

# **Some churches say they'll sing no carol before its time**

December 16, 2005

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## **Some churches say they'll sing no carol before its time**

**By Ken Camp**

*Managing Editor*

The starting date and finish line for singing carols in church depend on whether a congregation follows the Christian calendar or the Hallmark calendar-and how constrained worship leaders feel by their choice.

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## **Unlikely allies defend 'Merry Christmas' greeting**

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# Unlikely allies defend 'Merry Christmas' greeting

**By Andrea Useem**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)-The movement defending Christmas as a Christian holiday has attracted some unlikely allies-religiously observant Jews and Muslims.

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## Second Opinion: The cheering of Christmas

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### SECOND OPINION: The cheering of Christmas

**By BO Baker**

We all need the cheering of Christmas. It seems the whole world recently has experienced the heaviness of hurt, stain marks unabated, and questions that have struck in powerful forms of aftershock. Name a nation-any one will do-that has been exempt from the clash of swords, the heavy thunder

of drums announcing new vistas of crime.

Yes, without question, we need the cheering of Christmas.

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# **DOWN HOME A long walk into the future**

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## **DOWN HOME: A long walk into the future**

The Big Day is nigh upon us.

By the time you read this, Aaron Britt Kahler, otherwise known as “The Most Fortunate Young Man in the Universe,” will have married our oldest daughter, Lindsay Michelle Knox.

Due to the persistent demands of publishing schedules, I'm writing this a few days before the big wedding. Still, I'm looking ahead, anticipating that day.

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# EDITORIAL Have a Merry Christmas this year

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## EDITORIAL: Have a Merry *Christmas* this year

This season may be remembered as the time when Christians went ballistic over Christmas.

In the good old days, a sign proclaiming “Merry Xmas” would send many folks huffing. The abbreviation, infamously substituting “X” for “Christ,” prompted pointed-yet-benign counter-slogans, such as “Let's Keep Christ in Christmas” and “Jesus is the Reason for the Season.”

Back then, “X” marked the spot for “Christ,” retaining the word, if not spelling it correctly. Now, many folks would gladly accept the occasional “Xmas” sign or advertisement. At least when people say the word, they pronounce it right: “Christmas.”



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# Howard Payne launches new graduate degree

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## Howard Payne launches new graduate degree

**By Laura Johnson**

*Howard Payne University*

BROWNWOOD-Howard Payne University-the only Texas Baptist school to offer an undergraduate degree in youth ministry-will offer a master of arts in youth ministry beginning in fall 2006.

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## Louisiana College retains accreditation

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# Louisiana College retains accreditation

**By Brian Blackwell**

*Associated Baptist Press*

PINEVILLE, La. (ABP)—Louisiana College will remain fully accredited, school officials learned recently, after the Baptist school rescinded several policies critics said impinged on academic freedom.

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## Boggs selected for Louisiana paper

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## Boggs selected for Louisiana paper

**By Greg Warner**

*Associated Baptist Press*

ALEXANDRIA, La. (ABP)—Trustees of the Baptist Message of Louisiana, who last month were rebuffed in an effort to dissolve their independent board, unanimously elected conservative Oregon pastor Kelly Boggs as editor.

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# Narnia movie prompts renewed debate about Lewis

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## Narnia movie prompts renewed debate about Lewis

**By Karen Long**

C.S. Lewis-Oxford professor, Christian apologist and author of beloved children's stories-continues to defy easy categorization.
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*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)-At a desperate moment in the book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, as the lion's tortured, lifeless body lies on a stone

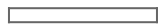
table, the writer pauses over the stricken child characters, Lucy and Susan.

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# Narnia movie echoes books' themes

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## Narnia movie echoes books' themes

**By Ted Parks**

*Associated Baptist Press*

Whether viewers find a distinctly Christian message in the new movie *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* depends on whether they found one in the C.S. Lewis fantasy novel it's based on, the movie's creators insist.

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## On the Move

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# On the Move

**Byron Ayres** has resigned as student minister at Mildred Church in Corsicana to serve a church in North Carolina.

- ♦ **Lance Bishop** to First Church in Buffalo as student minister.
  - ♦ **Mickie Chitwood** to Ephesus Church in Jewett as music minister.
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## Baptist women knit scarves, bake cookies for exotic dancers

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Volunteers at Central Baptist Church in Round Rock knit scarves for women working in 'gentlemen's clubs.'
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# **Baptist women knit scarves, bake cookies for exotic dancers**

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

ROUND ROCK-Cindy Stokes is making the Christmas season a little warmer for a group of women who work in sexually oriented businesses.