



Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"

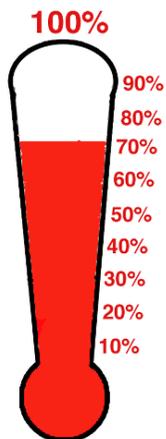
Vol. XLII, No. 9

September 2020

HOW TO CONTACT US

Phone: 804-550-1980
Mail: 11006 Lakeridge Parkway
Ashland, VA 23005
E-mail: dover.info@doverbaptist.org
maria.lynn@doverbaptist.org
sam.duenckel@doverbaptist.org
sandy.weakley@doverbaptist.org
sue.hall@doverbaptist.org
steve.smith@doverbaptist.org
Web Site: www.doverbaptist.org

Leslie and Hazel Watson Association Missions Offering



Goal: \$30,000

Received as of
August 20:

\$20,905.67

Thank You!!

Dover Office Closed on Labor Day (September 7)

The Dover office will be closed on Monday, September 7 for the holiday, and will reopen on Tuesday, September 8.

Annual Church Profiles

We will receive the ACP's from Lifeway soon but they are not yet available online. As soon as we receive the packets, they will be mailed to the churches. Also, we will let you know when they are available online for those that prefer entering your own information. Any questions, call Sue Hall at 550-1980 or email sue.hall@doverbaptist.org

Reminder: Search Committee Surveys DUE

The Dover Search Committee is seeking input from the associational leaders and all pastors of Dover churches concerning the expectations of the new Executive Director.

We are seeking your thoughts and ideas concerning the following questions: (1) What are your expectations (work related) of the new Executive Director of Dover? (2) What qualifications would you desire that the new Executive Director should have?

Please return your responses AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to the Search Committee by email: searchcommitteedba@gmail.com or mail to the Dover office: 11006 Lakeridge Pkwy, Ashland, VA 23005. Attention: Search Committee. Thank You!

from Interim Executive Director of Missions—Dr. Maria Lynn Pastors, Paper, Pandemics and Purpose

Thank you for your warm welcome to serve as the Interim Executive Director for the Dover Baptist Association. My first two weeks in the office have involved getting to know your associational staff, learning more about the work and ministry of Dover Baptists, and listening to some of the challenges and opportunities that are before us.

There is a dedicated group of pastors that come together for the ministers' support groups on Mondays and Wednesdays. Discussion in these groups has been helpful in navigating how to be the church in a pandemic and exploring personal ministry callings and life transitions.



On August 11th, the office staff hosted a Shredding and Snow Cone event in the parking lot. Dover Association church members, neighboring businesses and community members joined in bringing their documents to be shredded and cooled down with a snow cone from the Kona Ice truck. We had nearly 45 folks

stop by to join us.

As we navigate these days of Covid-19, please pray for our pastors and church leaders as they wrestle with being responsive to church member needs and safety. May this not only be a time of a viral pandemic but a pandemic of prayer, personal renewal and peace in our congregations and communities.

My role, as Interim Executive Director, includes responsibility for working with the churches of the Association, supervising the Associational Staff, and cooperating with the organizational leadership in carrying forward the purpose, the fellowship, and the most effective spiritual development of the people and churches of the Dover area. My goal is to visit each of your churches and meet with your pastors in the days ahead. If I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me at maria.lynn@doverbaptist.org or call (804) 300-6013.

Be a Blessing

Biltmore Baptist Church in Glen Allen, may be a small church, but the congregation's heart for the community and its generosity knows no bounds. The church's latest missions project is a Blessings Box with a simple rule that applies to all: Take what you need, Give what you can.

The Blessings Box is located outside of Biltmore's Clothes Closet and looks like a small bookcase with doors. Constructed by several men of the church, the Blessings Box is an outdoor food pantry filled with donated nonperishable foods, canned goods, boxed and bagged products, paper items, small toiletries, baby diapers, a few Christian books and other items that might benefit those in need.

Whether you are taking or giving the Blessings Box is always open. There's no lock on the door. It's available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

During the summer of 2019 members went door-to-door in the Biltmore community introducing themselves to neighbors and asking how they thought the church could be of service to them. Feedback was varied and included ministries that would be out of reach for the congregation at this time. But one recurring request was food insecurity and the need for assistance between paychecks.

"Biltmore's Blessings Box is a simple way to solve a temporary problem and fulfill this need identified by our community," says Pastor Ken Wright. "COVID-19 may have prevented us from being at church, but it didn't stop us from being God's church during this crisis." When people couldn't work and the need for a food ministry was heightened, construction of the box went into high gear and promotion on social media spurred the traffic of takers and givers.

The box is not intended to take the place of a food pantry, but it's to help individuals and families in a hands up situation until pay day or until they have better resources.

"A Blessings Box takes some of the embarrassment out of asking for food. Sometimes it's not easy for people to call a church and ask for assistance," said Pastor Ken. "If they need one can of corn, that's great. If they need everything in the box, that's okay, too. It's one more way for Biltmore to love and support those who work and live nearby."

Biltmore's Blessings Box is on the national Blessings Box registry (www.mapping.littlefreepantry.org) and those in need can search for boxes near them and can now find one in Glen Allen.

"The Blessing Box is for the community and is to be sustained by the community," says Barbara Francis, missions team leader. Guidelines for a successful Blessings Box indicate the sponsoring organization should be prepared to provide a third of the items for the box, with members giving a third and the community donating a third.

"So far, the generosity of the community has kept the box nearly filled. In fact, several times the box was so full that we removed a few items to allow space for others who wanted to give," Francis said.

The Blessings Box is an extension of an ongoing ministry at Biltmore—it's Clothes Closet. Open two Saturdays a month, the Clothes Closet serves between 35-50 families each week. Clothes are always free and most always unlimited. Whether you're in need of a men's 5X coat or an outfit for a toddler, there's a good chance you'll find it in the Biltmore Clothes Closet.

"When we first opened the Clothes Closet in 2017, we had a building and very little else," says Norma Evenson, Clothes Closet team leader. "We prayed for clothes, for clothes hangers, for racks to display the clothes—and we prayed for God to provide people who needed this ministry. And God has answered our prayers—in abundance."

"God blesses our work every opening," she says. "I cannot tell you the dedicated volunteers that have stepped forward. The fine people that we have met coming to the Clothes Closet, the people praying for our church, the people who share their prayer requests with us. Blessings all over."

Biltmore received a COVID-19 grant of \$1,000 from the Baptist General Association of Virginia to assist in ministries directed toward responding to the virus and its effect on the community. These funds allow the Blessings Box to offer a 'feature product' on Saturdays. The item is typically a perishable food which could not be kept in the box during the week.

On June 11 two cases of fresh corn were distributed and the response was incredibly positive.

Little was it known that this would trigger a 'season of sharing' from Clothes Closet patrons, church members and the community. The following Saturday someone came with a large box of squash and zucchini. Then there were cucumbers from a member's garden and then a large box of tomatoes from a local farmer.

"It was a special way for our friends and neighbors to express their gratitude to God for the blessings they had received. And it turned Clothes Closet Saturdays at the Blessings Box into a Farmer's Market. A free Farmer's Market," said Pastor Ken.

"The Clothes Closet and Blessings Box are providing Biltmore with a connection to people of diverse backgrounds and circumstances and during the past year God has used them to foster new ministries," said Pastor Ken. The church hosted a Back-to-School Saturday in August and provided backpacks, school supplies and underwear to 100 school-age children. In December Biltmore will once again offer a Christmas Store featuring gently used gifts and decorations for Christmas.

Biltmore is a small church—claiming the big promises of God. Take what you need. Give what you can. Above all, be blessed.

—Barbara Francis
Biltmore Baptist Church



Positions Available

Visit www.doverbaptist.org for all of the job openings.

Emmaus Baptist Church seeks a pastor (full-time). The Pastor and Church profiles along with a Pastor Position Description are on our website at www.emmausbapchurch.com under the Pastor Search heading. Inquires and resumes may be directed to: pastorsearchcommittee2020@gmail.com

Gwathmey Baptist Church is looking into a Youth Pastor (part-time), please send resume to Tracy Bradley, 11232 Gwathmey Church Road, Ashland, VA 23005

Pioneer Baptist Church seeks a Pastor (full-time) and a Music Director (part-time). For more information and/or apply, contact pbsearch1051@gmail.com

No Raceway Ministries Volunteers or Cookies Needed for September NASCAR Race

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Central Virginia Raceway Ministries will not have the usual ministry locations at Richmond Raceway. The track will have a limited capacity for fans. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to next year.

We all smile in the same language

I started volunteering as an ESL (English as Second Language) teacher at Grace Chinese Baptist Church of Richmond (GCBCR) a couple of years ago. The class met every Sunday after service and lunch, in a small cozy classroom inside the church. The first time I entered the classroom and got ready to observe the class, I was immediately welcomed by everyone inside as if I had been part of the group for a long time. I noticed that the majority of students were much older than me. They were parents or even grandparents of students and young professionals from China. They came to Richmond all the way across the ocean to reunite with their children, helping with housework and grandchildren. As first generation immigrants, they were eager to learn the language and the local culture.

GCBCR's ESL ministry started back in 2010, initiated by Brother Lide Sun, who is now serving as a Pastor in California. At that time, the majority of GCBCR's members were immigrants from China, Taiwan, Singapore, and other Chinese speaking countries around the world. Inevitably there was a huge need to learn English in order to better immerse into the American society. The church felt the urgent need and decided to open a weekly free ESL class to serve the community.

As time passed by, this ESL class has been growing. Throughout the years, students' ages range from 20 to 80 years old! We welcome everyone who steps into this classroom with open arms. During class, we not only learn English grammar, practice conversations, but also share fun and touching personal stories. Lots of the stories were actually great testimonies of how being a Christian changed and enriched our lives. Teachers used the Bible as an important vocabulary and reading resource. It became a tradition to close the class with a short scripture- teachers explain the meanings word by word and the students repeat the sentences and ask questions. Often, the whole class is so deep into discussion that we forget to leave on time.



The teachers also come from within the church. In recent years, we have seen more diverse backgrounds of our church members- native speakers, American born Chinese, and young professionals who are fluent in English. People have been volunteering to serve as instructors for our ESL program. For example, our brother Bill was a native from Ohio and he has been a loyal servant in our ESL program for four years. The teachers are instructors, curriculum designers, friends, and servants of the community.

In the past couple of years, our ESL classes expanded our client base from only Chinese immigrants, to more people within our community. Richmond has seen more visiting scholars and students in surrounding colleges and higher institutions, not only from China, but from other parts of the world as well. We welcomed students from Brazil, Mongolia, Afghanistan, etc. They already have a solid foundation of basic English skills. They came to our ESL class looking for more chances to practice their oral English with native speakers. Our traditional elementary level-ESL classes didn't meet their needs anymore. In 2019, GCBCR decided to expand our ESL program to two levels. The elementary level (the original ESL class) serves people who need more groundwork, even from the alphabet; and the advanced class is for people who already have a basic foundation of English but are looking for more oral practice. Both classes are very well received within the community.

Due to Covid-19, GCBCR's ESL program is now completely online. Both classes (elementary and advanced) meet via Zoom every Sunday afternoon at the same time from 1:30-2:30. We welcome everyone who is interested to learn English with us and become our friends!

—Kefu Dorion
Grace Chinese Baptist Church of Richmond



Dover Baptist Association
11006 Lakeridge Parkway
Ashland, VA 23005

"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"

Non-Profit Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Permit No. 3022
 Richmond, VA

Maria Lynn, Interim Executive Director of Missions
 Sam Duenckel, Associate for Missions
 Sandy Weakley, Executive Assistant
 Sue Hall, Ministry Assistant
 Steve Smith, Associate for Ministry to Church Leaders

Deadline For Watson Grant Application: Friday, October 30

Visit www.doverbaptist.org/resources/amo or call the Dover office at (804) 550-1980 for more information. Nominations for this grant must come from Dover churches on behalf of ministries and organizations of their choice.

Dover WMU News

The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer is Monday, November 2, 2020.
 Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will not meet in-person this year. Prayer guides and other resources are available online: www.bwawd.org/day-of-prayer-this-year

Pray For These

The leaders of Tipi Wakan Ministries, our Dover Staff, and in Dover's churches:

- September 6: **Parham Road Baptist Church**
 Spencer Dillard, Pastor; John Gilliam,
 Audrey Fleming Hawkins, Dack Axselle,
 Frances Whitlock
- September 13: **Pioneer Baptist Church**
 Ron Shortt, Interim Pastor; Judy Stell
- September 20: **Poplar Springs Baptist Church**
 Steve Crane, Pastor; Shirley Adkins, Martha Crane
- September 27: **Rappahannock Indian Baptist Church**
 Ron Nicholls, Pastor; Faye Nicholls

Dover Baptists Express Sympathy

...to the family of Don Carter who passed away on July 26. Don was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church and served for many years on the Dover Baptist Association Disaster Relief Team and led mission trips.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020



ONLINE EXPERIENCE*

*Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Virginia's social-distancing requirements, the Leadership Development Conference will be an online experience this year. Several videos of local church leaders discussing real current issues will be posted on www.baptistleaders.org by September 21.

Topics Include:

- Pastoral & Soul Care in a Pandemic
- ReMissioning the Church:
 Not Going Back to the Way Things Were
- COVID-19 Freedom & Responsibilities

Financial Adjustments for the Church

and more!

WWW.BAPTISTLEADERS.ORG

(804) 314-0294