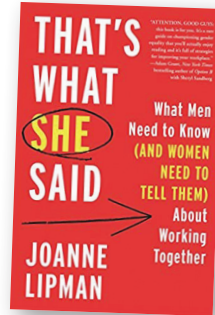
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Meredith Stone
meredithstone@bwim.info



ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Lynn Brinkley
lynnbrinkley@bwim.info

BWIM BOOK CLUB

Over 4 weeks in April and May, we hosted a book club in discussion of 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). Nearly 30 women participated in at least one of the book club gatherings on Zoom. Stay tuned for news about more book clubs in the future!



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. Additionally, BWIM is glad to offer personalized guidance and counsel to search committees as they include women among their candidates. Both churches and candidates in need of assistance may submit information, job descriptions, and resumes via BWIM's Ministry Search Registration Forms, and contact Meredith Stone (meredithstone@bwim.info) for additional assistance.

MONTH OF PREACHING

BWIM sponsored the first Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching in 2007, and 54 churches participated by inviting a woman to preach during February of that year. In 2019, BWIM redreamed and renamed this emphasis by widening its circle to feature, in addition to Martha, three other significant Baptist preachers: **Ella Pearson Mitchell, Helen Barrett Montgomery, and Edna Lee de Gutiérrez.** In 2021, **165 churches participated!** Resources for BWIM

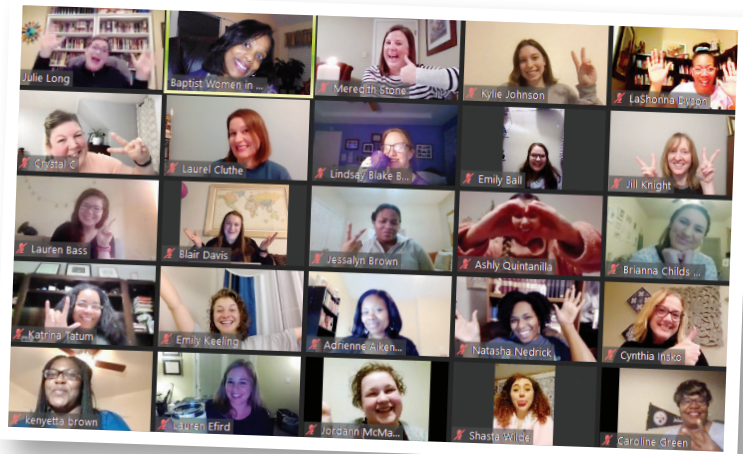
Month of Preaching are on the BWIM website—including video resources, worship suggestions, and bulletin inserts that tell the stories of these four preaching women. Two of the bulletin inserts are available in Spanish.

MENTORING PROGRAM

While the 2020-2021 cohort of BWIM's Mentoring Program is nearing the end of their time together, the 2021-23 cohort began in July with a retreat at the Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama. The new cohort has five groups: one for pastors, two for associate pastors, one for women of color in ministry, and one for out-of-the-box ministers. Mentors for the 2021-23 cohort are Katrina Brooks, Linda Bryan, Bethany Molinar Rivera, Sarah Shelton, and Carrie Veal. This fall we will be accepting applications for the 2022-23 cohort which will begin January 2022!

DISCERNMENT COHORT FOR COLLEGE & SEMINARY WOMEN

This spring BWIM hosted a virtual Discernment Cohort for college and seminary women which convened over a ten-week period via Zoom. The cohort provided intentional space for reflection on God's calling through large group presentations and activities, small group discussion, and individual reflection. 25 women representing 6 states and Canada participated. Each participant who completed the cohort received 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 Efrid, Cynthia Insko, Julie Long, and Natasha Nedrick.



FROM WORDS TO REALITY

by Meredith Stone

“**W**e support women in ministry, but we’re just not ready yet.”

This phrase, or some version of it, is quite common among moderate and progressive Baptist churches. Because of that, I am convinced **the next challenge for women in ministry will be moving from verbal and intellectual affirmation of women in the leadership of the church, to putting those words and thoughts into action.**

Indeed, change in an institution like the church is difficult and tends to happen slowly. But as we’ve seen in the past year and a half, change can also happen quickly and can sometimes even reveal opportunities. In the midst of it all, perhaps this moment is an opportunity for the church to grow toward the elevation and full affirmation of women’s gifts and callings.

So as you are in the process of reconfiguring your ministry and leadership post-pandemic (or almost post-pandemic), what is the next step you can take to move your congregation, institution, or leadership toward being more ready to turn words into a reality?

Here are a few suggestions:

MALE PASTORS

BWIM has been encouraging you to elevate women’s voices in places like the pulpit for years (and you should keep doing that), but another step would be to consider your congregational leadership structures, policies, and procedures. Is the selection process for deacons, elders, committee members, and committee chairs in your congregation equitable to women or was the process designed when only men were eligible? Is the language in your church by-laws open to leaders of any gender or does it use male-specific language? Are committee meetings held in ways that are sensitive to the time and needs of women as well as men?

INTERIM PASTORS

If you are a retired senior pastor from a church with significant resources, perhaps you can consider sponsoring a woman so that she can receive the same interim training that you have. Women with ministry experience have likely not been employed at churches with significant resources and so have less income to invest in continuing education. Advocate among congregations with whom you have connections for this woman you sponsor, or other women, to be hired as interims.



Meredith Stone preaching at Alsbury Baptist Church in Burleson, Texas.

SEARCH COMMITTEES

Challenge your fellow committee members to view the experience of women candidates with equity. More often than not, male candidates have had opportunities for more formal experience, more education, and more engagement in community and denominational relations. So if you compare resumes side-by-side “equally,” the male candidates will tend to prevail. Instead, amplify the experiences women have had (they often had to work twice-as-hard to get half-as-much experience), and consider how those experiences, whether in the church or not, have contributed to the development of their ministerial identity and gifts.

SEMINARY PROFESSORS

Almost every seminary program has supervised ministry experiences for students. Though it may be difficult, find women supervisors for these experiences (for both female and male students) even if it means altering the internship requirements so students can have the opportunity to work with women ministers.

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Amplify the gifts and callings of other women. When you need to turn down a request for your resume, a speaking engagement, or a board position, recommend another woman. If you are on a board or committee with women, make sure their ideas are heard and valued by the group. Take time to mentor women with new callings or in new positions.

These ideas and suggestions are just starting places. Let us not grow weary in working toward an expression of the church in which all people are affirmed and valued as created in the divine image.

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

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

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