



Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"

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May 2010

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Dover Ministers Conference

Monday, May 17

Depart Dover Center at 10:00 a.m.

Tour Peter Paul Development Center at 10:30

1708 North 22nd Street, Richmond, 23223

Lunch by reservation

Please make reservations with the Dover Office by Wednesday, May 12. For more information about the Peter Paul Development Center, visit www.peterpauldevcenter.org.

Dover Council Annual

Planning Retreat for 2011

Thursday, May 27, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Optional Breakfast, 8:00 a.m.

Dover Conference Center

Please confirm your attendance by May 20 and tell the Dover office whether to have breakfast for you.

Budget and calendar forms were mailed to each council member. Contact the Dover office for additional copies. *Budget and proposed calendar dates for 2011 should arrive at the Dover office by Monday, May 17.*

Week of Prayer for Association Missions May 16-23, 2010

Dover Baptist Association Leslie and Hazel Watson Missions Offering 2010 Goal: \$26,000	
New Work and Mission Partnerships helps our Baltimore Partnership, an indigenous church planter in South Africa, and partnership missions scholarships for Dover Baptists	\$5,000
Cooperative Ministries and Outreach helps ministry partners across the Richmond area who serve area college students, the poor, those with unexpected pregnancy, persons in jail, single mothers with children, raceway guests, and who serve in other groups as they tell about Jesus	\$11,550
Help for Persons in Need helps ministry partners in every county with a Dover church—people who help homeless persons, battered women and their children, those needing medical care, the elderly, and people who need help to build a new life and gain job skills	\$8,000
Support for Ministers and Their Families helps provide support, counseling, and emergency assistance for ministers and their families	\$1,450
Dover Baptist Association Leslie and Hazel Watson Missions Offering 2010 Goal	
	\$26,000

The Leslie and Hazel Watson Missions Offering supports ministries in and beyond the seven counties served by the churches of Dover Baptist Association. Your gifts could make a great difference for these ministries! This offering does not fund the Dover Baptist Association operating budget.

An Enemy to Love

Many know that WWJD reminds one to ask, “What would Jesus do?” In a similar way, WWJB asks, “What would Jesus buy?” Change the D or B to S. What would Jesus say—to me?

In Matthew 5:43-48 and Luke 6:27-38, Jesus says, “Love your enemies.” Do I have enemies? Do my actions show I love them? What about you?

These days, some of our personal and collective behavior has such an angry tone. That leaves me wondering what happened to the courtesy we once showed and expected others to show one another. Do we remember Jesus said, “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Luke 6:31 NIV)? Maybe we want to act like we did not hear Jesus. Does this Golden Rule apply to everyone in my life, even my enemies?

Fear keeps us from doing or motivates us to do things we would do differently if we were not afraid. Many feel anxious today. We expect our leaders to protect us from terrorist threats, and we accept government security measures as the cost of that protection. We buy guns, alarms, and insurance, while economic fears move us to cut other costs.

What do we fear? Do we recognize the *real* enemy? In old black and white cowboy films, the good guys often wore white hats and the bad guys wore black hats. According to one of my mentors, we should all think of everyone as wearing a gray hat. Jesus tells us to “be perfect” like God (Matthew 5:48), but, other than Jesus, no one does it perfectly.

You, I, and others who follow Jesus live imperfectly. People across the land feel anxious about many things, and it shows. How does Jesus want His Body—its churches and the individuals in them—to act in our anxious times?

Jesus might say we can help or we can do harm. We can do harm by taking sides. Taking sides has the effect of dividing. Jesus prayed God would make His followers one (John 17:11). Jesus said a house divided will fall (Luke 11:17, Matthew 12:25, Mark 3:25). Either/or thinking, thinking that forgets the “gray” areas, can harm. Jesus tells us to show mercy and cautions us about taking the role of judge (Luke 6:36-37). To me, Jesus says, “Do no harm.”

In our anxious times Jesus might say it would help if we who follow Him remember that we all “wear gray hats.” To me, Jesus says, “Look at others like I do.” It helps me to remember that everyone but Jesus misses God’s mark. That puts me on equal footing with everyone else, on the ground at the foot of the cross of Christ.

If I can see that, I can also see Christ has defeated the real enemy. If I cannot see that, then I can see another for whom Christ died as my enemy.

I want to picture my “enemy” and me standing in a field one night, hearing an angel say, “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people” (Luke 2:10 KJV). “Fear not!” What a message for all people in our anxious times!

God’s news is good, and Jesus says, “Love your enemies.” Shall I let anything keep me from sharing it with any other person? Will you?

The church—its leaders and its members—should always stand tall and speak clearly. That includes me. I want to remember that God is not threatened when I see another person as the enemy, just heartbroken.

—Steve Allsbrook

Conference Leaders Encourage Deacons to “Set the Bar Higher”

Mount Vernon Baptist Church hosted the Central Virginia Baptist Ministries conference for deacons and pastors on March 22. It drew quite a crowd—395 registered!

Host pastor Don Runion inspired everyone as the conference began. Don took his text from Colossians 3:23. It says, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,” (NIV).

Lynn Anderson shares a story from Max Lucado in *They Smell Like Sheep*. Max told a childhood memory. He set up a high jump bar—a cane fishing pole—in the backyard with an old mattress for his landing pad. Young Max spent many hours throwing himself over that bar.

“I was proud of my achievements,” Max said, “until the day my big brother and his friends came by. They raised the bar. When they left, the bar was at a new level and I had a new concept of what it means to jump high.”

Max used this story to illustrate how deacons and other leaders are called to raise the bar in the church. He pointed out that deacons set the example and lift the standard of what it means to be a Christian. According to Lucado, being with them should cause us to think higher thoughts and set higher dreams. *The life of a deacon should inspire us to raise the bar in our home life, prayer life, character, and dedication.*

We offer conferences like this one to raise the bar of Christian leadership in our churches. We ask for comments about what we did well and what we could do better. This year’s evaluations affirmed that we helped raise the bar.

“This session was a great beginning [for me],” wrote one deacon. “I need to learn more about how I can serve Jesus.”

Another deacon wrote, “[The conference leader]...touched on an issue I just spent the day dealing with.”

We get one consistent complaint. One person shared, “[The conference leader] is so full of information and experiences—I need more time...” A similar comment came from one who came to Baptist life from another denomination. For that person, the conference sessions “...just scratched the surface for [one] struggling to understand Baptist structure.”

It inspired others. “This focus on how to ensure the spiritual health of leaders (deacons/pastors) is strong, so it will rub off on the church as a whole.”

Was it worth the time and resources the planning team, the associations, and the host church put into it? One new deacon said the conference was “a wonderful opportunity for people like me who are...looking for better ways to serve.”

For me, it was good to be in God’s house with so many men and women who serve God as church leaders, leaders who serve God with all their heart. Serving God well begins when one serves God with all one’s heart. People like that do whatever they do “as...for the Lord.” They set the example.

Does that example make a difference? A servant named Albert Schweitzer said it does. Schweitzer said, “Example is not the main thing in persuading others; it’s the only thing.”

I am grateful for everyone who serves in the Body of Christ. I thank God for deacons and pastors. We do good work when we help them serve even better. May our voices and actions follow their example and encourage them to set the bar even higher!

—Nita May



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

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Peggy Etheridge, Ministry 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

Berea Baptist Church collected \$1,880, 18 "Buckets of Hope", and 300 pairs of shoes that are on their way to Haiti, plus \$200 to help with the cost of shipping. Berea will hold the Rudy Wood Memorial Golf Tournament, Noon-7:30 p.m. on May 5. (Contact the church for information.)

Black Creek Baptist Church held a "children/youth night out" at Hanover Lanes with dinner and bowling for all children and Youth on April 7.

Colosse Baptist Church hosted a Garden Club Tour luncheon on April 23 with over 200 box lunches provided by the Faith Bears Mission Group.

Cool Spring Baptist Church held a Boys and Girls Spring Break Fitness Camp, April 8-9.

Corinth Baptist Church held a pancake supper followed by their Good Friday Service on April 2.

Elon Baptist Church showed the movie *The Robe* after service on March 28 and served a light lunch. They also held a "Mother Daughter Spring Fling Vendor Show" on April 10.

Emmas Baptist Church launched their new website on April 1, www.emmasbapchurch.com.

Hardy Central Baptist Church members packaged 700 pounds of food for the "Buckets of Hope." The "Jam and Jelly Children's Group" held a dinner on March 17. They served 91 people and raised \$841 to start a puppet ministry. The church hosted a building fund on April 17 and presented plans for a proposed multi-purpose building.

Hunton Baptist Church prepared 192 Easter Baskets for the InterFaith Services of Henrico County.

Indian View Baptist Church held a "Groundbreaking and Blessing Ceremony" on April 4.

Mechanicsville Baptist Church Women on Mission placed spoon prayer reminders in the church foyer to help members remember to pray for missionaries around the world. They also prepared spoons with the message "God Loves You" to place in each bag of groceries sent out from the church's food pantry.

Church News (continued)

Mount Olivet Baptist Church held a Dessert Auction on March 28 with all proceeds going to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Mount Vernon Baptist Church has started a new Sunday morning group for young adults.

Northside Baptist Church dedicated their new playground facility and held Parent's Night Out on April 3.

Parham Road Baptist Church's children presented their Easter Program "Jesus, the One and Only" on March 28. The church hosted Cathy Miller, "The Singing Quilter," on April 8.

Sharon Baptist Church held a Community Easter Music Program on April 11 to benefit CornerStone Ministries. A mission team traveled to Smith Island, Maryland, April 10-17. The WMU was recently blessed by being an integral part in the formation of a brand new WMU in the country of India.

Shalom Baptist Church youth group participated in the World Vision's 30 Hour Famine April 23 through 24.

Travis Cottrell in Concert

Thursday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.

Cool Spring Baptist Church

9283 Atlee Station Road

Mechanicsville, 23116

"Jesus Saves LIVE Tour"

with The Cool Spring Adult Choir

\$10 General Admission

Tickets Available NOW online ONLY!

www.itickets.com/events/242144

Dover Office Closed for Memorial Day

The Dover Office will be closed on Monday, May 31.