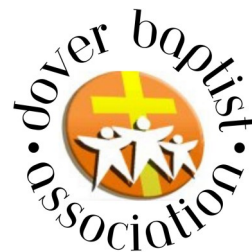


DOVER DIARY

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

Vol. XLVI, No. 1 January 2024



For over four decades, I have closed the old year and began the new with the same two rituals. First, like thousands of others, I have made New Year's resolutions. I'm sure, similarly to many Christians, I have resolved to recommit to disciplines regarding my faith, fitness, and food. I have resolved to spend more time in God's Word, lead more like Jesus, spend regular time in prayer and fasting, exercise regularly, and cut down on toxic, processed and sugary foods.

The second ritual is one I've yet to find a single individual to share my obsession with. At various times, during every Advent and Christmas season, I have watched, read, and/or listened to at least one version of *A Christmas Carol*, the classic novella by Charles Dickens. This year I had the privilege to sit with hundreds of other folks as one of our Dover Baptist Association churches morphed this classic Dickens's tale into a beautiful (380-mile) Off-Broadway musical production. After that final scene in which Tiny Tim utters that classic supplication, "God bless us every one!" the audience was invited to stand and join the *A Christmas Carol* cast in singing Christmas carols. I left the church, as they say, "in the Christmas spirit," which often happens each year, and thus the reason it has become a ritual.

You are probably familiar with the Dickensian tale, and as a Christian, have caught the fact that this story of a sinner's redemption and forgiveness of those he trespassed against, is chock full of both direct and indirect allusions to the Christian faith. I think the most obvious is when Bob Cratchit recounts the words of his son, Tiny Tim. As the two emerge from their Christmas Eve worship service, as Cratchit later reflects, "He told me coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see."

For the first time in over four decades and dozens of doses of Dickens, I am wondering if I've stumbled into another allusion to Jesus Christ, previously unthought of. In the story, the Ghost of Christmas Present entreats Scrooge to, "Come in! and know me better, man!" Did Dickens mean for the beseeching from this spirit to be an allegorical invitation to the heart of my Savior? Was the author feeling the need to remind his readers that Jesus stands at the door and knocks (Revelation 3:20)? Was this spirit who enters the scene crowned with a wreath of Holly an allusion to the One who exited a sinless life wearing a crown of thorns?

I don't know, but it reminds me that the Christmas spirit I'm feeling - and need to act upon - is the Holy Spirit indwelling in me, revealing Himself, once again, that I need to know Him

"COME IN!

AND KNOW ME BETTER, MAN!"



"Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." -2 Peter 3: 17-18

better. My prayer is that this newfound "Aha!" from classic literature, combined with Christian discipleship, will make my other ritual of New Year's resolutions, more attainable.

You want to spend more time in God's Word?

Come in! and know Me better, man!

You want to lead like Jesus?

Come in! and know Me better, man!

You want to experience the power of prayer and fasting?

Come in! and know Me better, man!

You want the resolve to honor God with your body, His temple?

Come in! and know Me better, man!

My prayer for you in the New Year is that you too will heed The Spirit, and our Savior's invitation: "Come in! And know Me better!"

God bless and Happy New Year!
Rev. Arnold 'Win' Davis

DBA Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Visit www.doverbaptist.org or call the Dover office: (804) 550-1980 for more information.

DOVER OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S,
December 25—January 1

Weekly Pastor Support Group, Dover Office
Mondays, 9:30 a.m. and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Raceway Ministries Meeting, Zoom
Tuesday, January 9, 9 a.m.

Dover Executive Committee Meeting, Dover Office
Tuesday, January 9, 7 p.m.

Looking Ahead...

Raceway Ministries Meeting, Zoom
Tuesday, February 6 and March 12, 9 a.m.

Dover Council Meeting, Dover Office
Tuesday, March 12, 1 p.m.

To access our public calendar please check out our website homepage: www.doverbaptist.org



NOBLE WARRIORS®
LEADER'S CONFERENCE

Calling All Men Leaders! The 2024 Noble Warriors Leader's Conference is taking place on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at Staples Mill Road Baptist Church, Glen Allen, VA.

Register at:

<https://noblewarriors.org/leadersconference/>



YOU can help us reach the fans at the Richmond Raceway!

Richmond Raceway Dates

March: Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st, 2024
August: Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th, 2024

We need help to:

- Set-up under the tents and in Lot F.
- Transport the tables and chairs, igloos, etc. to be used during the race times
- Distribute the "cup of cold water," lemonade and cookies.
- Maintain tables where we give out free Bibles, tracts, New Testaments, etc.
- Hand out flyers before races to advertise worship services and big celebration Sunday afternoon.
- Guide the fans around the track.
- Run games/matchbox car races, paint faces, & serve snow-cones and popcorn at our Kids Corner locations.
- Provide homemade cookies prior to races! 2-3 per bag with a label including if they are nut free and "compliments of [your church]."

To volunteer or ask questions, please call Charles Ward at 804-317-0094 to get info for your short online, self-paced training. Cookies do not require training and can be dropped off the week prior at the Dover Baptist Association Office. Thank you!

KINGDOM WORK

Pastor Joe Reeves on behalf of Famaden Memorial Institute received funds from DBA's Leslie and Hazel Watson Annual Mission Offering (WAMO), which will go to serving the children in the predominantly non-Christian country of Liberia through Christian education, Bible studies, and sports.

Pastor Joe and his church Tabernacle of Praise Ministries International also have been featured by local news for their devotion to serving the unhoused of Richmond. If you'd like to donate items to this ministry, please drop items off at our Dover office Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays during office hours. Current needs include:



Pastor Joe Reeves (right), on behalf of Famaden, accepts WAMO funds as presented by Executive Director Win Davis



Coffee
Creamer
Sugar
Tissues
Paper towels

Cleaning supplies
Napkins
Spoons and forks
Coffee cups
Disposable plates

Pray For These

The leaders of **Famaden Memorial Institute**, our **Dover Staff**, and all **Dover's churches**:

- January 7 Ashland, First Baptist**
Josh Hayden (Senior Pastor), Ross Wright, Tom Lynch, Todd Smith, Laura Ross, Lisa Reckley
- January 7 Atlee Community**
Jeff Boggess (Senior Pastor), Trey Critzer, Sandy Batten, Jason Mallory, Chad Rice, Jeremy Meads, Stephanie Farr, Ras Peel, Grace Young, Chris Muldoon, Tom Lewis, Stephanie Johnson, Kiersten Critzer, Charles Fitzgerald, Jayden Burch, Katelyn Wood
- January 14 Berea**
John Baldwin (Senior Pastor), Mark Jenkins, Bill Miller, Megan Mershon, Amy Jones, Tammy Hynson, Tracy Cronin, John Dawson, Delaney Boone
- January 14 Beulah**
Alex Rand (Senior Pastor), Logan Rand
- January 21 Biltmore**
Ken Wright (Senior Pastor), Marsha Ann Worsham
- January 21 Black Creek**
Stephen Kendrick (Senior Pastor), Dawn Parker, Grayson Parker
- January 28 Broadus Memorial**
Phil Peacock (Senior Pastor), Jeff Poythress, Karen Tucker, Ellis Dunton, Tyson Banks, Jamie Cosley, Abby Carter, Carol Golden, Geneva Bohannon, Buddy Crawford
- January 28 Colosse**
Jeff Mills (Senior Pastor), Marian Carnell

A special prayer for the following churches that are in transition (either currently without a pastor or have an interim/intentional pastor):

Arabic	Indian View	Sharon
Corinth	Mechanicsville	Taylorsville
Four Mile Creek	Pamunkey Indian	
Hillcrest	Parham Road	

Personnel Changes



Congratulations to Rev. Dr. Clarke Hawkins (center) on his retirement after thirteen years serving as Senior Pastor at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hanover County.

DWMU News

The **Woman's Missionary Union (WMU)**, founded in 1888 as an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention, is the world's largest Protestant women's missions organization.

Happy New Year! I pray this year will be most precious to you as you grow in your walk with Christ, and I encourage you to subscribe to *Missions Mosaic*, the WMU magazine, by calling 1-800-968-7301 or by visiting to wmustore.com to help you do so.

Here are highlights from this month's issue:

- A prayer list of missionary birthdays
- Children and youth content for learning about the same missionary each month. This month children in MFs and CAs will be learning about missionaries and Hondurans Eber and Melisa Arguetas, serving immigrants in Minnesota.
- A spotlight on Julie Bustler and her book *Joyful Sorrow*, which shares how God helped her break through the darkness of mental illness
- An article "The Light Shines" about how we can better reach out in love for ourselves and others
- A Bible study on the unwavering faith of Joseph
- A challenge to be faithful prayer warriors

I recently heard a testimony of a woman who lived in the neighborhood of a pastor and his family. They invited her often to share a meal. She said that after 500 dinners she finally turned to Christ in faith. How often do we invite our neighbors over for a meal? I Peter 4:9 tells us to practice hospitality without complaining. In fact, the word "hospitality" is used 1,259 times in the Bible. Don't think about why you don't do it; turn to Christ and do what He says to do, understanding that obedience brings joy and peace. Building bridges and developing relationships in order to share the good news of Jesus Christ is paramount. That is what all our missionaries do! Most of us will never be on a list of missionaries with the IMB or NAMB, but according to Jesus, **we are all missionaries**. So, what are you doing to build bridges and connect with people to tell them about Jesus Christ? I pray that each of you will pray and serve just like Jesus!

—Beth Watson Ward, DWMU Director

Dover Expresses Our Sympathy

To the family of Susie E. Custalow, age 93, mother of Chief Mark T. Falling Star Custalow of Mattaponi Indian Baptist Church, upon her passing November 29, 2023.

To the family of Nancy Moore, wife of former Dover Baptist Association Executive Director Richard Moore, formerly of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, upon her passing November 30, 2023.

To the family of Paul Webb, father to Doug Webb of Taylorsville BC and former Randolph Macon College head basketball coach, upon his passing December 8, 2023.



Dover Baptist Association
PO Box 6128
Ashland, VA 23005

"A Resource Network for Baptist Churches since 1783"

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Positions Available

Visit www.doverbaptist.org/jobs for all openings or click hyperlinks below in electronic newsletter.

Berea Baptist Church seeks a Church Office Assistant (full-time) and a Church Operations Manager (full-time). For more info, visit www.berea-baptist-church.org

Ferry Farm Baptist (Fredericksburg) seeks a Children & Youth Pastor. Send cover letters and résumés to: cyfpastor-search@ferryfarmbc.org

First Baptist Church, Richmond seeks a Payroll/Accounts Payable Coordinator (full-time). For more info, visit www.fbcrichmond.org/about/careers

Four Mile Creek Baptist Church seeks a Music Coordinator (part-time), and a Pastor (full-time). Music Coordinator interests, send résumés to ChurchAdmin@FMCBaptist.com. Pastor interests, send résumés to pastorsearch.fmc@gmail.com

Gravel Hill Baptist Church of Richmond seeks a Church Pianist/Keyboardist (part-time). Send résumés to: kcj.gravelhill@gmail.com

Hillcrest Baptist Church seeks a Director of Music Ministry (part-time). Send résumés to: hbcmusicsearch@gmail.com

Hopeful Baptist Church seeks an Assistant Pastor (full-time). Interests inquire: HBC.assistantpastorsearch@gmail.com

Mechanicsville Baptist Church seeks a Senior Pastor (full-time). Send résumés to: searchteam.mbc@gmail.com

Mount Vernon Baptist Church is seeking Child Care Workers. For more info and/or apply: <https://mountvernon.church/careers/>

New Highland Baptist Church seeks a Children's Ministry Director (part-time). Send résumés to rjparrett@gmail.com with subject "Children's Ministry Director."

Pamunkey Indian Baptist Church seeks a Pastor (full-time). Email Aindian02@aol.com.

Poplar Springs Baptist Church seeks a Worship Pastor (part-time).

Contact Marvin Beck at MXB@copper.net if interested.

Samaria Baptist Church seeks a Sunday and event A/V Technician (part-time). Call 804-829-2280 for more info.

Taylorsville Baptist Church is seeking a Pastor (full-time). For more info, visit www.taylorsvillebaptist.org/careers

Walnut Grove Baptist Church seeks a Pianist/Praise Team Leader (Part-Time). Interests please send resumes to Office@wgva.church.

Winfree Church seeks a part-time Minister of Congregational Care. Send résumés to winfree.search@gmail.com

Church & Clergy Tax Seminar

February 22, 2024 - 9:30 a.m. until Noon

Location: Virginia Baptist Resource Center or Virtual
2828 Emerywood Parkway, Henrico 23294

Register: www.bgav.org/events

Seminar runs from 9:30 a.m. until noon. This seminar is designed for church staff and lay leaders who handle taxes and compensation. Attendees will get help with tax implications of compensation planning for church staff (including retirement and insurance), handling minister's taxes, and federal reporting requirements for churches. Those who cannot attend the seminar have the option to receive a link to the seminar recording for future viewing.

Attend In-person Seminar ONLY:

- \$15 for BGAV members
- \$30 for non-BGAV members

Link to Webinar Recording for Future Viewing ONLY:

- \$15 for BGAV members
- \$30 for non-BGAV members

Attend In-person Seminar + Receive Recording Link:

- \$20 for BGAV members
- \$40 for non-BGAV members