

Around the State

November 17, 2006

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- The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor campus newspaper, The Bells, won first place overall in its division and five other awards at the Baptist Press Excellence in Journalism competition in Nashville, Tenn. The UMHB yearbook, The Bluebonnet, placed second overall.

- Mark Yates has been named Baptist Student Ministries director at East Texas Baptist University. Yates had been named interim director in August. He has been at ETBU 10 years, working as an admissions counselor as well as assistant director of international education.



Adamsville
Church in
Adamsville
recently held a
celebration to
kick off the re-
organization of
its Women on
Mission
program.

Clowns
Sugarfoot and
Sugarpie
greeted the
women,
including
Director
Wenona
Conley, who
celebrated her
83rd birthday
at the event.

The use of
clowns
indicates the
women plan to
be fresh and
fun in their
ideas for
ministry,
leaders say.

- Pamela Bryant, associate professor of chemistry and chair of Howard Payne University's department of physical sciences, is one of 150 higher education professionals featured in *College Faith 3*. Bryant's testimony in the book details the financial challenges she faced as a sophomore at Augusta College in Georgia when all the money she earned during the summer was stolen from her purse—at church. Her parents could not afford to pay the tuition she had saved for, but “God's love, poured out to me through the gifts of his people,” allowed her to receive the funds needed, she said.
- Clairene and Fred Herold have pledged a \$100,000 gift for the campus building fund of Dallas Baptist University.

Anniversaries

Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

Whose Bible is it? by [Jaroslav Pelikan](#) (Penguin)

In the recent century, we saw two World Wars but also a crest in exploration of the Bible. [Jaroslav Pelikan](#), professor emeritus of history at Yale University, published this “short history of the Scriptures” last year. It is a reverent and incisive interpretation. Unfortunately, he died May 13 at 82.

Preachers and Sunday school teachers like to get background information for their presentations, and this would be an excellent source. For example, do we let the whole message of the Christian faith rise and fall on the doctrine of inerrancy? And where does the Koran fall into the procession of sacred Middle Eastern documents?



What are you reading that other Texas Baptists would find helpful? Send suggestions and reviews to books@baptiststandard.com.

There is a whole seminar in less than 300 pages in Pelikan's sweep through origins and relationships in the word of God.

Baptist Briefs

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Baptist Briefs

CBF names disaster-response coordinator. The [Cooperative Baptist Fellowship](#) named Charles Ray, a long-time Little Rock, Ark., resident, the first coordinator for the Fellowship's U.S.-based disaster-response team.

He'll begin his new position Jan. 1. The two-year position was created through a partnership between national CBF and CBF of Arkansas, who are jointly funding the position. Other state and regional CBF organizations are funding operational expenses for the position. Based on the disaster-response assets and capabilities of CBF state and regional organizations, Ray will develop a national disaster-response plan for the Fellowship. He also will work with governmental and non-profit agencies to respond quickly to disasters, especially in the formation and dispatch of an initial response team.

N.C. Baptists reject bylaw changes. Messengers to the annual [North Carolina Baptist state convention](#) meeting struck down proposed bylaw changes that would have given convention-related institutions more influence over the appointment of trustees and directors. The proposed amendments, more than a year in the making and supported by convention officials, received just 38 percent of the 2,198 ballots cast in the Nov. 14 meeting. Some observers say the move could trigger an exodus of N.C. Baptist colleges and other convention-related entities, which have sought more control over selection of trustees. Even before the convention, one institution signaled it will exercise more autonomy over trustee elections. [Wingate University](#) in Wingate, N.C., announced a plan to use an option in convention and university bylaws that allows it to appoint up to 50 percent of its trustees.

Endowments provide churches a financial safety net

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Endowments provide churches a financial safety net

By Michael Tomberlin

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)—Endowments long have been a source of income for colleges and charities. Now, more churches are getting in on the act.

Churches have begun setting up foundations or have started turning to denominational officials to help them prepare for the moment when generous members name them in a will.

**Pastors face stresses,
challenges of corporate**

CEOâs

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Pastors face stresses, challenges of corporate CEO's

By Greg Garrison

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS) —[New Hope Baptist Church](#) Pastor Gregory Clarke sometimes feels like the CEO of a major corporation—or more than one.

“I’m president of three corporations, superintendent of the school and pastor of the church,” Clarke said. Make that two campuses, with a combined membership of 3,000 people.

The business side of religion:

- Pastors face stresses, challenges of corporate CEOs
 - [Congregations embrace the business side of religion](#)
 - [Endowments provide churches a financial safety net](#)

Gregory
Clarke is
pastor of
New Hope
Baptist
Church in
Birmingham,
Ala., and has
many of the
same duties
as a CEO.
(RNS photo
by Steve
Barnette/*The
Birmingham
News*)

Congregations embrace the business side of religion

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Congregations embrace

the business side of religion

By Greg Garrison

Religion News Service

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (RNS)—Generating as much as \$25 million a year through 105 ministries, [Briarwood Presbyterian Church](#) touches the world like a multinational corporation.

“Fifty cents of every dollar goes outside the church—whether it’s Campus Outreach or Bangladesh,” said Bruce Stallings, Briarwood’s executive pastor. “We are able to support missions all around the world.”

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Bryan Gunn,
minister of
administration
at Shades
Mountain
Baptist Church
in Birmingham,
Ala., is a
former
accountant. He
said, "There's a
need to step up
to a higher
level of
professionalism
and
accountability
within
churches."
(RNS photo by
Mark
Almond/The
Birmingham
News)

Cartoon

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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.

African-American rally focuses on worship & thanksgiving

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A choir sings during the worship service at a BGCT-sponsored rally for African-American Baptists. (Photo by Jenny Pope)

African-American rally focuses on worship & thanksgiving

By Jenny Pope

Buckner International

LEWISVILLE—Hundreds of African-American Texas Baptists gathered at Westside Baptist Church to worship God and give thanks for the growth of African-American churches in the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

“We haven’t gotten to where we want to be, but we’re further than we used to be,” said Oscar Epps, founding pastor of Community Baptist Church in DeSoto.



Battle of the Bands winner

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