

January 2020 Newsletter



Epiphany of our Lord - Matthew 2:1-12

Matthew is the only Gospel that says anything about Magi. You or your people may be surprised to learn that this Gospel does not ascribe number, gender or royal status to the Wise Ones from the East.

Image: "Epiphany," by Janet McKenzie

Day On, Not a Day Off

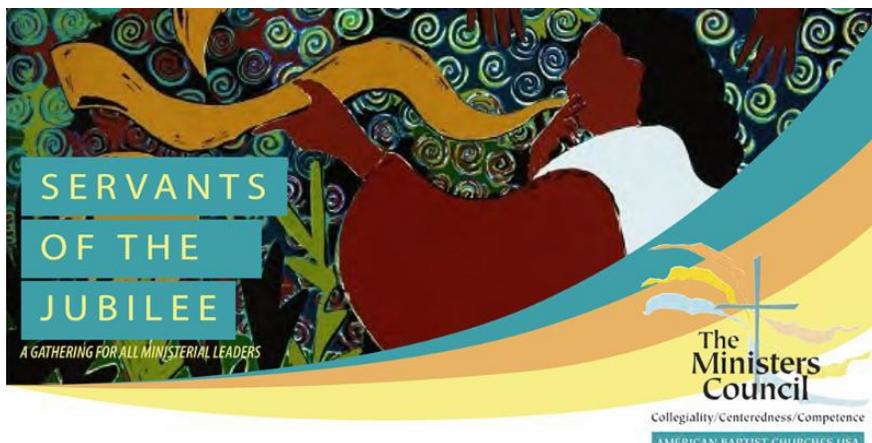
Each year, on the third Monday in January, the **Martin Luther King (MLK) Day of Service** is observed as a "**day on, not a day off.**" Dr. King's work calls us, all of us, to remember our neighbor. He spoke of a vision of a beloved community and preached a message of love. In his last speech he said, "Let us develop a kind of dangerous unselfishness" and went on to speak about the parable of the Good Samaritan. This parable illustrates that being a neighbor is about how you act when a person is in need.

How can you and your congregation be good neighbors? Here are a few service project ideas for you to consider:

- Make clothes for children in need
- Work for voters access and protection
- Home repair projects for seniors
- Draw on trainings dismantling racism
- Volunteer at a homeless shelter, soup kitchen, food pantry
- Clean-up a neighbor's yard or help with snow removal
- Make hygiene kits for the homeless
- Assemble care packages to deployed troops, veterans, and wounded soldiers.

- Support labor organizing for fair wages
- Volunteer at an animal shelter
- Read to senior citizens
- Recycle old athletic shoes

National Update



Let's Share our Jubilee Practices in 2020!

...What are you doing to live freely and closer to God in 2020?

You know the Ministers Council has proclaimed 2020 a “Year of Jubilee” for national dues.

Our vision for Jubilee is so much more. We want to dwell in this Biblical vision. Inhabit it. Plumb its depths. Share wise admonition and best practices.

To that end, we are committing a section of our monthly newsletter to exploring Jubilee Practices. We invite members of the Council to share the practices that shape Jubilee living from a private, congregational, regional, and/or professional perspective.

Submit your reflections to Lisa Simpson at info@ministerscouncil.com. We'll include these in upcoming newsletters.

Also, if you are not yet a member of the national Ministers Council, ABCUSA, simply enroll through our website. Your national dues will be waived for the year 2020, and you'll be able to conveniently pay your chapter dues there.

Peace and Goodness to you –

Randolph “RT” Miller
President,
Leadership Team

Jubilee Journeys - The Practice of Trust

Our national Leadership Team has committed to experiencing 2020 as a Year of Jubilee, and to holding space for our nationwide diverse reflections, study and sharing of best practices. Maybe discovering new ones. The diversity of directions this might take us is breathtaking, a sign for me of its Divine timeliness. I look forward to a year of our collective practice. (Watch here for reflections, engage us on Facebook, and do your own reading and leading on this!)

But where do I begin?

Like many others, I cannot shake the word of Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle from our June 2019 assembly "Servants of the Jubilee," a word among a feast of words from wise leaders that day. McMickle called us to think about Jubilee's requirement of TRUST. In my own paraphrase and recall that means... letting go, releasing, imagining, relying upon God's providence for the new beginning intended.

[Read More](#)



To:

Carolyn Dugan

José Flores

Debbie Handkins

Jennifer Schneider

For their work on the Advent devotions.

Special thanks to José Flores for the Spanish translations!

**Take the Code of Ethics Online Survey Today!
Simply click the button below to access.**

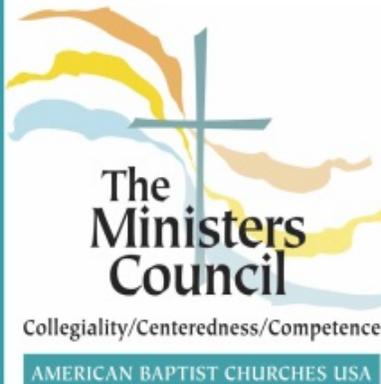
Read current doc [here](#). Please respond by January 31.

We Want Your Feedback!



THE MINISTERS COUNCIL HAS DECLARED 2020 A YEAR OF JUBILEE!

ALL QUALIFIED ABC
MINISTERIAL LEADERS
ARE INVITED TO ENROLL
FOR A ONE YEAR
FREE MEMBERSHIP
WITH THE NATIONAL
MINISTERS COUNCIL
FOR 2020.



Contact your Local MC Chapter
or go to
www.ministerscouncil.com
to register for your
complimentary
national membership.

WHY JOIN?

*We rejoice in the trustworthy God who's guiding us in new ways of serving you.
We know many will want to connect or reconnect on our journey of supporting 3C's in new ways...*

Join us for the Jubilee!

Complimentary national enrollment available from 11/1/2019 and valid through 12/31/2020
enroll today at www.ministerscouncil.com. Visit site for more info including your local chapter
contacts and local chapter dues information.

Contact Mrs. Lisa K. Simpson, Member Services Coordinator, at
info@ministerscouncil.com

Our Current Projects:

Monthly Newsletter
MC Live Monthly Webinar
Together in Ministry Colleague Groups
Clergy Gatherings
(Pre-Mission Summit & Local Events)
Support and Resource Sharing via Facebook
Code of Ethics Revisions for 2020

Come and see us now!
www.ministerscouncil.com

Events and Webinars

MC LIVE WEBINAR

Monthly on 2nd Thursdays @ 11am

Central

*Hosted by Revs. Dan Hopkins & Jacki
Belile*

Typically Recorded

PRAYERS FOR THE BELOVED COMMUNITY:

A Gathering in Honor of Martin
Luther King, Jr. Day

Join us for a time of connecting and prayers for beloved Community. Members
of the Leadership Team will reflect on this "from a Jubilee perspective."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9th
11am Central

Zoom Info [Here](#).



mclive
webinar series
Together in Ministry

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, February 13th
11am Central Time

Our MC Live will include fellowship and national updates as our Leadership Team concludes it's February planning retreat.

Chapter News

Please share Chapter News for future issues by emailing info@ministerscouncil.com.

Milestones & Prayer Requests

Please share prayer requests and milestones for future issues by emailing info@ministerscouncil.com.

Staff Reflection

A Word from Lisa Newness...

As I reflect on the year that has just ended while looking forward to the beginning of a new one my initial instinct is to rejoice. I am giddy with the prospect of “newest.” During this time of year, the world feels wide open with endless possibilities. We think of all the resolutions that have been made and ones aspiring to be made in hopes of becoming a “better person”. We trust in the power of the redemptive spirit. 2 Corinthians 5 v.17; “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.”



As you reflect on “newness” I encourage you to listen to the song “Morning Has Broken”, by Cat Stevens (it is so worth the listen!). It has given me great inspiration over the years. I pray that as you continue your life’s journey that God will refresh your spirit and fill you with a sense of “newness”. For 2020, we are hopeful, we are trusting, and we are praying!

Reflection Questions:

*What are you hoping for this year? For YOU? For your MINISTRY?
What are you trusting God to do in your life in 2020 and in the lives of others?
Are you praying for these things?*

Radical.
Redeemed.
Ready. 
Celebrating
Ministering
Women

ABC Announcements

Our national President, "RT" represents the Ministers Council on the National Leadership Council (NLC) and will be in attendance of the following meeting:

The American Baptist Churches Board of General Ministries

announces a Mission Table, to take place May 19-21, 2020 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, Wis. The Mission Table will meet around the theme, "United in Christ, Together in Mission," and will bring together representatives from American Baptist regions, affiliated ministry partners, national staff, executives and officers, to focus on common mission emphases. The Green Lake event is planned in coordination with the annual National Leadership Council (NLC) meeting, a council which is made up of American Baptist Regional Executive Ministers and denominational leaders from major national organizations.

(Click to read more)

The American Baptist Churches International Ministries has a new position open, Short-Term Mission Associate. The description and requirements **(Click here for job description)**

Reminders



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)

Stay connected

- Visit us at **www.ministerscouncil.com**
- Join us on **Facebook**
- Consider signing up for our monthly newsletter by selecting "subscribe" on the home page of the website