

# Baptist Women in Ministry

## July 2009

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## Baptist Women in Ministry News

In case you have not heard, lots of changes are going on with Baptist Women in Ministry. On July 1, 2009, I stepped into the role of Executive Director. My first day was spent on an airplane, flying to Houston, Texas, where BWIM held its annual gathering. More than 100 women and men attended the breakfast, which was followed by a time of worship. Sharing communion around the table was the highlight for me.

I was grateful for the opportunity to present a homily and to share my dreams about BWIM's future. An excerpt of the homily is at the end of this e-newsletter.

BWIM's Leadership Team has had an eventful year, and I am thankful for their service and commitment to this ministry. These seven amazing women with whom I have had the privilege of working are **Robin Bolen Anderson, Bonnie Oliver Brandon, Katrina Brooks, Reba Cobb, LeAnn Gunter Johns, Julie O'Teter Sadler, and Amy Shorner-Johnson.**

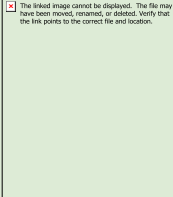
Following the annual gathering, **LeAnn Gunter Johns** rotated off the team. LeAnn has served in many roles over the years and has given much of her time and energy to BWIM, and I am so very grateful for her leadership and her friendship.

The newest member of the Leadership Team is **Ka'thy Gore Chappell.** Ka'thy is associate dean of student life and enrollment at Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. Ka'thy also is minister to college students at River Road Baptist Church.

These are exciting days for BWIM and for me personally, and I look forward to serving alongside you. Please e-mail or call if you have ideas, suggestions, or just want to talk about BWIM.


**Pam Durso**

## Addie Davis Award Winners

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On July 3, 2009, at the BWIM annual gathering, **Marquette Bugg** received the Addie Davis Award for Excellence in Preaching for her sermon titled "Blind Bart Has a Daydream." Marquette is a May 2009 graduate of George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Waco, Texas. She is currently serving in Ghana, West Africa, helping create a basketball and soccer ministry.

**Tammy Jackson Gill** received the Addie Davis Award for Outstanding Leadership in Pastoral Ministry. Tammy is a student at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, Kansas. She currently serves as the pastor to children and families at Holmeswood Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, and as the clinical director for Wellspring Ministries in Lee's Summit, Missouri. Tammy is the founder and executive director of Healing Grace Counseling Centers.

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## Addie Davis Award Nominees

Baptist Women in Ministry in 2009 received sixteen total nominations from nine seminaries for the two Addie Davis Awards. BWIM presented each nominee with a \$100 cash award. Those nominees and their nominating seminaries were:

### Addie Davis Award for Excellence in Preaching

Lin Bruce, Wake Forest Divinity School  
Pat Ham, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky  
Erica Hartman, McAfee School of Theology  
Aileen Lawrimore, M. Christopher White School of Divinity  
Stephanie Nash, Logsdon School of Theology  
LuAnne Prevost, Central Baptist Theological Seminary  
Donna Rhaney, Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond  
Maria Swearingen, Duke Divinity School

### Addie Davis Award for Outstanding Leadership

Melissa Frazier, Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond  
Allison Hicks, McAfee School of Theology  
Sarah Neeley, Logsdon School of Theology  
Brenda Thompson, Duke Divinity School

Michelle Wildes, George W. Truett Theological Seminary  
Lisa Wood, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

## Vocare

To receive BWIM's newsletter, **Vocare**, please send your mailing address to Pam Durso at [pamdurso@bwim.info](mailto:pamdurso@bwim.info).

## Congratulations

**Eileen Campbell-Reed** received the Betty Galloway Advocacy for Women in Ministry Award by the Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Eileen is associate director of the Learning Pastoral Imagination Project and research faculty at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota.

## Ordinations

**Judith Pinyan Conway** will be ordained August 2, 2009, at First Baptist Church, Morrow, Georgia.

**Allison Hicks** was ordained on April 26, 2009 at First Baptist Church, Aiken, South Carolina.

**Lisa Law** will be ordained on August 5, 2009, at First Baptist Church, Norman, Oklahoma.

**Julie Perry** was ordained on July 19 at Broadus Memorial Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia.

**Kate Perry** will be ordained August 9, 2009, at First Baptist Church, Decatur, Georgia.

**Tiffany Kellogg Pittman** was ordained May 31, 2009, at Upper Kind and Queen Baptist Church, Newton, Virginia.

**Erin Spengeman** was ordained March 21, 2009, at The Tabernacle Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia.

## On the Move

**Leah Anderson** is youth minister at Woodhaven Baptist Church, Apex, North Carolina.

**Julie Merritt Lee** is pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Hendersonville, North Carolina.

**Stella Perrin** is minister of spiritual formation and children and families at First Baptist Church, Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

**Julie Perry** is chaplain for Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, Troy, Virginia.

**LeAnne Spruill** is minister of students and recreation at Yates Baptist Church, Durham, North Carolina.

**Candice Wilson** is minister of music at Tabernacle Baptist Church, Raleigh, North Carolina.

## Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry Celebrates 20 Years

**Virginia Baptist Women in Ministry** celebrated its twentieth anniversary on May 1, 2009, at a one-day festival of word, table, and sermon. Held at Grace Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia, and attended by more than fifty participants, the festival featured worship leadership by Kim and Chris Crowley and preaching by **Amy Butler, Alma Hassell,** and **Abby Thornton**. The liturgical artist was **Caroline Rutledge Armijo**.

The Festival Preaching Award was presented to **Brittani Massey**, a recent graduate of Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond. Brittani's sermon was selected during a preaching contest prior to the event. She received the award and also preached her sermon during the festival.

## In the News

### **Lillian Lim, Pioneer Asian Baptist Woman, Dies in Singapore**

The first woman president of a consortium of Baptist seminaries in Asia died June 25, 2009, in Singapore. Lillian Lim served as president of Asian Baptist Graduate Theological Seminary, a nine-school consortium that trains Baptist leaders in areas where Christians are a small minority. For more information, see [http://www.abpnews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4183&Itemid=53](http://www.abpnews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4183&Itemid=53)

### **Historic Baptist Church Celebrates First Female Pastor**

**By Faye Flam, Philadelphia Inquirer**

The 119-year old St. Paul's Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, recently called its first woman pastor, Leslie D. Callahan. For more information, see <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/breaking/4658112.html>

### **South Carolina Woman Nominated as CBF Moderator-Elect**

At the 2009 General Assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Christy McMillin-

Goodwin, associate minister for education and missions at Oakland Baptist Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina, was elected to serve as moderator-elect. She will become moderator in 2010-2011.

## **Why Are There (Still) So Few Women Clergy?**

### **Blog by Mark Chaves**

Despite large percentages of female seminarians and increased numbers of female clergy in some denominations, women lead only about 8% of American congregations. To read more, see <http://www.faithandleadership.com/blog/07-13-2009/mark-chaves-why-are-there-still-so-few-women-clergy>

## **Position Opening**

Mount Olive Baptist Church, Mullica Hill, New Jersey, is accepting resumes for the position of pastor. To recommend a candidate or for more information, contact:

Pulpit Search Committee  
Mount Calvary Baptist Church  
P. O. Box 27  
Mullica Hill, NJ 08062

[mountcalvarybaptistmh@hotmail.com](mailto:mountcalvarybaptistmh@hotmail.com)

## **State Women in Ministry Information**

### **Arkansas**

For information, contact Carolyn Yeldell Staley at [cstaley@phbclr.com](mailto:cstaley@phbclr.com)

### **Georgia**

For information, contact Carrie Veal at [theologygirl@yahoo.com](mailto:theologygirl@yahoo.com).

### **North Carolina**

For information, contact Alicia Porterfield at [aporterfield@ec.rr.com](mailto:aporterfield@ec.rr.com) or visit <http://www.bwimnc.com>.

### **South Carolina**

For information, contact Christy McMillin-Goodwin at [cgoodwin@oaklandchurch.com](mailto:cgoodwin@oaklandchurch.com).

### **Tennessee**

For information, contact Tambi Swiney at [tambi22@mac.com](mailto:tambi22@mac.com).

### **Texas**

For information, contact Julie O'Teter Sadler at [julie.sadler@bgct.org](mailto:julie.sadler@bgct.org) or visit [www.bgct.org/WLIM](http://www.bgct.org/WLIM).

## **Virginia**

For information, e-mail Elizabeth Rickert Dowdy at [liz804@earthlink.net](mailto:liz804@earthlink.net) or visit [www.vbwim.org](http://www.vbwim.org).

## **Telling the Story**

**Pamela R. Durso**

This past spring, as the Baptist Women in Ministry's Leadership Team began to dream together, we talked about the future of the organization. We spoke out loud all the possibilities, but the dreaming and talking did not remain simply as words and ideas. They soon took on life as this amazing group of women chose to move ahead and to take a step of faith, and now in July 2009, after months of conversation and prayer, what began as a dream has become a reality.

Throughout the process, I have been reminded over and over again that God has been moving ahead of us, preparing the way and that God has been calling BWIM, its leaders, and its supporters to step out in faith and to move into new territory. And I have had moments during these past months in which I have seen and heard and felt the spirit of God working and moving and leading through the voices and actions and decisions of seven amazing women ministers.

So what are our dreams? What is the future of BWIM? I am convinced that as an organization, BWIM needs to be telling stories. As committed Baptists, as faithful Christians, as ministers of the gospel, as women and men of faith, we all need to be telling the stories of our faith.

We need to tell the story of Jesus gathering the girls and boys and blessing them . . . and reminding his disciples that "to such as these belongs the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:15-17). We need to tell that story to the little girls and boys in our churches and communities . . . and we need to nurture them in the faith, to love them and encourage them as they become Christ followers.

We need to tell the story of Jesus' resurrection appearance to Mary Magdalene and his instructions to her to "go and tell." We need to tell that story to our middle school girls and high school girls. We need to sit with them, listen to them, and walk with them so that if they hear that calling to "go and tell," they will be open to those words, they will have opportunity to explore that those words mean. We need to provide them with places and times to talk about and to express their ministry gifts. We need to encourage them to preach and teach and sing and pray and lead and serve. We need to be communities in which girls and young women can hear and explore God's call.

We need to tell the story of Jesus--sitting quietly teaching in the home of Mary and Martha. We need to tell of his inclusion of Mary in his circle of students. We need to tell our female seminarians this story--to assure them that they too are included in the circle and they need to study and learn. And we must, as churches and as a BWIM organization, find ways to enhance their educational experiences and encourage the development of their gifts and skills. We need to provide words of affirmation, prayers of encouragement, and financial assistance, and when they are ready, we need to provide for them places of service. We need to open the doors of our churches, the doors of our ministries, the doors of our hearts and welcome them in.

We need to tell the story of Jesus and the women who walked with him, the women who were included in his ministry, the women whose names are listed in Luke's gospel (Luke 8:2-3) . . . Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna. We need to tell this story to each

other--of these women who were faithful in following Christ, who participated in his kingdom work, who supported and contributed to the spread of the gospel. We need to tell the story of these women who served together, who became partners in ministry, whose lives became entwined as they walked dusty roads, talking, listening, and praying. We need to tell this story to young ministers beginning their journey who need our affirmation and care, to ministers who have been walking on the road for a while and need encouragement and support, and to ministers who have spent their lives serving and who need to hear our words of gratitude for their pioneering faith and work.

The year 2009 is a critical moment in time for BWIM as an organization and for Baptists who believe in and affirm that God's calling may be heard and lived out by women and men. We are headed into new territory, walking a new, unknown path, and as we travel together we have stories to tell, we have stories to share with one another, but we are also called to be part of the story of Jesus. We are called to live out that story.

*Excerpted from a homily presented July 2, 2009 at the Baptist Women in Ministry Gathering, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas.*