



Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"

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March 2010

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Dover Ministers Conference

Monday, March 15, 10:30 a.m.

**Dover Conference Center
Program on Organ Donation**

Lunch Cost: \$7.00 per person

*Please make lunch reservations with the Dover
Office by Wednesday, March 10.*

CVBM Conference for Pastors and Deacons

**Monday, March 22 at Mount Vernon Baptist
Church, 11220 Nuckols Road, Glen Allen**

6:00 P.M. Refreshments

6:30 P.M. Plenary Session with Don Runion

7:00 P.M. Session I

8:00 P.M. Session II

*Register now at www.cvbm.org or call 804-598-
6350 for more information*

Hepler Scholarship

Applications Due March 15

The \$750 scholarship will go to a member of a Dover Baptist Association church who is or will be pursuing a diploma, degree, or graduate degree. Applications must be received in the Dover Office not later than March 15. Visit www.doverbaptist.org or phone 804-550-1980 for an application or more information.

Give More to Help Your Church this Winter

Due to wintry weather, most area churches cancelled services two or three times since December 20 and have experienced reduced attendance. On those days, you did not have your usual church experience. Your church did not have its usual experience either, including some of the best winter Sundays for attendance and offering.

Unless the weather also affects one's income, a missed Sunday probably does not affect the giving of those who give monthly. Depending one's giving pattern, someone who gives weekly or only gives when they attend may not give a double offering following a missed Sunday. Giving statistics show that churches seldom make up all the offerings missed when the church cancels its services. Cancelling services on two or three Sundays can make a huge difference in the financial health of a church.

A church may reduce its missions giving for a missed offering, but it still has to pay its bills. Heating costs and salaries still have to be paid, and the church may have incurred additional costs (e.g., snow removal).

One Dover church held its worship service on the Internet, and another moved its service to the afternoon, allowing time for thawing. One church that cancelled its service sent an e-mail announcement of the cancellation, suggesting things to do with the time not spent at church, and asking that people remember to give.

At least one Dover pastor doubled his weekly offering following a missed Sunday and invited the congregation to do the same. Another pastor recorded a brief video explaining the church's financial situation and asking people to mail their gifts or give via the Internet.

How will you help your church make up the missed offerings? If you have not done so, please give an additional amount to help your church pay its ongoing bills. Even if your giving was not affected, consider an additional gift to help your church weather this winter and give it a stronger financial footing for warmer seasons to come.

Thank you for all your gifts. May God provide resources for you to share with your church and others.

CVBM Vacation Bible School Conference

Monday, April 19, Gayton Baptist Church

13501 N. Gayton Road, Richmond

5:45 p.m. Dinner (Lasagna, salad, and dessert), Cost \$7.00

(Dinner reservations required, accepted until April 15)

7:15-7:45 p.m. Choose one preview of VBS literature

LifeWay • Group • Standard • Gospel Light • Cokesbury

7:55-9:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions (Choose 1)

Directors • Teaching Preschoolers in VBS • Teaching Children in VBS
Leading a Child to Christ • Reaching the Hispanic Community • Recreation
Missions in VBS • Art Activities • Snacks (healthy snacks on a budget)

Bookstore open 5:30-8:30 with VBS materials available for purchase

E-mail reservations to gayle.taylor@cvbm.org or call (804) 598-6350.

Make checks to Central Virginia Baptist Ministries, Inc. at the door or send to CVBM, c/o Joan Hudson, 1975 Urbine Road, Powhatan, VA 23139.

This Band of Brothers Made Their Mark

After Cecil Marsh died, Steve Allsbrook and I met for our weekly briefing. They had been colleagues on the Virginia Baptist state staff. Cecil and I had been fellow students at the University of Richmond 59 years ago (I graduated in 1952) and remained friends over the years. I said, "I am losing my college friends, Cecil, Bill Dillard, Bill Hale..."

Steve replied, "Bob, many of you who graduated from Richmond around that time made quite a mark on Virginia Baptists." I never thought of it that way. There is a group of us Baptist ministers that went to school together 60 years ago.

The University of Richmond was our only Baptist senior college then. My pastor had said, "Future Virginia Baptist pastors go to UofR." I transferred from a state school.

Why so many Virginia Baptist preachers at one school? At Richmond my major professor had been a missionary and professor in China. The history department head had served as the president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Questions about the faith were not annoying but expected there. Answers were not given as dogma. Rather, both sides of an issue became suggested reading. We were to solve the problems ourselves. This form of teaching takes more time, but later, as a mature pastor faced by some wild-eyed person's far-fetched beliefs, I remembered, "Study both sides, then come to a thought-through answer."

The "Dean of Virginia Pastors" of that day, Solon Cousins chaired the religion department. His used a preaching style of nineteenth-century oratory. Though a beauty to behold, we had better sense than to emulate it.

Dr. Cousins asked us to *write out our sermons in full* for the first seven years of ministry. He wanted us to be fully prepared each Sunday. After seven years, it became impossible to do otherwise.

Solon Cousins studied at Edinburgh. He taught us that the Lord God "progressively revealed" to each generation all it could understand of Him. Comprehension grew with each new generation. When humanity could understand God as fully as humanly possible, God sent Christ. I am grateful to Dr. Cousins for that insight.

More than my cohort at UofR, I see two earlier generations that made germinal contributions to Virginia Baptists. When I was ordained 54 years ago, the grey-beards were giants who set the tone for Virginia Baptists. For example, at General Association meetings, messengers spoke civilly to issues in which there were strong feelings on both sides. If one speaker attacked another speaker, the moderator would issue a sharp rap of the gavel and an equally clear, "Out of order!" The whole body would reflect agreement. "Respect a brother in Christ," those older ministers demanded. They gave stability.

The younger of those generations, just rising to leadership positions, made great contributions as pioneers who nudged us toward good scholarship, continuing pastoral education, and a regenerated—not lukewarm—church. That generation of leaders sought something fresh. They stepped away from what they perceived as the stodginess of the past. Those leaders brought energy and excitement. Both generations shaped mine. I admired them. I thank God for them.

So, what about our cohort? We were the first to have the advantage of the pastoral care training movement.

We gave part of our lives to racial issues like segregation and school intergration. I recall writing a paper on Myrdol's *The American Dilemma*, a study of the effects of race, in one of my UofR sociology classes. (That book was cited later in the *Brown vs. Board of Education* case.) It opened my eyes to the society in which I grew up.

Later, I knew ministers who had crosses burned in their yards or lost their jobs over racial issues. Link that to the Bible's command to look after the weak and the poor; you have a perfect storm.

In 1964 several of my classmates—young Virginia pastors—had the opportunity to hear Martin Luther King speak at the 150-year celebration of the Triennial Convention. He made a powerful impression. We saw one aspect of our ministry would be to work toward a Christian atmosphere for persons of all races in the churches and communities we served. We had riots in our land but never had the civil war I dreaded might happen then. I even marched alongside black ministers after the murder of Martin Luther King. We have experienced God moving among us.

At UofR I got to study the Great Depression in three classes at the same time: history, economics, and sociology. As children in the 1930s, my generation did not bear adult responsibilities, but we lived through the effects of that time. Our schools reflected cuts like those now being made in local schools. I pray the youth of this generation will not have to live through what my generation had to live through, and I hope our leaders can avert that.

My cohort sloshed—and cried—through the controversy that gripped the Southern Baptist Convention from the late 1970s through the 1980s. A few became leaders as "resurgents." More became soldiers in the "moderate" camp. Some of us became pioneers in the possibilities of women in ministry. My cohort experienced a cultural seachange. It's been a plate full.

Naming fellow students at Richmond, I will surely leave out many. Yet, let me give you a flavor. Along with Cecil (who was such a creative innovator), we have lost Bill Dillard. What a pastor! Phil Cumbia was another fine pastor. Last November, Garvin Martin, a quiet spirit, died. Bill Hale, a fresh spirit, has gone too. People like Rex Bennett and Buddy Rosser showed true humility! George Trotter served as a missionary to Indonesia. Jack Price looked after our retirement on the Virginia Baptist state staff. Charlie Bradley's pulpit Bible was the Greek New Testament! Robert Alley enjoyed making us think (and enjoyed the scorn he received). George Bowman and Maurice Briggs wrote books in the pastoral care field. Tom Downing was an outstanding preacher.

Our circle is smaller. Still, we have Charles Beckett, a former missionary who reminds us we need to know more about Islam. Bill Stennett also served as a missionary. Larry Matthews tells us family systems matter. Marvin Kerby, Fred Skaggs, Charles Gibson, Walter Bradley, Mac Hutton, and John Houghton have been good pastors too. Charlie Fuller chaired the SBC Peace Committee. The BTSR homiletics chair bears the name of Chester Brown. Tom Jackson wrote the hymn *We Are Called to Be God's People*. John Edmonds retired as a director of missions. Lynn Dickerson and Walt Jackson taught.

Note, I named no women. That's a story for another day.

I'm not sure if our cohort made a mark as great as the one of which Steve Allsbrook speaks. I do know I am losing a lot of good friends.

—Bob Boggs

Pray for These

The ministers of Baltimore Baptist Association churches, South African church planter Jeffrey Fololo, and, in Dover, the launch of Atlee Community Church-West End at Short Pump Middle School on March 14 at 10:30 a.m. and:

March 7 **Elon** Randy Secrist, Pastor
Beth Reed, Sharon Secrist
March 14 **Emmaus** Vallerie King, Pastor
Tiffany Slaughter, Sylvia Coates
March 14 **Faith** Michael Hester, Pastor
March 21 **Fort Lee** Michael Jordan, Pastor
Johnathan J. Woodham,
Michelle Hancock, Susan Nowell
March 28 **Four Mile Creek** Sam Grozdanov, Pastor
Jeff Mills, Jackie Horst,
Nancy Foster, Kelly Childress

Dover Baptists Express Sympathy

...to Tom Gaskins and family in the loss of his mother Kathryn Gaskins on January 27. Tom serves as pastor of **North Run Baptist Church**.

...to the family of Cecil Marsh who died January 18. Cecil served as pastor of **Hillcrest Baptist Church**.

Congratulations

...to **Sylvia Coates**, Organist/Choir Director of Emmaus Baptist Church, who was honored for her many years of service and given the title Minister of Music.

Personnel Changes

Alice Cates has concluded her service as Associate Pastor and Lauren Deer has concluded her service as Minister to Students at **Biltmore Baptist Church**.

Cameron Dahl now serves as Minister of Worship Arts and Jimmie Miles now serves as Consultant for Discipleship and Education at **Mount Vernon Baptist Church**.

Nancy McFaden has concluded her service as Office Assistant and Peggy Etheridge has returned as Office Assistant at **Dover Baptist Association**.

Position Available

Corinth Baptist Church seeks a part-time Youth Minister. Ministry calling essential. Must have or be pursuing at least a Bachelor's Degree, experience with youth and theological training preferred. E-mail resume to lpcaldwell@cox.net.

Sharon Baptist Church seeks a part-time Youth Pastor. Ministry calling essential. Experience working with teenagers preferred. E-mail resume to sharonbc@verizon.net or call 804-769-2320 for more information.

Broadus Memorial Baptist Church seeks a Church Cook. This is a contract position paid per meal and also an important ministry to the church family. Must be able to handle the planning, purchasing and preparation involved in serving approximately 200 people per week, be able to help coordinate the volunteer teams scheduled to help cook and serve, and have a knowledge of Health Department guidelines. Contact Pastor Phil Peacock at 804-779-2700 or e-mail phil@broadusmbc.org.

DWMU News

March 7-14 North American Mission Emphasis
March 26-27 Dover WMU Council meeting and retreat at the Dover Conference Center
Area V April 7 10:30 a.m. Little Elam, lunch
W/M East April 12 6:30 p.m. Antioch, dinner
Area IV April 20 10:00 a.m. Beulah, lunch
W/M West April 26 7:00 p.m. Taylorsville, dinner
May 11 Dover WMU Annual Meeting, First Baptist Church, Ashland. *Tickets required—see your WMU Director.*

ESL Teacher Certification Training

**Friday, March 5, 6:30-9:15 p.m. and
Saturday, March 6, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**Friday, March 12, 6:30-9:15 p.m. and
Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 P.M.**

Cost: \$25.00 (includes workbook)

Students must attend all sessions to receive their certificate.

To register, please e-mail info@doverbaptist.org or call 804-550-1980.

"Buckets of Hope" Due March 15

Help feed the people of Haiti through the Southern Baptist "Buckets of Hope" ministry. A "Bucket of Hope" consists of a plastic five-gallon bucket packed with selected food items. For approximately \$30, anyone can purchase the materials and assemble a "Bucket of Hope."

The food contained in a single bucket will feed a Haitian family for a week. Including an additional \$10 cash contribution, placed in an envelope and attached to the lid of the bucket, will help pay the cost of transporting the relief buckets to Haiti.

Assembled "Buckets of Hope" must be delivered to your regional collection site by March 15. To purchase a bucket and find a collection site, e-mail jeannette.hildebrand@vbmb.org or call Jeannette Hildebrand at (800) 225-2428, ext. 7260.

Stop Hunger Event Rescheduled

The Stop Hunger Now packaging event scheduled by the Virginia Baptist Mission Board for February 5 and 6 has been rescheduled to due to inclement weather. The new dates are Tuesday, April 6 and Wednesday, April 7. The volunteer time periods will be adjusted to accommodate these new dates.

All participating groups and individuals must register for a specific time slot on the new dates. *Previous registrations for February cannot be honored for the new dates.*

E-mail jeannette.hildebrand@vbmb.org for more information or call (800) 225-2428, ext. 7260.

Collecting Shoes, Boots for Orphans

New Bethesda Baptist Church is collecting new shoes, socks, and shoelaces to share with orphanages and children in need throughout the world. There is an urgent need for black school shoes, leather and canvas athletic shoes, and warm winter boots in sizes for children ages 7-18. The community-wide goal is to collect 1,000 pairs for world-wide distribution. The collection ends March 31. For more information on this ministry opportunity, visit www.shoesfororphansouls.org.



Dover Baptist Association
11006 Lakeridge Parkway
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***"a resource and ally for
churches and their leaders"***

Non-Profit Organization
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Richmond, VA

Steve Allsbrook, Director of Missions
Sam Duenckel, Associate for Missions
Sandy Weakley, Administrative Assistant
Sue Hall, Office Secretary
Peggy Etheridge, 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

Church News

Atlee Community Church will celebrate its 15th anniversary on March 7, 10:30 a.m. On March 14 at 10:30 a.m., the church will launch its first satellite congregation, Atlee Community Church-West End at Short Pump High School.

Cool Spring Baptist Church high school students participated in the 30-Hour Famine February 26-27.

Corinth Baptist Church young adults Sunday School group moved to the Village Market and Deli on February 7. They provide a casual atmosphere for non-Christians and non-church-goers to discuss spiritual issues away from a traditional church setting.

Glen Allen Baptist Church hosted "five Fabulous Sundays" in January. After a noon meal, the event covered Discipleship, Outreach, The Bible and Missions, Baptist Distinctives, and The Bible Speaks to Marriage and Family. Speakers included Tim Norman, Mary Ella Gibson, Matt Davidson, and Cecil Sherman.

Hunton Baptist Church held their first annual children's pajama party on February 20. The kids wore pajamas and slippers, made pizzas, watched movies, played games, and made ice cream sundaes. The Youth Group attended "Disciple Now" at New Highland Baptist Church February 2. They collected 15,000 bottle caps for With Love from Jesus Ministries.

Kentwood Heights Baptist Church hosted Dallas Holm in concert on January 31. The church held its Awana Grand Prix on February 13.

Mount Olivet Baptist Church Seniors traveled to BTSR to see the play *Shadowlands* on January 28.

Mount Vernon Baptist Church hosted the Virginia Baptist Handbell Festival February 19 and 20.

North Run Baptist Church Women on Mission prepared and served an evening meal for CARITAS on January 28.

Parham Road Baptist Church hosted their first Sunday Night Live event for 2010 on January 24 with the worship band "Offering" and raised \$390 for Haiti relief.

Shalom Baptist Church will host CARITAS February 27-March 6. The Youth Group is putting on a talent show March 13 featuring talent, concession, and dessert auction. All proceeds benefit the youth group's missions events for 2010.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church will host CARITAS March 20-27.

Hold the Date, More Details to Come

633 Youth Event Set for April 24

This year's 633 Youth Event will feature Ben Glenn, known as "The Messy Preacher." Additional details were still pending at press time.

For several years this event has attracted youth and their leaders. Prior events have included quality teaching and moving music. This year's planning team promises the same.

Share the date now. For more information today, e-mail d.gordon@newhighlandbaptist.org. Get more details later. Check www.doverbaptist.org or the next issue of the "Dover Diary" for news later.

Sam Duenckel to Lead Crown Financial Money Map Coach Training

Dover Baptist Association will host the Crown Financial Money Map Coach Training course beginning March 15. The course lasts ten weeks. Those who complete the course will have the credentials to serve as Money Map coaches.

Participants will learn God's financial principles. The Money Map coach training empowers one to help others. A Money Map coach serves as a guide that helps another through the program at the student's pace. Each time a coach teaches a participant, the coach is refreshed on God's financial principals as well.

Crown Financial Money Map Coach Training
Mondays, March 15-May 17
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Dover Conference Center
11006 Lakeridge Parkway, Ashland

To register or for more information
e-mail sam@doverbaptist.org
or phone Sam Duenckel, (804) 550-1980