

1925-1945

A Movement Envisioned

By 1920, the concept of "Baptist Student Union" was taking root within students' hearts throughout the Southeast. The Southern Baptist Convention voted to create an Interboard Commission to coordinate a student work program in 1921, and Dr. Frank Leavell began serving as the first Executive Secretary of BSU from an office in Memphis, TN on January 1, 1922. He had served as the Secretary of the Baptist Young People's Union (BYPU) in Georgia until this point, but recognized the need for a more student-led movement on college campuses.



He was a man of great charisma and decisive action, and would ultimately visit Williamsburg, VA more than once to encourage BSU at the College of William & Mary and other universities in the mid-Atlantic region.

From the beginning BSU could be described with four core values: Christ-centered, Bible-based, church-related, and student-led. Being student-led has been what has captured the hearts of college students throughout history. In the 1920's, Williamsburg Baptist Church (WBC) had an active BYPU for college-aged adults, a group to study discipleship "courses, make visits, distribute tracts, hold prayer services, and train church members for Christian service."¹ However, it was largely adult-led, and church-based. It was effective, but to reach more students for Christ on a university campus, a different organization would be necessary.



The “new” Williamsburg Baptist
Church on Richmond road.
Completed in 1934

In 1925 WBC was anticipating an addition to their building “because the State Mission Board had committed \$3,000 a year for five years to enlarge the Sunday School to encourage the work with students at the College of William and Mary. In 1926 the commitment was increased to \$6,000 a year for five years or a total of \$30,000.”² However, the congregation could hardly afford the basic renovations necessary to its existing buildings beside the Powder Magazine on Duke of Gloucester Street. The church would soon engross herself in the arduous process of negotiating with Colonial Williamsburg for building and relocating to its current Richmond Road location in the years 1928 to 1934.

A Passionate Student

It is into this environment that a Baptist student, Thomas Hervie Christie, arrived as a freshman in the Fall of 1925 to the College of William & Mary. He would become active at Williamsburg Baptist Church. After attending a national conference for Baptist college students in Oct. 28-31, 1926 in Birmingham, AL, he returned to campus and began working to establish the Baptist Student Union at the College. The Flat Hat printed an article in November about his report about the conference to a joint meeting of Baptist students from Williamsburg Baptist and its BYPU.



Thomas Hervie Christie's photo in his senior year book in 1929

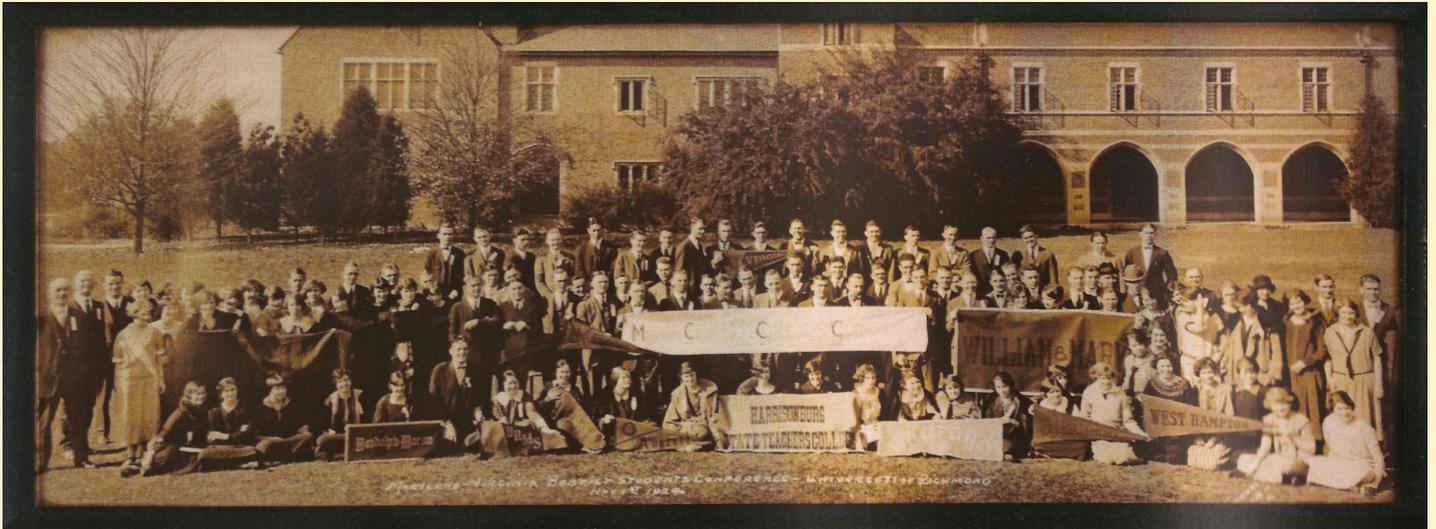
Christie was clearly visionary, but must have been charismatic and influential himself, organizing a Virginia-Maryland Conference of Baptist students only one year later on Oct. 28-30, 1927. The Friday and Saturday events were held in the recently built (in 1926) Phi Beta Kappa Hall (now Ewell Hall), while the Sunday gatherings happened at Williamsburg Baptist Church. The first ever VA state gathering had been held at the University of Richmond in 1924. At this 1927 gathering in Williamsburg, fifteen colleges from Virginia and Maryland were represented. Frank Leavell himself, and Arthur Stovall, who had become the VA Student Secretary in 1925 and based at UVA in Charlottesville, were listed among the speakers for the event. These two men would return again to Williamsburg in 1929 and give the Baptist students "a sound shaking."³



Hervie's achievements listed in the year book, including being "President of Baptist Student, '26, '27, '28, '29." This copy of the Colonial Echo on file in Swem Library contains his signature next to his photo

A Movement Begins

Christie graduated in 1929. From a BSU newsletter that Spring, he had been president of BSU for 3 years. It seemed to be a fledgling organization during the 1930's, with the Depression and impending war serving as context. The Colonial Echo, the College's yearbook, made few references to BSU until 1942, when annual yearend summaries of BSU began. The last two years of World War II would make the College seem like a woman's college, but BSU had begun with a firm foundation. From the very beginning, it was established upon the four core values, with student leadership being crucial from the very beginning.



1. From Minutes of the 21 annual meeting of the PBA, July 29-31, 1924.
2. From "History of Williamsburg Baptist Church 1828-1978," pg. 233.
3. From "Indian Messenger", BSU Newsletter, College of William & Mary, May 1929. Vol. 1. Num. 1

1945-1953

A War-Torn World

To say that World War II drastically affected life in the United States is an understatement. In 1945, the College of William & Mary had become a woman's college by the looks of the male to female ratio on campus.



The BSU "group photo" in 1945.

Of the many affected by the war was Juanita Byrd, one of the International Mission Board's (IMB) displaced missionaries to China. A native Mississippian, she began serving in Shanghai University as an educator and missionary in 1929. With the Japanese occupation of China, she had been evacuated to Manila in 1937. After a return to China later that year, she would spend time in a Japanese internment camp inside Shanghai for much of 1943 before being allowed to repatriate to the U.S. that September. She completed her Masters of Arts from Vanderbilt during 1944. In late 1944, Dr. Archibald F. Ward, Jr., pastor of Williamsburg Baptist, began challenging the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of Virginia with the opportunity of collegiate ministry at William & Mary. Dr. Blanche Sydnor White was serving as Executive Secretary and corresponded with the IMB, and ultimately with Miss Byrd. Miss Byrd arrived in 1945 to "give herself wholly to the Baptist students in Williamsburg" for at least the originally agreed time of February 1 through September 1.¹



Juanita Byrd

Within a few weeks, Miss Byrd "suggested the Church provide a student center and said the Virginia WMU was interested in helping financially. Fifteen months later the Church agreed to accept \$4,000 from the WMU to create a student center from the existing chapel in the South Wing. The funds were used to add a fireplace and kitchenette and redecorate."² With the hiring of Miss Byrd as secretary and the opening of the Student Center in 1946, the WMU was committing to the sponsorship of the BSU for the foreseeable future.



The South Wing of Williamsburg Baptist Church became the home of the BSU after renovations in 1946

Women on Mission

Miss Byrd's heart was with her students in China, and she returned there in early 1946. She was succeeded by Mrs. Robert G. Caldwell, wife of a Professor of Sociology at the College, who became the first secretary to work in the new Student Center, and served for roughly one year, most likely 1946-47. Jean Harrup Cogle came to Williamsburg in September 1945 as a new student at the College of William & Mary. She and her future husband, Dennis began attending WBC in the Fall of 1946.



“All BSUers enjoy Ping Pong— for our program is not all seriousness and work.”

“After about a year the Caldwells moved away and Mrs. Esther Batchelder became our new leader. She was known to us and many succeeding years of students simply as Mrs. B and was an advisor on all sorts of personal problems.”³



Esther Batchelder

A Home Away From Home

Bill and Esther Batchelder were active members of WBC and the Williamsburg community since 1943, Bill working as the manager of the Williamsburg Lodge, one of the Colonial Williamsburg properties. Mrs. B was beloved by the students and served as secretary for six years until May 1953. The ministry grew in number of students during this time as the Student Center became a home away from home.



Students enjoying a fire side Bible Study in the BSU Center

Students such as Edmond Fitzgerald ('50) were fond of playing ping pong and relaxing in the Student Center. The BSU started many of its longtime traditions during this time; students served in servant leadership positions, dorm visitations occurred, fun fellowship events drew in students, and state conferences allowed students from all over the state to connect. Another state VA BSU retreat was held in Williamsburg in 1951. And, of course, there were Sunday night dinners. Probably as old as the BSU itself, these dinners have been a welcoming time of fellowship and a space for discussion of Christian faith. Mrs. B would recount a story when the Presbyterian collegiate ministry next door needed to switch Sunday night dinner with the BSU because the Presbyterian's were serving pork chops and Jewish students had come for dinner.



A Sunday Night meal at the BSU Center.

When Mrs. Batchelder resigned from the position of part time secretary, the administrative responsibility for the college student program transferred from the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia to the Virginia Baptist Student Department. This pioneering support of the WMU for collegiate ministry throughout Virginia was instrumental for Virginia Baptists recognizing its importance and committing to increasing its support in the coming years.



The State BSU retreat at Williamsburg Baptist Church in 1951

1. (Kay M. Byrd, *Oaks of Righteousness*, Yawn's Publishing, 2012, p.87.)
2. (From "History of the WBC 1828-1978," p. 34.)
3. (Jean Cogle, "A WBC Moment: Recollections of Longtime Members of the Williamsburg Baptist Church," compiled 2003, p. 12.)

1953-1967

Visionary Women

Virginia Baptists began taking more responsibility in serving the BSU at William & Mary with the 1953-54 academic year. Students probably noticed little change, however, as the BSU was still very related to Williamsburg Baptist Church (WBC). The Student Center remained in its South Wing and the Secretaries, soon to be called directors, were still part-time. The first secretary during this new era was Mary Lee Rankin. Born in China to missionaries, her father was Milledge Theron Rankin, who became the Secretary of the Orient for the International Mission Board (IMB) in 1935. He would have had supervision of Miss Juanita Byrd and other missionaries during the difficult years of the Japanese occupation of China. He would become the Executive Secretary of the IMB in 1944 and hold that position until his death in June of 1953.

Mary Lee Rankin was a 1950 graduate of Richmond University and a 1953 graduate of the Carver School of Missions and Social Work in Louisville, KY. She must have arrived in Williamsburg with a heavy heart at the recent passing of her father. "Although Miss Rankin served for only one year, she established a good foundation for the work of her successors."¹ She returned to the Carver School of Missions as a student counselor in August 1954.



Outside the BSU Center in 1959

Lula Mae Leake

Miss Lula Mae Leake, from Woodville, MS, became the director of the BSU in the Fall of 1954. Patrick Scott Stone ('55) served as president of BSU during her first year when he was a senior and speaks highly of both Miss Rankin and Miss Leake.



Lula Mae Leake

This year also saw the beginning of several years of ministry to the Brown family who lived 5 miles west of Williamsburg. A handicapped father and mother of five children were provided a "proper Christmas," and repairs to their "four-room shack." The Browns appreciated the food, clothing, furniture, hygiene education, and home repairs, and the students loved providing it.



Ministering to the Brown family

Obviously, Lu's "excellent rapport with the students" could be seen in the increasing number of students involved in BSU during her four years. In 1958, she would become the Assistant Dean

of Students at Meredith College, and become the Dean of Women at Wake Forest University in 1964. After 33 years of service, she retired from Wake Forest as Associate Vice President of Student Affairs in 1997. She would later be remembered as a remarkable woman of vision, dignity, humor, and modernity. In the Spring of 1958, Eagle Eyrie Conference Center hosted its very first BSU retreat, attracting over 300 students from Virginia. In the coming years, a Fall Retreat and Spring Leadership Training Conference (LTC) would become a normal part of BSU's annual programming. Eagle Eyrie would become the statewide retreat location, beginning with the annual Fall retreat, and eventually adding the Spring LTC, replacing the hosting rotation by local churches around the state. Today, Baptist Collegiate Ministries in Virginia still gather annually at Eagle Eyrie for Fall retreats, while the last statewide LTC was in 2010.



The BSU at Eagle Eyrie in 1964.

Another annual statewide event began at this time to allow Virginia BSU's to bring their international friends during the Thanksgiving weekend. "As early as 1958, the International Student Retreat was held in Williamsburg. There were 100 international students at the 1958 retreat." ² This retreat would continue into the 1980's.

Mary Elizabeth Wrenn

There was probably no BSU director for much of 1958-59. Miss Mary Elizabeth Wrenn, known affectionately by her students as "Mary Lib," became director of the BSU in 1959. Like Lu Leake, "Miss Wrenn established excellent rapport with the students, developed a warm and cooperative relationship with the congregation, and enjoyed a broad and friendly reputation in the community."³ Under her guidance, students served weekly at Eastern State Hospital, volunteered at the Goodwill Center in Newport News, and provided for a needy family at Christmas. There was also the addition of Monday informal dinners. She was known to play the organ at WBC at times, when the choir director and organist Dr. Carl Fehr would allow. He served in this position at WBC from 1947 to 1968. BSUers became a big part of the worship at WBC during these years. Mary Elizabeth Wrenn left Williamsburg in 1966 and married Dr. Stuart

Grizzard, a pastor in Richmond. Barbara Grigg became the interim BSU Director for the 1966-67 school year.



Mary Elizabeth Wrenn

Inevitable Transitions

1967 would become a year of incredible transition for BSU at the College. Under the visionary guidance and action of William Jenkins, VA Student Secretary 1957-70, Virginia Baptists would continue investing more into BSU. Emphasis on student missions increased, more Student Centers were built, and having as many full-time campus ministers as possible became the goal. Along with the emergence of more Baptist churches in Williamsburg, it was seen as time for the BSU to relate to more than one local Baptist church. In 1967, Virginia Baptists secured a property adjacent to the campus, at 244 South Boundary Street. Having the BSU Student Center at WBC had been "a happy tenure of twenty years." Similar to stories from other college towns nationally, this was a sad transition for members of WBC. It was comparable to a child maturing to adulthood, and moving out of the home for the first time. The Baptist Collegiate Ministries is incredibly grateful for the nurturing environs of Williamsburg Baptist and we celebrate our ongoing relationship.



The International Student Retreat was an annual event supported by the BSUs across Virginia. Pictured is the retreat of 1960.

1. (From "History of the WBC 1828-1978," p. 34-35.)
2. (Rachel Cook, Baptist Collegiate Ministry in Virginia: Past, Present, Future, Center for Baptist Heritage and Studies, 2016, p. 11.)
3. (From "History of the WBC 1828- 1978," p. 34-35.)

1967-1983

Transitioning Into a New Era

The Fall of 1967 saw the BSU occupying its new location on South Boundary Street. This new House would truly become home for more than two decades. It hosted many a cramped meal in its tight confines and added the beloved porch swing into the stories of so many BSUers. With any transition, whether place, campus minister, or in student leadership, there are a range of emotions – sadness, frustration, and excitement. Reverend James Bardin became the new, full-time BSU Director that Fall and inherited this environment. (Technically, he was hired as the Director of Campus Ministry for the Peninsula Area, responsible for ministry at The College, Christopher Newport College, Thomas Nelson Community College, and Riverside School of Nursing.)



Rev. James Bardin

From the Colonial Echo, it seems likely that there were no Sunday night dinners for the 1967-68 academic year. Perhaps they wished to respect Monday night meals that were occurring at Williamsburg Baptist Church, or perhaps they just wanted to try something new. Instead they held Tuesday meetings and bi-weekly luncheons. However, Sunday night dinners began again for the 1968-69 year and continue to this day. Despite the transition there still remained many of the same activities. Visits to Eastern State Hospital, the Goodwill Center in Newport News, and a monthly coffeehouse called "The Forge" continued. During these years, annual BSU layouts in the Colonial Echo contain more references to summer missions, and the necessary fundraising to support them. James Bardin resigned his position in late Fall 1971.



The BSU Center sign

BSU Reaches Out

February 1972 saw the arrival of Reverend Paul Lee as BSU Director.



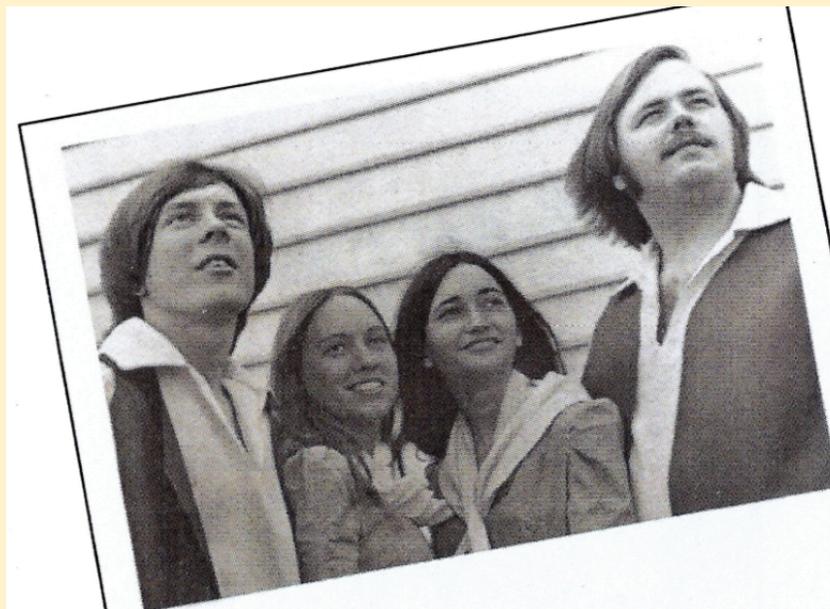
Rev. Paul Lee

The students during these years were passionate about service and ministry in churches. The BSU started revival teams, drama teams, a small chorus, a handbell choir, and a folk music team. A three-octave set of handbells was purchased at this time. There was community outreach, such as monthly ministry at the mental hospital and an "Adopt A Grandparent" ministry at the Virginia Baptist Home in Newport News. Many served as summer missionaries. It is no wonder that a large number of students in BSU at this time went into full-time church ministry, missions, or leadership positions within the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV). Among these are James Buckingham ('71), Nancy Stanton McDaniel ('72), Herbert Browning ('73), Mark Grumbles ('75), Donald Harvey ('75), Wayne Johnson ('75), and Elizabeth Cumbie Fogg ('75).



The BSU at its second Winter Retreat at Eastover in 1976

Another of Paul Lee's highlights was a mission trip to Clinch Valley to work with the Appalachian Outreach. They also held special worship services at the Clinch Valley Baptist Church. From a core of 15 students at his arrival, there would be a core of 40 students at his departure. Needing to take care of family back home in Tennessee, Paul Lee resigned his position as director in February 1974.



New Traditions

In August 1974, Reverend Daniel Avery became the BSU Director. Under his guidance, the BSU embarked upon another exciting time of growth, when many new traditions began. The first Winter Retreat at Eastover began in January 1975. At the time, many students did not think it was a good idea, because W&M students must study so much. They registered 45 students for that first year. Aside from one dip in 1977, the number of registrants increased every year until 1981 when they registered 79 students.



Rev. Daniel Avery

Though Sunday night dinners had been going on for some time, it was in the Fall of 1975 that WMU of the Peninsula Baptist Association began organizing their provision. In the Fall of 1977, student-led Family Groups began for growing deeper Christian community through prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. All three of these traditions continue today.



The BSU Choir in 1978

"The Fuzzy Tale," a BSU newsletter, was first published in September 1977. We still carry on a similar tradition of "Warm Fuzzies" today. Finally, "in addition to the extant BSU Folk Teams, a student-led BSU Choir was established in 1977," Linda Beahm ('80) and Mary Jo Tillery Nidiffer

('82) being among its first directors.¹ Daniel would resign in September 1981, having been the longest serving BSU Director at The College to that point, leaving behind a sad, but thriving BSU fellowship.



The lovely ladies of the PBA WMU serving Sunday night dinner

Mrs. Jean Haywood, wife of Jerry Haywood, Pastor of Walnut Hills Baptist Church, became the interim campus minister for BSU during the Fall of 1981. Passionate student leadership ensured many students remained involved in various programs and traditions begun in previous years. Ministry to the Pines Nursing Home is referenced in the Colonial Echo. Mrs. Haywood proved to be a capable, wise, and very relational campus minister, preparing the way for her successor who would arrive in the Spring of 1983.



A Sunday night gathering our on the lawn in 1978

1. (Daniel Avery, Notes on History of the BSU at the College of William & Mary, January 2016.)

1983-2005

Pete Parks

What would become the longest tenure of a BSU Director began in January 1983. Rev. Sydney "Pete" Parks arrived having lived and ministered in Georgia. He inherited a thriving BSU, with a comprehensive program of ministries, activities, and traditions.



Rev. Pete Parks

Wisely, he would guide students to continue what was already happening. The BSU Choir and Handbell Choir were popular. Another drama team formed, and students even tried to form a BSU Orchestra. Family Groups would continue under Pete's guidance, although he made some minor tweaks, such as writing Bible studies for the Fall semester.



The BSU Hand Bell group playing at Eastover of 1983

Pete was especially passionate about students serving annually on mission trips during Winter breaks, Spring Breaks, or both. Soon after arriving, students served in the inner city of Philadelphia. There would also be many trips to New York City to do urban ministries. Students loved doing construction projects such as Habitat for Humanity, and there were disaster relief projects in Georgia, South Carolina, St. Louis, and Franklin, VA.



BSUers on a mission trip in Baltimore in 1989

Of course, the Winter retreats at Eastover continued to be a highlight every year. Seminary professors would often be asked to speak for the weekends. An oft repeated anecdote was the year Dr. Bill Leonard came. It snowed on Saturday night. When Bill left on Sunday morning, he wrecked on one of the rural roads, and his car caught fire and burned to only a shell. It is difficult to say when BSUers began singing "Thank You" songs to the WMU ladies providing meals on Sunday nights at the BSU house. Most likely during the two years before Pete's arrival, the first Thank You song was written to the tune of "O My Darling, Clementine." There were at least four more songs sung through the years, to the tunes of "Rocky Top," "Camptown Races," "Going to the Chapel," and "Down On the Corner." All but the last song was sung during this era, and the song sung to the tune of "Going to the Chapel" is still sung today. These songs have been incredibly popular among students through the years, often "the favorite part of the week" for some.



The first gathering outside the BSU Center in 1989

A New Home

Virginia Baptists have purchased, built, and maintained ten Baptist Student Centers across the state since the 1960's. The center at the College of William Mary became the one in greatest need of replacing during the 1980's. The BSU house would often feel too small for Sunday night dinners and other large gatherings.



Overflow seating on the porch of a Sunday night meal

Ultimately, the apartment attached to the back of the house was condemned by the City of Williamsburg, and student custodians could no longer dwell within. Funds for a new building

were raised through one of the annual Alma Hunt Offerings for Virginia Missions. Architectural plans were drawn, wisely using many collaborators, including Pete Parks. Rev. John Tadlock, Director of Virginia Baptist Student Ministry, was among many special guests at a groundbreaking ceremony in the Fall of 1991. The beloved Baptist Student Center, purchased in 1967, was bulldozed during Spring break in March of 1992. Construction of the new building occurred during the Summer and Fall of 1992.



Rev. Pete Parks speaking at the Ground Breaking Ceremony in 1991

During construction, the BSU met on campus. Sunday night dinners and worship happened in the ballroom on the second floor of the Campus Center, which is now home for student organization offices. The WMU groups would serve meals from a tiny kitchen at this space. The new building was completed and dedicated in February of 1993. The Baptist Student Center at the College of William & Mary is among the newest in the state of Virginia. It continues to be a very beneficial space and a home away from home for students at the College. Toward the late 90's, it became apparent that a reorganization of the servant leadership structure was necessary. The process for Nominating Committees through the years had become difficult as they tried to fill so many positions every year. Deciding all the family group leaders, council members, and leaders of all teams took many, many hours. One of the final acts toward the end of Pete's tenure as BSU director was to guide students to recreate the leadership structure. The Constitution was rewritten in 2003, moving from the traditional president, vice president, etc. structure to one with simply a coordination team and team moderator. This team structure remains today and has brought much simplicity to BCM. Pete Parks was a beloved campus minister, serving for nearly a fourth of the BSU's history at the College. He brought a depth of wisdom, intellect, and stability to the ministry, cultivating an excellent environment for students to discover faith, identity, calling, and leadership. He resigned in the Spring of 2005.



The new Baptist Student Center in 1993

2005-2016

New Transitions

In the spring of 2005 Pete Parks resigned as campus minister, transitioning away from an important era of Baptist Collegiate Ministry at William & Mary. Rev. Terri Bolt was hired as the interim campus minister. She was an active member of Walnut Hills Baptist Church, which enjoyed both a long history of student ministry and strong relationship with the BSU since its birth in 1964. Terri Bolt served faithfully for nearly two academic years before leaving to become a hospital chaplain.



Rev. Terri Bolt

During this transitional time in 2006, Virginia Baptists made the decision to change the time revered name "Baptist Student Union" to "Baptist Collegiate Ministries." The beloved name and acronym had been used to describe a national movement since 1920. Virginia Baptists were following a national trend, one reason being that "student" was being broadly used to describe more than those attending college. Mississippi remains the only state to still use "Baptist Student Union." Upon a campus "where tradition never graduates," this name change became another unsettling element against the backdrop of this transition.

During the Spring of 2007, Rev. Jeffrey Buffkin began providing encouragement to BCM students while still living out of state, ultimately being hired as the full-time campus minister in May. Having done collegiate ministry in California and Maryland, he was returning to minister in his home state, having sensed a call to ministry while active in BSU at Virginia Tech. The awkwardness of both his personality and the transition were thick in the air upon arrival. His experience proved beneficial. It would take a large amount of listening to and loving of students, as well as a need for offering wise guidance at proper times, to weather these early years.



Rev. Jeffrey Buffkin

Of course, traditional activities such as Sunday night dinners, thank you songs for WMU groups, Family Groups, Coffeehouses, Spring formal dances, Fall retreats at Eagle Eyrie, and Winter retreats at Eastover all continued. Students are grateful for the support of and relationship with our Virginia Baptist churches, particularly how local families interact with our students.



Eastover 2011

The BCM has continued being the hands and the feet of Christ in the world, both near and far. In the past decade we have engaged in numerous missions experiences, including helping to rebuild post-Katrina New Orleans; ministry in Jamaica, Costa Rica, and Panama; three trips helping to rebuild post-quake Haiti; and three trips to provide More than Nets in Yendi, Ghana.



The BCM team in Ghana in May 2016

We have sent teams domestically to do service in Tennessee, South Carolina, New Jersey, and Virginia. Every year we have students involved in both the Kairos Leadership Initiative and the Kairos Missions Initiative, growing and becoming better leaders and servants for Christ. Finally, we continue the tradition of having students engage in numerous summer missions projects around the world. These cross cultural experiences are ventures in growing a deeper trust in God.



“Love-Hate”, an on campus program sponsored by BCM in 2010

The BCM house has enjoyed a history of caretakers who would live in the house in exchange for their service. This tradition was modified slightly as the current apartment began to be prioritized for the hiring of ministerial staff. Nathan Belcher ('09), Amanda Lewis ('12), and Mattie Patterson Wezah ('09) are among our alumni hired to minister to students at the College. Mattie is married to Rev. Zeko Wezah, from India, who since 2012 has been ministering to the international students at the College. BCM continues to prioritize building relationships among our international friends at the College.



BCM staff from throughout the years: Nathen Belcher, Jeffrey Buffkin, Rachel Haynes, Zeko Wezah, and Amanda Lewis

New Traditions

Yet, new traditions have begun. BCM is becoming known for a commitment to social justice, partnering yearly with International Justice Mission's Stand for Freedom and Dressemer events. Our annual "Grilled Cheeses for Jesus" on the Last Day of Classes (LDOC) is a hit with the good spirited students who visit our neighbors for LDOC festivities. Even new service organizations have come from our midst like Greater City, a ministry that is committed to feeding and loving those struggling through homelessness and poverty in Williamsburg.

BCM is proud of its rich history. The BCM today is a vibrant community of students coming from different faith backgrounds. Despite our differences, we anchor ourselves to each other in a sincere love for Christ and for the people around us. A genuine, honest, and loving community exists that continues to encourage lifelong friendships. We truly are a BCM family, thriving for more than 90 years, remaining resolute in commitment to the four core values of Baptist Collegiate Ministries.



Fall Gathering 2014