

Ministers want Ohio to become ‘Political Sleaze-Free Zone’

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Ministers want Ohio to become ‘Political Sleaze-Free Zone’

By David Briggs

Religion News Service

CLEVELAND (RNS)—A coalition of Ohio religious leaders is asking for the battleground swing state to be a “Political Sleaze-Free Zone” for the 2008 election.

[We Believe Ohio](#) kicked off the campaign at rallies in Columbus and Cleveland, asking candidates and political parties to promote what they stand for and refrain from attack ads.

On the Move

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On the Move

- **Terry Johnston** to Trinity Memorial Church in Marlin as associate pastor.
 - **Jonathan Leftwich** to Fellowship of Plum Creek in Kyle as associate pastor from First Church in Rockport, where he was youth minister.
 - **Alan Morris** to Paluxy Church in Paluxy as pastor.
 - **Hal Mundine** to First Church in Sinton as interim music director.
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New book probes poetry's power to stir the soul

November 16, 2007

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New book probes poetry's power to stir the soul

By Cecile S. Holmes

Religion News Service

CHICAGO (RNS)—Poetry is that unusual combination of words with the power to move, delight, nurture and transport readers beyond the here-and-now. It also can nourish our souls, according to the authors of a new

book celebrating how poetry can kindle the spiritual in attentive readers.

“Poetry slows us down. It asks us to look—and look again. Poems have a way of reminding us we are part of something larger than ourselves,” said Judith Valente, co-author/editor of the new volume, [*Twenty Poems to Nourish Your Soul*](#).

Neurotheology opens doors for scientific study of belief

November 16, 2007

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(Art by Andrew Garcia Philips/ <i>The Star-Ledger</i>)
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Neurotheology opens doors for scientific study of belief

Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—Some scientists say neurotheology—an emerging

discipline that addresses the correlation between neurological and spiritual activity—proves God created the brain. Others claim “the brain created the god.”

At the root of the debate, some say, is the threat that faith could be reduced to nothing more than chemical reactions in the brain.

Hospital chaplains minister in the workplace

November 16, 2007

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Hospital chaplains minister in the workplace

By Jessica Dooley

Communications Intern

HARLINGEN—The workplace can be tough for someone going through a crisis. To help employees cope with difficulties at work and at home, some South Texas employers have opened their doors to spirituality in the workplace, and hospital chaplains have new avenues of service.

Joe Perez

Chaplains from [Valley Baptist Health Systems](#) in Harlingen minister to several businesses in the area. They make rounds twice a month to banks, insurance companies, auto dealers and medical-related businesses.

Consensus lacking on end-of-life issues

November 16, 2007

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Consensus lacking on end-of-life issues

By George Henson

Staff Writer

BROWNWOOD—When it comes to some of life's hard questions, answers aren't any easier for Christians than they are for other people—including questions concerning end-of-life issues.

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- [Hospital chaplains minister in the workplace](#)

A universal consensus on topics such as euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide does not exist, said John Ferguson Jr., assistant professor of political science at Howard Payne University's Douglas MacArthur Academy of Freedom and author of [Point/Counterpoint: The Right to Die](#).



Have we gone too far in the race for parenthood?

November 16, 2007
Posted: 11/16/07

Have we gone too far in the race for parenthood?

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—In Brazil, a 51-year-old woman gave birth to her own twin grandchildren. She used embryos from her 27-year-old daughter, who

had tried for four years to conceive.

In January, a Texas-based “human embryo bank” announced prospective parents could choose pre-created embryos based on photos, family histories and medical reports of the people who donated the sperm and eggs.

Many conservative evangelicals say fertility clinics have crossed the line and started “playing God” in the race for parenthood.

Ethicists in quandary over surrogacy

November 16, 2007

Posted: 11/16/07

Ethicists in quandary over surrogacy

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—The Church of England recently issued a statement identifying organ donation—even by living donors—as a Christian duty motivated by compassion and a mandate to heal. But what about donating a womb for nine months?

[Surrogacy](#)—when a woman agrees to gestate and give birth to a child for others to raise—has ethicists, religious scholars, scientists and even feminists pondering the ramifications of such an arrangement.



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Senate probes finances of six TV ministries

November 16, 2007

Posted: 11/16/07

Senate probes finances of six TV

ministries

By Adelle M. Banks

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A prominent U.S. senator is seeking financial information from some of the biggest names among evangelical TV ministries following complaints from the public and news reports of possible money mismanagement.

[Sen. Chuck Grassley](#), R-Iowa, the top-ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, gave the six ministries until Dec. 6 to turn over the records.

Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

WMU Foundation names Texans to leadership roles. Patsy Meier, a former medical missionary to Nigeria and member of First Baptist Church in El Paso, was elected to the Woman's Missionary Union Foundation board of trustees. Trustees elected James Westbrook, a layman from First Baptist Church of Richardson, as vice chairman. Other Texas Baptists on the board are Sylvia DeLoach and Joy Fenner, both from Garland.

Baylor ER expansion campaign raises \$11 million. The [Baylor Health Care System Foundation](#) announced it has raised more than \$11 million to help fund the expansion of the Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas emergency department. The building project will expand the emergency department to 78,000 square-feet and increase the hospital's capacity to treat patients requiring trauma care.

TOGETHER: Reflection rightly leads to thanksgiving

November 16, 2007

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TOGETHER: Reflection rightly leads to thanksgiving

The celebration of Thanksgiving Day is not, strictly speaking, a religious holiday, such as Christmas and Easter. But this holiday taps into some of the deepest spiritual emotions a human being can feel.

There is no emotion more powerful in convincing the heart and mind of the reality of God than the sense of gratitude that wells up in the heart when we feel warmly blessed and embraced by goodness.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
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More than one father has stood in speechless wonder as his new baby has been placed in his arms and suddenly been overwhelmed by a sense of gratitude. And after you express joyful thanks to your dear wife and appreciation to others, there are still emotions of amazement and gratitude that can only be directed to God.

When one looks into the night sky or marvels at the beauty of a breathtaking view, we are drawn into a contemplation of the mystery of creation, and we breathe a prayer of thanksgiving, almost involuntarily, to the God who brought such beauty into being.

Storylist for 11/19/07 issue

November 16, 2007

Storylist for week of 11/19/07

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- [Churches, volunteer receive LifeCall missions recognition](#)
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- [N.C. Baptists expel gay-affirming Charlotte church](#)

- [Baptist Briefs](#)



- [It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a superhero in a burqa?](#)

- [Senate probes finances of six TV ministries](#)

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- [D.C. congregation gives homeless a ride to church](#)

- [Christian leaders urge compassion in debate regarding immigration](#)

- [JEZEBEL: Did the Bible's bad girl get a bad rap?](#)

- [Faith Digest](#)



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- [DOWN HOME: Agnostic & editor agree on thanks](#)
- [2nd Opinion: A young Baptist's reason to remain](#)
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- [Explore the Bible Series for November18: Show compassion and love to those in need](#)
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