

empowering congregations

In this Edition...
**Churches That Become Safe
Sanctuaries**

**Books That Build
Community**



From the Desk of the Executive Director/Minister

D.C. Baptists always have worked to empower congregations. It is true that we renamed our areas of ministry focus in 2014. We did not, however, discover only then the ministry of empowering congregations. Even before our beginnings in 1877, local congregations were a major focus of our life together. The first field worker working among D.C. Baptists sought to strengthen Sunday Schools in local churches, some schools which already had 40 years of experience in Sunday Schools. D.C. Baptists continued to serve congregations through those early decades and does so even today.

In about 1937, D.C. Baptists began to reflect more fully the agendas of the national denominational groupings. That led to ministries which often focused on causes not always tied directly to local congregations. Still, the DCBC worked after 1937 to meet the needs of the local congregations in mission outreach through the churches, in a variety of church ministries, in lay leadership development and along with special emphases across the years. Over the past 80 years, the DCBC has continued to strengthen and to empower congregations, just as we had since before 1877.

Rev. Starlette Thomas has led this effort admirably over the past three years, serving the churches as the DCBC has in the past while also noting the

future needs for the churches. Her efforts have been well received and appreciated by many churches and individuals. All churches and denominations are currently in the midst of transitions, causing tensions in the present and raising questions of the future. We see these strains arise regularly, and we know they have effects on us. D.C. Baptists can be assured of the DCBC's continuing commitment to our DC congregations, listening to them and designing ministries that will empower them in the present and in the future.

The beauty of the DCBC and one of its greatest assets is our knowledge of both our local situation and our local churches. While many claim such insights, the DCBC has lived through such circumstances as churches fellowshipping together along with specialists such as Rev. Thomas. Such insights enable ministers like Rev. Thomas to strengthen local congregations and their leaders. You find reports of her efforts and of this area of ministry within the following pages. Few groups love the local church like the DCBC, a truth we prove truly year after year and decade after decade! That proof you find in this issue on Empowering Congregations.



July

CALENDAR

21

Ministry on The Mall

24

Montgomery
County Pastor's
Meeting

28

Memorial Service for
Dr. James Langley
(First Baptist of DC - 2:00PM)

Independence Day
DCBC Offices Closed

Ministry on The
Mall

Chapel and Staff
Meeting

Ministry on the
Mall

Equipping Leaders
Work Group

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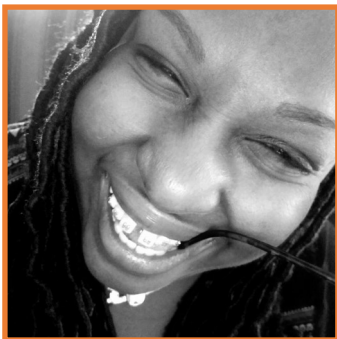
Gloria Grant, OAM Coordinator
Ext 216



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

Welcome to July!

This month we highlight the Office Of Empowering Congregations headed by the wonderful Rev. Starlette Thomas along with her awesome assistant Mrs. Loretta Polite-Shipman. This duo continues to create and implement new and exciting trainings for our member churches each quarter. I employ you to take the time and attend one or more of these trainings and invite your church family as well.



Blessings to you and Enjoy!

Kimberly Anne

<https://www.tricentis.com/community/>

CELEBRATING *Centenarians*



Do you have a member of your church who was born in 1918 or before? The Office of Communications is looking to honor our local Baptist centenarians! Please let us know the name and contact information of any members who fit this description. We want to honor them this year in our devotional/calendar!

communications@dcbaptist.org

THE GIVING STATEMENTS



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**THE GIVING
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BOOKS

That Build Community

By Starlette Thomas

What's on your summer reading list? Along with sunscreen and shades, what do you have packed in your beach bag? While the summer allows us to take a break, it can also provide the necessary time and space to strengthen areas of our faith, namely the practice of Christian community.

An outgrowth of hospitality, Christian community-building is a natural progression. Sunday morning was never meant to be the end of our fellowship. Family in Christ, we should expect to spend more time together. The New Testament church models this time and time again. Books can call us back to community and away from the temptation to “go solo” or “go at it alone.” Besides, our faith was meant to be practiced together.

So, use these books begin a book club that builds community. Like the early church, go from house to house, share a meal or light refreshments, pick a topic and then discuss it. Add community service projects and it allows the words to literally leap off the page, both practicing what you are reading and strengthening your fellowship.



**The Intentional
Christian Community
Handbook:
For Idealists,
Hypocrites, and
Wannabe Disciples of
Jesus**

by David Janzen,
Paraclete Press, 2013,
333 pages.

**The Post- Racial
Church: A Biblical
Framework for
Multiethnic
Reconciliation**

by Kenneth A. Mathews
& M. Sydney Park,
Kregel Academic &
Professional, 2011,
280 pages.

**Why We Live in
Community**

by Eberhard Arnold,
Plough Publishing House,
1995,
62 pages.

**Disunity in Christ:
Uncovering the
Hidden Forces That
Keep Us Apart**

by Christena
Cleveland, IVP Books,
2013,
220 pages.

**Table Talk: Rethinking
Communion and
Community**

by Mike Graves,
Cascade Books, 2017,
163 pages.

**Called to
Community: The Life
Jesus Wants for His
People**

edited by Charles E.
Moore,
Plough Publishing House,
2016,
359 pages.

**The Home We Build
Together: Recreating
Society**

by Jonathan Sacks,
Bloomsbury, 2007,
273 pages.





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142nd ANNUAL GATHERING OF CHURCHES AND CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

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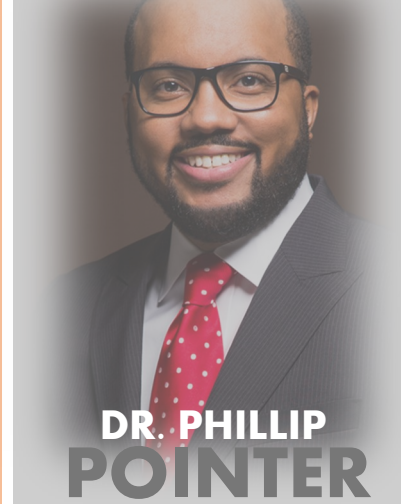
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26

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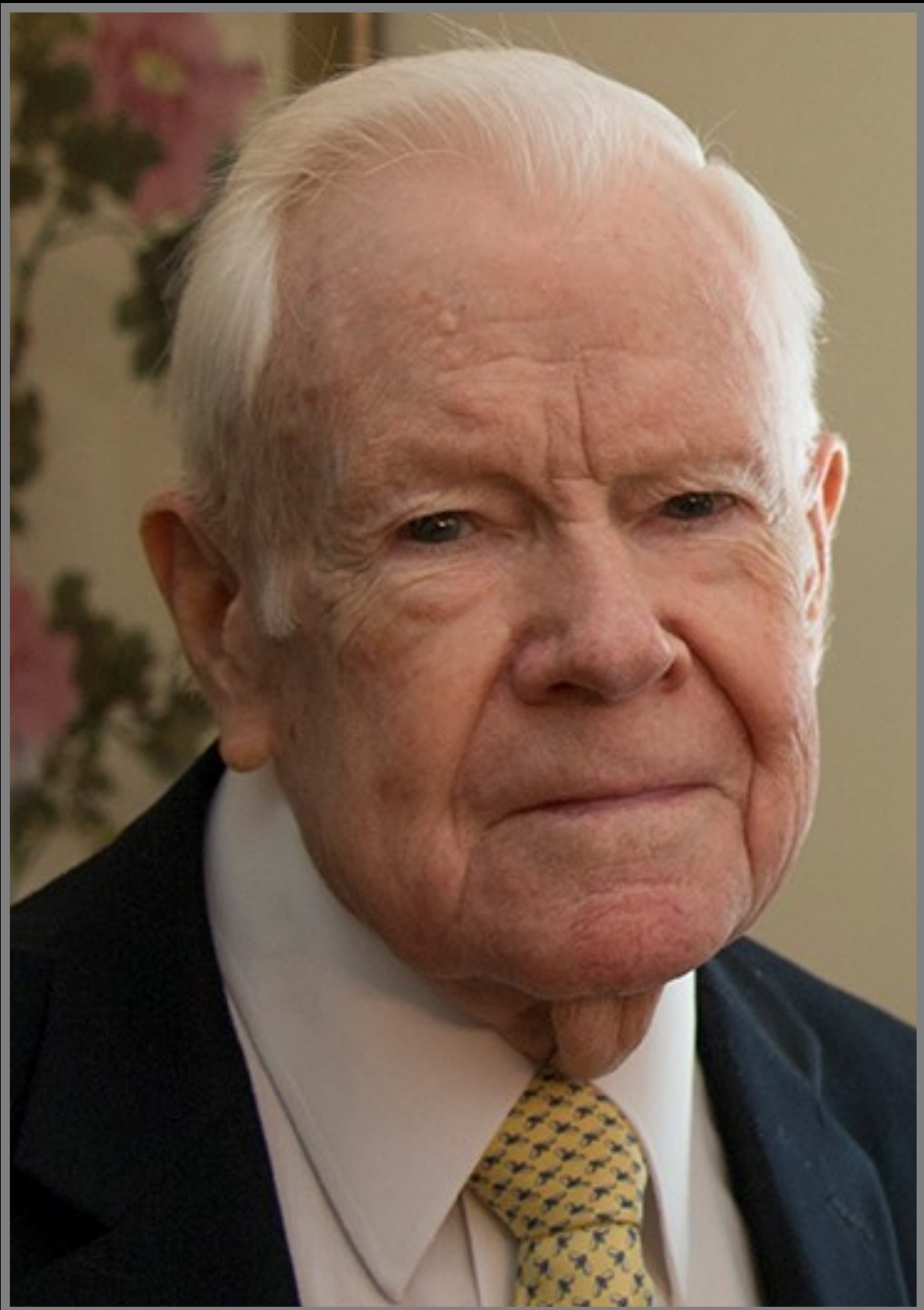
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Dr. James Langley

Our brother, Jim Langley, passed away peacefully with his family at his side on Wednesday, June 7, at the age of 93.

Jim was born on March 20, 1925 and grew up in Opelika, Alabama. Following his service in the Army during WWII, Jim attended Baylor University. He and his wife Eugenia (Jean) were married in 1951 at Fountain Memorial Baptist Church, here in Washington. Together they raised four children: Carol, Jim, Jane & Marilyn.

A distinguished, long-time denominational leader in the D.C. area, Dr. Langley served at Senior Pastor of the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church and then as Executive Minister of the D.C. Baptist Convention for many years. He has also served interim pastorates in numerous churches throughout the D.C. area. In addition to his undergraduate degree from Baylor, Jim earned an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary and a PhD from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

His mother once told him, "Jim, wherever you go, join the church where you are, no matter how short your time in that town." He heeded those words throughout his entire life. Jim joined our church in 2006 and was a faithful part of the FBCDC family of faith. He served for a time as our interim minister for pastoral care, filled our pulpit on a number of occasions, and taught many inspiring Bible study classes. Jim was a gifted poet and writer of hymns. During our August Forum in 2016, Dr. Langley read his narrative poem, Holocaust Image, which was published that year in Christian Ethics Today.

Jim was preceded in death by his wife, Jean, in 2002. He is survived by his four children.

A private, family funeral and burial was held, with a memorial service at First Baptist D. C. taking place on June 28, 2018..

Join me in giving thanks to God for Dr. Langley's long and fruitful life. And please hold his family in your prayers.

THE CHURCH: AGENT FOR JUSTICE!

AMOS 5:24, MICAH 6:8, LUKE 4:18

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wordforlifechurch.org

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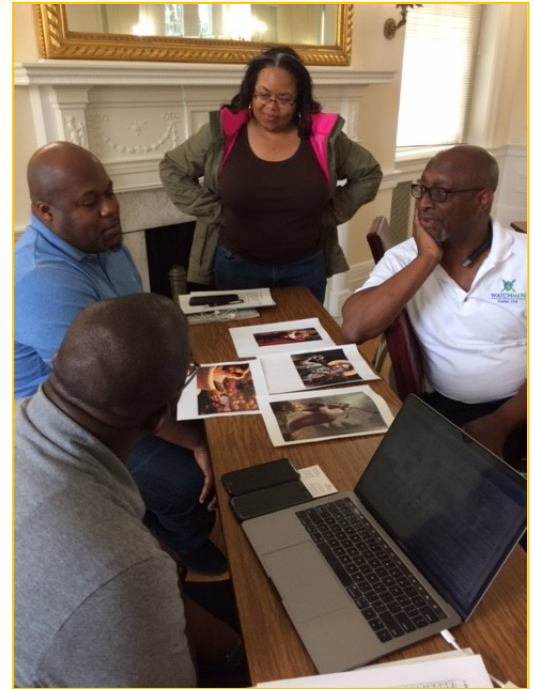
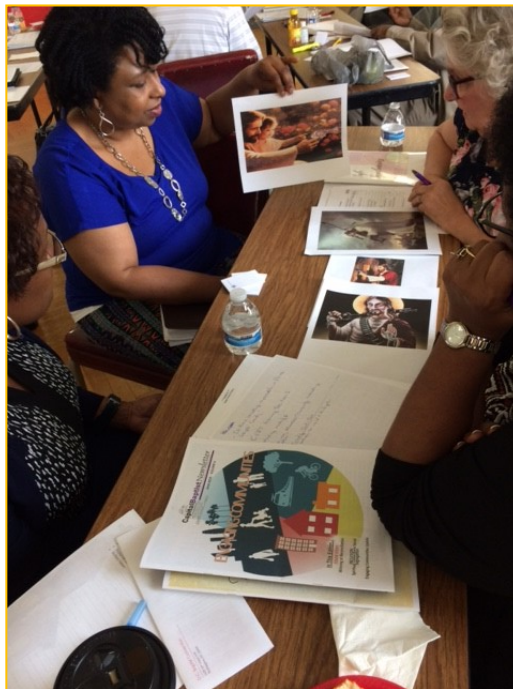
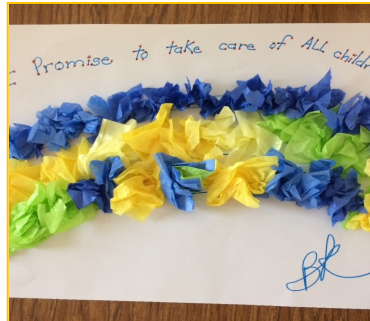
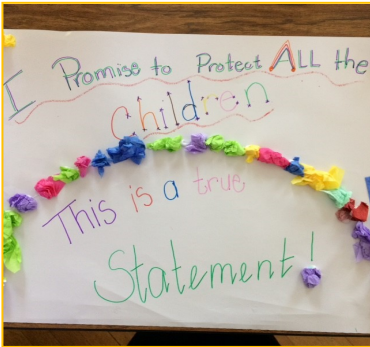
Sheila Stevens (757) 472-3834 | sheilastevens2005@yahoo.com

Veltina Evans (301) 266-2961 | r22obert@verizon.net

A Family Affair

A Community Concern





CHURCHES

BECOME SAFE SANCTUARIES AT RECENT TRAINING

By Starlette Thomas

In June, churches gathered to discuss the increase in violence in and around sacred spaces, to discern our place in the gun debate, to search the Scriptures, our resources and our minds for a response to the continued threat of danger. The rise in violent deaths in churches and other houses of worship has prompted a national dialogue and intense political debate. What will be our response as people of faith, called to practice Christ's peace while protecting those who gather for worship? Of course, this reality is coupled with that of sexual abuse at the hands of clergy, lay leaders as well as volunteers—not to mention medical emergencies for which churches are often unprepared.

Sanctuary does not mean what it used to.

During our annual training of Sunday School directors, teachers and volunteers, churches were empowered to develop a plan of action to include background checks, the request for references and follow up phone calls to those references, half doors or doors with windows and the implementation of "the Two- Adult rule," so that no child is left alone with an adult. Covering all our bases, we were joined by Michael Briscoe from Serve- DC whose office offers free CPR certification classes for churches within the District. Attendees were also equipped with sample *Safe Sanctuary* policies for small, medium and large churches for implementation in conversation with the leaders and members of their churches.

Inspired by the work of Joy Thornburg Melton, who is from the United Methodist tradition and writes from this location, she has created the only response of its kind. In her book *Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth*, she offers critical responses and necessary rules for the safety and security of children. She writes, "When allegations of child abuse in the church are made, whether they eventually are proven true or false, everyone suffers. The child victim and his or her family suffer encompassing pain. The congregation suffers the trauma of knowing that its life- giving covenant has been broken. The family of the perpetrator suffers intense humiliation and a likely breakup of the family unit" (9). Consequently, the church should have a plan.

Thornburg Melton offers these steps. Local churches should:

- * Develop and implement an ongoing education plan for the congregation and its leaders on the reality of child abuse, risk factors leading to child abuse and strategies for prevention;
- * Adopt screening procedures (e.g. use of application forms, interviews, reference checks, background clearance, and so forth) for workers (paid and unpaid) directly and indirectly involved in the care of children and youth;
- * Develop and implement safety procedures for church activities such as having two or more nonrelated adults present in the classroom or activity; leaving doors open and installing half- doors or window in doors or halls; providing hall monitors; instituting sign- in and sign- out procedures for children ages ten and younger and so forth;
- * Advise children and young persons of an agency or person outside as well as within the local church whom they can contact for advice or help if they have suffered abuse;
- * Carry liability insurance that includes sexual abuse coverage;
- * Assist the development of awareness and self- protection skills for children and youth through special curriculum and activities; and,

This is only a snippet of what was shared from our speakers, which also included Ms. Stephanie Willett, a current seminary student at Wesley Theological Seminary and Ms. Rhonda Hamby, who has extensive experience in children's education and child development. It is my hope that these notes from the gathering would start a conversation in your congregation and that you would be empowered to keep it going.

Space for *Grace* 2018

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& The Office of Empowering Congregations

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The Baptist Building | 1628 16th Street NW Washington, DC 20009

For more information and to register, visit our website at www.dcbaptist.org.

Alongside the life and witness of Stephen, one of the church's first deacons and its first martyr, deacons are in good company. In Acts 6, the early church is looking for those in good standing to wait on tables. In so doing, deacons will demonstrate the balance of Christ's ministry, serving the word and the tables of the poor. The ministry of the diaconate both acknowledges and addresses the physical, social and psychic needs of the faith community. In a time of mixed messages, it is important that servant leaders know where they stand and where our congregations will look for them in times of need. Can they find you at the table?

For more information, contact Rev. Starlette Thomas at 202.265.1526 ext. 205 and to register, go to the DCBC website (www.dcbaptist.org).

Church Mission Giving

For the Six Months Ended June 30, 2018

Churches	DCBC - 65%; Coop - 35%			100% Designated							MISC	YTD Total Gifts
	UNIFIED COOP	SBC COOP	ABC COOP	PNBC	DCBC	SBC	ABC	NCAMO	BWA	JBCC		
Agape Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.00
Agape Bible Christian Fellowship	-	-	-	-	500.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.00
Alafia Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	220.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	220.00
American Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	57.28	-	2,708.72	148.00	-	-	-	2,914.00
Broadneck Baptist Church	-	-	677.00	-	1,635.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,312.00
Broadview Baptist Church	-	-	700.00	-	800.00	-	-	500.00	-	-	-	2,000.00
Calvary Burmese Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	500.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.00
Clifton Park Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	1,525.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,525.02
Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ	-	-	-	-	500.00	-	200.00	-	-	-	-	700.00
Eglise Baptiste Du Calvaire	-	-	-	-	2,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000.00
Faith Shepherd Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	250.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	250.00
First Baptist Church Of the City of Washington DC	-	-	-	-	24,375.00	40.00	1,252.50	1,100.00	-	-	1,455.50	28,223.00
First Baptist Church/Camp Springs	-	50.00	375.00	-	7,534.00	228.50	1,068.50	516.00	-	-	-	9,772.00
First Baptist Church/Silver Spring	-	-	-	-	6,018.21	-	791.86	500.00	-	-	-	7,310.07
First Haitian Baptist Congregation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,600.00	1,600.00
Fort Foote Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	26,307.00	4,959.00	-	284.00	-	-	-	31,550.00
Glory Baptist Church (Korean)	-	-	-	-	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.00
Heritage Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	500.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.00
Luther Rice Memorial Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	2,500.00	-	1,054.50	-	125.00	-	1,054.50	4,734.00
Maryland Baptist Church (Tedim Chin)	-	-	-	-	300.00	-	300.00	-	300.00	-	-	900.00
Metropolitan Outreach Ministries	-	-	-	-	60.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	60.00
Montgomery Hills Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	11,250.00	-	4,133.00	-	-	-	-	15,383.00
Mt. Airy Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	300.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	300.00
Nations United Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	5,095.51	13,611.21	-	-	-	-	-	18,706.72
New Creation Baptist Church	-	-	300.00	-	300.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	600.00
Paramount Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	1,000.00	-	-	300.00	-	-	-	1,300.00
Pathways Baptist Church	-	-	3,560.00	-	-	-	2,457.00	1,390.00	1,780.00	-	5,117.50	14,304.50
Power House Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	300.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	300.00
Ravensworth Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	150.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	150.00
Saint Mary's Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	500.00	-	1,000.00	-	-	-	-	1,500.00
Salem Gospel Ministries (Silver Spring)	-	-	-	-	300.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	300.00
Siyin-Chin Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	750.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	750.00
Takoma Park Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	7,150.00	-	734.25	-	-	-	250.00	8,134.25
Temple Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	450.00	-	450.00
Third Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	50.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.00
Twinbrook Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	467.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	467.00
University Baptist Church/College Park	-	-	-	-	7,264.26	1,029.86	7,223.09	-	-	-	5,532.56	21,049.77
Upper Room Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	800.00	-	-	200.00	-	-	-	1,000.00
Village Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	2,900.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,900.00
Washington Plaza Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	500.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.00
Wisconsin Avenue Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	2,000.00	-	1,933.00	-	-	-	-	3,933.00
Sub-Total	-	50.00	5,612.00	-	116,858.28	19,868.57	24,856.42	4,938.00	2,205.00	450.00	15,010.06	189,848.33

Denominational Partners Support Only

	DCBC - 65%; Coop - 35%			100% Designated							MISC	YTD Total Gifts
	UNIFIED COOP	SBC COOP	ABC COOP	PNBC	DCBC	SBC	ABC	NCAMO	BWA	JBCC		
Calvary Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,800.00	-	-	-	4,500.00	7,300.00
Purity Baptist Church	-	-	-	-	-	-	500.00	-	-	-	-	500.00
Sub-Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,300.00	-	-	-	4,500.00	7,800.00
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$5,612.00	\$0.00	\$116,858.28	\$19,868.57	\$28,156.42	\$4,938.00	\$2,205.00	\$450.00	\$19,510.06	\$197,648.33

Misc Column: Gifts for BJCPA, CBF, Bapt Sr Adults, & National Ctr Children & Family

The Convention recognizes that the giving cycles of each church are different. Some give monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.