# Attention to anti-gay protest group worries fellow Baptists

March 3, 2011

A tiny independent Kansas congregation composed mostly of extended family members of founding pastor Fred Phelps captured headlines when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled its controversial protests at funerals of slain military veterans are protected as free speech under the First Amendment. Many Baptist leaders balk at being associated with the group.

# If administration wonâ[][]t fight gay marriage, conservative law firms will

March 3, 2011

If President Obama and the U.S. Department of Justice no longer want to defend the Defense of Marriage Act from challenges by gay rights activists, who will? Leading conservative law firms say they're eager to defend the law, but that may not be so easy.

## Supreme Court sides with Westboro Baptist Church

March 3, 2011

The United States Supreme Court ruled 8-1 on March 2 that anti-gay protests outside of military funerals by a controversial Kansas Baptist church are protected speech under the First Amendment.

## Most Americans support upcoming congressional probe of Muslims

March 3, 2011

Americans haven't heard much about congressional hearings on the radicalization of U.S. Muslims, but more than half think it's a good idea, and nearly as many believe Muslims here haven't done enough to fight extremists in their midst, according to a new poll.

# National debt a new hot issue for evangelicals

March 3, 2011

As Washington debates President Obama's proposed 2012 budget, the immorality of the deficit has become the hot topic on right-leaning Christian blogs, radio programs and political mailings.

# Church membership trends unchanged

March 3, 2011

Pentecostals, Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses gained ground, mainline churches continued to decline and growth in the largest two denominations — Roman Catholics and Southern Baptists — remained stagnant, according to new statistics compiled by the National Council of Churches.

#### Initial picks for faith-based

# panel light on Baptists

March 3, 2011

President Obama's first dozen appointees to the next President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships were heavy on mainline Protestants but light on Baptists.

# At prayer breakfast, Obama discusses personal faith

March 3, 2011

President Obama spoke at length Feb. 3 about the daily contours of his Christian faith, brushing off the skeptics who question the authenticity of his beliefs.

### **Rosa Parks enshrined in stone**

March 3, 2011

Six feet above the vaulted entranceway to Washington National Cathedral, the rough contours of Rosa Parks' face are taking shape.

# Senator concludes probe of ministry finances, calls for selfreform

March 3, 2011

Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa has concluded a three-year probe into alleged lavish spending at six major broadcast ministries and asked a prominent evangelical group to study ways to spur self-reform among religious groups.

# Q & A: Melissa Rogers on religious liberty

March 3, 2011

Melissa Rogers, a veteran religious-liberty attorney and nationally recognized expert in church-state law, is director of the Center for Religion and Public Affairs at the Wake Forest University School of Divinity. In an email interview, she reflects on some of the major developments in her field over the last decade and where things might go in the decade that just began.

# Church-state scholar objects to 'Christian Right' designation

March 3, 2011

Observers of religion in public life have been scratching their heads about inclusion of a Baptist scholar known for advocating the separation of church and state in a recent *Newsweek* magazine article titled "Faces of the Christian Right."