



Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

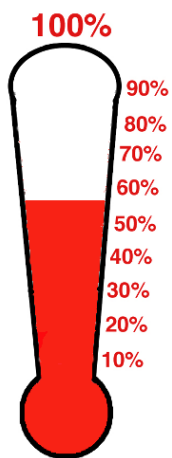
"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"

Vol. XLII, No. 8 August 2020

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Leslie and Hazel Watson Association Missions Offering



Goal: \$30,000

Received as of
July 22:

\$16,503.88

Thank You!!

Paper Shred & Cool Treats

Tuesday, August 11 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Dover Baptist Association Parking Lot
Bring up to 3 grocery bags of paper to shred.
Enjoy a cool treat and awesome community.

Dover Calls The Reverend Dr. Maria Lynn as Interim Executive Director of Missions

On July 14, Dover's Executive Committee approved the recommendation to call The Reverend Dr. Maria E. Lynn as the Interim Executive Director of Missions. Dr. Lynn will begin working part-time on Monday, August 10, 2020. For many Dover Baptists involved in Virginia WMU, Dr. Lynn is a familiar face; likewise, those who have participated in mission trips to the Standing Rock Reservation in North and South Dakota have benefited from Dr. Lynn's passion and expertise. The following article will help all Dover Baptists know more about Dr. Lynn and to help welcome her.



What do you prefer Dover Baptists call you?

I am happy for people to call me Maria!

What are your hopes in serving as Interim Executive Director for the Dover Baptist Association?

As the part-time Interim Executive Director for the Dover Baptist Association, I hope to begin by listening to the pastors, associational leadership and the churches at large about their dreams and concerns for their churches and the association as an extension of their ministry. I look forward to discerning where God might be encouraging the association in ministry endeavors and where we might be challenged to learn some new ways of cooperating for the kingdom effort.

Can you tell us a little about your current sense of call?

My teaching career, like the other areas of my life, has given me the opportunity to teach in a variety of public schools. From rural Virginia to the inner city and places in between, I've enjoyed teaching children in grades 5-7 and working with a variety of teachers and administrators. Each of these brought opportunities to minister to staff and students.

Congregational ministry allowed me to use my teaching and administrative gifts with all age groups, ministering to the needs of families and shepherding the congregation through seasons of transition and discovering identity.

Church planting taught me how to start a new church from the ground up. Serving in a variety of capacities helped me see what church is without the building, fresh ways to worship, and how to serve, grow and connect with others.

Denominational mission work has allowed me to apply my leadership, teaching and administrative skills in mission training,

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Dover Calls...(cont.)

planning events, coordinating mission partnerships, developing leaders, mentoring young adults, and engaging the churches and associations across Virginia in mission. My doctoral studies regarding cultural intelligence, helped me better understand the cultural influences that have informed my faith and how the church can better understand and relate to the communities they wish to reach for Christ.

My desire is to serve Christ and follow the call to serve in a place that helps the church connect with people of God.

Can you describe ways that you are currently involved in mentoring (discipling) activities/relationships?

The most recent mentoring has been through my interim pastorate with Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church. I had the opportunity there to invest in several adults exploring ministry, seminary and service in the church. Over the last year, I intentionally worked with helping church leaders develop their leadership skills and led them through the discipling process of life shapes. In my role with WMUV, I developed a young women's leadership cohort that included mentoring through a discipleship huddle.

How does your management or leadership style affect your relationship with other staff members and lay leaders, clients, projects, or any other leadership situation you find yourself in?

For me, leading like Christ involves relationship and purpose. People want to follow a leader that knows them and knows where they are going. For a leader to do this she must have ongoing relationships with God and people. The first task in leadership is discerning what God is already doing in the lives of people, the congregation and in the community.

On an individual level, coaching is part of my leadership style. Helping people discern what God is saying and what God is calling them to do with their passions and gifts in service to the kingdom.

On a congregational level, communication, collaboration and compassion are important to me, as I don't have all the answers! Inviting people to the table for discernment, planning and involvement matter to me. People want to know their input is needed and valued and are more likely to engage in the mission. Communication is vital to anything we want to accomplish and includes not only logistical detail but the stories of transformation as well. Having a clear message and direction inspires people to engage. Compassion is important in leadership. Getting to know yourself and others and how you work together in a spirit of grace creates an environment of trust.

As a leader, I believe I am one who collaborates with others in decision making, one who listens with compassion, trying to understand different points of view, one who relies on the leadership of the Spirit and discernment in community for direction, one who inspires people with stories of transformation, and one who equips people for service. I believe I am organized, diplomatic, strategic, and compassionate.

Can you briefly describe how you understand the church can relate to the community and create intersections where church and the local community can work together for a common good?

People connect with the church through a variety of 'doors'. No longer can we assume they will enter through the one door of worship service. Some connect through a cause like human trafficking, or a need like recovery, a mission engagement opportunity like playing Bingo at the senior center, a ministry like a cooperative food pantry or coffee shop, or a life event such as a funeral or wedding. The church begins by assessing the needs of their community, listening to school counselors and administrators, emergency services, law enforcement, local clergy, community boards and councils. The next step is to identify the gifts and passions of church members and find ways they intersect with the needs of the community.

Can you specifically describe how different cultures, contexts and churches were navigated in those experiences?

At WMUV we identified a need for engaging young women in the organization in ways that were relevant to their life stage. The "myMission" model incorporated the same values of mission education and involvement historic to WMU. However, the new model looked very different than the circle that met on the second Tuesday of the month at church. These groups formed around a cause, a life stage or a discipleship need. Groups started across Virginia were not duplicates of each other. One formed as an associational model, creating periodic events for women while engaging in fresh ways with the associational mission projects. Another group formed as an intergenerational model that met to support the needs of the domestic violence shelter. One group formed around life stage – single, educated, trouble finding employment in their field and all had an interest in the cause of human trafficking. These groups of young women valued the legacy of WMU and the older women while enjoying the freedom to make it their own. While some of our older women struggled with letting go of their idea of WMU they supported the young women in their efforts.

Can you describe some creative local and global missions work that you have led or been involved in through your work?

Hope Events were developed to provide a forum for learning about the variety of ways the church can engage with the community. A 4-hour event offered workshops led by lay people leading various ministries that reached their communities – hunger, literacy, human trafficking, prison ministry, aging and caregiving, etc.

Mission Street Teams were developed to engage the young or working adult who couldn't afford the money or time to spend a week on a mission trip. Street teams formed around a cause and involved some pre-reading on the topic.

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Positions Available

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

Emmaus Baptist Church seeks a pastor (full-time). The Pastor and Church profiles along with a Pastor Position Description are on our website at www.emmausbapchurch.com under the Pastor Search heading. Inquires and resumes may be directed to: pastorsearchcommittee2020@gmail.com

Gwathmey Baptist Church is looking into a Youth Pastor (part-time), please send resume to Tracy Bradley, 11232 Gwathmey Church Road, Ashland, VA 23005

Pioneer Baptist Church seeks a Pastor (full-time) and a Music Director (part-time). For more information and/or apply, contact pbsearch1051@gmail.com



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE!

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**



ONLINE EXPERIENCE*

*Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Virginia's social-distancing requirements, the Leadership Development Conference will be an online experience this year. Several videos of local church leaders discussing real current issues will be posted on our website by the date of the conference.

WWW.BAPTISTLEADERS.ORG

(804) 314-0294

Dover Calls...(cont.)

Volunteers arrived Friday afternoon to discuss their reading with a local practitioner in the cause. Saturday was spent engaging hands-on with the cause and learning about other local resources and ministries addressing the cause. This was followed by dialog regarding ways they could engage the issue in their context at home.

I led several teams to Hungary and Romania as part of a partnership with Romanian Baptists and Virginia Baptists. Our work involved engaging with Romanian church women and Roma church women about the human trafficking issue.

In my role at WMUV I was invited to expand the efforts of the Roanoke Valley Association to include the involvement of other churches and associations in the mission effort on the reservation in the Dakotas. It continues today and in the last 13 years, we've invested in summer missionaries, Venturers, developed an equine ministry, and added long term missionaries to the team at Tipi Wakan.

Hunger Initiative efforts, relaunched 12 years ago, included a series of hunger dialogs across the state, training on starting food pantry coops, networking churches engaged

in hunger efforts for sharing resources, ideas, and expertise. *Please share a few things about your family?*

I've been married to my husband, Randy, for nearly 35 years. Randy has served as Media Pastor at Bon Air Baptist for the last 13 years, overseeing all their AV, multi-site and live-stream worship, and ministry related technical needs. We are parents to Jake, Annalise and Grace, who are finding their own ways to contribute to God's kingdom. We love the partners they chose to live life with, Tracy, Alan and Nick. We are grandparents to two little girls and a third that will be born by the time you read this! It has been an unexpected joy to be Mimi and Poppy to these little ones. We are also part of the sandwich generation, having both sets of parents living active lifestyles into their 80s.

Randy and I enjoy spending time with family, camping, traveling to National Parks, and serving on the Standing Rock Reservation where we will eventually make our home.



Dover Baptist Association
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*"a resource and ally for
churches and their leaders"*

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Permit No. 3022
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

Dover WMU News

Due to COVID-19 we have decided to cancel the Dover WMU Annual meeting for this year. The Dover WMU Council voted to allow for a bonus year so that the current council members can stay on for one more year if they choose to do so. We will vote on new council members at the Annual Meeting in May 2021.

Please remind your churches about giving to the Leslie and Hazel Watson Offering.

Project Ideas:

Standing Rock Ministry

Their communities need masks. Masks or monetary gifts can be mailed or dropped off (call first) at the WMUV office, 2828 Emerywood Parkway, Henrico VA 23294. Please continue to pray for the families as well! Prayer cards can be found here: <https://wmuv.org/involvement/adults/domestic-missions/standing-rock>

Marisa Sanchez- Eastern Shore Ministry

This ministry is in need of masks, monetary gifts, supplies, and prayers. They can be sent to the WMUV Office.

Remember in these uncertain times that God is in control and He loves us. Trust that the Bible has something to encourage you and help you handle and manage the stress that you are going through. We need to distance ourselves, but that doesn't mean that we can't help each other.

Do a random act of kindness for someone today.

—Michelle Brown,
Dover WMU Director

Personnel Changes

Pioneer Baptist Church welcomed Ron Shortt as their Interim Pastor on June 21.
Reda Gergis concluded his service as Pastor of **Arabic Baptist Church** on June 28.

Pray For These

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

August 2: **New Life Baptist Church**

Lee Mitchell, Interim Pastor; Cathy Rodwell, Valerie Sipe, Christy Neighbors, Amy Barlow

August 9: **North Run Baptist Church**

Adam Denny, Pastor; Kerry Smith, Morgan Day, Erica White, Diamond Cotman

August 16: **Northside Baptist Church**

Jeff Scott, Pastor; Nancy Schneider, Karen Mills, Marlene Bresee, Donise Boone

August 23: **Oak Hall Baptist Church**

Eric Durden, Pastor; Agnes Loyall, Kym Loyall

August 30: **Pamunkey Indian Baptist Church**

Vance Shearin, Pastor; Joyce Krigsvold

100 Days of Prayer

Led by: Northside Baptist Church

"Our Nation at the Crossroads"

July 26-November 3, 2020

A weekly prayer guide is posted on Northside's Facebook page, visit www.northsideva.org for the Facebook link and more information, or call (804) 746-4952.