# Church activists see federal budget as moral document

January 6, 2006 Posted: 1/06/06

Jim Wallis,
founder of the
anti-poverty
group Call to
Renewal, leads a
budget protest
outside the U.S.
Capitol. (RNS
photo courtesy of
Ryan
Beiler/Sojourners)

### Church activists see federal budget as moral document

#### **By Kevin Eckstrom**

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-When mainline Protestant leaders assembled in the nation's capital last March to denounce President Bush's proposed budget as "unjust," they were received much like the Old Testament prophets they look to for inspiration-just another lonely voice, crying out in the wilderness.

# Church bulletin errors tickle the funny bone

January 6, 2006 Posted: 1/06/06

### Church bulletin errors tickle the funny bone

#### By Heather Horiuchi

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)-It has long been said that to err is human. But to forgive mistakes in church bulletins may be divine.

#### **Cartoon**

"Pastor said the new year is like a clean slate, so I deleted everything."

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and around the world.

# Transitions spotlight new face of Baptist higher education

Beneath the shadow of the cross. Dallas **Baptist** University students walk accross campus to classes after a chapel service. (Photo courtesy of Dallas **Baptist** University)

### Transitions spotlight new face of Baptist higher education

#### **By Hannah Lodwick**

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)-Three of the nation's largest Baptist universities each have chosen a different strategy in selecting the president who will shape the school's future. Now pundits wonder which model will emerge as the new

# 2nd Opinion: 'We are partners in shaping ... lives'

January 6, 2006 Posted: 1/06/06

#### 2nd Opinion:

#### 'We are partners in shaping ... lives'

#### **By John Lilley**

The Baylor University board of regents, in electing me as the university's 13th president, has given me a great opportunity to come back and lead an institution that had a transforming effect on my life.

Arriving on campus in the late 1950s, fresh from Louisiana, Baylor opened a whole new world to me. I not only received outstanding instruction and mentoring from Baylor professors who cared deeply about me and my calling, I was taken in by the wonderful Baylor families who worshipped at First Baptist Church in Waco. First Baptist became my home away from home. Two days after my election as Baylor's president, my wife, Gerrie, and I united with this church. It was a true homecoming for me.

### DOWN HOME Two memories to last a lifetime

January 6, 2006 Posted: 1/06/06

#### **DOWN HOME:**

#### Two memories to last a lifetime

For a few minutes, I felt like the most handsome guy on the planet.

Call it good-looks-by-association. I was still the same me, just dressed up in a tuxedo. But I had the most beautiful bride-our oldest daughter, Lindsay-on my left arm.

We stood at the back of our church, waiting for her wedding to begin. Those were golden moments-the serene calm in the middle of an enormously hectic day.

#### EDITORIAL: Lessons from an

#### exploded mineshaft

January 6, 2006 Posted: 1/06/06

#### **EDITORIAL:**

#### Lessons from an exploded mineshaft

Gladness and relief melted into sadness and grief last Wednesday morning. Like millions of Americans, I scoured the newspaper as I poured my first cup of coffee. The most important headline reported encouraging news: "12 of 13 trapped miners survive." I prayed as I poured milk over my cereal, thanking God for the safety of a dozen West Virginia coal miners I never would know.

A short while later, my wife, Joanna, walked in from the bedroom, where she had been watching TV. "What an awful tragedy; 12 of those 13 miners died," she said. I showed her the newspaper article, confident-or maybe simply hoping-the happier report was true.



She called me as I drove to work. Unfortunately, the TV report she heard had been based on the latest information: Miscom-munication at the mine led to an incorrect early report. Instead of 12 survivors, the Sago Mine explosion claimed their lives, leaving only one survivor.

# Hollywood makes peace with God-when it pays

January 6, 2006 Posted: 1/06/06

From the fanciful science fiction themes of E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (above) and Star Wars (below) to the classic Åmerican Western Shane (right), Hollywood has presented its share of onscreen Christ figures. (Photos courtesy of Lucas Films, Universal Pictures, Paramount)



### Hollywood makes peace with God-when it pays

#### **By Joanna Connors**

Religion News Service

HOLLYWOOD (RNS)-A mysterious visitor arrives from the heavens to walk among us. At first, hardly anyone believes in his existence. Gradually, though, more and more people come to know and follow him, as he teaches lessons of love to the meek and powerless.

# Wildfires destroy Kokomo church, prompt outpouring of ministry



Kokomo Baptist Church near
Gorman is pictured before
and after the fire that
destroyed its facility. For
information on Baptist
General Convention of Texas
relief efforts for victims of
the wildfires, call (888)
311-3900.

### Wildfires destroy Kokomo church, prompt outpouring of ministry

By John Hall

Texas Baptist Communications

GORMAN-Wildfires that swept across thousands of acres in North Texas burned down Kokomo Baptist Church, near Gorman.

#### **Texas Baptist Forum**

#### **Texas Baptist Forum**

#### Frog in the kettle

Your editorial chiding Christians for "angry, militant proclamations of 'Merry Christmas'" (Dec. 19) reminded me of a recent experience I had at lunch with my wife and another couple.

• Jump to online-only letters below

Letters are welcomed. Send them to <a href="marvknox@baptiststandard.com">marvknox@baptiststandard.com</a>; 250 words maximum.



"Lost: 29 trees. Gained: More light."

Calder Baptist Church

A sign on the Beaumont church's property during cleanup from Hurricane Rita. Jim Fuller is the pastor.

"Anti-Christian persecution and discrimination around the world ... is ugly, it's growing, and ... the mass media seem to generally ignore or downplay its gravity."

#### **Charles Chaput**

Catholic archbishop of Denver,
speaking at a panel discussion on
religious freedom on Capitol Hill. (The
Washington Times/RNS)
"I want to give all of my body to my
husband."

#### **Katie McMunn**

A 17-year old who promised abstinence until marriage when she slipped on a "chastity ring" at a proabstinence event in Pittsburgh. (The New York Times/RNS)

"Hip-hop has what all corporate
America wants-18-35-year-old
employed adults with growing
families. That's why you see Russell
Simmons producing clothes, Snoop
Dogg hawking Chrysler. Everyone
wants us. Why not the church?"

#### **Tommy Kyllonen**

Senior pastor of hip-hip Crossover Community Church in Tampa, Fla. (USA Today/RNS) As we prepared to partake, we held hands and said a blessing. A nearby diner rose and complained to the manager that our public display had offended him and his companion, who were atheists. The manager told him he would in the future seat the man in a prayer-free section.

#### On the Move

January 6, 2006 Posted: 1/06/06

#### On the Move

Vernon Andrews to Choate Church in Kenedy as pastor.

- Jeff Ashley to Tolar Church in Tolar as music minister.
- Glynn Beaty has resigned as pastor of Old Time Church in Riesel.

# Samford faculty oppose planned intelligent design lecture

### Samford faculty oppose planned intelligent design lecture

**By Thomas Spencer** 

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)-A planned lecture by a proponent of intelligent design has upset Samford University faculty who don't want the Baptist-affiliated school to be perceived as endorsing alternatives to evolution.