November 2018 Newsletter

Upcoming Events/Webinars

“MC LIVE” MONTHLY WEBINAR CONTINUES ON SECOND THURSDAYS
Sessions routinely recorded for viewing later.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8:
PREACHING THAT AWAKENS -- THE CALLING OF THE CHURCH
An Interview with Dr. William Shiell,
President of Northern Seminary
11am-12pm Central Time (Call-In Info Below)

Join us for reflections on preaching with Dr. Shiell in an interview hosted by Rev. Dan Hopkins and Ms. Lisa Simpson. Our time will include any reflections of the post-election news relevant to the vocation of preaching in our day. Hopkins will facilitate a time of interaction following the presentation.

Dr. William D. Shiell is the 11th President of Northern Seminary. A native of
Pensacola, Florida, he holds degrees from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama (B.A.), and Baylor University in Waco, Texas (M.Div. and Ph.D.). Bill and his wife Kelly have two sons: Parker and Drake.

Dr. Shiell has pastored four churches in Florida, Tennessee and Texas. He is the author of five books, most recently a book in the Contextualizing the Gospel series: Preaching the Word - Acts.

Bill’s love of scripture can be seen whenever he preaches. He enjoys running, timing his boys when they swim competitively and occasionally has time for a round of golf.

Click here for sign-in info.

NEXT MONTH!
WHEN LIFE DOESN’T SEEM WORTH LIVING: The Role of Congregations in Suicide Prevention

Guest Presenter/Guide: Rev. Dr. Delois Brown-Daniels will introduce tools for recognizing the signs of suicide and strategies for suicide prevention, especially the role of making referrals.

Thursday, December 13
11am-12pm Central Time

Click here for sign-in info and speaker biography.

EXISTING "TOGETHER IN MINISTRY" (TIM) GROUPS ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT FUNDS (MORE TO BE DEVELOPED IN 2019)

We need each other … excellence in our Lord's service depends upon it! As reported in last issue and to the roster of known existing "TIM" groups, we are releasing small support funds from those raised by the Capital Campaign Fund which was designated for continuance of TIM groups. If you’re a part of an existing group, a) see the application form here and b) be sure you contact Rev. Dan Hopkins at missionsdan@hotmail.com. A current roster
of groups is essential for the renewal of this initiative, a major programming focus/goal adopted earlier this year.

As reported this summer, more significant funds for existing and new groups will be available in 2019 as a result of generous grantors allowing us to repurpose grant funds previously received. We'll begin developing priorities and criteria in conversations at this month's Annual Meeting. Watch for details.

MAKING A LIST AND CHECKING IT TWICE: ADVENT PLANNING
Advent is right around the corner. With a little under a month to go it is time to put together a plan to help you get through the busiest time of the church year.

Here is some planning advice to help you along the way:

- Decide on a theme — be creative. Choose a message or Bible passage that you want to focus on during the Advent season.
- Dive into the details. Think about the different audiences in your congregation. Where does your theme touch people in worship, Sunday school, youth group? How can the theme make sense to children, young people, and adults?
- Make a list of all the things the congregation needs to do. For example:
  - Special services, such as a Blue Christmas
  - Children’s Christmas program?
  - Distribution of important information via
    - website
    - social media
    - newsletters
    - bulletins
  - Stock up on supplies
  - Decorate the church
  - Plan outreach events
- Create a master calendar of all that is scheduled. This will help you keep track of what is going on. It will also help you identify conflicts for space and resources early on.
- Pray. When you are stressed, feeling overwhelmed and overworked, ask God to give you peace.
President's/Board Updates

"Not by might, not by power but by my Spirit," says the Lord. --Zechariah 4:6

Members of your national Board and local chapter representatives are prayerfully preparing for the time of fellowship, resource-sharing and business at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, November 12-14. Local chapters will bring Annual Reports and other "wisdom from the field." They have received historical information on the stewardship challenges we've faced in living into our mission, as well as recommended new models of service and related drafts of by-laws changes.

A Nominating Committee composed of Ministers Council Representatives is hard at work identifying two potential slates for the 2019 year. Read More.

Chapter News

Do you have news or tips to share from your chapter? Photos or videos? Please pass on to Ms. Lisa Simpson, Member Services Coordinator, at info@ministerscouncil.com.

Milestones & Prayer Requests

PRAYER REQUESTS
- Our nation's healing and strengthening in divided times
- Struggling churches and pastors in "mediocrity mode"
- The 2018 Space for Grace Conference
- Ministers Council Annual Meeting... fellowship, discernment and by-laws vote
- Cornerstone Fellowship Baptist Church in San Lorenzo, CA
Parliament of World's Religions Attendees and Follow-Up (happening now in Toronto)
First Baptist Church of Palo Alto, CA
Rev. Carren Woods and family as they support a brother following stroke
Greater St. James Baptist Church in Alton, IL
Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland, CA
American Baptist Seminary of the West
Ministers Council of the Greater Bay Area
The un-churched and de-churched, and those who live in the margins
Moral clarity to name and transform racism
Continued prayers for Dr. Lee Spitzer, General Secretary

MILESTONES

- We celebrate with Rev. Dr. Alan Ragland upon his retirement from Third Baptist Church of Chicago
- We celebrate the call of Rev. Miriam Méndez to serve American Baptist Churches of New Jersey as their new Executive Minister and Senior Regional Pastor
- We rejoice with Rev. Kathryn Ray upon her recent installation as Pastor of Discipleship at North Shore Baptist Church

Staff Reflection

Our leadership - board and staff alike - are sending prayers and blessings your way. Reach out today to share your ideas, prayer requests, etc. info@ministerscouncil.com.

Are you attending Space for Grace? Drop by our booth to connect, reconnect, and learn about the Legos (not just Logos) of ministry... Want to volunteer there? Contact Lisa at email address above.

ABC Announcements
THIRD ANNUAL SUMMIT OF CHAPLAINCY AND SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES
By the Rev. Dr. Delois Brown-Daniels

The American Baptist Home Mission Society held its Third Annual Summit of Chaplaincy and Specialized Ministries in Chicago, Illinois at McCormick Theological Seminary on Saturday, October 6, 2018. (The national Ministers Council gladly supported and promoted this important event.)

It was a major success. The Summit was well-attended with nearly 100 people present. Almost fifty percent of the attendees were seminarians who were seeking information regarding the various fields of chaplaincy and pastoral counseling; nine different seminaries were represented. In addition to the seminarians, pastors and lay persons were present, seeking information and advice regarding ministry fields beyond the parish. The diverse gathering included American Baptists across the age span and as far away as Kalamazoo, Michigan. Many other denominations were also present. The Summit was a full day of panels, workshops, networking, and worship. The Minister’s Council was also represented. Many books and other resources were sold to those gathered by Judson Press.

Read more
On Tuesday, November 27 the Ministers Council is joining in an international day of nonprofit giving.

Giving Tuesday was created to unite us all in a day of generosity. To make a difference in the world at the start of the busy holiday season. It is so easy to become overwhelmed during the holidays but in this season of giving you can keep it simple. Focus on the work we hold dear, and in your own staying power, by investing in the community of ministers investing in you.

You will receive a special Giving Tuesday invitation via email by November 27th. Your gifts beyond your dues (or the gifts you recruit from others!) will strengthen the new foundations we’re laying. Do you share our hope in the new energy and forms of ministry support you see? Your financial gifts will bless and multiply our ability to serve you and so many others. You can conveniently give via PayPal [here](#).

**Correction:**
The Rev. Dr. Ken Fong is now retired and is no longer serving at the Evergreen Baptist Church LA, Rosemead, California, as was cited in the October newsletter.

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**Reminders**

**Membership Renewals:**
Dues are now being received for 2019 membership. You can submit your renewal by accessing [here](#).

**Chapter Updates:**
Please remember to inform the national office of all updates/changes to Chapter officers and addresses.
How to reach us:
- By phone: (610)314-7837
- By email: info@ministerscouncil.com
- Address: 221 S. High Street, West Chester, PA 19382
- We can generally be reached in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays (emails and voicemails will be responded to during this time)

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