

Justices decline to rehear abortion case

October 11, 2006

Posted: 10/11/06

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By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The [Supreme Court](#) declined Oct. 10 to reconsider their 1973 decision in [Doe v. Bolton](#), the lesser-known companion case to the landmark [Roe v. Wade](#) decision that legalized abortion in all 50 states.

The Doe v. Bolton decision, which the court handed down the same day as its more famous sibling, loosened legal restrictions of medical procedures used in abortions.

Churches celebrate restoration after arson

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Churches celebrate restoration after arson

By **Hannah Elliott**

Associated Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—Eight months after [arsonists destroyed](#) several rural Baptist church buildings in Alabama, pastors and members from the victimized congregations joined to celebrate the churches' restoration recently with government officials and leaders from the college where two of the [three arsonists](#) were students.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley (R) and Rep. Artur Davis (D-Ala.), who themselves are both Baptists, attended the event, along with [Birmingham-Southern College](#) President David Pollick and Lemarse Washington of the [National Conference for Community and Justice](#). The February fires damaged or destroyed nine Baptist churches, all located near each other in and around Alabama's Bibb County. The fires made national headlines, calling to mind a string of suspicious fires at rural African-American churches across the South in the 1990s. However, many of the congregations in the February blazes had majority Anglo congregations.

Carson-Newman

College

president gets 'no confidence' vote

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Carson-Newman College president gets 'no confidence' vote

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Tenn. (ABP)—The faculty at [Carson-Newman College](#) reported Oct. 5 a vote of “no confidence” for President James Netherton.

Approved by a 129-71 margin, the vote was tangible evidence of growing and widespread dissatisfaction among faculty in the Netherton administration’s leadership. Two hundred of the school’s 260 faculty members voted in the hour-long meeting.

James Netherton

Cybercolumn by Brett Younger: Sitting in someone else's chair

October 11, 2006

Posted: 10/06/06

CYBER COLUMN: Sitting in someone else's chair

By Brett Younger

How do you react when you come to the kitchen table and someone is in your place? What happens when you walk into your office and find someone sitting in your chair? The way we respond says something about us. Some choose not to make a big deal out of it. We sit in another chair and try not to think about it, but all the while we feel strange sitting in someone else's chair. Others respond more directly. We have no intention of giving up our place. We immediately say, "You're in my chair. You need to move." There must be a third category of people who are not only willing, but eager to sit in a different place and see from a different perspective, but the third group has to be the smallest.

Brett Younger

Most of the time we have no desire to sit where others sit. We don't want to know the people who sit elsewhere and think differently, because we like believing that our ideas are the best ideas. We divide the world into us and

them. Like the Hatfields and McCoys, the Montagues and Capulets, we rarely question the lines—liberals and conservatives, educated and underprivileged, old and young, insiders and outsiders.

BaptistWay Bible Series for October 15: Living a life that matters a day at a time

October 11, 2006

Posted: 10/04/06

BaptistWay Bible Series for October 15

Living a life that matters a day at a time

- Psalm 90

By David Wilkinson

Bible Studies for Life Series for October 15: Take hold of contentment

October 11, 2006

Posted: 10/15/06

Bible Studies for Life Series for October 15

Take hold of contentment

- 1 Timothy 6:3-12,17-19

By Kenneth Lyle

Explore the Bible Series for October 15: The promises of God offer hope

October 11, 2006

Posted: 10/04/06

Explore the Bible Series for October 15

The promises of God offer hope

• Hebrews 6:13-7:28

By Howard Anderson

Diversified Spiritual Associates, San Antonio

Christians do not have to live with addictions, in struggles and without hope. Our hope is in the promises of God. We have an assured hope in our relationship with Jesus Christ and our future. It is God's desire for believers to live in hope utilizing our relationship with him in the here-and-now, and in eternity.

SBC urged to take measures to prevent clergy sexual abuse

October 11, 2006

Posted: 10/03/06

SBC urged to take measures to prevent clergy sexual abuse

By Hannah Elliott

Associated Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (ABP)—Members of the coalition that fought the Roman

Catholic Church's hierarchy over sexual abuse by priests are asking the Southern Baptist Convention to prevent similar clergy abuse in the denomination's churches.

Members of the [Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests](#), or SNAP, recently delivered a letter to the SBC Executive Committee at its Nashville headquarters. It asks convention leaders to form an independent review board to receive and investigate charges of clergy abuse in Southern Baptist congregations.

Bill hinders suits over violations of church-state separation

October 11, 2006

Posted: 10/03/06

Bill hinders suits over violations of church-state separation

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)—After impassioned debate on the separation of church and state Sept. 26, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would make it harder to sue the government for violations of church-state separation.

House members voted 244-173 in favor of [H.R. 2679](#), called by supporters the “Public Expression of Religion Act.” In cases involving the [First Amendment’s establishment clause](#), the proposal would prevent federal courts from requiring government entities to reimburse the legal costs of the individual or group that sued the government agency—even though the agency was found in violation of the constitution.

Family practice residency teaches Christian service

October 11, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

Family practice residency teaches Christian service

By Elizabeth Staples

Communications Intern

HARLINGEN—[Valley Baptist Medical Center’s family practice residency program](#) not only provides medical training, but also teaches health care professionals how to help from the heart.

Bruce Leibert has been working in residency programs with his wife since they married 22 years ago.

RIGHT or WRONG? Being vs doing

October 11, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

RIGHT or WRONG? Being vs doing

I heard a preacher insist Christian "being" and "doing" should reflect the same thing. What does that mean?

I am hesitant to get into the mind of another preacher. Here is one possibility: Perhaps the preacher was intent on addressing the plague of consumerism Christianity. Maybe he was speaking to the notion that a person can claim a strong faith with little evidence of commitment.

Visitors see same friendly face 52 years

October 11, 2006

Posted: 9/29/06

Visitors see same friendly face 52 years

By Angela Best

Communications Intern

DALLAS—For 52 years, whenever someone has visited the offices of Grace Temple Baptist Church in North Oak Cliff, Betty Hatfield has been there to greet them.