



# Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

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

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## How to Contact Us

Phone: 804-550-1980 or  
Toll Free 888-556-2493  
Fax: 804-550-1314  
Mail: 11006 Lakeridge Parkway  
Ashland, VA 23005  
E-Mail: info@doverbaptist.org  
lorsatti@yahoo.com  
nita.may@cvbm.org  
RobertBoggsSr@comcast.net  
sandy@doverbaptist.org  
steve@doverbaptist.org  
sue@doverbaptist.org  
Web site: www.doverbaptist.org

## Dover Minister's Conference

**Monday, May 12, 10:30 a.m.**

*(Note this is the second Monday, a change)*

**Speaker: Rob Patterson of the Toronto Area Association of Baptist Churches**

Reserved lunch costs \$7.00. Please contact the Dover office by Friday, May 9 to order lunch.

## Annual Planning Retreat for Dover Leaders

**Thursday, May 22, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Dover Conference Center**

All Dover officers, committee, council, and team leaders are asked to participate in this retreat. A continental breakfast begins at 8:00 and the program begins at 8:30 a.m. Please let the Dover office know you will attend. Remember to submit 2009 Budget and Calendar requests to the Dover office by Thursday, May 15. Thanks!

## Cemetery Plots Available

Dover Baptist Association has a double cemetery plot for sale in Signal Hill Memorial Park. Contact the Dover office for more information.

## Holiday Closing

The Dover Office will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.

## Week of Prayer for Association Missions May 18-25, 2008

<b>2008 Association Missions Offering Goal: \$27,000</b>	
<b>Church Starting and New Work</b> helps fund the Latin American Mission Project and helps start churches	\$2,500
<b>Cooperative Ministries and Outreach</b> helps ministry partners who serve in Richmond, on college campuses, in jails, at the raceway, and across our capital region	\$11,300
<b>Help for Persons in Need</b> helps ministry partners who serve the homeless, single mothers with children, those needing medical care, children, the elderly, and others	\$10,350
<b>Partnership Missions</b> helps Dover Baptists go on partnership mission trips and supports our South Africa Partnership	\$1,850
<b>Support for Ministers and Their Families</b> helps provide support, counseling, and emergency assistance for ministers and their families	\$1,000
<b>2008 Dover Association Missions Offering Goal</b>	<b>\$27,000</b>

*Association Missions Offering materials were distributed to each Dover church at the Dover Semiannual Meeting on Sunday, April 27. If your church did not pick up its bag of materials, please contact the Dover Office (550-1980 or info@doverbaptist.org). Thank you!*

## In Appreciation of Judy Shepard

One saying says, “If you need a leader who can get something done, ask a busy person.” Dover’s Woman’s Missionary Union did that when they asked Judy Shepard to lead them.

Five years ago, Judy assumed the role of WMU Director in Dover Baptist Association. She had plenty to do before she added that role to her responsibilities. Judy is the wife of Ed Shepard, and Ed serves as the pastor of Beulah Baptist Church. A wife has much to do. A pastor’s wife has an additional, tacit role in the church.

Judy had another role in Beulah then and now. She serves as the music director. Judy leads the choir and plays for the worship services. She selects music, practices what she plays, and takes lead at choir practices. Like a good Sunday School teacher, a good volunteer music director spends hours behind the scenes for every hour leading in public.

Judy is also a mother with two grown children. How many hours does a mom, even a mom with grown children, spend on her family? During her tenure as DWMU Director, the son married, and a daughter-in-law entered her life.

The daughter and son-in-law made Judy a grandmother twice during that time. Turning an otherwise normal adult into a grandparent changes many things, including the amount of time and energy that person devotes to grandchildren. Judy did not get more hours in her week when she got new people to love.

At least one more thing happened during these five years. For the past four years Ed has been working on his Doctor of Ministry degree (just completed). Even though that kept him busy while she worked on WMU matters, it also added work as Ed shared things with her and asked her to read his work.

DWMU asked this already busy woman to lead them, and she has led them well. Judy has helped Dover’s WMU stay focused on missions. She has encouraged those who serve with her on the DWMU leadership council. Together they have given Dover Baptists of every age the opportunity to connect with missions and missionaries—to learn about, pray for, give to, and get involved with missions.

Judy followed Barbara Boggs and benefitted from the strong leadership Barbara gave. Judy leaves things in order for her successors. Barbara will serve again for one year, and then Sharon McKinley will assume the role of DWMU Director for the normal five-year term. (Sharon led Dover Baptists in our World Missions Celebration in 2005.)

In Romans 16, writing of a woman “who is a leader in the church,” Paul says, “...She has proved to be a respected leader for many others, including me” (Rom. 16:1-2 CEV). In other translations, “a respected leader” appears as “a helper.”

All who pray for, support, and encourage missionaries and missions work—including Dover and its staff—help missions. They help people find a relationship with Jesus Christ and grow as His followers.

Through her work as DWMU Director, Judy has done that for Dover Baptists, including me. I respect her as a leader and thank her for her help in the missions work of Dover. Thank God for Judy and the missions leaders in Dover churches, and tell them, “Thank you!” too.

—Steve Allsbrook

## What Happened at the 2008 Deacon-Pastor Conference?!

*“Lord, deal with me in lovingkindness, and teach me, your servant, to obey; For I am your servant, therefore give me common sense to apply your rules to everything I do.”*  
(Psalm 120: 124-125 TLB)

The team that planned the Central Virginia Baptist Ministries 2008 conference for deacons and pastors asked everyone who attended to complete an evaluation form. With the help of CVBM Administrative Assistant Gayle Taylor, we have compiled the results. The evaluations tell us that more than 350 people participated in the March 10 conference on the campus of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Appropriately, attendees commented on how much they learned. They gained useful knowledge in their sessions and want to keep on learning!

Our presenters included experienced practitioners—pastors, deacons, and others. In some sessions, leaders teamed up to help address their topics to a wider range of churches. Facilitators for the sessions represented Dover, Middle District, and Richmond Associations, Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Based on the evaluations, the excellent presenters deserve credit for much of the conference’s success. They brought practical knowledge and the ability to communicate it effectively. Comments made by those who attended confirmed that the topics offered were in touch with relevant needs and would be useful in their churches.

From the greeters to the reception area to the overflow crowd in the welcome session to standing-room-only in some rooms, people felt an enthusiastic atmosphere. Participants also remarked how they enjoyed the opportunity to dialogue with others and to learn from one another.

Deacons and pastors came from far and wide! In fact, we publicized the conference in *The Religious Herald*, and deacons and pastors came from nine different associations! We expected participants from Middle District, Richmond, Dover, and Hermon Baptist Associations. The list also included Concord, Norfolk, Rappahannock, Goshen, and Natural Bridge Baptist Associations. Deacons and pastors came from north, south, east, and west.

Participants told us they would like to have attended more than one session and asked that the schedule let them attend two sessions at next year’s conference. They suggested that we include many of the same topics at next year’s conference and suggested some new ones too. Ensuring that all leaders distribute handouts for their session was also a key request.

Comments also indicated that March was the best time of year to hold the conference. We have already set Monday, February 2, 2009—*mark your calendar*—for next year’s conference. However, we anticipate scheduling future conferences in March, very likely on the Monday after we return to daylight savings time which worked well this year.

“Thank you!” to all who participated in any way in this year’s conference. As a result, many expressed a new appreciation for challenges faced by pastors and expressed a desire to become more involved in their role as servant leaders in the church.

—Nita May

## Pray for These

May 4	<b>Hebron</b> .....	J. R. Dockum, Pastor
May 11	<b>Hillcrest</b> .....	Cecil Marsh, Pastor Brandon Wood, Brenda Stanley
May 18	<b>Hopeful</b> .....	Bruce Cole, Pastor Cathy Waldrop, Cathie Cole Charles Waldrop
May 25	<b>Hopewell</b> .....	Greg Pulling, Pastor Kris Moore, Beverly Foreman

## Sympathy

We extend sympathy to Rev. Michael Hester, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, and his family in death of his father, Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Hester on March 24.

We also extend sympathy to the family of Louise Burnette Fowler who died on March 14. She served as church organist and choir director at Fort Lee Baptist Church for many years.

## Personnel

Lewis Johns has concluded his ministry as pastor of Antioch Baptist and is now serving as pastor of Coggins Memorial Baptist in NC. Farewell, Lewis and family. God bless you and your ministry.

J. R. Dockum now serves as pastor of Hebron Baptist Church. Welcome, J. R. and family. God bless you and your ministry.

## Positions Available

Cornerstone Christian Church is prayerfully seeking a Senior Pastor. Cornerstone Christian is a spirit-led body of believers, was chartered in 1999 as a non-denominational church and is affiliated with the BGAV and Dover Baptist Association. Please submit a resume by May 21 to Pastor Search Committee, P. O. Box 29584, Richmond, VA 23242 or e-mail [cccpastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:cccpastorsearch@gmail.com).

## Congratulations

Pam Cross, Minister of Music at Northside celebrated ten years of ministry. A luncheon was held on Sunday, April 20 in Pam's honor.

Ed Shepard, pastor of Beulah Baptist Church, completed the requirements for the Doctor of Ministry degree and will graduate from Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond on May 17.

## Training Event for Church Youth Group Leaders and Workers

**Open to anyone who works with youth in grades 6-12**

**-paid staff or volunteer**

**Saturday, May 17**

**10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Dover Conference Center**

Everyone has a story. Some of us have stories that produce laughter. Some of us have stories that bring a tear. God uses some of them to change lives, including the lives of the youth to whom God sends us! Learn how you can use your story to minister to students.

A lunch will be provided for those who preregister. Please e-mail Derek Gordon at [d.gordon@newhighlandbaptist.org](mailto:d.gordon@newhighlandbaptist.org) or phone Derek at 550-9601 to register.

## DWMU Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, May 13**

**North Run Baptist Church, 2100 Lydell Drive, Richmond 4:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

**Special Guests: Rob and Sarah Patterson**

**from the Toronto Area Association of Baptist Churches**

Prepaid dinner served at 5:45 p.m. *Please send dinner reservation checks (\$5.00 per person) by Friday, May 2 to Dover WMU, Attn: Carolyn Hollins, 5028 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.*

### Directions to North Run

From I-95 take Exit 82/Parham Road (West). Go 1.25 miles and, across from Brookland Middle School, turn left onto Lydell Drive. The church is one block on the right.

## Toronto Partnership Connects Baptist Ministry Assistants

The Baptist Ministry Assistants of Virginia held their Spring Conference at Virginia Beach, April 1-5. This event offers professional certification and advanced training for those who minister at the church and association office.

Thanks in large measure to the efforts of Sandy Weakley and Walter McIntyre, two ministry assistants from Toronto participated in this year's event. Ruth Burger and Rosemary Borja received the Basic Certification as a Professional Ministry Assistant. Rosemary works on the staff of the Kingsway Baptist Church, and Ruth works on the staff of Mississauga City Baptist Church.

Sue Hall and Sandy Weakley served as their Virginia hosts. Sandy said, "We became good friends from the moment we met them at the airport."

On her return home, Ruth wrote, "A sincere Thank You to the Dover Baptist Association for being so generous and allowing me to be a part of these wonderful days of learning and connecting with very warm and lovely Virginians. This was a memorable time for me, and the things I've learned will help me be a better Ministry Assistant as I serve the Lord here." Rosemary said, "We gained invaluable friendship with our dear Virginia partners...and realized that we have a common desire to have a heart for serving our great God!"

Ruth and Rosemary hosted ministry assistants from TAABC churches Toronto Baptists on Wednesday, April 23. They shared their experience and invited others to form an organization for mutual training and encouragement.

## Teach English as a Second Language?

When Jesus says, "Go ye and teach all nations," do you think he might be referring to the Richmond area? Today, over 100 languages are spoken here. Perhaps God is calling you to serve at home by helping one who speaks another language to learn English. Get your training at our next ESL workshop, August 8-10 at the Dover Center. The times are 6:30-9:15 p.m. on that Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, and 2:30-5:30 p.m. on Sunday. The \$35 cost includes the textbook, a continental breakfast, and a box lunch. You must attend all sessions to receive a certificate from NAMB. Please preregister with Jennifer Chrisman, 737-6147 or via e-mail at [david.chrisman@juno.com](mailto:david.chrisman@juno.com) or with the Dover office.



**Dover Baptist Association**  
**11006 Lakeridge Parkway**  
**Ashland, VA 23005**

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

Non-Profit Organization  
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Permit No. 109  
Richmond, VA

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

## Church News

**Beulah** is participating in a year-long Women on Mission project to dig a well that will provide uncontaminated water for people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Black Creek** exceeded its goal, collecting 1,300 pairs of shoes for the Shoes for Orphan Souls Ministry. The church thanked other Dover churches and community members for their help.

**Colosse** made a donation to help start the Richmond House of Prayer. RiHOP bases its ministry of prayer in the building owned by Kingdom Development, L.L.C. at 17<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets in Richmond.

**Cool Spring** is renovating a home behind the church to be used as missionary housing. Once the church completes repairs, it will welcome donated furnishings.

**Hillcrest** hosted revival services April 27-30 with four different guest preachers and music by Tom Baynham.

**Kentwood Heights** is developing a Sunday morning ministry to meet the ongoing needs at the Seton House. Seton House is a residential care facility in New Kent County for mentally and/or physically challenged adults.

**Mount Olivet** is collecting pajamas (long-sleeve tops and t-shirts and pajama bottoms) to send to wounded soldiers hospitalized in Iraq.

**Mount Pleasant** will hold a patriotic service on May 18 at 3:00 p.m. to honor our service men and women and to pray for our nation. Local talent will provide the music and the Charles City Cadets will present the colors.

**Northside** will send a team to Singapore, January 20-31, 2009 to hand out bibles and packets to Chinese tourists who are in Singapore for the Chinese New Year celebration.

**Pioneer** is collecting school supplies for Mexico. The church will hold a Celebrate Life Weekend, May 16-17 at 7 p.m. and May 18 at 11 a.m., with Dr. Thom Elliff as guest speaker and Randy Trail as guest musician.

**Ridge** hosted Melba Moore in concert on April 27.

**Shalom** welcomes Dr. Mark Becton from Grove Avenue Baptist on May 18 at 7 p.m.. Dr. Becton will share his incredible testimony of when "God Spoke".

**Walnut Grove** hosted CARITAS from April 26-May 3.

## Dover Seniors Lunch

**Tuesday, May 20, 12 Noon**

**Mount Vernon Baptist Church**

**Cost: \$6.00**

*Executive Director Emeritus Richard Moore will join Steve Allsbrook in a program that shares some of the highlights of Dover Baptist Association's 225 years. There will be an old-fashioned hymn sing too.*

Make reservations with the Dover office by Monday, May 12. If your church is bringing a group, please have one person collect the money and register the group.

## Limited to Just Eight Pastors!

Central Virginia Baptist Ministries will offer a "pastors only" Crown Financial Ministries small group study. Local Crown representative Randy Rowekamp will coordinate and help lead the group. Participants will use the same materials and ten-week format that Crown offers for church members, but only pastors will get to share in this group. The schedule will be determined by those who ask to participate, so you can have a voice in when the group will meet. You can let Nita May know you want your name on the list via [nita.may@cvbm.org](mailto:nita.may@cvbm.org) or by calling 598-6350, or contact the Dover office.