



BIBLICAL RECORDER

NEWS JOURNAL OF NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS

VOL. 177, NO. 9 APRIL 30, 2011

WWW.BIBLICALRECORDER.ORG



SEBTS photo

DAMAGE — Cleanup continues around the state as North Carolina Baptist Men, Samaritan's Purse and other volunteers spread out through their communities to serve. Above, a North Raleigh neighborhood was visited by one of the tornadoes that swarmed across North Carolina April 16. Students from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary volunteered during their Spring Break to help. Send your stories and photos from the storm to dianna@biblicalrecorder.org.



Contributed photo

ADVISING — Jeff Long, pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia asks members to “pray and ask the Lord what to give” to their year-round Faith Offering, which includes the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Volunteers swarm communities

NCBM responds to neighbors in need

By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Assistant Managing Editor

Most North Carolinians were surprised by the storm system that moved across the state April 16.

Blazing a trail in what meteorolo-

gists called a “squall line,” the National Weather Service had confirmed 28 tornadoes ripped neighborhoods and businesses apart, killing 24 people in the state.

“You learn that there are a lot of people who want to help,” said Richard Brunson, executive director of North Carolina Baptist Men, “a lot of people with big hearts ... a lot of people who want to do what they can to help their neighbors.”

As of April 25 Baptist Men was working in 13 locations in 12 counties:

Bertie, Bladen, Craven, Cumberland, Green, Halifax, Johnson, Lee, Onslow, Person, Wake and Wilson.

Thousands of volunteers have provided many services to their neighbors in need.

Samaritan's Purse, a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization based in Boone, responded to the disaster by sending staff and equipment to three of the hardest hit areas.

More than 400 volunteers in Bertie,

(See Volunteers Page 11)

Church shuns ‘fluff,’ gives more to Annie, missions

By Karen L. Willoughby

Baptist Press

GASTONIA — Parkwood Baptist Church expects a lot from its members.

To join the church, for example, a personal interview with one of the church's pastors is required, and in that meeting, potential members are told, “We expect you to participate in small groups,” known in some churches as Sunday School.

As a result, out of nearly 1,200 people in recent Sunday morning worship services, more than 1,000 also were in small groups, resulting in relationships that lead to a shared sense of purpose.

“Glorify, grow and go are our three goals,” said Jeff Long, senior pastor since 1999 and youth pastor the previous seven years.

“There's not a lot of fluff here. We are Bible-centered and discipleship-oriented.”

Parkwood, located in Gastonia, also is focused on missions and church planting, which can be seen in part by its giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Although it is not the largest Southern Baptist church in Gastonia, Parkwood gave more to the Annie Armstrong Offering than any other church in North Carolina — \$71,658, or \$59.81 per capita, in 2009, the last year for which statistics are available.

That amount comes from a portion of the church's year-long Faith Offering and from a special emphasis at Easter on spiritual needs in North America.

(See Church Page 11)

Board picks Blume to lead Recorder

By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Assistant Managing Editor

After several months of searching the *Biblical Recorder* named its new editor/president officially April 24.

The BR Board voted April 18 to call Allan Blume, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Boone, as its new editor.

The pastor announced the decision to his church April 24 during the church's two morning services.

Blume has been Mount Vernon Baptist's pastor for 16 years. His last day to preach will be May 15. A Gideons speaker will preach May 22, Blume's last Sunday at the church.

Blume will start at the *Biblical Recorder* May 25.

A search committee met March 25-26 interviewing three candidates for the position of editor/president. They brought him before the Board's spring meeting for a vote, which was unanimous.

Born in Charlotte, Blume has undergraduate degrees from Wingate College and Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn. He has a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has been on staff at churches in Texas, Oklahoma and North Carolina: pastor of Statesville Avenue Baptist Church, Charlotte (12 years); and executive pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte (five

years). He has held leadership positions within the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). He ended a three-year term as president of the BSC Board of Directors in 2009. He was president of the North Carolina Baptist Pastor's Conference in 1997. Blume also held positions within his local Baptist associations.



Blume

He is serving as the chairman of the Vision Fulfillment Committee for the BSC. That committee continues to tour the state listening to North Carolina Baptists and their ideas for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Because of Blume's new position he has had to resign from two SBC committees. He had recently been named to the SBC's Resolutions Committee for the upcoming annual meeting June 14-15 in Phoenix. He currently serves on the SBC Executive Committee, and will resign from that post due to SBC by-law requirements.

He shared three overarching goals with the Board — be biblical; keep the focus on the Great Commission; and glorify God.

1) Be biblical.

Blume stressed that he stands “unapologetically” on the

(See Board Page 12)

From a trial to timeless Carter serves Southeastern for 50 years

By Lauren Crane
SEBTS

On April 10, 1961, Evelyn Carter began her employment at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary on a “trial basis.” Half a century later, her trial period is over, and she is still faithfully serving.

In the spring of 1961, Southeastern’s first president, Sydnor L. Stealey approached his friend Charles, Carter’s husband, to ask if his wife would be willing to come and work as a faculty secretary at the young school. With only six faculty members at the time and one student wife working for them, Stealey was looking for someone who would be a more enduring fixture at the seminary to serve the faculty. Neither he, nor Carter, had any idea how enduring her time at Southeastern would be. On April 12, Southeastern seminary honored Carter for her year’s of service during a chapel service in Binkley Chapel on the Wake Forest campus.

Fifty years ago, when Stealey approached Carter to ask her to consider becoming a faculty secretary, “I told him I needed to think about it,” she said. “I thought, ‘I’m not qualified to work for people with Ph.Ds.’ Dr. Stealey told me you never know what you can do unless you try.” After continuing to discuss the idea of working at Southeastern, Carter decided she would work for two to three months on an experimental basis.

“I was willing to try, but I wanted to start on a trial basis to see if the people I work for were happy with my work,” Carter said. “In two months I worked every day, and every day I worked, I liked it more and more.”

By mid-summer of 1961, Carter was convinced she had found her calling in life — to serve and support the work of the young Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary as a faculty secretary.

“The professors were very nice. I never thought professors and people with more education than me could be so kind. They were like me. They were smarter than I was, but they never let

me think they were smarter than I was. I told Dr. Stealey, ‘I think I have found my calling, and I am so happy. I’ll go full time, and if anything comes up to make you think I’m not qualified ... we’ll work on it.’”

Over the next several years, Carter saw Stealey’s retirement and Olin Binkley’s succession as the second president of Southeastern. Throughout the 11 years of Binkley’s tenure as president, Carter worked faithfully alongside him and the other faculty members. Although it was a period of much change and growth for the seminary, Carter said she became increasingly close with the faculty and grew to love her job more and more. Following Binkley’s retirement in 1974, Carter remembers the beginning of William Randall Lolley’s 14-year presidential term at Southeastern.

“That was the year more professors started coming in. All of them were kind, and every one that came I loved them more. It was like a big, happy family,” Carter said. The family atmosphere led Carter to freely open up with the professors when she felt overwhelmed with work. “When I first started, I was young, and very careful with them. During Dr. Binkley’s and Dr. Lolley’s administrations, I got bolder. I had that privilege, and we got along great.”

As Lewis Drummond, Paige Patterson and Daniel Akin took over the presidency of Southeastern, Carter continued to work at the seminary in whatever office needed her. Although she never worked in Stephens-Mackie Hall, throughout her 50 years at Southeastern she has held offices in every other building on campus. “Evelyn Carter has served with grace and distinction for every president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary,” Akin, president of Southeastern, said. Not only has she seen the presidents and the campus



Carter

itself change and grow, she has also witnessed the evolution of technology used in the office.

“When I started, they didn’t know how to type. I started on a manual typewriter, then an electrical typewriter, then a word processor, then computers, and I got lost and have never caught up. I’ve survived through different times, different periods and different experiences.”

In the late 1980s, as Carter’s husband’s health was failing, she was given the ability to take time off to care for her husband and household. “The year my husband died, he had been sick and had to go to Duke for various things.

“We were in and out of the hospital for two years. I told Dr. Lolley, ‘I’m taking off, but I’m using my vacation time.’” Lolley told Carter not to use vacation time, but to care for her husband and let Southeastern care for her. One way they did this, Carter said, was by having professors come to their home to help pick butterbeans and plant corn in their garden — a task Carter was unable to do alone.

“Those years were the most special to me, and they are years I’ll never forget, and professors I’ll never forget,” Carter said. Although she considered retiring shortly after her husband’s death in 1988, Carter said she realized serving Southeastern professors was a blessing to her. “I didn’t want to be at home, with nobody there but me. That wouldn’t be good for me. I wanted to be active.”

Carter’s active lifestyle led her to

take a trip to Israel in 1996, something she and her husband had been planning to do together before his death. “We were going to travel some, and in 1996 Southeastern gave me financial help to go to Israel. That was the highlight of my years. I never thought I’d be able to do that, and to go with one of the professors I had worked with was wonderful.”

Carter, who does not have any definitive plans to retire from serving at Southeastern, said she appreciates and is so grateful for every president of the school.

“They have served this great institution so well and allowed me the privilege of reaching a goal of fifty years at a place I love dearly. I will cherish the happy memories of every professor I have worked with during these years of service in the seminary and college. Their friendship, kindness and love will always have a special place in my heart.”

Akin said he is thankful for her 50 years of service to the college and seminary. “She has been a marvelous servant of King Jesus who brightens and encourages everyone she meets. What an incredible blessing she has been and continues to be. I love this sweet lady, my sister in the Lord.”

“The Lord Jesus Christ has blessed me in so many ways with his love, guidance, good health and strength to fulfill my goal and work for fifty years at Southeastern, a place that is dear to my heart,” Carter said. “To God be the glory, great things he has done!”

Wingate receives top honors in survey

While all North Carolina colleges and universities claim that they require liberal arts students to take courses in such “core” subjects as composition, mathematics and science, some provide exemptions from core requirements or allow a range of options so broad that the “core” is effectively lost, a new survey shows.

Released by the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, a nonprofit public policy research organization, the survey examines core course requirements at 48 of the 54 accredited baccalaureate colleges and universities in the state.

The core subjects are composition, economics, foreign language, literature, mathematics, science and U.S. history or government.

The data were compiled and analyzed by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), an independent non-profit organization that works with trustees, alumni, and education leaders across the United States. ACTA’s “What Will They Learn?” database currently includes curricula

data for more than 750 colleges and universities around the country, including the 48 North Carolina schools. The database can be found online at the following web site: www.WhatWillTheyLearn.com.

In North Carolina, as elsewhere, what students are required to learn depends on the college.

While ACTA didn’t find a single North Carolina school that requires students to take courses in all seven core subject areas, it did find one school — Wingate University — that requires students to take courses in six of the seven, earning Wingate top honors in the survey, a grade of “A.” Nationwide, just 17 other schools have received grades of “A.”

Among the other Baptist and historically Baptist schools, Campbell, Chowan, Gardner-Webb and Meredith College received Bs. Among these Campbell requires students take five courses from the seven core areas. The others only require four.

Mars Hill College received a C, and Wake Forest University received a D.



EC focuses on financial, committee reports

By **Melissa Lilley**
BSC Communications

The Executive Committee (EC) of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) met April 14 in Cary for a regularly scheduled meeting and heard committee and financial reports and appointments to new committees.

The meeting began with a Vision Fulfillment story from Bob Fulkerson, pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church in Goldsboro.

Madison Avenue is less than one mile from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, and the church has been seeking ways to minister to the military and their families.

The church recently worked with Eddie Thompson, BSC marriage and family consultant, to host a marriage enrichment event for military families.

Earlier this year Madison Avenue also hosted a conference for pastors, counselors, chaplains and lay persons involved with or interested in ministering to military personnel who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Although the church is not large in terms of size, its service in the community is an example that “it doesn’t matter what size church you are, you can make a difference,” said Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer.

Personnel matters

John Butler, executive leader for business services, reported on a change in the work assignments for the accounting team. Robert Simons resigned as comptroller in August 2010, and in his absence members of the accounting team have assumed additional job responsibilities.

Since that time, Butler and the Convention’s auditors, C. Dewitt Foard and Company in Charlotte, have determined that while an additional “set of trained eyes” is needed to review the monthly financial statements and bank reconciliations, a full time CPA or MBA staff member would prove an unnecessary expense.

Therefore, BSC senior accountant Beverly Volz

will assume many of the day-to-day tasks performed by the former comptroller. The BSC will hire a CPA to work on a contract basis each month to review monthly reports and bank reconciliations.

“This is just one example of what we’re trying to do in order to save dollars,” Hollifield said. “We are trying to examine all our staff positions to see if we can do more with less.”

Committee on Nominations

Mark Harris, Convention first vice president, brought the Committee on Nominations report. Those new appointments include:

- Craig Hamlin, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church in Apex, as 2011 chair of the Committee on Convention Meetings. Former chair Paul Crews is moving out of the state to accept a ministry position.
- Kenny Chinn, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Wilmington, as chair of the 2011 Committee on Resolutions and Memorials.
- Jim Gorsuch, member of Penelope Baptist Church in Hickory to fill the 2013 term of Barbara Hunnicutt for the Baptist Children’s Homes Board of Directors.
- Brandon Blair, student minister of Calvary Baptist Church in Lincolnton to fill the 2013 term of Laura Dunlow for the Committee on Convention Meetings.
- Michael McGirt, pastor of Faithwalk Fellowship Church in Hope Mills to fill the 2012 term of Robert Steele for the Committee on Convention Meetings.

Study committees

EC chair Bobby Blanton announced appointments to two study committees that come as a result of motions approved by messengers at the 2010 BSC annual meeting.

Phil Addison of Stony Point Church in Stony Point asked messengers to, “direct the Board of Directors to study and come (up) with recommendations concerning the adoption of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as the doctrinal statement for the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and bring such recommendation(s) to the 2011 North Carolina Baptist State Convention Annual Meeting.”

That study committee includes: Greg Mathis, chair,

Mud Creek Baptist Church, Hendersonville; Don Bouldin, Carmel Baptist Church, Charlotte; Eddie Honeycutt, First Baptist Church, Stanleyville; Cameron McGill, First Baptist Church, Dublin; and Rit Varialle, Elizabeth Baptist Church, Shelby.

Tim Rogers of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Indian Trail asked messengers to, “direct the Board of Directors to study a policy concerning the social use of alcohol as it relates to the funding of church plants, employment of personnel, and the nomination of persons serving on committees and boards of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc., and report back to the 2011 annual convention.”

That study committee includes: Mike Whitson, chair, First Baptist Church, Indian Trail; Mike Barrett, Pleasant Garden Baptist Church, Pleasant Garden; Brian Langley, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Knightdale; M.O. Owens Jr., Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia; and Marcus Redding, Hulls Grove Baptist Church, Vale.

Both committees will report back to the EC in August and the BSC Board of Directors in September.

Young leaders

The only item of new business came as Blanton asked the EC to begin considering what they can do to invest in young leaders across the state.

He encouraged each EC member to begin thinking about bringing with them to this year’s annual meeting in Greensboro one or two young leaders who have never attended an annual meeting.

As the EC and Board serve as a “strong leadership agent,” Blanton said it is time to “begin the process of trying to invest in that next generation.”

Financial report

Cooperative Program funds are close to \$7.6 million, .3 percent ahead of last year at this time. Giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is ahead 23.88 percent and giving to the North Carolina Missions Offering is ahead 5.5 percent. The next EC meeting is May 16 along with the Board of Directors meeting.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — BR Assistant Managing Editor Dianna L. Cagle contributed to this report.)

Churches may qualify for credit

DALLAS (BP) — Online resources to help small churches evaluate whether to pursue the Small Business Healthcare Tax Credit under the health care reform law are now available from GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

These resources can be accessed free of charge on GuideStone’s Healthcare Reform website, www.GuideStoneInsurance.org/Healthreform.

The resource page includes a comprehensive Q&A about the tax credit; definitions and step-by-step guide for determining eligibility and amount of the credit; and necessary government forms.

The resource also includes a webinar

with Danny Miller, a noted attorney with Connor & Winters who specializes in benefits issues for ministers.

“We urge churches to evaluate all factors before deciding whether to pursue the credit,” said O.S. Hawkins, GuideStone’s president.

“These resources provide tools to help in that process.”

The IRS confirmed in Notice 2010-82 in December that the Small Business Healthcare Tax Credit is available to churches who participate through a self-funded denominational church health plan, including GuideStone health plans.

John Butler, executive leader for business services at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, said this is something most churches overlook.

Butler encouraged the BSC Executive Committee members April 14 to check on the possibility of receiving this credit for their churches.

Butler said that churches with 25 or fewer full-time equivalents would most likely be eligible. He advised churches with one employee to avoid the hassle because of time and money.

“It could be a significant boost to your budget,” Butler said.

Baptist Children’s Homes receives perfect score

By **J. Blake Ragsdale**
BCH Communications

Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina (BCH) received its reaccreditation in February by the Council on Accreditation (COA).

“Accreditation is the highest form of validation and affirmation of excellence that an agency like ours can have,” said Michael C. Blackwell, BCH president. “It affirms that Baptist Children’s Homes is among the elite in providing the highest possible quality of services.”

In addition, the ministry was given a perfect score in its final evaluation.

COA is an independent, not-for-profit accrediting body accrediting more than 1,500 private and public organizations serving children, individuals and families in the USA and Canada. The reaccreditation process occurs every four years. BCH received its first accreditation in 1987 and has been accredited ever since.

From February 13-16, COA’s three-member review team visited BCH’s statewide locations conducting detailed examinations of the nonprofit’s residential services, administrative functions, and facilities, including interviewing 65 staff members, residents and trustees.

Blackwell received notification of the successful reaccreditation less than 50 hours after reviewers completed their visits. It traditionally takes more time for an organization to receive its results from COA.

“We scored perfect on all of the 667 individual standards COA required us to meet,” Blackwell said. “We did not receive a single written demerit.”

Representatives must evaluate their findings and prepare a written review citing any issues discovered during the process. In BCH’s case, as explained in the February 18 email sent to Blackwell by COA president Richard Klarberg, there were no faults to cite.

“Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, Inc. was expedited through the Pre-Commission Review Report process as a result of not receiving any out of compliance ratings in any of the fundamental practice standards,” Klarberg stated in his email. “Congratulations on this amazing achievement.”

Blackwell says that among the standout comments from reviewers was a glowing statement regarding BCH’s intentional Christian focus. “This particular reviewer said that out of all the faith-based organizations he has examined, none of them were on par with BCH when it came to our commitment to carrying out ministry.”

The reaccreditation process is a necessary one for BCH and other similar agencies.

“It moves Baptist Children’s Homes into a status of excellence that few organizations have achieved,” Blackwell said. “It sets us apart and communicates to our churches, supporters and friends that settling for second best will never be an option.”

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Obituary

ROBERT "PUG" GREENE, 75, of Blowing Rock died Jan. 26 at his home.

After high school, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force in Korea, Germany and France. He attended Wake Forest University and graduated from Bluffton College in Ohio. He graduated from Southeastern Seminary in 1964. He served as pastor of churches in High Point as well as Van Wert, Ohio, and Heidelberg, Germany.

In 1969, he and his wife, Mary, were appointed as missionaries to Taiwan by the International Mission Board. They served a total of 29 years in East Asia and 23 years in Taiwan in village evangelism and church planting. He was known for his administrative skills and served for several years on the Morrison Academy School Board as Mission Chairman and as Mission Administrator. He served in Tokyo, Japan, as pastor of the English language Kanto Plains Baptist Church. He later served as Mission Administrator in Macau.

After he retired in 1998 in Blowing Rock, he was interim pastor of several churches in Watauga County: Bethel Baptist, Greenway Baptist, Three Forks Baptist and First Baptist, Blowing Rock. A special opportunity was a return to Taipei, Taiwan, in 2007 for six months as interim pastor of the English-language congregation of Grace Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary Bear Greene; two sons, Joel Greene of Vienna, Va., and Michael Greene of Hickory; two daughters, Debbie Adams of Caswell Beach, and Annette Padgett of Boone; nine grandchildren; and one sister, Carolina G. Robbins of Hickory.

Memorials: Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, P.O. Box 18309, Raleigh, NC 27619-8309.

ALTON PARKER BASINGER JR., 72, died April 2 in Albemarle.

A graduate of Fruitland Baptist Bible College and Mid-Atlantic Bible College, Basinger was a retired minister who led Cottonville Baptist Church, Norwood; East Albemarle Baptist Church, Albemarle; and East Side Missionary Baptist Church, Concord. He was in the ministry for 32 years.



Basinger

He was a member of Prospect Baptist Church and active in Stanly Baptist Association.

He is survived by his wife, Maxine Campbell Basinger; two sons, Gregory Todd Basinger of Augusta, Ga., and Michael Scott Basinger of Concord; one daughter, Cynthia "Cindy" B. Smith of Marshville; three brothers, Jerry Basinger of Salisbury, Hayden Basinger of Albemarle, and Robert "Bob" Basinger of Concord; one sister, Dorthy B. Lowder of Mt. Pleasant; and 11 grandchildren.

Memorials: Hospice of Stanly County, 960 North 1st St., Albemarle, NC 28001; or Prospect Baptist Church, 502 Prospect Church Road, Albemarle, NC 28001.

JERRY FRANCIS JACKSON, 72, of Shelby, died April 2, at Mecklenburg Healthcare Center in Charlotte.

A graduate of Clinton High School, he went on to receive an associate's degree at Mars Hill College and a

Around the state

bachelor's and master's from Southern Illinois University. He finished a doctorate in higher education administration at the University of South Carolina.

Jackson began his career as a professor and then administrator at Campbell University. Most of his career was in the area of fundraising for Wingate University, the Foreign (now International) Mission Board, Samford University and Mars Hill College. He served as president of Chowan University from 1989 to 1995, during which time he led Chowan in returning to a four-year college after having been a junior college for a number of years.

He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Carolyn; his son Jerry West Jackson of Charlotte; his daughter Jami Jackson Farris of Cramerton; and four grandchildren.

Memorials: Jerry F. and Carolyn L. Jackson scholarship at Mars Hill College, 100 Athletic Street, Mars Hill, NC 28754; the Jackson Scholarship at Campbell University, P.O. Box 567, Buies Creek, NC 27506, which is named for Jerry's grandparents.

Staff changes

PHILLIP REYNOLDS has been called as senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Hickory. He was senior pastor of University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Miss.

Langston Baptist Church, Conway, S.C., has called **HAMPTON DRUM** as pastor. Drum was pastor of South River Baptist Church, Statesville.

Retirement

BILL BAILEY has retired from his position as church and community ministries director for the Chowan Baptist Association, where he has worked since 1996. He still volunteers as the pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, where he and his wife Betty live. He has been in ministry for 44 years. He also serves with Kairos prison ministry and Barnabas House ministry in the Elizabeth City area. Barnabas House is about helping inmates who have recently been released and need help getting back on their feet.

MIKE WILLOUGHBY, who has been involved in church planting in Mills River for the past seven years, has announced his retirement. For the past 43 years, he has led churches in North Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee and Virginia. Willoughby is on the Board of Directors for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He is married to Jean, who is a preschool/children's field consultant for N.C. Baptists and LifeWay. Mike is available for supply and interims: 123 West Laurel Lane, Etowah, NC, or (828) 891-5822.

Ordination

JOHN C. MALEK was ordained April 3 at Danbury Baptist Church, Danbury. Malek is pastoral intern at the church.



Church News



Contributed photo

► Four churches came together March 13-16 to hold a community revival. This was the second year for the event. Each night they met at one of the churches — **Antioch** (Timberlake), **Bethany** (Roxboro), **Red Mountain** (Rougemont), and **Timberlake** (Rougemont) Baptist churches — where one of the pastors would preach and one of the choirs would sing. The fourth night the choirs joined together. The churches are part of the Beulah and Yates Baptist associations. Each night was filled and dozens of decisions were made. Just under \$3,200 was raised for a two-year-old Hispanic church in Roxboro. From left: Dave Pryor, pastor of Red Mountain; Hal Dickerson, pastor of Timberlake; David Chambers, pastor of Antioch; and Brian Hager, pastor of Bethany.

► **Pine Ridge Baptist Church, China Grove**, hosted Timothy Sims March 20. Sims, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Shelby, is a favorite of Pine Ridge's pastor George Bradshaw. He has watched Sims on a local cable channel and wanted to hear him preach in person but did not want to take off a Sunday. Bradshaw and his wife Peggy have been at Pine Ridge for 15 years. There was a meal before the service, and special music was provided by 4-Ever 4-Given from Stanley County.



Contributed photo

► **Central Baptist Church, Hildebran**, celebrated its 50th anniversary March 27. At left: Pastor Ernest Speagle and his wife, Debbie. Gerald Goodwin, pastor of First Baptist Church, Creedmoor, led the morning service with special music from Charles & Terri Tomblin, Kindal McAuliffe, Jeanette Hefner and Central's choir. The afternoon service was led by Darrell Webb, pastor of Oak Ridge Baptist Church, Connelly Springs, with special music from Benny Johnson and Webb.



Contributed photo

► **Ebenezer Baptist Church, Indian Trail**, celebrated a note-burning service January 9 for the land purchased from Stallings Salvage. From left: Wendell Stegall; Lindsay Purser; Edd Little, assistant treasurer, deacon; Ted Price, chairman of deacons; McKynzy Nash, preschooler; Mellie Simpson, church treasurer; Pastor Tim Rogers, standing far right; and Na'Nette White, music director, sitting far right.

'Why is my church news not here?'

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to print significant news from the churches, but our staff relies on our churches and associations to send us information.



Accuracy and timeliness are enhanced if you send the information to the *Biblical Recorder* as soon as it is available (generally within two weeks after the event).

For e-mail submissions, send announcements and digital pictures as an attachment to dianna@biblicalrecorder.org.

Or, send to *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.

Mother's Day Offering makes 'all the difference in the world'

North Carolina Baptist Hospital

“I could never say thank you enough to fellow North Carolina Baptists for helping pay my hospital bill through the Mother's Day Offering,” said Jim Gentry, a member of Mission Home Baptist Church in Fleetwood. “They gave us so much hope and strengthened our faith in the goodness of God. They were a life-saver, believe me.”

God's healing hand has been with Jim through heart surgery, two carotid artery procedures, and surgery for lung cancer at North Carolina Baptist Hospital (a part of Wake Forest Baptist Health). “The doctors and staff at Baptist are just wonderful. We've been amazed at how nice and caring everyone has been. We are so thankful,” he said.

In the midst of their gratitude, Jim and his wife, Shirley, faced the burden of tremendous financial stress after his second carotid surgery. The constant pressure and worries made recovery much more difficult.

“We were having a tough time just making it. I'm retired and have a fixed income. Shirley had just changed jobs and wasn't working full time. We were covered up in bills and the debt was getting deeper. The bill collectors were calling. We were doing the best we could, but couldn't make ends meet. The stress wouldn't stop.”

When Jim's hospital bill arrived, on top of all the other bills, they were overwhelmed. “The Gentrys fell between the cracks of assistance with his hospital bill,” said Paul Mullen, director of church and community relations at North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

“They had too much to qualify for government assistance or charity care, but not enough to pay his hospital bill they were responsible for. They were burdened every day with worry and fear.”

“Christ's compassion is meant for people like Jim and Shirley,” Mullen said. “Near the heart of His agape-type love is mercy, kindness and benevolence toward others in need. That's what the Mother's Day Offering is all about. I had the privilege of sending Jim a letter that said, ‘Your hospital bill has been paid by compassionate and mission-minded North Carolina Baptists in the name of Jesus Christ and His love.’”

“When I got that letter, I couldn't keep from crying,” Jim said. “When Shirley read it, she cried, too. They were tears of relief. It took such a huge burden off our shoulders. North Carolina Baptists showed us that God is still working through His people — that He still cares about us. I'd like them to know that they made all the difference in the world.”

Mullen added his gratitude to North Carolina Baptists for their generosity and compassion for patients in need like Jim Gentry. “They are extending the hands of Christ's love through the Mother's Day Offering, helping people get back on their feet. God is at work through our gifts, drawing people closer to Christ in life-changing gratitude,”

he said. “As I've heard countless patients say, I could never say thank you enough. Please join me in praying. And please give generously as God leads you.”

Mother's Day Offering materials, including a video of patient testimonials, were mailed to every N.C. Baptist church. See video at www.mothersdayoffering.org. Materials can be obtained by calling (336) 716-3027 or email pmmullen@wfbmc.edu.



Jim and Shirley Gentry



Mullinax, Rathburn receive caring awards

Marc Mullinax, professor of religion and philosophy, and senior student Kristina Rathburn of Burnsville have received the 2011 G. MacLeod Bryan Caring Awards at Mars Hill College (MHC).

The Bryan Caring Award was one of several awards for service presented at the Mars Hill College Community Service Convocation, April 12. The Caring Award recognizes members of the college community who make significant contributions to a better community and a better world. It recognizes recipients who have made a positive impact on the community, whose involvement in the community is ongoing, whose action in the community is directed at serious social challenges and who works to connect the campus and wider community.

The award was named in honor of G. McLeod (“Mac”) Bryan, a member of the MHC class of '39, and a professor at Wake Forest University, who not only worked tirelessly for the cause of peace and justice, but influenced countless others to join the cause. This is the first year that award was presented since his death in September 2010.

Rathburn has been active in planning, promoting and participating in many service activities and events on campus. Notably, she was a lead planner for the 2010 and 2011 “Hunger Weeks” at MHC, which raised awareness of food insecurity.

Mullinax is a 1977 graduate of Mars Hill who went on to earn degrees at the University of Tennessee, Southeastern Seminary and Union Seminary in New York. He has taught religion and philosophy at Mars Hill for more than 10 years.



Rathburn



Mullinax

New Mexico Hot Air Balloon Fiesta + Arizona

15 Days **Join other Baptists September 27, 2011** from **\$1448***

Start in Phoenix, AZ and take the scenic drive north to Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon and Flagstaff. Tour the Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, and spend two nights in Albuquerque. Witness the famed hot air balloons' “Mass Ascension” opening Albuquerque's Hot Air Balloon Fiesta, plus the evening's “After Glow”, and spectacular fireworks. Next, tour more of New Mexico including Pueblo archeological sites; Manhattan Project's Los Alamos; Santa Fe; Roswell; the International UFO Museum & Research Center; Carlsbad Caverns National Park; Ruidoso; Alamogordo; White Sands National Park, Missile Range and Museum; and Las Cruces, NM. Travel east, back into Arizona, and visit Wyatt Earp's Tombstone (see the OK Corral), and spend a night in Tucson touring the Mission as part of your city tour. Travel back to Phoenix for your final two nights, and city tour, and optional Hot Air Balloon Ride or visit to the famed Desert Botanical Garden.

Autumn Leaves Tour Visits Historical East

15 Days **Join other Baptists September 17, 2011** from **\$1348***

Start in Philadelphia; travel on your comfortable motor coach, through the mountains, offering spectacular and colorful vistas. There's included fully escorted sightseeing in Philadelphia (Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell); and New York City where you'll see all the highlights! You will next visit New Haven and Mystic Seaport, CT; view the gorgeous mansions of Newport, RI; and spend two nights in Cape Cod, MA exploring Chatham and Provincetown with coastal scenery, village shops and art galleries. Spend a day and night in Boston to tour the Old North Church, The Boston Common, Bunker Hill and USS Constitution. Next, travel through the White and Green Mountains to French Canada: Quebec and Montreal (two nights each, both with city tours) then travel along the St. Lawrence River in “upper NY” to Niagara Falls for a half a day. YMT will also take you to tour Corning Glassworks, Hershey World, Gettysburg, Amish Country, and other attractions before flying home.

***Price per person, based upon double occupancy, includes taxes. Airfare is extra.**



Call for details and itinerary 7 days a week:

1-800-736-7300



MHC photo

FILLING — Mars Hill College Interim Chaplain Monroe Ashley gets his meal at the Empty Bowls Dinner. Canned food drives, a hunger banquet, a food-for-fashion show and an empty bowls dinner event took place April 1-9 for Hunger Week at Mars Hill College. Hunger Week is an annual event at Mars Hill which is designed to raise awareness and provide practical support for local agencies and charities which address food insecurity in Madison County and beyond. The event is coordinated by MHC's LifeWorks program, in cooperation with a Hunger Week Committee made up of students and staff at Mars Hill.

McGee re-elected to state position

WINGATE — Jerry E. McGee, president of Wingate University, has been re-elected to serve as chairman of the presidents of North Carolina's Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU) until 2013. Upon the conclusion of this term, he will have served an unprecedented five consecutive years in this capacity.

NCICU is the statewide organization of North Carolina's 36 non-profit, private colleges and universities ac-

credited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

A native of Rockingham, N.C., McGee has served as president of Wingate University since 1992, longer than any other current North Carolina college or university president. While at Wingate University, he has increased enrollment by 145 percent, founded a School of Pharmacy and Levine College of Health Sciences and added more than 20 new buildings.

WMU-NC plans unhindered future

By Dianna L. Cagle

BR Assistant Managing Editor

In many parts of society, girls don't matter much.

During her annual report to the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC) annual meeting, Ruby Fulbright shared the story of a missionary driving through a heavily populated area overseas. A crowd surged near a bus stop pushing a four-year-old girl in front of his car. A policeman said it was an accident but urged the missionary to pay for the child's funeral. The missionary, who was also a father, wanted to do more.

The four-year-old's father said, "Don't worry about it. It was only a girl."

Fulbright pointed out that it was only girls who began WMU 125 years ago. Fannie E.S. Heck, 24, and Sallie Bailey, a teenager and daughter of the *Biblical Recorder* editor, began meeting with other women in borrowed Methodist churches because their Baptist brothers "did not favor women in missions endeavors or church business," Fulbright said.

Fulbright shared this story April 9 during her WMU-NC executive director's report with more than 1,000 girls. The 1,036 registered women gathered at Ridgcrest Conference Center April 8-10 for its 120th annual meeting.

During the weekend of sessions the women focused on Heb. 12:1-2 and being Unhindered.

When Fulbright was just a girl, she recollects her time as a Sunbeam, learning that God loved her. She was still a girl when she learned that she could pray and bring money.

Fulbright recognized two girls and their leader. Cassie Taylor and Kianni Curry are serving as National Acteen panelists. Their leader, Deborah Taylor, guides the Acteens at University Hills Baptist Church in Charlotte. North Carolina has had eight national panelists since 2000; five of those have been from University Hills.

During 2010 WMU added 133 new organizations in 55 different churches.

Fulbright mentioned the recent news of the Royal Ambassador program returning to the national WMU. She said she and Richard Brunson, executive director of North Carolina Baptist Men, "are excited" about providing missions education to these boys.

The women approved the budget during a business session. It takes \$100,000 each month to keep the WMU-NC office and ministries running.

In January, the leadership met with Chris Gambill of the Center for Congregational Health to discuss strategic planning for WMU-NC's future.

Five things need to be addressed:

- Financial development
- Communication/technology
- Camp Mundo Vista
- Volunteer base
- Strategic planning

During the weekend sessions women were open to discuss these items with Gambill and help WMU-NC focus on dreams and hopes for the future of the organization.

She also encouraged the ladies to help WMU find a volunteer grant writer as well as some donors with deep pockets to help ensure a brighter future.

"We've used all our time and energy and resources just surviving," said Fulbright. "May we have the same courage



BR photos by Dianna L. Cagle

CUTTING — Wanda Lee, from right, national Woman's Missionary Union executive director, prepares to slice the cake to celebrate the WMU-NC's 125th birthday, as Debby Akerman, president of WMU and WMU-NC outgoing president Delores Thomas prepare to serve the slices. See photo gallery online.

and wisdom and strength to see further and to walk boldly into the future. I think that's what girls would do."

In its offering WMU-NC collected \$24,127. The funds were designated: \$15,235 for Crown Club; \$170 for Heck-Jones Offering; \$50 for prison ministry; \$75 for Camp Mundo Vista; \$345 for operating expenses; and \$8,252 for the Missions Extravaganza (ME) offering.

Each year a ministry or two is highlighted and an offering is taken. This year's ME is divided among Project HELP: Human Exploitation in North Carolina and Project Dorcas, the first Christian Women's Job Corps site in South Africa. The Crown Club was introduced at the meeting. In 1913 Heck penned a book *In Royal Service* that followed the mission work of Southern Baptist women. Those donating \$125 will be recognized as prince or princess giving to royal service of missions. A king/queen gift is \$1,250, and the royal plan is \$5,000 (divided as \$1,250 a year for four years).

One of the rooms was set aside for Project HELP: Human Exploitation Interactive Experience. Participants could learn about many areas of human exploitation in the world as well as in North Carolina and ways to respond. Women put together 300 backpacks and boxes of stuffed animals, blankets and books for ministries across the state.

Past, present, future

Three speakers highlighted being unhindered in the past, present and future. Nancy Curtis, former executive director-treasurer talked about the past.

Curtis, who lives in New

Mexico, discussed the failed first effort to organize. "Fannie and Sallie only did it because they were so young they didn't know better," Curtis said. "They were not perfect ... but they did not back away from work."

Curtis talked of the nameless ones who gave of themselves to ensure missions was supported.

"It was seldom easy," she said. "We must tell our story for no one will do it for us."

In highlighting the present, Christine Harper, a Sisters Who Care facilitator within the WMU-NC leadership network, urged the women to run with passion, purpose and perspective.

"I believe greatness was imagined for this organization," Harper said.

Women should consider those who ran before them and what they personally must lay aside — "not necessarily a sin but a weight that keeps us ... from



PARTY — Ruby Fulbright, left, executive director treasurer of Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, shows her fake identity badge to get into the SHINE party. Nancy Curtis, a former WMU-NC leader (1977-1993), also had a fake ID badge to get into the party, which was for 18- to 35-year-olds.

sharing the love of Christ," she said.

Over these last 125 years, God has been refining the women of WMU-NC, said Gina Smith, WMU leadership network specialist for children.

"We just have to be available," Smith said. "Our future depends on us being willing to be moldable and fillable."

"We don't know what the future holds. God carries that for us. All we have to know is who holds the future."

Nominations

The Nominating Committee report was approved with the following for 2011-2012:

Officers — Tana Hartsell, president; Robin Penninger, vice president; Beth McDonald, recording secretary; Dee Dee Moody, assistant recording secretary.

Members-at-large — Claire T. Presley, region 1; Brenda Rose, region 2; Jeanette Walters, region 2; Christine Matchett, region 3; Dorothy Barham, region 4; Laura Davis, region 4; Linda C. Beaver, region 5; Linda B. Plummer, region 5; Delores Thomas, region 6; Beth B. Beam, region 8; Sandi Heavener, region 8; Kristen Trull, region 9.

Sandra James, past president, led a time of dedication for the new officers and members.

In her parting address, outgoing president Delores Thomas, said she had enjoyed serving the WMU-NC and the prayers of the women involved. She pledged to continue to serve and was approved as an at-large member.



SHOPPING — Some women at the WMU-NC Missions Extravaganza peruse a display table in the exhibit hall.

Campbell, Convention throw annual Spring Fling

By Diane McClary
Special to the Recorder

A day of fun and brightness. On March 26, an event called Spring Fling was held at Campbell University in Buies Creek for people with developmental disabilities.

"I am not blessing the participants," said Macy Cook, a freshman at Campbell. "They are blessing me."

Cook, who majors in elementary education, says this event sponsored every year by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC), is dear to her heart. Her brother has special needs. Next year, Cook will be coordinating the event on campus.

Churches, group homes, and institutions have participated annually since 1983. The Saturday event drew a crowd of 220 people, twice as many as 2010.

BSC leaders would like to eventually have one at each of the state's Baptist colleges.

Many of the participants have autism, brain injuries, Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, or a combination of disabilities. A day such as this is an opportunity to set aside differences and come together for a day of love and interaction as the Body of Christ.

The Convention purchased the supplies, and lunch was provided by McDonald's in Dunn and Lillington. Crafts, activities, and games were set up in the practice gym of the Pope Convocation Center. Participants could bowl, have faces painted, or make crafts.

Campbell students volunteered to help with various aspects of the event. A Facebook event was set up through the United Campus Ministries to advertise the event, and emails and other announcements were used to spread the word about volunteering.

"There is a point where families hit a wall and drop out of church," said Susan Kubel, a special education and Sunday School teacher at Salem Baptist

Church in Apex. "We found that parents were taking turns to attend church, and that should not be happening."

Kubel brought nine children and 10 adults to the event. The group has attended the past four years.

She believes that a day like this is meaningful for the children and adults who can come together for fun activities in a structured environment. It is a rare opportunity for them to participate in church-oriented activities, and the kids look forward to it every year, Kubel said.

The event is a big gift to the parents who are able to have a day to themselves, she said. At Salem, the Special Needs committee governs the needs of those with disabilities through a group called the Precious Jewels. There is a music program called the Jewel Chimes, and they offer Sunday School with a fully staffed extended session so parents can worship, Kubel said.

"I was working in the secular field, and I told God that I would work for Him only on Sunday nights," Kubel said. "He changed my heart and I was strongly convicted. I was not using the talent that God gave me. He brought me to my knees and I surrendered and started working with the special needs program at church. The program has grown and it has been a huge blessing."

For more than 10 years, David and Wanda Hester from First Baptist Church of Lumberton have attended this event. They believe it is good to make connections with others outside of family and to rekindle friendships. They both assert that this type of event is good for people in ministry to recharge and energize themselves for the Lord's work.

Faith Beam, Campbell's campus minister, said this event is a wonderful way for students to minister to those whom they do not normally encounter.

One such student who looks forward to the event is Sara McCarthy Acosta, who works in the campus ministry office and is a Campbell graduate. She



Photo by Diane McClary

OUTLET — David and Wanda Hester bring their son DJ to the Spring Fling every year. The Hesters say the day allows families and churches to make connections and offers a time of recharging for the Lord's work. See photo gallery online.

feels connected to this "hidden" population and believes it is important for students and staff members to connect with the community.

Tyler Ward, who is a graduate assistant in the campus ministry office and student at the Divinity School, loves the uniqueness of personalities of each participant. He helped to lead the event and has volunteered in the past. He thinks that students have a chance to get out of their comfort zone and show compassion.

Brandy Whitley, a first year pharmacy student, has volunteered three years. She coordinated the event last year and serves as the community service coordinator for Campbell's Baptist Student Union. Whitley believes that it is important for Campbell students to learn effective ways of interacting with those who have disabilities.

"The biggest barrier to service is the heart," said Donnie Wiltshire, BSC special ministries consultant.

"The church should have a change of attitude to see the image of God in all people. There is a place for everyone in the Body of Christ."

Offering a Sunday School class for people with developmental disabilities allows them a creative outlet in a structured and loving environment.

Incorporating people with special needs into your service is not hard, leaders say.

They can pass out bulletins, work with children, share testimonies, serve at soup kitchens or other ministries. BSC leaders can provide information and training for those who want to start a ministry within their church.

Wiltshire said another way churches can minister to those with special needs is to help them attend Happiness Retreat at Truett Camp in Hayesville or Caraway Conference Center in Sophia.

The Western Happiness Retreat is June 3-5 at Truett Camp. Dates at Caraway are: July 22-24, July 24-26, July 27-29, and July 29-31. The retreat will feature small group learning experiences, music, drama, creative movement, worship services, and special training sessions.

Contact (800) 395-5102, ext. 5629. Visit <http://specialministries.ncbaptist.org>.

India village gets clean water from Lenoir church

By Caroline Anderson
Baptist Press

For most Americans, having clean water simply means walking into the kitchen. For a village in India, having clean water meant walking more than a mile, round trip.

One woman from North Carolina and her Sunday School class decided to shorten the walking distance for a village in India.

Katie Justice heard about the need for water in this village of more than 200 people after members of her church, Flemings Baptist Church in Lenoir, took a mission trip to work with her nephew Cal Hardison.* Hardison and his wife, Maggie, work with national pastors in the area.

Justice learned from the mission trip debrief that the only usable well in the village had not been properly maintained and the water was too dirty to drink. The United Nations estimates most villages in India do not have clean drinking water, with one in six people in the world denied access to clean, fresh water.

The Hardisons said village women going for water would bring back as much as they could carry in containers, often weighing as much as 41 pounds — while carrying their babies at the same time. This water provided for their families daily needs — drinking, cooking and cleaning.

The U.N. suggests every person needs five to 13 gallons of water a day.

Justice and several friends from her Sunday School



Contributed photo

FLOWING — No longer without clean water, a national pastor in India stands by a newly built well. Members of a Sunday School from Flemings Baptist Church in Lenoir, contributed the money to build the well.

class decided to send \$1,000 to build several wells in this village, to eliminate the mile-long walks.

"After church one Sunday night, we were talking about the church budget not having a designated amount to send," Justice said. "It seemed to us that we three, in fact, could be the ones to provide money for one or more wells."

"Providing wells was a way to put our desire to show the love of our Savior Jesus to those in need," Justice said.

The well project also provided inroads for national pastors in the area to share the gospel. One of the wells was built on the property of a national partner.

"It (the well) has created several opportunities for him and his wife to re-share the gospel and to share more stories from the Bible as the people come to his house to pump water," Maggie Hardison said.

Before, the national partner didn't have much success in sharing the gospel. Hardison said the well strengthened his credibility in the community.

"When he put in the well, many neighbors walked by and asked if they were going to be able to use it," she said.

There are two hand-pump wells in the village, one located in a government-owned school and another privately owned. The government school would not allow usage during school hours.

The man who owned the private well wouldn't allow anyone outside his family to use the pump. Villagers also were banned from using a well located on a mosque compound.

"He told them, yes, that it would be available to anyone in the community," Hardison said.

There are 10 known believers in the village, Hardison said. The majority of the village professes to be Hindu. Some of the villagers are Muslim. "People understand that the Christians are willing to help anyone in the community, despite religion or caste (class status)," Hardison said.

A second well will be dug soon for the community. *Name changed.

A woman's right to know

The most recent 40 Days for Life prayer vigil was a display of concerted, sacrificial prayer across North Carolina and nine countries: a time when Christians gathered quietly and peaceably outside abortion clinics in their communities to pray for women considering and having abortions. Christ-followers — many North Carolina Baptists in Raleigh, Charlotte, Chapel Hill, etc. — also prayed for the men and families involved. They prayed for the abortionists and their staff.

Despite a concerted effort to be non-confrontational, at times confrontation happened:

“You are just wasting your time. There is no God!”

“You hypocrites, what about the millions of starving children around the world?”

“Why aren’t you praying for the back-street abortions that take place in Pakistan?”

(from www.40daysforlife.com)

It should not be a surprise to us as Christians that when we take on biblical issues that are also socially and politically charged, we may draw criticism. The Bible tells us again and again to expect to be persecuted, yet many Christians never experience opposition.

Instead, we choose to concentrate only on the more palatable message of God’s love, forgetting an important biblical principle that it is the law that shows us our need and points us to Christ’s goodness.

Instead, when we speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15, NIV) we often feel guilty for offending someone’s politically correct sensibilities.

Let me propose a different perspective. People, including us, often drift through life with a philosophy not thoroughly examined. What a privilege, that we as Christians can gently challenge people to think again. Think again on who God is. Think again on misconceptions held about Jesus and Christ-followers. Think again on issues that are dear to the heart of our God.

One such issue is in the North Carolina legislature at this moment. It is called Woman’s Right to Know. When you first hear the details, you will likely question why anyone would oppose such a law. Who could possibly be against a law that ensures women get more information before they receive an abortion?

Information such as:

- The name of the physician who will perform the abortion
- Medical risks associated with the abortion, including psychological risks
- Probable gestational age of the unborn child
- Medical risks associated with carrying the child to term
- The opportunity to view an ultrasound and hear the

heartbeat of her child whether in the abortion facility or in another facility free of charge.

- Whether the abortionist has malpractice liability insurance
- The location of the hospital within 30 miles that offers obstetrical or gynecological care and where the abortionist “has clinical privileges”



GUEST COLUMN

Traci DeVette Griggs

The Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is challenging you to take a grace-filled and prayerful stance on this issue and speak the truth in love to your state representatives. Urge them to pass this law that will give women the information they need to choose NOT to have an abortion. If you feel led, take a step further. Communicate to your community through your local newspapers and email lists. And, of course, pray.

Pray for a peaceful exchange of ideas but recognize that there will likely be criticism, perhaps from those who also say they are believers. If Christians who stand and quietly pray outside abortion clinics are heckled and verbally assailed, it should not be a surprise that this legislation will draw severe opposition.

However, those who prayed outside the abortion clinics and stayed were often treated to sweet confirmation that they were doing the right thing. Abortion-prone women changed their minds. With joy and relief, at least 483 young women changed their minds!

As the group prayed, they watched as a young woman walked out of the facility and headed towards the cars. But then she went back inside — then came out again. The group took note, but just kept praying. She went back inside once more — and then came out a third time. This time, however, she got in her car and drove up alongside the people praying. In her left hand, she held a stack of money. In her right hand, she held an ultrasound image. She leaned out the window and announced, “I didn’t do it!”

“You could feel the peace and joy of God surrounding that young mother,” said Sally in South Bend. “We were all so moved. God is good!”

That is the hope of this legislation. This bill demonstrates hope that women and their loved ones will envision the possibility of their life without abortion.

They will see their unborn child for the blessing that it is. That they will have the information and time to make a choice that they will not regret for the rest of their lives.

For information on the bill and how to contact your representatives, go to www.clpablog.org.

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Griggs is liaison to the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. She wrote this on behalf of the committee.)

Your child's sports team, a mission field

By Diana Davis

Guest Column

INDIANAPOLIS (BP) — Ahh, spring! Kids’ sports teams are practicing everywhere. It’s such fun to encourage and support your child’s extracurricular activities. I admit, however, that I occasionally begrudged the multitudinous hours spent in practice, meets, tournaments and games.

That attitude changed dramatically one day.

I was looking around at coaches and players, and their parents, relatives and friends, when I suddenly realized that God had placed me there for a strategic purpose. Here were dozens of people who didn’t know Christ, and we would be together in those bleachers for weeks. God had called me to the “bleacher ministry.”

What if every Christian child and parent in your church saw their sports season as a mission too? Need a few fresh ideas?

1. Be intentional. Before the season begins, chat as a family about ways God may use you. Ask God to open doors and guide you.

2. Personalize. Work hard to learn names, beginning at the first practice. Study the roster and cheer for players by name. Make a point to introduce yourself to parents, and keep a notebook in your car to help recall. A simple “Hello, Heather” can mean a lot to a lonely mom.

3. Move it. Sit near different people at the games, and get to know them. Carefully avoid being part of a clique.

4. Listen well. There are needs all around you. When problems or crises occur, be ready to act. Send a card. Promise to pray for them.

5. Live it. People are watching to see if God makes a

difference in your life. Smile. Have fun. Treasure your child. Let your words, actions and demeanor reflect Christ. Absolutely avoid criticism or bad sportsmanship. Never forget that you are God’s ambassador — his “letter” to those parents who don’t know Him. As others observe your relationships, your positive parenting and your Christ-like attitude, they’ll be drawn to Him.

6. Do something extra. Be available. If you’re asked to help, do more than expected. Volunteer your yard for the end-of-season team cookout. Share game photos. Call to check on a sick teammate. Seize every opportunity to show God’s love.

7. Carry a few church brochures or invitation cards, and be ready to share them when the opportunity arises. Invite your child’s Sunday School teacher or church children’s minister to a game, then proudly introduce them to other parents.

Lastly, if your church provides a sports league, such as Upward, build a bleacher ministry into the strategy. Ask Christian parents and other church members to attend games with a ministry purpose.

An estimated 45 million kids play organized sports in the U.S. each year.

That’s a mission field larger than the population of Canada.

God can use you to impact entire families if you’ll let Him. A simple kind word. A life of integrity. Has God called you to the bleacher ministry this season?

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Davis is author of “Fresh Ideas” (B&H Publishing) and wife of the North American Mission Board vice president for the Midwest region. Visit her website, www.keeponshining.com.)

National Day of Prayer

By Milton A. Hollifield Jr.

BSC Executive Director-Treasurer

If you visit www.opendoorsusa.org and scroll down the page of recent headlines, your heart will become heavy as you read report after report of



how Christians in countries all over the world are facing persecution for their faith. Some believers are being denied the right to hold public worship services or to pass out Bibles and Christian literature. Others are

being put in prison and some are paying the ultimate price — their very life — because they claim the name of Jesus.

From natural disasters and wars to economic woes, the headlines on our televisions and in our newspapers are filled these days with a reality that is hard to face.

I shared in my last column that the North American Mission Board reports that about 259 million people in the United States and Canada do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The International Mission Board tells us that 3,726 people groups in the world are unengaged and unreached, which means they are essentially void of any evangelical presence.

Right here in our state, 5.6 million people do not know Jesus Christ.

North Carolina Baptists, we don’t need to look far to find a reason to pray. Our world, our nation, our state and our communities are in desperate need of prayer.

Prayer is our only hope for seeing a change in this world, and in our own lives and hearts. Through prayer, God unleashes His power. Scripture teaches that the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is at work in the lives of all who trust in Jesus. When God’s people pray and seek their Heavenly Father’s face, His desires and His purposes, He promises to hear.

The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 5. Will you take some time during this day to pray? Imagine the kind of revival we could see if believers across this country truly committed to spending time on their knees and on their face before God.

As wonderful as that would be, just think of the revival we could see if believers committed to this focus on prayer every single day. I fear some of us have forgotten that God has called us to a life of prayer. Our lives should, as Romans 12:12 and Colossians 4:2 teach, reflect faithfulness to prayer. As Paul encouraged the church at Philippi, we must not be anxious for anything, but in all things through prayer, bring our requests before God (Phil. 4:6).

The headlines may look grim. Yet, I am not discouraged, for I know where our hope comes from — and so do you. Our hope rests in the Lord Jesus Christ. May we come before Him in humble repentance and prayerfully plead for our Father to make His glory known in our country and in the world.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

Burning the Koran is wrong

Terry Jones and Wayne Sapp are the Florida pastors who held a mock trial condemning the Koran, the holy book of Islam, to be burned. This burning of the Koran was used as an excuse for the killing of 24 people in Afghanistan.

As Americans Jones and Sapp have the right to express themselves as they see fit. Regardless of this right, they are at least culpable in the deaths of these people. It should have been obvious to them that their reckless actions would incite violence among Muslims and this violence would be directed toward Americans, Christians and other Westerners.

Their actions were wrongheaded on many different levels. Besides putting Americans and Westerners in danger, they put the mission of our armed forces at peril in the Muslim world. They painted a picture of Americans as people who hate and disrespect different cultures and religions. They may portray our nation as the home of the free, but not the home of the brave. What courage does it take to burn a book in a free nation?

While our government cannot and should not try to silence these pastors through legal means, they should with strong and loud voices condemn such speech. Media organizations, foreign governments and Christian denominations are right to call on these men and their followers to cease from these thoughtless acts.

What bothers me more than the picture Jones and Sapp have painted of our nation is the picture they have painted of Christ and His church.

Are these men of the opinion their burning of the Koran and planned mock trial of Mohammed will advance the gospel of Jesus?

If this was their aim, I cannot fathom the logic behind their plan.

If anything, their actions have and will hurt the cause of Christ. Even within our own nation, they have portrayed Christianity as ignorant and hateful. Within the Muslim world their actions seem to prove Christianity is set on control and oppression and not forgiveness and relationship with God.

Islam is criticized as a religion that expands through conquest and violence. If this is true, do Christians fight against it with the same tools? This would be a misguided approach. Already under constant fear and oppression, indigenous Christians in Muslim nations are now exposed to more danger. Hearing of the burning of the Koran, Muslims will think, "See, the Christians hate us. They don't care about us. They just want to destroy our way of life." What opportunities for sharing and showing the love of Christ have these two pastors squelched?

Christian workers and missionaries are also placed in danger by actions such as this. Being a martyr is something people committed to Christ in Muslim cultures accept. But the exploits of these two pastors have created an even more dangerous environment for these Christians who are trying to convey the message of Christ taking the punishment for the sins of all kinds of people, including those who are Muslim.

If Christianity is true, it does not need to burn the sacred books of other religions to prove its truth. Its fruits will prove it to be so.

Pastors Jones and Sapp are guilty of disobedience to a direct command of Jesus, the head of the Christian church. Christians are commanded by Jesus' own words to love their enemies. Sometimes loving your

enemies requires actions not easily accepted by your enemies. But destroying their holy book and attacking their holy man does not show love. It only separates.

Shamefully, I often see this same mindset in myself toward my real or perceived enemies. It's natural to hate your enemies. I'm sure (we have all) wanted to put someone who believed, looked or acted different from (us) in his place. Today I saw a group of people from another religion eating beside me at a local restaurant. My first thought was what I could say to them to make them feel stupid to shame them for leading people astray.

Jesus taught Christians how to show love to their enemies. Give them water when they are thirsty. Give them food when they are hungry. Give them clothes when they are naked. These acts of kindness create an environment favorable to sharing the message of forgiveness of sins through faith in Christ.

When Jesus' disciples, James and John, wanted to call down fire on a village of the Jews' enemies, the Samaritans, Jesus turned to them and rebuked them. His point was to encourage James and John toward mercy. This rebuke would apply to these Florida pastors also.

Pastor Jones, Pastor Sapp and their congregation should publicly repent and ask forgiveness from the Muslim world. They should replace these actions with acts of mercy and kindness toward Muslims as well as sharing with them the love of Christ. I too need to repent of the same mindset and adjust my attitude to be more inline with that of Jesus.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Clayton is the publisher of The Courier-Times in Roxboro and a member of Westwood Baptist Church in Roxboro. This piece was published in a recent issue of that newspaper and reprinted here with permission. Contact Clayton at ctbrinn@roxboro-courier.com.)

GUEST COLUMN



Brinn Clayton

Church planting: What else should we be doing?

By Kevin Ezell
Guest Column

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Hopefully by now, you know I have a heart for church planters and I want to see the (Southern Baptist Convention) SBC start more Southern Baptist churches. We've done several things in my first few months at the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to help give church planting a boost. Budget cuts and staff downsizing are allowing us to put \$9 million extra on the field for church planting this year. Next year, I hope it will be \$15 million.

In one of my first trips as NAMB president, I visited some of our church planting missionaries in New England. These guys have such a passion and dedication for reaching that part of our nation for Christ. The problem is, just when they start making some progress with their church start, NAMB's funding runs out. So, one change we are making right away is to give our church planting missionaries a longer "on ramp" as they are starting their church — especially in parts of North America where starting a church is so difficult. That means in some areas we'll be ex-

tending our funding ... to four years.

In addition, we're looking at the amount of monthly funding we provide planters. Under our current funding structure, NAMB provides some planters with as little as \$200 a month. Obviously, that means planters have to look to other (or many other) sources in order to survive financially. We need to provide more and we are working now to determine a new funding structure that will include higher "minimum" monthly support NAMB will provide.

In developing our new "Send North America" strategy, we want to partner state conventions and churches with regions, cities and individual church plants with whom they want to have a relationship. That means church planters won't have to spend so much time seeking out and developing supportive relationships with churches and state conventions. We want to do more of that for them.

Those are a few things we have already done. We want to do more to help SBC church planters have maximum impact. I know it's not all about money. We also just need to make the process of becoming a church planter easier. Right now, we put up too many

hoops for planters to jump through. Yes, we need to be sure candidates are solid on doctrinal issues, but we don't need to make them fill out three different applications with three different entities before they can even be considered as a planter.

We will be working to encourage our existing churches to enlist greater numbers of members to pray for church planters. We also have a dream of seeing many, many more SBC church members serving alongside church planters in short-term and long-term

missions settings. Even brief visits or phone calls can be so encouraging to planters who are serving in difficult places. What else should we be doing? If you are planting a church — or have in the recent past — what would be most helpful to you? I really would value your thoughts and opinions as we try to make NAMB more responsive to and supportive of our church planting missionaries.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Ezell is president of NAMB. To join the discussion, go to <http://bit.ly/gF4yKV>.)

BR Board recognizes employees

During the April 18 *Biblical Recorder* Board meeting the directors wanted to publicly thank the employees who've continued to produce *BR* content through its print edition and online during the months without an editor. (See related story, page 1.)

A motion was made by Richard Hicks, vice chairman of the *BR* Board and interim pastor of East Lumberton Baptist Church in Lumberton, to voice appreciation to the staff:

"The Board of Directors of the *Biblical Recorder* wish to publicly express

our deep appreciation to the staff of the *Biblical Recorder*. During this time of transition Dianna Cagle, assistant managing editor; Amie Moore, circulation manager; and Alison McKinney, business and advertising manager; have dedicated themselves to the task of managing, writing, and producing the *Biblical Recorder*.

"They have worked long hours, often doing double duty, serving our Lord and North Carolina Baptists. From your Board of Directors, thank you for a job well done!"


**BIBLICAL
RECORDER**
(ISSN 0279-8182)
*Journal of the Baptist
State Convention
of North Carolina
Founded 1833 by
Thomas Meredith*

Volume 177 No. 9

(919) 847-2127

Fax (919) 847-6939

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Individual subscriptions, \$15.99; Clubs, \$13.79; Every Home Plan, \$12.49; Church News Service, \$11.50; Bulk (10+) \$11.50; single copies, 60 cents each. Payable in advance. North Carolina sales tax is included.

Publication

Published biweekly on Saturdays by *Biblical Recorder* Inc., 232 W. Millbrook Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27609, as authorized by the Baptist State Convention in annual session at Winston-Salem, Nov. 21-23, 1939. Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C. 27676.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Biblical Recorder* Inc., P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, N.C. 27619-8808.

Lesson for May 8

Formations

Lesson for May 15

God's Righteousness Illustrated

Focal Passage: Romans 4:1-25

Someone once said, "I'd much rather see a sermon, than hear one."

Yet, living a sermon, or always doing the righteous thing, is most difficult. All of us, if we're willing to admit it, fall short.

For example, just last week a friend told me a sad story of his former pastor, a tragic case of moral failure.

According to him, it began as flirtation with a much younger lady in his church. He thought she was interested in him; he was obviously interested in her. So he told his wife he wanted a divorce. He wanted to seek another relationship. With his family imploding, he told the new object of affection his plans.

She said, "Buddy, you've gotten the wrong idea!" In short order she left town, and the former pastor was devastated by an obsession that had left him family-less. There are no perfect human role models. Our obsessions can do us great harm. Paul would know.

Paul grew up as a devout Pharisee. He believed in the law. In his younger days he would have given his life for it. As part of the law, circumcision was a non-negotiable. If you wanted to get into heaven and be counted righteous, you must be circumcised. It was an accepted fact of life. Further, if you were not a Jew and had not been circumcised as a child, you could still "get right with God" by becoming circumcised and adopting the religion of Judaism.

There were hundreds of years of precedent.

But, then came his conversion while on the road to Damascus. From that point onward he had a different way of thinking and believing about many things, including the rite of circumcision.

Abraham was God's righteousness illustrated. He wasn't a perfect man. Neither was his wife. They both let God down numerous times.

When God promised this elderly couple a son, they thought God was crazy. When that son did not come quickly, they thought they could come up with a better plan.

Their "better plan" led to the birth of Ishmael, and while Ishmael would be the patriarch of a great nation, it was not God's plan. Isaac, not Ishmael, was the son of promise and of "faith."

The theme of this passage is that Abraham's righteousness was based upon faith, not circumcision. Young Abram was not circumcised. With his name change, he obeyed God and was circumcised at age 99. Ishmael was circumcised at age 13 and Isaac at 8 days old.

But it was never about circumcision. It was always about belief, trust and faith in God.



Wayne Proctor
pastor, Eure
Baptist Church

God's Righteousness Incarnate

Focal Passage: Romans 5:1-11

Our son is an avid windsurfer. It is one of his passions, and he describes his ability level as "expert."

Avid windsurfers like to live a bit "on the edge."

They savor days with 40 knot winds and white-capping seas.

On a recent February day he took to the water for an afternoon of windsurfing on the Chowan River where we live.

As he was crisscrossing the turbulent river, I thought to myself, "Lord, please be with him because he has no 'back-up' plan."

If his board hit him in the head on one of his acrobatic leaps, there was not going to be any rescue boat.

He had no plan-B, and neither did we.

As we get older, we tend to become a bit more cautious in our decision-making.



While I can sometimes be bold, I don't like to be dangerous. I like having a safety net. I like having a back-up plan.

Sometimes we may be guilty of thinking about the plan of God, beginning with the Incarnation and ending with the Cross and Resurrection, as some kind of plan B, a back-up plan.

We think, "If only we had been better people, if only we hadn't sinned so much, if only we had given God more sacrifices," then God would not have been compelled to send His Son.

If you have ever thought like this, then know that your thinking was wrong.

God made us and knows our weaknesses even better than we do.

God knew that sending Jesus Christ to be the sacrificial Lamb was not an option.

It was not plan B, it was plan A all along. "At the right time" (appointed moment — v. 6) God sent His Son.

The sending of Jesus Christ was the ultimate proof of God's love (v. 8). God never said we were deserving.

Neither did He say we would have made the same decision.

In fact, Paul concluded that our choosing to die for a good person, even a "saint," would be rare indeed (v. 7).

Paul describes this life as the "reconciled" life (v. 10-11). I like his terminology.

This reconciled life is a life to be lived in "peace with God" (v. 1), but also lived somewhat on the edge.

This life comes at a cost, and there is the expectation that our goal and passion will be spiritual growth and maturity.

The apostle describes this growth process as including the following: suffering, endurance, character, and hope.

Each serves as a stepping stone for the next, bringing us closer to God.

Lesson for May 8

Bible Studies for Life

Lesson for May 15

Use Your Influence

Focal Passages: Esther 4:13-17; 8:3-8

While I was in high school I worked for a gentleman that certainly gave me the most unusual interview I have ever had since then.

After speaking with me and asking the usual questions one would ask a teenager, he took me to another room and sat me at a bench where there was a rather large drawer full of all types of parts and fasteners.

His instructions were very simple: separate all of the parts into the various containers sitting on the bench.

After finishing, I went and told him I was done, just as he had instructed. He came in, studied how I had divided the parts, made a few comments, and then began to dump them back into the drawer they were originally in. After returning everything to the drawer, he smiled at me and asked if I could start the next day.

On the way out he told me I was the first person to have completed the task that year — and it was around the last of May. Looking back I am thankful I did not know the why or what he would do with all of my newly organized groups!

In the book of Esther we see a similar occurrence. For reasons beyond her knowledge and understanding, Esther

had become the Queen of Ahasuerus' kingdom. Esther didn't ask for her position and she certainly had not asked for the responsibilities thrust on her. Yet, she was a favorite of the king, a very powerful king who could take a life by merely refusing to extend his scepter.

The moment Esther realized her influential position, she in turn asked Mordecai to have the people fast before she asked Ahasuerus to rescue and protect her people.

It's interesting that God did not expect Esther to exercise her influence and responsibility until she was confronted with it and recognized it. When Mordecai tells Esther in 4:14, "Who knows, perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this," Esther immediately requests her people to fast.

God does indeed have a purpose for every believer. It is not to find self-fulfillment, reach our "full potential" or to "be all we can be." Our purpose is to bring glory to the Father by looking and acting like His Son. By using the influence given to us by God's divine plan, we fulfill our purpose and expand the influence of His kingdom.

In the process, even we might be able to see some people get "saved."



Jim Grieme
pastor, Watkins
Chapel Baptist
Church

Walk with God

Focal Passages: Ezra 7:1a, 6-10, 25-28; 9:4-6; 10:10-12

In Ezra 7-10 we read about Ezra the scribe, a man who lived in a culture every bit as "pagan" as our own.

Like us, Ezra was in the minority of his society; it did not acknowledge the God of Israel nor did it follow any of His commands. Ezra's culture followed the Golden Rule in its conduct: whoever has the gold makes the rules. If you think about it, our culture is the same way.

Being a Jew where he was literally a "stranger in a strange land," Ezra did not have the means to influence society, such as wealth and power.

In Ezra 7:6, the reason the king gave Ezra everything for which he asked was "because the hand of the LORD his God was on him." What made Ezra special or different or unique wasn't what he had or even what things he did; it was the fact that God was blessing Ezra for who Ezra was. Ezra was "being" obedient and diligent in his service to his Lord, and this defined him.

My passion is to communicate with people. Specifically, I desire to communicate God's Word as clearly as I possibly can. Every opportunity I have

to teach, preach or even speak I try to "leave it all on the field" each time. I can look back over the course of my life and remember all types of events I would just as soon forget (of course, as I get older, I am finding this is becoming easier).

Most of the mistakes and "indiscretions" I made while younger — either while in the ministry or before in the business world — my motive was the same; a strong passion to communicate to the best of my ability.

Yet here is the conclusion to which I have come after "tasting my toes" oh so many times: it isn't what I say or where I say it, and it isn't how I say it. What matters more than anything is who I am.

If we think of the people we trust the most in our lives — our mechanics, doctors, pastors, counselors, teachers, and the like — we trust them not because of their wit, or the way they present themselves, but we trust them because of who they are.

Trust cannot be erected on a single post. Trust must be constructed on a foundation that incorporates knowledge, character, integrity (the thing on which character is built) and relationship. Because of Ezra's relationship with his Lord, his king recognized him as being trustworthy.

We leave the clearest footprints when we walk with God.

Church shuns 'fluff,' gives more to Annie, missions

(Continued from Page 1)

Parkwood's focus also can be seen in its eight church plants — five across the United States and three in other countries, and in the local community ministries it supports in Gastonia.

"We believe it's crucial to the growth of the Kingdom in the world that just introducing people to Christ isn't fulfilling the Great Commission," Long said. "If you're going to create disciples and baptize them and teach them to observe all God has commanded, there needs to be the local expression of a church.

"Ultimately, that's our goal, to raise up church planters and disciple them," the pastor said.

"The first step is to sow the seeds of evangelism — a broad sowing of seed — and through that, we realize others will be raised up too."

Parkwood members are actively involved in each of the church plants.

"We say we're going to Phoenix to work with Scott Gorley, and probably a couple hundred people here know Scotty," said Kem Lindsey, Parkwood's missions pastor.

"You've got a face, name and city, and the church they're planting. It helps our folks come back understanding what we do here in Gastonia.

"Some of the things we've done with church planters, we do the same things here," Lindsey said.

"In Phoenix, they hosted a movie night and gave out information about the church.

"Here, in a new area with about 300 homes, we headed out with the *USA Today* newspaper, with a sticker on it of our church.

"It's gotten far enough in three neighborhoods that their homeowners' organizations came to us and asked, 'Will you help us?' Relationships are being made, and that's something we got from the church planters," Lindsey said. "We've brought those concepts home."

Getting members involved in short-term mission trips, as well as giving to missions, is one way of discipling them, Long said.

"Mission trips allow people at different stages in their walk with the Lord, and with different gifts, to participate," the pastor said.

"We do a fall carnival in Phoenix every year.

"For some people, that's easier than in-home visits. But it — whatever they do — allows people to develop a heart connection, and we want to nurture that. They grow as believers and reach others as they grow, and as you do that you glorify God and fulfill your purpose."

An unexpected result of the short-term mission trips is that Parkwood members are now asking different questions about church finances, Long said.

"We're really battling this question," he said.

"What do we really need? Our worship center was built in 1985 and needs to be renovated.

"However, when people return from mission trips in places like Phoenix where the need is great, you realize the need for putting resources toward planting churches. The needs beyond Gastonia force us to evaluate our perceived needs on our campus and in our budget."

Parkwood became debt-free in 1997. Its members voted in 2002 never to borrow money again, even to build. Twenty percent of its \$2.7 million budget is allocated to missions — the Faith Offering is in addition to that — and no goals are set for seasonal missions offerings.

"We ask people to pray and ask the Lord what to give, and that's enough," Long said. "We nurture that all the time, and since we've done that, much more has been given to missions.

"The vast lostness of North America is one reason we give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering," the pastor said.

"I think NAMB's vision is clear; we're supposed to reach people with the gospel.

"We want to be faithful with being an Acts 1:8 church.

"Though we are very committed in the uttermost parts of the earth, we're also committed in our city and want to be in North America as well. We try not to sacrifice one for the other."

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Willoughby is managing editor of the *Louisiana Baptist Message*, *Dakota Baptist Connections* and *The Montana Baptist* newspapers. For more information about the Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions, go to www.anniearmstrong.com.)



Contributed photo

CHAINSAW — Volunteers work to rid debris from Bladen County. Damage was also done at Elizabethtown Baptist Church. See online gallery: biblicalrecorder.org.

Volunteers swarm communities

(Continued from Page 1)

Cumberland, and Wake counties are ministering to the storm victims by cleaning up debris and making emergency repairs on houses.

As of April 21 Samaritan's Purse had received 70 requests for help in a four-mile radius around Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church in Raleigh.

"I always thought if I did a little piece of work I should get paid," said a youth volunteer from Highland Baptist Church in Raleigh.

"But this week I realized if the Lord can open the doors to heaven free then we can (show) love (for) others."

Brunson said Baptist Men is in it for the long haul.

At this stage the work is winding down in some areas but the hardest hit like Wake, Cumberland and Lee counties, where the Baptist Men has created hubs of activity, will be in the emergency stage for at least a couple more weeks.

The emergency stage involves chain-saw teams, debris removal, covering holes with tarps, etc.

The next stage would be repairing the damage like the hole in a roof.

Baptist Men and Samaritan's Purse are working out of the same site in Colerain.

"Everybody is needed," Brunson said.

On April 16, as soon as a tornado had come and gone, Baptist Men sent assessment personnel out to see what response would be needed.

"We need to be where the greatest need is," Brunson said.

With tornadoes, Brunson said it was hard for people to know where to go and what to do.

"It's just so quick," he said.

To help visit www.baptistsmission.org or donate to North Carolina Baptist Men, P.O. Box 1107, Cary, NC 27512. Call (800) 395-5102, ext. 5599, to volunteer.

Visit samaritanaspurse.org.



Opportunity Corner

Help Stamp Out Hunger

May 14 is the National Association of Letter Carrier's Food Drive called Stamp Out Hunger. You can help by placing a bag of canned goods or non-

perishables at your mailbox May 14. Your Letter Carrier will pick up the food items to donate to a local food bank or pantry.

Associational WMU officers training

If you are a new associational Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) officer or associational WMU director beginning to serve in fall 2011, you can attend one of two training sessions.

Classes will be held for in-depth

training for each age-level and officer in your associational WMU. The two training sessions are May 14 at First Church, Goldsboro, and June 25 at First Church, Morganton, both at 9 a.m. Contact (866) 210-8602.



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Circulation Manager. Full-time salaried position with benefits. Key responsibilities include: maintaining database, accounts receivable, subscription inquiries/requests and circulation reports. Applicant should be detail oriented, possess excellent customer service and communication skills, have ability to follow set billing schedule, proficient in MS Word and Excel and knowledge of the Baptist denomination. Working hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F. Overnight travel in November may be required. Compensation based on experience. Send resume and references to *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619 or alison@biblicalrecorder.org.

Pastor

First Baptist Church, Morehead City, NC, seeks **Senior Pastor**. Accredited seminary or divinity school graduate and at least 5 years pastoral experience required. We're located on the central coast. Our church is dually aligned with CBF and SBC, associated with BSCNC and Atlantic Association. We have a strong committee structure with each chairperson participating on the Church Council. The deacons work closely with pastor to provide spiritual leadership and to minister to all members. Current average worship attendance is 282 and Sunday School is 211. Send résumé by May 30th to Pastor Search Committee, 810 Bridges Street, Morehead City, NC 28557 or email to fbcmoreheadcity@gmail.com.

Full-Time Pastor. Small Baptist church in Durham, NC, is seeking full-time pastor. Info about church and position available at <http://visitimmanuel.org/pastorsearch/> via the Internet.

SEEKING SENIOR PASTOR. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in Hayesville, NC, is seeking senior pastor for 200+ active members. Located 90 miles north of Atlanta, GA, and 90 miles west of Asheville, NC. Send resume to: MPBC — Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 52, Hayesville, NC 28904 or email to office@burchinsurance.net.

Church Staff

Full time Southern Baptist Children and Youth Pastor. Mayodan First Baptist Church, Mayodan, NC. Please send resume to Search Team: joinus@mayodanfbcc.org.

Ridge Road Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC, affiliated with the CBF, seeks a **part-time Minister for Children and Missions**. The position primarily focuses on developing a comprehensive children's program for the church and giving leadership to church missions. A master's degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school and Baptist background is desired. Salary based on experience and education. Resumes accepted through May 23. Job description available at www.rrbch.com. Submit resumes to children@rrbch.com. All inquiries are confidential.

Minister of Music. Baptist Home Church of North Wilkesboro, NC, is seeking a part time minister of music to lead four worship services each week, oversee church choirs, and have a heart for outreach. We have blended worship with strong application of New Testament living. Contact Associate Pastor Jeff Blackburn (336) 262-3328.

Wanted **part-time Minister of Music**, First Baptist Church, Scotland Neck, NC. Must have degree in music and experience in church music. Responsibilities include but not limited to adult, youth and children's choirs, Sunday morning and evening services, Tuesday choir practice. Email cover letter and resume to snbaptist@embargmail.com.

Part-time position available for **Director of Music** in the Shelby, NC, area. Please mail resume to 525 West Zion Church Road, Shelby, NC 28150.

Miscellaneous

Tar Landing Baptist Church of Jacksonville, NC, has **solid oak pews for sale**. \$100 ea. Good condition. Approx. 9 feet long. Call 910-346-8709.

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Trustees elect professors, approve degree program

Campus master plan changes in works

By Lauren Crane
SEBTS

During the bi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, held April 11-12, trustees promoted two professors and elected three professors, approved an updated campus master plan and approved changes to a degree program.

Nathan Finn was promoted from assistant professor of church history and Baptist studies to associate professor of historical theology and Baptist studies, while Daniel Heimbach was promoted from professor of Christian ethics to senior professor of Christian ethics. The trustees also approved the election to the faculty of Jeremy Evans, associate professor of philosophy, Tony Merida, associate professor of preaching, and Larry Purcell, associate professor of leadership.

With the exception of Merida, each of the other men has been serving the kingdom of God through their teaching and mentorship at Southeastern and will continue to do so. Merida, a new face around campus, will be coming from Hattiesburg, Miss., where he has been serving as the teaching pastor of Temple Baptist Church. In addition to his election to the faculty of Southeastern, Merida is the founding pastor of the new church plant, Imago Dei Church in Raleigh.

Academically speaking, the trustees also looked at the proposed changes for the Master of Arts in Bible Transla-



ENCOURAGE — Tom Elliff, right, president of the International Mission Board, leads a time of prayer and commitment for students, faculty and guests during Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's April 12 chapel service. Elliff, who challenged the students to live out the gospel in their everyday lives, delayed a trip to Peru to be at the service. "You think you can't make a difference," Elliff said. "Yes, you can." The seminary honored a long-time employee. See story, page 2.

tion degree and approved it. The degree program prepares students to serve as translators and as field supervisors for Bible translation teams, taking the word of God to people around the world.

This curriculum will serve the church and help fulfill the Great Commission by preparing students to translate the Bible, into languages that now are without access to God's word. The curriculum will prepare them in particular to translate the Bible from its original languages of Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. With access to God's word in their own languages, whole people groups will have access to the gospel, and believers will be able to study the Bible for themselves.

Trustees also approved an update

to the campus master plan, a strategy for the future of the institution that is revisited every four to five years. The updated plan is a list of priorities and estimated costs for various campus needs, including structural as well as aesthetic. In conjunction with surveys and suggestions from the students, staff and faculty, the campus planning committee submitted a plan that includes approximately 35 million dollars worth of upgrades and renovations to Southeastern's campus.

The committee identified the most urgent needs as a new student center and renovations to the current Ledford Center for additional recreation and fitness facilities. The plan also includes renovations to Simmons Hall and shift-

ing of other housing facilities to free up Lolley Hall for offices and a welcome center. Additionally, trustees approved renovations of Stealey and Appleby Halls, as well as the Denny Library, as part of the new master plan.

The trustees also approved the recommended budget increase of 4.21 percent to a 2011-2012 operating budget of \$21.6 million.

Because Cooperative Program giving continues to lag behind previous years, the budget increase will require a raise in tuition for students, many of whom, Southeastern's president, Daniel Akin, said, appear to be struggling already with paying their tuition.

Akin said although enrollment numbers are at a record high of 2,689, the number of hours of classes being taken has not significantly increased, and in fact, reflects class load amounts equal to those in 2006.

These numbers indicate that although more students are taking classes, they are taking fewer classes, likely due to economic concerns.

Akin urged the Board of Trustees to encourage their local churches to give to the Cooperative Program, which supplies about 40 percent of funds for Southeastern's annual budget.

Akin said in order for students to graduate without school debt, more financial support must be given to supplement the increased operating costs and budget.

"I'd encourage you to pray God will raise up more partners for annual giving and endowment," Akin said. "God is doing great things here, and we want to see that financial increase for the glory of God."

Board picks Blume to lead Recorder

(Continued from Page 1)

Word of God. His goal is for the *Biblical Recorder* to live up to its name and be biblical in theology, in practice (strategy and procedure), and in conduct (integrity and civility).

2) Keep the focus on the Great Commission.

"Baptists are people who love missions," Blume said. "We want to be part of that. We're called to be missionaries."

As pastor of Mount Vernon, Blume said he led his church into the mindset of being a missionary training center. He encouraged his church members to be on mission wherever they are. In the last 12 years Blume said there have been 20 family units from his church that have become vocational missionaries.

3) Glorify God.

"I believe God is glorified when we tell His stories," Blume said.

Using the acronym DIGG, Blume asks does it glorify God? Blume said he pictures the *Recorder* as the "central convergence," a place where the voices of Baptists come together.

Blume says others tell him he has leadership as well as administration abilities that will serve him well at the *Biblical Recorder*. His years as a pastor as well as a leader on the local, state and national level, will help him guide the *Recorder* to make history.

"We're not going to rewrite history," Blume said in an interview April 18. "We have work to do."

Blume said he doesn't want to get caught "in the world of the negative," but instead wants to move ahead. He often looks back to his life verse, Luke 1:37, for inspiration: "For with God, nothing shall be impossible." He and his wife Pam have one adult son, Jeremy, who lives in Atlanta, Ga.

Searching

The search committee — Gerald Hodges, chairman of the Board of Directors and pastor of Westwood Baptist Church, Roxboro; Jo Andrews, member of Lawndale Baptist Church, Greensboro; Robert Hefner, staff member at Mud Creek Baptist Church,

Hendersonville; Richard Hicks, interim pastor of East Lumberton Baptist Church; and Don Warren, member of Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia — was named in November 2010 at the Baptist State Convention annual meeting and began discussing the process in December.

Norman Jameson, the previous editor resigned Dec. 31, 2010. His resignation came at the October board meeting. Hodges said the Board received 18 resumes from qualified candidates and many more inquiries. Hodges stressed that the search was covered in prayer as were the three candidates they met with in March. "Each one of these individuals was highly qualified and any one of them would have been a great Editor," Hodges said.

In an email, Hodges said Blume brings his "vast experience as a Senior Pastor and a deep love of the local church. He understands how important the creative use of technology will be to the future success of the *Recorder*. He knows and loves North Carolina Baptists and has an exciting vision for the *Recorder*."

"During Allan and Pam's time with us at our Board's spring meeting I think it was clear to all of us that God had long been at work in many ways preparing them for this task."

Hodges said the Board received glowing recommendations for Blume from several Baptist leaders: Michael C. Blackwell, president of Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina; Ed Yount, senior pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church, Conover, and president of the BSC; Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest; Greg Mathis, senior pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church, Hendersonville; Al Gilbert, senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem; and Milton A. Hollifield Jr., BSC executive director-treasurer.

"I know him to be a strong leader, a compassionate pastor, and a man who is dedicated to Kingdom causes," said Blackwell.

"During the three years that he was president of the Board of Directors, I along with many others, saw Allan as fair, steady-at-the-helm, and dedicated to advancing the cause of Christ in North Carolina."

Caraway campaign gift moves up minister's retreat cabin plans

Don and Mary Ann Warren have made the first major pledge to the "New Beginnings" Capital Campaign of Caraway Conference and Camp.

The Warrens, members of Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia, have chosen to honor their parents, Bulford and Madie Powell and Curtis and Grace Warren through a gift to construct a retreat cabin for ministers at Caraway.

The Powell/Warren Mountain House will be available to ministers to use as a place of rest, prayer and study at no charge.

The house will sit on the west side of Long Arm Ridge with views of the Uwharrie Mountains. Construction will begin in August and will hopefully be available for use in the fall of 2011. Huffman estimates completion by mid-October.

"They are a couple that truly strives to honor God," said Jimmy Huffman, director of Caraway.

Warren, who has served on various convention boards and committees including current board member of the *Biblical Recorder*, serves as the chairman of the New Beginnings Campaign Committee.

"Don has not only shown his commitment to the vision at Caraway through his leadership, but now has made a personal investment in Caraway, as well as in the lives of ministers in North Carolina," said Huffman.

The minister's retreat was part of Phase III of the campaign, however due to the Warrens' gift it will be moved to Phase I.

The New Beginnings Campaign is a three-year, \$7.5-million undertaking.

Contact Jimmy Huffman at (336) 629-2374 or jhuffman@caraway.org. Visit www.caraway.org or blog.caraway.org. The *Biblical Recorder* also carries Caraway's blog on its site, www.biblicalrecorder.org/category/Caraway-New-Beginnings.aspx.