



BAPTIST HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY PARTNER REPORT

*Resources, Publications, Annual Conference
and Institutional Highlights*

2025–2026





A Word of Welcome

2025-2026 PARTNER REPORT | PREPARED FOR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF BHHS

FOR Friends and Partners of BHHS

Members | Congregations | Donors | Students | Scholars

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the many ways you support the Baptist History & Heritage Society. Our mission is to help Baptists discover, conserve, assess and share their history. Together with members, congregations, donors, partners, students and scholars, we share the Baptist story and invest in Baptist identity through publications, conferences, digital resources and congregational partnerships.

BHHS bridges the worlds of the academy and the congregation. We publish Baptist History & Heritage, sponsor the leading Baptist history conference in the United States, recognize exceptional service and scholarship, and create accessible resources that help churches, classrooms, families and small groups explore Baptist history and identity. We also provide emerging scholars with opportunities to present research, build relationships and move toward publication.

This 2025-2026 Partner Report offers a guided tour of that work. Inside are free resources for congregations and children; Baptist identity materials in English and Spanish; digital collections on Baptist women and religious liberty; recent special issues of our journal; coverage of the 2025 and 2026 annual conferences; investment in graduate students and emerging scholars; and new work in congregational storytelling.

Looking ahead, BHHS will continue creating resources that connect Baptist history with congregational life. The work highlighted here—including Courageous Baptist Women, a forthcoming Spanish-language e-book on Baptist identity, and the Congregational Storytelling & History Project—reflects our commitment to making Baptist history accessible and useful for churches, students and lifelong learners. Thank you for helping us share the Baptist story, invest in Baptist identity and preserve Baptist heritage for future generations.

With gratitude,

Aaron D. Weaver

Executive Director

INSIDE THIS REPORT

1 Resources for Congregations

Free and bilingual materials for churches, classrooms, small groups and individual study.

2 Journal & Special Issues

New scholarship, curated collections and landmark issues of Baptist History & Heritage.

3 Annual Conference Coverage

Plenary conversations, paper presentations, awards and public-facing news.

4 Emerging Scholars

Travel stipends, presentation opportunities, mentoring and publication pathways.

5 What's Next

Courageous Baptist Women, Spanish-language resources and congregational storytelling.

"Your partnership helps BHHS share the Baptist story, invest in Baptist identity and bridge the worlds of the academy and the congregation."

SAVE THE DATE

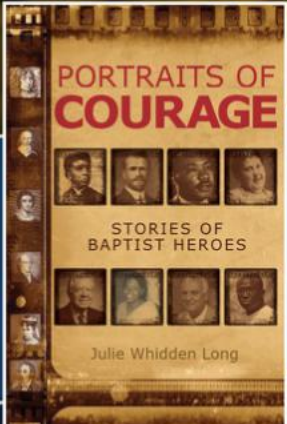
2027 Joint Annual Conference

MAY 17-19, 2027

First Baptist Church
Raleigh, North Carolina

Portraits of Courage

STORIES OF BAPTIST HEROES | FREE E-BOOK + CURRICULUM



New Resource

**Baptist Heroes
E-Book
for Children**

Free Download

www.thebhhs.org/baptistheroes

Who is your Baptist hero?

Explore this free 128-page e-book and teaching curriculum with older children and youth.

- 14 biographies spanning different countries and centuries
- Discussion questions and hands-on activities
- Flexible sessions for churches, classrooms and families

MEET THE BAPTIST HEROES

14 CHAPTERS • 415+ YEARS OF BAPTIST HISTORY



John Smyth
Baptist Trailblazer



John Clarke
Baptist Freedom Fighter



Ann Judson
Baptist Missionary Pioneer



Jesse Mercer
Baptist Denominational Leader



Lottie Moon
Baptist Teacher



William Knibb
Baptist Liberator



Louise "Lulu" Fleming
Baptist Missionary Doctor



Walter Rauschenbusch
Baptist Prophet



Martin Luther King Jr.
Baptist Dreamer



Addie Davis
Baptist Pastor



Jimmy Carter
Baptist Peacemaker



Leena Lavanya
"Baptist Mother Teresa"



Theo Angelov
Persecuted Baptist



Olu Menjay
Baptist Rebuilder

FREE DOWNLOAD

THEBHHS.ORG/BAPTISTHEROES

Resources for Congregations

Baptist Identity Resources

Recursos sobre la identidad bautista



BHHS has refreshed, digitized and made freely available a respected collection of Baptist identity resources—and expanded the series into Spanish. Written by trusted Baptist historians, these resources are designed for personal study, Sunday School, small groups and congregational conversations.



English: THEBHHS.ORG/BAPTISTIDENTITY

Español: THEBHHS.ORG/IDENTIDADBAUTISTA

Baptist Women

Free Journal Article Collection

Explore 10 free digital articles from Baptist History & Heritage that recover the stories, scholarship and public witness of Baptist women. This collection highlights leadership, courage and calling across Baptist life.

MISSIONS

EDUCATION

SOCIAL REFORM

CIVIL RIGHTS

ORDINATION

THEOLOGY

THEBHHS.ORG/BAPTISTWOMEN

Women and the Baptist Experience

Carolyn DeArmond Blevins

B

African American Baptist Women

Pamela R. Smoot

B

Remembering Addie

Pamela R. Durso

B

A "True Baptist" Theology of Women in Ministry

Elizabeth H. Flowers

B

Religious Liberty

Free Journal Article Collection

Explore five free digital articles offering historical reflection and practical tools for defending freedom of conscience and the separation of church and state. This collection connects Baptist witness in the past with urgent questions in the present.

FIRST AMENDMENT

JOHNSON AMENDMENT

WALL OF SEPARATION

FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

MAJORITY FAITH

THEBHHS.ORG/RELIGIOUSLIBERTY

Baptists and the First Amendment: An Historical Overview

C. Douglas Weaver

B

Baptists and the Johnson Amendment

J. David Holcomb

B

The Metaphor of the Wall of Separation

William Underwood

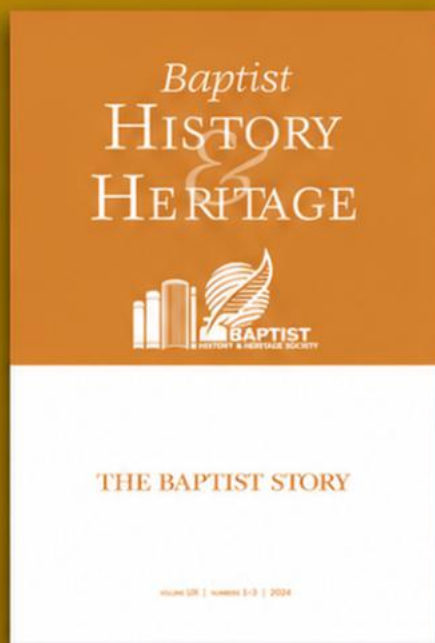
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The Risks of Majority Faith

C. Douglas Weaver

B

The Baptist Story



THE BAPTIST STORY AVAILABLE NOW!

EXPLORING 400+ YEARS OF
BAPTIST IDENTITY

BAPTIST BEGINNINGS | BAPTIST WOMEN
BLACK BAPTISTS | LATINO/A BAPTISTS
NATIVE AMERICAN BAPTISTS | GLOBAL BAPTISTS
BAPTISTS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

GET YOUR COPY TODAY!

www.thebhhs.org/thebaptiststory

The Baptist Story brings together 14 standout articles by respected Baptist historians to introduce readers to more than four centuries of Baptist life, witness and identity. The volume is designed for ministers, students, church leaders, classes and congregations seeking a deeper understanding of the Baptist tradition.

Inside The Baptist Story

- Baptist beginnings
- Baptist women
- Black Baptists
- Latino/a Baptists
- Native American Baptists
- Global Baptists
- Religious liberty and church-state separation

Free Discussion Guide

- 33-page companion guide
- Summaries of selected articles
- Major themes and discussion questions
- Optional enrichment activities
- Flexible for Sunday School, small groups and classrooms

Together, the volume and guide help congregations bridge the worlds of scholarship and church life, making Baptist history accessible for thoughtful group study and conversation.

THEBHHS.ORG/THEBAPTISTSTORY

Celebrating 60 Years



We are excited to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Baptist History & Heritage, which has helped Baptists remember, examine and share their story since 1965. This commemorative double issue republishes Dr. John David Broome's article from Volume 1 alongside nine Norman W. Cox Award-winning articles spanning six decades of Baptist historical scholarship.

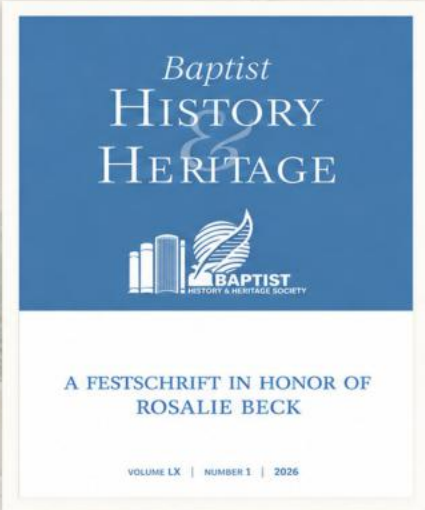
Articles in this commemorative issue include:

- Hezekiah Smith of Haverhill, Massachusetts
Dr. John David Broome (1965)
- Varieties of Freedom in the Baptist Experience
Dr. Bill Leonard (1991)
- Albert Henry Newman
Dr. Glenn Jonas (2003)
- The Life and Times of Barbara Jordan: A Twentieth-Century Baptist and Political Pioneer
Rev. Bonnie Oliver-Brandon (2007)
- Arguing Regenerate Church Membership: Baptist Identity during Its First Decade, 1610-1620
Dr. Bill Pitts (2010)
- Building a Publishing Empire: The Annie Armstrong Era of WMU, SBC
Dr. Carol Crawford Holcomb (2013)
- "With Their Own People": Mexican-American, African-American, and Anglo Baptists in Texas, 1900-1965
Dr. David J. Cameron (2016)
- Many Voices: The Complexity of Baptist Women's History
Dr. Mandy McMichael (2019)
- Baptists and the Johnson Amendment
Dr. J. David Holcomb (2020)
- Rufus Burleson and the "Brazilian Girl": The Story of Antônia Teixeira
Dr. Mikeal Parsons (2022)

FREE DISCUSSION GUIDE The 14-page downloadable guide turns each article into a flexible stand-alone conversation about Baptist identity, witness and congregational life today.

THEBHHS.ORG/60YEARS

A Festschrift in Honor of Rosalie Beck



NEW 2026 ISSUE

Latest Journal Available Now

**Festschrift issue
honoring Dr. Rosalie Beck**

Baylor University | Baptist History

Scholar • Teacher • Mentor



Subscribe today!
www.thebhhs.org/membership



A Baptist Story of Scholarship and Service

For four decades, Dr. Rosalie Beck helped students, scholars, pastors and church leaders learn to love God with their minds. She taught Christian and Baptist history not as names and dates, but as a living story that shapes communities, forms convictions and calls each generation to faithful remembrance. Guest edited by Dr. Karen Bullock, this festschrift honors Beck as a scholar, teacher, mentor and BHHS leader—and presents Baptist history at its best: careful, generous, critical, faithful and expansive.

A BAPTIST TRAILBLAZER

- Biology degree, UC San Diego
- Theological study, Southwestern
- Ph.D. in religion, Baylor, 1984
- First woman hired by Baylor Religion
- 35 years on the Baylor faculty

Inside the Festschrift

Metaphor and Meaning in Hildegard's Causae et Curae

Dr. Judith Bishop

Connects Hildegard of Bingen's cosmology with the metaphors shaping her medical work.

A Voice for the Gospel: Willie Turner Dawson's Achievement

Dr. Bill Pitts

Recovers the life and influence of Willie Evelyn Turner Dawson in Southern Baptist history.

Shantung Revival: The Boon and Bane of Baptist Missionary Experience

Dr. Doug Weaver

Revisits the revival through Pearl Caldwell, William Carey Newton and the tensions of Baptist mission.

One Hundred Years of Foreign Missions Training for Single Women

Dr. Jill Cabal

Traces changing preparation for missionary service and lifts up both well-known and overlooked women.

"The Worst Strain I Have Ever Passed Through": W. W. Melton and Ministry in Natural Disaster

Dr. Michael E. Williams Sr.

Shows how twin tornadoes framed Melton's ministry at Seventh and James, Beck's church home for nearly 50 years.

Academic Profile of Rosalie Beck

Education | Teaching | Scholarship | Service

Documents Beck's leadership, honors, publications, professional service and public presentations.

2025 Annual Conference Recap



2025 Joint Annual Conference

May 19-21, 2025
Baylor University
Waco, Texas

Addressing Abuse in Baptist Communities



Robert G. Callahan II



Geneece Goertzen



Lucy Huh



Jay Kieve



David Pittman



David Pooler



Jon Singletary



Meredith Stone



Chellee Taylor

BHHS convened the 2025 Joint Annual Conference May 19-21 at Baylor University to address abuse in Baptist communities. Four plenaries led by survivors, advocates, researchers and denominational leaders centered truth-telling, prevention, accountability and survivor-centered reform.

David Pittman - To Suffer in Silence

Pittman described the harm caused by institutional silence. He urged Baptists to tell the truth, protect survivors rather than institutions and pursue meaningful accountability.

Meredith Stone & Jay Kieve - The Lord Is an Avenger

They showed how power, patriarchy and weak boundaries enable exploitation, then called churches to adopt clear policies, consent-centered practices and accountable leadership.

Callahan, Goertzen, Huh & Taylor - Breaking the Silence

The panel joined legal, theological, social-work and survivor perspectives, calling churches toward advocacy, institutional reform and concrete accountability.

David Pooler - Adult Clergy Sexual Abuse

Pooler described adult clergy sexual abuse as an abuse of pastoral power and urged trauma-informed, survivor-centered care, policy reform and accountability.

**READ THE COMPLETE
CONFERENCE COVERAGE**

THEBHHS.ORG/2025-CONFERENCE

Baptist Studies Paper Presentations

The 2025 conference featured 27 paper presentations exploring diverse topics related to Baptist history and progressive Baptist identity—including advocacy for women in ministry, racial justice, gender equity, human rights and abuse prevention. More than one-third of the presentations were led by graduate students, reflecting BHHS's commitment to nurturing emerging Baptist scholars.

 2025 Joint Annual Conference May 19-21, 2025 Baylor University Waco, Texas Taking it Seriously: Responding to Domestic Violence with Baptist Courage  Geneece Goertzen	 2025 Joint Annual Conference May 19-21, 2025 Baylor University Waco, Texas Refuting Restrictionists: Texas Baptists Respond to Women Speaking at the SBC 1916 Annual Meeting  Jill Botticelli Cabal	 2025 Joint Annual Conference May 19-21, 2025 Baylor University Waco, Texas Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart's Historic Sermon and its Erasure  Ralph Douglas West Sr.
 2025 Joint Annual Conference May 19-21, 2025 Baylor University Waco, Texas Tarry Ye Until: Andrew D. Urshan and Baptist-Pentecostal Interactions at The Moody Church  Grace Babayan	 2025 Joint Annual Conference May 19-21, 2025 Baylor University Waco, Texas Sara Alicia Hale: A Missionary Woman's Unrecognized Work in Baptist Life  Rubi Barocio Castells	 2025 Joint Annual Conference May 19-21, 2025 Baylor University Waco, Texas The Influence of the Arts Within Religion  Gwendolyn Blackburn
 2025 Joint Annual Conference May 19-21, 2025 Baylor University Waco, Texas Blackface on a Church-Related Campus: Baylor University, A Case Study  Doug Weaver	 2025 Joint Annual Conference May 19-21, 2025 Baylor University Waco, Texas Broadcasting the Mission: Processing and Digitizing Material from the SBC Radio and Television Commission, 1939-1997  Taffey Hall	 2025 Joint Annual Conference May 19-21, 2025 Baylor University Waco, Texas Betrayal of Trust: Clergy Sexual Abuse of Adults and the Challenges of Legislative Reform  Lucy Huh

[THEBHHS.ORG/2025-CONFERENCE](https://thebhhs.org/2025-conference)

2026 Joint Annual Conference

The Church and Global Migration

Hosted by Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Tucker, Georgia, the three plenary sessions centered migrant voices, congregational witness and Baptist identity.

Pablo Juarez urges Baptists to see migration through people, not politics

Opening plenary • 2026 Joint Annual Conference

BAPTIST HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

OPENING PLENARY

Rev. Dr. Pablo Juarez, pastor of First Baptist Church en Espanol in Kaufman, Texas, urged Baptists to treat migration as a pastoral and congregational reality, not a distant political abstraction. Drawing on his own journey from Nicaragua and ministry with immigrant families, he emphasized migrants' God-given dignity and called churches to love, care and protect. In conversation with **Dr. Emily Prevost**, he challenged participants to listen to the people behind the statistics.

[READ MORE](#)

SECOND PLENARY

Dr. Jonathan Calvillo, associate professor of Latinx Communities at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, invited participants to listen to the theologies emerging from vulnerable migrant communities. He showed how pastors, women leaders and congregations interpret detention, deportation, family separation and fear through prayer, testimony, pastoral care and advocacy. Calvillo called these practices “fresh anointings” - expressions of agency, dignity and solidarity that form an alternative beloved community — and asked whether the church will walk with Jesus into the borderlands.

[READ MORE](#)

Calvillo points to ‘fresh anointings’ among migrant communities facing hardship

Second plenary • 2026 Joint Annual Conference

BAPTIST HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY

Final Plenary: Baptists and the Bible

Four centuries of authority, freedom, memory and interpretation



Final plenary explores Baptists and the Bible across four centuries

Third plenary • 2026 Joint Annual Conference

BAPTIST HISTORY & HERITAGE SOCIETY



Doug Weaver and **Mikeal C. Parsons**, authors of *The Bible in the Baptist Tradition*, joined respondents **Elizabeth “Ebby” Arnold**, **Kim Bodenhamer**, **Marcus Jerkins** and **Sandy Martin** for a closing conversation about how Baptists have read, interpreted and argued over Scripture across four centuries. The plenary examined biblical authority, freedom of conscience, believer's baptism, local church independence, personal and communal experience, the work of the Spirit, modern scholarship, and contested uses of Scripture in debates over race, gender and sexuality.

Arnold highlighted the diversity within Baptist life and the book's ability to explain both what binds Baptists together and what does not.

Bodenhamer emphasized its accessible value for students, seminarians and congregations while asking how new technologies will shape future interpretation. **Jerkins** praised its treatment of race, memory and difficult Baptist uses of Scripture, warning against historical amnesia.

Martin traced the Bible's role in Black Christian resistance to racist interpretation and scientific racism. Weaver and Parsons stressed that Baptists consistently appeal to biblical authority without always agreeing on interpretation. Parsons called the tradition “rich, complicated, conflicting, and conflicted,” while Weaver rooted Baptist diversity in personal, voluntary faith.

[READ MORE](#)

Awards and Recognition

Honoring service, scholarship and leadership in Baptist history

On May 19, BHHS recognized a congregation, a distinguished historian and an emerging scholar whose service and scholarship strengthen the work of Baptist history.



CAROLYN BLEVINS MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Smoke Rise Baptist Church

Smoke Rise Baptist Church received the award for generous hospitality and sustained partnership with BHHS. The church hosted the 2018 gathering and welcomed the 2026 joint conference, providing space, coordination and behind-the-scenes care. The honor celebrated congregational welcome and service.

[READ MORE](#)

W. O. CARVER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Rev. Dr. Melody Maxwell

Rev. Dr. Melody Maxwell received the award for outstanding contributions to Baptist history. A leading scholar of Baptist women, missions and global Baptist life, she has served BHHS as author, presenter, board member, treasurer and longtime supporter. Her teaching, scholarship and oral-history work connect the academy and the church.

[READ MORE](#)



NORMAN W. COX AWARD FOR BEST ARTICLE

Ranmi Bae

Ranmi Bae received the award for "Cultural Mediators in a Divided Era: Early Korean International Students at Baylor University, 1948-1956." The article traces Korean students navigating war, displacement, mission networks, segregation and institutional expectations while serving as cultural mediators, broadening Baptist higher-education history and recovering overlooked voices.

[READ MORE](#)

Paper Presentations

Nearly 30 presentations across ten Baptist Studies sessions

At the 2026 Joint Annual Conference, nearly 30 BHHS presentations across ten Baptist Studies sessions explored how migration has shaped Baptist history, identity and witness, alongside global mission, women in ministry, Christian nationalism, racial justice and congregational history.

SELECTED PAPER AND PANEL PRESENTATIONS

A President in Church:
Getting Jimmy Carter Out of the Archives



Christi Harlan

“Stubborn, Tenacious and Sensitive”:
Annie Armstrong and Controversies



Melody Maxwell

The Scandal, Strength and Spirituality of a Female Missionary



Reid S. Trulson

The Liturgical Agency of Female Believers:
Expanding Women’s Access to Religious Authority



Meg Rooney

Diaspora, Distance and Discipleship:
How Black Baptists Navigate Christian Nationalism’s Moral Geography



Michaela Calahan

Fidelity to God’s Word:
Christian Nationalism and Inerrancy in the Southern Baptist Convention



Benjamin Potter

“Here We Have No Lasting City”:
Soviet Evangelical-Baptist Immigration to the United States in the Late 1980s



Sarah MacKenzie

Transformed by Fellowship:
Japanese Americans and Antiracism in Northern Baptist Home Missions




Brice Bongiovanni Jenny Manasco

The Baptist World Alliance:
Reading History through Biography







Doug Weaver Melody Maxwell
Delane Tew Glenn Jonas Mel Hawkins

EXPLORE THE FULL PROGRAM | [THEBHHS.ORG/EVENTS](https://thebhhs.org/events)

New Resources Coming Soon



COURAGEOUS BAPTIST WOMEN

A 6-Session Children's Curriculum

Stories, Scripture, and
Hands-On Activities for
Elementary-Aged Students

 Available in English & Spanish



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HISTORY &
HERITAGE
SOCIETY**

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Prathia Hall



Barbara
"Babs" Baugh



Diana Garland



Edna Lee
de Gutiérrez



Helen Barrett
Montgomery

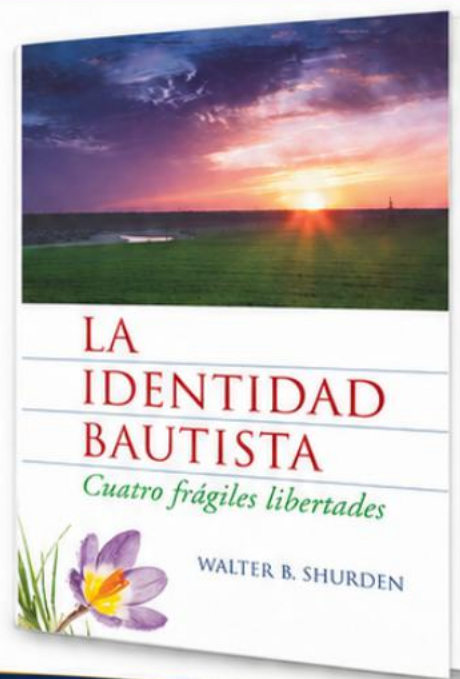


Nannie Helen
Burroughs

COMING SOON

FREE E-BOOK

Baptist History & Heritage Society



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HISTORY &
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SOCIETY**

Helping Baptists discover, conserve, assess and share their history.

www.thebhhs.org

Congregational Storytelling & History Project

HELPING CHURCHES PRESERVE LIVED MEMORY
AND SHARE THEIR STORIES.



Every congregation carries stories worth preserving.

BHHS helps churches gather voices, photographs, sermons, prayers, timelines and archival records — then shape them into a professionally edited and beautifully designed history for future generations.

A complete storytelling and publishing partnership



LISTEN

Interviews, first-person narratives and many voices.



SHAPE

Editorial development, copyediting and story architecture.



PRESERVE

Photographs, timelines, sermons and historical documents.



PUBLISH

Design, ISBN, print-ready production and printing coordination.



PILOT PROJECT:

ST. MATTHEWS BAPTIST CHURCH, LOUISVILLE

For its 100th anniversary in 2027, St. Matthews is developing a multi-voice volume with more than 30 contributors, personal narratives, photographs, a timeline and selected historical documents. The pilot is building a repeatable BHHS service model for congregations of many sizes and traditions.



EXPLORE A CHURCH PARTNERSHIP



aweaver@thebhhs.org

Supporting Graduate Students and Emerging Baptist Scholars



Meg Rooney

Ph.D. Student in Religion
University of Georgia

“The BHHS annual conference was one of the best and most formative experiences of my academic career.”

As a beginning doctoral student, I shared my work with leading scholars whose thoughtful feedback helped me develop my first conference paper into an article for an upcoming issue of Baptist History & Heritage. I also learned from creative scholarship and built professional relationships that continue to shape my work.



Your partnership helps emerging scholars present, publish and connect.

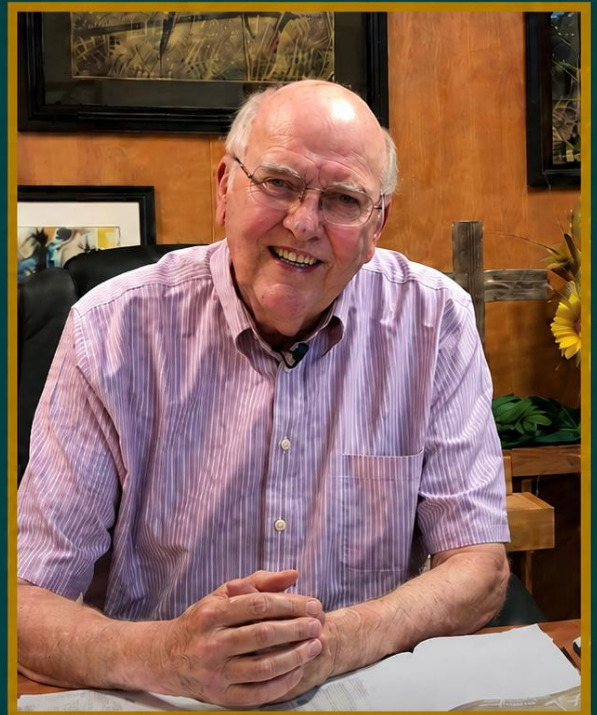
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THE REV. DR. Slayden Yarbrough FUND FOR BAPTIST HISTORY

Investing in graduate students and
emerging scholars. Strengthening the
future of Baptist history.

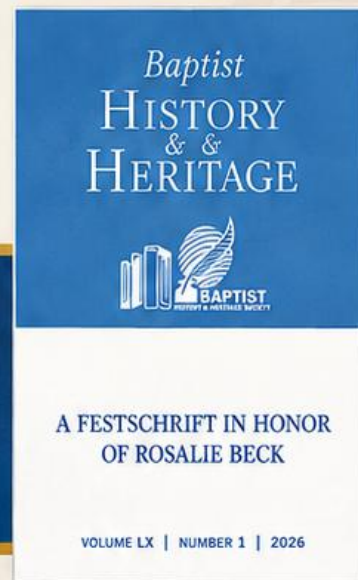
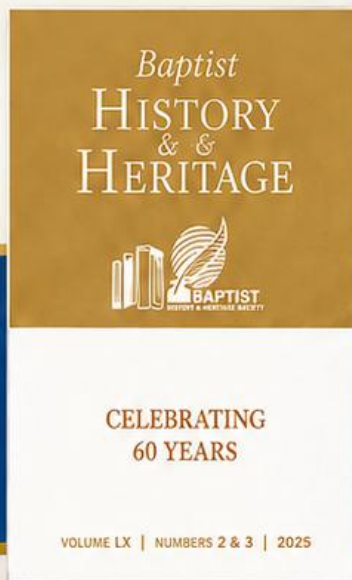
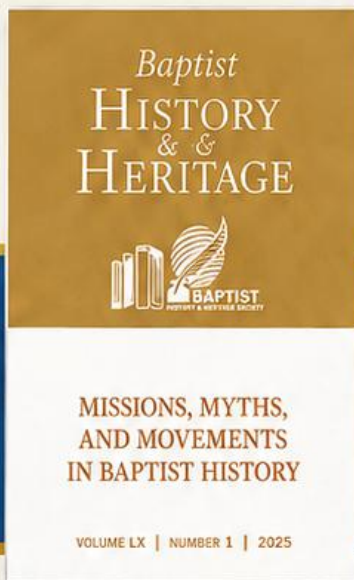
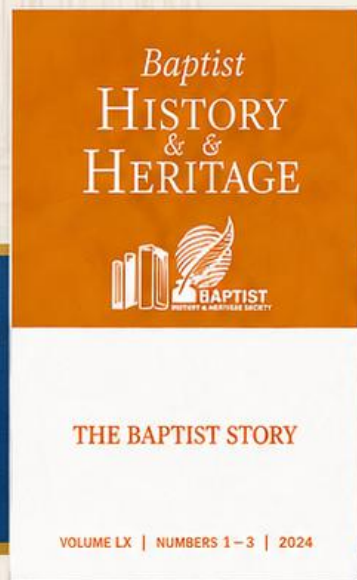


www.thebhhs.org/yarbrough



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The journal of the Baptist History & Heritage Society



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scholarship on
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Preserve and
promote our
rich *Baptist*
heritage



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Baptist History & Heritage Journal*

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Invest in Baptist Identity.

Share the Baptist Story.



Your gifts help BHHS bridge the worlds of the academy and the congregation — creating free resources, publishing scholarship, convening timely conversations and investing in emerging Baptist historians.



Give today and make a lasting impact.

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YOUR SUPPORT STRENGTHENS:



Resources for churches and small groups.



Baptist History & Heritage journal.



Graduate-student travel and presentation opportunities.



Annual conferences and public scholarship.



Preservation and congregational storytelling.





1938–2028

CELEBRATING

90

— Y E A R S —

**Helping Baptists
discover, conserve,
assess and share
their history.**

LEARN MORE

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