



Philadelphia  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



## Metrolines

An e-publication of the Philadelphia Baptist Association

**Metrolines** is published 4 times yearly - December/January, March/April, June and September/October. Send articles and/or pictures to Janet Reedy ([jhreeedy@philadelphiabaptist.org](mailto:jhreeedy@philadelphiabaptist.org)) Inclusion of materials is at the discretion of PBA staff.

Visit our Website

## 311th Annual Meeting

### Workshops



On Saturday May 5th the 311th Annual Meeting of the Philadelphia Baptist Association was held at the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Spring House, PA.



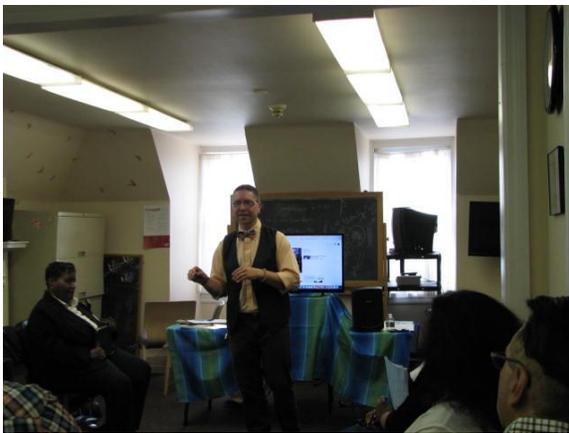
We had a time of fellowship, brief business discussion, informative workshops, inspiring worship and a fellowship luncheon.



Our Plenary Speaker, the Rev. Dr. J. Wendell Mapson, Jr., Pastor of the Monumental Baptist Church in West Philadelphia, set the tone for the day, encouraging us to reflect on the ministry of Christian music and the arts in the life of our congregations. The worship service focused on a celebration and praise through music and the arts. Other highlights of the day included welcoming new pastors as well as a new congregation, Greater Mt. Sinai Baptist



Church, (1228 S. 21st Street, Philadelphia) into the region. The Rev. Richard Elam is pastor. (pictured below) To see additional pictures go to the PBA [website](#)



## Worship



Rev. Dr. Douglas Hargis  
Drama Presentation  
Grace Baptist Church of  
Blue Bell



Worship Praise Team  
The Green Church]

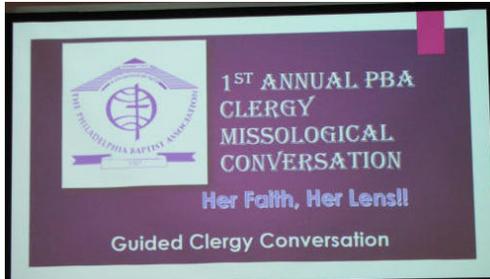


The Joy Dance Ministry  
Bethlehem Baptist Church



The Agape Praise Team, Bethlehem Baptist Church

## Missiological Conversation



The first annual clergy conversation sponsored by the PBA and the PBA Ministers Council was held on April 19th at the St. Paul's Baptist Church in West Chester, where the Rev. Dr. Wayne Croft is pastor. The theme for the day was "Her Faith, Her Lens!!" taken from Matthew 15:21-28 and Mark 7:27-28.

The two speakers for the day, the Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan, pastor of the St. Paul's Baptist Church in Philadelphia and the Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle, President and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program & Professor of African American Religious Studies, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, turned our focus toward the Christian moral compass across the nation and in merto-Philadelphia.

Rev. Leslie Callahan challenged us to look at this account in Jesus' life that has the potential to tug at our comfort-zone-views of Jesus. She based her presentation on the book, "Canaanites, Cowboys and Indians," by Robert Allen Warrior. The three points that inspired her new view of Jesus and her conversation with us were: 1. Center the 'Canaanite' in our Theological reflection; 2. Attend to and confront the brutality in the texts and the tradition of their usage; 3. question our models of leadership, whether they are actually useful.

The texts listed above, give the account of a gentile woman (Canaanite, Syrophoenician) asking Jesus to heal her daughter. In the culture of Jesus, the two strikes against her are her femininity and her ethnicity. This was not new information for the conference hearers. However, the most obvious "friction" on our souls came from the reluctant acknowledgement that Jesus initially refused this mother's plea; and the possibility that we may have to wrestle with our theology of Jesus.

Rev. Callahan highlighted other important lessons. First, this event exposes Jesus as fully human and that to be fully human is a willingness to change. Jesus healed the child; her mother's argument reshaped Jesus' thinking and behavior.

Second, this Biblical account becomes relevant today when we accept that this woman represents the "different one," the "outsider," among us. Sometimes 'She' is of a different race or she comes from a culture unknown to us. She may not belong to our church; but she has needs, which we can provide with the dignity she deserves.

Rev. McMickel began his presentation reminding us of the importance of accessing and utilizing the gifts of the Spirit for the growth of the church. He gave us a Biblical tour of poignant illustrations to support a leadership

paradigm, using a three leveled circle. The pastor functions from the inner circle and his/her role is equipping and encouraging the membership (Exodus 17:8—13, 18:17—25). Dr. McMickel emphasized that this role is most successful when the pastor attends to her/his personal piety, meaning a rich devotional life that keeps the pastor attuned to the movement of God. He stressed the importance of peer relationships for support and wise counsel. Out of this



level of relationship, Dr. McMickel believes the pastor will develop a mindset for social justice and formulate ministry to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and to maintain the existing viable church institutions/ministries.

The middle circle represents the membership caring for each other (Mark 2:1—12, John 11:17—12 and Acts 6:1--7). In the outer circle we find the equipped, encouraged membership reaching the wider community (John 4, the Samaritans; Matthew 15, Canaanites, Luke 4, the Phoenicians and Syrians and Luke 19, Zacchaeus).

Both Reverends Callahan and McMickel were received, by those in attendance, with much enthusiasm.

After a wonderful lunch, time was spent in group clergy guided conversation answering the questions: What are the challenges of a clouded moral compass regarding issues of intolerance today and what is the role of the church in the USA in addressing them? And how might biblical teaching/preaching help to open our eyes to clouded judgment and/or inertia and inspire action?

The attendees offered many remarks and statements of appreciation and what appeared to be on their faces, inspiration.



## American Baptist Women - PBA

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES--PBA  
SPRING GATHERING - APRIL 7, 2018



THE DYNAMICS OF LEADERSHIP:  
SERVANT FOLLOWER AND SERVANT LEADER

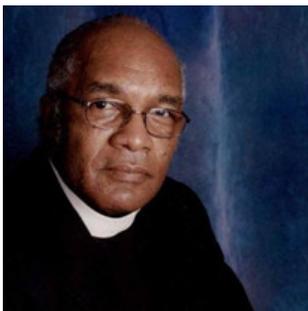
**"For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves." Luke 22:27 NRSV**

Host Church: Dare To Imagine Church, Inc.      Lead Pastor: Rev. Dr. Kevin R. Johnson  
6610 Anderson Street, Philadelphia, Pa 19119



## News and Notes Around the Region

### In Memorium



**Bishop Alden A. Gaines**, the founder of **Consolation Baptist Church**, died on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at his home in Paulsboro, N.J. He was 76.

He was educated in the Philadelphia public school system. While attending Audenreid Jr. High School he met and fell in love with his wife Pastor Marie Gaines, referred to as, "Candy," whom he married on Sept. 5, 1959. He later joined New Gethsemane Baptist Church, where he was licensed to preach the word of God. He graduated from Manor Bible Institute, then the Philadelphia Bible College.

In 1965, Gaines became the pastor and founder of Consolation Baptist Church. He began his ministry in his living room on Sept. 3, 1967 with his own family and seven others. They went through many phases of growth and in 1989 Gaines and his church family purchased a former Thriftway supermarket. After major renovations, they moved into the building in October 1991. Consolation Baptist Church closed in November 2016, after 49 years of operation and Gaines and his wife moved on to pursue their ministry in

other ways.

In the 1990s, Gaines founded Direct Truth Anti-Drug Coalition, a community-based organization set up to combat the drug epidemic in Philadelphia. In addition to counseling drug abusers and their families, Gaines developed a resource bank that provided the addicted with rehabilitation care. His slogan, "Down with dope, up with hope," is still remembered to this day.

Bishop Gaines received numerous awards, citations, appointments and positions. He was appointed to the Advisory Board of Philadelphia Anti-Drug Network and the Mayor's Leadership Council under Mayor Wilson Goode. In 1997, Eastern Theological Seminary awarded Gaines with an honorary degree for his work in urban ministries.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Danielle Gaines and granddaughter, Angelica Gaines. In addition to his wife, he is survived by: his children, Dana Kilgoe (Dr. Tyrone Kilgoe), Derek Gaines, Pastor Dawn Gaines-Schuler (Pastor Donald Schuler), Darla Gaines and Pastor David Gaines; 10 grandchildren and other relatives and friends.

Services were held April 27 at Sharon Baptist Church

## Pastoral Transitions



Rev. Dr. George Hawthorne retired from the **Grace Baptist Church of Blue Bell** on May 20<sup>th</sup>. He had served as Senior Pastor since 2006.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **July 13-15<sup>th</sup>** ABW of PA & DE Conference @ Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA ([www.abwmopad.org](http://www.abwmopad.org))
- ◆ **July 27-29<sup>th</sup>** ABMen of PA & DE Annual Conference @ Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA ([www.abmopad.org](http://www.abmopad.org))
- ◆ **September 12<sup>th</sup>** PBA Ministers Council @ PBA office building
- ◆ **October 6<sup>th</sup>** ABWM-PBA Fall Regional Gathering
- ◆ **October 20<sup>th</sup>** The PBA Mission Banquet @ The Drexelbrook, Drexel Hill, PA
- ◆ **November 14-16<sup>th</sup>** [Space for Grace](#) @ Loews Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa

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Rev. Dr. James E. McJunkin, Jr., Executive Minister

