

Must states recognize same-sex marriage?_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Must states recognize same-sex marriage?

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-Will the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court's decision to legalize same-sex marriage lead to gay marriage in all 50 states?

Grand Prairie sewing ministry mends broken hearts, covers fragile lives_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Grand Prairie sewing ministry mends broken hearts, covers fragile lives

By George Henson

Staff Writer

GRAND PRAIRIE-The women of Fairview Baptist Church handcraft gifts of love for people who need a unique kind of shelter.

Can tax-funded church schools discriminate?_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Can tax-funded church schools discriminate?

By Robert Marus

ABP Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON (ABP)-If a church-run school takes public money in the form of vouchers, can it expel gay students on moral grounds?

Conservatives fail to gain ground in Tennessee_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Conservatives fail to gain ground in Tennessee

JACKSON, Tenn. (ABP)—Several attempts to place more conservatives in leadership of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and its institutions failed during the convention's annual meeting.

The convention's 1,905 messengers also adopted resolutions supporting the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment and the phrase “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance. A 2003-04 budget of \$35.55 million was adopted, which is 4.4 percent less than the current budget. The Southern Baptist Convention will receive 37.5 percent of undesignated funds, while 62.5 percent will finance the state convention's ministries.

Led by a group called Concerned Tennessee Baptists, conservatives offered seven substitute nominees to those presented for election by convention committees. All seven nominations from the floor failed.

Texas religious leaders convene to consider human needs_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Texas religious leaders convene to consider human needs

By Ken Camp

Texas Baptist Communications

DALLAS-Shared concern about human needs in Texas, particularly criminal justice and immigration issues, recently brought together leaders of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Texas Conference of Churches.

Texas Tidbits_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Texas Tidbits

✖ **ETBU honors nine.** The College of Marshall and East Texas Baptist University honored nine alumni during homecoming weekend: Madeleine Hall of Marshall received the Sallie Duncan Life Enrichment Award; Louise Bates of Mount Pleasant received the Frank Groner School Development Award; Clarence Parker of Dallas received the John Hugh Hill Scholarly Achievement Award; Rita Storie Turner of Tyler received the Wesley Smith Achievement Award; Lonnie "Bo" Pilgrim of Pittsburg received the W.T. Tardy Service Award; Rudy Robbins of Bandera received the Alumni Achievement Award; Dana Rice of Longview received the Young Alumnus Award; Bobby Spross of Orange and Frank Beeman of Crescent City, Fla., each received Unsung Hero Awards.

✖
Joe Sharp

✖ **Sharp re-elected to lead HSU board.** Joe Sharp of Granbury has been re-elected chairman of the Hardin-Simmons University board of trustees. Other trustee officers include Hilton Hemphill of Dallas, vice chairman; Inez Kelley of Houston, secretary; and Fred Aurbach of Dallas, vice chair and assistant secretary.

✖ **DBU honors Hamilton and Estes.** Dallas Baptist University honored Wayne Hamilton and Weldon Estes during the Alumni Homecoming Banquet. Hamilton, currently the longest serving executive director of the Republican Party of Texas, received the 2003 DBU Distinguished Alumnus Award. Hamilton and his wife, Kara, live in Elgin and are members of Highpointe Baptist Church. Estes, who has served as a professor at Dallas Baptist University 30 years, was named the Honorary Alumnus. He and his

wife, Elizabeth, are members of First Baptist Church of Dallas.

TOGETHER: Advent transforms darkness to light_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

TOGETHER: Advent transforms darkness to light

While serving a Baptist church in Germany nearly 40 years ago, I learned about Advent, the season of anticipation and preparation for many Christians who celebrate at Christmas the birth of Jesus Christ. And it was a time of awakening for me.

As our family observed Advent, it made sense to me. It reminded me that darkness can be penetrated by light. The first step of Advent is to consider anew the darkness, the confusion and the hopelessness that prevailed before the coming of Jesus. There had been 400 years of prophetic silence before Jesus' birth. The Jews, God's covenant people, had suffered greatly under Greek and Roman tyranny. They awaited the Messiah. Would the promise be fulfilled?



CHARLES
WADE
Executive
Director
BGCT
Executive
Board

The angel Gabriel said to a virgin girl: "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." And it scared her. It would me too! "Don't be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High."

Virginia threatens Averett's funding_120803

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/05/03

Virginia threatens Averett's funding

By Robert Dilday

Virginia Religious Herald

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)-As expected, Virginia Baptists have taken action that could end their 144-year-old tie to Averett University unless a conflict

over homosexuality and biblical authority is resolved.

Baptistway Bible Study for Texas for Dec. 21: The birth narrative_112403

December 5, 2003

Posted: 12/01/03

For use on Dec. 21

Luke 2:8-20

The birth narrative

By Gary Long

Texas Baptist Forum_112403

December 5, 2003

Posted: 11/24/03

TEXAS BAPTIST FORUM:

Doctrine & missions

Keith Eitel's letter, supported by Paige Patterson and sent to trustees of the International Mission Board, states that doctrinal issues, especially those involving women in places of authority over men, form the foundation for jettisoning all involvement with heretical missionary groups (Nov. 3).



Women are denigrated, as usual, and missionary groups who fail to follow the leader should be dropped.

Eitel, described as “one of the cutting-edge missiologists of our day,” can be seen, perhaps, as the user-friendly spokesman for fundamentalists. The “cutting” has already been accomplished in seminaries and workplaces across the convention. Those who were uprooted and cast out with neither grace nor concern are still feeling the rough “edge” to these actions.

GIVE A GOAT: Alternative Christmas gifts_112403

December 5, 2003

Posted: 11/24/03

GIVE A GOAT: Alternative Christmas gifts

By Mark Wingfield

Managing Editor

A number of Christian ministries have borrowed a page out of the Neiman-Marcus Christmas Catalog.

Cybercolumn: Preparing for Christmas by Brett Younger_112403

December 5, 2003

Posted 11/25/03

CYBERCOLUMN: Preparing for Christmas

By Brett Younger

Those of us who don't count shopping days until Christmas are counting the days until we have to start counting shopping days until Christmas. We need to stop and ask, "What do we really want for Christmas?"



Brett
Younger

In addition to a pint of Ben and Jerry's Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough ice cream, Cotton Bowl tickets and an IOU for a copy of "Who Moved My Pulpit: A Brief Amusing Guide to Almost Everything Ministerial" by Brett Younger (available in March, Smyth & Helwys Publishing) we are all waiting for a moment when we feel the Spirit of Christmas. Some of the busyness of the holidays comes from our attempts to create a lump in the throat.