

Longview church in home of its own

July 7, 2006
Posted: 7/07/06

Longview church in home of its own

By Laura Frase

Communications Intern

LONGVIEW—As a worship service ends, Pastor Willie Cabrera invites church members and visitors to move from the sanctuary to a fellowship event in the church's kitchen.

It's a special time because having a kitchen to move to—or a worship center to move from—marks a new day for Primera Iglesia Bautista in Longview.

Charges dismissed against Missouri institutions

July 7, 2006
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Charges dismissed against Missouri institutions

By **Vicki Brown**

Word & Way

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. (ABP)—A Missouri judge dismissed conspiracy charges June 27 filed by the Missouri Baptist Convention against four Baptist entities, but the convention may appeal the ruling.

Cole County Circuit Court Judge Thomas Brown dismissed conspiracy counts against the Baptist Home, Word & Way, the Missouri Baptist Foundation and Windermere Baptist Conference Center.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Carlos Alvarez** to Primera Iglesia in Buffalo as pastor.
- **Everett Barry** to Oak Crest Church in Midlothian as interim pastor.
- **Corey Bearden** to First Church in San Marcos as minister to students from Park Meadows Church in Waxahachie, where he was youth pastor.

- **Richard Boswell** to First Church in Sinton as transitional pastor.
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Single ministers face multiple hurdles

July 7, 2006

Posted: 7/07/06

Single ministers face multiple hurdles

By George Henson

Staff Writer

Churches that point to biblical proof-texts as their basis for excluding women from consideration as pastors may not look to the Bible when they discount single men, as well. But single men have almost as hard a time as women finding ministerial positions—especially as pastors—in Texas Baptist churches, some observers noted.

Student placement staff at Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary and Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon Seminary say the lack of a wife can make the search for a place of service difficult.

Lawyers see future in stem-cell research

July 7, 2006
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Lawyers see future in stem-cell research

By Kate Coscarelli

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Since its beginnings, stem-cell research has attracted attention from doctors, politicians and religious activists.

Now that the field is moving from theoretical musings to practical applications, add one more group—lawyers.

Preparation eases jitters for first-time church campers

July 7, 2006
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Preparation eases jitters for first-time church campers

By Laura Frase

Communications Intern

With summer in full swing, youth pack their bags for church camp, stuffing their Bible between sunscreen and T-shirts.

Anticipation brings a wide range of emotions among campers. Some are church camp veterans, excited about worship and luaus; others face their first camp experience as anxious as their first day of school.

Summer Camp High: Follow-up important

July 7, 2006

Posted: 7/07/06

Staff leaders
join teens in
worship at a
Mount
Lebanon
Baptist
Encampment
youth camp.
(Photos by
Laura Frase)

Summer Camp High: Follow-up important

By Laura Frase

Communications Intern

With summer church camp professions of faith in Christ soaring to more than 9,000 last year in Texas and rededications hovering at 8,000, some church leaders express concern about a “camp high.”

They question whether youth will stand by their decisions or if their commitments are based on peer pressure and overwhelming emotions.

Rhonda O’Banion of Heart of Texas Baptist Camp and Mike Leamon of Chaparral Baptist Assembly believe it’s a mixture of both.



Campers paint diuring a crafts session.

Superheroes draw on universal themes

July 7, 2006

Posted: 7/07/06

Superheroes draw on universal themes

By Lauren Kirk

Special to the Baptist Standard

Dazzling special effects and out-of-this-world action un-doubtedly attract viewers to the big-screen versions of popular superheroes like Superman, Batman and X-Men. But Baylor University English Professor Greg Garrett believes an even more powerful force draws people into these comic book-

inspired adventures.

Superhero stories “communicate important truths about the way we live,” Garrett said. “These are powerful stories with larger-than-life characters.”

Texas Tidbits

July 7, 2006

Posted: 7/07/06



Texas Tidbits

Baylor Social Work receives \$1.1 million grant. The Baylor University School of Social Work’s Center for Family and Community Ministries was awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the Christ Is Our Salvation private foundation, to be administered over the next three years. The grant to strengthen congregational community ministries will focus on educating future community ministry leaders for churches; preparing leaders through internships; producing community ministry resources and training for churches; and publishing a quarterly journal as a resource for church leaders. As part of the grant proposal, the center will name Gaynor Yancey, associate dean for baccalaureate studies in the School of Social Work, as associate professor of church and community.

Wayland names alumni development director. Danny Andrews, longtime editor of the Plainview Daily Herald, has been named director of

alumni development for Wayland Baptist University. He succeeds Joe Provence, who has served as the university's alumni director since 1985. Andrews, who graduated from Wayland in 1972, began working at the Herald as a sports writer in 1967. He took the position of sports editor in 1970 and was promoted to editor in 1978. In his new position, Andrews will be responsible for fundraising efforts among Wayland alumni, including the annual fund and endowment campaigns. He also will plan all the homecoming events and activities and oversee the alumni publication, Footprints. Andrews' wife, Carolyn, is administrative assistant to Wayland President Paul Armes. The Andrewses have three children—Brandon, of Tampa, Fla., Kayla of Carrollton and Brad of Lubbock.

TOGETHER: BGCT: Working separately & together

July 7, 2006

Posted: 7/07/06

TOGETHER: BGCT: Working separately & together

Have you ever watched three or four friends build something on a free Saturday? If they're smart, they start early, divvy up the work in a way that best suits their talents and go to work. They don't all do the same thing at the same time. They work both separately and together; and, in the end, if

they've worked well, they build something that will last.

Baptists are like those building friends. We come together, divvy up the work and go at it. Churches and conventions work both separately and together; and, in the end, we've built something special. Of course, we know that it is God building through us, but we surely are part of the work (1 Corinthians 3:9).



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

The Baptist General Convention of Texas helps churches in a unified project of kingdom building; but churches are the most important element. Together, we're like those building friends. We've got a job to do, and it sure helps to have friends helping. It makes the effort more enjoyable, and you get a lot more done.

Many people today just do not grasp how Baptists work. It's hard for them to understand that churches, the BGCT, and other Baptist bodies can all be autonomous and yet work together—having a kingdom goal and working cooperatively.

Cybercolumn by Berry Simpson: Workover

July 7, 2006
Posted: 7/07/06

CYBER COLUMN: Workover

By Berry Simpson

When I opened my mail I found an ID, card and an invitation to join AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons.

So, it's finally come to that.

RIGHT OR WRONG? Ordaining divorced deacons

July 7, 2006
Posted: 7/07/06

RIGHT OR WRONG?

Ordaining divorced deacons

“I've heard about churches that are ordaining divorced and remarried men as deacons. What does the Bible say about the qualifications of deacons and marriage?”

The qualifications for deacons are found in Acts 6:1-6 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. The Acts passage reports the launch of deacon ministry. It describes how the early church commissioned seven men to attend to the daily needs of the congregation while the apostles devoted their time to teaching the gospel. The 1 Timothy passage lists lifestyle and character traits given to Timothy as he tried to organize the church at Ephesus.

Taken literally, the 1 Timothy passage renders most everyone ineligible to serve as a deacon. Just as the Apostle Paul describes character traits for the pastorate that render all of us unqualified to stand in the pulpit