

October 2019 - VOLUME 8
SPECIAL EDITION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/MINISTER.
Exemplary Missionary.
Exceptional Man.

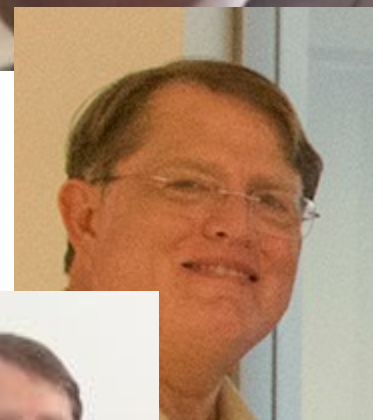
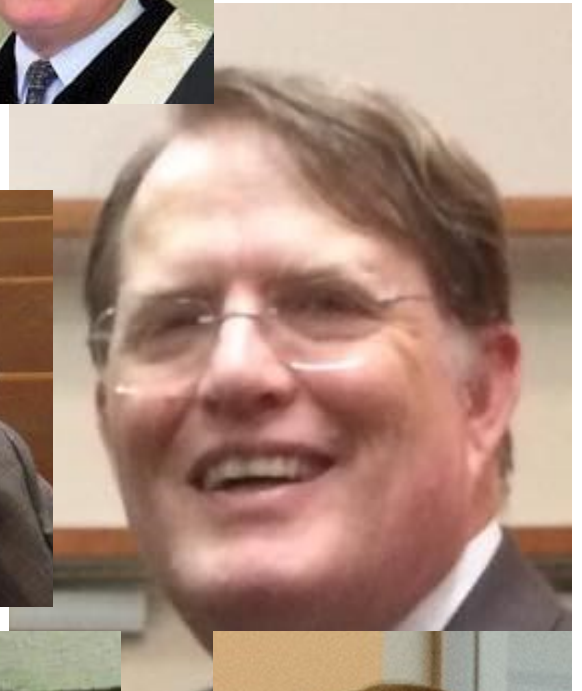


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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAPTIST CONVENTION

14^{3rd}
Annual Gathering of Churches

Blessed

TO BLESS OTHERS

Luke 10:23-24



Lee



Wicks



Plaque



Brown

OCTOBER 24-25, 2019

CLIFTON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH, SILVER SPRING, MD



THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAPTIST CONVENTION
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE RETIREMENT CELEBRATION OF

*Rev. Dr.
Robert D. Cochran*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/MINISTER

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020

7:00 pm

MARTINS CROSSWINDS

7400 GREENWAY CENTER DRIVE
GREENBELT, MARYLAND

AFTER FIVE ATTIRE
BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

THIS INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO ADULTS ONLY.

\$75

www.dcbaptist.org

October

Editor's Note about this month's edition....

Welcome to OCTOBER!!!

We are so excited to have you join us for the 2019 DCBC 143rd Annual Gathering!

This edition of the Capital Baptist is dedicated to the almost retired Rev. Dr. Robert D. Cochran otherwise known as Dr. C to me. These 4.7 years have been nothing short of wonderful. Dr. C and I have a unique relationship that always ends up with a laughing session and a history lesson that I will always treasure. I humbly appreciate his ability to allow me to create and explore the real meaning of communication by expanding my thoughts through prayer, devotion and just flat out understanding. His beautiful spirit and songs fills the hallway near my office with hymns and a hearty ' 'THERE SHE IS.. ...HELLO KIMMMMBERRRLYYY". I always end up looking from my computer and smiling back and screaming "HEY DR. C".. I must tell you that I will sincerely miss his hello's in the morning designed just for me. If you don't know, our staff family loves to eat and love to cook! On Pork Chop Thursday (yes, that's a real day!!) we fry pork chops and leave one on the counter for him cut in bite size pieces so each time he walks back and forth from his office to the copier, he can grab a piece. If you pass him enough in the hallway he will tell whomever is listening that I was attempting to give him a heart attack with great pork chops....lol! There is nothing better than to go to work and love what you do each and every day.. The cherry on top is to go work and work under a great leader! I will truly miss hearing and seeing him but I know where he lives... lol!

I love you Dr. C!

Kimberly Anne



THE GIVING STATEMENTS



WAYS to GIVE



Mail your donations to:
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Visit us online at
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Click the **DONATE** button at the top right corner

Text '**DCBC**' and the amount you want to give to 73256.

- 1 Click the link.
- 2 Send your gift.

Our hands are open. As your partner in ministry and co-laborer in the gospel, the D.C. Baptist Convention aims to connect you to opportunities, resources and services that multiply your ministry efforts. And we are able to do this because month after month, year after year, generation after generation, your hands have been open.

You have given to us in a myriad of ways.

Please visit
[www.dcbaptist.com/GIVE NOW](http://www.dcbaptist.com/GIVE_NOW) to view more on
THE GIVING STATEMENTS!

A portrait of a middle-aged man with short brown hair and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark red tie with a small geometric pattern. The background consists of light-colored vertical blinds.

ONE BLESSING DESERVES ANOTHER

By Starlette Thomas,
Minister to Empower
Congregations

“What we have done for ourselves dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.”

| Albert Pike

Leadership is not a matter of assuming a role, bearing a title or even amassing a following. The internet has proven that most anyone with a website, a beautiful profile picture with the right filters and a savvy social media platform can do that. No, leaders are not made, discovered or even hired. One's leadership is not determined by votes. Instead, I have found that leading, stepping up and out when it is needed is innate. You either have it or you don't. Leaders do it; followers won't.

Leaders, Christian leaders, are not the heartless, heavy-handed, cutthroat characters we see depicted on screen. Leaders who follow Christ don't rule with an iron fist but serve with a towel. Like Christ's leading, it is not done from a distance but in the flesh, showing up and not giving orders but giving a truly helping hand. Leaders of this kind are few and very far between.

I have known the Rev. Dr. Robert D. Cochran for more than ten years. More than a third of my life has been spent in service to the D.C. Baptist Convention and at his side in various capacities and lengths of time. He has been a colleague and co-laborer. As Executive Director-Minister, he is my leader. It was an easy transition for me. Because at all times and in each role, he has been my friend and mentor. This time is no different.

Dr. Cochran's even keeled nature and easy-going form is a necessary reminder and a needed model for a generational speed set on immediate and rushed delivery. He has served our member churches, their pastors, clergy and lay leaders for twenty-five years with patient determination, passionate resolve and compassionate care. Thoughtful and fully present for their spiritual lives and for lives of the staff, the Rev. Dr. Robert Cochran has been a blessing to me and countless others.

And one blessing deserves another. Robert Cochran, “The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace” (Numbers 6.24-26, NRSV). Amen.

Words From

Robert D. Cochran

*For You are my rock and my fortress;
You lead me and guide me as befits Your name.
You free me from the net laid for me, for You are my stronghold.
Into Your hand I entrust my spirit,
You redeem me, O Lord, faithful God.*

Psalms thirty-one, verses 3-6

Adapted from TANAKH

These words remind me of a loving parent caring for a child. I long for someone to watch over me and to provide me protection in this world. Everyone has one agenda or another. Each one seems to want to find a way for me to do their bidding. All of us in this governing city search for someone to govern, something to command. Perhaps this spirit of governing is the greatest trap of all, the most dangerous snare laid for me.

God, You led me to come to this city to work, and You know the seductive traps that wait for me here. I ask You to guide me in ways that avoid those deathly traps and open me to life in the Spirit. If You are willing to become a fortress for me, I will gladly receive Your protection. I know that my family needs Your protection, too . . . sometimes protection from me.

God, even with all the wealth I control, with all that I possess, the greatest treasure of all is my spirit. I am thankful that I can trust You to nurture this precious possession.



District of Columbia Baptist Convention

CLERGY COUPLE CARE *Retreat*



This program is designed to give the clergy couples a space to talk about how the blessings and struggles of ministry have impacted their families and to discover and share ways to protect and preserve their relationships while serving God's people.

January 10-11, 2020

The Claggett Center
3035 Buckeystown Pike
Adamstown, MD 21710

Cost \$95 per couple

All meals, overnight accommodations, retreat materials and supplies are included

Register

www.dcbaptist.org

For More Information

Rev. Lisa Banks-Williams - LisaBW50@icloud.com
Pastor Donald Kelly - rev2006.obcc@verizon.net





If it is October, it is time for the DCBC Annual Gathering! I look forward to the Gathering each year for the opportunity and blessing it provides for fellowship, learning and for gathered worship. I have been visiting the DCBC Churches on Sunday mornings with Robert; so I look forward this year to seeing familiar faces and having conversations in the hallways as we come and go between the planned events.

I have been blessed by and enjoyed being part of the DCBC fellowship and have served different efforts over the years. Serving on the Center for Church Health, Evangelism and Discipleship Team I met people who had a passion for their work in their own churches as well as being part of the team working to offer information and training to the wider fellowship of churches. Some of the events first planned by the CHED Team are still being offered.

The annual Vacation Bible School preparation event was another favorite of mine as the VBS Team worked with the people of the churches to make ready to welcome and work with the youngest among our congregations and communities. The VBS Team was a group of church leaders with great energy and the desire to support the local church

efforts. I was also part of several events where Sunday School Teachers were offered training in Children's Ministry, my favorite area of ministry. I was always blessed to see the interest and willingness of the teachers, new ones and those experienced, to engage the children for their spiritual development. I am currently part of the DCBC Burma Work Group and will serve alongside the Burmese Pastors and Teachers to encourage and support their efforts to care for the spiritual development of their children and youth.

In my years of service as an Associate Pastor at The First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, DC I was blessed by the Staff of the DCBC who would answer questions, offer resources and helpful suggestions. In those times when I served as Acting Pastor of the church the words of encouragement from other ministers of the DCBC meant a lot.

A year has passed since the last Gathering and as much as I am looking forward to seeing the familiar faces from years past, I am also hoping to see some new faces and have the chance to get acquainted. I have been blessed by being part of the DCBC, and I want others to know they can be blessed as well.

"Blessed to Bless Others"

By Rev. Deborah Cochran

The District of Columbia Baptist Convention
presents The Blessing 2020 Initiatives

the blessing



The Blessing is a campaign for the DCBC family to extend the reach of individual member congregations by collectively supporting ministries of compassion.

Give an offering
through your
church.



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Our goal this year is to
raise **\$42,500** for
compassion ministries.
All money collected will
go directly to support the
ministries listed.

**With more than 150
member churches, we
believe we can reach
this goal together.**

the
blessing
2020



Partnership Missions

with Myanmar



D.C. Baptists are a people focusing on the mission of Christ. We have eleven churches among us made up of immigrants from Myanmar.

These friends provide open doors to work among three people groups—the Chins, the Kachins and the Karens—where we worked in 2019. These funds will continue to help Baptists (pastors, leaders and seminary students), extending their ministries though teaching in the areas of Agriculture, Practical Theology and Social Work. Some of the funds will also be used to strengthen teaching efforts in the refugee camps and Sunday Schools among the Kachin people of Northern Burma.

GOAL: \$5,000



MENTORSHIP TRAINING

For Retired Pastors

Retired pastors can serve as mentors to help younger pastors, sharing their experiences and treasured wisdom. A challenge for young pastors is to learn how to work both effectively and wisely in the first churches they serve. These have observed congregational life as lay persons but have limited experience in knowing the “nuts and bolts” of pastoral ministry. Often pastoral leadership styles used previously do not work well in this environment. Linking the newly serving with the newly retired will benefit the pastors, their churches and the DCBC.

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the
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2020



Office of Empowering Congregations

GOAL: \$7,500

Beloved Community Builders



Let me see a show of hands. Who is ready to build beloved community? The Office of Empowering Congregations invites churches to create community gardens, host health clinics, book bag drives, set up a neighborhood book exchange or coordinate a community clean-up day. Wherever the Church is, let us be found building community.

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2020

Office of
Equipping Leaders

GOAL: \$3,750

Pastor Renewal Retreat

Pastors live hectic lives tending to the needs of others at their own sacrifice. All pastors need the support of others, whether family members or fellow clergy, who understand well the pressures upon every pastor. We sponsor these spiritual retreats so that relationships can both begin and be strengthened to support pastors throughout their ministries in the DCBC.

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the
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Office of
Administration
and Stewardship

GOAL: \$7,500

Automotive

Repairs for Single Caregivers

We realize that having a vehicle that runs properly is important, but maintaining it is not a priority when you have limited funds and need to cover the cost for rent, food, utilities, and medical expenses. Let us put into action the words of Paul in Galatians 6:10, "Take advantage of every opportunity to be a blessing to others...". So we will provide Metro passes and/or minor automotive repairs for "single" caregivers.



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the blessing
2020

GOAL: \$7,500



Office of
Engaging Communities
**PUBLIC THEOLOGY
INITIATIVE**

The Public Theology Initiative (PTI) will help equip congregational leaders (ordained and lay) increase the public good through the redemption of the public conversations, policies, and institutions that affect the communities we serve. Participants will partner with DCBC affiliated academic institutions and local practitioners to become firmly grounded in the theologies, philosophies, and practices of specific ministry models and then incorporate their newfound knowledge and skills into existing or new ministries."

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the blessing 2020

Office of Communications



Too many times we walk past each other without a salutation of any kind. The Undivided Table will explore and ignite unique and diverse conversations through food, and culture with people to blaze a path of understanding, empowerment and community unity.

Send your contribution to



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/MINISTER.

Exemplary Missionary.

Exceptional Man.

Rev. Dr. Robert D. Cochran

Tribute to Rev. Dr. Cochran



It is a blessing when you can be around an individual that embraces their gifts without smothering it with ego. Share wisdom without judgement. Courageously expresses their authentic self. Boldly walks on the mission field. Fervently demonstration the love of Jesus Christ in all they do. I recognize the blessing that you are Rev. Dr. Robert Cochran and celebrate you as you prepare to retire. May God bless and keep you now and forever.

Your forever friend,

Rev. Patricia (Patti) Fears, Pastor

Fellowship Baptist Church



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Rev. Dr. Robert D. Cochran

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT COCHRAN

Rev. Dr. Bruce Salmon, Retired Pastor, Village Baptist
Church, Bowie, Maryland

What a gift Robert Cochran has been to the D.C. Baptist Convention! He has served tirelessly for 25 years with integrity, humility, compassion, and dedication. His primary focus has been on the welfare of churches, pastors, lay leaders, and the ministries of the Convention. I am blessed to count him as a colleague and friend. Robert and his wife Deborah are servant-leaders among us, and we are inspired by their examples of faithfulness to the cause of Christ.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/MINISTER.

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Rev. Dr. Robert D. Cochran

TRIBUTE TO DR. COCHRAN



CONGRATULATIONS Reverend Doctor Robert Cochran on your retirement after twenty-five years of distinguished service to the District of Columbia Baptist Convention! You are a great Servant of God, always reflecting a powerful image of Divinity in your work. For Twenty-five years, you

have given of yourself fully and completely for the work of Kingdom Building. You have made a difference and been a tremendous blessing to the Convention. Well done, good and faithful Servant!!

**Rev. Dr. Ella V. Redfield, Pastor
New Creation Church**



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/MINISTER.

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Rev. Dr. Robert D. Cochran

Tribute to Rev. Dr. Robert Cochran

On behalf of the members of the Mount Jezreel Baptist Church it is my pleasure to extend congratulations to you as you retire after twenty-five years of faithful service to the D.C. Baptist Convention. We recognize how God has blessed us through your leadership, and we are grateful to God for placing you in your many roles at the



D.C. Baptist Convention. We extend sincere appreciation to you for your unwavering support to the Washington Metropolitan Area church leaders and members.

May God's richest blessings be upon you.

Mt. Jezreel Baptist Church



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/MINISTER.

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Rev. Dr. Robert D. Cochran



In a time when the DC Baptist Convention was in need of steady and solid leadership, the Reverend Dr. Robert Cochran took the helm and guided the the Convention through turbulence to a new place, a "sweet spot", with promising possibilities. From this "sweet spot," we salute Robert on his retirement from DC Baptist life, and we wish him well on the new journey that he will enjoy with family and friends. Robert will be remembered many in the Convention and his work will always speak for him in the DC Baptist history. Many blessing in Christ as you rest and retire from your labors and enjoy your rewards for a job well done.

Sincerely In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry

Pastor, The Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church

Former President and Interim Director/Minister, DC Baptist Convention



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/MINISTER.

Exemplary Missionary.

Exceptional Man.

Rev. Dr. Robert D. Cochran

Our faith tradition teaches us the value of memory — of knowing our history.

All of it. The mountain highs and the valley lows. The lush seasons of thriving and the arid seasons of fallowing. Scripture makes mention of the word remember 161 times. The gift of Dr. Robert Cochran to The DCBC, and indeed to the Baptist faith, is the gift of memory. He knows the stories and can connect the dots. And he keeps the story of alive so that — in times of instability, uncertainty and doubts about how the future will turn out — we are reminded of how we made it over. In



times of chaos, it is the keepers of memory, the historians, who remember God's unfailing guidance. They retell the stories of how the same God that brought us up and over and out and through before can do it again. Congratulations on your retirement! May you always remember and never stop telling the stories that keep is alive.

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Turner Wood

Pastor, Dayspring Community Church

Stay

CONNECTED

