

Perspectives

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia | Spring 2012

From the President

My Friends,

I greet you in the name of Christ and want to share with you highlights from Spring Gathering 2012 at First Baptist Church in Tucker, GA on March 24, 2012.

My greatest thanks go to all of you for your support, kindness, encouragement of BWIM of Georgia's Spring Gathering. I will never forget the fourth Saturday of March 2012. We gathered together, women and men from all walks of life to share in a time of worship and fellowship. There was an amazing outpouring of love and care for one another as we were challenged to persevere through the dark places, hard roads, and hurt that is part of ministry. This was a day of enlightenment for some who said they did not realize that the organization offered so much to so many different groups of people.

Katrina Brooks, adjunct Professor of Religion at Danville Community College in Danville, Virginia and a member of Baptist Women in Ministry National leadership team delivered a most inspiring message. Katrina encouraged us to persevere through difficult times and to always remember that even through the hurt and dark places, you are kind, you are smart, you are important. An attendee wrote, "Katrina's message of encouragement met a need in my life today."

We were led in worship by Billie Cox who ushered the hearers into the presence of God. Jan Thomp-

son wrote a most inspiring litany for the occasion and Louise Byrd sang and played the piano --enhancing our worship experience. Meggie Dant shared her giftedness in photography.

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge presented the Distinguished Church Woman of the Year Award to Grace Powell Freeman and Rachel Britt Huston presented Lanta Cooper and Jennifer Lyon the 2012 Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship Awards.

Our 2012 Fall Gathering is being planned and information will be available soon. We hope to see you there.

For more information visit our website at www.bwimga.org

Blessings,
Gwen



Katrina Brooks and Gwen Brown sharing the words "You are kind, you are smart, you are important" with fellow BWIM of Georgia members at the Spring Gathering.

2012-2013

**BWIM Officers
and Steering Committee**

Gwen Brown
.....President

LeAnn Gunter Johns
.....President-Elect

Lee Ritchie
.....Immediate Past President

Louise Byrd
.....VP Membership

Meggie Dant and Rachel Huston
.....Co-VP Communications

Brenda Buckelew
.....Treasurer

Carolyn Hale Cubbedge
.....Historian

Darlene Flaming
.....Scholarship Financial Advisor

Steering Committee

Renee Bennett

Billie Boyd-Cox

Hannah Coe

Karen Harwell

Wendy Joyner Peacock

Sarah Sheehan Reddish

Tamara Smathers

Jan Thompson

Megan Turner

**2012/13 Distinguished
Church Woman of the Year**

Congratulations to our 2012 Distinguished Church Woman of the Year, Grace Powell Freeman

Grace Powell Freeman, Director of Global Missions for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, was named the Distinguished Church Woman of the Year for 2012 at the Women in Ministry of Georgia Annual Meeting on March 24, 2012. A native of Newnan, Georgia, Grace has devoted her life to the cause of missions in the world. For the past fifteen years, she has served CBF. Prior to joining the Atlanta staff, Grace worked for the American Bible Society in New York and Kentucky WMU. She is an active member of Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. She is married to Bob Freeman, and they are the proud parents of Powell and Lewis Freeman. Speaking about her ministry at the time of the presentation of the award were Dorothy Pryor and Jim Smith. Both shared meaningful stories of the work done by the recipient as she has contributed to the work of the Church in the world.



Grace Powell Freeman as she listen to words of affirmation from her peers while receiving the honor of Distinguished Church Woman of the Year at Spring Gathering.



2012/13 Sarah Owen Etheridge Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our 2012 Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship Recipients: Lanta Cooper and Jennifer Lyon.

Lanta Cooper just completed her third year at McAfee School of Theology. She will complete a fourth year of study earning joint M.Div./MS in Clinical Mental Health degrees. Lanta writes, "I am passionate about meeting people where they are, and practicing the ministry of presence." She says she is passionate about the faith development of children, "how children develop an image of who God is, and how families can be empowered to make their homes the primary environment of faith development." Lanta is also passionate about the pulpit. She writes, "I have been blessed with opportunities to preach while at McAfee, and these experiences have been holy and sacred. I never grew up thinking that I, as a woman, could preach. That possibility was never expressed to me. As I have been developing a pastoral identity, I have found the pulpit to be a place where I can be authentic." Lanta concludes her application by saying, "I am still on a journey, discerning where I will serve and in what specific capacity will minister. But God has called me to serve, and I am here with my arms open, ready to continue to join God in my journey."

Jennifer Lyon is in her second year of seminary at McAfee School of Theology. Jennifer found her passion for missions in participating in international mission trips. It was during these mission experiences that Jennifer began to experience God in the story of others around the world. In 2011, Jennifer and her husband, Trey, were commissioned as partner funded CBF Field Personnel. They work alongside Park Avenue Baptist Church to care for the most neglected in southeast Atlanta. Jennifer writes, "We provide free after school programming for children in our community where we focus on leadership development. We oversee Lydia's House, a housing ministry for mission teams coming into the city to serve. I am a certified Girls Circle facilitator, which allows me to work with adolescent girls around issues of confidence, spirituality, identity, and passion. My ministry utilizes the best of my gifts, training, and education." Jennifer concludes her application by saying, "I feel as though I am learning, everyday, a little bit more of what it means to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God."

BWIM of GA also recognized four women as Emerging Baptist Leaders: Tanell Vashawn Allen, Karen Harwell, Ruth Santos Valencia, and Charmaine Webster.

Special Thanks

BWIM of GA would like to say thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their continued support of BWIM of Georgia. Without them the ministry of BWIM of Georgia would not be what it is today.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia

First Baptist Church Tucker, GA

Irene Bennett

Billie Cox



Rachel Huston awarding Lanta Cooper (left) and Jennifer Lyon (right) with the Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship at the BWIM of Georgia Spring Gathering.



C/O Darlene Flaming
1400 Coleman Ave.
Macon, GA 31207