

News Briefs

April 2011

Latest News, Announcements & Vignettes

Christ is Risen! Yes, He is Risen!

This month we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We remember the sacrifice that was made so that we might be reconciled back to God and have the gift of eternal life through Him. Rejoice! For Christ is Risen!

"But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." ~Matthew 28:5-6 (NKJV)

Creech Called to Serve As DCBC Executive Director/Minister

Following a 15-month search, the D.C. Baptist Convention has called Rev. Ricky O. Creech to serve as its next Executive Director/Minister. The DCBC's Executive Board voted to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to hire Rev. Creech during a special called meeting that was held on March 28. He will begin his tenure at DCBC in April.

Rev. Creech is a church strategy consultant and the former head of the Birmingham Baptist Association in Alabama. Having been appointed as the youngest Association executive director in their history, Rev. Creech served the Birmingham Baptist Association from 1995 to 2006 and oversaw 158 churches. He has also served as interim pastor and provided consulting services to numerous congregations.

Click [here](#) for the news release announcing Rev. Creech's appointment.

Prayers for Japan

Let's continue our prayers for the people of Japan, who have endured an earthquake, tsunami and ongoing nuclear crisis. The events unfolding there are mind-boggling, at best. But, as Baptists, we believe that God is able to heal, to comfort and to restore. What, then, can we do to make a difference in the midst of such colossal suffering and destruction?

- *We can pray.* The leaders and staff of the D.C. Baptist Convention ask that you join us in covering the people of Japan in prayer. Romans 12:12 says, "...rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer." (NKJV) Let us remember all those affected by this disaster during our devotion time as well as during corporate prayer.
- *We can give.* Consider giving to the recovery efforts. DCBC partners are providing supplies and financial and other support to the people of Japan. You can contribute to the recovery efforts by giving to the D.C. Baptist Convention and writing "Japan" in the memo section. Also, please indicate which of our partner organizations you would like to receive your donation. The Convention will make sure all donations are sent to the proper entities. Mail your donations to: DCBC, 1628 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. Online contributions can be made by clicking [here](#).

If you have questions or need more information, contact DCBC at 202.265.1526.

DCBC Office Closed for Easter

The DCBC office will be closed on **Good Friday, April 22** and **Monday, April 25** in observance of Easter.

Elliff elected IMB president

Thomas (Tom) D. Elliff was elected International Mission Board president March 16 by IMB trustees meeting in Dallas. Elliff, 67, a longtime pastor, Southern Baptist Convention leader and former missionary, will lead one of the largest evangelical missions agencies in an era of rapid change at home and around the globe. He succeeds Jerry Rankin as president of the mission board, which serves Southern Baptists and the 5,000 missionaries they send worldwide. Rankin retired July 31, 2010, after 17 years as IMB president. Executive Vice President Clyde Meador has served as interim president during the search for a new leader. To read the complete news release, click [here](#).

Scholarship for Seminarians

The D.C. Baptist Convention Foundation (DCBCF) is now accepting applications from seminarians who will be enrolled in an accredited seminary in the fall. DCBCF offers scholarships to seminary students from DCBC churches. To be eligible, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled as a full time student in an accredited seminary
- Be studying for a first graduate level degree in preparation for full time ministry
- Be currently or at time of enrollment a member of a DCBC participating church
- Maintain a grade point average or 2.75 on a 4 point scale or its equivalent
- Demonstrate financial need

For more information, contact Ellen Teague, DCBCF Executive Director at [202.234.7194](tel:202.234.7194) or by email at ellen.teague@dcbaptist.org. Applicants must submit an application with all required supporting documents by **May 1**, in order to be eligible for a Fall 2011 scholarship. Click [here](#) for an application for first-time students. Returning students, click [here](#).

Older Adult Ministries Workshop - Aging in Place

The Older Adult Ministries will hold its next workshop on **Saturday, April 9** from 9 a.m. until noon at the Baptist Building, 1628 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. The workshop, which will be facilitated by Courtney Williams from the D.C. Office on Aging, will address the topic, "Aging in Place."

What is "Aging in Place?" What are the emotional and psychological benefits? What resources are available? How can you connect to them? When is it appropriate to access these services? These questions and many others will be answered during the workshop. For more information contact DCBC at 202.265.1526. You may also register by clicking [here](#).

Personnel Manuals Workshop

At our next quarterly Church Administrators Workshop, which will now be held at noon on **Tuesday, April 12** (rescheduled from April 26) at the Baptist Building, we will address Personnel Manuals. When was the last time your church's personnel policies were updated?

- Are you aware of the newly mandated laws that impact your state?
- Perhaps you have specific questions or need help with a particular policy or developing a personnel manual?

This workshop is recommended for Church Administrators and Personnel Committee Chairs. We will provide practical resources and will tailor the workshop to meet your specific needs. Our guest speaker will be Cynthia Keith, PHR, of CHK Consulting Group. Please submit your topics of interest and questions to Lashanor Doolittle at lashanor.doolittle@dcbaptist.org and enter "Church Administrator Workshop" in the subject line of your email. Reserve your space now by calling the DCBC at [202.265.1526](tel:202.265.1526) or click [here](#) to register. Lunch will be provided. The Baptist Building is located at 1628 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Free parking is available in our courtyard off 16th Street NW or in our parking garage located behind the Baptist Building. Please call for access information.

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: Women's Re-Entry Symposium to Be Held at Matthews Memorial Baptist

More than 2,000 men and women return from prison to the District of Columbia each year. These individuals face tremendous challenges and realize extraordinary triumphs as they struggle to rebuild their lives. The community is invited to learn about the challenges facing women re-entering the community and how they can help. Hear from expert panelists about the special challenges facing women who are returning home from prison or who are under some level of court-imposed supervision and how you, the community, can support their successful transition. "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: A Women's Re-Entry Symposium," will be held at Matthews Memorial Baptist Church, located at 2616 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE in Washington, D.C. on **Saturday, April 9** from 9 a.m. until noon. It is being presented by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, U.S. Parole Commission, Our Place D.C., and Serenity, Inc. For more information, please call [202.252.6930](tel:202.252.6930) or send an email to outreach@usdoj.gov. You can download a flyer by clicking [here](#).

Religious Educators Support Group

The Religious Educators Support Group will meet this month on Tuesday, April 12 for lunch and fellowship. All those who are responsible for the ministry of Religious Education in their congregations are invited to participate. This year the group will meet from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. at the Baptist Building, 1628 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington D.C. Click [here](#) to register.

Vacation Bible School Leader Training and Summer Evangelism Ideas

It's spring and time to begin getting ready for Vacation Bible School! On **Saturday, April 16** from 9 a.m. until noon, there will be training for teachers and leaders of Vacation Bible School (VBS). Come find out how to lead preschoolers, children, pre-teens, youth and adults during VBS. There will also be a class for teachers of Spanish-speaking children. In addition, there will be a workshop for VBS Directors. Get ideas for crafts, music, recreational activities, snacks and missions rotations. Experience a worship rally! You may also win a door prize for your church! Join us and make this year's VBS a blessing for you church and community!

A separate session will also be held in the afternoon from 1:30-3:30 p.m. to discuss ideas for summer evangelism. Both sessions will be held at **First Baptist Church, 6939 Allentown Road, Camp Springs, Md.** To register, click [here](#).

Join the Ministers Fellowship on April 26

Where can you get information on the latest theological trends, tips to secure financial health and security, and sacred space for reflection on calling and ministry—all on your lunch break? It's only at our monthly Ministers Fellowship. The Ministers Fellowship will meet **Tuesday, April 26** at noon at the Baptist Building, located at 1628 16th Street NW Washington, DC 20009. Please RSVP by contacting Rev. Starlette McNeill at 202.265.1526. Lunch is provided for your convenience.

White Cross and Church World Service Donations Being Collected This Month

Churches who have prepared White Cross Handwork (bandages, surgeon's caps and masks) or "Gifts of the Heart" for Church World Service (baby kits, health kits or school kits) may bring their boxed donations to the Baptist Building in April. Baptist Women's Ministries will transport the boxes to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor. Churches donating money for White Cross projects in Thailand and El Salvador are reminded to send their checks to International Ministries in Valley Forge, PA by the end of April.

Congratulations to Rev. Brenda Girton-Mitchell!

The staff and leaders of the D.C. Baptist Convention offer congratulations to the Rev. Brenda Girton-Mitchell, Minister of Stewardship and Missions at Metropolitan Baptist Church, a DCBC member church; who has been appointed to serve as the Director of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the U.S. Department of Education.

Our Condolences

The leaders and staff of the DCBC extend our deepest sympathy to the families of Mr. Tom Hobbs and Deacon Ryland (Junior) Humble, both of whom died last month. Hobbs was a long time member of First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg (MD). Deacon Humble served faithfully as a deacon and trustee chair for the Metropolitan Outreach Ministry (DC) for many years.

CORRECTION: Freshour Releases New Album

Last month we erroneously named Rev. Maureen Freshour's latest album title as "Cover Me." Her latest CD is called, "Be Love," and it is available for purchase or sampling on Amazon.com. You can hear her song "Cover Me," from a previous album

on www.youtube.com. We apologize for the error.

More News...

Greater DC Cares Looking for Volunteers

Greater DC Cares is looking for volunteers to participate in its Servathon on Saturday, April 16 from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. You are asked to join 8,000 volunteers as Greater DC Cares has a transformative impact on more than 100 nonprofits and schools in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Projects include:

- Painting inspirational logos in a school or blacktop games outside;
- Organizing a library;
- Planting trees, cleaning rivers, landscaping parks, and protecting our environment;
- Building benches or planters;
- Spending time with seniors;
- And more!

You can organize a youth ministry or church-wide team! When you register online you'll have the option to create a volunteer "team" and invite friends, family, neighbors or church members to serve with you. There is a \$25 per person registration fee that helps share in the program costs for the day (paint, ladders, brushes, etc). The fee includes event t-shirt; snacks and water at the project site. For more information or to register, visit www.greaterdccaes.org.

College of Prayer May 2011 Focuses on the Family

This is the College of Prayer's year to focus on the family--to cultivate God's presence in each of our homes. Families will be at the forefront of our teaching in the May module, "Lord, as Families, Teach Us to Pray." The COP's commitment is biblical, practical and balanced. Bruce and Susan Bliss are the presenters in May. This module of the College of Prayer will be held at the Ft. Foote Baptist Church, 8310 Ft. Foote Rd., Ft. Washington, MD 20744 on May 19-21. To print the brochure, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

Expanding Discipleship Workshop "Transforming Hearts for Discipleship"

On **Saturday, May 7** from 9:30 a.m. until noon there will be an Expanding Discipleship conference that focuses on the theme "Transforming Hearts for Discipleship." The keynote speaker will be Claude King, Discipleship Specialist at LifeWay Christian Resources. King has authored numerous books including "Come to the Lord's Table," and "The Call to Follow Christ." Workshops will be led by Claude King, Annette James and Gloria Jenkins. Click [here](#) to register.

"Set Free" Refresh Her Women's Retreat

"Set Free" is the theme of this year's Refresh Her Women's Retreat, which will be held on **Saturday, May 14** from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. at The Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, 3000 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20020. The day will feature spiritual, physical, and emotional refreshment for women and girls, including worship, Bible study, music, a missions challenge, exercise, scrapbooking, fellowship, food and fun! There will also be a seminar especially for teenage girls. Sponsored by Baptist Women's Ministries, the Refresh Her Retreat costs \$15 (lunch is included). Please make reservations by **May 10**.

Service Project: This year Refresh Her participants are invited to bring jewelry items to donate for recycling. Women on the mission field can improve the lives of their families by turning unwanted items into saleable jewelry. Click [here](#) to register.

Darfur, Sudan Rally at Lafayette Park in May

On **Sunday, May 15** at 1:30 p.m., the Darfur Interfaith Network, Genocide Intervention Network/Save Darfur Coalition and concerned citizens will gather for the "Hope for Darfur/Justice in Sudan" Rally to call attention to the continuing plight of Darfur and the need for justice and peace in all of Sudan.

The march will start at the Metropolitan AME Church, 1518 M Street NW, and proceed to the White House at Lafayette Park. In case of inclement weather, the rally will remain at Metropolitan AME Church. Visit www.hope4darfurrally.org for registration, speakers and updates on musical performances.

BWA Day Emphasizes being "In Step with the Spirit"

The Baptist World Alliance has designated April 30-May 1 as BWA Day. This year, BWA is emphasizing their desire to keep "In Step with the Spirit." BWA Day began in the 1920's and was meant to be a day of worship for Baptists to pray for one another and contemplate the unity in Christ we have within our global family. Rev. Myra Blyth of Regents College in Oxford, UK has prepared the materials for BWA Day worship services. The worship materials include sermon notes, worship folder inserts and order of worship suggestions for services and can be found in the events section of the website at www.bwanet.org.

Save the Date: Grant Proposal Writing Conference

Mark your calendar for the Grant Proposal Writing Conference, which will be held June 10-11 at the Baptist Building, 1628 Sixteenth Street NW Washington, D.C. More details about the conference are forthcoming.

Blume 2011: WMU National Acteen Conference To Be Held in July

The WMU National Acteen Conference "BLUME 2011" will be held July 13-16 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando. The conference provides teenage girls and collegiate young women with a four-day focus on missions. To find out how to join the DCBC group, contact Rev. Arleen Anderson via email at revaba@comcast.net. For more information or to register, visit the Blume website at www.blumeforgirls.com.

Employment Opportunities

Minister of Music. Dayspring Community Church is prayerfully seeking a Minister of Music (MOM), who loves the Lord and loves God's people, to lead worship and to play for and grow a 6-member praise team that sings primarily contemporary gospel music, along with some hymns. Services are lively, spirit-filled and interactive and are held Sundays at 10 a.m. The MOM will play three Sundays/month (and 5th Sundays) with a weekly rehearsal prior to each service. Participation in occasional special services is also expected. The MOM will have the opportunity to develop other choirs/praise teams and creatively to develop musical opportunities in the church. Pay is generous and negotiable. To view the complete job description, [click here](#).

If this sounds like you, please contact Pastor Turner at [301.580.6533](tel:301.580.6533) or dayspringnet@aol.com. Applications may be emailed (preferable) or snail-mailed to our church office at the following address:

Dayspring Community Church
9300 Annapolis Road, Suite 105, Lanham, MD 20706
Phone: [\(301\) 580-6533](tel:301.580.6533) | dayspringnet@aol.com
www.dayspringcommunitychurch.org

Part-Time Secretary. Forest Heights Baptist Church is seeking a dependable, self-motivated church secretary to answer phones and to prepare bulletins and the church newsletter. The position is part-time, 20 hours (4 days) a week. Basic Microsoft office experience needed. The successful candidate must have good communication skills. Interested applicants should e-mail or fax their resume to fjprather@verizon.net or 301.839.1721(fax).

Choir Director. Forest Heights Baptist Church is seeking a dependable, self-motivated Christian choir director to lead the music ministry in our small church. The individual will work closely with the pastor preparing selections for all services and lead the 15-member church choir. Interested applicants should e-mail their resume to fjprather@verizon.net or fax it to 301.839.1721.

Organist. First Baptist Church of Silver Spring (MD) is looking for an Organist (33-rank Wicks Pipe Organ). Please contact Valeria Foster at valeria.foster@fbcss.org or the church [301.585.5454](tel:301.585.5454) for more information.