



Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"

Vol. XXXII, No. 7

July 2010

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Leslie and Hazel Watson Missions Offering

Goal: \$26,000.00

Received as of June 18: \$12,615.20

AMO Goal: \$26,000



ESL Teacher Certification Training

Friday, August 13, 6:30-9:15 p.m.
Saturday, August 14, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Bring lunch)
Sunday, August 15, 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Cost: \$30.00 (includes workbook)

Dover Office Closed for Holiday

The Dover Office will be closed Friday, July 2.

Dover Churches Launch New Ministries to Connect with Their Communities

The Dover Connections Project is moving full steam ahead! Each participating church has committed to start "at least one new thing" to connect with the people in their community. That new thing may open the door to connect with their neighbors. Their ministry does not stop with doing one new thing—it keeps on going!

Several churches have submitted grant requests for a new ministry as part of the Connections Project. To receive a grant, each church must show how they will follow up with the people with whom they connect. Ministry projects that fulfill the commitment and the related follow-up efforts do not happen on only one day. Each church's "one new thing" should lead to a continual pattern of connecting to people in the church community.

So far, 25 Dover churches have made that commitment. Some have already discerned what God calls them to do to connect with their neighbors in new ways. Others have just started that process.

Parham Road Baptist Church was the first church to announce its "new thing" for connecting to its community. The church will hold a **patriotic parade and block party** on Saturday, July 3, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. For several months church members have walked the area, praying, greeting neighbors, and sharing information. The parade route runs through several of those neighborhoods and leads to a block party at the church. **Please volunteer to help with the block party so church members may visit with their guests!** Call the church or visit www.parhamparade.com for information or to volunteer.

Northside Baptist Church will host a **Children's Music and Arts Camp** for Grades 1-6 July 5-9, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. daily. Local teachers will lead classes in choral singing, cultural arts, and recreation. Other options include classes in drama, puppets, Orff and African drumming, sign language, and creative movement. Call 804-746-4952, to learn more.

First Baptist Church, Ashland has discovered a new way to connect to their neighbors. Starting Saturday, July 10, the church will hold two **community-wide yard sales at the church** each month through October. The sales will start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 pm. Connections Project leaders are helping train church members to connect with the people who shop and who bring things to sell. They will have information about church ministries and provide refreshments. Visit www.firstbaptistashland.org or call the church for more information.

Goochland Baptist Church will host **Dogs Day** on Saturday, August 7 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Local canines will get to enjoy the sun and bring the human(s) of their choice. Dog lovers of all sorts may visit veterinarians, trainers, groomers, and other professionals at the church that day. Learn about careers in dog care, dog safety for kids, how to select the right dog, and more. A professional photographer will provide free dog portraits. The day will also feature demonstrations by dogs serving in dedicated roles like law enforcement, search and rescue, and services to individuals with special needs. Go to www.dogs-day.org or call the church to learn more.

Thank God for Pete!

As of June 30, Pete du Plessis no longer serves as the director of missions for Richmond Baptist Association. Jim Hamacher and Steve Allsbrook, Pete's peers in Middle District and Dover Baptist Associations, already miss him.

Steve had known Pete for years. Steve said, "I thought Pete would make a great DoM for Richmond, and he did."

Soon after Jim came to Middle District, he met Pete. Jim said, "I liked Pete du Plessis from the very first time I met him. His bald head and boyish grin instantly won me over. Not only that, he had a name like mine—one hard to figure out."

Pete's experience as both a pastor and a staff minister served him well in his role as director of missions. "He keeps [thorough] records of every meeting he ever attends," Jim said. Both Jim and Steve appreciate Pete's attention to detail and how Pete accepted the various responsibilities related to his work in Richmond and across the capital region.

Pete started his work at a difficult time in the life of Richmond Baptist Association. He inherited financial problems. He helped the association through some key staff transitions. Pete gave Richmond the leadership it needed.

As the premier ambassador for Richmond Baptist Association, Pete also worked to make the churches of Richmond aware of the association and its ministries. He shared significant times in the lives of the churches. He provided services to the churches and their leaders. Pete did well in how he served the association, its churches, and their leaders.

Pete brought a cooperative spirit too. While he served as pastor at Staples Mill Road Baptist Church, Pete had helped lead Richmond Baptist Association to take part in the conversations that led to increased cooperation with Middle District and Dover. As a pastor, Pete talked the talk of cooperation and, as DoM, Pete walked the walk.

Pete has acted courageously to help Richmond Baptists make some important decisions. He has led the association in cooperating with others. He has also asked Richmond Baptists to attempt some things that have not turned out as planned. Pete's actions as director of missions show the courage born of his commitment to Christ.

Now he has made another courageous decision in deciding to retire at this time. Richmond Baptist Association has determined it needs to make some strategic decisions for its future. That process will take some time. After those strategic decisions get made, association leaders will have the duty to implement them. For Pete, to stay through that process would mean making a new multi-year commitment. Steve said, "Pete understands he has completed the work God gave him as director of missions."

No one wants to let go of such a leader. Soon God will send another leader who, like Pete, will come as the right leader for the time. Pete will assume a new role as the interim pastor of Oakwood Memorial Baptist Church.

Thank God for Pete! He has faithfully tended the work to which God called him. Pete has served well. Now God calls him to another role, and many will miss him.

Jim and Steve said, "We will miss our friend Pete. We thank God for Pete's leadership and cooperative spirit. We have had the joy to work beside him as colleagues and peers in ministry and will always count him as a friend."

Changes Coming at CVBM

The churches that form Dover, Middle District, and Richmond Baptist Associations believe we can do more together than we can alone. So do the three associations. We have worked hard to cooperate during the last ten years. We worked under a temporary name. We called it Capital Region Baptist Initiative or CRBI. Later, we created Central Virginia Baptist Ministries. We know that as CVBM.

A Coordinating Team leads Central Virginia Baptist Ministries. Four people from each association form the team. The team chose a full-time regional ministries coordinator to help CVBM accomplish its goals of continuing and expanding our cooperative work. Nita May answered the call to fill that role. Later, Gayle Taylor joined the team as Nita's assistant.

Until now, the three associations have underwritten the work of CVBM and its staff. Earlier this year, Middle District began to review its priorities. Director of Missions Jim Hamacher and other Middle District leaders want to work with Richmond and Dover. However, Middle District has determined it will seek more effective ways to work, including different ways to cooperate with its peer associations.

The search for the successor to retiring Director of Missions Pete du Plessis has forced Richmond to review how it allocates its resources. Richmond leaders concluded they could not fund the staff of CVBM next year. Both Middle District and Richmond have given notice they will not continue funding CVBM at current levels beginning in 2011.

The CVBM Coordinating Team met on June 10. Team members and CVBM staff acknowledged the notice given by Middle District and Richmond. Team members raised questions about events already on the calendar. **The CVBM events already scheduled will go on as planned. This includes the Leadership Development Conferences on September 27, 2010 and September 26, 2011. It also includes the Deacon-Pastor Conference on March 21, 2011.**

Central Virginia Baptist Ministries may continue. CVBM may use current association staff, contract workers, or volunteers. Both Nita and Gayle plan to serve CVBM for now. (CVBM will plan an event later to honor them for their work.) The Coordinating Team will answer questions about who will take responsibility for CVBM assets.

Those answers will coincide with answers to larger questions the three associations must address. For example, what forms does our future cooperation take? Together we have offered training events for church leaders. We have worked together on ministry projects. If that continues, what will that look like and how we will make it happen? What will we do together differently than we have been doing?

Dover's members on the Coordinating Team ask your help. *Please pray for the staff and team members to discern God's answers to all the questions that need an answer in the next six months.* Secondly, you may have a comment or an idea that might help the team to answer these questions. *Please share your comment or idea* with the Dover office, one of Dover's Coordinating Team members, or the CVBM staff.

We celebrate how the three associations (and others) have worked together in the past few years. We celebrate the ministry we have shared with Nita and Gayle. God led us to work together, and God will lead us into the cooperative work that makes our future ministries happen.



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

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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

Colosse Baptist Church held its Annual Youth Concert on June 12. The choir of more than 30 performed skits, solos, and choral selections. The church received an offering of more than \$1,200 for this summer's Youth Mission Trip to Jenkins, KY where the team will share in Bible School, construction, music and worship.

Emmaus Baptist Church hosted the musical presentation *Down by the Creek Bank* presented by the children and youth from Providence Forge Presbyterian Church on June 6.

First Baptist Church, Ashland sent a mission team to Canada in June.

Four Mile Creek Baptist Church Youth will travel to West Virginia on their summer mission trip.

Hunton Baptist Church blessed 32 dolls and delivered them to MCV Hospital. They named three of the dolls in honor of Phillip, Jessica and Sophia Barton as they moved to serve in North Carolina and gave Sophia a doll to take with her. A group of 26 from the church attended the Annual Dover WMU meeting in May.

Mechanicsville Baptist Church sent a group of men to Bluefield College to work on a renovation project. Donations to the Men in Ministry were given in honor and/or memory of fathers on Father's Day.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church held a community-wide patriotic service on May 23 to pray for and honor our nation and all branches of the military. They held their annual walk-a-thon on June 13 to support the ministries of HopeTree Family Services. The church will hold Vacation Bible School July 5-9 with dinner at 6 p.m. and VBS from 6:30 pm to 8:30 p.m. The theme is "I Am a Child of God."

New Bethesda Baptist Church sent two mission teams to Bluefield College, and a group of 20 youth and adults went to Scott County as part of Impact Virginia. The church held a "groundbreaking celebration" on June 27 for their new fellowship hall/ministry center.

Church News (cont.)

Parham Road Baptist Church held Sunday Night Live with the Youth Performing Arts Team from Four Mile Creek Baptist leading worship. The youth presented their summer musical *Carrier* which included drama, music and the youth praise band.

Ridge Baptist Church welcomed the Youth Choir from the First Baptist Church of Forsyth, GA on June 6. Church members housed the youth and chaperones to help defray the cost of their trip. Three youth and 2 adults traveled to Myrtle Beach, SC for a Youth Summer Camp.

Mark Gungor Helps Area Couples "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage," August 20-21

Mount Gilead Full Gospel Church
2501 Mount Gilead Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23235
Friday, August 20, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 21, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Cost \$69 per couple (\$60 before August 1)

Dover Baptist Association values healthy relationships, including marriage and family relationships. *Dover has places for 50 Dover couples at a special discounted price of just \$40, available on a first-come-first-served basis. Your pastor and spouse get free admission with the paid admission for even one couple from your church!* Call (804) 550-1980 or e-mail sam@doverbaptist.org to take advantage of this special offer.

First Things First Richmond with the help of Dover Baptist Association and other Christian organizations has sponsored this marriage enrichment event. For more information go to www.firstthingsrichmond.org or visit www.doverbaptist.org.