A red and white sign with white text

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**We’re looking forward to seeing you at the**

**2024 Ministry Assistants Conference and Training!**

**Please read through this document for details pertaining to the conference.**

**If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth at** [**elindigrin@mbcb.org**](mailto:elindigrin@mbcb.org) **or 601-292-3305.**

**Beginning Sunday, March 17th, you may contact Elizabeth on her cell phone: 601-842-4501.**

**Monday, March 18, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 11:00 a.m.**

**Location**

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, Clinton, MS

Directions: <https://garaywa.org/directions/>

**Lodging**

Lodging is available at Garaywa Camp & Conference Center at the rate of $65.00 per night per person. Reservations can be made for Sunday and/or Monday night. Rooms are available for single or double occupancy. Every effort will be made to accommodate roommate preferences.

**Meals**

Monday

Complimentary Continental breakfast

Lunch - $9.00

Dinner - $10.00

Tuesday

Breakfast - $8.00

**Conference Schedule**

**Monday, March 18, 2024**

8:30 Registration & Complimentary Continental Breakfast

9:00 Conference begins

10:00 Worship

11:30 MBMAA Business Meeting

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Training Session #1 – Q&A

Choose 1: Church Ministry Assistants

Associational Ministry Assistants

2:30 Break

2:45 Training Session #2

Choose 1: Basic Church Finances

Canva Basics

Scripture Study

3:45 Break

4:00 Training Session #3

Choose 1: Basic Church Finances

Canva Basics

Scripture Study

5:00 All meet together for announcements

5:30 Supper & Ugly Christmas Sweater/T-shirt Contest

6:45 Craft and fellowship time

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

7:30 Breakfast

8:30 Training Session – Event Planning (part 1)

9:30 Break

10:00 Training Session - Event Planning (part 2)

11:00 Closing remarks

11:15 Dismiss

**Conference Speakers**

**Worship Speaker -** *Laura Leathers*

A person with short hair wearing a pearl necklace

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Laura Lee freelance writer, speaker, and writers’ mentor. She describes herself this way: Imagine Lois Lane, over sixty-five, and living on a farm. Her metropolis is the area of freelance writing. Her primary love interest is the Word of God. She digs for information, interviews fascinating people, offers a cup of biblical hospitalit-tea, encourages, and helps others with the ‘how-to’s’ of life.

**Worship Leaders** – *Promised*

A group of people posing for a photo

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Back by popular demand, the trio Promised will perform for us and lead in singing during our Worship time. PROMISED was formed during Covid 2020, when Jason Easley, Melissa Duncan, and Jennifer Leach, of Highland Colony Baptist in Ridgeland, simply combined their gifted voices to perform a song for a virtual devotional. Since then, they have performed in churches all over the south. They released an album in 2022, and another is on the way! The primary mission of PROMISED is to sing about the HOPE found in Christ. “God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has PROMISED to those who love him.” (James 1:12)

**Basic Church Finances** – *Rita Hodges*

Rita Hodges has served as a Financial Ministry Assistant for churches, ministries, and nonprofits in Mississippi since 2006.  She began her experience at FBC Terry as a fulltime Ministry Assistant (which included financials) and worked in that role until 2017, at which time she transitioned into a parttime Financial Ministry Assistant position. She still maintains that position today along with serving several other area churches and ministries in that same capacity.  She is grateful the Lord has given her this opportunity to be with other Ministry Assistants, to share knowledge together and to learn from each other while continuing to serve the Lord by serving His Church!

**Canva Basics** – *Benita Gruchy*

A person with curly brown hair smiling

Description automatically generatedBenita is married to Steven, and they have three beautiful children.

For the last eight years, God has blessed her by allowing her to serve Him as a Ministry Assistant at Meadowood Baptist Church in Amory.

**Scripture Study** – *Sara Renick*

A person smiling at the camera

Description automatically generatedAs a teenager, Sara Renick became enraptured with the Scriptures and has never recovered! She's been teaching people to mine the truths of God's Word for themselves for the past 25 years and leads groups at Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton while homeschooling her four children.

**Event Planning** – *Sandra Sartor*

Sandra served as a ministry assistant for 17 years in churches in Georgia and Mississippi and in the Gwinnett Metro Baptist Association in metropolitan Atlanta. Sandra served as an instructor for LifeWay Christian Resources for over 30 years and served as their Ministry Assistants Specialist for 16 years. She now serves as a consultant for churches and as a motivational speaker.

**Optional Events**

**Door Prize**

Join in the “fun”!

If you bring a door prize ($20.00 or less in value) you’re guaranteed to receive a door prize – ***AND***: Your name will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing!

**Mission Project**

A child holding a box with stuffed animals

Description automatically generatedEach year we choose a mission project for the conference. This year we will be contributing to Operation Christmas Child’s Shoebox Ministry in memory of Rylee Martin, friend of Lisa Fortner’s (MBMAA Vice President) daughter Kate.

Rylee Danielle Martin is the deceased daughter of Daniel Bryce and Rebekah Martin.  Upon her passing she was an 11-year-old homeschool student. She was very active in all ministries especially the children’s ministry of Holly Springs Baptist Church. One of her favorite projects was Operation Christmas Child shoebox Ministry. She loved going shopping for boxes and packing boxes. Now her family has a birthday celebration every year in her memory collecting items and donations to pack boxes in Rylee’s memory. Rylee loved to make sure every child had a stuffed animal and plenty of hair supplies.  We will be using your contributions to pack boxes online. If you choose to participate, there will be a designated box for you to contribute your monetary donations (cash or checks).

**Silent Auction**

God has blessed us with so many talented Ministry Assistants and we utilize the Silent Auction to showcase those talents.

Individuals can participate by bringing and/or bidding on the items.

Items should be handmade & non-perishable. (Handmade gifts are not only cherished, but they also add something special to the auction by showing off your very own talent.)

The items will be displayed with bid sheets beside them, so please have a starting value in mind for your item.

At the end of the conference, winning bids for each item will be announced and those individuals can make payment to the MBMAA Treasurer.

Please remember to bring your cash/checks to pay for your winning bids.

**Craft** ($15.00)

Monday night we will have an enjoyable time of fellowship and crafting.

Sandi Komurke will be leading us in creating a beautiful Christmas Cross.

**Ugly Christmas Sweater/T-shirt Contest**

Monday night during supper, we will have an Ugly Christmas Sweater/T-shirt contest. You may be creative and make your own or you may wear one you already have.