



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): Inclusion of materials is at the discretion of PBA staff.

Visit our Website

Intergenerational Ministers' Support Groups

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge ministers as they attempt to provide vital and innovative ministry. In order to stay connected the PBA Ministers' Council and the Regional office continue to sponsor the Intergenerational Ministers' Support Groups. Here is an outline of the purpose and practice. The groups meet the first Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of the month in order to:

- To connect with peers that will diminish the sense of isolation that comes with pastoral ministry.
- To build relationships with colleagues of diverse theological perspectives, generational traditions or racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- To engage in spiritual practices for personal spiritual growth.
- To support the belief that a physically and spiritually healthy pastor/minister produces healthy congregations.

Covenant of Engagement.

We will be guided by the Holy Spirit to create a "space" that...

- Embraces the uniqueness of each participant.
- Ensures confidentiality.
- Encourages transparency through accepting non-critical sharing. **ALL IS SACRED.**
- Evokes inspiration as we develop KEENER listening skills, to engage in provocative questioning and poignant prayer.
- Focuses on what will sustain resilience and instill hope.
- Builds AND strengthens, rather than attempt to "fix."

OUR GROUPS are not intended to provide counseling. However, resources for 1:1 counseling will be provided by request.

Meet the group facilitators:



Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard: Her first career was as a registered nurse. She found my most rewarding experience in the field of Hospice Home Care. During those 14 years God presented her with many *life-lessons* caring for those at the end of life. In 1989, Rev. Bruton-Sheppard was licensed to preach at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Albert F. Campbell and ordained in 1993. Presently, she continues to hold the position of Associate Minister at Mount

Carmel where Rev. Dr. Donald D. is the current pastor. Rev. Bruton-Sheppard is the Program Facilitator for Communication and Leader Development for Philadelphia Baptist Association.



Rev. Wakaki R. Thompson grew up in Cleveland, Ohio. He moved to Philadelphia and received a Bachelor of Science from Drexel University. He currently works for IBM as a systems architect. In December of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rev. Wakaki Thompson was called as Senior Pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church in Newtown, PA. In 2011, Rev. Thompson was ordained by his home church Bethlehem Baptist Church. Pastor

Thompson was ordained by the Philadelphia Baptist Association, American Baptist Churches USA in 2020.



Rev. Greta A. Wagner, BSN, MA, M.Div., ACPE Certified Educator (retired) has been an ordained American Baptist minister since 1991. Rev. Wagner graduated from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1991 after being called in 1990 as the first woman in ministry to serve as Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church, Lima, OH. Rev. Wagner qualified to become an American Baptist endorsed chaplain, serving as the designated ICU and Open Heart Chaplain in a faith based medical center in

Lima, OH from 1995 – 2004. Greta is an active member at Central Baptist Church in Wayne. PA.

Christ & Cultural Humility Initiative

The Philadelphia Baptist Association's *Christ & Cultural Humility Program* resumed in September 2021 with six congregations committed to learning how to become continuous learning organizations. The goal of the program is to equip congregations with the skills they need to overcome challenges that

hinder their ministry growth and vitality.

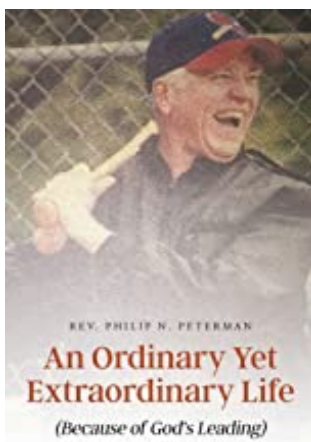
Each congregation is represented by a Learning Team of five to eight individuals who will lead their congregation in an adaptive change process that will help them tackle an issue facing their church. Participating congregations are Bethlehem Baptist Church in Spring House, Grace Baptist Church of Blue Bell, Second Baptist Church of Doylestown, Second Baptist Church of Germantown, Second Baptist Church of Media, and St. Paul's Baptist Church in West Chester.

Last spring, the six church teams learned how to integrate cultural humility tenets with the teachings of Jesus, with a particular focus on the Beatitudes. Together, those principles serve as a foundational basis for the congregation's inspiration to pursue best practices in their inner congregational dynamic and outward ministry witness. Following an in-depth congregational assessment, the teams are now learning to develop an action plan that can help their church improve incrementally in its target area. The Learning Teams will also teach the broader congregation the foundational concepts and skills they have learned in the program, along with how to think adaptively and the importance of emotional intelligence.

The process of adaptive change is such that it can be used as both a problem-solver and opportunity-maker for the congregations seeking to maximize their ministry efforts. Because of demographic and generational shifts in many neighborhoods, churches are acknowledging that they are surrounded by new neighbors, new dynamics, and new opportunities for ministry outside their doors.

The *Christ & Cultural Humility Program* is designed to help our churches become continuous learning organizations that can grow from these new opportunities in a way that reflects God's mission for reaching everyone and inviting them into the household of faith. The program is about congregations becoming the best reflection of the Church that God is calling them to be. The program maximizes a church's strengths while helping it to grow in areas of need. Engaging in the program leads to a more wholistic, vibrant ministry.

Newly Published Books



"The Lord of heaven has been my guide and helper throughout my life and ministry. I consider myself an ordinary human being but believe that God has continually guided my life in very wonderful and extraordinary ways," states the **Rev. Philip N. Peterman**, pastor of the Oxford Circle Baptist Church, to explain the title of his newly published autobiography ***An Ordinary Yet Extraordinary Life (Because of God's Leading.)*** Published through Christian Faith Publishing, Inc. Copies can be purchased on Amazon.

Since **Rev. Dr. Jeri E. Williams** is an American Baptist pastor (The Green Church), people assume having a gay son must be devastating and

contradictory to her beliefs. But, having a gay son has driven her to be even stronger in standing up to the bullies and to demonstrate she would do anything for him, just as she would for any of her children.

In this book she presents an insightful exploration of how one small church has made an overwhelmingly large difference in the lives of many of God's children who have been ostracized by the church-at-large.

Everyone Should Have a Gay Son reveals a pastor's journey beyond the church's exclusion of the LGBTQ+ community to a stance of inclusion – from growing up thinking homosexuality is a sin to an absolute belief that it is not. Published by Archway Publishing. It is available on Amazon.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE
A GAY SON
— A PASTOR'S JOURNEY —



REV. DR. JERI E. WILLIAMS
With Rose DeLone | Edited by Rev. Patricia Pitzer

Relief for Haiti

[International Ministries](#) (IM) and [American Baptist Churches USA](#) invite prayers and support for Haiti and the people of Haiti in the wake of the August 14 earthquake, which devastated the southern portion of the Caribbean nation. The quake struck about 150 km west of the capital city, Port-au-Prince. The initial quake was followed by ongoing aftershocks and compounded by heavy rains and flooding from Tropical Storm Grace.

In contrast to the early response to the 2010 earthquake which devastated Port-au-Prince, IM will not immediately be sending volunteer teams or individuals to Haiti. Continuing aftershocks, gang violence, and the COVID-19 pandemic yield a volatile situation in which IM and their partners are not able to deploy and support personnel effectively. According to Director of Short-Term Mission Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil, "We are not in a position to send any teams to Haiti and must honor and respect the expertise of first responders on the ground."

Financial support for the relief efforts for our Haitian brothers and sisters is being provided by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) through IM, in coordination with our Baptist and ecumenical partners. Donations to One Great Hour of Sharing can be made via your church; make the church check payable to Philadelphia Baptist Association marked "Haiti" on the memo line and mailed to PBA, 8711 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 1928.

One hundred percent of donations go to relief efforts; no dollars are retained for administrative costs. To ensure that your church receives credit for your gift, write the church name on your check or, if giving online, in the "comment" box.

[One Great Hour of Sharing](#) is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. The committee facilitates American Baptist emergency relief, disaster rehabilitation, refugee work and development assistance by establishing policy guidelines and overseeing distribution of the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering received by churches.

Ordination Council

On May 20, 2021 an ordination council was held via Zoom by the Pinn Memorial Baptist Church for Min. Monet Amos. Following questions and answers delegates voted to recommend Monet for ordination.

News and Notes

Around the Region

Pastoral Transitions



Reverend Darren Umble began serving as the Interim Pastor at The **Mount Zion Baptist Church of Holmesburg** in September 2018. He is now Mount Zion's Pastor Elect. He was both licensed and ordained by Mount Zion where he served as an associate minister for six years under the leadership of the former Pastor Rev. Scott C. Dorsey. Prior to his calling to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he also served as a deacon at Mount Zion for 19 years. An

installation service was held September 25th.

On June 25, 2021 **Rev. David S. Smith** was installed as the sixth pastor of the **Church of the Redeemer Baptist**. Prior to this he served as the interim pastor at Wayland Temple Baptist Church.



The **Corinthian Baptist Church of Germantown** welcomed their new pastor **Rev. Robert Solomon** who began his ministry on July 11, 2021.

Dr. Darrell R. Bradsbery has been elected as the Interim Pastor at the **Wayland Temple Baptist Church**.

On August 29th the **Rev. Jeffrey Snyder** concluded his ministry at the **Lansdowne Baptist Church**. He served at the church since 2014.

Anniversaries



May 2021 marked the 50th Pastoral Anniversary of **Rev. Dr. James A. Pollard, Sr.** at **Zion Baptist Church of Ardmore**. On May 16th special worship service was held honoring him for his 50 years of leadership and commitment to the church. Congratulations to **Dr. Pollard and Rev. Virginia Pollard** who celebrated their

Zion Baptist Church of Ardmore will celebrate their **125th church anniversary** and the **50th pastoral anniversary** of Dr. Pollard on October 3rd with a Red Carpet Black Tie event to be held at the church as well as virtually.

In Memoriam



The **Rev. Dr. Horace O. Russell** an international Baptist theologian and an ecumenist; a Church historian and a pioneer in the study of Caribbean church history; a Professor, Dean, and college President; Pastor, passed away April 5, 2021.

Dean of Chapel.

In 1990 Horace responded to an invitation from the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, (*now Palmer Seminary,*) to join their faculty and also served as the

In 1992 he became the Interim Pastor of the historic **Saints Memorial Baptist Church** in Bryn Mawr and was later called as Senior Pastor in 1996. He retired in 2010.



We remember **Deacon Emanuwel Pulley** who passed away May 7, 2021. He served as Assistant Treasurer from 2015-2016 and as Treasurer of the PBA from 2017-2019. He was a member of New Horizon Baptist Church, Rev. Flora Anderson, Pastor.

Church Closure

Announcement of Church Closure and Invitation to Final Worship Service

Lansdowne Baptist Church has made the difficult, yet faith-filled, decision to end its ministry after 135 years. Please join the congregation on November 21, 2021, for their final worship service as they celebrate and give thanks for the church's many years of ministry and fellowship.

When: November 21, 2021, at 11 a.m.

Where: Lansdowne Baptist Church
17 E. LaCrosse Avenue
Lansdowne, PA 19050

(Note: Lansdowne Baptist Church is following current public health guidance regarding masks.)

For more information, including how to join the service virtually, please contact Rev. Dr. Courtney Davis Olds, transitional pastor, at LansdowneBaptistPastor@gmail.com.

World Mission Offering 2021

We've Been Surprised by God's Glory" John 1:16

During the World Mission Offering this September and October, your church has the opportunity to join the transformational work God is doing around the world through International Ministries' 120+ global servants and 250+ global partners. God can use your participation not only to change lives internationally, but also to deepen your own discipleship in Christ. You can take part in what the Holy Spirit is doing to bring God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven."

Take a glimpse into the ministry of International Ministries' Global Servants Alise and Mark Juanes in this [video](#) as they give practical care and love to the hill tribe children in Chiang Mai, Thailand, through the House of Love and House of Blessing.

You can find this video and many more resources at www.worldmissionoffering.org to engage your church, small group, and others in cross-cultural mission.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **November 8 - December 8, 2021** - Friends of Jitokeze Faith in Action Group (Central Baptist, Wayne) Virtual Raffle Event. See the [flyer](#) for more information.
- ◆ **July 4-9, 2022** - International Ministries' World Mission Conference @ Green Lake Conference Center, WI. Spend the 4th of July connecting with friends and more than two dozen global servants & international partners.
- ◆ **November 12, 2022** - The annual PBA Mission Banquet @ The Drexelbrook Events Center, Drexel Hill, PA .

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

STAY CONNECTED

