

Prayer Concerns

Church & Community Ministries Prayer Requests

Give thanks for the **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** which was held at the Anna B. Jochenning Baptist Community Center (JBCC) during the first days of August. Fort Foote Baptist Church provided teachers for the VBS and the churches which use the JBCC for worship provided hospitality workers for the five-day school. Pray that the relationships begun through the VBS will present the work of God positively to those in the community of Ward 8. Give thanks for the efforts of all the volunteers who made this VBS possible.

Pray as well for a **new ministry of daily Child Care** which is seeking to begin at Clifton Park Baptist Church. The church having studied its community knows that the need for affordable child care is present there. The church is seeking also to take on the challenge of meeting the needs of young infants, a ministry which many child care centers do not address. Pray for the work of the people at Clifton Park who are seeking to start this ministry in the early Fall. Give thanks for the cooperation from the DC Baptist Convention which is seeking to assist this new ministry.

Pray also for the continued growth of a **new student ministry** from Georgetown Baptist Church. The church has for many years ministered to the students at Georgetown University, but it has been several years since they have worked officially with the school, providing ministry to the students. Pastors Shaw and Jones have led the church to partner with a student ministry organization out of Pennsylvania, CCO. Jim Hagen has come to work with the church. The ministry has already achieved the step of official recognition by the university. They are also making progress in involving student athletes with the ministry. Praise God for the initiative of this church and for the progress already made. Pray as well for the continued development of the ministry and for the response of the students. Praise God as well that DC Baptists have been able to be a partner already in this ministry.

Remember to pray for the **Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Relief Workshop** which is to be held on September 18 at FBC Camp Springs. Miss Gloria Grogan has been working on this workshop, where DC Baptists can receive or renew their certifications so that they may help in the relief of disasters when they occur. We pray that this ministry will be strengthened, for it is one through which churches in our convention can reach out to prepare residents within their community for disaster, and in that way these churches can relate anew to their neighbors. Pray for Gloria as she develops this workshop and for those who will attend. Give thanks for all of those who have volunteered their time to serve in **Ministry on the Mall** this Summer. One of our Saturdays that we were to be present on the Mall experienced one of the few rains of the Summer. Consequently, three churches could not serve on that Saturday in early July. Give thanks for the presence of Ft. Foote Baptist Church on the third Saturday of July. Pray, as well, for those churches who will be on the Mall ministering through August. Interestingly, a secular choir from DC is looking to partner with the DCBC to provide gospel music on the Mall. Pray for this choir, its leaders and its members, as they consider this opportunity fully.

Remember to pray for the **Older Adult Ministries Team (OAMT)** as they work toward their convocation which will be held in the Fall. The OAMT does not meet through the summer months, but they are working toward their convocation. Pray for them also as they seek to bring together a fellowship event for Older Adults on the Potomac this Fall. Give thanks for the leadership of Rev. Gloria Grant in these efforts. Pray also for the **Vienna Baptist Church** and for the youth that will travel from Ward 8 for camp at Lost River Retreat Center in West Virginia this month. DC Baptists and Texas Baptists support this effort to assist these children from Ward 8 by giving money to feed the campers, assisting in this ministry with Vienna Baptist Church. Give thanks for the faithful service which Vienna Baptist Church gives in this ministry and for the personal and spiritual growth which each camper experiences.

Remember to pray for the members of the **Immigration Work Group** who are working to build a curriculum for immigrant youth, helping them to adjust to their bicultural status. Pray that the ministers working in this work group will find the energy and time to commit to building the curricula for the youth. Pray also for these youth who struggle daily with their identities, as well as for all the youth found in the churches of the DC Baptist Convention.

Remember to pray for the **Annual Meeting of the DC Baptist Convention**. The meeting is scheduled for October 25 and 26, a Monday and Tuesday. The meeting will be held in the city of Washington at Israel Baptist Church, near the Rhode Island Metro Station and Rhode Island Avenue. Pray for the work of the Program Committee, and for other leaders in the DC Baptist Convention as these plans come together for the Annual Meeting.

Also pray for the **Family Evangelism Convocation** which is to be held at Upper Room Baptist Church on

Saturday, September 25. This is the third year for this emphasis which blends the importance of the family with the sharing of the Good News. Pray for churches to sense the importance of these two priorities and to seek to build ministries that will strengthen families throughout the metropolitan area.

Finally, pray for the **Search Committee of the DC Baptist Convention** as the committee and its members continue the process of finding an Executive Director/Minister. Give thanks for the progress of the committee under the leadership of Dr. Ella Redfield. Pray that they can soon bring both a full report of their work and a potential leader before the DCBC for consideration.

Evangelism Prayer Requests

Give thanks to God for the blessings which people across the metropolitan area have received through **Vacation Bible Schools (VBS)** so far this summer. Many children, youth and adults have heard the Good News proclaimed by the Baptists of the DC Baptist Convention (DCBC) already. Pray that the Gospel which has been placed in their lives through word and action will lead them to have a friendship with Jesus Christ. Pray as well for those who are still waiting to have their VBS this month, one of these includes the effort led by the churches that meet at Johenning Baptist Community Center and their partner Fort Foote Baptist Church.

Remember to pray for two efforts in **starting new churches**. We have been praying for these for several months. They include a new church in Manassas which hopes to relate to the ABC, USA and which is led by Rev. Vernesse Roberts. The other is a new congregation which intends to reach out to younger adults living in the Adams Morgan/Mt. Pleasant area. The leader of this group is Mr. Aaron Graham who worked formerly for Sojourners. Pray that these two efforts will have the blessings of God as they begin and continue their worship.

Remember also to pray for churches who are hosting in this month a series of **evangelistic meetings**. One of these is Forest Heights Baptist Church where Waymond Duke is serving as pastor. These meetings will be led by a friend of Rev. Duke, and they will occur between August 15 and 18, nightly. Give thanks for these efforts by this church and other churches as they work to share God's Good News with that community which is changing and growing to include the National Harbor and other developments there.

Pray also for the **Church Starting Support Group** which we intend to have on Thursday, August 12.

Admittedly, we have a very small attendance at this group, whenever we have the events. Still, we need to let those laboring to start new congregations that we appreciated their ministries and that we want to support them by presence, fellowship, prayer and networking. Give thanks for all those who are working to start new congregations in the DCBC.

One of the meetings for which we will be working over the next month is that of the **Family Evangelism Convocation** which has been a partnership between the DCBC and Upper Room Baptist Church. These convocations have been occurring for the past two years. Rev. Vincent Allen is working to build up the ministry of men in their families and in the Christian community over these months. He is encouraged recently with the response that he has received from officials in Washington, supporting this effort. Pray for his work in the Family Evangelism Convocation and also for his work among these men. Ask God to bless the families throughout our metropolitan area and to use these to share God's Good News.

A third new congregation which has the potential for beginning before the end of the year is a **Spanish-speaking congregation**. Alex Anaya and Joel Mendizabel are interested in establishing a congregation to reach out to unreached Hispanics in the metropolitan area. Pray for them as they seek the direction of God in this effort, for they are not yet certain of the direction of their calling. They only sense God's call to them. Pray, as well, for the Spanish-speaking ministry efforts at Trinity Baptist Church and also those of Rev. Efrain Lopez in Montgomery County near the intersection of Randolph Road and Viers Mill. Rev. Lopez served many years as a pastor in the Spanish-speaking congregation, known as Iglesia de Washington when it met at National Baptist Memorial Church.

Pray for the **churches made up of immigrants** from across our world. Most realize that the metropolitan Washington area is a world-class city. We receive immigrants from across the globe. During this time of economic stress, many of these recent immigrants and refugees have the greatest of economic difficulties. Pray, as well, that the children of the families making up these churches come to peace with their bicultural lives and that they can give themselves over to follow Christ to utilize their particular giftedness. Pray for the Immigration Work Group who seeks to help these youth.

Remember to pray for the **MBB (Muslim Background Believers)** meeting that will occur from September 9 to 12 in the Pocono mountains of Pennsylvania. Give thanks for this annual meeting and for the people who gather together for worship and fellowship. These are largely people who have come to faith in Christ from out of a background of Islam. This is always a meeting which encourages many, both former Muslims as

well as westerners who grew up around the Christian faith. Ask God to bless this meeting and to strengthen the ministry of the MBB.

Pray as well for **the metropolitan area** and the challenges to our city. Many of these are spiritual in nature such as the loss of hope, the loss of faith and the loss of love, as well as many other spiritual deficiencies.

Pray that God's Spirit will affect the population of Washington and its suburbs and that many residents will come to know God in Christ. Pray, as well, for the physical needs of our city and its residents, needs brought on by greed, pride and arrogance. Ask God to heal this city and its residents, while you continue to pray for the world, as well.

Remember to pray for the **students and young adults** who have come or will be coming to Washington. DC and its metropolitan area call out to the "best and the brightest" to come and to experience life in this city.

Pray for these who come to study and for those who come to begin their professional lives. The exciting times in Washington can also be deadly, both physically and spiritually. Pray for the outreach that DC Baptists are making through the churches such as Georgetown Baptist Church, the campus ministers, LeeAnn Carrera and Yolanda Norton and generally through the churches. Give thanks for those young adults who are responding positively to the message of Christ.

Discipleship Prayer Requests

Give thanks for the efforts in **Discipleship** that are constantly going on in churches across the metropolitan area. Rev. Gloria Jenkins shared this week how God was working in the church where she is a member. The children of her pastor were particularly energized with these teachings on Discipleship as was one of the older deacons of the church. This simply points up again the necessity of Discipleship among churches of all kinds, especially seen by the responses of these who are so close to the Gospel.

Give thanks that there seem to be no outbreaks of open conflict in the congregations of the DC Baptist Convention. Often, there is low-level conflict in many congregations, but such can be a blessing when it is low level. Sometimes this type of conflict comes to bring about change in the lives of congregations, change for the good! Pray for the DC Baptist Convention, for its leaders and for the churches as they work through any conflicts which they might have, especially in this time when there is no Executive Director/Minister to deal with such challenges.

Two of the leaders of one of our congregations have come to express this past month the challenges which that congregation has. There are many congregations which are older and often weaker than they have been in the past. They need assistance to break out of the past patterns of behavior and to discover what God wants them to do in the future. Pray for this unnamed church and these leaders who find themselves caught in this pattern. Ask God to provide the means for the church to find a vibrant life again so that the community in which it serves responds positively to the congregation. Pray also for **vision and energy within the church leadership** from God as God brings the church to new life.

Montgomery Hills Baptist Church is studying the book of Ephesians this month, both in its Bible classes on Sunday mornings and through its worship services. Pastor Joel Hawthorne is causing the church to consider what a wonderful "body" it has and what a wonderful "body" it is.

His emphasis is one which DC Baptists should consider in a larger way, for the entire grouping of DC Baptists, too, is a wonderful "body." The gathered church, although unseen and unrecognized, is a powerful witness for Christ, especially in all that DC Baptists have done, are doing and will do into the future. Praise God for the blessing of the "bodies" that both Montgomery Hills Baptist Church and all DC Baptists together are.

Pray for the **Orientations for New and Prospective Teachers** as these are occurring this month and next.

September and October are often times that new teachers are enlisted to serve the ministries of the church. Some of these teachers come out of the Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) which are completed through the Summer. Some of the teachers are simply those responding to the call of God and of the church. This week one prospective teacher called to me while I was visiting that church, wanting to learn how to be a teacher. To that purpose the CHED Team sets up the Orientations for New and Prospective Teachers. Pray for those who will attend these orientations. Pray as well for the leaders who will lead these sessions including:

Minister Janet Henley of Clifton Park leading the orientation for teachers of adults on Thursday, August 13
Rev. Dub Pool of Luther Rice Memorial and Heritage leading the orientation for teachers of youth on Thursday, August 26 and

Rev. Deborah Cochran of First Baptist (DC) leading the orientation for teachers of children on Thursday, September 9.

Pray for these sessions, their leaders, the participants and for those who will be served by these new teachers.

Remember to pray for the students who are taking **New Testament Greek** this Summer and through the Fall. This is a long course which extends from May into December. The students are making good progress and are nearing halfway through the course. Give thanks for Carol Wilson who is one of the teachers of the course. The students are experimenting this year with a computer program which strengthens their learning efforts.

Continue to pray for the **Vacation Bible Schools** which are being held in the month of August, as well as giving thanks for the schools which were held in June and July. One of the schools of early August is being led by teachers from Ft. Foote Baptist Church at the Anna B. Jochenning Center. Also pray for Rev. Gloria Jenkins as she works to set up the "Blessed Pot" event which occurs in September. Through "Blessed Pot," VBS workers celebrate what God has done in this past year and begin to prepare for their next effort.

Remember to pray also for the **Immigration Work Group** as they work on developing lesson plans to strengthen bicultural youth in immigrant churches. This group is made up of seven ministers who sense the need to help these youth so that they can understand American society while they hold onto the relationships with their parents who grew up overseas. Pray for these youth as well as for all the young persons in the DCBC who need encouragement as they prepare to close out their summer vacation and to enter another school year.

The **CHED Team** will be making plans for its September meeting in the coming weeks.

Give thanks for this team and its leader Deacon Eular Robinson who has given good leadership to the Team this year. Pray that the team can lead DC Baptists to celebrate what God has done among us in efforts of Discipleship and Church Health this year, as well as to complete the year's schedule of workshops and trainings.

Remember to pray for the **Annual Meeting of the DC Baptist Convention**, which will be held October 25-26 at Israel Baptist Church. This year the CHED Team will again be emphasizing current methods of digital communication and social networking, especially those practiced by the churches of the DCBC. Come and learn what others are doing, so that your church can extend its witness and work beyond its own fellowship.

Remember also to pray for the **Search Team** that is looking for the new Executive Director/Minister of the DCBC. The team has been making good progress over the last months.