



Dover Diary

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association

"a resource and ally for churches and their leaders"

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Student Addresses Wanted!

Many new high school graduates from Dover churches will seek more education. Baptist Collegiate Ministry provides a Christian community in higher education settings. We need your help! Dover's Student Ministries Council wants to send a care package and information about Baptist Collegiate Ministry to every Dover high school graduate. Will you help us get their names and contact information?

If someone in your family or your church family is graduating high school and will continue their education, please send the following information to us:

Student's name
Home address
Email address
Name of college or school attending

Email information to: ridgechurcheducation@gmail.com or mail it to our Student Ministries Council at the Dover office. Thank you!

Please send in the names and contact information by Wednesday, July 15.

We promise to use that information only to send them the packages and help connect them with Baptist Collegiate Ministries.

Positions Available

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

Paper Shred & Cool Treats

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

In the midst of this Coronavirus, we made contact with most of the Ministry Assistants that serve in Dover churches to see how they are doing....what did we find out?

I'm glad you asked...

They are continuing to serve...working in the office or at home or both.

Miss their church family with a passion....

- Staying in contact with phone calls and letting them know we are praying for them.
- Grieving with families of loved ones hospitalized, nursing care or at home and unable to visit.
- And sad for families that are unable to have "normal" funerals for their loved ones during this time.

Thinking outside the box and doing church differently so we can reach people.....

- Learning new skill sets, live streaming, zoom meetings, posting sermons to website,
- Disinfecting an office space, preparing a new style bulletin for drive-in worship services.

They are very proud of our senior members....

that have grown in knowledge of technology like they never thought they would.

So many blessings during this time and trying to be intentional in recognizing them.

Everyone needs to shelter "in praise"....I really feel joy even in my car worshipping!

I have faith everything will work out for the best.

Creativity is endless....

- realize how little we need
- how very much we have
- And the true value of human connection

Reach out to your Ministry Assistant ...

ask them how they are doing! You'll be blessed!

Want to know one of the best asset for your church?

Your Ministry Assistant

Congratulations to the 2020 Hepler Scholarship Recipient

The Student Ministry Council would like to congratulate Morgan Miller (Shalom Baptist Church) on receiving the 2020 Hepler Scholarship. Morgan will attend Christopher Newport University this fall.

Student Ministry During a Pandemic

Editor's Note: Several Youth and Student Ministers in Dover churches were asked the following questions to see how Coronavirus (COVID-19) has temporarily, and potentially long-term, affected their ministry techniques. Lindsay Ray is the Minister for Students at Ridge Baptist Church, Caleb Bittler is the Associate Pastor to Families & Youth at New Bethesda Baptist Church, and Darius Webster is the Associate Pastor/Youth Minister at Samaria Baptist Church.

How have you stayed in touch with the youth group as a whole during the restrictions? How have you stayed connected individually?

Lindsay: I have been using Zoom to meet with the group as a whole during the restrictions. We have been meeting on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. We have also met for fellowship/game nights via Zoom as well. I have used text messages and direct messages via social media, mainly Instagram to stay in contact with individuals. The nice thing about using Instagram is that I can see when an individual is active so I know there is a greater chance of them seeing and/or responding to my message.

Caleb: As far as connecting with the group as a whole goes, I've made much wider use of social media. We do a Zoom call Sunday evening, and I've been using Instagram Live Wednesday evening. I've also been using GroupMe to send out mass communications to students. I've also tried to ramp up my weekly communications to parents with MailChimp. Individually, I've simply tried to make more use of the old reliable telephone.

Darius: To this point our primary communication has been the same "group text" that we were using before the Pandemic crisis began. As a Church, we have been intentional in our efforts to be mindful, and considerate of our children and youth when presenting our weekly messages during our Church's "Drive in Services." The first of these, "Drive in Services" just so happened to fall on our normally designated Youth Sunday.

What are the biggest challenges you've faced? How did you overcome/deal with them?

Lindsay: Another challenge has been that not all of them are on social media, or they are not all on the same platform, I have to remember who uses what platform. I think many of them are tired of getting on Zoom. I have also discovered that my more extroverted students are more consistent with joining me on Zoom than my more introverted students. To overcome this, I reach out to my introverted students individually when we are on Zoom to encourage them to get on and/or check in on them after the fact if they have not joined.

Caleb: For me, I think the biggest challenge has simply been how uncharted this season has been. If I'm not careful, it can be crippling if I dwell too much on that. I can worry so much about what to do that it keeps me from doing anything. Obviously, reminding myself that God's got this is a huge encouragement. I also saw this from Jon Acuff recently: Work so fast that fear can't keep up. So I've tried to make sure I'm simply doing my best to keep moving and not dwell too much on fears.

Darius: The greatest challenge for me personally, and professionally as the Youth Minister/Associate Pastor, has been

figuring out how to stay connected to people who are not inside my circle of immediate family. During this season of separations, and new normal of social distancing, Zoom or Conference call has been the decision point where I have gotten stuck, when determining how to next connect with our Youth Group specifically. I think my students would respond better to a Zoom format, but I don't know that everyone would have access to reliable internet. So to this point I have not done anything, beyond prayer and our weekly services that are for everyone. However God has really blessed our Sunday, "Drive in Services!"

What "God Stories" or blessings have you seen during this time?

Lindsay: One blessing that came out of this is that some of the youth that were busy with other activities and unable to make our in person meetings prior to all this have joined in on our Zoom meetings because they are more available now than they were before.

Caleb: A great blessing has been how connected and faithful people have been to our church. Students have also stayed committed to our weekly virtual efforts and that has been greatly encouraging.

What are some things you've learned/experienced that you hope will carry over whenever the group can meet in-person?

Lindsay: One thing that I learned from all this is that I was really relying on communicating with youth in person rather than via text messaging or other methods, and having that taken away has been hard. However, moving forward when we can meet in person again, I plan to do a better job of learning from them what methods they prefer to communicate on so that I can keep in touch with them better outside of in person meetings.

Caleb: I think this season has been a reminder of a couple things for me. Be laser focused on your mission. At any moment your normal way of doing things can be turned upside down. What holds firm is your mission. Also, I've been reminded to celebrate even the smallest victories.

Darius: Once we decide Zoom or conference call, we will pray together just as we did weekly before the crisis began. If anyone has "Prayer Request" our Youth group would love to pray in agreement with you! You can forward request to revdarius@samariabaptistchurch.org. I think it is still too early for me to make any type of declarative statement about what we have learned, or what practices will carry over. What I do know is that we will pray together!

Anything else you'd like to share?

Lindsay: This experience has made me realize that there are many valuable tools for reaching digitally that I was not making good use of prior to these restrictions, and I hope/plan to continue to make use of them even after we are able to meet in person. I think that online communication is a valuable way to reach students who are unable to make in person meetings due to time conflicts, and I want to continue to use these methods after the restrictions are lifted.

Caleb: I don't want to be naive, but I also don't want to be a constant source of doom and gloom. I've been working on being a source of positivity and hope.

Partnership Missions Update

Greetings from Tipi Wakan,

We're living in different times now and having to do ministry different. We stopped meeting as a congregation on March 22nd and resumed meeting on May 17th. In the interim we posted messages on Facebook in an attempt to keep connected with the community. We have suspended Children's Church on Sunday afternoons & Kid's Club on Tuesday evenings. We plan to resume Kid's Club soon. But are unsure of when we can resume Children's Church.

We have also had to postpone our annual Community Day. We hope that we will be able to have it later in the year. As a result of having to do ministry different we did a drive-thru the community Easter celebration. We decorated the bus & drove through the community distributing bagged lunches for everyone & goodie bags for the children. We handed out about 650 lunches and 275 goodie bags. It was a wonderful day.

We continue to have pantry twice a month implementing the governor's guidelines for public gatherings. A couple of the pantries have been drive-thru.

We have a curfew in Cannon Ball now. Children have to be inside their homes unless they are with their parents by 8:00 p.m. Adults have to be inside at 11:00. Just to remind us there is a siren that sounds at 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. We regret that the teams won't be coming this summer, but feel that it is the best decision for everyone's safety. Some folks have asked how they can continue to support the ministry here in their absence.

Here are some suggestions:

- Funding to support VBS days 1 day a week later in the summer if we're able to do that safely. These days would include lessons, crafts, games & meals.
- Funding to support of our food pantry,
- Funding for vehicle maintenance & replacement,
- Funding to replace the flooring in the pantry,
- Funding to install an industrial sink in the kitchen at South Campus,
- Donations to the North Campus Building Fund to build a kitchen, additional classrooms, and pantry capacity.

Most of all we covet your prayers, and thank you for your ongoing support for God's ministry here.

We're grateful that we serve a God who is all knowing, all powerful, able and willing to meet all of our needs through Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you,

Peter and Angela Adkins

Pray For These

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

June 7: **Manakin, First Baptist Church**

Anthony Jones, Jr., Pastor; Travis Harris, Elizabeth Howell

June 14: **Mattaponi Indian Baptist Church**

Kevin Watkins, Pastor; Denese Davis

June 21: **Mechanicsville Baptist Church**

Tim Madison, Pastor; Dwight Hedges, Jean Dart, Julie Scott, Leslie Luck, Cooper Gossage, Melvin Anderson

June 28: **Mount Olivet Baptist Church**

Dale Ashley, Pastor; Claudia Phillips, Cindy Weston, Karen Morris, Alice Rusher

Devotional Thought

I have reached out to many of our ministry partners in Dover during this Pandemic. As I heard from others, I became aware of a forming theme. They include *concern, creative thinking, being the church outside the walls, caring in new ways, Christ-like giving, consistent in trying*. I have also been reminded of Biblical lessons, three of which I will share:

Matthew 4:19- "Come and follow me and I will make you fisher of men. " (Jesus teaches us and helps us grow.)

John 21:17- Jesus to Peter, "Do you love me? Yes Lord, you know I love you. Then feed my sheep." (Our love for Jesus leads us to help others)

Philippians 4:13- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (By the will, love, and grace of God we will get through it all.)

Pray without ceasing, In Jesus name. Together we can. Blessings to all and Love in Christ.

—Steve Smith

Save the Date

Webinar: "Legal Hotspots: How the Virginia Values Act Affects Churches"

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Erika E. Cole, Esq.

(partner with Whiteford, Taylor, Preston, LLP)

Cost: FREE. More details coming soon.

Congratulations to the Fairmount Baptist Scholarship Recipients

The Student Ministry Council would like to congratulate Adam Denny (North Run Baptist Church) and Derek Nicksich (Cool Spring Baptist Church) on being the first recipients of the Fairmount Baptist Scholarship. Adam is the Pastor of North Run, and is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Derek is the Student Minister at Cool Spring, and is pursuing a Master of Divinity at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Fairmount Baptist Scholarship was begun as a gift from the congregation of the former Fairmount Memorial/Spring Run Baptist Church. For more information, visit: www.doverbaptist.org/resources/grants-and-scholarships/fairmount-baptist-scholarship



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

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vacant, 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 in Today's New Ministry Environment

At the forefront of most everyone's mind these days is what our new normal may look like and exactly when will things normalize?

According to Microsoft, they have seen as much technology adoption in the past two months as the past two years.

Wegman's grocery store stated in a recent letter that they have seen as much change in the grocery industry in the past two months as the previous 50 years. This is not unique to either of these industries.

The pandemic has forced congregations out of their normal ministry models. This has been both exciting and exhausting as it has presented us with opportunities that would normally not have been acceptable options as they grind against rituals and traditions.

Our culture had already redefined place, presence, time, and relationships. Technology has had a steady impact in accelerating these changes over the years, but the pandemic has propelled these changes at warp speed.

Thankfully, that same technology now provides us tools and opportunities to be present in new places at any time and, therefore, help people to deepen their relationships rather than be completely isolated. As we move into the next phases of the pandemic and look at what our new normal will be, here are just a few points to keep in mind.

Digital Ministry Presence Is Here to Stay

It is no longer an option for churches to have an online presence in today's culture. Gone are the days when a website is considered the front door to the church. The website and digital spaces are now spaces where the congregation can be the Ekklesia (the whole body of the faithful) in a real and powerful way.

Keep it simple

The technology your congregation uses needs to be simple to use for both the staff/volunteers as well as the people interacting with and through it. The more complex or confusing it is, the more people who will be left on the fringes and potentially disconnect from your congregation. Consider providing brief tutorials to help people find your online resources and connect with them.

Plan to scale

Keep it simple, but plan to scale. The church's online presence will be an ever increasingly vital tool. When developing your vision for the future, purchasing equipment, or implementing processes and systems, think with converged digital-physical growth in mind. Prayerfully seek God's wisdom for how your online presence will enable you to fulfill your mission in today's new world.

Online church is more than livestreaming a worship service

The pandemic has forced a lot of churches into this new method of being the church. The natural first phase is to stream the worship service. The next phase is to think beyond the worship service. It is imperative that we pray for God to reveal His creativity in how to express all forms to the church online to include worship, discipleship, fellowship, outreach, and missions.

Engagement is more important than attendance

If you are streaming on Facebook Live or YouTube Live and have not already done so, consider adding chat hosts to greet and interact with people where they are watching the stream. Consider what new serving opportunities are now available for members to be social media ambassadors or lead online small groups.

Relaunch verses Reopen

As churches' buildings begin to reopen, this is a crucial moment for the future of congregations. Wording is important. Since online ministry is here to stay and since the church is not a building, please don't say your church is going to "reopen." The church never closed. Use this as a time to relaunch a new ministry model that embraces all the spaces where people live, both digitally and physically.

Conclusion

Without a doubt the message of Christ never changes. Going forward the new normal of our ministry models must adapt in order to communicate that message and make disciples. As you vision for how the church can best be the church in our new world, prayerfully consider how to leverage today's technology to augment your ministry model.

—Rev. Steve Perky, Ministry Applied Technology Strategist
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