



# Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

*"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"*

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## Operation Christmas Child

Every year since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. More than 178 million children in more than 150 countries have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This year, Dover Baptist Association served as a Drop Off Center for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all the individuals and church groups that packed shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

Thank you to our super volunteers especially Anita Roy, Harry Roy and Debbie Haley. We unloaded shoeboxes from vehicles, counted shoeboxes, prayed over the shoeboxes and filled cartons!

It's not too late to pack....visit:  
[www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/) and pack an online box for \$25.00 (includes the shipping cost)



"A voice of one calling:

'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."  
(Isaiah 40:3-5) NIV

***We thank God for you! Merry Christmas!***

***Maria, Sam, Sandy, Steve, and Sue***

## Gifts from the Pandemic

The pandemic has left us in a foreign land, much like Israel found themselves in exile in Babylon. We've felt isolated, depressed, and disoriented. We have had to learn new vocabulary, practice new behaviors, learn new skills and adjust to life with limited Clorox wipes. Blessings we've found in this season have included more time with family, more meals at home, cleaner closets, and outdoor adventures.

**Responses to a recent survey of our Dover churches revealed both challenges and blessings.** Our regular church programs were suddenly interrupted. We have had to adapt our current methods of worship and other significant ceremonies – Lord's supper, baptisms, deacon ordination, weddings, and funerals and finding ways to disciple children and youth.

Pastoral care has been a struggle to find ways to care without in-person visits or hugs. Funerals and weddings have been postponed or limited in number of guests. Missional needs are increasing for drive thru food pantries and recovery groups online.

Pastors are feeling the weight, the strain can be seen in their faces as they handle all the tasks mentioned above and learn new technology. You can hear the angst in their voices as they struggle to balance church members opinions on both sides of the mask and in-person worship issues. You can feel their tension and fatigue with no rest /time off because they are working harder than ever – producing several messages a week, communicating with congregation, and planning socially distant events.

Dr. N.T. Wright, author of *God and The Pandemic*, reminds us of the importance of lament. Just as the exiles in Babylon lamented their captivity, we, too, are encouraged to recognize our situation and voice our concern to God in prayer. God's response to His people in Jeremiah 29 tells us we're going to be here for a while, so make a life – create a family, be productive, develop a community and stay in relationship with God – much like His desire for us in the garden of Eden.

Out of our lament we move toward action. Wright points out that caring for those in our community was not something early society did as a common practice. It was the followers of Jesus who demonstrated feeding the hungry, healing the sick, releasing the prisoner. So, in our exile, we too can take action. Dover Churches have been active during this crisis.

**God Moments experienced:** People stepping up; Members helping members; Desire for corporate worship has increased; Realizing that gathering as a local church should not be taken for granted; Drawing us closer together; Ministry to people whose churches were shut down; Reaching beyond comfort zone to reach out to their church family; Seeing new ways church can reach out to the community and world; Number in youth group tripled;

Growth in recovery ministry; New believers; People joining church; More guests coming; Answering call to ministry; Helping us discern which ministries need to be altered or put on a permanent pause; Opportunity to reexamine what we do; Better able to listen to God; Supporting church financially.

**New ministries and methods formed:** Expanded childcare/ Christian school to accommodate virtual learning; Planted community garden in cooperation with Boy Scouts; Sidewalk chalk project for homebound members; Encourage shut-ins with yard signs; Friday night drive-in movie to replace HS football; Expanded tech ministry; Drive by graduation celebrations; Easter goodie bags to local food pantry and local hotel; One on one ministry conversations with children and youth; Virtual children's pajama pop-in with mystery guests and devotional; Deacon ordination held outside in concentric circles including notes of affirmation; Alternative local mission trip – reached out in smaller groups and included youth from area.

**What's next?** People that study the patterns and cycles of human history say that following a period of crisis there is usually a period of growth, stability, and prosperity. How will we be different once the pandemic has ended? What actions and behaviors will we keep in mind as we move forward? Will we: pay attention to those around us and how our actions affect them; appreciate those who provide us with medical care; make time for family and balance our lives better?

As we continue to move forward during a season of transition, we appreciate your faithful support as we encourage pastors and churches. We are grateful for your generous gifts to the Watson Mission Offering that enable us to support recovery, prison, mental health, medical, homeless and hunger ministries. We, as an association, have the opportunity to spend this season doing as God suggests in Jeremiah 29 -

- Building a foundation of prayer for our churches and our pastors.
- Planting new mission outposts and cooperative ministries.
- Making commitments to invest in the development of future leaders and birthing a ministry incubator for the church and association of the future.
- Multiplying our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ of all races and ethnicities.
- Seeking the peace and welfare of our communities.

If you'd like to join me in a **community conversation** regarding one or more of these topics, please email me at [maria.lynn@doverbaptist.org](mailto:maria.lynn@doverbaptist.org).

—Maria Lynn

PARTNERSHIP  
MISSIONS



## Associational Mission Trip to Standing Rock Required Orientation Meeting

When: Saturday, January 30, 2021

Time: 10 a.m.-Noon

Location: in-person TBD & on Zoom

Dover is planning an associational mission trip to the Standing Rock Reservation (in North & South Dakota) in the Summer 2021. This orientation is required for anyone who plans to go either with a church group or individually.

**Registration:** [www.doverbaptist.org/mission-trip](http://www.doverbaptist.org/mission-trip)

## Dover Baptists gave \$23,606.60 to the 2020 Leslie and Hazel Watson Offering for Dover Baptist Association Missions!

Each year Dover Baptists promote a local missions offering. Dover named its missions offering for Leslie and Hazel Watson, two faithful missionaries who served Christ and Southern Baptists in Japan for many years. When they returned to the United States, the Watsons served in this area, taking an active role in their local church and in Dover Baptist Association.

Our 2020 Association Missions Offering supported local ministries. It also provided Dover churches the opportunity to nominate other ministries they deem worthy of our support.

**Goal: \$30,000.00**  
**Received: \$23,606.60**

### Ministry to Our Baptist Community

Inner City Ministry.....	\$3,000
Tipi Wakan Ministries Partnership.....	\$5,000
Ministry to Ministers and Families.....	\$1,500
Central Virginia Raceway Ministries.....	\$500
Partnership Missions Scholarships.....	\$1,200
HopeTree Family Services.....	\$900
ReEstablish Richmond.....	\$900
Good News Jail and Prison Ministry.....	\$500
The Pregnancy Resource Center of Metro Richmond.....	\$1,000
Cross Over Healthcare Ministry.....	\$625
National Alliance on Mental Illness (Central VA).....	\$625
The Fix Ministry (addiction & mental illness).....	\$625
The McShin Foundation.....	\$625

### Hallelujah Grant Recipients

Child Evangelism Fellowship of Greater Richmond.....	\$606.60
Eastern Henrico FISH.....	\$2,000
Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions (MCEF).....	\$2,000
Western Hanover Emergency Action Team (WHEAT).....	\$2,000

Your generosity makes a difference for the ministries that received a gift from the 2020 offering. Thank you!

**The 2021 Leslie and Hazel Watson Mission Offering Goal is \$30,000**

## Pray For These

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

- December 6: **Western Hanover Church**  
Lonnie Brawley, Pastor; Michael Shiflett
- December 13: **West Point, First Baptist Church**  
Jim Goebel, Pastor; Sandra Mauney, Francine Adler
- December 20: **Westhunt Baptist Church**  
Jillian Andrzejewski, Pastor; Joanna Barnes, Barry Burijon, Wendy Price
- December 27: **Antioch Baptist Church**  
Greg Soult, Pastor; Connie Lambert

## Dover Baptists Express Sympathy

...to the family of Kin Headley. Kin was the brother of Carla Dillard, pastor of **Cornerstone Christian Church**, and the brother-in-law of Spencer Dillard, pastor of **Parham Road Baptist Church**.

## Personnel Changes

**Grace Chinese Baptist Church of Richmond** called Rommel Penaranda as their English Ministry Pastor on November 8.

Sandy Rutledge and Jackie Horst concluded their service at **Four Mile Creek Baptist Church** on October 31.

**Indian View Baptist Church** called Joshua Lewis as their Pastor on September 13. Rev. Lewis previously served as their Interim Pastor.

**Virtual Dover Ministers' Advent Mini-Retreat**

**Date:** Thursday, December 17  
**Time:** 10 a.m.-11 a.m.  
**Register:** [www.doverbaptist.org/virtual-retreat](http://www.doverbaptist.org/virtual-retreat)

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the regular Dover Ministers' Open House will shift to a virtual Advent mini-retreat (1 hour). During this hour, there will be a time of prayer, a devotional, and sharing of concerns and praises. Please register so that we can make sure you are able to participate.



**Dover Baptist Association**  
**11006 Lakeridge Parkway**  
**Ashland, VA 23005**

*"a resource and ally for  
churches and their leaders"*

Non-Profit Organization  
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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

## Executive Director of Missions Search

The Dover Baptist Association is in the process of seeking God's will for a new permanent Executive Director of Missions. Visit [www.doverbaptist.org/executive-director-search](http://www.doverbaptist.org/executive-director-search) for more information and/or apply.  
Deadline to apply: February 1, 2021

## Office Holiday Schedule

The Dover office will be closed Thursday, December 24, 2020 through Friday, January 1, 2021 for the holidays.

## Positions Available

Visit [www.doverbaptist.org](http://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](http://www.emmausbapchurch.com) under the Pastor Search heading. Inquires and resumes may be directed to: [pastorsearchcommittee2020@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsearchcommittee2020@gmail.com)

**Four Mile Creek Baptist Church** seeks a Church Administrator (part-time or full-time). Visit [www.doverbaptist.org/church-administrator](http://www.doverbaptist.org/church-administrator) for more information and/or apply. Four Mile Creek also seeks a Worship Coordinator (part-time). Visit [www.doverbaptist.org/worship-coordinator-part-time](http://www.doverbaptist.org/worship-coordinator-part-time) for more information and/or apply.

**Mount Olivet Baptist Church** seeks an Interim Youth Leader (part-time). The youth leader will be responsible for providing oversight and/or leadership of all church youth (grades 6 – 12) activities. This is a temporary position that would serve the church until a permanent Youth Pastor is found. For more information, visit: [www.doverbaptist.org/interim-youth-leader-part-time](http://www.doverbaptist.org/interim-youth-leader-part-time)

**Pioneer Baptist Church** seeks a Pastor (full-time).

For more information and/or apply, contact [pbsearch1051@gmail.com](mailto:pbsearch1051@gmail.com)

**Walnut Grove Baptist Church** seeks a Minister to Families (part-time) to assist the pastor with supporting and innovating in-reach and outreach to children, youth and young adults. A heart for youth and their families, experience with these age groups, and a desire to equip volunteers for team leadership are essential to fulfilling this position. Call (804) 746-5081 for more information or email resumes to [office@wgva.church](mailto:office@wgva.church)

*From Dover's Neighbors:*

**May Memorial Baptist Church** seeks an Organist and Choir Accompanist for one Sunday morning worship service and one mid-week choir rehearsal and seasonal services through the church year. The organist will work directly with the Director of Music. Salary is dependent upon education and experience. Interested candidates should contact Pastor Michael Edwards at [revmkedwards@gmail.com](mailto:revmkedwards@gmail.com)

**May Memorial Baptist Church** seeks a Music Minister/Adult Choir Director (part-time). The adult choir is comprised of 20-25 volunteer singers with paid accompanist. One Sunday service and one weekly rehearsal. Handbell Choir and Children's Choir/Music will be negotiated with additional hours. Send resumes to Pastor Michael Edwards, [revmkedwards@gmail.com](mailto:revmkedwards@gmail.com)