



Metrolines

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Advent



"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:23

Advent is the four week season that starts the Western Church's Yearly Liturgical Calendar. This year (Year B) begins Sunday December 3, 2017 and ends Christmas Eve. The traditional colors for this season are purple and blue. **Advent** is Latin meaning arrival, 'comings', appearance and emergence.

Some Baptist congregations may not participate in following the Advent weeks leading up to Christmas. However, I know Baptists believe in the *HOPE*, *LOVE*, *JOY* and *PEACE* come into the world, with the birth of Jesus: That God/Emmanuel/Holy Spirit resides within the heart of every believer. **Advent** is the opportunity to join all of Christendom to celebrate these marvelous truths. It is a call to privately pray for a keener awareness of God's stirrings 'within' and 'appearances' without, in the mundane and the magnificent. Therefore, let us pray.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel...

Into secret long forgotten dreams and ignite them with *HOPE*,

Into wounded places still remembered and heal them with *LOVE*,

Into visions of 'yet to be' and infuse them with *JOY*,

Into this war torn and strife worn world through me, and each of us as instruments of *PEACE*. Amen.

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Annual Mission Banquet

Saturday, October 21, 2017

Millennials

“Discipling Millennials – A Multigenerational Approach to Congregational Life.”
**...We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy
 deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he
 has done. Psalm 78:4b**

The 31st annual Mission Banquet was held on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at The Drexelbrook, in Drexel Hill, PA.

This year we celebrated persons committed to nurturing and discipling the next generations. We said thank you to church members who provide exceptional ministry and service to children, youth and young adults. This year we honored 22 individuals:

Mrs. Violent Brown - Lansdowne Baptist Church; **Ms. Caitlyn Burruss** - Mt. Olivet Tabernacle Baptist Church; **Ms. Kathy Clemmer** - First Baptist Church of Levittown-Fairless Hills; **Ms. Elaine Davis** - Greater Enon Missionary Baptist Church; **Mr. Harry Favor, Sr.**- Second Baptist Church of Germantown; **Mrs. Sheila Gilbert**- Pinn Memorial Baptist Church; **Rev. Crystal Goree** - Pinn Memorial Baptist Church; **Mother Marcella Hand** - Society for Helping Church; **Mrs. Dianne Harding** - The Green Church; **Rev. Lillie Jackson** - Society for Helping Church; **Ms. Sandra Johnson** - Grace Baptist Church of Germantown; **Mrs. Doris Murrel** - Wayland Temple Baptist Church; **Ms. Joyce Oliver** - Second Pilgrim Baptist Church; **Mr. Harold Russell** - Bethlehem Baptist Church; **Mr. S. Robert Steward** - Holmesburg Baptist Church; **Mr. Kevin Stroman** - First Baptist Church of Wayne; **Deaconess Susan Truitt** - Tenth Memorial Baptist Church; **Mrs. Fannie Turner** - Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Philadelphia; **Mrs. Carol Ward** -Central Baptist Church of Wayne; **Deacon Edward Williams** - Mt Zion Baptist Church of Holmesburg; **Mr. Carlton Wills** - Canaan Baptist Church; **Mrs. Roberta Winters** - Baptist Church in the Great Valley.


The speaker this year was the Reverend Dr. Brianna Parker, the founding curator of the Black Millennial Caf  , established as a resource for black churches and other institutions seeking to engage millennials. Dr. Parker is an Associate Professor of Religion at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, TX. Dr. Parker provides support for congregations across the United States that are interested in reaching the millennial generation for Christ. (www.blackmillennialcafe.com)



Rev. Parker chose as her text 2 Kings 5, the story of reluctant king Naaman, who listened to a young girl and was healed of leprosy. She defined Millennials, as young people who are the most educated ("degreed" was her

term), but burdened by financial debt from school loans. They are the most imprisoned generation. This means that they need guidance and support away from the negative cultural standards of our day. And they are not afraid to question current spiritual norms in the church.

Rev. Parker gave as a guideline (the ABC'S), to begin dialogue with Millennials. **A**ccept and value the energy Millennials bring. **B**elieve Millennials have something new and legitimate to give to the church. And **C**onfess: Be open and honest before them by sharing our stories and journeys as elders in the church.




millennials
*"Discipling Millennials - A Multigenerational Approach to Congregational Life."
 ...We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. Psalm 78:4b*

31st Philadelphia Baptist Association Association 2017 Mission Banquet


**Saturday,
 October 21, 2017**

**Drexelbrook Banquet Facility,
 Drexel Hill, PA**

This year we celebrated 22 persons committed to nurturing and discipling the next generation. We said thank you to church members and leaders who provide exceptional ministry and service to children, youth and young adults through programs such as: church school, mentoring programs, scouts, church sponsored sports ministry, at risk youth programs, scholarship committees, youth employment projects, outreach ministries to young adults, bible study leaders for youth and young adults, and tutorial programs.



**Attendance – 585 persons
 PBA Congregations Represented - 28**



Speaker:
The Reverend Dr. Brianna K. Parker

Reverend Dr. Brianna Parker is the founding curator of the Black Millennial Café, established as a resource for black churches and other institutions seeking to engage millennials. Rev. Brianna currently serves Friendship-West Baptist Church as the Pastor of Assimilation. Brianna, concurrently, serves as an adjunct professor and Coordinator of College Assembly at Paul Quinn College, where she endeavors to bring Christ to the youth of today to ensure a better tomorrow. In 2016, she accepted an appointment as a full-time Assistant Professor of Religion at Jarvis Christian College, Hawkins, TX. Dr. Parker provides support for congregations across the United States that are interested in reaching the millennial generation for Christ. (www.blackmillennialcafe.com)

Scenes of the Day



Denominational Representation

President - American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Staff - American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Office of the General Secretary, ABCUSA

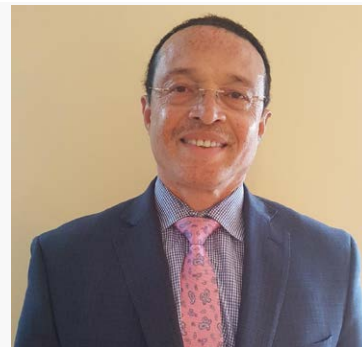
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American Baptist Home Mission Societies
Office of the General Secretary
Friends of Jitokeze

PBA Moderator Elected as ABCUSA Vice President

Mr. Dean A. Parker, our PBA Moderator, will serve as ABCUSA Vice President of the Board of General Ministries (BGM), for the term running from January

1, 2018-December 31, 2019. Prior to the recent election at 2017 Biennial in Portland, Oregon, Dean served for six years as BGM delegate for PBA. He is a member of the Canaan Baptist Church of Philadelphia where he has served in various ministries including Past Chairman of the Deacons Ministry and Past President of the Sheepfold Ministry. He is married to Donna Ashby-Parker and together they have one son, Dion. Professionally, Dean has been employed as a Marketing Representative for outpatient physical therapy services for the past seven years. Dean Parker states, "I am humbled to serve as the Vice President of ABCUSA and I look forward to supporting and expanding our policy of American Baptist diversity. I will work closely with the General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Lee Spitzer, and the ABCUSA president, Josue D. GÃmez-MenÃndez, Esq."



As the major policy-making body of the denomination, the Board of General Ministries is highly representative of American Baptist diversity in gender, ethnicity, geography, age, as well as in a balance of ordained and lay leaders. BGM receives reports from Regions, Seminaries, Program Boards and congregations and coordinates the overall mission of the denomination.

Dean plans to help ABCUSA to identify the areas where more attention to our diversity is needed to build genuine community. The gift the ABC Regions in metropolitan areas brings to ABCUSA is their focus on building community among congregations of diverse racial/ethnic, cultural, and theological perspectives. Under Dean's leadership, PBA is focused on building community among our congregations. He is an advocate for the Principle of Association, which is our heritage. He will bring to BGM his experience in building community as the moderator of the PBA.

We are proud of the expertise and spirit that Dean brings to the PBA and to ABCUSA, Board of General Ministries.

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Domestic Violence Prayer Vigil November 11, 2017

Submitted by Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard, Group Facilitator.

The DVLC sponsored a Prayer Vigil Saturday November 11, 2017 at Canaan Baptist Church. The program was wonderfully planned and presented. Rev. Pamela Richardson Smith was Prayer Vigil Leader. Rev. Dr. Helena Fontes gave a One-Woman Dramatization entitled "Taking off the Mask." There was time for corporate prayer led by members of the Domestic Violence Learning Community (DVLC) and members of Canaan Baptist



Rev. Dr. Helena Fontes



Rev. Pamela Richardson Smith

Church Domestic Violence Ministry. We ended our time with a Memorial Service for those who died as a result of Domestic Violence. It was led by Mr. Desmin Daniels, owner of Rose Petal's Caf   (named in memory of his sister) who lost her life to this dreaded epidemic.

Unfortunately, the attendance was poor.

We, the group, attribute the low attendance to the fact that the nature of Domestic Violence generates fear and helplessness, and a sense of inadequacy as how to respond to it.

Vision: The group continues undaunted in finding ways to raise awareness of Domestic Violence: Put hard copy information in the hands of appropriate ministries in every PBA church; support congregations who want to start a Domestic Violence Ministry; create a Mission Statement for PBA churches to adopt as their witness against and their stand to eradicate this epidemic; approach seminaries and recommend that Domestic Violence awareness and response become part of Pastoral Care curriculum.



Mr. Desmin Daniels

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Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico

Denotations can be made through the PBA. Make checks payable to PBA and designate it for "Puerto Rico". Mail to PBA, 8711 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128-2023.

In response to the devastating one-two punch leveled at Puerto Rico first by Hurricane Irma and then by Hurricane Maria, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS), partnering with American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA), has launched a multi-year initiative, "Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico."

This initiative seeks to raise \$1 million within the next three to six months through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to support rebuilding the homes, churches and lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. ABHMS has pledged \$25,000 to launch this major renewal effort, matching OGHS funds already earmarked for Puerto Rico recovery.

"Within the next three to five years," Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director, ABHMS, said, "we will work with our American Baptist partners to restore all 114 churches and nine missions in the Iglesias Bautistas de Puerto Rico as well as Corporacion Milagros del Amor and Seminario Evangelico de Puerto Rico."

One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs.

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One Great Hour of Sharing Hurricane Relief

Donations can be made through the PBA. Make checks payable to **PBA** and designate it for "Hurricane Harvey" or "Hurricane Irma" or "Hurricane Maria" Mail to PBA, 8711 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128-2023.

American Baptists are urged to lift up those affected in both Texas and Louisiana by Hurricane Harvey, in the Caribbean and Florida by Hurricane Irma, and in Puerto Rico by Hurricane Marie.

You and your congregation can give to disaster relief through the **One Great Hour of Sharing**. One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs. All donations will be sent through **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

Listed are some other ways you can help:

PRAY for those affected by the storms.

DONATE hygiene kits and emergency cleanup buckets, which are distributed by Church World Service. (<http://cwskits.org>).

PLAN TO GO to the affected areas in future weeks or months. Contact Victoria Goff at the American Baptist Home Mission Societies at victoria.goff@abhms.org for information about volunteering for future mission trips.

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PBA Ministers Council

A Review in Pictures

2017 PBA Ministers Council Meetings



March 8, 2017 Meeting (17 persons present).
Rev. Dr. James E. McJunkin, Jr.: The 310th Year
Recommitment to The Baptist Principle of
Association.

January 11, 2017 Prayer Breakfast (21 persons
present). Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard: The Call
to Deeper Prayer... "Put out into the deep water
and let down your nets for a catch." (Luke 5:4b).



September 13, 2017 Meeting (13 persons
present). Rev. Ernest Flores: Stigma & Cultural
Mistrust, Overcoming the Hindrances to Help-
Seeking Practices Among American Pastors &
Their Spouses.

November 8, 2017 Meeting (16 persons present).
Rev. Dr. Mary Jones Wade: Spirituality & Conflict
Resolution, A Study of the Life & Teachings of Dr.
Howard Thurman.



2018 Upcoming Dates

Prayer Breakfast
Wednesday, January 10th, 9:00am @ PBA

Next Meeting
Wednesday, March 14th, 9:30am @ PBA

Clergy Mission Conversation – Spring 2018
Council voted to give \$1,000 for the event

News and Notes

Around the Region

Pastoral Transitions

Rev. Abdel Lastre-Nunez. began his ministry with the **Second Spanish Baptist Church** on November 5th.

Congratulations to the **Rev. Douglas Avilesbernal** who has been called to serve as the next Executive Minister of the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, a region in the Pacific Northwest. He currently serves as the lead pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in Norristown. He will begin his new responsibilities in January 2018.



In Memorium

Christian sympathy is extended to the **Rev. Theophilus Wright**, Pastor of the Forty Sixth Street Baptist Church, and family on the Homegoing of his wife, "**First Lady**" **Alease Wright** on December 9th. Services will be held on Monday, December 18th at the Forty Sixth Street Baptist Church (46th & Woodland Ave.). The viewing is from 9:00-11:00 am with the service to follow at 11:00 am.

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Upcoming Events

January 2018

10 PBA Ministers' Council Prayer Breakfast @ PBA office building

March 2018

3 PBA Mission Cafe @ First African Baptist Church, Sharon Hill

14 PBA Ministers' Council Meeting @ PBA office building

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Contact Information

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Website: www.philadelphiabaptist.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/philadelphiabaptistassociation

Dr. James E. McJunkin, Jr., Executive Minister
Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard, Program Facilitator, Communications & Leader Development
Mrs. Rosalyn L. Martin, Executive Assisant
Ms. Janet Reedy, Administrative Assistant

We encourage you to contact the PBA staff for more information on our programs and opportunities for service and ministry.

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