



Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"

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December 2007

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Dover Minister's Conference Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner for Ministers and Spouse or
Guest

Monday, December 10, 2007, 6:00 P.M.

**First Baptist Church
800 Thompson Street, Ashland
Cost \$7.00 per person**

Please make reservations with the Dover Office
by Monday, December 3.

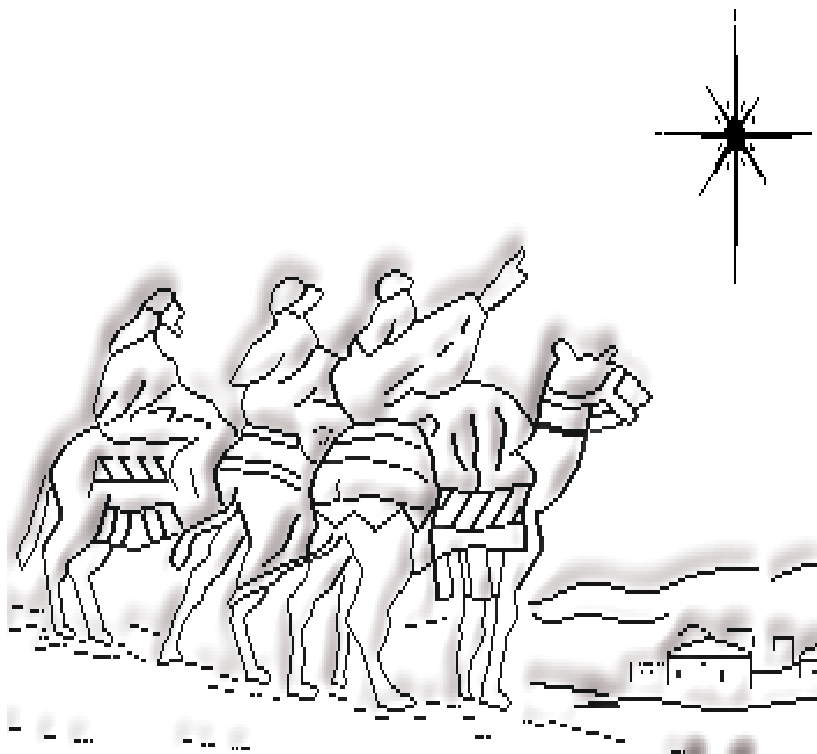
2007 Dover Association Missions Offering

**Goal for 2007: \$29,600
Receipts for 2007: \$25,234.50
(85% of our goal)**

Thank you for every cent given to our 2007
Association Missions Offering! While we fell
short of this year's goal, we have encouraged
every ministry included in the goal. Dover
Baptists know more about them and have prayed
for their leaders and those they serve. We have
already received two gifts toward our 2008
Association Missions Offering. Thank you!

Holiday Closing

The Dover Office will close for Christmas at
4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 21 and reopen on
Wednesday, January 2.



At Christmas and through the New Year
may you find God's love
revealed in Jesus, God's only begotten,
crucified, raised, and given
the name above every name,
that at the name of Jesus,
every knee shall bow in heaven and earth and
every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to
the glory of God!

*Steve, Bob, Barbara,
Sandy, Sue, Susan,
Nita, and Louis*

Recognize the Minister's Spouse Too

Many churches hold a Pastor Appreciation Day in October. Some also express appreciation for staff ministers. I serve as Dover's Associate for Ministry to Church Leader Families. I am not aware of any that hold a Minister's Spouse Appreciation Day. (Since most Dover ministers are men and most are married, I will speak of the wives of ministers in the rest of this article.)

Teresa Flint-Borden, a pastor's wife has written a book on *Women Married to Men in Ministry*. She writes that she doesn't have "a real job." She says, "Being a woman married to a minister is a non-job 'job.'"

She goes on to say, "Many women are expected to live in the 'shepherd's wife stereotype,' systems of rules—mostly unwritten and unspoken—to which church people expect pastors' wives to conform, not allowing her to be seen as a unique woman of God in her own right."

I do not completely agree. I think most ministers' wives try to be themselves, but, who is a minister's wife really? In addition to serving as a minister's wife, does a clergy wife have her own call from God for her life?

Every Christian is called to grow in faith and to develop the gifts God gives her or him. It is important that a church work at allowing each member to grow in those ways. This includes helping the minister's wife grow too. She needs space to develop. A church family has a role to play in developing the minister and his skills and in developing the minister's wife and her skills. Depending on the wife's role in the church, that space can take various forms.

Teresa Flint-Borden lists several levels of involvement in which ministers' wives may find themselves. Though rare, one level is having husband and wife as *co-pastors*. They share every aspect of being the pastor, including preaching. When David and Judith Bailey served at Dover's Taylorsville Baptist Church they served as co-pastors.

There is another level. Hunton Baptist Church officially called me as Director of Education when my husband Bob served as pastor. I was a church staff member with responsibility for part of the life and ministry of the church. (Bob said for that one time in our marriage he had a piece of paper that said he was the boss). The arrangement freed him to spend more time on pastoral duties. Bob used his gifts; I used mine. We think it worked well for us and for the church.

Women Married to Men in Ministry includes a third level, one in which ministers' wives often serve. The author likens it to the role of a flight attendant who walks to and fro ministering to the comfort-level of the members. Some women desire this role and do it well, for nurturing is a traditionally feminine role.

The book also speaks of a fourth level. In this level some ministers' wives understand that it is their husbands who have been called of the Lord to serve as ordained ministers. The wife's calling is to be a good, Christian wife to this man, and she understands that a good marriage is vital to the ministry. She may also be called to a profession outside the home or to be a stay-at-home mother. Whether working outside or inside the home, the congregation should affirm the minister's spouse for doing what God called her to do—no more and no less. The Bible speaks of honoring a good wife. The role has an

important place in God's Kingdom. A congregation should acknowledge what the Bible teaches about wives and honor them for the support they give their husbands. This goes for clergy wives too.

Whatever the level of involvement, some church members have the idea that when a church calls a pastor or staff minister, the church gets "two for one." That is the minister's wife comes as an ad hoc member of the church's staff, and the church is under no obligation to pay a second salary for her services. Such members think it her duty to assist her husband in his call. In this era of two-income families I doubt if this issue is as prevalent as it once was. Still, search committees sometimes ask, "Does your wife play the piano?" or "Can your wife lead the choir?" She may wish to do so, but it should come as her call from God and her choice to respond.

I also want to say that something like this goes for the ministers' children too. I would hope every boy and girl could experience growing up in a nurturing Christian home. Children are children, even normal ones, and ministers' children are children too. No one—neither the pastor or staff minister, clergy wife, nor church members—should set them up as an example of perfection. Neither ministers, their children, nor their wives are perfect.

The minister's wife—as every wife—plays a leading role in looking after her household and every member of it, including herself. She needs some time for herself, and the couple needs some private time to share each day's activities. This is in addition to the family dinner time. A couple needs a regular "date night" too. Bob and I have enjoyed "our night out" on Fridays for more than fifty years. Once we had children we set aside every other Friday as special time with them.

The minister's wife is human in another respect. She has moments of joy and fulfillment, and painful moments when she feels bruised or even grieves. Even good things like the church growing and the changes that come with it stress a church family. When a congregation goes through any stressful time, when there is restlessness and turmoil in the church, the minister and his family feel the stress too.

The social environment in which a pastor's family lives centers around the church family. Both the minister and his mate invest so much of themselves in their church family that they have little time or energy for friendships outside the church. They find some of the church family members relate to them in wonderful, spiritually mature, ways. They find others spiritually immature, the ones Paul spoke about as believers who act like infants who cannot eat more than milk. In candid moments, ministers' wives can tell of difficult times that involve the church and its people. I pray that spiritually mature people in the congregation will encourage and support the minister and the minister's family.

You need not wait for October to show how you appreciate the wives and husbands of the ministers at your church. Anytime is a good time to say, "Thank God for you!"
—Barbara Boggs

Dear Members of Dover Baptist Churches:

It was nice of you to recognize us at the Annual Meeting for our service to Dover. It's hard to realize it's been five years. We so enjoy our work. Thank you for the gift.

Bob and Barbara Boggs

Pray for These

December 2	Walnut Grove	Drexel Rayford, Pastor Phillip Lawson, Trey Bearden, Craig Simpson, Suzi Alexander Kitty Mauch, Mary Pollard, Terri Wyatt, Carolyn Hardison
December 9	Western Hanover	Terry Sharpe, Pastor Doris Sharp, Michael Shiflett
December 16	West Point, First	Randy Mathis, Pastor Stacy Dees, Betty Gay
December 23	Westhunt	Mike Gillen, Pastor Deborah Wickham, Kesha Pencle
December 30	Antioch	Lewis Johns, Pastor Joyce Adams

Personnel Changes

Samaria Baptist Church welcomed Donna Turner as their church secretary.

Welcome Susan Edwards

Susan Edwards has joined the Dover staff team as Interim Office Assistant. She had served in Dover before moving away several years ago. Susan has returned to the area and to Taylorsville Baptist Church. Welcome, Susan!

Position Available

Mechanicsville Baptist Church is seeking a full-time Senior Pastor to lead our church in carrying out its mission to "Live our Love for Christ through Loving, Learning, and Serving." We are a church that strives to practice Baptist principles: the priesthood of all believers and the autonomy of local congregations. We have a traditional and contemporary worship service each Sunday and the average attendance is approximately 300. In addition to the Senior Pastor, we have a staff of 3 ministers leading our education, youth, and music ministries with a total budget of \$600k. We also have a state licensed child care ministry with a \$500k budget. Candidate must be Christ-led and spiritually mature; excellent in preaching and teaching; energetic passion for serving others; possess good leadership and administrative skills; and have a history of good church growth. Must be a seminary graduate with at least 5 years of pastoral experience. Interested candidates should submit letter and resume to the Pastor Search Committee, P. O. Box 2923, Mechanicsville, VA 23116 or email rosserhoo@verizon.net.

Toronto Partnership for 2008

Many opportunities are available for ministry in Toronto. Contact the Dover Office for a copy of the partnership opportunities for Toronto in 2008. Your church may be eligible for a scholarship through the Dover Baptist Partnership Mission Scholarship.

Week of Prayer for

International and Global Missions

December 2-9, 2007

Please pray for those who serve to share Christ in other lands and support them with your prayers and gifts!

Dover WMU Council

Dover Office

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

9:45 a.m.

Children's Missions Fair

A special thanks to all who helped make the Missions Fair on October 31 such a success. The total estimated crowd was 100 – with 70 being children. The following missionaries participated in the Fair – Lloyd and Connie Rodgers, Peggy Jones, Mary Frances Owens, Linda and David Listrom, Sarah Haun, Becky and Jim Courson, Juliana Ramirez, Julia Pineda, Doug and Marcy Shawn, Billy Huchinson, and Byoung Kyn Bae and his youth team representing Korea.

How the Times-Dispatch Covers Faith and Values

Public Discussion with Times Dispatch Journalists
Richmond Times-Dispatch-300 E. Franklin Street-Richmond
Monday, December 3, 2007
7-8:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Beverly Foreman (649-6264).

Kentwood Heights hosts 2008

Women's Conference

Women of Himfluence presents Beyond
Friday, February 22 from 7-9 p.m.
Saturday, February 23 from 9 a.m. - Noon
Cost: \$40.00

Haven Parrott will be the guest speaker and worship leader will be Gwen Smith. For ticket information call the church office (804)932-5370.

2008 Retreat for Youth & Adults with Special Needs (ages 15 and up)

Who: For trainable/educable youth and adults

What: music, small groups, talent show and worship

Where: Eagle Eyrie Conference Center

When: October 17-18, 2008

Theme: Outrigger Island: Living God's Unshakeable Truth

Mark your calendar. For further information, contact Rod Miller @ Eagle Eyrie (434)384-2211 or rod.miller@vbmb.org.



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***"a resource and ally for
churches and their leaders"***

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Steve Allsbrook, Director of Missions
Sandy Weakley, Administrative Assistant
Bob Boggs, Associate for Ministry to Church Leaders
Barbara Boggs, Associate for Ministry to Church Leader
Families
Nita May, Regional Ministries Coordinator, CVBM
Louis Orsatti, Regional Latino Church Planter Strategist,
LAMP
Sue Hall, Office Secretary
Susan Edwards, Interim Office Assistant

Church News

Ashland, First will host CARITAS the week of December 15.

Berea, Dover, and Goochland jointly held an "Enriching Your Marriage" seminar November 2-3.

Berea collected 1,311 pounds of canned/box food items for the Virginia Food Bank.

Black Creek hosted *The Old Shoemaker* on November 26. The play was performed by children from the Ukraine.

Cool Spring culminated its Capital Campaign with a church-wide brunch on November 18. The church is seeking commitments over the next three years to construct a new Children's Building, renovate existing space, and pay off existing debt. The Lottie Moon Emphasis on International Missions was held December 2, with Tyler Burkett, Executive Director of Xtreme International, as the guest speaker.

Deep Run held its annual church stew fellowship on November 17.

Elon has raised more than \$9,000 for the Elon to Darfur Fund which directly benefits refugees in Darfur. Contributions may be made at www.elontodarfur.org for the next several months.

Emmaus recognized Mary Virginia "Ginny" Riley as Christian Educator of the Year for many years of service as a Sunday School teacher.

Fort Lee held a Brunswick stew sale on October 27 to benefit the Chickahominy Indian Tribe.

Hillcrest provided a meal for residents of Freedom House on November 30. The choir will present the cantata, *Mary, Did You Know*, On December 16 and 17.

Church News (continued)

Hunton hosted a special program on November 4 highlighting the beliefs and history of Baptists.

Mechanicsville is encouraging members to read the Bible through in 2008. *LifeWalk*, a devotional guide, will be provided to help members to study the Bible, not just read it.

Mount Vernon will launch Celebrate Recovery in January 2008. There will be many opportunities for those in recovery to fellowship and celebrate God's healing power.

New Bethesda was transformed into a warehouse to receive shoeboxes from the Richmond area and prepare them for shipment to the Operation Christmas Child center in Charlotte, N.C.

New Life held a revival in October with guest speaker, Steve Messsick. The youth went on a retreat to Camp Hanover October 19-20.

Taylorsville had a Community Music Night on November 3. Ronnie Williams, The Carter Family Sound and the Taylorsville Cut-Ups participated in the program.

Walnut Grove will send a group of college students to Costa Rica December 18-23, 2007 to help with a Children's Feeding Program and assist with a Christmas party for 200 children.