

a voice for women in baptist life

Vocare

VOLUME 6, NO. 2, SUMMER 2012

Baptist Women in Ministry LEADERSHIP TEAM

Courtney Allen
callen@fbcdalton.org

Judith Bledsoe Bailey
judith@bledsoebailey.com

Gwen Brown
gwen@cornerstonechurchgrayson.org

Emily Hull McGee
Emily@HBCLouisville.org

Kristen Muse
kristen@hbhc.net

Stacy Pyle
stacy.cbfoke@gmail.com

Carolyn Staley
Cstaley@phblr.com

Meredith Stone
meredith.stone@texasbaptists.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pam Durso
pamdurso@bwim.info

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Aimee Day
aimeeday@bwim.info



BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY
advocating • connecting • networking

P. O. BOX 941294
ATLANTA, GA 31141-1294
404-513-6022

HOPE BECKONS

At the annual Baptist Women in Ministry worship service, Meredith Stone's sermon, based on Numbers 11, was titled "Choose Manna, Choose Hope." She called us to learn to live in the "in-between time": "When we look around and see our manna, our in-between time struggles, we can know that however difficult and complicated they may be, they are a part of the bigger picture; a grander story of God's purposes continually moving unobstructed toward redemption." You can watch and hear her sermon on the BWIM Vimeo channel: <http://vimeo.com/44933470>

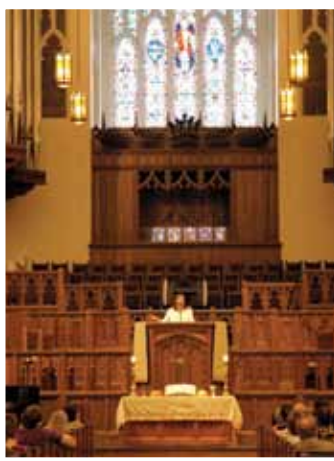


Richard Gardner, "God calls persons to participate in a redemptive plot that has been underway for some time, and in which yet-told episodes are beckoning."

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 ANNUAL GATHERING



Meredith Stone preached a superb sermon



Suzii Paynter led our communion time



Good conversation around the tables at our lunch

ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 20, 2012, Baptist Women in Ministry hosted its annual worship service at Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas. Emily Holladay, student at McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, Georgia, wrote this reflection following the service:

The day's theme was Hope Beckons: *A Celebration of God's Good Gifts*. In worship, we visited the Israelites wandering the deserts after God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. And as I've come to expect from our predecessors, they were complaining. In the midst of their journey, they could not see beyond the bland manna provided for them. Looking to the past, they envisioned tables of delicious meals in Egypt; in the future, they just saw more manna.

These Israelites, like us, were living in an in-between time. As they struggled to walk toward the future, they could not see God at work in their past or present. But one among them remembered the promise of God, and comes to God with his own complaints and those of his people. Moses, we were reminded by preacher Meredith Stone, "remembered God's amazing work in the past and God's promise for the future." He had the perspective his fellow Israelites lost, and it led him to the Lord. When Moses approached God with this perspective, God responded! God provided Moses with a community that would share the difficult journey with him.

Worshipping with BWIM reminded me that God does the same for us. If we can maintain a perspective that remembers the

wonderful ways God has worked in the past and God's promise for us in the future, God will respond.

As I looked around the church this morning, I saw God's response: A community of amazing women and men who are walking this journey together. Some have paved the way for this community to take shape, and others are taking their first steps into this community; either way, we are all together.

One of the highlights of worship was communion, led by Suzii and Roger Paynter and served by Angela Fields, Erin James-Brown, and Joey and Stacy Pyle.

At the lunch following worship, 140 women and men gathered around tables for directed conversations on topics of interest, including motherhood and ministry, conflict in the church, and working for change in a congregation. Four schools and two organizations sponsored tables for the lunch: Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Gardner-Webb Divinity School, Logsdon School of Theology, Wake Forest Divinity School, The Academy of Young Preachers, and Smyth and Helwys Publishers.

Thanks to all who made June 20 a wonderful day of worship, celebration, and fellowship!

(Emily Holladay's post was written for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship blog and used with permission.)

At right: Erin James-Brown (left) and Angela Fields (right) serving communion

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2012 ADDIE DAVIS NOMINEES

Outstanding Leadership in Pastoral Ministry

Mary Alice Birdwhistell
George W. Truett Theological Seminary

Christina H. Burseson
Gardner-Webb School of Divinity

Jennifer Harris Dault
Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Brittany Stillwell Krebs
Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

Charolette Hagan Leach
Wake Forest University School of Divinity

Meredith Shaw
Candler School of Theology

Tamara Witte
Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

Excellence in Preaching

Sara Clarke
Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

Hannah Marshall Coe
McAfee School of Theology

Angela Jackson
Central Baptist Theological Seminary

Caitlin Jones
Campbell University Divinity School

Jamie McCallum
George W. Truett Theological Seminary

Merianna Neely
Gardner-Webb School of Divinity

Tanya Parks
Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond

Charmaine Webster
Candler School of Theology

ADDIE DAVIS AWARD WINNERS, 2012



EACH YEAR Baptist Women in Ministry presents two Addie Davis awards: one for Outstanding Leadership in Pastoral Ministry and one for Excellence in Preaching. Nominations for the awards are collected from seminaries and divinity schools, and this year two separate committees worked independently to select the top nominee in each category.

The 2012 winner of the Addie Davis Award for Outstanding Pastoral Ministry is **Angela Fields** of McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University. Angela completed her Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in Urban Mission in May 2012. During her seminary years, she worked with the FCS Urban Ministries as a community chaplain. Her supervisor, Dale Cross, recommended Angela, writing, "She has led the way by networking the area, getting acquainted with city leaders, the police, educational personnel and people who exhibit a positive interest in stability and renewing the area." He also noted, "It has been a true joy to watch Angela embrace opportunities and invest

her heart, mind and soul to make a positive difference. She has a wonderful Christ-like spirit and she dreams big dreams as a worker for God's Kingdom in this world."

The 2012 winner of the Addie Davis Award for Excellence in Preaching is **Erin James-Brown** of Hardin Simmons University's Logsdon Seminary, Abilene, Texas. Erin completed her Master of Divinity degree in May 2012. While in seminary, she served as the teaching pastor at Crosspoint Fellowship, preaching often and providing pastoral care to those in crisis.

Erin's winning sermon was titled, "Remembering Her," based on the text Luke 7:36-50—the story of the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her tears and then anointed his feet with expensive perfume. Her sermon was preached at Southland Baptist Church in San Angelo, Texas, for that church's Martha Stearns Marshall Day of Preaching. (This year we had several sermons nominated for the Addie Davis Preaching Award that were preached on MSM Day).

In her sermon, Erin wove together a beautiful narrative of her own encounter with a homeless person with the story of the woman who lavished expensive perfume on Jesus' feet. Her preaching professor at Logsdon, James Heflin, wrote that all Erin's sermons are delivered with compassion and deep conviction. Another of her professors, Robert Ellis, wrote, "Erin is a woman of deep faith, who has a remarkably gracious and generous spirit." Erin recently moved to Fort Worth to complete a CPE residency at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital.

We are a blessed people to have our future is in the hands of ministers such as Angela and Erin.



Above: Erica Cooper preached at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church, Athens, Georgia.

Below: Robin Sandbothe preached at South Liberty Baptist Church, Liberty, Missouri



MARTHA STEARNS MARSHALL MONTH OF PREACHING

IN 2012, 217 BAPTIST CHURCHES joined together to observe the sixth annual Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching. (See pages 6-7 for the list of participating churches and preachers). This yearly emphasis, sponsored by the Baptist Women in Ministry, invites churches to have a woman preach during the month of February. MSM Month, as we affectionately call it, is both a celebration of women's God-given giftedness and an opportunity to educate congregations about women in ministry.

The event has grown since in 2007, when 55 churches took part in the inaugural Month of Preaching. This year's involvement far surpassed any previous year, and five churches had a "true MSM month" and invited four women to preach over the course of a month: Cornerstone Church, Snellville, Georgia; Crozet Baptist Church, Crozet,

Virginia; Grandin Court Baptist Church, Roanoke, Virginia; Greenwood Forest Baptist Church, Cary, North Carolina; and University Baptist Church, Starkville, Mississippi.

Baptist Women in Ministry is grateful to all the churches and women preachers who participated in 2012. It is not too early to get Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching on your 2013 calendar.

And if you still do not know about Martha—Martha Stearns Marshall was an eighteenth-century Separate Baptist woman preacher, known for her moving exhortations and stirring prayers. She served alongside her brother and husband in Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia, and was once arrested for her preaching ways!

GIFTS IN HONOR OF MSM PREACHERS

With much thanks to the churches that contributed to BWIM in honor of their MSM preachers!

- Boulevard Baptist Church, Anderson, South Carolina—in honor of Ellen Sechrest
- Central Baptist Church, Newnan, Georgia—in honor of Carmen Skaggs
- Cornerstone Church, Snellville, Georgia—in honor of Tanell Allen, Meggie Dant, Jillian Farmer, and Angela Fields
- Farmville Baptist Church, Farmville, Virginia—in honor of Joyce Davis
- First Baptist Church, Austin, Texas—in honor of Mary Jane Ferguson and Caroline Miller
- First Baptist Church, Frankfurt, Kentucky—in honor of Cynthia Insko
- First Baptist Church, Greenville, South Carolina—in honor of Merianna Neely
- First Baptist Church, Madison, North Carolina—in honor of Marcia McQueen
- First Baptist Church, South Boston, Virginia—in honor of Katrina Brooks
- First Baptist Church, Wilson, North Carolina—in honor of Kelley Garris
- Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina—in honor of Charity Roberson
- Memorial Baptist Church, Buies Creek, North Carolina—in honor of Jenny Folmar and Robin Hardison
- Pintlala Baptist Church, Pintlala, Alabama—in honor of Lanta Cooper
- Providence Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina—in honor of Beth McConnell
- Providence Baptist Church, Charleston, South Carolina—in honor of Stacy Sergent
- Randolph Memorial Baptist Church, Madison Heights Baptist Church—in honor of Jaime Fitzgerald
- University Heights Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri—in honor of Jennifer Harris Dault
- Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas—in honor of Annette Thornburg



A LIVING EXAMPLE TAYLOR SANDLIN

At left: Taylor Sandlin and his daughter

THE MONDAY AFTER our church's Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching Sunday, I made a hospital visit to check on a woman church member having surgery. Upon my entering the hospital room, her husband turned to his sister-in-law, who is not a church member, and introduced me, saying, "This is Taylor. He used to be the pastor at our church, but he brought a lady preacher in this week." I stood still quite puzzled. I did not think he was a person who would be bothered by a female preacher, but as they say, you never know. My bewildered look turned into a smile when he continued, "We're looking at replacing him with the young lady. Four people joined the church after her sermon!"

The young woman was Erin James-Brown, a student at Logsdon Seminary in Abilene, Texas. She did an exceptional job. Four people did join the church that Sunday, but that just scratched the surface of the good that was accomplished by our celebrating Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching in our west Texas church.

Erin's sermon provided another opportunity for my church to revisit the importance of encouraging the giftedness of all of God's people as witnesses to the gospel's power. Southland Baptist Church in San Angelo, Texas, has had women deacons for over two decades, and Erin was not the first woman to preach from our pulpit. And yet, the truth is

that week in and week out my church hears a male preaching voice. That is not a bad thing. I am thankful for my job. But if we are not careful, our day-to-day habits can push to the back burner those values that we say are important to us. Having Erin preach gave my church one more opportunity to put our core values into practice. It also gave me an opportunity through some articles on my blog and through conversations in the hallway to help newer church members understand why we believe that God does indeed call both men and women to preach.

By highlighting one of our church's core values on Martha Stearns Marshall Day, the church itself was encouraged. I lost count of the number of members, men and women, who commented on how thrilled they were to have a woman in the pulpit. They love the idea of encouraging females who are called to the ministry, but they also love the idea of giving seminary students an opportunity to get some experience in the pulpit. Having Erin in our pulpit reminded them that God has not stopped working in the world. The gospel continues to capture the hearts and the imaginations of young people who then answer the call to vocational ministry.

I also recognize that Erin's sermon may very well be one of the vehicles that God uses to call one of the children of our church into the

gospel ministry. I say children, and not just daughters, intentionally. Erin's influence is not limited to the females in the congregation any more than my voice is limited to the males. That being said, Erin's voice is especially significant for the women of my church. Even though my wife and I have told our daughter over and over again that God empowers females in the same way God empowers males, how much better is this living example!

My own life has been and continues to be shaped by many faithful women ministers, even if not all of them were honored with the title "pastor." I am thrilled to be a part of a church that not only believes God calls women to preach but also follows through by giving them the opportunity to do so. While I hope to be at Southland for a long time to come, nothing would thrill me more than for my church member's words to someday come true. At some point in the future, I will be the former pastor of Southland Baptist Church. How wonderful would it be if a gifted, faithful young woman took my place? It is not as far-fetched as many think. The man in the hospital is ready. If my church's response to the Martha Stearns Marshall Month of Preaching is any indication, he is not the only one.

TAYLOR SANDLIN is pastor of Southland Baptist Church, San Angelo, Texas.



MARTHA STEARNS MARSHALL

MONTH OF PREACHING, 2012

Churches and Their Preachers

| | | | |
|----|----------------|---|---|
| AL | Birmingham | Baptist Church of the Covenant | Pam Durso |
| AL | Birmingham | Southside Baptist Church | Emily Holladay |
| AL | Birmingham | Bethel Baptist Church | Amanda Ducksworth |
| AL | Hope Hull | Pintlala Baptist Church | Lanta Cooper |
| AL | Madison | Trinity Baptist Church | Mary Kate Christian |
| AL | Mobile | First Baptist Church | Ruth Perkins Lee |
| AL | Mobile | Hillcrest Baptist Church | Emily Holladay |
| AL | Pelham | Crosscreek Baptist Church | Dixie Ford |
| AL | Tuscaloosa | Woodland Forest Baptist Church | Mara G. |
| AR | Fayetteville | Rolling Hills Baptist Church | Catherine Bahn, Molly Palmer |
| AR | Jonesboro | First Baptist Church | Kathy Holler |
| AR | Little Rock | Pulaski Heights Baptist Church | Carolyn Staley |
| AR | Little Rock | Second Baptist Church | Sarah Shelton |
| CA | Glendale | First Baptist Church | Rebecca Hewitt-Newson |
| CT | Wilton | Wilton Baptist Church | Jennifer Clamon |
| DC | Washington | National Baptist Memorial Church | Kasey Jones |
| DC | Washington | Calvary Baptist Church | Amy Butler |
| FL | Jacksonville | Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church | Rachel Gunter Shapard |
| FL | Lakeland | Church in the Meadows | Joyce Cleary |
| FL | Orlando | College Park Baptist Church | Marnie Fisher-Ingram |
| GA | Athens | Milledge Avenue Baptist Church | Erica Cooper |
| GA | Atlanta | Park Avenue Baptist Church | Lanta Cooper |
| GA | Atlanta | Peachtree Baptist Church | Meredith Shaw |
| GA | Atlanta | Northside Drive Baptist Church | Laura Foushee |
| GA | Atlanta | Edgewood Church | Carrie Dean |
| GA | Canton | Heritage Baptist Fellowship | Courtney Allen |
| GA | Commerce | First Baptist Church | Lee Ritchie |
| GA | Conyers | Trinity Baptist Church | Billie Boyd Cox |
| GA | Cornelia | First Baptist Church | Jan Thompson |
| GA | Dalton | First Baptist Church | Courtney Allen |
| GA | Decatur | First Baptist Church | Julie Pennington-Russell |
| GA | Decatur | Scott Boulevard Baptist Church | Elizabeth Haupt |
| GA | Deveraux | Beulah Baptist Church | Jacque Thompson Burkhardt |
| GA | Fayetteville | National Heights Baptist Church | Laura Foushee, Noelle Owen |
| GA | Fitzgerald | Fellowship Baptist Church | Renee Wilcox Bennett |
| GA | Fitzgerald | First Baptist Church | Sarah Holik |
| GA | Greensboro | Lake Oconee Community Church | Becky Matheny |
| GA | Haddock | Haddock Baptist Church | LeAnn Gunter Johns |
| GA | Jefferson | First Baptist Church | Erica Cooper |
| GA | Macon | Highland Hills Baptist Church | Julie Long |
| GA | Marietta | First Baptist Church | Lauren Waggoner |
| GA | Milledgeville | Community Baptist Church | Rachel Britt Huston |
| GA | Morrow | First Baptist Church | Delane Tew |
| GA | Newnan | Central Baptist Church | Carmen Skaggs |
| GA | Rome | First Baptist Church | Diana Garland |
| GA | Rome | North Broad Baptist Church | Aimee Day |
| GA | Savannah | First Baptist Church | Lauren Colwell |
| GA | Snellville | Cornerstone Church | Tanell Allen, Meggie Dant, Jillian Farmer, Angie Fields |
| GA | Stone Mtn. | Smoke Rise Baptist Church | Kathy Dobbins, Carra Hughes Greer |
| ID | Boise | Mountain View Community Fellowship Church | Maime Oliver |
| IL | Chicago | Agape Korean Baptist Church | Mary Ahn |
| IL | Chicago | Grace Baptist Church | AnnMarie Kneebone |
| IL | East St. Louis | Friendly Baptist Church | Ali Sakas |
| KS | Ottawa | Tauy Baptist Church | Angela Lowe |

| | | | |
|----|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| KS | Shawnee | Central Baptist Seminary | Jennifer Harris Dault |
| KS | Shawnee | Journey Community Church | Aline Silva-Schreiner |
| KY | Danville | Lexington Avenue Baptist Church | Kelsey Stillwell |
| KY | Elizabethtown | Living Faith Baptist Fellowship | Katie Anderson |
| KY | Frankfort | First Baptist Church | Cynthia Insko |
| KY | Georgetown | Baptist Seminary of Kentucky | Sara Clarke |
| KY | Georgetown | Faith Baptist Church | Brittany Krebs |
| KY | Lexington | Calvary Baptist Church | Meredith Shaw |
| KY | Lexington | Central Baptist Church | Jessica Schirm |
| KY | Louisville | Highland Baptist Church | Nina Maples |
| KY | Louisville | Buechel Park Baptist Church | Susan Reed |
| KY | Louisville | Broadway Baptist Church | Susan Reed |
| KY | Port Royal | Port Royal Baptist Church | Amber Inscore Essick |
| MD | Baltimore | Woodbrook Baptist Church | Amy Butler |
| MD | Baltimore | Universtiy Baptist Church | Robin Anderson |
| MD | Kensington | Kensington Baptist Church | Kim HyeKyng Ock |
| MO | Columbia | Little Bonne Femme Baptist Church | Jennifer Harris Dault |
| MO | Hamilton | Hamilton Baptist Church | Susan Miller |
| MO | Jefferson City | First Baptist Church | Melissa Hatfield, Jeanie McGowan, Heather Entrekin |
| MO | Kansas City | Leawood Baptist Church | Kathy Helms |
| MO | Kansas City | Englewood Baptist Church | Jane Wood |
| MO | Kansas City | Grace Point Baptist Church | Cynthia Saddler |
| MO | Kansas City | Holmeswood Baptist Church | Cindy Bradley, Jackie Knabe, Teri Shipley |
| MO | Lee's Summit | Cornerstone Church | Kate Hanch |
| MO | Liberty | Second Baptist Church | Robin Sandbothe |
| MO | Liberty | South Liberty Baptist Church | Jennifer Harris Dault |
| MO | Springfield | University Heights Baptist Church | Leslie Limbaugh |
| MO | St. Louis | Third Baptist Church | Donna LaFontaine Watts, Ann Wilson |
| MO | St. Louis | Kirkwood Baptist Church | Meredith Rataj |
| MO | St. Louis | Southwest Baptist Church | Andrea Missey |
| MO | St. Louis | Delmar Baptist Church | Linda Taylor |
| MO | St. Louis | Webster Groves Baptist Church | Kathy Goode |
| MO | Sweet Springs | First Baptist Church | Kessler Brown, Kimberly DeVries, Sara Herrington-Jones, Lauren McDuffie |
| MO | Starkville | University Baptist Church | Claire Presley |
| NC | Ahoskie | First Baptist Church | Caitlin Jones |
| NC | Angier | Neill's Creek Baptist Church | Clare Conway Johnson |
| NC | Belhaven | First Baptist Church of Smithton | Charity Roberson |
| NC | Benson | Benson Baptist Church | Molly Brummett |
| NC | Boone | First Baptist Church | Brenda Pace Jones |
| NC | Brevard | Mt. Moriah Calvert Baptist Church | Jenny Folmar |
| NC | Buies Creek | Memorial Baptist Church | Kathy Gore Chappell |
| NC | Candler | Hominy Baptist Church | Virginia Taylor |
| NC | Cary | Westwood Baptist Church | Lauren Efrim, Lydia Hoyle, Joy Moore, Katie Morgan |
| NC | Cary | Greenwood Forest Baptist Church | Cindy Bolden |
| NC | Chapel Hill | Lystra Baptist Church | Mandy England Cole |
| NC | Charlotte | Sardis Baptist Church | Martha Kears |
| NC | Charlotte | St. Johns Baptist Church | Amy Jacks Dean |
| NC | Charlotte | Park Road Baptist Church | Beth McConnell |
| NC | Charlotte | Providence Baptist Church | Tonya Vickery |
| NC | Cullowhee | Cullowhee Baptist Church | Virginia Taylor |
| NC | Durham | Temple Baptist Church | |

| | | | |
|----|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| NC | Durham | Watts Street Baptist Church | Diane Eubanks Hill |
| NC | Durham | Tobacco Trail Church | Virginia Taylor |
| NC | Elizabeth City | First Baptist Church | Jeanell Cox |
| NC | Elkin | First Baptist Church | Evalynn Davis, Rhonda Davis |
| NC | Fair Bluff | Fair Bluff Baptist Church | Amy Lin |
| NC | Fairview | Ecclesia Baptist Church | Kim Christman, Merianna Neely |
| NC | Greensboro | First Baptist Church | Veronice Miles |
| NC | Hendersonville | Providence Baptist Church | Gail Coulter |
| NC | Kernersville | Union Cross Baptist Church | Karen Taylor |
| NC | Madison | First Baptist Church | Marcia McQueen |
| NC | Marion | First Baptist Church | Aileen Lawrimore |
| NC | Mebane | Mount Adar Baptist Church | Susan Pasour |
| NC | Mount Airy | First Baptist Church | Nancy James |
| NC | New Bern | First Baptist Church | Sharon Bender |
| NC | Plymouth | First Baptist Church | Karen Pruette |
| NC | Raleigh | Tabernacle Baptist Church | Stacy Pardue |
| NC | Raleigh | Ridge Road Baptist Church | Jeanne Cross |
| NC | Raleigh | Trinity Baptist Church | Karen Mercalf Eickhoff |
| NC | Raleigh | Hayes Barton Baptist Church | Charity Roberson |
| NC | Raleigh | Millbrook Baptist Church | Kathy Gore Chappell |
| NC | Roanoke Rapids | Leah Anderson Reed | Leah Anderson Reed |
| NC | Rockingham | First Baptist Church | Debbie Holloway |
| NC | Rocky Mount | Lakeside Baptist Church | Peggy Haymes |
| NC | Rose Hill | Evergreen Baptist Church | Katee Harris |
| NC | Rowland | First Baptist Church | Martha McDowell |
| NC | Smithfield | Sharon Baptist Church | Charity Roberson |
| NC | Sylva | First Baptist Church | Katie Johnson |
| NC | Taylorsville | First Baptist Church | Kheresa Harmon |
| NC | Wake Forest | Heritage Baptist Church | Carin Daniels |
| NC | Weldon | Crossroads Baptist Fellowship | Ida Mae Hays |
| NC | Whiteville | First Baptist Church | Wallyce Todd |
| NC | Wilmington | First Baptist Church | Jayne Davis |
| NC | Wilmington | Winter Park Baptist Church | Alicia Davis Porterfield |
| NC | Wilson | First Baptist Church | Kelley Garris |
| NC | Winston-Salem | Pfafftown Baptist Church | Kheresa Harmon |
| NC | Winston-Salem | Peace Haven Baptist Church | Judy McReynolds |
| NC | Winston-Salem | Wake Forest Baptist Church | Angela Yarber |
| NC | Chapel Hill | HillSong Church | Heather Folliard |
| NY | New York | Metro Baptist Church | Jeanene Mutchler |
| OK | Oklahoma City | First Baptist Church | Diana Garland |
| OK | Oklahoma City | Spring Creek Baptist Church | Lillian Hinds |
| RI | Jamestown | Central Baptist Church | Kathryn Palen |
| SC | Anderson | Boulevard Baptist Church | Ellen Sechrest |
| SC | Charleston | Providence Baptist Church | Stacy Sergeant |
| SC | Clemson | First Baptist Church | Tiffany Hamilton |
| SC | Columbia | Kathwood Baptist Church | Kelly Belcher |
| SC | Greenville | Augusta Road Baptist Church | Christina Whitehouse-Suggs |
| SC | Greenville | First Baptist Church | Merianna Neely |
| SC | Greenville | First Baptist Church | Christina Whitehouse-Suggs |
| SC | Greenwood | First Baptist Church | Stephanie Patterson |
| SC | Lake View | First Baptist Church | Michelle Wildes |
| SC | Lexington | Emmanuel Baptist Fellowship | Jennifer McClung |
| SC | Pendleton | First Baptist Church | Christy McMillin-Goodwin |
| SC | Seneca | Trinity Baptist Church | Lisa Allen |
| SC | Spartanburg | Fernwood Baptist Church | Carrie Veal |
| SC | Spartanburg | Morningside Baptist Church | Rebecca Mathis |
| TN | Chattanooga | First Baptist Church | Mary Beth Duke |
| TN | Cookeville | Providence Baptist Church | Danielle Nicole Smith |
| TN | Knoxville | Ball Camp Baptist Church | Tambi Swiney |
| TN | Nashville | Immanuel Baptist Church | April Baker, Amy Mears |
| TN | Nashville | Glendale Baptist Church | Elizabeth Turner |
| TN | Oak Ridge | First Baptist Church | |

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| TX | Abilene | Logsdon Seminary | Vicki Hollon |
| TX | Abilene | Crosspoint Fellowship | Kristen Harris, Erin James-Brown |
| TX | Austin | First Baptist Church | Mary Jane Ferguson, Caroline Miller |
| TX | Austin | Highland Park Baptist Church | Cheryl Kimble |
| TX | Bellmead | La Vega Community Church | Courtney Pace Lyons |
| TX | Dallas | Wilshire Baptist Church | Annette Thornburg |
| TX | Dallas | Royal Lane Baptist Church | Isabel Docampo |
| TX | Del Rio | First Baptist Church | Andrea Huffman |
| TX | Elm Mott | First Baptist Church | Megan Byrd |
| TX | Fort Worth | Agape Baptist Church | Meredith Stone |
| TX | Houston | Willow Meadows Baptist Church | Kriss Vandagriff |
| TX | McKinney | Community North Baptist Church | Suzii Paynter |
| TX | San Angelo | Southland Baptist Church | Erin James-Brown |
| TX | San Antonio | Woodland Baptist Church | Lee Ann Rathbun |
| TX | Spring Branch | First Baptist Church | Natalie Mott |
| TX | Temple | Meadow Oaks Baptist Church | Jamie McCallum |
| TX | Waco | University Baptist Church | Sharyl West Loeung |
| TX | Waco | Seventh and James Baptist Church | Rosalie Beck |
| TX | Waco | Lake Shore Baptist Church | Leah Grundset |
| TX | Waco | Calvary Baptist Church | Julie Coston |
| VA | Annadale | The United Baptist Church | Twyla Turner |
| VA | Bedford | Bedford Baptist Church | Peggy Haymes |
| VA | Blacksburg | Blacksburg Baptist Church | Wanda Smith |
| VA | Blackstone | Blackstone Baptist Church | Ann Brown |
| VA | Charlottesville | Belmont Baptist Church | Laura Davis |
| VA | Crozet | Crozet Baptist Church | Jennifer Clamon, Tiffany Pittman, Tracey Pugh, Laura Tadlock |
| VA | Farmville | Farmville Baptist Church | Joyce Davis |
| VA | Floyd | Floyd Baptist Church | Angie Weston Hoff |
| VA | Halifax | Beth Car Baptist Church | Katrina Stipe Brooks |
| VA | Independence | First Baptist Church | Melanie Storie |
| VA | Madison Heights | Madison Heights Baptist Church | Becky Ashwell |
| VA | Madison Heights | Randolph Memorial Baptist | Jaime Fitzgerald |
| VA | Martinsville | Starling Avenue Baptist Church | Susan Spangenberg |
| VA | Montross | Nomini Baptist Church | Kathryn Camp, Jessica Williams |
| VA | North Garden | Mooreland Baptist Church | Laura Davis |
| VA | Portsmouth | Westhaven Baptist Church | Traci Powers |
| VA | Red Oak | Antioch Baptist Church | Jane Lyon |
| VA | Reston | Washington Plaza Baptist Church | Jayne Cloninger |
| VA | Richmond | The Tabernacle Baptist Church | Megan Strollo |
| VA | Richmond | Trinity Baptist Church | Kathryn Camp |
| VA | Richmond | Westover Baptist Church | Kelly Shushok |
| VA | Richmond | First Baptist Church | Lynn Turner |
| VA | Richmond | Grace Baptist Church | Patricia Green |
| VA | Richmond | Union Presbyterian Seminary | Megan Strollo |
| VA | Roanoke | Grandin Court Baptist Church | Katrina Stipe Brooks, Jennifer Frazier Call, Melissa Fox, Mari Wiles |
| VA | Scottsburg | Bethel Baptist Church | Ami Hudson |
| VA | South Boston | First Baptist Church | Katrina Brooks |
| VA | Staunton | Linden Heights Baptist Church | Katie McKown |
| VA | Troy | Bybee's Road Baptist Church | Laura Davis |
| VA | Winchester | First Baptist Church | Kristin Adkins Whitesides |
| WA | Lynnwood | Good Shepherd Baptist Church | Denise Aanenson |

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY



Above: BWIM of Arkansas met on April 27, 2012. Below: Mollie Palmer and Catherine Bahn, CBF of Arkansas gathering, April 28, 2012. Bottom: BWIM of Georgia Worship, March 24, 2012.

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY partners with state BWIM organizations in Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri, North Carolina, and Virginia, and with Texas Baptists' Women in Ministry. To learn more about their retreats, worship services, awards, scholarships, and future plans, contact their state leaders.

ARKANSAS—Carolyn Yeldell Staley—cstaley@phbclr.com

GEORGIA—Gwen Brown—gwen@cornerstonechurchgrayson.org

KENTUCKY—Rebecca Caswell-Speight—becky@broadwaybaptist.org

MISSOURI—Jennifer Harris Dault—info@bwimmo.org

NORTH CAROLINA—Alicia Davis Porterfield—aporterfield@ec.rr.com

TEXAS—Meredith Stone—meredith.stone@texasbaptists.org

VIRGINIA—Sheryl Johnson—sheryl.a.m.johnson@gmail.com

THIS IS WHAT A LEADER LOOKS LIKE: A YEAR-LONG CONVERSATION

For over two years, a collaborative group led by Devita Parnell and Pam Durso has gathered monthly for conversations. We have discussed, dreamed, laughed, and listened—based on our shared interest in the roles of women in Baptist life and with the hope of better understanding one another. We would love to have you join in these conversations! You don't even have to be in Atlanta. Our group meets via phone conference call and/or online through live meetings.

The 2012 conversations have focused on Baptist women in leadership with interview style meetings. We welcome any and all to attend, and we welcome you to invite your friends and colleagues.

For more information about the meetings and getting connected, please email Aimee Day at aimeeday@bwim.info.



SOME FAVORITE QUOTES FROM 2012 CONVERSATIONS:

“Do brave things. Once you do one brave thing, you will do others.”—Holly Hollman, general counsel, Baptist Joint Committee, Washington, D.C. (May 14, 2012)

“I am very mindful that it is hard to imagine what you can be and do unless you see someone else be and do it.”
—Julie Pennington-Russell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia (June 6, 2012)



*Above: Andrea and her husband Kim
Below: Andrea leading communion*



MY LIFE

by Andrea Strübind

AS A BAPTIST WOMAN IN MINISTRY

My family can already look back on five generations of membership in Baptist congregations, which is quite unusual in Germany because Baptist congregations were first established there in the mid-nineteenth century and Baptists are today still a minority church. I often remind people that my great-great-grandmother spent time in jail sometimes because her mother became a Baptist and refused to have her children baptized.

Since my childhood, I have been aware of my exceptional confessional roots. My father was a minister in a large and well-known Baptist congregation in Hamburg before he was called in 1968 to take on the work as a director and CEO of the Diakoniewerk Bethel in Berlin. (Diakoniewerk Bethel has hospitals, retirement homes, and nursing services located throughout Germany). With my father's new position, our family moved to Berlin. Both of my elder sisters studied theology and became religion teachers. I passed through all the stages in a typical career path in a Baptist church—from Sunday school, children and youth programs, choir, and missionary activities. One thing I was sure I did not want though was to follow my family's tradition and become a theologian!

And yet, I experienced—and in a peculiar way against my own will—a very clear calling during a youth lesson in 1982. Initially, my calling was a shock to my parents, especially given that there were no ordained female pastors at the time in our Baptist convention in Germany. Women had been allowed to study theology at church-owned seminars or at universities since 1976 but were not to work as pastors in German Baptist churches. In spite of objections, I began to study theology

at the “Kirchliche Hochschule” (Ecclesiastical University) in Berlin. To be on the safe side, I also studied history. During my first semester in a Greek class, I met the man who would become my husband, Kim Strübind. We have now been married twenty-seven years.

With great enthusiasm, we studied together, and in 1990, we both completed doctoral degrees (my specialty is in church history and his is Old Testament). After initial hesitation, mostly because of what they thought was my insecure professional future and not so much due to theologian concerns, my parents came to support my studies with wholehearted love and energy.

After our graduation, we both took the position as vicar in a Baptist church in Berlin. The church was connected to a hospital, and thus was welfare and socially oriented. I had already preached my first sermons during my studies, but in those years, the liturgical experience of many female deacons and missionaries was not easy. Criticisms were frequently spoken, and church people did not beat about the bush.

I will always remember our ordination service in 1991. My husband and I had so far achieved everything together in our studies, internships, and doctorates. But at our ordination, we were to be given different ordination certificates. My husband's certificate gave him all the rights and obligations as a full pastor. My certificate listed me as a “theological co-worker.” I was given permission to instruct children, youth, and the needy. Thankfully, our vicariate tutor firmly refused to carry out this discriminating differentiation during the ordination. He would not read out loud from my ordination certificate. Three years later I was ordained as a fully valid pastor.

continued on page 10



George Mason

WHY BWIM MATTERS

“Imitation is the highest form of flattery.” But you can only imitate what you can first witness.

When a woman preaches in a Baptist church, a window to an unknown world is opened. Women and girls, who never imagined themselves as preachers, begin to wonder their way behind the pulpit. Sometimes they even wander their way there after worship, just to try it out. The same happens with young boys, of course, but now days adults less often shoo the girls away out of fear they will get the wrong idea.

I baptize people because I baptize people. Any pastor will tell you that every baptism leads someone to question why he or she is not yet baptized. The spiritual process often leads to another baptism.

The same is true of a woman who preaches or teaches or celebrates at the Lord’s Table or visits a hospital room or marries a couple or buries a saint. Women in ministry inspire imitation. I am happy to add that our church now ordains women because

it ordains women. It was not always that way.

One of the finest ministers I know is Anne Jernberg, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado. She grew up in the church I have served for nearly twenty-three years. She once told me that as a child she could never see herself as a pastor because she had never seen a woman preach. That has changed, thankfully. Whether the change is partly responsible for her call, God knows. But no young girl will ever again grow up in our church without that imagination that could lead to imitation.

Baptist Women in Ministry raises up models for the church of women who raise up their voices in Jesus’ name. BWIM tells their stories. It gives us hope for a time when it will be inconceivable to think women cannot serve God in whatever ways they are gifted and called. BWIM deserves our thanks for that. And our support.

GEORGE A. MASON is pastor of Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas.

My Life—continued from page 9

The pastoral appointment was a long and rocky trail for me. I cannot recollect how many lectures and talks I gave up and down the country in those years about the “role of women in the biblical context.” Sometimes I was aggressively confronted during those discussions. Yet I always had many supporters who were fully appreciative of my preaching and my pastoral commitment. In addition to my pastoral work in the church, I also supervised an academic research project and had opportunity to teach, which enriched my pastoral life.

In 1996, my husband and I were appointed as a pastor couple in Munich. I was the first female pastor in the Bavarian region and thus confronted once again with the issue of the female pastoral service. It had always been of great importance

for my husband and me that we have the same rights and duties in the field of pastoral work. We communicated with our new church very clearly from the beginning when accepting the call. We told them that they would have a pastor—only “double-sized.” The experience was a learning process for the congregation, which embraced us very positively right from the very beginning.

In 2006, Kim and I took on a new opportunity in a university. I am now a full professor of church history at Oldenburg University, and he teaches Old Testament studies. My experience as a pastor continues to help me as I work with our students. I would not want to have missed that opportunity.

ANDREA STRÜBIND is professor of church history at Oldenburg University, Oldenburg, Germany.



INSPIRATIONAL SUMMER READING

by Pam Durso

Atlanta has had some especially hot days this summer, and I have found myself in search of cool places. My office has not been one of those places. Not because it is too hot, but because the temperature in the building often seems to hover around 32 degrees. (I might be exaggerating here just slightly. But I have a light blanket and a space heater that I have been using in recent days).

One discovery I have made is that reading takes my mind off the summer heat. I started my summer reading with Lauren Winner’s book, *Still: Notes on a Mid-Faith Crisis*, and then moved on to *Sacred Way: Spiritual Practices for Everyday Life* by Tony Jones. But before I finished either of those books, I ordered and quickly read Parker Palmer’s *A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life*. If you see a pattern developing . . . yes, I had my fiftieth birthday last November and have been feeling the need to re-evaluate, re-imagine, and re-wonder my life.

BUT in mid-June I finally got around to reading what has become the most important book of my summer, a book that has given me greater insight into the work to which God has called me and has provided great encouragement for me personally and spiritually. (And this is where you need to remember that I am a Baptist historian).

Recently released by the University of North Carolina Press is *Into the Pulpit: Southern Baptist Women and Power since World War II*. The author, Elizabeth Flowers, teaches at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, and she has been researching and writing on the topic of Baptist women for a while now, and what began as her dissertation is now a beautiful, hardback book.

I have known Betsy for years, admired her work as a scholar, and enjoyed her friendship, and I kept up with her progress on this book. I knew she was including interviews with women ministers and telling the story of the founding days of Baptist Women in Ministry. But I had no idea until I sat with the book how powerful those stories would be for me, how much I would be affected by the words of the early leaders of this organization.

Those early BWIM leaders were prophetic in their work and

courageous in their leadership, and Betsy tells their stories so well. She writes of Nancy Hastings Sehested, who was the driving force for BWIM’s founding: “At thirty-two, Sehested was a young, five-foot-two, fearless personality. She hailed from a long line of gifted Texas Southern Baptist preachers, and as an ordained assistant pastor in Atlanta, carried on the family tradition. Some women believed that her charisma, quick wit, preaching skills, and denominational credentials frightened conservative and moderate leaders alike.” (93) Nancy’s enthusiasm was contagious, and one early BWIM participant wrote, “I was riding the wave; I couldn’t believe we as Baptist women had finally found our voice and begun to act.” (94)

From the start, this new organization for Baptist women functioned as “more than a therapeutic group, prayer network, or even yearly worship team. Part of finding their voice meant developing a uniquely Baptist theology of women in ministry,” (95) and thus, women such as Molly Marshall, Lynda Weaver-Williams, and Anne Thomas Neil wrote about, preached about, and modeled a new way of being Baptist. When two new Baptist bodies were formed, the Alliance of Baptists and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the leaders of BWIM called those new bodies to capture a new vision, to be more inclusive in their leadership and language.

Reading Betsy’s book took me back to those days of uncertainty and pain in Baptist life—the isolation and loneliness often experienced by women ministers. I was reminded that courageous women took great risks, spoke strong, prophetic words, and often led the way—not just for the cause of women in ministry. Nancy Sehested, at the initial gathering of thirty-three women in 1983 who dreamed of forming an organization for women ministers, spoke these words: “this group could not be about gaining power simply for Southern Baptist women but, rather, gaining power to address the injustice suffered by oppressed persons worldwide.” (98)

Betsy’s book is available from the University of North Carolina Press—and on Amazon too! Buy it! Read it! Be inspired!

BAPTIST WOMEN IN MINISTRY

P. O. Box 941294
Atlanta, GA 31141-1294

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1603
Atlanta, GA

OFFER YOUR EMPLOYEES REAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS

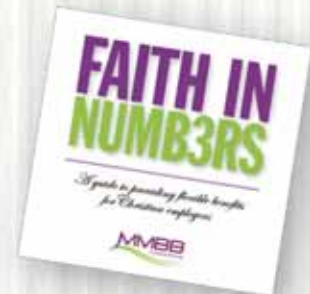
(not just **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN.** *)*

Wouldn't it be nice to give those who are so faithful, hard-working and loyal the kind of retirement benefits they really deserve?

Now you can. In fact, when you add social security benefits to the equation, career members can enjoy their golden years with as much as 86%* of their pre-retirement income. Others can retire quite handsomely, too.

And no one will have to worry about where their next nickel is coming from. To learn more, send for our free guide "Faith in Numbers," or download it now at: MMBB.org/numbers.

Or call **1-800-986-6222**



REAL PLANNING, REAL SOLUTIONS. THAT'S OUR CALLING.