



# The Network News

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January 2020

## TWENTY-TWENTY VISION

2020 is one of those years that lends itself well to an analogy. I remember when a doctor told me I had 20/15 vision. I didn't understand what he meant. I always thought 20/20 vision was perfect. Oh well! Here we are in the year 2020, and as always, the beginning of the year is a great time to be asking ourselves about our vision for this new year.

One of my favorite church consultants is a guy names Will Mancini. He talks a lot about having a clear vision of where we are going. I was reading something by him yesterday, where he said, "Creating clarity requires three essential ingredients: sufficient time, good questions and active collaboration." I hope your church creates sufficient time to pursue a clear vision from God. This obviously involves asking good questions. Good questions don't have easy answers. Good questions involve considering why we do what we do the way we do it.

And, clear vision is nothing without the "active collaboration" he spoke of. A lot of churches have "vision" statements that don't relate very well to what they actually do together. Once you discover and clarify God's Vision for your church, you need to work together to accomplish that vision. In this same post, Mancini said that "most leaders actually don't prefer clarity." That sounds crazy to us. But, he suggests that most leaders function with a vague sense of vision to reach more people or to glorify God. This kind of vision doesn't inspire us to work together to accomplish something new.

Let's commit ourselves this year as churches to do something new. Our theme for the year in the PBA is "Faith Works". Let's put our faith to work in new ways this year to accomplish something great for God! Let's live out our faith beyond our weekend worship events, and outside of the walls of our church buildings.

Chuck

### DEATH OF GEORGE BENTON

We were saddened to receive news recently of the death of Reverend George Benton, founding pastor of Mount Hebron Baptist Church. Pastor Benton served the church from its beginning in 1991 until his death on December 18, 2019. He founded the church after a career in the Air Force and while working for the Veteran's Administration. Mount Hebron has been an active PBA church under Pastor Benton's leadership since its early days. He will be greatly missed.

### HAMPTON ROADS FELLOWSHIP "A NEW BEGINNING"

Sunday, January 5, 2020 was our first corporate worship service in our new church home. All HRF leadership arrived early, eager and expecting there to be much excitement all around. We prayed with our respective ministry teams then it was time for set-up. We opened the doors at 9:30 AM for our 10 AM time of prayer - seeing everyone looking around and hearing the, "WOW, this place looks beautiful," or "Praise God for our new home" was humbling to hear and experience. We had a total of 278 people which consisted of members, visitors and family members; it was a blessing seeing the painters, electricians and the cleaning crew that helped us put everything together join us for our first corporate worship service. Pastor Miguel opened the service with a welcome and stated, "We have a new building, new location, new year but it's the same church, same church members, same family, same sinners and we bring all that in with us but we have good news because we have the same Gospel, same Jesus and the same Saviour..."

HRF welcomed seven new members and three of those new members were new believers who were baptized. Hampton Roads Fellowship is extremely grateful for the generosity of the members of Calvary Baptist giving us our new church home. We look forward to 120 more years of serving the community faithfully the way Calvary Baptist did for so many years.



## "MLK, JR. DAY OF SERVICE"

Honoring The Work of Our Teachers and Students"...School Supply Drives to benefit the designated schools in Southeast Newport News and Phoebus area of Hampton.

Two projects and MLK, Jr. Programs occurring simultaneously in Hampton and Newport News on January 20th, 2020. See the links below for the designated schools and instructions for items needed to be donated and the drop off sites and SIGN UP to **attend and participate**.

### Newport News

<https://www.allforgood.org/projects/78eboAJp>

### Hampton

<https://www.allforgood.org/projects/xJYv4NkD>

Sponsored by: Hampton Roads Made To Flourish City Network, Coalition of Concerned Clergy and the Peninsula Baptist Association. Special acknowledgement to Harbor Pointe Community Church, Zion Baptist Church (NN), Parkview Baptist Church, Open Door Full Gospel Fellowship Baptist Church and Phoebus United Methodist Church, Roberts Antiques

## NON-PROFIT SUSTAINABILITY SERIES REGISTRATION

The City of Hampton Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities will host three sustainability workshops to assist small organizations with grant writing and furthering their mission through partnerships and collaboration. These workshops are free and open to all non-profits, Churches and interested individuals.

### Grants 101

When: 5:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020

Where: the Ruppert Sargent Building

1 Franklin St., Hampton, VA

(\* Registration deadline Jan. 17)

### Branding

When: 9:30-11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020

Where: Y.H. Thomas Community Center

1300 Thomas St., Hampton, VA

(\* Registration deadline Jan. 22)

### Collaboration

When: 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020

Where: Y.H. Thomas Community Center

1300 Thomas St., Hampton, VA

(\* Registration deadline Jan. 22)

Link below for registration and specific information

<https://hamptonmarketing.wufoo.com/forms/mkca60i0c5m6q1/>

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Partnerships is working in partnership with the Hampton Economic Development Office, 13 News Now, Nikki Curry Media, Black Brand, Hampton Roads Made To Flourish City Network and Peninsula Baptist Association.

## **“MARKETPLACE TALKS”**

**(City of Hampton Residents)**

“MARKETPLACE TALKS”...In order to build a sustainable transactional marketplace there must exist a community. Thus, we need to have participants feel comfortable that there is a commonality of values and identity regardless of their occupations, business or daily work (whether compensated or not compensated). This will insure that everyone will have something to offer in the marketplace.

We invite you to join us for a series of nine Marketplace Talks. Marketplace Talks is a conversation series that takes place over a meal. It allows people to discuss current events that are impacting our local, national and international communities. Topics in the series include issues related to privilege, violence and mental health in our society. Participants will discuss these topics and learn how they can connect to available resources. The goal of the conversations is to promote the flourishing and sustainability of our churches and communities.

The program series was created in partnership with the Hampton Roads Made To Flourish City Network, City of Hampton Unity Commission and the City of Hampton Youth & Young Adult Opportunities. Each session is around a meal (free).

For additional information or to register please contact Charles Cheek at 757-602-9196 or visit the City of Hampton Unity Commission website at <https://hampton.gov/924/citizens-unity-commission>

## **“MARKETPLACE TALKS SCHEDULE”**

### **Breakfast Meetings: 9:30 AM**

**Saturday, February 22, 2020      Opioids vs. Crack**  
Buckroe Baptist Church, 1819 N. Mallory St. Hampton VA 23664

**Saturday, March 14, 2020      Gender**  
New Life Church, 1525 Power Plant Pkwy, Hampton, VA 23669

**Saturday, April 25, 2020      Age**  
**Location TBD**

### **Lunch Meetings: 12:00 PM**

**Friday, February 7, 2020      Race**  
St. John Episcopal Church, 100 W. Queens Way Hampton VA 23669

**Friday, March 27, 2020      Social Media**  
Fort Monroe Community Center, 100 Stillwell Road Hampton VA 23651

**Friday, April 3, 2020      Gun Violence**  
Six Mount Zion Baptist Temple, 3100 Butternut Dr, Hampton, VA 23666

### **Dinner Meetings: 5:30 PM**

**Monday, January 27, 2020      Suicide**  
Sentara Conference Room, Sentara Careplex Hospital, 3000 Coliseum Dr. Hampton VA 23666

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020      Communities of Color**  
Six House, 2003 Kecoughtan Rd. Hampton VA 23661

**Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:30      Domestic Violence**  
North Hampton Community Center, 1435 Todds Ln Ste A, Hampton, VA 23666

**Grassroots Seminary**  
***Ministry Training for Everyday Disciples of Jesus***

***Reading the Old Testament For All It's Worth***

This five week course explores the major ways in which the Old Testament tells the story of God. The story of God's mission through his people is told through various literary genres (narrative, poetry, wisdom, prophecy) in the Old Testament. This course focuses on how to read and understand these basic genres. The approach is designed to make the text of the Old Testament more accessible and story of God's mission as a unified and continuous story.

***Class Meetings: Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27*** (all classes are on Thursday). Classes meet from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at **Smithfield Baptist Church**. Classes require a minimum of 10 learners.

***Reading the New Testament for All It's Worth***

In this five week course we will be looking at the various genres in which the New Testament is written. Focus will be on how to read the Gospels, Acts, Epistles, and Apocalypse. The focus will be on the variety of ways in which the Jesus and church stories are told throughout the New Testament. The approach is designed to make the New Testament more accessible and to be able to read its message in light of God's mission in the world.

***Class Meetings: March 12, 19, 26, Ap. 2, 9*** (all classes are on Thursdays). Classes meet from 6:00– 7:30 pm at **Smithfield Baptist Church**. Classes require a minimum of 10 learners.

*Textbooks for both courses:* Gordon Fee, ***How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth***

*Tuition:* \$75.00 per course

*Professor:* Dr. Patrick Wood

Patrick serves as the Senior Pastor of Smithfield Baptist Church. He has also served churches in Indiana and other parts of Virginia.

***Orientation: Thursday, Jan. 23 from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Smithfield Baptist Church, Smithfield. Designed for those who wish to explore Grassroots for the upcoming courses. Light refreshments will be served. Please contact Dr. Brian Williams, Director of Grassroots Seminary if plan to attend or have any questions ([brian.williams@bgav.org](mailto:brian.williams@bgav.org) /757.254.6538)***

## **MENNOWOOD RETIREMENT COMMUNITY**

As we look toward a new year, there is a topic that keeps coming to the forefront and that is Dementia. Once a month Mennowood offers a Dementia support group to help people understand the disease process and also how to work with loved ones who have Dementia or Alzheimer's. No matter whether you or a loved one has dementia, the aging process can be difficult at times. We are here to help. Here are some Survival Skills that I thought was helpful and wanted to share.

### **Survival Skills**

Find a positive event each day

Take time to reminisce over that event and maybe tell a friend about it.

Do a daily gratitude journal

Look back over your day and find your personal strength and how you used it to help you through the day.

Set attainable goals each day and make notes of your progress.

Do small acts of kindness

Breathe - take time to take some deep breaths throughout the day.

Take a walk with a friend.

Also, on January 28<sup>th</sup> you are invited to come to the Dementia Support Group. It begins at 5:30 and last about an hour. We would love for you to come out and listen and participate in this group. If you are wanting to learn more please feel free to call the receptionist at 757.249.0355 and reserve your spot for the Support Group.

Have a Great Day!

Thelma Shaffer

Director of Marketing & Admissions

Mennowood Retirement Community

## **YOUTH CHOIR OPPORTUNITY**

We have been in conversation with Joshua Duke, the Music Minister at East Maryville Baptist Church in Maryville Tennessee. They are looking into the possibility of bringing their Youth Choir to our area early this summer. Josh wrote:

*We are a student choir of 40 students (jr high, high school) and about 10 adults. We sing; put on little concerts. We love serving and partnering with local ministries, singing at nursing homes, working at homeless shelters, manual labor work projects, leading worship at churches. We usually stay at a local church that has some facilities for us to shower, some rooms to sleep. We would be in your area Friday, Saturday, Sunday (around the first weekend of June)*

We are looking for a church who would be willing to host this group for a weekend. As they mentioned, they would like a church that has shower facilities who would be willing to let them stay in the church while they are here. Please contact us at the PBA office if you may be interested.



## Do I need a Will? Do I Need a Medical or a Financial Power of Attorney?

What happens if you experience an accident or illness that leaves you unconscious or unable to communicate? How do you ensure someone you trust will pay your bills or make important decisions about your medical care? And what about when your time on earth is over – what happens to the things you own? If you have minor children, who will take care of them?

Wouldn't you want to be the one to take control and make important legal decisions *now* rather than in the middle of a crisis when it may be too late?

After 30+ years as an attorney, I can tell you that serious illness and death is not limited to just the elderly, wealthy or infirmed – it can happen when you are young, healthy, or have limited assets.

Not only is it a matter of wisdom and good stewardship, expressing your decisions and desires in these legal documents is also one of the most loving things you can do to take care of your family should something happen to you.



**FREE WORKSHOP  
WITH  
LAURA SHANNON MCDANIEL**



**Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
11:00am  
Buckroe Baptist Church  
1819 N. Mallory Street  
Hampton, Virginia**

**To Register To Attend or Questions**

**Email:**  
[hamptonroadsjfinetwork@gmail.com](mailto:hamptonroadsjfinetwork@gmail.com)  
or call 757-602-9196 or 757-596-4587

## CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS

This is to keep you informed of changes going on within our network of churches. Please let us know if you have any changes. [pba@peninsulabaptist.org](mailto:pba@peninsulabaptist.org)

Grace Baptist  
Memorial Baptist  
Peninsula Chinese Baptist

Hampton Baptist  
Orcutt Baptist