

## Upcoming schedule

**October 11-14, 2009**  
**Fredericksburg, Texas**

Hosted by Roger Paynter, pastor, First Baptist Church, Austin, Texas, and Rick McClatchey, coordinator, CBF Texas

**November 8-11, 2009**  
**Asheville, N.C.**

Hosted by Guy Sayles, pastor, First Baptist Church, Asheville, N.C., and Larry Hovis, coordinator, CBF of North Carolina

**March 21-24, 2010**  
**Elba, Ala.**

Hosted by Mart Gray, pastor, Covenant Community Church, Elba, Ala., and Brent McDougal, coordinator, Alabama CBF

Each retreat is sponsored by Steve Graham, director of CBF's Initiative for Ministerial Excellence, and is led by Kelli Walker-Jones and Richard Hester from the Triangle Pastoral Counseling Center in Raleigh, N.C., as resource persons. Dr. Hester is Associate Director of the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Project with a background in teaching pastoral theology, consulting with congregations in conflict and pastoring a local church. Walker-Jones is the Associate Director and an Elder in the North Carolina Annual Conference, United Methodist Church with previous experience as associate pastor at a local church and student recruitment, supervision and field placement at Duke University Divinity School.

Tuition for each retreat is \$250. Housing and meals are extra. Space is limited. Sign up today by calling Steve Graham at (800) 352-8741 or e-mailing [sgraham@thefellowship.info](mailto:sgraham@thefellowship.info).



*"I thoroughly enjoyed the Narrative Leadership Retreat. Through intentional storytelling and group reflection on our memories, we learned a great deal about our leadership qualities and about one another. It was clear that the retreat participants quickly formed deep bonds of trust and demonstrated a desire to help one another to become better leaders. I left with a greater understanding of myself and the 'story' of God's calling on my life as a leader."*

**Brent McDougal**

Coordinator, Alabama CBF

*"I appreciated the Narrative Leadership Retreat a great deal. Not only was I able to connect with ministry peers, I was able to establish new friendships as well. The big 'gain' for me, however, was the insights about my style of ministry leadership that came from stitching together some major pieces of my life narrative. I was astounded to see how God has moved in and through the events of my life — both good and bad — to call me and prepare me for ministry, as well as provide the sustaining energy I need."*

**Gary Long**

Pastor, First Baptist Church,  
Gaithersburg, Maryland

**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship** 

2930 Flowers Road South, Suite 133

Atlanta, Georgia 30341

[www.thefellowship.info](http://www.thefellowship.info) • (800) 352-8741

# An Introduction to Narrative Leadership: A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Retreat



**Cooperative Baptist Fellowship** 

# Narrative leadership – Putting your story to work in bringing about deep change in the story of your congregation

The goal of this retreat is to engage you in narrative thought and practices that can illuminate your personal story and how you are leading with it.

In the activities of the retreat you will be invited to:

- Enter into a liminal space that's outside your usual day-to-day life and work.
- Practice this basic rule for narrative conversation: “No fixing, no saving, no advising, no setting anyone straight.” (from Parker Palmer)
- Identify and explore your personal or self story by writing and telling several narratives from your life experience.
- Reflect on ways these stories may disclose how you lead others.
- Participate in a narrative case presentation practice that places you in a reflecting, overhearing position.
- Explore theological themes in narrative practice.
- Take time for play and rest.

The desired outcomes of the retreat are that you will:

- Understand basic ideas of narrative work.
- Have a clearer sense of your personal story.
- Know how to facilitate case presentations using a narrative approach.
- Have curiosity about theological perspectives that inform narrative practice.
- Leave more rested than you were when you arrived.

## Schedule

### Sunday

- 7:00-8:30 Crossing a threshold into narrative space
- Lectio Divina as a narrative practice
  - Liminality and creating a different kind of community
  - Practicing a basic rule of narrative conversation

### Monday

- 9:00-12:00 What is “story” and what is “my story”?
- Lectio Divina
  - Core narrative ideas
  - The power of curiosity and not-knowing
  - Ordaining moments
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch
- 1:30-3:00 Case presentation using a reflecting team – the advantage of overhearing
- 3:00-5:30 Open time
- 5:30-7:00 Dinner
- 7:00-8:30 Stories of leadership before you were 20 years of age

### Tuesday

- 9:00-12:00 Earliest childhood memories – a window into one's present life
- Lectio Divina
  - Early memories and biblical narratives
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch
- 1:30-3:30 Open time
- 3:30-5:30 Weaving together ordaining moments, leadership before age 20, early childhood memories, biblical narratives, and narratives of current leadership – what metaphor captures the story?
- 5:30-7:00 Dinner
- 7:00-8:30 Case presentation using a reflecting team – practicing relentless optimism

### Wednesday

- 9:00-12:00 Reflecting on the retreat
- Lectio Divina
  - Discoveries
  - Intentions
  - Questions

## Threads for the fabric of your story:

- Ordaining moments
- Story of leadership before twenty
- Earliest childhood memory
- Biblical narrative
- Current leadership story

## Narrative practices:

- Lectio Divina
- Basic rule for conversation
- Curiosity and not-knowing
- Finding alternative narratives
- Case and reflecting team
- Relentless optimism