

Perspectives

Baptist Women in Ministry of Georgia | Winter 2012

From the President

BWIM of GA Friends,

I greet you in the name of Christ and am delighted to share with you the happenings within BWIM of GA. In January we came together for a Winter Retreat at the Calvin Center in Hampton. Pam Durso of BWIM National challenged us to reflect on our past, those who have been our cloud of witnesses, and look to the future, those we might bless on their journey, as we work to reach our calling. We were also led by Hannah Coe in creating a painting which encapsulated our scripture from Hebrews 12 being surrounded by a cloud of witnesses in our faith. In this painting activity many of us found a new expression of worshipping God and the blessing open to us through our creativity.

I know that each of us is busy with life whether it be the busy-ness of ministry, surviving school, adjusting to a new life circumstance, raising children, caring for a parent, or just the general reality that most of us have too much on our plate. In the midst of our fast paced lives, I encourage you to take a moment to slow down, to be with friends in ministry who may have travelled a road such as yours and join us for our Spring Gathering. We hope

you will be able to come to First Baptist Church in Tucker on March 24. It will be a day of worship, celebration, reflection, and togetherness. Reverend Katrina Brooks will lead us in worship as we consider our theme of Shadows of My Heart. At our luncheon following worship, we will award the 2012 Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship as well as the 2012 Distinguished Church Woman of the Year Award. We look forward to seeing you on this special day.

Peace and grace to you,
Lee Ritchie

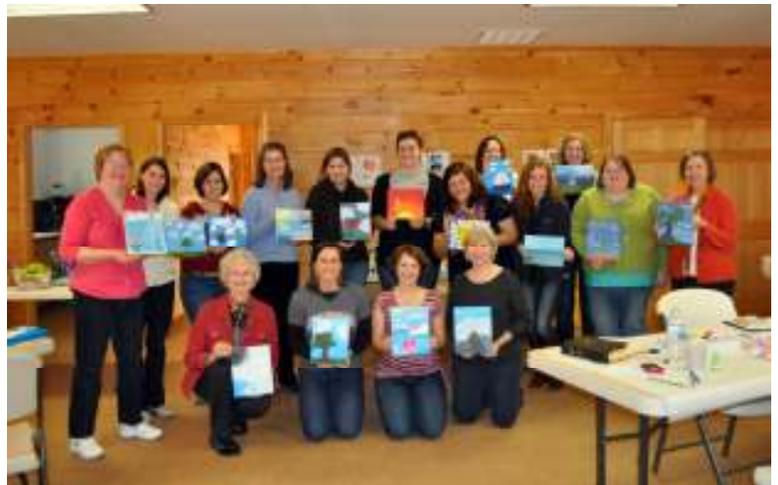


Photo above is of 2012 retreat attendees with their paintings.

2011-2012

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Pick Up the Mantle

Jan Thompson, Chaplain at Northeast Georgia Medical Center

When the ladies at my church asked if my husband would help with bridal and baby showers, I thought, "When he wears pumps and pantyhose!" When a woman answers a call to ministry, she faces many unique challenges.

Elisha faced several challenges on his way to ministry. 2 Kings 2 tells us that his mentor, Elijah, ordered him to stay behind three times: first at Gilgal, then Bethel and Jericho. Each time Elisha swore not to leave Elijah. Even though companies of prophets repeatedly predicted the end of Elijah's ministry, Elisha was determined to stick with his teacher.

Finally they reached the Jordan. Elijah rolled up his mantle and struck the water. The river parted and the men crossed on dry ground. As they reached the opposite shore, Elijah asked what he could do for his student. Elisha asked for a "double share" of his spirit. When Elijah was whisked away in a fiery chariot, his mantle fell to the ground. Out of grief Elisha tore his own clothes. Then he picked up Elijah's mantle, called on Elijah's God, and struck the water. The water parted and he crossed on dry ground.

We need to take some pointers from Elisha. A good mentor is worth a long walk. It pays to be persistent, even when the voices around us are not encouraging. Sometimes we stand in a place that seems lonely. When the mantle is dropped at your feet, pick it up, call on God, and strike the water. The next generation needs you.



Shadows of My Heart

*Spring Gathering
March 24, 2012*

Our Annual Spring Gathering will be at FBC Tucker on Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 10AM-2PM. Make plans to attend now for a time of worship, fellowship, and recognition of our 2012 Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship recipient and Distinguished Church Woman of the Year.

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

Meet Our Speaker, Katrina Brooks

Katrina currently serves as an adjunct Professor of Religion at Danville Community College in Danville Virginia. She is also a member of the BWIM National leadership team. Before moving to Virginia, Katrina was co-pastor of North Broad Baptist Church in Rome, GA. Katrina is married to Tony and together they have two children, Tara and Joseph.

Katrina has many passions, including: "blessing and calling forth purpose, sparking critical thought, dreaming dreams and visioning, and transformational contagious living." She says that her dream is "for churches and Baptist institutions to one day call forth qualified and equipped leadership based on gifts and talents with zero regard for gender and age."



2011/12 BWIM Awards of Distinction

Congratulations to our 2011 award winners: Hannah Coe, Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship recipient, and Carolyn Hale Cubbedge, Distinguished Church Woman of the Year.

The Steering Committee is currently seeking applications for the Sara Owen Etheridge Scholarship and nominations for Distinguished Church Woman of the Year awards. Applications and nominations are due March 1, 2012. Visit our website at www.bwimga.org for more information.



C/O Darlene Flaming
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