

Around the State

January 19, 2012

- [The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor's](#) Christian studies forum for Feb. 9 will feature a lecture by George Harrison, director of community service and cultural affairs, on "The African-American Church." The free event in the Shelton Theater begins at noon, and participants are encouraged to bring a lunch.

David Hardage, newly elected executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board, spoke to about 1,200 senior adults at the 11th annual Day to Remember at First Church in Lancaster. The event is sponsored by the church and Dallas and Ellis Baptist associations. This year's headliner for the event, which drew about 40 churches, was Mark Lowry.

- [Dallas Baptist University](#) will host its winter Patriot Preview for prospective students and their parents Feb. 4. A tour of the campus, meetings with faculty and administrators, and an opportunity to receive information about admissions, financial aid and campus life will be included. The event is free for the prospective student and up to two guests. For more information, call (214) 333-5360.
- [Baylor University](#) has named Brian Coppola, a professor of chemistry at the University of Michigan, the 2012 recipient of the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching. The award is the only national teaching award presented by a college or university to an individual for exceptional teaching and carries a monetary award of \$250,000. He is expected to teach in residence at Baylor during the spring 2013 semester.

- [The Howard Payne University](#) board of trustees elected David Lowrie, pastor of First Church in El Paso, chairman for 2012. Robert Carter is first vice chairman, Carter Sharpe is second vice chairman and Kay Nettleship is secretary.
- [East Texas Baptist University](#) conferred degrees on 48 students during a winter commencement ceremony.

Retiring



Several faculty and staff members participated in Howard Payne University's "Mustache Wheel of Doom" fundraiser for missions. Three teams of students grew beards in preparation for spinning the wheel, which dictated how the teams that accumulated the least money for missions would have to shave their beards.

The faculty and staff members agreed to participate if an additional \$100 could be raised on the day culminating the event.

Pictured are (left to right) Brent Marsh, Shawn Shreves, Mike Daub, Keith Platte and Derek Hatch, sporting their shaves. The hirsute fundraiser collected more than \$4,000 was raised to help students engage in mission endeavors.

- **Mack Mathis**, as pastor of First Church in Wharton, Jan. 31. He has served the church 12 years and has been in ministry 47 years. He previously was pastor of churches in May, Rio Vista, McGregor and Mexia, as well as Missoula, Mont., and Hickory, N.C. He and his wife, Jayne, will relocate to North Carolina to be near children and grandchildren.

Anniversaries

- **Jeremy Lewis**, 10th, as youth minister at Central Church in Bryan.
- **Dale Wells**, 10th, as pastor of Elliott Church in Hearne.
- **Tallowood Church in Houston**, 50th, Feb. 19. All three of the church's former pastors—Russell Dilday, Lester Collins and Daniel Vestal—are expected to attend the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. Food will be served continuously beginning at 9 a.m., and exhibits across the campus will feature mission and ministry activities of the church. At 10:30 a.m., a dedication of a walkway of bricks purchased by members will be held. Duane Brooks is pastor.

Death

- **William McBeth**, 78, Jan. 6 in Arkadelphia, Ark. A graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and a member of the Cowboy Band there, he was a noted composer and conductor. A 2006 inductee into HSU's Hall of Leaders, he taught on the faculty of Ouachita Baptist University 40 years. In 2008, he established the McBeth Endowed Scholarship at HSU to benefit a student in the School of Music. He is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter, Laura Murphy; son, Matthew; sister, Laura Thaxton; brother, Harold; and three grandchildren.