



Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"

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Dover Ministers Conference

Monday, January 11, 10:30 a.m.

(This is a week earlier than usual)

Location: Dover Conference Center

Lunch Cost: \$7.00 per person

Program: Bob Ruthazer from First Things

First of Greater Richmond will speak on

"Marriage Enrichment"

Please make reservations with the Dover Office
by Wednesday, January 6.

Inclement Weather Policy

Whenever Hanover County Public Schools close due to weather conditions, the Dover Association Office may also close or change office hours.

Office Closed for Holiday

The Dover Association Office will be closed Monday, January 18, in observance of Martin Luther King Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 19.

News from Pastor Jeffrey Fololo

Update on Our Partnership in South Africa

In the spring of 2009 we began a five-year partnership with the Baptist Union of South Africa made possible by their partnership with the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Like a number of other associations in Virginia, our partnership began with a commitment to support a church planter. We support the work of Jeffrey Fololo (rhymes with polo). He serves as the pastor of Thembalihle Baptist Church in Vrede (sounds like Freda).

Pastor Fololo went to an area where a church was struggling because it had no pastor. Since his arrival, conflicts within the congregation have subsided. The church is worshiping in harmony and beginning to grow. In a recent video message, the pastor expressed his thanks to Dover Baptists for our part in helping him answer God's call to this area.

You may contact the Dover office or e-mail ridgepastor@comcast.net to see and hear Pastor Fololo's reports. You may also view the video on the association's web site, www.doverbaptist.org.

We hope to meet Pastor Fololo next October when a group of pastors from South Africa will come to Virginia to meet their ministry partners. Dover's Program Committee has tentatively scheduled Pastor Fololo, who speaks English, as the main speaker at our Annual Meeting on October 24 at Poplar Springs Baptist Church.

The five-year commitment comes to \$16,250. Dover Baptist Association shares the costs of this partnership with others. Little Elam Baptist Church, New Bethesda Baptist Church, Ridge Baptist Church, along with Rev. and Mrs. John Johnson, have each given \$1,250—the entire commitment for a partnering sponsor. Others have made sponsorship pledges and gifts including Antioch Baptist Church, Corinth Baptist Church, Dover Baptist Church, Goochland Baptist Church, the Baptist Women of First Baptist Church in West Point, along with Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hofmeyer and Mrs. Marion Pierce.

We, as well as Jeffrey Fololo and the congregation of Thembalihle Baptist Church, thank God for every gift that helps provide his leadership and give new life to that church. Churches and individuals who want to share part of the cost may give a one-time gift or periodic gifts. Contact the Dover office for more information.

Please keep Pastor Fololo in your prayers. Pray for God to lead him. Pray for his family. Also pray that God will lead the pastor and church people as they visit door-to-door on Wednesdays. Pray for the youth of the church. Thank God for the six people who have given their lives to Christ in recent months. Pray for the men and women who form the core of the congregation. Ask God to raise up more leaders for this church as it grows.

—Alan Ray

Where Do Stewards Come From?

Most of the gifts that fund the ministries of churches come from one or two generations—the older ones. Twenty to thirty percent of the members give seventy to eighty percent of the offerings that churches receive. On average, church members in the U. S. do not give ten percent or more of our income to the churches. We average giving two to three percent.

What shaped the generations that give most of the money that supports the ministries of our churches today? What will shape the generations that will give most of the money for ministries in the future?

As a generation, older generations give more than younger generations. However, every generation has people who give at varying levels. In *Generous Living*, Ron Blue describes three levels of giving. Ron calls the most basic level of giving “should give.” Beyond that level, one discovers what one “could give.” At the top level of giving, one aspires to what one “would give.”

Rick Warren appeared on NBC’s *Meet the Press* on November 29. During that television broadcast, Rick described the most basic level of giving as opportunistic, spontaneous giving like the money one might put in a red Salvation Army kettle at Christmas. One can develop the habit of “regular giving” and from there learn “systematic giving” (e.g., each pay period). For systematic givers, the next step is “proportional giving” like tithing. Rick terms the highest level of giving as “sacrificial giving.”

In any generation, those who give learned about giving. Many saw it modeled and taught at home. Older generations may have put a dime of every dollar into an offering. Those who learned to give weekly may have used boxed sets of envelopes.

Today, many churches use other methods to teach giving. Some churches mail offering envelopes to members’ homes quarterly. A church’s web site may have an option for giving via the Internet.

The act of putting one’s offering into an offering plate involves a tactile experience. So does mailing it in. Giving by automatic debit makes giving more convenient. Given the choice and depending on personal circumstances, givers might opt for varying forms of giving. Churches that offer giving options can reach more givers than churches that only get offerings at their worship services.

Churches should also pay attention to generational differences among givers. Younger generations give to causes and out of personal relationships. They have less money and more debt. Older generations often give on a periodic basis. They have more discretionary income, and may take a more conservative approach to spending church dollars.

Unlike the generations that survived the Great Depression and World War II, the Baby Boomers learned about spending more than saving. Our land entered a time of economic prosperity. Consumption, rather than thrift, drove our economy. Now, to develop the next generation of givers, churches must work to teach Christian values and methods to people who may not have learned it at home and in society.

Recently, Entrust Credit Union offered a conference called “20Cents” for twenty-somethings. Young adults led the conference. Conference seminars focused on money and marriage, how to create and maintain a basic budget, and

family financial planning. Dinner was provided by Alamo BBQ, which is owned and operated by two young adults.

Jeff Boggess serves as pastor of Atlee Community Church. Inspired by loose change in the street, Jeff observed that Americans may be the only people who throw away money. Atlee leaders put a metal garbage can in the sanctuary and invited people to “throw away coins” in it. Over the past several years Atlee has received over \$15,000 in coins that people have “thrown away.”

This fall, New Bethesda Baptist Church lived out the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). The church distributed over \$4,000 to its members and asked them to put the money to work and see how God might grow it. To date, members have returned more than twice the amount they received.

Churches that make giving entertaining and challenging help people discover the joys of giving. Those churches help people see how God blesses in unexpected ways. Using a program like *Consecration Sunday* or a similar program can turn an annual giving campaign into a success for the church and for the folks who “take a step up in [their] giving.”

The Bible has more than 2,000 verses that relate to stewardship, and Jesus spoke about money more than any single topic. Every church has a responsibility for stewardship education just like churches have a responsibility for training the followers of Christ in every other area of Christian living. Can disciples really grow if we only teach them once a year?

Whether or not a church has an annual giving campaign, it may offer other options for people to grow in their giving. Don Campbell of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, 804-915-5000, has a catalog of resources to help churches and individuals. Crown Financial Ministries (www.crown.org) has tools like its “Money Map” and small group studies. Dave Ramsey (www.daveramsey.com) offers *Financial Peace University*. Ron Blue provides resources from everyday stewardship (www.everydaysteward.com) to advanced financial questions (www.ronblue.com). At the Virginia Baptist Foundation, 804-672-8862, former Dover pastor Ron Hall and Rick Hurst make resources available to help individuals use their money for God’s work in and after this life.

People often think of money management as a private matter, but having a mentor, coach, or role model can make a difference that may last the rest of one’s life and even shape the future for one’s children. Derek Gordon, youth minister at New Highland Baptist Church, and his wife provide a living example of folks who followed Dave Ramsey’s “baby steps” and made lifestyle changes to move toward financial freedom. A Crown Financial coach like Sam Duenckel can help a couple or an individual make changes like that too.

Churches also have a responsibility as stewards and are accountable for the money they receive. They have ushers to collect the offering, tellers to count and deposit it, treasurers to disburse and report it, and budget committees to lead the church to allocate it. We will need a future generation of leaders to fill all these roles. However, if we do not grow a future generation of stewards, who will give the money?

Where do we begin that task? We begin with helping people meet Jesus. People who know Jesus—personally, in a loving relationship—also know the generous love of God.

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Christian giving grows out of that relationship. Someone who has received the abundant grace of God naturally grows more generous. They will give as they have received. We give from the abundant resources of time, talent, and wealth that God has entrusted to us separately and altogether. We find joy in that.

What we do speaks about what we believe. What does our giving say about us, individually and as the Body of Christ here? What does our giving say about our faith? What does the next step up in giving look like for you, for your church?

This year, Dover Baptists want to connect more people to Christ. We want those already connected to Christ to grow in their faith. As one develops a deeper relationship with Jesus, one grows in her or his understanding of the true, abundant riches God has entrusted to our care. True riches begin with the Good News of God's everlasting love freely given to each of us in Christ. God also puts earthly riches into our hands and asks that we use them—our time, our talents, and our money.

God does not want us to return our gifts unused. How will you grow more generous as you grow in your relationship with Jesus this year? With whom and in what ways will you share what God has put in your hands? May each of us ask God to show us how God wants us to use our holy gifts this year.

—Steve Allsbrook and Sam Duenckel

ESL Classes for 2010

Friday, March 5, 6:30-9:15 PM

Saturday, March 6, 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Friday, March 12, 6:30-9:15 PM

Saturday, March 13, 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Cost: \$25.00 (No need to bring lunch for Saturday sessions)

Friday, August 13, 6:30-9:15 PM

Saturday, August 14, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM

Sunday, August 15, 2:30-5:30 PM

Cost: \$30.00 (Continental breakfast on Saturday; bring lunch)

Friday, November 5, 6:30-9:15 PM

Saturday, November 6, 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Friday, November 12, 6:30-9:15 PM

Saturday, November 13, 8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Cost: \$25.00 (No need to bring lunch for Saturday sessions)

2010 VBS Curriculum Fair

The Resource Center's 2010 VBS Curriculum Fair will take place January 26-28, 1:00-8:00 p.m. (Wednesday till 5:00). View materials from a variety of publishers. The fair will be held in the Turnbull Room of Virginia Hall on the campus of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Kits ordered at the fair will qualify for special discounts.

Correction

In listing the Dover churches that sent volunteers to work on the Bluefield College cottage renovation, we failed to list **Northside Baptist Church**. We apologize for the omission.

Pray for These

The ministers of Baltimore Baptist Association churches, South African church planter Jeffrey Fololo and in Dover:

- January 3 **Ashland, First** Robert Thompson, Pastor
 Jim Townsend, Fred Horn
 Barbara Hollowell, David Axelle, Jr.
 Evelyn Castle, Lisa Reckley
 Joanie Tompkins, Ken LeFevre
 Betty Stadnick, Linda Ficklin
- January 10 **Atlee Community** Jeff Boggess, Pastor
 Glenn Hawkins, Mark Tapscott
 Roberta Lowe, Rachel Kight, Karen Goins
 Mary Beth Ayre, Tonya Carey
 Mike Abbamonte, Lil Harris, Nelson Parker
 Ross Wright, Mary Walker, Ras Peel
- January 17 **Beaverdam** Gary Stewart, Pastor
 Bruce Goldsmith, Fredda Forbes
 Lisa Strong, Angie Gordon
- Berea** Mark Hughes, Pastor
 Fred Gibson, Jack Mays
 Peggy Peck, Andrea Hollins
- January 24 **Beulah** Edward Shepard, Pastor
 Anna Burgess
- Biltmore** Dennis Stamey, Pastor
 Alice Cates, Todd DeFore
 Melanie Bernier, Ernie Lewis
 Mary Lou Warman
- January 31 **Black Creek** Without A Pastor
 Gene Burrus

WMU News

- February 15-21 Focus on WMU - "Called To Love"
 February 20 Children's Ministry Day

Central Virginia Baptist Ministries Conference for Deacons and Pastors

"Serving the Church in a Changing World"

March 22, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

**Mount Vernon Baptist Church
11220 Nuckols Road, Glen Allen**

- 6:00 p.m. Refreshment/Bookstore in Worship Center
 6:30 p.m. Welcome & Plenary Session: Dr. Don Runion
 7:00 p.m. Session
 7:50 p.m. Refreshment Break
 8:00 p.m. Session II

Register at www.cvbm.org beginning January 18. E-mail gayle.taylor@cvbm.org or phone 804-598-6350 for more information.

Position Available

Four Mile Creek Baptist Church is seeking a part-time sanctuary custodian. For information and employment application, please contact Ms. Kelly Childress at 804-795-2044. A copy of the job description is available with the application. Completed applications must be returned to Four Mile Creek Baptist Church, Attention: Job Application, 2950 New Market Road, Henrico, VA 23231.



Dover Baptist Association
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***"a resource and ally for
churches and their leaders"***

Steve Allsbrook, Director of Missions
Sam Duenckel, Associate for Missions
Sandy Weakley, Administrative Assistant
Sue Hall, Office Secretary
Nancy McFaden, Office Assistant
Bob Boggs, Associate for Ministry to Church Leaders
Barbara Boggs, Associate for Ministry to Church Leader
Families
Nita May, Regional Ministries Coordinator, CVBM

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 109
Richmond, VA

Church News

Hardy Central Baptist Church collected 119 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Kentwood Baptist Church collected 111 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Pioneer Baptist Church and Grace Baptist Church in Tappahannock, presented a joint Christmas Musical Theater Presentation on December 13-14 and again on December 20-21 entitled *A Baby Changes Everything*. Pioneer Baptist Church also collected 105 shoe boxes to be distributed to children in Mexico.

Sharon Baptist Church collected approximately 100 Christmas cards which were sent to military service men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan. The church is accepting new and "gently worn" baby clothes to go the "Peanut Butter Jelly Time" ministry. Please contact the church office, 804-769-2320, if you would like to contribute.

Dover Connections Team Hosts Pastors Lunch on January 21

Thursday, January 21, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Cool Spring Baptist Church

The Dover Connections Team invites pastors of churches that have decided to participate in (or want more information about) the Dover Connections Project to lunch. The team will host the lunch at Cool Spring Baptist Church on Thursday, January 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This lunch will allow pastors to ask questions about the project and options such as the Dover Connections Consultant Project. Any pastor that would like to attend should e-mail steve@doverbaptist.org or contact the Dover office, 804-550-1980.

2010 IRS Mileage Rates

The Internal Revenue Service has issued the 2010 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning January 1, 2010, the standard mileage rates will be 50 cents per mile for business miles driven, 16.5 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, and 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations. Visit www.irs.gov for details.

Hepler Scholarship Applications Due by March 15, 2010

The scholarship will go to a member of a Dover Association church who is or will be pursuing a diploma, degree, or graduate degree. Applications for the 2010 W. Paul Hepler Scholarship must be received in the Dover Office not later than March 15, 2010. Visit www.doverbaptist.org or phone the Dover office, 804-550-1980, for details and an application.

BGAV Scholarship and Ministerial Education Applications Due by April 1

The Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) Scholarships and Ministerial Educational Committee is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Through Cooperative Missions dollars, the BGAV provides scholarships and ministerial educational funds for eligible Virginia Baptist students who need aid in financing their education. Applications must be received by April 1, 2010. Students from BGAV churches are encouraged to apply. Please phone the Virginia Baptist Mission Board at 804-915-5000 or 800-255-2428 or visit www.VBMB.org.