



Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"

Vol. XLIII, No. 4 April 2021

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Upcoming Events

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

Monthly Dover Pastors & Ministry Staff

Prayer Gathering

Tuesday, April 6, 10 a.m., Zoom

Weekly Pastors Support Group

Mondays, 9:30 a.m. or Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

A/V & Tech Support Network

Tuesday, April 6, 6:30 p.m., Zoom

Prayer Council Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 10 a.m.,

Dover Office

Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 7 p.m.,

Hunton Baptist Church & Zoom

Pastors Health Network - Book Discussion

"Flickering Pixels"

Tuesday, April 20, 12 p.m.,

Dover Office & Zoom

Semiannual Meeting

Sunday, April 25, 3 p.m.,

Glen Allen Baptist Church & Zoom

Dover Baptist Association Semiannual Meeting "Mission That Matters"

Sunday, April 25, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Registration opens at 2:30 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: Glen Allen Baptist Church & on Zoom
3028 Mountain Road, Glen Allen

The Dover Semiannual Meeting will feature several of the recent Watson Mission Offering recipients. The Student Ministries Council will present a Hepler Scholarship recipient.

Keynote Speaker: Honesty Liller, CEO, The McShin Foundation

Honesty Liller is a in long-term recovery from a Substance Use Disorder since 2007 and a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist in VA. She is the Chief Executive Officer of The McShin Foundation, a non-profit authentic peer-to-peer Recovery Community Organization (RCO), that serves individuals and families with Substance Use Disorders.

Honesty is a voice for those with addiction and their families through countless news articles, magazine stories, and TV interviews. To spend time with her husband, two children, and two doggies is a gift that keeps giving!



Meeting Messengers:

Dover churches may send voting messengers to this meeting (see below). In addition to voting messengers, the Association invites any Dover Baptist and their guests to share in this inspiring meeting.

Plan to attend by Zoom? Please register: www.doverbaptist.org/semiannual

Elect your Messengers! Article 4 of Dover's Constitution states:

Each member church shall be entitled to send two messengers to Annual, Semiannual and special Called Association Meetings. A church that contributes at least \$400 to the General Fund during the Association's previous fiscal year shall be entitled to have three (3) messengers. An additional messenger is added for each additional \$400 contribution to the General Fund up to a maximum of seven (7) messengers for any church.

Happy Easter!



Let's Get Phygital: 4 Key Areas Moving Forward

By: Sam Duenckel

Three years ago I attended the Church Information Technology (IT) conference in Northern Virginia. Most of the churches represented had thousands of members and guests each week at multiple services and events. The vast majority were already doing some form of livestreaming, and many of them were experts at producing content. As their main reason for attending the conference, however; various participants stated, "we have been livestreaming for years, but we realize that we really lack a sense of community".

Last year, COVID-19 hit the United States and the whole world. Many aspects of our lives ground to a halt for a few months. Church leaders scrambled to figure out "new" ways to connect to their congregations and communities when things they depended on for decades (ie. Programs, gathering in buildings, etc) were no longer an option, or were greatly restricted. Many church leaders now spend countless hours on Zoom, Facebook Live, and many other platforms.

COVID-19 leveled the "playing field" for all churches. The large churches struggled with building community, and the average and smaller churches have plenty of community but few were previously doing any form of livestreaming. The major blessing God provided is the timing of when COVID-19 hit - if it had hit us even 10 years ago, most churches could never afford to do the things they have been able to do over the past year! Praise God for this!

Now we have passed the first anniversary of when COVID-19 changed things at warp-speed. Some people are longing to go back to the way things were before COVID-19. Others are embracing the changes and exploring the "new normal". We have all learned some new (to us) terms such as: phygital, social-distancing, positivity rate, and more! I want to spend some time on the word "phygital". The word was coined in 2013, but most of us never heard it until this past year, if at all. Phygital is the combination of physical and digital. The word was coined first in the business world, primarily regarding marketing techniques and behavior. COVID-19 brought phygital necessities to all of our churches at warp speed.

As we move forward in this new frontier, let's consider a few key areas that must be explored:

1. Membership

What will membership mean in this phygital world? I would counter that digital membership will mostly mirror the physical membership. Most Dover churches have a quorum between 20-35% at business meetings. What about the other 65-80% of the members? Some only come to a worship service once or twice a year. Some come every 6 weeks. Others are very involved in one or more ministries of the church, but attending a business meeting is not top priority for them. The same is true of people interacting digitally. Some will only watch the Sunday worship service or a particular Bible study. Others will host a "watch-party" in

their homes streaming your church's worship service and invite their neighbors and friends to join them. Some will even attend your business meeting on Zoom and eagerly participate.

2. Know Your Audience

In the phygital world we are now in, we must be aware of our audience. Before COVID-19, there were potentially 3 different audiences in your congregation: seekers, regular (or active) members/attenders, and occasional visitors/members ("CEOs" aka, Christmas and Easter Only). The same is true in the digital ministry of your church. Some just want to watch. Others are curious and have some questions, they likely have never interacted with a church before. And there are those who were involved in church during an earlier time in their life, and now are hungry to re-engage with a Christian community.

3. Know Your Church's Unique Role/Gift

Every church has a unique gifts or role(s) and should continuously discern them. What are the main characteristics of the community your church is physically located in? Why did God place your church where it is?

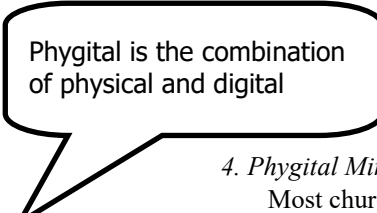
The digital community of your church is exponentially more than the physical community. Some participating with your church online are connected by family, friends, co-workers, etc. Others are connected by ministries/missions of your church. They might be a single mom, a person recovering from addiction, or someone struggling with depression or grief. Focus on the areas you feel God is leading you to, or where God has already led you.

4. Phygital Ministry Opens New Opportunities

Most churches do not have a huge technology budget. Some are wondering how to even create one. The blessing of technology now is the scalability at a relatively inexpensive rate. If you are already livestreaming using YouTube, Facebook, etc, that's fantastic! Your next step is to have at least one person per platform to interact with digital participants. For example, someone to manage the prayer requests chat (Facebook is actually adding this feature soon). In the physical worship experience, the pastor usually stands near the front to pray with people. You need people ready to do the same with those participating digitally. The potential impact of each church has now exponentially increased. The Gospel can definitely be spread to the ends of the earth!

Next Steps

Dover will offer a variety of opportunities over the next few months to explore this new phygital world together. We encourage you and your church to join us. If you do not receive our weekly email, where some of these opportunities will be announced, then please visit www.doverbaptist.org to sign-up or let us know and we will gladly add you.



Phygital is the combination of physical and digital

Positions Available

Visit www.doverbaptist.org for all of the job openings.

Black Creek Baptist Church seeks a Pastor (full-time). The ideal candidate should have at least 5-10 years of pastoral experience. For more information and/or apply, please contact jgrowe@live.com

Four Mile Creek Baptist Church seeks a Worship Coordinator (part-time).

Visit www.doverbaptist.org/worship-coordinator-part-time for more information and/or apply.

Mount Vernon Baptist Church seeks a Director of Communications (full-time). The candidate should be a strong Christian individual with experience and knowledge to oversee and implement an overall strategy for communicating the mission and ministries with church members and the community. For more information and/or apply, visit www.mvbcnow.org/jobs

Mount Vernon Baptist Church also seeks a Director of Technical Arts (full-time). The candidate should be a strong Christian individual who is committed to the ministries and mission of the local church. This position will be the technical director for all Sunday worship services and special worship services. For more information and/or apply, visit www.mvbcnow.org/jobs

North Run Baptist Church seeks a Ministry Assistant (part-time). Duties include, but are not limited to, taking incoming calls, maintaining the church calendar, typing the weekly bulletin and monthly church newsletter, purchasing office supplies, mailing correspondence, and working directly with the paid staff to achieve the goals of the church as well as other applicable responsibilities as assigned. Please send resume to nrbministryassistantsearch@gmail.com

Tipi Wakan Mission Trips

Small teams of 4-6 people are needed for the following:

Construction/Repairs Team with WMUV
May 23-29, 2021

Mission Immersion/Team Leader Orientation Trip
June 26 – July 3, 2021

Please contact maria.lynn@doverbaptist.org for more information and to register.



Pray For These

The leaders of Tipi Wakan Ministries, our Dover Staff, and in Dover's churches:

April 4: **Grace Chinese Baptist Church**

Ro Penaranda, Pastor; Peter Li, Evelyn Yao

Grace Community Baptist Church

Chris Jones, Pastor; Paul Sheaffer, Kathleen Cantwell, Steven Ryan, Brenda Burnett

April 11: **Gwathmey Baptist Church**

Bob Collins, Intentional Interim Pastor, Taylor Elizabeth Bigelow

April 18: **Hardy Central Baptist Church**

Sam King, Pastor; Martha Ligon, Mary Paul, Charles Long

April 25: **Hillcrest Baptist Church**

Clarke Hawkins, Pastor; Mary-Jane Smith, Debra Edwards

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

Arabic	Gwathmey	New Bethesda
Black Creek	Mechanicsville	Mount Olivet

Dover Baptists Express Sympathy

...to the family of Don Garstang who passed away on March 19.

Don was the husband of Kitty, who served on the Prayer Council (2015-2019) for **Dover Baptist Association**, and a member of **Cool Spring Baptist Church**. Don was also the father-in-law of Kristi Garstang, who serves as the Financial Administrative Assistant at **New Highland Baptist Church**.

...to the family of Clara Flippo who passed away on March 13. Clara was the mother-in-law of Bill Alphin (Brenda), who served as the Associate for Church Development (2010-2015) for **Dover Baptist Association**.

...to the family of Bernice Rodgerson who passed away on March 2. Bernice was the widow of Phillip (Phil), Former Interim Director of Missions for **Dover Baptist Association** (1995-1996).

Virginia Church Library Association

Coffee & Chat

Saturday, April 17, 2021 - 10 a.m. to Noon

Monument Heights Baptist Church

5716 Monument Avenue, Henrico

RSVP by April 16 to Lee Smith

call (804) 306-3862 or email: Lsmith5471@aol.com

The Coffee & Chat is open to all librarians and library workers. We will have round-table discussions on various topics. Come get acquainted with other librarians in our area, ask questions, and share what's happening in your library! *Mask and social distancing are required.*



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11006 Lakeridge Parkway
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Richmond, VA

Maria Lynn, Interim Executive Director of Missions
Sam Duenckel, Associate for Missions
Sandy Weakley, Executive Assistant
Sue Hall, Ministry Assistant
Steve Smith, Associate for Ministry to Church Leaders

Digital Ministry Resources

Resilient Church Academy

By: Fresh Expressions

Starts Thursday, April 8

*Resurrecting Church: Postures and Practices for
Congregations on the Other Side.*

Visit www.resilientchurchacademy.com for more
information and let us know if you would like to join the
Dover group rate.

Stadia Innovation Meetup

By: Stadia Church Planting

Tuesday, August 17 - Noon to 4 p.m.

Visit www.stadiachurchplanting.org for more information.

Save the Date

Paper Shred Day

Tuesday, June 15 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Dover Baptist Association Office

Bring up to 3 grocery bags of paper to shred.

NASCAR Race Weekend

Saturday, April 17 & Sunday, April 18

**NO COOKIES ARE NEEDED DUE TO
COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

Raceway Ministries will be present, but our ministry will be
scaled back. We will not be handing out cookies or hosting a
children's carnival, but we will continue to assist Guest Services
at several locations and offer Chaplain support. We still need a
few volunteers to assist (10-12 each morning or afternoon,
Saturday and Sunday).

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact

Charles Ward at (804) 262-3612 to sign up.

You must follow COVID-19 protocols to serve at the track!

Friday, April 9 – Deadline for all workers to complete the
HIPAA and COVID-19 waivers

(This must be completed or volunteers will not be allowed on
property.)

Online waivers that must be completed to volunteer:

<https://trackwaivers.com/MidAtl/adult-employee-covid-waiver>

<https://trackwaivers.com/MidAtl/adult-hipaa-form-2021>

Personnel Changes

- **Walnut Grove Baptist Church** welcomed Colby Whittaker as Senior Pastor on April 12.
- David Moore concluded service as the Middle School Minister Associate at **Cool Spring Baptist Church** on March 10.
- **Pioneer Baptist Church** welcomed Ron Shortt as their Pastor on March 1.

Dover WMU News

Mission Project Focus

The WMUV will collect hygiene, family, and children's donation kits to deliver to Standing Rock this Summer! Visit for www.wmuv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Standing-Rock-Kit-Flyer-.pdf for more information on how you and your church can participate:

Save the Date

Dover WMU Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Hybrid Meeting: Church Location TBD

7:00 p.m.

More details coming soon.