



# ABCOTS Newsletter

American Baptist Churches of the South  
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Dr. W.L. Parrish, II, Executive Minister



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## **MEET YOUR 2011-2013 ABCOTS OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	<b>Rev. Dr. James M. Harrison</b>	<b>Main Street Baptist Church, Smithfield, Va.</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	<b>Mr. T. Harding Lacy, Jr.</b>	<b>Ebenezer Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<b>Dr. Lacey Speight Alford</b>	<b>Wheat Street Baptist, Atlanta, Ga.</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mrs. Mary M. McLean</b>	<b>Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Rockville, MD</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Dr. Douglas E. Summers</b>	<b>Providence Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD</b>
<b>Asst. Treasurer</b>	<b>Ms. Denise Ruffin</b>	<b>Providence Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD</b>

## ANNUAL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### *We Just Came to Celebrate!!*

Just as the roaring winds of March abated and the April flowers began to bloom, some 300 plus delegates, visitors, and friends descended on the stately city of Atlanta, Georgia. The occasion was the 41<sup>st</sup> annual session of the American Baptist Churches of the South held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, March 30 – April 2, 2011. Our gracious hosts were our co-laborers in Area III, led by Dr. Charles N. Hawk, Jr., moderator and Dr. Earle D. Clowney, local arrangements coordinator.

“Celebrating God’s Glory, God’s Power, God’s Way” was this year’s theme, and CELEBRATE is exactly what we did! How?

-- Through the melodious strains of music rendered by the Retirees Choir and the Adult Handbell Choir of the historic Friendship Baptist Church; the soul-stirring renditions of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Choir (Atlanta), the Main Street Baptist Church Choir (Smithfield, VA); our own ABCOTS choir comprised of students from the “Great Hymns of the Church” seminar; the soothing, inspiring musical messages conveyed by instrumentalists and soloists; and, as always, the majestic voices lifted in congregational singing.

-- Through the challenging words of Mrs. Juanita J. Abernathy, who used the historical context of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s to remind us there still is “a Highway to Heaven”; and through recounting of the impact of our work in missions by Mrs. Virginia J. Goff ABC/USA staffer, who also asked the question, “Will You Go for God?”; and through the preached word of Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, who exhorted us to contemplate the “Results of Seeing God’s Glory and Power” and then to offer up our own “doxologies” in return. And, finally through the passionate, provocative message of Dr. Douglas Stowers that we are “Never Alone.”

The celebration continued as the four Equipping and Empowering seminar leaders helped to better prepare teachers within our congregations (Rev. Brenda Summerset), expanded our understanding for and appreciation of some of the great hymns in the church (Mr. Kent Ross Brooks), explored ways of interpreting and protecting our local church histories and narratives (Dr. Adam Bond), and provided the impetus for building exemplary models of Christian womanhood (Dr. Jocelyn Whitehead). Our hearts burned as Dr. Cleopatrik Lacy expounded on our theme scripture, Isaiah 35:1-10 during early morning Bible study.

Finally, we celebrated the commitment to missions exemplified by the top 25 churches in total missions giving for 2010 and the fruit of evangelistic efforts as represented by the 593 new Christians reported. But, the crown jewel of celebrations was the achievement of the youth in the Region who participated in the oratorical contests at the area/cluster levels and the six young people who competed at this annual session. Thanks to Dr. Lacey Alford, the area coordinators, parents, and other sponsors, we can be justly proud of the poise, the oratorical skill, and the exemplary behavior of these young people – winners all. Let us all remember to pray for Tynisha, the Division III winner, as she represents us at the biennial in Puerto Rico.

### **THE DIRT ON LEARNING: A Workshop on How to Increase Faith and Learning in the Church**

This workshop uses the truths gleaned from Jesus’ “Parable of the Sower” to unearth refreshing and realistic ways to increase learning and faith in your church. At the end of the workshop, participants should be better able to help learners not just hear, but truly understand; unlock secrets of the brain that lead to long-term memory; avoid thorny barriers to growth such as rewards, bribes, and competition; and use authentic learning to help learners become eager to learn.



***AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. W. L. PARRISH, II DURING THE 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE SOUTH (ABCOTS) MARCH 29- APRIL 2, 2011 – ATLANTA, GA.***

**Q. What considerations are available for allowing Moderators and Vice Moderators in each area to petition and meet with governing boards and congregations of new churches and pastors?**

**Response:** ABCOTS expects all of its board members, including auxiliary leaders to help interpret ABC-USA and ABCOTS. Each new program board member is given a new members guide book (over 50 pages) as a resource.

Orientation takes place in our November meeting, and suppose provided at the area's January meeting for all persons.

When an inquiry is received in writing to ABCOTS a response including a pastor's packet is dispatched within 1-2 working days. (See Samples 1-8). The Moderator, Area Board Members and the Cluster Coordinator are responsible for the follow-up by leading the way, like John the Baptist, by verifying the inquiry is authentic and providing the nurturing up to step 6-8 (presentation to the church).

More recently, we have inquiring churches to be taken into membership during their Fall area meeting, affirmed in the November Board Meeting of ABCOTS and fellowshipped into ABCOTS during the annual meetings.

**Q. What is your response to clarification on pastors inviting members of national ministry boards to their fellowships? Should pastors have to go through the Region office to invite persons to speak on special occasions and as visitors to their local congregations when the pastor/church is covering expenses?**

**Response:** There is a national policy of BIM and ABHMS (National Ministries) with a slight variance around expenses, comp time, honoraria being reported to the board to help offset budget expenses deputation days free to a region, reports to their board supervisor, etc., and personnel accountability.

Periodically, a national board will change its guidelines. ABCOTS has too much administrative paperwork and we don't try to supervise or oversee national staff. Regarding covering expenses, in the past persons have been terminated for "double dipping" or incorrectly reporting income.

There are documents available which were sent to the region office to help the church or area in processing a request. These are samples from BIM and ABHMS (National Ministries).

Sorry for the lengthy responses but I wanted to provide some clarification on national policies. Believe it or not, people still find creative ways to avoid cooperating. Although ABCOTS is portrayed as the "gatekeeper," we don't try to monitor or address the compliance policy of protocol.

**AUXILIARY OFFICERS  
2011-2013**

**American Baptist Women's Ministries**

<b>President-Interim</b>	Mrs. Carolyn Hayes	Chesapeake, VA
<b>Secretary</b>	Vacant	
<b>Resources</b>	Vacant	
<b>Church &amp; Community</b>	Vacant	
<b>White Cross</b>	Mrs. Joy Johnston	Lakeland, FL
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs. Mary Kimbrough	Glenn Dale, MD
<b>AB Girls-Interim</b>	Mrs. Mary Jackson	Richmond, VA
<b>Personal Development</b>	Vacant	
<b>Mission &amp; Service – Interim</b>	Mrs. Noreen S. Wake	Silver Spring, MD
<b>Love Gift</b>	Mrs. Angelia Mumford	Gaithersburg, MD

**American Baptist Men's Ministry**

<b>President</b>	Mr. Joseph H. Hood	Columbia, SC
<b>Vice President</b>	Mr. William J. McDaniel	Nashville, TN
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr. Milton Sloan	Bowie, MD
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr. Roy Scott	Owings Mills, MD

**Ministers Council**

<b>President</b>	Rev. Howard V. Willis, Jr.	Washington, DC
<b>Vice President</b>	Dr. Keith Ivan Jones	Norfolk, VA
<b>Secretary</b>	Rev. Noel G. L. Hutchinson, Jr.	Memphis, TN
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Rev. Dabble E. Garner	Midland, NC
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dr. William Eric Jackson	Richmond, VA
<b>Chaplain</b>	Rev. Walter Jackson	Charlestown, WVA
<b>Senator</b>	Rev. Brenda B. Summerset	Richmond, VA

## Meetings and Events

<p><b>ABC-USA 2011 Biennial</b> <b>Puerto Rico Convention Center</b> <b>San Juan, Puerto Rico</b> <b>June 24-26, 2011</b></p>
<p><b>Area VII - Brackett Morrell Association</b> <b>August 26-28, 2011</b> <b>Wainwright Baptist Church</b> <b>Charles Town, WV</b></p>
<p><b>Area V - Annual Meeting</b> <b>September 16-17, 2011</b> <b>TBD</b></p>
<p><b>Area VI – Annual Meeting</b> <b>September 23-24, 2011</b> <b>TBD</b></p>
<p><b>Area I – Annual Meeting</b> <b>October 1, 2011</b> <b>First Baptist Church, Ken-Gar</b> <b>Kensington, MD</b></p>
<p><b>Area II – Annual Meeting</b> <b>October 7-8, 2011</b> <b>New Zion Baptist Church</b> <b>Williamsburg, VA</b></p>
<p><b>Area III – Annual Meeting</b> <b>October 21-22, 2011</b> <b>Mt. Calvary Baptist Church</b> <b>Atlanta, GA</b></p>
<p><b>Area IV – Annual Meeting</b> <b>October 28-29, 2011</b> <b>Lakeland, FL</b></p>
<p><b>ABCOTS - Board of Directors Meeting</b> <b>November 17-18, 2011</b> <b>A B Conference &amp; Mission Center</b> <b>Baltimore, MD</b></p>