

Around the State

May 20, 2010

- **The [University of Mary Hardin-Baylor](#)** awarded its first doctoral degrees during spring commencement ceremonies. Six students earned doctoral degrees, 21 received master's degrees and 281 earned baccalaureate degrees. Andy Davis, pastor of First Church in Belton, was awarded an honorary doctorate.
- **[East Texas Baptist University](#)** presented degrees to 122 students during spring commencement ceremonies. Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Randel Everett presented the charge to students.

Highland Terrace Church in Greenville held a note-shredding ceremony to mark the retirement of the \$1 million loan that financed the construction of an atrium that expanded the worship center. The loan was retired in five years instead of the 10 years contracted. In the photo, Pastor Bobby Atkins and trustee Duane Fulton look on as trustee Jerry Bench does the honors.

- [Hardin-Simmons University](#) awarded degrees to 291 students during spring commencement ceremonies. Forty-eight students received master's degrees.
- [Howard Payne University](#) conferred degrees on 148 students during spring commencement ceremonies, two of those receiving master's degrees. Charles Johnson, interim pastor of First Church in Brownwood, delivered the charge to students.
- **Pat Crump**, president of Baptist Memorials Ministries, has been named vice president of operations for Buckner Retirement Services. The move is part of an ongoing integration of the work and operations of the two retirement services ministries, which affiliated Jan. 1. He will retain his title and role with Baptist Memorials.
- **Caia McCullar**, [Dallas Baptist University](#) professor of music and director of the music education department, has been named the school's adviser of the year.
- **James Spivey**, senior fellow and professor of church history at the [B.H. Carroll Theological Institute](#), spoke at a May 15 military prayer breakfast at Dallas Baptist University sponsored by the Texas State Guard's 4th and 19th Civil Affairs Regiments, the 3rd Battalion Maritime Regiment and the 4th Air Wing. Spivey is a retired brigadier general in the U.S. Army who served in the U.S. Armed Forces from 1972 to 2003 and was assistant chief of chaplains. Jerald Garner, minister of music at South Garland Baptist Church and a Baptist General Convention of Texas-endorsed chaplain serving in the Texas State Guard, planned the program, which included a choir and orchestra from South Garland Baptist Church and First United Methodist Church of Rowlett. Other Baptist chaplains participating included Billy Corn, David Fish, Doug Sewell, Don Vardeman and Rick Foster.

- **Baylor Regional Medical Center** at Plano presented a \$5,000 donation to the American Cancer Society to help underwrite the society's Silver Dollar Ball.

Anniversaries

- **First Church in Kopperl**, 135th, May 2. Brian Crain is pastor.
- **Alliance Church in Lubbock**, 40th, May 9. Jessie Rincones is pastor.
- **View Church in Abilene**, 100th, June 12-13. A come-and-go open house Saturday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. includes refreshments and tours of the campus. Larry McGraw, assistant dean of Logsdon Seminary and a former interim pastor of the church, will preach Sunday morning. Mark Tolar, a former music minister, will lead worship. Ron Shuffield is pastor.
- **Walnut Springs Church in Walnut Springs**, 125th, June 26-27. A song service will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday. Former pastors have been invited to speak in the Sunday morning service that will be followed by a meal. Jason Sharp is pastor.
- **Marcus Lawhon**, 15th, as pastor of House of Worship in Brenham.

Deaths

- **Ned Hicks**, 68, April 12 in Crosbyton. Having been saved at age 9, he was pastor of his first church at age 12 in Albuquerque, N.M. After a worldwide preaching ministry, he founded Community Bible Chapel in Spur and was pastor there 18 years. He is survived by his brother, Joe Stan.
- **Ivey Miller**, 88, May 6 in Tyler. After attending Decatur Baptist College and Baylor University on basketball scholarships, he attended Southwestern Seminary. Following graduation, he and his wife, Winnie, were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board to Chile, where they served eight years. Upon his return to the United States, he became pastor of First

Church in Winnsboro, and then he served as district missionary in Hunt Association. In 1959, he moved to San Antonio to head the Mexican Baptist Children's Home for 17 years. After retirement, he returned to East Texas, where he served several churches as pastor and was instrumental in starting Bullard Southern Baptist Church in Bullard. As his health declined, he ministered at local restaurants each morning with Bible quotes, his thought for the day or a song. He was preceded in death by his first wife in 1991, as well as his brother, Howard, and sister, Grace Kight. He is survived by his wife of 15 years, Louise; sons, David, Jim; daughters, Marsha Mitchell and Susan Cox; sister, Pauline; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Ordained

- **Jerry Eddy**, as a deacon at Greenwood Church in Saltillo.