



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 ([jhreedy@philadelphiabaptist.org](mailto:jhreedy@philadelphiabaptist.org)): Inclusion of materials is at the discretion of PBA staff.

[Visit our Website](#)

## A Conversation with the Health Commissioner

On **Tuesday November 10, 2020 at 6:30pm-7:30pm** Dr. Thomas Farley the Health Commissioner of the City of Philadelphia will share important information with the membership of the Philadelphia Baptist Association. Dr Farley has selected the following topics that he would like to share with us.

- Fall/winter resurgence of COVID-19
- Revised guidance for religious gatherings
- Prospects for COVID-19 vaccines in Philadelphia



We will host an interactive conversational format. Here is the [link to register](#) for the conversation on the surge of COVID-19.

You are invited to share the link with members of your congregations.

## Financial Stewardship - A 3 Part Webinar

October 27, November 10 & November 17

**Concerned About Financial Stewardship in the Face of Covid 19?**

**Margaret Marcuson**  
The Center for Career Development and Ministry

**A Three-Part Webinar:**  
**October 27<sup>th</sup>, November 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 2020**  
**At 11:00am**



**To register for the webinar email your interest to  
[jhreedy@philadelphiabaptist.org](mailto:jhreedy@philadelphiabaptist.org)**

**The webinar Zoom link will be forwarded to you  
upon registration.**

Are you wondering how this year will turn out financially for your church? Do you already see a significant shortfall that has you worried? Or do you wonder what will be the long-term budgetary implications of months of virtual worship? Margaret Marcuson was a pastor who has faced some dicey years in the local church (though not as dicey as this one). She knows what it's like to wonder how this year—and even this month—will turn out financially. That's why she created a new webinar series "**Financial Stewardship in the Face of Covid-19: What You Can Do,**"

Learn how you can:

1. Become more thoughtful about the financial challenges you and your church face at this time
2. See money—and your own leadership in this area—from a different perspective
3. Bring more calm and creativity to the financial impact of the pandemic
4. Focus on yourself and what you can impact directly rather than worrying about what others might do
5. Reduce your overall stress about the financial future of your congregation
6. Step into the need to ask for money in a time of uncertainty
7. And perhaps even enjoy the work of stewardship at this time

This is a series of 3 webinars (one hour each) to help you with your financial stewardship in the face of Covid-19. Each webinar will cover important (and different) information, so try to come to as many as possible:

- #1 God, Money and You: A Spirituality of Money for a Pandemic
- #2 How to Handle a Money Crisis (or Simply the Fear of One)
- #3 How to Ask for Money (Even in a Pandemic).

An American Baptist minister, Margaret has been teaching about money and ministry to church leaders from at least a dozen denominations for 15 years. She is the author of *Money and Your Ministry: Balance the Books While Keeping Your Balance*.

**Please note: that it's not too late to register, join us for as many sessions as your schedule allows.**

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**Regional Executive Pastor's Report for 2020**

Dear PBA Members:

The Philadelphia Baptist Association (PBA) was not able to hold our 313<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting this year given the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. Here is the link to the [Regional Executive Pastor's Report](#) for 2020 .

I hope that you will take the time to read the report so that you are informed and can serve as an advocate for the mission and our work together. The report is designed to share:

- our mission
- our plans for the future
- supports provided for PBA congregations
- how PBA congregations support one another
- a snapshot of member church participation
- our appreciation for volunteer and financial support
- supports provided by American Baptist Churches USA

***I have included special reporting on the supports provided for PBA clergy & congregations in the mist of the pandemic.*** Thanks for your ministry of service, and your support for the oldest continuing Association of Baptists in the history of the USA!

Rev. Dr. James E. McJunkin Jr.  
Regional Executive Pastor

## Intergenerational Clergy Support Groups



*"Together in Ministry in the Midst of the Storm"* is a clergy support program that was adopted by the PBA Ministers Council. Our clergy have determined that the stressors of serving congregations during the public health crisis is a task best handled with the support of colleagues in ministry. The demands on pastors and clergy are multifaceted and anxiety producing.

The Philadelphia Baptist Association has been intentional in its outreach to pastors by regularly making phone calls to support our pastors. We have hosted group conversations for clergy and provided a variety of resources. Here are few the ways support has been provided: (via the Ministers Council)

- Assisting pastors in keeping congregations connected through Zoom etc.
- Providing a workshop on pastoral care and counseling during the pandemic- *Emotional Healing in the Midst of Trauma*
- Providing updates and reports from major medical organizations on the Coronavirus
- Outlining congregational safety practices during COVID -19 pandemic
- Hosting webinars on reopening buildings
- Developing and hosting a forum with Health Commissioner Thomas Farley and Senator Vincent Hughes on testing and contact tracing for COVID-19
- Pastoral letters sent to all PBA Clergy by the Executive Pastor on responding to COVID-19 and the current Social Justice Movement

- Bible Study materials developed by PBA staff and placed on the website for denominational usage via the office of the General Secretary ABCUSA
- Offering a three-part webinar series for clergy on stewardship in the time of COVID- 19

Our Consultant for Area Ministry **The Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard** (pictured above) will lead the effort in developing intergenerational clergy support groups in which participants will gather once a month January-May of 2021. The clergy in the support groups will encourage one another in finding their path in serving congregations and keeping healthy through the pandemic, economic downturn, and social justice issues of our day. We encourage our pastors and clergy to reach out to one another. Clergy are encouraged to call Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard at the PBA office to join one of the support groups. (215-482-8222 ext. 14.) The Rev. Wakaki Thompson will assist in hosting a group.

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## Rev. Shelby Haggray begins as Consultant with PBA

On October 1, 2020, Rev. Shelby Haggray began as Program Consultant for the Christ & Cultural Humility Program. The Philadelphia Baptist Association is launching a program that will teach the Christian principles of humility and *cultural humility* strategies and their effectiveness in breaking down socio-cultural barriers within our congregations and communities. The goal of the program is to help congregations to better engage and inter-relate with the diverse constituency within their churches and neighborhoods. This program has been designed to bring congregations together to empower one another in addressing the demographic and generational shifts that we face as the church today.



Shelby Martin Haggray is an educator, administrator, editor, and church consultant. She is an ordained ABCUSA minister who has worked extensively in higher education administration, particularly within seminary settings, helping to prepare the next generation of church leaders. Shelby has served as Associate Dean at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, and as an Assistant Professor at Emory University's Candler School of Theology (CST) in Atlanta. Along with teaching Baptist courses at CST, she redesigned and directed Candler's House of Baptist Studies Certificate Program.

Prior to living in Atlanta, Shelby lived for over 20 years in Washington, DC, where she worked extensively with downtown urban congregations and ministries, including Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Calvary Baptist Church, Luther Place, and N Street Village (a comprehensive ministry for homeless women). In addition, she served as Assistant Pastor at Takoma Park Baptist Church and as Minister of Discipleship for Metropolitan Baptist Church.

In 2018, Shelby and her family relocated to Pennsylvania. Shelby currently serves as a curriculum editor for Judson Press. Shelby cares deeply for the

values and tenets of the American Baptist tradition and seeks to aid in the renewal and growth of Baptist congregations in the Philadelphia region. She currently serves on the PBA Commission on Ministry. Shelby is married to Dr. Jeffrey Haggray, Executive Director of American Home Mission Societies (ABHMS). They have three children, two of which are in college and one in high school.

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## Ordination Councils

The **Calvary Baptist Church of Chester** called an ordination council for **Angeline Washington-Clark** on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Following questions and answers delegates voted unanimously for the church to proceed with ordination scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> an ordination council was held via Zoom by **The Green Church** (Dr. Jeri Williams, Pastor) for **James K.P. Williams**. The delegates voted unanimously to recommend James for ordination.

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## News and Notes Around the Region

### Pastoral Transitions



The **Grace Baptist Church of Blue Bell** welcomed their new pastor **Rev. David Braneky** who began his ministry on July 20, 2020.

### New Church

The First Baptist Church of Pottstown, PA.

**Rev. Dr. Marcia B. Bailey** serves as the Pastor.



## Upcoming Events

- ♦ **November 13, 2021** - Annual PBA Mission Banquet @ The Drexebrook Events Center, Drexel Hill, PA

## Contact Information

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Rev. Dr. James E. McJunkin, Jr., Executive Regional Pastor

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