

Patriotism, spiritual ties may pull Christians in opposite directions

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Christians' ability to transcend national pride while maintaining an appropriate patriotism especially is fraught in countries such as Russia, where national identity is associated closely with religion. Minority faiths frequently find themselves relegated to second-class status.

One Nation Under God

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When American Christians pledge allegiance to their nation and its flag—sometimes in worship services—does that reflect narrow nationalism or proper patriotism? Some Baptists believe it all hinges on how they interpret “one nation under God.”

Justices rely on standing in church-state disputes

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As the U.S. Supreme Court ends its 2010-2011 term, legal scholars say one decision is likely to resonate within church-state debates for years to come.

Texas Baptists recruiting people to serve in Joplin, Tuscaloosa

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Texas Baptists' Disaster Response is attempting to recruit 100 people to aid tornado victims July 25-30 to Joplin, Mo., and another 100 people who will serve in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Aug. 1-6.

Hispanic Convention creates its

own governing board

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Standing at the start of its second century, the Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas is seeking to move “adelante”—forward—making an impact on communities across the state with the gospel. Messengers voted to incorporate the body into a nonprofit organization with its own executive board.

Does the Star-Spangled Banner belong in the church sanctuary?

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Christians should express love for country, experts on the intersection of Christianity and public life agree, but they advise caution in how churches demonstrate patriotism in worship settings.

Partnership builds network of

social support for families

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Two Waco couples became fast friends- inspiring and helping one another- through the Family Partnership Program sponsored by Calvary Baptist Church in Waco and Baylor University's School of Social Work.

Faith Digest

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Goshen College no longer will play *The Star-Spangled Banner* at sporting events, school leaders announced, reversing last year's decision to allow the use of the national anthem for the first time in the Mennonite college's history.

Evangelicals see declining influence in United States

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A new poll from the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life seems to say just that, with the vast majority—82 percent—of U.S. evangelical leaders saying their influence on the country is declining.

Civil religion: lowest common denominator or common ground?

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Some Baptists see civil religion as bland at best and idolatrous at worst. But others view broadly shared values of liberty, justice and acknowledgement of God's providential care as a common ground Christians share with a majority of their fellow citizens.

Baptists should understand, teach church-state separation

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Because of their historic commitment to religious liberty and separation of church and state, Baptists have a responsibility to educate their fellow citizens what those concepts mean, church historian Jim Spivey said.

On the Move

June 30, 2011

Mike Cooper to First Church in Smithville as youth minister.