

# **Megachurches continue to grow and diversify**

November 2, 2020

America's megachurches have continued to thrive over the past five years, attracting more worshippers, becoming more diverse and opening new locations, according to a pre-pandemic, national survey by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

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# **Nigerian Christians killed and churches burned during protests**

November 2, 2020

An untold number of evangelical Christians are likely among growing deaths in Nigeria, an advocate for Christians in Nigeria said.

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# **Vietnamese Baptist Church**

# **burns amid Philadelphia unrest**

November 2, 2020

The Vietnam Baptist Church in Philadelphia building was burned Oct. 27 during the second night of unrest in the city after the police shooting of a Black man.

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## **Obituary: Nathan Mulder**

November 2, 2020

Nathan Mulder, pastor of Flomot Baptist Church in Motley County, died Oct. 19. He was 76.

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## **Obituary: Clifford Dudley Marx**

November 2, 2020

Clifford Dudley Marx, longtime pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Taylor, died Oct. 22. He was 71.

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# On the Move: Noe

November 2, 2020

New addition to Texas Baptists' collegiate ministry team is noted.

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# Around the State: Wayland students collect canned goods

November 2, 2020

Students from three small chapel groups at Wayland Baptist University conducted a canned food drive for Faith in Sharing House, a food pantry that serves families in Hale County. **Kassie Lane**, assistant professor of business administration, leads one of the small groups. "We found out that with the pandemic, organizations have not been able to donate as they have in the past, and so this is actually helping them fill their pantries for our community," Lane said. The students delivered 16 boxes of donated canned food to FISH. At a time when students are meeting in small groups rather than together in a traditional chapel setting due to COVID-19, they have been challenged to develop service projects that address poverty, hunger or human trafficking. One chapel group sold cupcakes and raised \$156 for the Crisis Center of the Plains, a shelter that offers assistance to victims of domestic violence, while another collected toiletries and socks to stock a supply closet for individuals who cannot afford essential items. **Donnie Brown**, director of spiritual life at Wayland, is leading the Shine initiative, focused on the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, when he urged his followers to "let your light shine before others, that they may see your

good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”



East Texas Baptist University President Blair Blackburn presents NRG co-founders Chris Frazier, Tasha Williams, and Anna Ansari with a donation of \$1,500 toward the creation of the forthcoming Educational Resource Center and Youth Recreation Center. (ETBU Photo)

East Texas Baptist University donated \$1,500 to the Nu-Town Revitalization Group, a local nonprofit organization that strives to promote social, educational and economic awareness to improve Marshall. ETBU President **Blair Blackburn** presented the gift to NRG co-founders **Chris Frazier**, **Tasha Williams** and **Anna Ansari**. The donation is earmarked for the creation of the organization’s forthcoming Educational Resource Center and Youth Recreation Center. The center will offer a variety of services to both adults and children, including tutoring, computer access, homework assistance and resume-building. Future partnerships between ETBU and NRG may involve further donations, as well as encouraging students to volunteer, Blackburn noted. “Partnering with Nu-Town will give ETBU students the chance to get involved and enhance our community,” he said. “Part of our mission is developing Christian servant leaders that can invest

right here in Marshall. We want them to take the initiative, wherever God leads them after this Hill, to invest in their community, much like Chris, Tasha and Anna.”



Led by the Black Student Union, along with the Chi Alpha Theta and Beta Beta student organizations, Dallas Baptist University students participated in a prayer walk for unity. (DBU Photo)

Led by the Black Student Union, along with the Chi Alpha Theta and Beta Beta student organizations, 70 Dallas Baptist University students participated in an early morning prayer walk for unity on Oct. 13. “The prayer walk was an opportunity for people of all nations to come together as one body in Christ praying for unity and peace throughout this world and campus,” said **Jacob Jack**, president of the Black Student Union. The time of intercessory prayer also included prayers for the families of DBU students who recently were killed in an auto accident.



Stephen Heyde

**Stephen Heyde**, the Mary Franks Thompson Professor of Orchestral Studies and Conductor-in-Residence at Baylor University’s School of Music, has received the 2020 Arlin G. Meyer Prize in Music Performance from the Lilly Fellows Program. The prize honors a work that emerges from the scholar’s practice of the Christian artistic and scholarly vocation. Heyde received the prize for the performance he led of Gustav Mahler’s Symphony No. 2 in C Minor, “Resurrection,” presented in February 2019 on the Baylor campus. “I am so grateful for the support of Baylor University and the School of Music and for the opportunity to work at a Christian university where the full theological implications of a piece that is overtly spiritual like the Mahler can be fully and thoughtfully discussed and emphasized,” Heyde said. “In institutions without that freedom, where one must ignore the Christian implications, the effectiveness of the piece is significantly impaired. This work is about life and death and most importantly, life after death. It is a deep and emotional reflection of the faith we profess.”



Benjamin Skaug

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees named **Benjamin Skaug**, a pastor and former seminary administrator, as dean of Scarborough College, the seminary's undergraduate school. He officially begins his duties as dean Jan. 1. He succeeds **Michael Wilkinson**, who has served as dean since 2013 and who will continue serving on the college faculty as associate professor of theology. Skaug is senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, Calif. Previously he was pastor of churches in Colorado and South Carolina. He also was vice president for institutional advancement at Gateway Seminary and director of development at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned his undergraduate degree from the College of Idaho, Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from Southern Seminary, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Gateway Seminary. He and his wife Jodie have one child, Jessica.



Howard Payne University recently opened an esports lounge. (HPU Photo)

Howard Payne University recently opened an esports lounge that will host a club available to all interested students. Esports describes competitions played on multiplayer video games either in virtual or in-person contests. The program is the first of its kind at HPU. The lounge is equipped with 12 workstations, with gaming chairs and computers. The current academic year will be used to gauge student interest in the esports club, with plans for the organization to evolve into a competitive HPU esports team. Esports is coed, and there is no limit to the number of students who can compete at the club level within HPU's program. Students will compete both on an individual basis and in teams ranging from two to six players, depending on the game.



Adam W. Greenway (left), president of Southwestern Seminary, and Adam C. Wright, president of Dallas Baptist University, sign an agreement to begin a joint Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration degree during an Oct. 27 event on the Fort Worth campus of Southwestern Seminary. (SWBTS Photo)

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Dallas Baptist University have partnered to offer a joint Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration degree. Graduate students who meet both institution's requirements for admission and prerequisites for both schools can earn the MDiv from Southwestern Seminary and the MBA from DBU with certain coursework at each institution satisfying requirements for coursework at the partner institution.



ETBU seniors Mylan Shed and Shelby Nallin were named 2020 ETBU Homecoming King and Queen. (ETBU Photo)

In light of COVID-19, East Texas Baptist University refashioned its traditional Homecoming celebration into a “Home on the Hill” week of festivities. Events included a movie night under the stars, socially distanced pumpkin painting, free chicken wings while viewing the Major League Baseball NLCS Game 3 and ALCS Game 4, scrimmages involving various men’s and women’s teams and post-game outdoors that included pizza, desserts and games. On Celebration Saturday—when students gathered outdoors for a fireworks show, costume contest and Motown-themed concert—the 2020 Homecoming Court was announced. The court includes Freshman Duke **Carson Loos**, Freshman Duchess **Brooke Kendrick**, Sophomore Duke **Mark Kunz**, Sophomore Duchess **Laura Staley**, Junior Duke **Will Kelley**, Junior Duchess **Abigail Bath**, Senior Duke **Josh Hartley** and Senior Duchess **Emily Jones**. Homecoming King and Queen are seniors **Mylan Shed**, a behavioral science major from Teague, and **Shelby Nallin**, a worship studies major from Bossier City, La.

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# **Southern church coalitions seek racial reconciliation and justice**

November 2, 2020

Leaders of multiracial coalitions of churches in three Southern cities have confessed to being too “comfortable” and committed anew to “work for justice to right past wrongs” and seek racial unity.

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# **Ministry takes gospel to Spanish-speaking dairy workers**

November 2, 2020

Foundations of Faith—Fundamentos de Fe—views the dairy farms scattered across eastern New Mexico and West Texas as a fertile mission field.

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# **One pastor in three endorsed a**

# **candidate this year**

November 2, 2020

Few pastors make political endorsements from the pulpit, but a growing number publicly back candidates when they step away from their church role.

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# **ERLC brief urges court to rehear ministerial exception case**

November 2, 2020

The Southern Baptist Convention's religious freedom entity and other faith organizations urged a federal appeals court to reconsider its application of the "ministerial exception" rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court in cases involving employment decisions by churches and other religious institutions.

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# **Baylor Student Senate calls for**

# **LGBTQ policy changes**

November 2, 2020

Baylor University's Student Senate passed a resolution calling on the school to reinterpret its statement on human sexuality and add a nondiscrimination clause to its policies for student organizations.