

Around the State

January 5, 2012

- Dillon International will hold a free adoption information meeting at 6 p.m. Jan 30 at the [Buckner Children's Home](#) campus in Dallas. A Dillon representative will give an overview of adoption from China, Korea, Haiti, India, Hong Kong and Ghana. A domestic adoption program for Texas families and adoption programs in Russia, Ethiopia and Honduras, available through an affiliation with Buckner, also will be discussed. For more information or a reservation to attend the meeting, call (214) 319-3426.

San Marcos Baptist Academy's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps has been named an honor unit with distinction, a designation received by only 10 percent of all JROTC units in any year. SMBA senior Tiara Hansen records notes as the inspector takes a close look at Company A cadets Shelby Teis, Jessie Sainah and T.J. Wilson during the Bear Battalion's annual formal inspection. Hansen, cadet commander for A Company, has been accepted to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

- "Looking Back, Looking Forward" is the theme as [Mission Waco](#) celebrates its 20th anniversary with a banquet at 6 p.m. Feb. 7 at the Waco Convention Center. Scott Todd, senior ministry adviser for Compassion International, will be the featured speaker. Jimmy Dorrell, co-founder of Mission Waco, also will present highlights of two decades of Mission Waco's ministry among the poor and marginalized. Individual tickets for the

banquet are \$40, and table sponsorships are available. For more information, call (254) 753-4900.

- [Hardin-Simmons University](#) presented degrees to 248 December graduates, including 147 bachelor's degrees, 64 master's degrees and 37 doctorates in physical therapy.
- [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#) winter commencement ceremonies featured 204 students receiving degrees—169 bachelor's degrees, and 35 master's degrees.
- [Dallas Baptist University](#) conferred degrees on 461 students, including 239 bachelor's degrees, 217 master's degrees and five doctorates. Daniel Park, pastor of New Song Church in Carrollton, received an honorary doctor of divinity degree.
- Steve Capehart, professor and chair of the department of mathematics at [East Texas Baptist University](#), retired at the end of the fall semester after 16 years teaching at the school.
- The [Howard Payne University](#) model United Nations team participated in an international conference held at the University of Nottingham in Great Britain. Students from Howard Payne represented Gabon, Italy and Rwanda, and in preparation, spent months learning about the needs of those countries.
- **Tim Lancaster**, president and chief executive officer of [Hendrick Health Systems](#) in Abilene, has been named chairman of the Texas Hospital Association's board of trustees.



East Texas Baptist University President Dub Oliver poses with President Emeritus Bob Riley and his wife, Gayle, after the dedication of the Divine Servant sculpture by artist Max Greiner. The sculpture, donated by the Rileys, depicts Jesus washing Peter's feet. It is located at the north entrance of the Ornelas Spiritual Life Center.

- **Manny Vela** has been named president and chief executive officer of [Valley Baptist Health System](#). He has served the health system the past eight years and transitions from his previous role as senior vice president and chief legal officer.
- **The women's auxiliary of [Baptist Children & Family Services](#)** provided Christmas presents for 38 children in BCFS' Family Ties program, which aims to reduce the risk of child abuse by teaching parenting skills and improving economic situations for families.

Anniversaries

- **Antioch Church in Bells**, 150th, Nov. 11-12. Kenneth VanHorn is pastor.
- **Dan Cummins**, fifth, as pastor of Bridlewood Fellowship in Bullard, Jan. 7.

Deaths

- **Dwight Baker**, 91, Nov. 28 in Dallas. A graduate of Baylor University and Southwestern Theological Seminary, he was married while serving in Germany during World War II. He had become engaged prior to his leaving for Germany to serve as a chaplain, but the military would not let his fiance, Emma, travel there unless they were married. To remedy the situation, his minister father performed the ceremony via transatlantic cable. After serving as pastor in Miami, Texas, in 1950, they were appointed missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board to Israel. While in Israel, he was pastor of the Baptist church in Nazareth, as well as the headmaster of the Baptist high school. In 1964, he became director of the Christian Service Training Center in Haifa and editor of the Arabic-language Baptist newspaper. The Bakers later served in India and Iran. After 36 years of mission service, he retired and taught Old Testament, Arabic and Middle Eastern studies at Baylor University, establishing the Middle Eastern studies program there. After retiring from Baylor, they moved to Duncanville and attended Cliff Temple Church in Dallas. With declining health, they moved to a retirement facility in Dallas, where he continued to teach Sunday school and lead Bible studies. He was preceded in death by his wife and son, Bron. He is survived by his sons, Bill and Steve; daughter, Carol Staton; brothers, Bill and Truett; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
- **Mary Jim Currie**, 94, Dec. 20 in Ballinger. A graduate of Hardin-

Simmons College, she spent nearly all her life in Paint Rock. She lived there until she was 91, when she moved to the Baptist retirement home in San Angelo. She spent the last few months in her daughter's home in Ballinger. She taught Sunday school more than 60 years at First Church in Paint Rock, where she also played the piano until she was 90. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Roy, and her sister, Jewette McLaughlin. She is survived by her daughter, Carolyn Slaughter; son, David Currie; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and seven step-great-grandchildren.

- **Charles Maciel**, 86, Jan. 2 in Abilene. He retired last October as pastor of Iglesia Ambler in Abilene, where he served 27 years. He was honored as Abilene Association pastor of the year in 2011. He was a member of the board of regents at Baylor University from 1990 to 1999, a trustee at Hendrick Medical Center in Abilene from 2001 to 2010 and a past moderator of the Abilene Association. Before moving to Abilene in 1984, he was pastor of churches in Corpus Christi and Tucumcari, N.M. A World War II veteran and Baylor University graduate, he is survived by his wife, Elva; daughters, Annette Sadler and Toni Jo Adams; sons, Charlie and René; brother, David; sisters, Belen Garza and Eleanor Garcia; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.
- **John Hyde**, 69, Jan. 2 in Midland. He was a member of Hardin-Simmons University's board of trustees from 2003 to 2011. An HSU graduate, he previously had served on the university's board of development for five years and was a lifetime member of the President's Club. He was district judge of the 238th District Court 22 years. In 2003, he and his wife established the Richard Kim Endowed Scholarship at HSU. He taught Sunday school for many years at First Church in Midland. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; daughters, Hillary Lovell and Whitney Hyde; stepmother, Marie; brother, Billy Mack; sister, Darla Martin; and two grandchildren.

Ordained

- **Tim Berg, James Gregory, Jason Hurley, Mark Jackson, Dan Nieuwenhuis** and **Bobby Taylor** as deacons at First Church in Meridian.