



Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

“a resource and ally for churches and their leaders”

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Brought to You by Central Virginia Baptist Ministries

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Dover Minister's Conference

“The Minister's Taxes and Pay Package”

Monday, January 14, 2008, 10:30 a.m.

Dover Conference Center

Dr. Darden Battle will address issues and answer questions related to a minister's income tax return, church reporting, and structuring the minister's pay package. Lunch is available for \$7.00 per person. Please make reservations with the Dover Office by Thursday, January 10.

Dover Executive Committee

Tuesday, January 8- 7:30 p.m.

North Run Baptist Church

2100 Lydell Drive, Richmond

2007 Financial Records

Dover's Fiscal Year 2007 financial records will close on Thursday, January 31, 2008. Any contributions to be included in FY2007 should arrive at the Dover office before January 31. A member church's gifts to Dover's 2007 General Budget will determine the number of voting messengers that church may send to Dover's Called, Semiannual, and Annual Meetings in 2008.

Holiday Closing

The Dover Office will be closed Monday, January 21 in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

2008 Capital Region Pastor-Deacon Training Conference

Monday Evening, March 10, 2008

Tentative Location: Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond
Conference Sessions on Topics of Interest to Deacons, Ministers, and Others Church Servants

Dinner Optional

Sponsored by Central Virginia Baptist Ministries

This event will feature individual conferences for ministry skill development and other specialty conferences designed to grow and equip church servants from entry level to the most experienced.

See the February issue of “The Dover Diary” for more details.

Mission Resource Recommendation Team

God has blessed Dover Baptist Association through the bequest of Lewis and Marie Pruett. The Pruett's were faithful members of Ridge Baptist Church and represented Ridge on Dover's Executive Committee. God has multiplied their generosity.

Dover Baptists want to use this gift in a faithful way. Moderator Steve Adkins and former moderator Vallerie King have named members of the Mission Resource Recommendation Team. This team will work to lead the association honoring God as we put this gift to work in God's Kingdom. Please pray for the team as it begins its work. Please direct any suggestions for the team to Director of Missions Steve Allsbrook.

2008 Hepler Scholarship Applications

Dover Baptist Association awards an annual scholarship established by Dover's second Executive Director of Missions, W. Paul Hepler. In 2007, Dover awarded a \$450 scholarship. Dover's Student Ministries Council will recommend the recipient to our Executive Committee in April.

Scholarship applications for 2008 must be received in the Dover Office not later than Friday, March 14, 2008. The application must be approved by the church. Visit www.doverbaptist.org or contact the Dover office for an application.

To be considered for the scholarship, the applicant must have been a member of a Dover Baptist Association church for at least one year prior to the application. The applicant must be planning to pursue a baccalaureate or graduate degree in an accredited college, university or seminary. Seminary students must attend a seminary accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools and college students must attend a college accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The school may be a denominational or non-denominational school in Virginia or a Baptist institution outside of Virginia. (Exceptions may be considered when the applicant is pursuing a diploma program such as one at an accredited seminary).

Hopeful Baptist Church started in 1807 and promptly joined Dover Baptist Association. Hopeful celebrated its first 200 years of service in the Body of Christ last October. The church family and friends marked the day with special services and dinner on the grounds.

Pastor Bruce Cole portrayed a prominent pastor from the church's history. Bruce's beard was just one sign that he had led the congregation to plan well in advance. The church had printed a summary of its history, complete with selected photos. Church member Floyd Lane had written a special song, "Hopeful," and gave a touching performance in the afternoon service. The church had even arranged for a state historical marker which it unveiled that afternoon.

The church had also produced a booklet telling the history of its pastors. Former pastors Edgar Burkholder, Lee Allen, Berkeley Garnett, and David Cheyne attended. Berkeley had studied under Dr. Solon B. Cousins, a servant of God who significantly influenced an entire generation of Virginia Baptist pastors. He recalled that Dr. Cousins had cautioned his class of young preachers-to-be saying, "...after twenty minutes, if you haven't struck oil, stop boring!"

Such memories brought a smile. Other words challenged and inspired the congregation. Bruce had authored a poem he titled "The Church on a Hopeful Hill." One stanza reads,

Two centuries, the church still stands,
Through war, depression, social change,
It stands upon those rolling hills
And still calls out in Jesus' Name.
The congregation looking back
To see from whence she came,
Finds men of God and sisters strong
And pledges now to be the same.

The historical marker tells that the congregation has served that community for generations. During all those years they have proclaimed the hope we have in Christ. The theme of their bicentennial worship service, "The Next One Hundred Years," says that the folks at Hopeful remain hopeful. Like them, I am still hopeful after all these years.

Why do I remain hopeful? Dover Baptist churches keep on serving Christ here and far beyond. God has sent faithful, effective servants here—ministers and lay leaders—who lead the churches and the association. As this new year dawns I can name promising young adults who have answered God's call to serve and lead God's people. I can see how God has blessed Dover Baptists with resources and how Dover Baptists want to share those resources to encourage God's work near and far. God has done this for generations.

The Bible tells us "...through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope" (Rom. 15:4 NIV). "Hope does not disappoint us..." (Rom. 5:5 NIV). It does not disappoint us because "on [God] we have set our hope..." (2 Cor. 1:10a NIV).

In 2008 Dover Baptists will mark our 225th year of serving Christ as a Baptist family of churches. Like the Hopeful Baptists who have "brought salvation, peace and joy, and...loving care," let us pledge to be the same and full of hope, "yes, Hopeful..."

—Steve Allsbrook

This First Year Has Flown

[Editor's note: Nita May celebrated her first anniversary as CVBM Regional Ministries Coordinator on December 1, 2007.]

I can hardly believe it has been an entire year since I started serving as Regional Ministries Coordinator for Central Virginia Baptist Ministries. In this short time I have felt so blessed to work with so many of you. I have had the opportunity to visit a number of the 179 churches that make up CVBM and see God at work. There are many more that I plan to visit. I have sensed God's leadership as the three associations networked together in shared missions and ministries. In 2007 those shared missions and ministries included the Pastor/Deacon Conference, Vacation Bible School Workshop, Raceway Ministries, State Fair Ministry, Leadership Development Conference, and several local mission projects. I've had the opportunity to pray with you, study God's word with you, and serve with you on the mission field.

I think it's exciting to serve God! It is exciting to get to know other believers and to have the awesome responsibility to reach others for Christ. I find it exciting to go out in the world to see where we can glimpse signs of a God like the one we read about in the scriptures. Using the gifts God has blessed us with as we serve together excites me too.

I thank you sincerely for your encouragement and support. Serving together with you has helped me pay attention to special places where God has been present in my own life, to better see God's presence in the midst of the mundane. That's what I think I love the most about serving as the Regional Ministries Coordinator for CVBM. I recognize the truth of the promise God makes to us in Matthew 18:20:

"For where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

That scripture has become the tagline for CVBM—three associations (Dover, Middle District, and Richmond) gathering together. As CVBM make plans for future missions and ministries, I ask for your continued prayers that God would make known where He is leading CVBM and that we would all be faithful in following God's call in our lives. My prayer for each of us this Christmas season is that we would have the joy of realizing the excitement of search and discovery that comes from trusting God with our lives. I count it a privilege to serve Christ with you.

—Nita May

Pray for These

January 6	Ashland, First Robert Thompson, Pastor Jim Townsend, Fred Horn, Barbara Hollowell, David Axselle, Jr., Evelyn Castle, Lisa Reckley, Joanie Tompkins, Ken LeFevre
January 13	Atlee Community Jeff Boggess, Pastor Glenn Hawkins, Mark Tapscott, Gwen Holler Karen Goins, Jeni Mauney, Tonya Carey Roger Fling, Lilly Harris, Pam Harris, Nelson Parker, Ross Wright
January 20	Beaverdam Gary Stewart, Pastor Jason Freer, Fredda Forbes, Janis Sargent Jan Southall
January 20	Berea Mark Hughes, Pastor Jack Mays, Peggy Peck, Andrea Hollins
January 27	Beulah Edward Shepard, Pastor Anna Burgess BiltmoreDennis.Stamey, Interim Pastor Alice Cates, Todd Defore, Melanie Bernier Ernie Lewis, Mary Lou Warman

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Rev. Steve Smith, pastor of Colosse Baptist Church, whose mother Coralie Smith died November 30.

Thank You

I appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers in the death of my mother. The friendship, love and helpfulness from the Dover family is so gratefully appreciated.

—Steve Smith

Congratulations

Wesley William Boggs was born on November 19. Wes is the younger brother of Peyton, the son of Bill and Melanie, and the grandson of Dover staff team members Bob and Barbara Boggs.

Personnel

John Mark Skammer has concluded his service as Minister to Students at Mount Vernon. God bless you, John Mark!

Doug Grote has concluded his service as Executive Minister at Cool Spring Baptist Church. God bless you, Doug!

Greg Pulling began his duties as pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church on January 1. Welcome, Greg!

Dennis Stamey has begun his ministry as Interim Pastor at Biltmore Baptist Church. Welcome, Dennis!

IRS Announces 2008 Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2008 standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning January 1, 2008, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be

- 50.5 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in the service of charitable organizations

For additional information visit the IRS web site or see <http://irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id+176030,00.html>.

DWMU Dates to Remember

February 11-17

Focus on WMU: "Live the Call through WMU"

February 16

First National Children's Ministry Day Emphasis (Hope for the Hungry)

16,319 Christmas Shoe Boxes!

Thanks to all who participated in preparing and collecting shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The collection center at New Bethesda Baptist Church processed 16,319 boxes!

Pregnancy Resource Center

Offers Volunteer Training

The Pregnancy Resource Center of Metro Richmond needs volunteers! Be a part of changing lives. The Center offers volunteer training classes to equip men and women for ministry to those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. The Pregnancy Resource Center will offer its next classes on Saturday, February 2 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will also offer classes on Thursdays for four weeks from February 7-28. Thursday class participants may choose from two times, mornings from 9:30 to noon or evenings from 6:30-9:00. To register for a class, please call 673-2020 by January 25.

Positions Available

Middle Eastern Baptist Church, an evangelical/Baptist church in Richmond, VA, seeks a pastor. The successful candidate will be called by God to shepherd and grow the congregation through dynamic preaching, teaching, counseling, and outreach programs according to Ephesians 4:11-12. Arabic-speaking, Christ-centered, Spirit-led, theologically conservative, Baptist or non-denominational preferred. Pastoral experience preferred, as well as a history of developing youth programs. Please e-mail resume to ednahanna@yahoo.com.

First Baptist Church of West Point seeks a Director of Music and/or Youth. This position is responsible for planning and directing a music program for all age groups or youth activities. Mail resume to P.O. Box N, West Point, VA 23181 or e-mail resume to fbcwest-point@verizon.net.

Berea Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, VA seeks a full or part-time Music Director to direct and lead the planning, organization, conducting, and evaluation of a comprehensive music program for adults, youth and children. Duties include work with choirs, vocal, and /or instrumental ensembles. Send resume to Berea Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 28 Fleet Road, Fredericksburg, VA 22406.

2007 Association Missions Offering Revised Total

In reviewing the books, Sandy Weakley discovered an unreported amount that changed the tally for Dover's 2007 Association Mission Offering. The correct total is \$26,620.50, 89.9% of the 2007 Offering goal. The monies have been distributed, and we have already received many notes of thanks from the recipients. Thank you, Dover Baptists!

