

# **IN TOUCH: Change, Alto Frio, friends & Bluegrove**

November 16, 2012

Hello, Texas Baptists. With Thanksgiving upon us, I'd like to use this opportunity to say thank you, Baptist General Convention of Texas family, for allowing me the opportunity to serve you. I remain honored and humbled to serve as your executive director. I'm grateful and blessed.

I have two announcements to share with you at this time. First, our longtime faithful, dependable and loyal executive assistant to the executive director, Myla McClinton, will retire at the end of this year. She was a blessing to my predecessors and has been so to me. It is a joy to work alongside her. Please join me in wishing her well.

David Hardage

Now, secondly, taking her place will be Elizabeth Biedrzycki. She currently serves Texas Baptists in our communications division and will move to her new position Dec. 1. I am so pleased she has agreed to work alongside and have full confidence in her ability and spirit. Now, join me in saying, "Welcome!"

These last couple of weeks have been busy, but good. I made my first trip to Alto Frio Baptist Encampment in Leakey and spoke to the Lost Maples Senior Adult Conference. Beautiful place! Thanks to Camp Director Mike Wilson for the invitation ([www.altofrio.com](http://www.altofrio.com)).

Your Baptist Building staff was blessed in our November chapel service by a great message delivered by Paul Powell, dean emeritus of Baylor University's Truett Seminary. So well done. And then, Kathleen and I enjoyed hearing him again at the retirement dinner for Lynn Craft, president and CEO of the Baptist Foundation of Texas.

I thank Cody Knowlton, president of the Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio ([www.bhfsa.org](http://www.bhfsa.org)), for allowing me to speak to their board of directors recently. They are doing good work.

What a joy it was for me to preach the Sunday morning service at Bluegrove Baptist Church. Bluegrove is 10 miles west of Henrietta. Great church!

More next time. Happy Thanksgiving.

*David Hardage is executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board.*