

Court hears arguments on partial-birth abortion ban cases

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Court hears arguments on partial-birth abortion ban cases

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The man who may cast the deciding vote in the Supreme Court's first major abortion cases in six years tipped his hand little during oral arguments Nov. 8.

Justice Anthony Kennedy asked a series of highly technical questions of attorneys for each side in the two related cases, [Gonzales v. Carhart](#) and [Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood](#). Calmly and methodically, he inquired about the medical and legal specifics of a subject that has provoked heated political and social debate in recent years—a procedure opponents label “partial-birth abortion.”

Wade still has support despite anger, sadness at scandal

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Wade still has support despite anger, sadness at scandal

By Greg Warner

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Rank-and-file Texas Baptists are sad and angry about the financial scandal in the Rio Grande Valley that has marred their reputation. But most say they still trust their leaders—including Executive Director Charles Wade—to correct abuses and restore confidence in the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

That was the message that emerged from the BGCT's annual meeting Nov. 13-14 in Dallas, as messengers turned back several attempts to take the matter out of the hands of Wade and the convention's Executive Board.

Arkansas OKs bingo despite

Baptist opposition

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Arkansas OKs bingo despite Baptist opposition

By Charlie Warren

Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., (ABP)—An Arkansas constitutional amendment legalizing charitable bingo and raffles passed Nov. 7, despite the efforts of Baptists to defeat it.

Amendment 1, which passed with 69 percent of the vote, will allow non-profit organizations to raise funds through bingo and raffles. It lifts a ban on such games, which were illegal under Article 19, Section 14 of the state constitution. The Arkansas Constitution also prohibits lotteries.

RIGHT or WRONG? The ethics of blogging

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RIGHT or WRONG?

The ethics of blogging

Blogging, particularly by Baptist pastors, has been in the news this year. It seems as if some of the bloggers are ignoring important ethical standards that should be applied to this technology. What would you suggest?

The web-log, or blog as it has become known, has risen in popularity over the past few years as more and more Internet-savvy individuals use this service as a medium of communication and expression. Sometimes bloggers use their sites as an online diary, sharing the various events of their lives with their readers. An increasing number of bloggers, however, are using their space on the Internet to disseminate their opinions on various topics, including politics and religion.

Executive director committed to ‘clean up the mess’

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Executive director committed to ‘clean

up the mess'

By Teresa Young

Wayland Baptist University

DALLAS—Drawing inspiration from the story of Jesus' baptism and subsequent time of temptation, Charles Wade, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board, urged Texas Baptists to listen to God's voice and discern his will for churches and individuals.

Wade acknowledged failures at some points—particularly addressing the [scandal](#) regarding misused church starting funds in the Rio Grande Valley.

Executive
Director
Charles
Wade
brings a
report to
the Baptist
General
Convention
of Texas
annual
meeting.
(Photo by
Eric Guel)

Texas WMU reschedules annual meeting

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Texas WMU reschedules annual meeting

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS—Woman's Missionary Union of Texas' board of directors voted to move the organization's 2008 annual meeting to April instead of its traditional date scheduled in conjunction with the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting.

Board members said the move will enable WMU of Texas to better emphasize its role in missions. The organization has had a one-day meeting before the BGCT annual meeting. In 2008, a two-day meeting will enable WMU of Texas to communicate more effectively what it is doing, proponents argue.

Woman
prays
during the
Woman's
Missionary
Union
meeting.

Unity emphasized at Texas Baptist Hispanic Fellowship rally

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Unity emphasized at Texas Baptist Hispanic Fellowship rally

By Craig Bird

Baptist Child & Family Services

DALLAS—There is one reason to think Christians can successfully obey Jesus' command to "be brought to complete unity," Robert Rodriguez reminded the annual [Texas Baptist Hispanic Fellowship](#) rally at Cockrell Hill Baptist Church in Dallas.

“Unity doesn’t begin with us, and it is not the result of external efforts,” said Rodriguez, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Harlingen.

Those
attending
the
Hispanic
Fellowship
meeting
worship at
Cockrell
Hill
Baptist
Church in
Dallas.

Ministry awards presented to Texas Baptist innovators

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Baylor
University
President John
Lilley (left) and
Paul Powell
(right), dean of
Baylor's Truett
Seminary,
presents Texas
Baptist Ministry
Awards on
behalf of the
seminary and
the Baptist
Standard to
Shirley Madden,
founder of My
Father's House,
Lubbock; Dick
Maples, former
associate
executive
director of the
Baptist General
Convention of
Texas; and
Jimmy Dorrell,
executive
director of
Mission Waco.
(Photo by
Robert
Rogers/Baylor
University)

Ministry awards presented to Texas Baptist innovators

By **Marv Knox**

Editor

DALLAS—Three innovators received the 2006 Texas Baptist Ministry Awards during the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting in Dallas Nov. 13.

Dick Maples accepted the W. Winfred Moore Award for lifetime ministry achievement. Jimmy Dorrell took the George W. Truett Award for ministerial excellence. And Shirley Madden received the Marie Mathis Award for lay ministry.

Around the State

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Around the State

- 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.