

# Metrolines

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**Metrolines** is published 4 times yearly - December/January, March/April, June and September/October. Send articles and/or pictures to Janet Reedy ([jhreedy@philadelphiabaptist.org](mailto:jhreedy@philadelphiabaptist.org)). Inclusion of materials is at the discretion of PBA staff.

## Advent

**Rev. Julia A. Bruton-Sheppard,**  
**Program Facilitator for Communications and Leader Development**

**Advent** is the four week season that starts the Western Church's Yearly Liturgical Calendar. This year it begins Sunday November 27, 2016 and ends Christmas Eve. The traditional color for this season is purple.

*Advent*, is Latin, meaning *arrival* and '*comings*'. *Advent* also means *appearance* and *emergence*. These words have the power to stir in us the Spirit of anticipation and expectation.

"What do you want for Christmas this year?" is a question we will hear posed often during this season. Another word for *want* is *desire*, which conveys more passion. If we are honest, there are times we use the word *want* when *desire* is more truthful.

*"Take delight in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart."* Psalm 37:4. These are the words of David the Psalmist. Perhaps, this text can help us embrace the passion of the word *desire* and make this Advent season of 2016 more vibrant and relevant personally and for those lives we are privileged to touch.

How will we "delight in the LORD?" And how do we know if our desire/s delights the LORD? I suggest you and I first acknowledge that we have desires, both large and small. And we accept that to desire is a part of being human, created in the image of God. Then without judgement (deciding which desires are good and not so good), write them down. Next, ask the Spirit to "sit" with us in prayer, as we compare our written desires with Paul the Apostle's standard of excellence found in Philippians 4:8-9, "...whatever is true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious, the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse..." *Philippians 4: 8, Peterson's, The Message.*

Cross off the desires that don't measure up to this standard. By faith accept

those which remain on the list are acceptable, that they even delight the LORD. Finally, out of our holiest of desires this promise will also emerge, "...the God of peace will be with you." *Philippians 4:9*

*"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6, Peterson's, The Message.*

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel, the One who DESIRES to be with us.**

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## Annual Mission Banquet

Saturday, October 22, 2016

*Celebrating Clergy with a Passion for Mission*

2016 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> Philadelphia Baptist Association annual Mission Banquet, held October 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Crowne Plaza, Valley Forge. This year we honored 21 clergypersons who were nominated by their congregations; clergy who demonstrated passion for mission within the church, community and the world. Twenty six churches from across the greater PBA family gathered to recognize, celebrate and fellowship together.

The day's message was brought by Dr. James McJunkin, Executive Minister, touching on the day's theme of "Grasping the Width, Height and Depth of Christ's Love" taken from Ephesians 3:10-19.

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### Award Recipients



(l to r): Rev. Agnes Goodlet LaBell (Bethlehem Baptist Church), Rev. Phillip Griffin (Gibson Temple Baptist Church), Rev. Richard Cook (St. Paul's Baptist Church, West Chester)



(l to r): Rev. Jesse W. Woods, Jr. (Second Baptist Church of Germantown), Rev. Edward Harding (The Green Church)



Back Row (l to r): Rev. Mark McDowell (Abington Baptist Church), Rev. Dr. Clifford Johnson (Shiloh Baptist Church, Wilmington), Minister David Lingham (Church of the Redeemer Baptist)  
Front Row (l to r): Rev. Flora Anderson (New Horizon Baptist Church), Rev. Kimberlee Johnson (Tasker Street Baptist Church), Mrs. Linda Tribune accepting on behalf of Rev. James A. Lovett, II, (Tasker Street Baptist Church)



(l to r): Rev. Leroy Johnson accepting on behalf of Rev. Robert Lovett, (Wayland Temple Baptist Church), Rev. Kevin Murphy (Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church), Rev. Dr. Brodie Mathis (Pinn Memorial Baptist Church)



(l to r): Rev. Darren Umble (Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Holmesburg), Rev. Dr. Jeri Williams (The Green Church), Rev. Agnes Smith-Brown (Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia), Rev. Charles Quann accepting on behalf of Rev. Betty Wright-Riggins (Bethlehem Baptist Church)



(l to r): Rev. Oscar Smith (Canaan Baptist Church), Rev. Dr. Bayard Taylor (Calvary Baptist Church, Chester)



## Scenes of the Day



## PBA Minister's Council

*"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." Ephesians 4:11-13*



Rev. Dr. Donald D. Moore, Pastor of the Mount Carmel Baptist Church, was the presenter at the PBA Minister's Council Meeting, which met November 9, 2016 at the PBA office. His topic was "The Church and Ministry Outreach to Our Communities." Rev. Moore began his presentation by sharing from "TED Talks," which is a social media forum. From "TED Talks," we listened to Simon Sinek share his view on leadership entitled, "The Power of Why."

Rev. Moore challenged us to consider the question, "Why do we (the Church) exist rather than What do we have to offer?" By addressing the "Why" we exist, each congregation can formulate programs, which will prepare leadership for ministry.

Rev. Moore then referred to the annual Mid-Year Conference held at Mount Carmel when Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle shared a paradigm for leadership from his book "Caring Pastors, Caring People." This paradigm is made of three circles, which Rev More believes addresses the "Why" we exist question. In the inner circle, the Pastor cares for individuals (members and non-members) and families. The second circle has members care for members. And the third circle has the membership addressing and meeting the needs of the wider community.

Rev. Moore concluded by encouraging us to ponder the following: Learn the culture/spirit of your/our congregations, Allow the membership to use their talents without the micromanagement of the pastor and devise and use an evaluation tool to monitor the efficacy of leadership programs.

The PBA Minister's Council meets the second Wednesday every other month, from September to May, at the PBA office. Plan to attend the Annual Prayer Breakfast at the next meeting on January 11, 2017.

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## Philadelphia Burmese Baptist Church

### Host Evangelism Gathering

*"The Bible is a bank of wisdom. Bible study and understanding are very important in the Christian life. All the wisdom and understanding we need are in the bible, but it is in studying the bible that they can be delivered to us."*

This is the foundational reason that over the Thanksgiving weekend, November 25-27 the **Philadelphia Burmese Baptist Church** hosted a Spiritual Awakening Conference involving Burmese congregations throughout the area. The sessions each day included prayer, music and Bible studies, led by Bible teacher Rev. San Toe, and were held in various churches throughout Philadelphia and Trenton.





Fellowship of Roxborough and Sunday morning worship was held with the congregation at the First Baptist Church of Trenton, NJ.

The Philadelphia Burmese Baptist Church, which is pastored by Dr. La Seng Dingrin shares church space at St. John's Baptist Church; Rev. David Powles is the pastor. The church is located at 13<sup>th</sup> and Tasker Streets, in South Philadelphia.

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## Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard begins as Consultant with PBA

On November 1, 2016, Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard began as Program Facilitator for Communication and Leader Development. This part time commitment will provide support for the PBA's three Learning Community groups focusing Diversity, Leadership and Domestic Violence.

Her life verse is Psalm 27:4,  
*"I'm asking God for one thing, only one thing:  
To live with him in his house my whole life long.  
I'll contemplate his beauty; I'll study at his feet."*

*Peterson's The Message*



Rev. Bruton-Sheppard is grateful that for most of her life especially as an adult, God has been faithful to answer the prayer posed in this verse. In her first career as a nurse, she found her calling in the field of Hospice Home Care. During those 14 years God presented Julia with many *life-lessons* caring for those at the end of life.

God blessed her to become a wife. She is the proud mother of 1 daughter and 3 sons. She is also the grandmother of 4 granddaughters and 2 grandsons and in August became a great-grand mother of a beautiful girl.

In 1989 Rev. Bruton-Sheppard was licensed to preach, ordained in 1993 and presently holds the position of Associate Minister at the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church where Rev. Dr. Donald D. Moore is Pastor. She received her formal education for ministry by obtaining Certificate in Hebraic Studies followed by a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Jewish Studies at Gratz College in Melrose Park, PA. She went on to receive a Master of Divinity Degree at the Reformed Episcopal Seminary in Blue Bell, PA. God has lately called her to the ministry of Spiritual Direction. Currently she is attending Kairos School of Spiritual Formation, a Mennonite sponsored program held in Wernersville, PA.

By nature she is an introvert and treasures quiet time. However, what brings her out of solitude is a call to help the disenfranchised and the most vulnerable. You may find her helping someone more senior than herself or joining programs that provide vital support for them.

Julia is an avid traveler; she's visited four of the seven continents and is not particularly interested in the Antarcticas. She has seen many marvels in God's world through the lens of a camera. Those images have created memories to last the rest of her life.

She states, "I seek your prayers as I begin this new position as Program Facilitator for Communication and Leader Development for PBA. Because of them, I look forward to how God will continue to answer my prayer posed in Psalm 27:4."

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## News and Notes

Around the Region

### Around the Region

#### Recognizing American Baptist Women

**Rev. Dr. Suzanne H. Walls Kershaw**, President of the American Baptist Women's Ministries of the PBA, graduated in May with her D. Min from Lutheran Theological Seminary. In October, she gave a presentation from her D. Min project research which focused on women's ministries, to the national officers of American Baptist Women's Ministries and AB Girls National Leadership Team. Dr. Kershaw was also recently featured in "My Baptist Life". To read her interview click [here](#).



#### "Shine the Light" Award

Through the **"Shine the Light" award**, American Baptist Women's Ministries is recognizing American Baptist women who are spreading the light of Christ through

their congregation, their community, or the world.

You are invited to nominate an American Baptist woman, or an AB Women's Ministries group, for the 2017 Shine the Light Award! **Nominations are due by January 31, 2017.** The 2017 recipient will be honored at the [2017 Women's Day](#) on Friday, June 30, 2017, in Portland, Oregon.

For criteria, (a downloadable PDF brochure, nomination forms or online submission) visit [www.abwministries.org/shinethelight](http://www.abwministries.org/shinethelight).

## In Memorium



**Juanita L. Wadsworth** (nee Lindee) died peacefully on September 18, 2016 at Elm TerraceGardens in Lansdale, PA at the age of 104. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 73 years, Lincoln B. Wadsworth. She is survived by a son and two daughters, six grandchildren and numerous great and great-great grandchildren.

She spent most of her early years in Muscatine, Iowa, surrounded by many extended family members. She graduated from Muscatine Junior College, worked as YWCA secretary and was in charge of a Girl Reserve Camp. She graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Growing up she was involved in many church activities. She met her future husband, Lincoln, at a Baptist youth rally and they married on April 3, 1934. Juanita was a pastor's wife extraordinaire in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Juanita and Lincoln devoted their lives to the Baptist Churches, the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the Philadelphia Baptist Association.

She and Lincoln moved to a retirement community, Elm Terrace Gardens, in Lansdale, PA in 1997.

Juanita's life celebration was held on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at The Baptist Church in the Great Valley in Devon, PA where she was a longtime member.

**Calvin L. Hackney** passed away October 1, 2016. He served as moderator of the PBA from 1992 to1994 and was chairperson of the Good Shepherd Ministries Committee from 1986 to 1992. For many years he served as a team member making regular visits to the Youth Study Center providing support and guidance to incarcerated youth through the Good Shepherd Ministries. Services were held on October 10th at the Second Baptist Church of Germantown.



**Rev. James A. Waller, Sr.** passed away on November 7, 2016. He served as the pastor of the Providence Baptist Church in Germantown from 1982 until 2014.

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## Upcoming Events

### December

- 23-26    Christmas Eve/Christmas observed - PBA office closed  
30        New Year's Eve observed - PBA office closed

January 2017

- 2 New Year's Day observed - PBA office closed  
11 PBA Ministers' Council Annual Prayer Breakfast @ PBA office building  
16 Martin Luther King Day - PBA office closed  
22 American Baptist Women's Ministries Fall [Cruise](#) Deposit Deadline

February

- 20 Presidents' Day - PBA office closed

March

- 8 PBA Ministers' Council @ PBA office building  
25 Second Annual Mission Cafe

April

- 8 ABWM-PBA Spring Regional Gathering

May

- 6 PBA Annual Meeting

June

- 30 - July 2 2017 ABCUSA [Biennial Mission Summit](#) @ Portland, OR

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Dr. James E. McJunkin, Jr., Executive Minister

Rev. Julia Bruton-Sheppard, Program Facilitator, Communications & Leader Development

Mrs. Rosalyn L. Martin, Executive Assistant

Ms. Janet Reedy, Administrative Assistant

We encourage you to contact the PBA staff for more information on our programs and opportunities for service and ministry.

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